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At Senate ministerial screening...

PHOTO: FELIX ONIGBINDE



MINISTERIAL nominees Prof. Dora Akunyili (left) and Mrs. Fidelia Akuabata Njeze, before their screening by the Senate at the National Assembly, Abuja, yesterday.

Kanti to Akunyili:

'You cooked food for Turai'

Akunyili:

'No, I didn't'

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

THE first day of the Senate screening of ministerial nominees in Abuja recorded high drama and much excitement yesterday when Senate Chief Whip Senator Mahmud Kanti Bello (PDP, Katsina North), accused former Information and Communications Minister Professor Dora Akunyili of being part of the cabal that allegedly hijacked affairs of state in the absence of ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua. He said

Akunyili was at one time very close to the Yar'adua family and that she went so far as to cook food for the First Lady Hajia Turai Yar'adua in order to ingratiate herself with the First Lady.

Senator Kanti Bello strongly condemned Mrs. Akunyili for alleging that a cabal was ruling the country due to Yar'adua's illness. He said, "You were a very close friend to President Yar'adua and his family and I know that from your background as a pharmacist..."

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Gaddafi: Split Nigeria along ethnic lines

By Habeeb I. Pindiga, with agency reports

TWO weeks after he ignited a diplomatic row by calling for Nigeria

to be split between Muslims and Christians, Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi suggested yesterday that Nigeria should be broken up into several states along ethnic

lines.

"Actually, the problem of Nigeria won't be solved by dividing it into two Muslim and Christian states. There are other people who,

regardless of their religion, also demand independence," Libya's official news agency JANA quoted Gaddafi as saying.

Nigeria recalled its ambas-

sador from Tripoli earlier this month when Gaddafi proposed that Nigeria break into two countries, the one for Muslims and the

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N/Assembly can't probe Jos crisis

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

A Federal High Court in Jos, Plateau State has said that the National Assembly (NASS) has no constitutional right to probe the November 28 2008 Jos crisis that followed the local government election in the state. The Plateau State government had filed two cases with number, FHC/J/CS/3/2009, and FHC/J/CS/4/2009 against the Senate and House of Representatives over their plans to probe the crisis. The Plateau electoral body on the other hand filed a separate case number FHC/J/CS/8/2009 against the National Assembly on their refusal to invite them to testify before the adhoc committees set up by the two chambers on the November 27 local government election.

Delivering judgments on the three different cases, the presiding judge, Justice Stephen Adah said, "Although, the civil unrest in Jos was a source of concern to all, neither the House of Representatives nor the Senate is empowered by the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to investigate civil unrest in Plateau State or in any federating state.

"The Plateau State government under the 1999 constitution has the power to constitute or set up an investigative committee to investigate any matter pertaining to a state local government election," he said.

He dismissed the two cases filed separately by the Plateau State government and the one filed by the Plateau electoral body because of abuse of court processes. He said the Plateau electoral body was set up by the Plateau government and that the suit filed by the Plateau government against the National Assembly amounted to abuse of court processes because the respondents were the same.

Ex-director to hang for murder

AN Owerri High Court yesterday sentenced two men, Boniface Nwachukwu and Vincent Ogueri, to death for murdering a former commissioner in the state, Chief Ogonnaya Uche.

Uche, a former Commissioner for Commerce and Industry during former Gov. Achike Udenwa's administration, was also ANPP's candidate for Orlu Senatorial District. He was murdered on Feb. 8, 2003 in his residence at Shell Camp Quarters, Owerri. One of the convicts, Nwachukwu, was a Director in the office of the Secretary to the State Government. The judge, Justice Aloysius Ukachukwu, in his judgment said the two men would die by hanging. The duo were arraigned in 2004. The convicts had pleaded for leniency while their counsel, Mr Oliver Chukwuma for Nwachukwu and Mr R. N. Ogbuokiri for Ogueri urged the court to temper justice with mercy. (NAN)



GOVERNOR Namadi Sambo of Kaduna State (left) receiving the 2009 Hajj report from the Amirul Hajj, who is also Speaker, Kaduna state House of Assembly, Alhaji Hassan Jumare, in Kaduna yesterday.

FG charges suspects of Jos crises with terrorism

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE Federal Government has charged 32 persons over the January 2010 Jos crisis and the raid in Dogo Nahauwa and Rasat villages with terrorism.

The charges filed through the Assistant Chief State Counsel, Barrister E.E Akissa, before the Federal High Court in Jos last Friday said 17 persons were charged over the recent villages raid while 15 suspects were charged over the January crisis.

Barrister Akissa filed three different cases, FHC/J/30c/2010, FHC/J/14c/2010 and FHC/J/17/2010 against the 17 suspects, who he claimed were from Bauchi and Plateau States. He also charged them on a three count charge of terrorism, including

conspiracy, which is punishable under Section 518 of the Criminal Code Act, Cap.38 and Section 15(2) of the EFCC Laws, 2004 and Laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

He said the suspects armed with dangerous weapons, charms and Indian hemp wraps intimidated the resident of Dogo Nahauwa and Rasat villages. On the January crisis, which started in Dutse Uku in Nassarawa Gwom area, Counsel to the Federal Government alleged in a suit charge number FHC/J/28c/2010 that Shafiu Dan Malam, 48 and six others all of Dutse uku in Nassarawa Gwom area of Plateau State conspired and carried out terrorist acts while armed with dangerous weapons which is contrary to Section 518 of the Criminal Code Act Cap. C38, Laws of the Federal

Republic of Nigeria 2004. On the second count, the counsel alleged that on January 19, while armed with dangerous weapons, they committed several terrorist acts.

Barrister Akissa also said Mr Yakubu Isah and seven others who were charged on the first count had on January 19 conspired and agreed to cause breach of peace which is a punishable offence under Section 518(6).

He said they moved about with arms like knives, cutlasses, sticks, spears, bows and arrows and that their action caused terror to many persons which is an offence contrary to Section 15(2) of the EFCC act 2004 and punishable under the same law.

Presiding judge, Justice Stephen Adah, is expected to fix a date for mention.

...Tasks force finds corpse, injured person

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Special Task Force (STF) in Plateau State at the weekend found a corpse and one injured person at Kugiya in Bukuru area of Jos South Local Government Area of the state. A statement by Brigadier General Donald Oji on behalf of the Commander of the task force said his men were attracted by the sound of gunshots.

According to the statement, the men, who arrived the scene of the incident which hap-

pened on March 28th, 2010 at about 6pm found a mob of about 400 youths with a corpse and a wounded person.

"The task force had to fire into the air to disperse them and retrieve the corpse and the wounded person who were later taken to the Nigerian Air Force Hospital", he said.

In a related development, the task force has arrested a middle aged man with locally made pistol and ammunitions at Sabon Layi in Bukuru, Jos South Local Government Area of Plateau State. According to the state-

ment, the man was arrested at about 10pm on Sunday while the men were on patrol at Sabon Layi. The man has been handed over to the police. The statement also added that the men of the task force saved a man's house from being razed down by irate youths within Jos metropolis

"Although the immediate cause of the arson was not known, the timely intervention of my men scared the youths away while the man's family was assisted by the task force to put out the fire", the statement added.

Fisherman bags 25 years for killing 8-year-old son

From Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

A High Court in Maiduguri, Borno State has sentenced a 50 year old fisherman, Idi Dahiru, from Dumba village in Kukawa Local Government Area of Borno State for killing his eight year old son.

The presiding judge, Justice Abdullahi Sanya Yerima, last Friday sentenced the accused to 25 years in prison with hard labour and without an option of fine. The fisherman according to the police said he killed his eight year old son and threw his body into a river for refusing to attend Quranic school. Police at the Baga Divisional station told a High Court in Maiduguri that the fisherman confessed that he forced

the son, Ahmadu Idi, to eat sand after which he died.

"I decided to take my son back to the village because he refused to attend the school, but he refused to follow me. He was running away when he fell and I opened his mouth and filled it with sand. After a while, I called my son and he did not answer, that was when I noticed that he was dead and I threw the body into a river which is not far from our village", the fisherman said, according to court documents.

Neighbours, who testified in court said the boy's body was found at the river bank, the day before the father confessed to the crime. The fisherman pleaded guilty when the charges were read to him, but said it was a mistake and that he had no intention to kill his son.

Atiku, 28 others meet to decide return to PDP

By Suleiman M. Bisalla

FORMER Vice President Atiku Abubakar and 28 of his political associates met last night in Abuja to review their involvement in the stalled National Democratic Movement (NDM) and their return to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

The meeting which took place at an undisclosed location was attended by his running mate in the 2007 presidential election Senator Ben Obi, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Action

Congress Alhaji Lawal Kaita, governorship candidate of the AC in the recent Anambra election Chris Ngige and Chief Dapo Sarunmi.

Others at the meeting are former governor of Oyo State Rasheed Ladoja, former Senate President Dr. Iyorchia Ayu Chief Tom Ikimi, Dubem Onyia and Ambassador Yahaya Kwande, among others. They were all members of the PDP who had to leave at the heat of former President Olusegun Obasanjo's political onslaught on his opponents within the party.

When news of Atiku's planned return to the PDP hit the news pages at the weekend, Adamawa State chapter of the PDP retort, saying they are not aware and he has to follow due process. But a source close to the former Vice President said it was some local politics playing out. He said once discussions are concluded and Atiku makes up his mind, every necessary step will be taken.

Atiku might have returned to the PDP more than a year ago but for the little drama that unfolded following Obasanjo's revelation

that he had begged to be allowed to rejoin the PDP.

Atiku's involvement with General Muhammadu Buhari, Alhaji Attahiru Bafarawa and AC chief-tain Ahmed Bola Tinubu crashed recently when Tinubu vehemently opposed the changes proposed for the AC which was to be adopted as the platform for the mega party ahead of the 2011 elections.

The AC was to lose its identity except the logo, which is the broom, a decision rejected by Tinubu and the two governors of the AC.

Buhari had also announced

recently that he had registered with the Congress for Progressive Change and will contest election on its platform.

In the circumstance therefore Atiku had no option than to redefine his political base, another source said. The former Vice President had lost substantial control of the AC to Tinubu not long after the 2007 elections following some differences. Atiku's lose failure to deliver Adamawa his home state or any state in the north was also said to have belittled his influence in the party.

Militants now provide security for dredging — Contractor

By Shehu Abubakar

ARMED militants and prominent youths from some communities in the Niger Delta are now giving security cover to officials of Fung Tai Company handling the dredging of Lot one that covers Bifurcation to Warri in the war tone region. This was made known in Abuja yesterday at a press conference addressed by the Chairman and Chief Executive officer of Fung Tai, Sir Isaac Chuks. He said with the security arrangement now being made by the militants and the Ijaw Youths Council (IYC) to protect the company's properties and secure the dredging workers, his company has started working for 24 hours daily in the zone which hastens their operation.

Sir Chuks said since the contract for the dredging of the Lot was awarded to the company in December 2008, his workers have not been able to work for more than nine hours a day until recently when the youth's group and the militants in the area undertook to provide security for the dredgers. He said he had to request the Joint Taskforce (JTF) to withdraw its Soldiers to pave way for the militants and the youth's group to take over the security of his men and equipment. He admitted paying the militants salaries for their services. He said his company also had to construct roads, provide water and employed 80 percent of his staff from among the youths of the area. "When the contract was to be awarded, none of the three other contractors agreed to collect Lot one because they all envisage that there will be problem dredging the Niger Delta end of the river Niger. But when I first made attempt to penetrate the place to go and arrange a place for my staff, I was seized by armed youths.



FROM left: Former Speaker of House of Representatives, Alhaji Aminu Masari, Chairman, Peoples Media Limited, Malam Wada Maida and the presenter, Governor Danjuma Goje of Gombe State, at the presentation of Peoples Daily Newspaper in Abuja yesterday.

Ministers: Jonathan sends 5 additional names to Senate

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday sent 5 additional ministerial nominees to the Senate for confirmation.

Reading a correspondence from the Acting President, Senate President David Mark announced the names of 4 re-appointed nominees and 1 new nominee.

The re-appointed nominees are; former Minister of Transport, Ibrahim Isa Bio (Kwara), former minister of state finance, Mr. Aderemi Babalola (Oyo), former minister of Environment, Mr. John Odey (Cross River) and Barrister Humphrey Enemaku Abah (Kogi).

The new ministerial nominee is Mr. Sam Ode from Benue state who is a Special Adviser to Governor Gabriel Suswan.

This brings the number of ministerial nominees so far sent to the Senate to 38. They are expected to join in the screening exercise that commenced yesterday.

'Peoples Daily not owned by Atiku Abubakar'

By: Fidelis Mac-Leva

MALAM Ismaila Isa, publisher of the defunct Democrat Newspaper, has said that the Peoples Daily Newspapers published by the Peoples Media Limited does not belong to former Vice President Atiku Abubakar.

Isa who presided over the public presentation of the Peoples Daily Newspapers in Abuja yesterday said the clarification became necessary in view of perceptions in certain quarters that the Newspaper was owned by the former Vice President and Turakin Adamawa.

"The former Vice President, Atiku Abubakar, does not have any share in Peoples Daily. The company has over 40 shareholders who are media professionals spread across the country. I am

making this clarification because at its inception people were insinuating that it [Peoples Daily] was owned by the former Vice President", Isa said.

Guest Speaker Olusegun Osoba, who spoke on the topic: "Democracy without Newspapers or Newspapers without Democracy", described the media as the most democratic institution in the world.

Commending the Peoples Daily Newspaper for making its debut in the media industry in Nigeria, particularly coming from the north, Osoba, former Managing Director of the Daily Times also acknowledged the role played by the media during the third term saga.

"The role played by the media during former President Oluse-

gun Obasanjo's third term agenda was a clear demonstration of the power and influence of Newspapers in the sustenance of democracy", Osoba, former Ogun state Governor said.

Gombe State Governor Danjuma Goje, chief presenter at the occasion, said with the emergence of more Newspapers in the north the earlier perception that northern based newspapers were bound to fail was no longer tenable.

"I am happy that Media Trust and Leadership newspapers have broken the jinx and now the Peoples Daily has joined the fray of northern newspapers. We hope to see more newspapers from the north", Goje said.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of Peoples Daily, Wada

Maida, earlier said the Newspaper's project was conceived and executed in realization of the important role of the media in Nigeria. He promised that Peoples Daily would continue to report from the peoples point of view as well as create a platform for debate and national dialogue.

The public presentation was attended by House of Representatives Speaker, Dimeji Bankole who commended the Peoples Daily and tasked the media to adequately give coverage to the constitutional amendments being undertaken by the national Assembly.

Some state Governors, as well as managers of some media outfits in the country attended the public presentation which took place at the Shehu Musa Yar'adua Centre, Abuja.

Igbeke yet to collect certificate of return

By Abbas Jimoh

THE declared winner of the Anambra North Senatorial District, Mr Alphonsus Ubanieze Igbeke of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) said yesterday that he is yet to collect his certificate of return from the Independent National Electoral Commission.

The Court of Appeal, Enugu Division in a ruling by Justice

Kayode Ariwoola sacked Mrs. Joy Emodi representing Anambra North Senatorial District and declared Igbeke as the authentic winner of the seat in the April 28, 2007 elections.

Speaking to reporters at the INEC headquarters, Igbeke accused INEC of playing a delay tactic to frustrate his move to the Senate.

INEC has however, denied

engaging in any hide and seek with Igbeke.

Igbeke said he spent about nine hours at the INEC headquarters yesterday waiting to collect the certificate but INEC officials allegedly refused to meet with him.

He said after waiting for long, the INEC Chairman, Professor Maurice, told him come back Tuesday morning (today) for his certificate.

But INEC Director of Public Affairs, Mr. Emmanuel Umenger, said Igbeke's certificate was being processed.

He said that the court process pronouncing Igbeke's as the rightful winner of the 2007 senatorial election for Anambra North zone was served INEC late last Friday, adding that preparations were afoot to issue him his certificate of return.

Security alert in Maiduguri after text message threats

SECURITY officials said they have placed their men on high alert following text messages threatening religious violence by religious sect.

Adamu Isa Azare, an assistant superintendent of police in Borno said the police and immigration officials have set-up checkpoints and dispatched armored tanks around Maiduguri in a bid to nip any attempt for violence in the state.

He said Immigration officials have been directed to patrol all the borders especially Nigerian borders with Chad, Niger and Cameroon.

Azare said the police received text messages indicating that the Boko Haram sect would strike again.

"We are not (sure) if it is Boko Haram per se, because some people we are yet to identify were just sending text messages to people that there was going to be attacks," Azare said. "For this reason, we stepped up our security apparatus as proactive measures to ensure we were not caught unaware. We want to ensure the people are well-policed. We don't want to take anything for granted." (AP)



FROM left: Governor Adebayo Alao-Akala of Oyo State, Chief Adigun Irawo and Chief Richard Akinjide, all PDP chieftains in Oyo State at a peace meeting in Ibadan, yesterday.

Jonathan says FG is committed to credible elections

By Mohammed S. Shehu

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday reaffirmed Federal Government's commitment to strengthen electoral laws with a view to ensuring credible elections in 2011.

He said free and fair elections would only be possible with the amendment of the electoral laws and

support from Nigerians.

A statement by his Senior Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Ima Niboro, Jonathan stated this yesterday at the State House while receiving in audience, members of the Alumni Association of the National Institute (AANI) led by its President, Engineer Jani Ibrahim.

Jonathan commended the alumni for its contributions in

offering advice on several policy issues and assured that government would do its best to tackle the perennial power problem and insecurity especially kidnapping which he said has become a source of concern to the government.

In his remarks, Ibrahim said the association noted the huge potentials the country is endowed with and expressed optimism that Jonathan

will record giant strides especially in resolving some of the challenges in power, ethno-religious crisis, corruption and electoral reform.

He said history has shown that it is not necessarily the duration of government in power that matters but the determination of the leaders.

He urged Jonathan to utilize the goodwill he enjoys to pursue good governance.

Junta arrests Niger ex-ministers

TEN former ministers and officials loyal to ex-President Mamadou Tandja have been arrested in Niamey.

Among those detained were the former ministers of finance and justice, and the heads of the national electricity and water companies, the BBC reported yesterday.

Interior Minister Cisse Ousmane said they were accused of carrying out subversive activities.

In February, Mr Tandja was overthrown in a coup and replaced by a military junta led by Maj Salou Djibo.

The junta, which calls itself the Supreme Council for the Restoration of Democracy, has said it wants to make Niger an example of "democracy and good governance".

After the coup, the largely arid but uranium-rich country was expelled from the African Union and the international community urged the junta to hold elections as soon as possible.

Mr Tandja had ruled Niger for more than a decade before the February coup and had come under increasing criticism both at home and abroad.

In 2009, opposition parties accused Mr Tandja of effectively mounting a coup when he forced through a change in the constitution to secure an unprecedented third term as president.

ECOWAS calls for strengthening of democracy

By Aisha Umar Agaie

THE Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS) yesterday commemorated and evaluated its 20 years involvement in peace processes with a call for the strengthening of its mechanisms to ensure the enforcement of the Constitutional Convergence Principles as contained in its 2001 Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance.

The regional body said this will help it to confront the structural

causes of conflicts and enhance democratic culture in member states.

The body said this was outcome of its one week international conference which took place in Monrovia.

In a document released at the closing of the meeting in Monrovia on Friday, titled "The Monrovia Declaration on Two Decades of Peace Processes in West Africa," participants advised that attention be given to building the capacity of electoral organizations, political

parties, parliaments and the judiciary across the region.

A statement from ECOWAS commission added that participants also called for a review of the sanctions regime by ECOWAS in collaboration with the African Union (AU) and United Nations in order to make it more effective.

While noting the contributions of the body to stability, participants also called on ECOWAS to fast-track the establishment of a Council of Former Heads of State and Government in the region in

order to enable them contribute to conflict prevention and peace-building efforts.

Furthermore, it urged ECOWAS to streamline and strengthen its mediation efforts by setting up the Mediation Facilitation Division in the Political Affairs Directorate of the ECOWAS Commission, drawing on relevant experiences, including those of the United Nations. The division will facilitate preventive diplomacy activities undertaken by the Commission.

PHOTO: FELIX ONIGBINDE



MINISTERIAL nominees (from left) Shamsudeen Usman, Humphrey Abah, Adamu Waziri and Godsay Orubebe waiting to be screened by the Senate at the National Assembly, Abuja, yesterday.

Split Nigeria along ethnic lines

Continued from page 1

for Christians. The Federal Government had said Gaddafi's comments were insensitive and irresponsible and "diminished his status and credibility." Senate President David Mark said the Libyan leader was a mad man and did not merit a response. Responding to the Federal Government's stance, Gaddafi repeated the idea of dismantling the country, but this time suggested not two but several independent states for its multiple ethnic groups.

He said Nigeria comprises "other populations who want independence" without religious considerations. He cited "the Yoruba people in the east and south who demand independence, the Ibo people in the west and south" as well as the Ijaws. He compared Nigeria to the former Yugoslavia, which collapsed after the end of the Soviet Union and split into several independent states, sparking conflicts in Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and then Kosovo.

Gaddafi said, "Nigeria ... resembles the Yugoslavia which included several peoples, like Nigeria, and then these people gained independence and the Yugoslav union was ended in peace." He added, "The model that fits Nigeria is the Yugoslav one." The Libyan leader said he was proposing the breakup of Nigeria as a result of outbursts of tit-for-tat sectarian violence between Muslims and Christians in Plateau State, where hundreds were massacred since January.

Gaddafi, who was until recently chairman of the African Union, adopted the title "King of African Kings" and has always claimed to be a champion of African unity. But he has a mixed reputation on the continent.

'You cooked food for Turai'

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macist you have been preparing some nice dishes for Madam and you were a member of the 'Cabal' you referred to. Based on these, do you think what you have done is to the best, in your knowledge, intended to foster unity of this country or an attempt to disunite the country?"

In her response, Akunyili denied ever cooking dishes for Hajia Turai. She said, "Sir, I never cooked for Madam. I was not in any way part of the cabal. I want to state here very clearly that President Umaru Yar'adua my boss, my big brother, and he remains my brother and everybody knows that he is a fine gentleman and with beautiful spirit and I am loyal to him."

Senator Kanti Bello's heated questions and Akunyili's response threw the Senate into a rowdy session, with several senators talking at the same time, and Senate President David Mark had a hard time restoring order to the chamber. At one point, Mark stood up, and he said, "Once the Senate President is standing, everybody must stop talking. This is the first time I am standing up as Senate President."

In the midst of the rowdy session, at 5.50pm, Senate Leader Teslim Folarin moved a motion

for extension of time so that the Senate would sit beyond 6pm, but the motion was shouted down. This forced Akunyili to round up her appearance peremptorily, after a much shorter time spent on the Senate floor than the first two nominees.

Former Attorney General and Minister of Justice Chief Adetokunbo Kayode, SAN, who was screened just before Akunyili, had an easier time, though he was asked many important questions. He was asked by Senator Garba Yakubu Lado [PDP, Katsina South] to explain if the 'doctrine of necessity' relied upon by the Senate to transfer full presidential powers from ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua to Acting President Goodluck Jonathan had any constitutional backing. Kayode defended the principle, saying it is an international principle adopted to be able to be able to wriggle out of tight situations when there is a lacuna in the law. He also praised the National Assembly for adopting the principle, saying it was first used in Nigeria in 1973.

Kayode said, "It is a matter of necessity to make progress and move forward and the doctrine is not our creation but an international creation. It was first applied in Uganda in the early 60s

and we have applied it before in Nigeria. And what it means is that when there is a vacuum within the law, just jump over that bridge to make sure you do the right thing and there is a ruling in the Senate few weeks ago but some of us who studied the doctrine of necessity believed that it was rightly applied for the right thing to be done for the country to move forward and I think the whole of Africa would be grateful to the Senate for the application of that doctrine in that circumstance."

Soon after yesterday's screening, *Daily Trust* learnt that several senators had earlier expressed opposition to Akunyili's nomination and have vowed to stop her confirmation. Her confirmation is likely to divide senators along the lines of pro and anti-Yar'adua.

However, one of the staunch anti-Akunyili senators told *Daily Trust* last night that the emotion expressed by Senator Kanti Bello during screening of Akunyili gave her a soft landing. He said, "Most of us were prepared to really grill her, but the way he (Kanti) started with emotion as if it was a personal issue gave her soft landing. You can see now she answered only one question and when senators refused to support extension of time, she just took a bow and left. I will surely vote against her con-

“Most of us were prepared to really grill her, but the way he (Kanti) started with emotion as if it was a personal issue gave her soft landing. You can see now she answered only one question and when senators refused to support extension of time, she just took a bow and left

firmation."

He also said Akunyili is through with the screening because "if you want to bring her back now, it must come through a substantive motion supported by majority senators." On whether the controversial Professor of Pharmacy will scale the screening, another senator said, "I will not vote for her, but I will tell you that the voting could be affected by this National Interest Group (NIG) in the Senate. The issue is not about region; there are several southern senators that are against Akunyili and there are some Northern senators that I know will vote for her."

As yesterday's Senate session was ending, Deputy Senate President Ike Ekweremadu summoned a meeting of the South East Caucus. Senator Annie Okonkwo (PDP, Anambra) said, "There is no need for campaign for her

(Akunyili) because she is qualified. Her record speaks for her, she has done good works in the past for Nigeria and I know she will be confirmed."

The first ministerial nominee to face screening, Mrs. Fidelity Akubata Njeze said the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources has commenced the process of disbursing N200 billion agriculture loans to farmers. She said the problem of the agriculture sector in the country was as result of poor packaging of agricultural products.

The screening continues today with the re-appointed ministers being screened first. They include Mr. John Odey, Alhaji Isa Bio, Dr. Shamsudeen Usman, Mrs. Diezani Allison Madueke, Mr. Godsay Orubebe, Mr. Remi Babalola, Senator Alabi Olasukanmi and Mr. Humphrey Abah.

Gunmen kill traveller, injure 15

GUNMEN who laid ambush along the Ezillo end of the Enugu-Abakaliki Highway in Ebonyi, yesterday attacked some travellers, killing one person and wounding 15 others.

The attack was targeted at three commercial buses being escorted by two armoured tanks manned by police men.

A NAN correspondent, who visited the Federal Medical Centre in Abakaliki where the victims were receiving treatment, reports that 13 of the victims were at the Accident/Emergency Unit of the hospital.

Mr Chinedu Onwe, one of the bus drivers who was attacked, said the passengers ran into 'a rain of bullets' from both sides of the bush in spite of the presence of the armoured carriers.

Dr Azubike Onyebuchi, Head of Clinical Services, who conducted NAN correspondent round the wards, said such incidents had become regular and were taking a huge toll on the hospital.

"Virtually every morning, we get cases from the troubled area and we give them free treatment in spite of the fact

that they are brought in critical conditions.

"In spite of the ugly development, we have briefed our staff on the challenges ahead while also beefing up our facilities in readiness to offering the best services to victims," he said.

Mr Chris Anyanwu, the Police Public Relations Officer, confirmed the incident but declined further comments.

The two communities of Ezillo and Ezza have been locked in a communal strife which has taken a toll on lives and properties.

British woman desperate to trace Nigerian father

By Ibrahim Chonoko

A 34-year-old British woman, Michelle Sijuade Trafford is "desperately" seeking to trace her father, one Ken Sijuade, who was believed to have been deported from the United Kingdom in 1977.

Michelle, who was just two years when Sijuade was deported, told the Daily Trust that she wants to locate her father because "I have missed out a lot not having a father around and I want to meet him before it is too late. I cannot stress how important it is for me to just meet him".

Asked why she had not looked for him before now, Michelle said, "I have a part of me which is unexplained and I feel it's important to find the missing piece to the puzzle - to get to know the missing piece of the puzzle, which has been missing out of my life for as long as I could crawl".

She further said, "I would like to know where my blood extends to and where his culture lies. I would like to learn about his culture. I would like to experience what's really inside of me.

According to Michelle, Sijuade was about 25/26 years when she was born, while her

mother, Jean Trafford, was 19. "He was approximately 27/28 years when he was deported. My mum and I worked out that Ken should now be approximately 61/62 years of age".

Michelle, whose birth was registered at Greenwich Registry Office said her birth certificate has 'Sijuade' as her middle name, but pointed out that her mother was "not clear as to whether the name 'Sijuade' was part of Ken's middle name or surname".

She said she learnt from Nigerians that 'Sijuade' is a Yoruba name traceable to Ife in Osun state, but added that there was no proof that 'Ken Sijuade' was her father's real or full name.

She, however, expressed the hope that the photograph of her father during her christening ceremony would help in identifying him and ultimately result in a re-union of father and daughter.

As she pleaded for any information that may help in realizing her hopes, Michelle lamented: "32 years without a dad or even an explanation is not something I find acceptable and it's frustrating not knowing anything about him, not even knowing his full name".

Nigerian boat hijacked off Cameroon coast

ATTACKERS hijacked a Nigerian boat carrying goods off the coast of Cameroon and are demanding a \$1.5 million ransom for the release of its captain and one member of crew, local officials said on Monday.

The attack on Sunday was

the latest in the Bakassi peninsula; coming two weeks after a previously unknown group calling themselves the African Marine Commando hijacked a Chinese fishing vessel there with seven crew on board.

Local military and administrative officials told Reuters that they believed the same group was responsible for the latest attack and a subsequent raid on a local gendarmerie early on Monday in which they made off with firearms and ammunition.

The Chinese fishermen, a common sight in West African waters, were held for a few days and released unharmed after Chinese and Cameroonian officials negotiated with their kidnappers.

Local military and administrative officials told Reuters that they believed the same group was responsible for the latest attack.



FROM left: Chairman, National Sugar Development Council (NSDC) Board of Governing Council, Alhaji Shaba Lafiagi and Executive Secretary of the council, Usman Bello, during an official visit to Savannah Sugar Company, recently.

Ribadu wants stay of proceedings in suit against Police Commission

By Ogechi Ohalee

FORMER Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Nuhu Ribadu, has applied for a stay of proceedings in a suit he filed against the Police Service Commission (PSC) challenging his demotion.

His counsel, Charles Musa told the court that an appeal on the same matter has been filed before the Court of Appeal in Abuja; as such, there is a need to put a stop to proceedings.

Ribadu sued the Inspector General of Police, Police Service Commission (PSC), and the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF), challenging his demotion from the rank of Assistant Inspector General of Police to the rank of Deputy Com-

missioner of Police.

The PSC had told the court that Ribadu lacked the locus standi to institute the action because he failed to obtain permission from the NPF before doing so; but Justice Adamu Bello said the former anti graft boss was right to have exercised his constitutional right by seeking redress in court.

The PSC and AGF had also argued that Ribadu's suit was an abuse of court process as he had another suit challenging his dismissal from the NPF but Justice Bello had ruled against them, saying both suits are different as they have different subject matters.

Justice Bello adjourned till May 20 for adoption of written addresses for and against the motion for stay of proceedings.

Kebbi records increase in pupils enrolment

THE Kebbi State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) has recorded a 35 per cent increase in primary school and Junior Secondary School (JSS) enrolment in the last four years.

The SUBEB Secretary, Alhaji Sodangi Bello said in Birnin Kebbi on yesterday that girl-child enrolment was on the increase.

He said financial contributions by the state and federal government resulted in the provision of 1,707 blocks of two-classrooms in each local government within the period.

"A sum of N4billion was spent on the provision of additional classrooms for primary and JSS on equal basis, in addition to provision of furniture to all local government areas between 2007 and 2010," he said.

He said funding of basic education programmes was through annual grants from UBEC as well as counterpart funding from the state and local government areas. Bello said the Board received N1.1bn in grants for its services in 2009 while it got N199.4m in

the first quarter of 2010 from the federal and state governments.

"The improvement in the training of teachers, provision of infrastructure, school furniture and learning materials have gone a long way in improving the standard of education in the state," he said.

The Permanent Secretary, State Ministry of Education, Hajiya Maimuna Bala, said efforts were being made to introduce monitoring teams to ensure the success of the programme.

Also, the NUT chairman, Danlamai Riba, said implementation of the basic education programme was being hampered by poor remuneration of teachers. He called for a harmonised salary structure for primary school teachers as well as their counterparts in JSS.

A parent, Mallam Usman Danbaba, said the partnership between the federal and state governments in the implementation of basic education programmes had improved the standard of living. (NAN).

Police rescue kidnapped director

From Johnkennedy Uzoma, Owerri

THE Imo State Police Command has rescued a Director in the Ministry of Lands, Survey and Urban Planning in Imo State, Mr. Basil Ogbunga, who was abducted from his house on March 24.

The state Commissioner of Police Mr. Aloy Okorie disclosed this to newsmen while parading the suspected kidnappers yesterday in Owerri. They are Amae-

chi Eze, Benjamin Obeleuwa and Sunday Okorie said Mr. Ogbunga was abducted in front of his house at Ugwu Orji in Owerri North Local Government Council of the state by an armed gang. The commissioner said before the suspects were apprehended by police, they had demanded a N150 million ransom from the family of the victim for his release.

The police on information, stormed a bush in Okwu Uratta on March 27, 2010, where the vic-

tim was kept inside a metal container.

The police commissioner said his men on getting to the scene had a gun battle with the kidnappers, who were guarding the victim and one of them, Sunday was gunned down while Benjamin Obeleuwa and Amaech Eze sustained injuries.

Mr. Okorie said based on their investigation, two other persons, John Onyeka and Ekwealo Nnaemeka who work for a pri-

private security company in Owerri attached to a private Net work Services Provider now at large were collaborators in the crime.

The commissioner added that both Kenneth from Anam in Anambra West Local Government Area of Anambra State and Eze Amaechi of Enugwu Ngwo in Enugu State who are private security guards on the street, where the victim, Chief Basil Ogbunga lives were the initiators of the crime.

The victim, Chief Basil Ogbunga, told newsmen that he was taken away by his abductors at about 9.00pm.

He said on getting to his gate, he saw 4 armed men, who ordered him into their car and drove to an unknown place.

Ogbunga said he was tortured by the kidnappers. While commending the police for rescuing him, he maintained that he did not give the kidnappers any money.



Commissioner of Police, Airport Police Command CP Danazumi Doma (right) with AC Omololu Bishi at the command press briefing on the achievements recorded by the Airport Police Command in the first quarter of year, held at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Ikeja, Lagos, yesterday.

Jigawa gets first female High Court judge

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

GOVERNOR Sule Lamido of Jigawa State yesterday swore-in three new High Court judges, bringing the number of judges in the state to nine. They are Hajiya Nana Aisha Abdullahi, Alhaji Abdulhadi Yalwa Sulaiman and Alhaji Abubakar Sambo Muhammad.

Hajiya Nana Aisha Abdullahi, who is the first female High Court judge in the state was until her appointment the Permanent Secretary in the state's Ministry for Justice. Governor Sule Lamido urged the judges to be God fearing while discharging their statutory duties.

"If you do the right thing, God will always vindicate you. Whenever cases are brought to you, you should be passionate, firm and just in your judgements.

I am sure you will remain a source of model, not only to the people of Jigawa, and the government, but to Nigeria and Nigerians as well. I am therefore urging you to always be firm," he said.

Tinubu declines Fashola's gift

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

FORMER Governor of Lagos State Bola Ahmed Tinubu yesterday said he did not want the newly constructed road to be named after him as was done by the state government.

Governor Babatunde Fashola renamed a 1.5 kilometer rehabilitated road in the Ikeja Central Business District after Tinubu, and invited personalities including the former governor to witness the hand-over of the road yesterday.

Tinubu, who rode in the same car with Fashola to the venue of the ceremony, said the road should not be named after him, but instead, pleaded that the road be named after his childhood friend, Dr. Nurudeen Olowopopo, who died last week.

Tinubu said it would be better for the road to be named after late Dr. Olowopopo, saying the doctor did a lot to improve healthcare delivery in the state while he was alive.

According to him, Olowopopo was one of the Nigerians, who helped the country during the era of National Democratic Coalition (NADECO). He said the late doctor helped the coalition a lot, adding that during his eight year rule as governor of Lagos State, Olowopopo contributed immensely to boost healthcare system in Lagos.

Earlier in his address, Fashola said his administration chose yesterday March 29, which coincided with Tinubu's birthday to hand over the road for public use.

Fashola added that the road was named after Tinubu in recognition of his meritorious service to the government and people of Lagos State and in keeping with the tradition of honouring past governors.

Late Olowopopo was the Chairman of the Lagos State Teaching Hospital (LASUTH) Governing Council until his death a couple of weeks ago. He was found dead in his swimming pool in his house at Victoria Island, Lagos.

Two men on rescue mission faint inside well

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

TWO persons including a fire fighting officer yesterday fainted inside a well while attempting to rescue a 16-year old boy who entered into the well to retrieve a ball.

The incident occurred in Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State at about 3 pm. Speaking to newsmen from his hospital bed at Our Lady of Apostles Hospital in Jos yesterday, one of the victims, Sani Yahaya, 19, said he entered into the well to rescue 16 year old Jabir Muhammad, who had earlier entered into the well to retrieve his ball. He said Jabir fainted and he went in to get him out. "But when I was about to come out with him on my back, I started gasping for breath and eventually fainted and fell back into the well with the person I was rescuing. I was later told that fire fighters were invited to the scene and that one of them attempted to rescue us, but also fainted.

Our correspondents gathered that the three of them were later rescued by some youths and fire fighting officials.

Plateau Assembly, stakeholders meet on Achaba bill

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Plateau State House of Assembly Committee on Works and Transport has met with stakeholders in the transport business on the bill on the Prohibition and Regulation of Commercial Motorcycle Operation in Jos and Bukuru metropolis.

A statement by Press Secretary to the Speaker, Mr. Bulus Gukwat, said the meeting which was attended by security officials and civil society groups was aimed at finding a middle ground for the passage of the executive bill, which had already passed second reading.

The Plateau Assembly had on February 9th, 2010 forwarded the bill to its Committee on Works and Transport to look into the bill and report back.

The Commercial Motorcycle Operators Transport Union of Nigeria (MTUN) as well as the Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria (RTEAN) in Jos had in February 22, 2010 filed a case at the Federal High Court, Jos against the state government, the Assembly and the Attorney General, challenging the move to prohibit motorcyclists from operating in Jos and Bukuru.

Chairman of the House Committee, Tom Bongden, in a statement said the forum was to enable stakeholders make contributions on the bill.

The statement added that the National President of the Amalgamated Commercial Motorcycle Riders Association of Nigeria (ACOMORAN) Alhaji Babangida Mai Hula and the acting state chairman of the association, Alhaji Mustapha Bashir, spoke against the ban, adding that commercial motorcycling provides a source of livelihood for over 15,000 youths in the metropolis.

The Plateau State Police Command through its Assistant Commissioner of Operations, Oga Ero, were in support of the bill, but urged the state government to provide alternatives. The civil society groups according to the statement through their representatives said the ban would be good for the citizens of the state.

ANPP Reps chide Jonathan over ministerial list

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) members in the House of Representatives yesterday expressed disappointment with the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan over some of the ministerial nominees.

The members led by their leader Rep Mohammed Ali Ndume (ANPP, Borno State) told

newsmen at a press briefing that the ministerial list is dominated by former ministers and ambassadors that have not benefited the country during their past services.

Ndume said: "we are appalled and disappointed that the acting President, even though a child of circumstance has decided to toe the retrogressive step which the PDP has always followed.

"The caucus has noted with

concern that majority of the ministerial nominees are 'recycled people'. The ministerial list is dominated by former ministers, former ambassadors etc.

"These are individuals who have been in public life and instead of developing the nation, have taken us back". According to him, the acting President was continuing with pseudo-monarchical system of appointing indi-

viduals into offices based on the families they come from.

He said: "Dr Goodluck Jonathan's ministerial list is a classical example of these unfortunate practices-children of former presidents, ministers, and senators' etc. It means if your father is a 'nobody' you can never be given the opportunity to serve no matter how qualified, committed and prepared you are".

The ANPP caucus also expressed dismay over refusal of the acting President to assign portfolios to the ministerial nominees before presenting the names to the senate for screening.

Ndume said: "the ANPP caucus is disturbed that the acting President did not assign his nominees to specific ministries to enable the senate ask question pertaining to the areas they are expected to serve".

Counsel's absence stalls suit against Jonathan/Assembly

By Ogechi Ohalee

HEARING in a suit filed by a former Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, Farouk Adamu Aliyu challenging a resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives which mandated Vice President Goodluck Jonathan to assume full Presidential powers as Acting President has been stalled.

The court had fixed hearing of the case yesterday but adjourned following the absence of legal representation for Acting President Jonathan, Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) and the National Assembly (NASS).

While counsel to Aliyu, Victor Kanu asked the court for an adjournment to enable him respond to preliminary objections filed by Counsels to the Acting President and the AGF, counsel to NASS told the court that he has not been served service of the said preliminary objections.

The court had granted Aliyu leave to apply for judicial review of the purported resolution passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives which declared President Umaru Musa Yar'adua capable of performing the functions of his office.

Farouk Adamu Aliyu and Sani Hussaini Garun Gabbas are seeking a declaration that the Senate and the House of Representatives lack the constitutional powers to pass a resolution empowering Vice President Goodluck Jonathan as Acting President pending the return of the President from his medical leave in Saudi Arabia.



ACTION Congress women leaders at the commissioning of Nurudeen Olowopopo Avenue in Lagos.

PIC: OLADIPUPO ODUNEWU

Police foil robbery in Niger

By Misbahu Bashir

THE police in Abuja said they have frustrated robbery attempt along the Dogon Ruwa-Nangau road in Niger State.

The Assistant Inspector General of Police in charge of Zone 7 Police Command Ivy Okoronkwo

said at a press conference in Abuja that policemen acting on tip off cordoned off robbers operating along the road and arrested two killing one.

"The robbers opened fire and the police defended themselves: one of the robbers was shot in the crossfire and one Mohammed

Sanda was arrested while others fled with bullet wounds," she said.

The AIG said the man arrested has revealed to the police that his gang operates often along Beji-Zungeru and Beji Company-Sabon Daga roads.

She said a suspected car snatcher; Chijioke Ajikwa was also

arrested along the Jaji-Zaria road in Kaduna State while his accomplices including one Akpan of Sabon Gari Kano escaped. A Honda car with Registration N0 Sokoto AH 675 SKK was recovered from them. The car was snatched in Katsina and the suspect has been charged with theft, she said.

Senate probes alleged N15m bribe to senators

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

SENATE has ordered its Committee on Ethics and Public Petitions to investigate bribery allegations of N15 million (\$100,000) to each senator to scuttle the ongoing min-

isterial screening.

Senator Garba Yakubu Lado (PDP, Katsina South) coming under point of order told the Senate that a publication in one of the national dailies infringed on his privilege by reporting that pro-Yar'adua forces have shared a bribe of \$100,000 to

each senator to stop the screening.

Lado said the report indicated that the money is being shared by senators from Katsina and Gombe states saying "This has breached not only my privilege as a senator from Katsina and the other senators from Gombe but the entire Senate as an

institution."

In his ruling, Senate President David Mark said Senator Lado is in order and directed the Ethics Committee under Senator Omar Hambagda (ANPP, Borno South) to investigate the matter and report back to the Senate.

Police investigate cattle poisoning in Jos

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

THE Nigeria Police in Plateau state yesterday stated that they have begun investigating the allegation by the Fulani cattle association, Miyatti Allah that some people have poisoned

water ponds and grazing areas where several cows allegedly died at Barikin Ladi, Jos South Local Government.

Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) ASP Muhammad Lerama told BBC Hausa Service that the POLICE had

received complaints to that effect from Fulani herdsmen.

He said the allegation had added a new twist to the crisis in the state adding that the police visited the affected areas and saw what exactly happened.

He said the police had inten-

sified effort to ensure security of people and livestock.

Asked whether the police had made any arrest he replied that since they haven't seen anybody on the spot nobody was arrested, but the areas were under the watchful eyes

of police in order to apprehend whoever is found in possession of any substance that is poisonous.

Lerama said the Fulanis should be cautious of what they eat since they fear that the food the buy may be contaminated.



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan (right) being presented with the logo of Alumni Association of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (AANI) by leader of the group Jani Ibrahim, during the visit of members of the association to State House, Abuja, yesterday.

Gunmen kidnap Onitsha businessman

From Beatrice Onuchukwu, Awka

A businessman and Managing Director of Oquism Industries Limited in Onitsha, Anambra State Chief Fimbaars Oforudum was on Sunday kidnapped by unknown gunmen at Ekwulobia in Aguata Local Government Area of the state.

Oforudum, according to a source was returning to Onitsha

after spending the weekend in his village at Igboukwu when he was abducted at the Nkwo Igboukwu Market junction.

One of the witnesses said the gunmen, about three of them, were in a blue Mitsubishi L-300 bus and shot sporadically into the air to scare away passersby before dragging their victim out of his Nissan Laurel Salon car into their bus. A source told our

correspondent that barely four hours after he was kidnapped, his abductors called his family and demanded for a ransom of N260 million.

Oforudum before his abduction was actively involved in market union leadership at the Bridgehead market in Onitsha. Another source who spoke on the ground of anonymity said the abduction of the businessman may not

be unconnected with the leadership crisis in the market. When contacted, the Anambra State Police Public Relation Officer Mr. Emeka Chukwuemeka said he was yet to be briefed on the matter, but the Divisional Police Officer in charge of Ekwulobia, David Dang, when contacted on phone said the matter had been reported to the division, adding that investigation was ongoing.

...Kill U.S.-based doctor in Benin

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

A United States based medical doctor, Dr Charles Nudlue was on Sunday killed by unknown gunmen while returning from a church service in Benin, Edo State.

The sporadic shootings by the gunmen forced

residents and passersby to run for safety for fear of being hit by stray bullets. No fewer than five people sustained injuries. The doctor was rushed to the Central Hospital, where he died. According to a young lady, who was in company of the late doctor in the car, they were returning from a church

service at the Holy Cross Catholic Cathedral on Mission Road in Benin when the gunmen attacked them. The Edo State Police spokesman ASP Peter Ogboi when contacted said, "The officers who are to brief me are to meet with me now. We will issue a statement after the meeting".

JNI expresses concerns over Almajirci

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE central council meeting of the Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI) has ended in Kaduna State with the council expressing concerns over the persistence of Almajirci (street begging) especially in the Northern part of the country.

In the communiqué signed by the Acting Secretary General of the JNI, Alhaji Abdulkarim Mu'azu Palladan, the group urged government to support the integration and institutionalization of the traditional Islamic education sector. The meeting which was presided over by the Sultan of Sokoto Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar and attended by emirs and ulamas called on Muslims in the country to be united and always adhere to Qur'anic injunctions. On the state of the nation, JNI said there was no alternative to peace in the country, urging citizens to recommit themselves to ensuring peace and promote mutual understanding and respect.

"Religious leaders need to exhibit a high sense of maturity and restraint in their comments. They should not allow themselves to be dragged into matters they hardly understand by persons or groups with vested interest," it stated.

NIMASA threatens to shut down private jetties over security code

From Benjamin Auta, Lagos

THE Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) will shut down all private jetties that do not comply with International Ships and Ports Security (ISPS) code, says its Director General Mr. Temisan Omatseye. The DG, gave the warning while flagging off the issuance of Biometric Identity cards to 22 dockworkers at the weekend.

"The ISPS code does not only relate to ports and terminals, it also has to do with private jetties. I think we need to work together to ensure that all private jetties are duly registered to meet up with the ISPS code," he said.

Mr. Omatseye added that soon, only dockworkers certified by the agency would gain entrance into the nation's ports and jetties, saying the identity card contained the original NIMASA registration number for each dockworker to ensure consistent verification as it had different colours for each terminal.

The representative of the Seaport Terminal Operators Association of Nigeria (STOAN) Dr Zebulon Ikokide, praised the initiative by the saying it would enable operators to identify genuine dockworkers.

Kumbotso LG creates 6,000 jobs

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

KUMBOTSO Local Government Area of Kano State has created about 6,000 jobs for indigenes of the local government. Speaking with our correspondent yesterday in Kano, the council chairman, Alhaji Mannir Babba Dan'agundi, said his council embarked on mass job creation for the indigenes to make them self-reliant. He said the council selected and trained the beneficiaries so that they would know how to manage the capital effectively.

According to him, the council also made it possible for them to access loans from micro credit institutions. "I think we are just like a catalyst to help them, to put them through so that they can fend for themselves," he said.

He added that the council under his chairmanship had constructed many projects that would stand the test of time.

Alhaji Dan'agundi added that his council had also controlled the spread of Cerebrospinal Meningitis, Cholera and Malaria by ensuring that people take preventive measures and provision of drugs at the health centres.

Ex-minister wants Senate to prioritise merit in ministerial screening

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

THE Senate has been urged to ensure that merit is given top priority, rather than political, religious or ethnic consideration in the screening of the ministerial nominees.

The immediate past Minister of Culture, Tourism and National Orientation Alhaji Bello Gada gave the advise yesterday while speaking with journalists in Sokoto.

Gada noted that change was good for governance, saying it enhanced delivery of the dividends of democracy to the people.

According to him, the Senate topmost concern should be enhancing the living conditions of Nigerians. He added that peace, unity and the socio-economic growth of the nation should be the focus of all.

Speaking on his service as minister, Gada said he had no regrets and attributed his success to the people of Sokoto, PDP members and Governor Aliyu Wamakko.

He called on the people of the state and PDP loyalists to give the required support to the ministerial nominee from Sokoto, Alhaji Yusuf Suleiman, who he described as dedicated.



DFID Department for International Development

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

THE SPECIAL CONTROL UNIT AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING (SCUML), FEDERAL MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES COMMISSION (EFCC)

Wishes to inform all Designated Non-Financial Institutions (DNFIs) that the Unit's Website (www.scuml.org) is fully functional for:

- On-line Registration (for those that have not registered);
- On-line Submission of weekly Currency Transaction Reports (CTRs);
- On-line Submission of Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs); and
- Other information/enquiries about the Unit and Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) regime in Nigeria.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act (MLPA) 2004, Section 24, categorizes DNFIs as dealers in Jewelries, Cars and Luxury Goods, Chartered/Professional Accountants, Audit Firms, Tax Consultants, Clearing and Settlement Companies, Legal Practitioners, Supermarkets, Hotels and Hospitality Industries, Estates Surveyors and Valuers, dealers in Precious Stones and Metals, Trust and Company Service Providers, Casinos, Pool Betting, Lottery, Non-Governmental Organization.

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For Further details, please contact The Special Control Unit Against Money Laundering at Plot 1349 Ahamdu Bello Way Garki II Abuja, or contact the following person:

Francis Oniwon - 07028181745 - info@scuml.org

Announcer:
T. O. Akinbo Esq.
Director, SCUML

Groups protest against Ogun State ministerial nominees

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

Different groups from the Yewa/Awori Division in Ogun West Senatorial district of Ogun State yesterday took to the streets in Abeokuta, the state capital to protest against the nomination of former Minister of Finance Sen. Jubril Martins-Kuye and Awodele Nojeem Alao as ministers.

At yesterday's protest, the groups demanded the replacement of Martins-Kuye and Alao. They staged a protest walk from the Akin-Olugbade junction, where they converged to the popular Obafemi Awolowo road. The spokesman of the groups, Wale

Olarewaju, said it was time for the people of Ogun West to fight injustice against the area, saying, "The latest among many injustices and age-long marginalization is the nomination of Senator Jubril-Martins-Kuye from Ogun East and Mr. Nojeem Alao from Ogun Central as ministerial nominees from the state. We must inform the world that this is the sixth ministerial nomination from Ogun State since 1999 without a single person from Ogun West. We say enough of this imbalance."

When the protesters got to the Government House, the governor assured that their complaint would be

looked into.

Meanwhile, a group of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) known as Omo Ilu in Ogun State yesterday commended Acting President Goodluck Jonathan for nominating Senator Jubril-Martins-Kuye from Ogun East and Mr. Nojeem Alao from Ogun Central

The Omo Ilu group described the Acting President's nominations from the state as "Well deserved." A statement by the Director of group, Tunde Oladunjoye, said Martins-Kuye is a respected leader and a true party man. "He commands respect among the various stakeholders in the party.

Borno to employ more teachers

From Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

THE Borno State government is set to employ more teachers for the state owned School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Technology.

A statement signed by the Permanent Secretary in the state Civil Service Com-

mission, Thlana Audu, said Governor Ali Modu Sheriff had approved the employment of more teachers for the state owned health institutions, saying the exercise would not be limited to indigenes alone, but to all qualified persons.

It added that the exercise was not part of the recruitment of teachers which

commenced last year.

The statement maintained that the exercise was part of measures to ensure the successful implementation of the UBE programme in the state.

Those qualified to apply are graduates of Environmental Health, Medical Laboratory Technologist, Microbiology among others.

De-miners stop work due to non-payment

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE de-miners contracted by the Ministry of Defence to recover and blast landmines and other left-over explosives of the Nigerian Civil War have stopped work due to non payment for work already done.

Forty years after, landmines and other unexploded ordinances of the war have continued to claim lives and property in the country. Members of the Kwenev Community which hosts the Shooting Range of the Tactical Air Command (TAC) of the Nigeria Air Force were said to have reported to the authorities recently that

there were explosives on their farmlands.

Reports say the community had complained that recent bush burnings in the area triggered off explosions, although no lives or property were lost. But the Repair Services Bureau (RSB) Holdings Limited, the

de-miners with the mandate to clear the land says it cannot help for now because of the non-payment for the job already done.

Emeka Uhegbu, the spokesman, told *Daily Trust* yesterday that the de-miners were yet to complete the job in Benue State because of lack of payment.

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“Forty years after, landmines and other unexploded ordinances of the war have continued to claim lives and property in the country.

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



New ministers face screening today

FOR our country to be one of the leading nations in the globe the Senators should try to forget any sentiments when doing their job. Confirming Akunyili or replacing her with Emodi is not a national issue. It is simply a political crisis that will not take us to anywhere.

Abubkr Badru Jkamshi
damurna@yahoo.com

She should not be cleared by senate because of her utterances. They are unlike those of an administrator who represents people.
Yakubu M. Gumel

yufamiz@yahoo.com

My advice to Prof. Dora is that since her adversaries are many now and determined to see her downfall, she should forget about her ministerial ambition and look out for other opportunities and re-strategize.

I know you did well in NAF-DAC and I am sure if you are given another opportunity, you will do more than you did in the Ministry of Information and Communication.

Mansoor
almansoor@yahoo.com



ALHAJI Atiku Abubakar

'Adamawa PDP yet to be informed of Atiku's return to party'

ATIKU going back to PDP. What a surprise. Well, with these types of people in leadership who are not guided by any principle but personal interest, we are in trouble.

Mohammed Kabir
kmoh670@yahoo.com

So Atiku can still go back to PDP with all the noise he made and the manner he and other AC chieftains swept the PDP during the last election. Why cross-carpeting?

Sulebros
sulebros@gmail.com

I think the agitation by Atiku Abubakar to come back to PDP is to acquire power at all cost. Imagine somebody like Atiku who was considered as embodiment of democracy, now falling into such a political dilemma. He is seeking a place to actualize his ambition of becoming president. This is not the politics of ideologies we should be emulating from our past leaders. The time will come when we Nigerians start screening candidates ourselves.

Zanna Baruwa Gashua
bukar.zanna@yahoo.com

No governor saw Yar'adua - Shekarau

I'M glad that Shekarau could exhibit such sense of responsibility. It was an interesting and very matured speech.

Teddy
okoliteddy@yahoo.com

Sylva alleges campaign to oust him from office

IF you are sincere that you didn't do what the EFCC is accusing you of, then come out in the open and give the detailed account of how you used Bayelsa money. Shouting that people want to muscle you out of power is not the way to go about it.

Hans
hansaa@yahoo.com

Whatever the case is, if the Governor is involved, he should be arrested and removed from office. People like hiding behind issues to



BAYELSA Gov Timipre Sylva

give excuses. If one is not involved, nobody will say you are because it can't be proved! That's why I like Ribadu; he does not need to give any report to anybody. As long as he has established his case, he will just move in and arrest the actors. How can a Commissioner, a Chief of Staff and an Accountant-General steal that much money without the Governor's knowledge? Is it witchcraft? There is no coincidence and they are a disappointment to the Acting president and their people. They deserve nothing but justice! What is the state assembly doing? Or is it the same as the situation in most states where they have been pocketed by the Governor? That's why we need free and fair election so that those elected will derive their power and authority from the electorate.

Aji Isuwa Suleiman

suleimanaji@yahoo.com

Jonathan should allow the EFCC to conclude the investigation of the alleged involvement of his wife in corruption started by Ribadu first or is the file also missing? I am not saying corruption should be condoned. However, Jonathan should know that the strength of a leader is determined by how large his heart is. Everybody knows that like his Godfather Obasanjo, Jonathan has started using the EFCC to fight his enemies. I believe this is a wrong move from Jonathan.

Usman Mohammed
ug_Mohammed@yahoo.com

The Governor should defend himself directly. He should leave Abuja out of it.

Obianaefo
trexconv@yahoo.co.uk

16 policemen killed in Ebonyi communal clash

IT is unfortunate that this is happening and the wrong people are the victims. My elder brother Corporal Vincent Barisi Bemah of Mopol 32 Abakaliki was murdered on 19th February on active service with other of his colleagues in Ezillo. Nothing happened.

I want to let the IGP and Gov Elechi Marthins of Ebonyi State know that Vincent left behind a family (wife and children). Although it won't bring him back but Ebonyi State government must compensate the family and offer scholarships to the children.

They must also make public and prosecute those behind these killings, madness as it were.

Bari-Iye Bemah
bgordins@yahoo.com

Senate disenfranchises 98% of electorate - Sen Aminu

WHO is this senator protecting (Jibrin Aminu) by opposing the raising of qualification of electoral positions to tertiary education level, or does he wants to tell the world that we cannot have people from the north to fill in those positions in the two federal houses and other posts at state level? We never expected people like him to oppose this amendment as it is done at the right time. More grease to this committee's elbow. I believed they did it with full faith, for God and the country. This committee has focus. It is true that we don't want to see any seat warmer in these two

Buhari's exit from ANPP good riddance - Shekarau

SHEKARAU has just shown how ungrateful he is. Who in the future now can stake his neck for him?

Mustash
almustash@yahoo.com

Honestly I expected Mallam to be modest in his criticism of Buhari. Whatever short comings Buhari may have, common sense demands that Mallam should not part of it. Let Mallam allow his supporters to attack Buhari, but not himself as it is not Islamic to bite the finger that fed you.

Alh Umar Dada
umardada75@yahoo.com

Allah (SWT) has already described man in words that are more fitting and uncontroversial, for Allah (SWT) is the Creator of the Heavens and the Earths. In Suratul Al-Isra, verse 67 "Most ungrateful is

upper houses. We want people of the right caliber who can brainstorm on all issues before taking decisions for the betterment of the country. May God guide the houses in all their undertakings regarding this amendment.

Bello Birchi Abdulla
birchibello@yahoo.com

I don't think that alteration will pass through when it reaches the State Houses of Assembly. For me, it's just a confirmation of how selfish those who are educated are. After all we have seen that the more of western education you acquire,

man!" Shekarau has every right to say whatever he wants. This is the more reason why his rating has been at its lowest since his ascension to power in 2003. He has already switched constituency from the Talakawas to the Emir's Palace. Shekarau needs to come back have a rethink - though unlikely since he was turbaned - to understand that the same Talakawas will still meet him on his way down.

Sani Tukur
stbd26@yahoo.com

Shekarau's comments on Buhari's ANPP exit were exactly opposite of the reality. Buhari was the most valuable member ANPP ever had. Cross-carpeting in politics is a reflection of Democracy. Shekarau must learn the "Principles of Democracy".

Aliyu Mohammed
alemo05@yahoo.com

the more your primitive sense of accumulation increase.

Sunusi Musa
iyando22@yahoo.com

Let us do what the rest of the world is doing. I am on the same page with the Professor. Educate our people!

Bisi Adegbuyi
gbuyilaw@yahoo.com

On the contrary, I think the constitutional amendment to tertiary level as requisite educational qualification for electoral positions is quite healthy for the country. First,

'Jobless Nigerians to earn N25,000 monthly'

THIS is a welcome development in Nigeria. Our leaders should not drop this idea. Billions of Naira are stolen every year by corrupt leaders to secure the futures of their families first. Serving the people is a distantly second consideration. Africa is a laughing stock today and lagging behind simply because of bad leadership. Africans are poor but Africa is not poor. Africa is a continent of resources, both human and material, but poor and probably blind in leadership. Let our leaders prove once and for all that they are capable. Let the ordinary Nigerian be proud of his own country and let us respect human dignity. Only in Nigeria do you hear of 'Area boys' and Almajaris. This is a rescue program for our youth which will reduce armed robbery and cultism in the coun-

try. It's a welcome idea!!!
Sylvester A.
abokispace@gmail.com

This is a welcome development in National capacity building but am assuring you that the bill may not see the light of the day because the project is not in their agenda.

Bashir Hamman Gabdo
bhgabdo2007@yahoo.com

Oniwon Omolowo
godface_2057@yahoo.co.uk

If sincerely implemented, this is what the Nigerian economy requires in order to start to grow. Similar programs are in place in most countries of the world as it provides an avenue to engage the productive sector of the economy. I wish the NIPC and indeed Nigeria the best in this very laudable venture.

Abdul-Hamid O. Y.
nigeriaabdul@yahoo.co.uk



By Amos Giandam

We've seen enough of Akunyili

The federal cabinet may roar back to life soon as Acting President Goodluck Jonathan is set to retain some of the 42 ministers relieved of their jobs following the dissolution of the Federal Executive Council.

We learnt the list of the 21 nominees to be retained will be forwarded to the Senate anytime from now for confirmation. We also learnt that the Presidency is considering six names as likely replacement for Professor Maurice Iwu as Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission.

According to sources in the Presidency, names being considered as likely replacement for Iwu include Prof. Attahiru Jega, a former president of the Academic Staff Union of Universities, ASUU, Dr. Jibrin Ibrahim, rtd., Major-General Ishola Williams, president of Transparency Nigeria, Col. Abubakar Umar, former Military Administrator of Kaduna State, Mr. Olisa Agbakoba, and former Nigeria Bar Association, NBA president.

Before her inclusion in a fresh batch of cabinet nominees, Prof Dora Akunyili, immediate past Information and Communications Minister, was thought to be among those being considered for INEC's top position. It may not mean, however,

But Dora who? Who would want to appoint her into any sensitive position in Nigeria again?

she would not be in the running.

But Dora who? Who would want to appoint her into any sensitive position in Nigeria again? Have we not seen enough of her? The Akunyili I knew now worships power. For her, nothing is too small or too great to do to acquire power and flaunt it. Her love of the limelight is part of her endless scheming for power. Once she grabs it, Mrs Akunyili immediately and unceremoniously abandons all who helped her. She reminds me of the proverbial man who, on using a ladder to climb to the top, quickly destroyed it so that no other person could benefit from it.

I have been one of Akunyili's fans when she was head of NAFDAC. I was prepared to die defending her. But honestly, since she accepted the office of the Information Minister for President Yar'adua led government in her desperation to continue to be in office, she has become a shadow of herself. She went about telling Nigerians lies upon lies, defending government failures and deceptions with pride. Even when there was billions of naira budgeted to provide us with darkness, she kept defending the government. Then she was never guided by the Holy Spirit to tell us the truth.

Remember when she came out shamelessly to tell the world that as a minister for information, her job was only to help the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) carry their files to the president without making an input at all.

This was when she desperately attempted to exonerate herself from the fallouts that greeted the contract award for procurement of broadcast equipment for NTA for the U-17 FIFA football tournament hosted by Nigeria.

As if that was not enough, she was the same person who came openly to defend the so-called cabal's insistence on President Yar'adua's right to govern from anywhere in the world. That he is medically fit and all there was to be told. But about some weeks ago, Professor Akunyili wrote a memo to her cabinet colleagues suggesting that Vice President Goodluck Jonathan be made the Acting President. Nothing is wrong with making Jonathan the Acting president but it was a dramatic volt face for someone who had on two previous occasions after the Executive Council meetings addressed the press where she strongly defended Yar'adua's fitness for the country's leadership.

Akunyili made it the first time in our history where council memo became public knowledge as soon as it was written, let alone submitted. Even directors in the Ministries who normally prepare such memos swear to an oath of secrecy before working on them. She broke the rules. Her reasons for sending her memo to every media were for her to be seen as a fanatical supporter of Dr Jonathan—the new kid on the block—so that she could retain her cabinet membership, and to regain her public image which has been declining disastrously since she became the Minister of Information. Not satisfied with the plethora of articles she and her numerous aides have been churning out every second eulogising her for her so-called courage in breaking ranks with her colleagues over Yar'adua's health status, Mrs Akunyili went on a whistle-stop campaign of media interviews castigating her colleagues dubbed by the press as the cabal for hiding the president from everyone.

There is no serious government anywhere in the world where cabinet members attack themselves in the open. The doctrine of collective responsibility, for instance, makes it mandatory that ministers defend government policies in public, including those they may have opposed strongly as individuals during cabinet discussions. When she got facts that president Yar'adua would not recover soon enough to resume office as they expected, Akunyili immediately tried to outsmart others by defecting to what she concluded was the winning siding, claiming to be standing for the truth and insisting the Nigerian Constitution be complied with after serving Nigerians some untruths. This is crass opportunism.

After the 2009 Anambra governorship election which the PDP lost, it was shocking to see Dora Akunyili summon an Anambra State PDP stakeholders' reconciliation meeting where she passionately regretted the PDP loss, and begged them to work together for the progress and interest of PDP. Is this the kind of person that should replace Iwu as an impartial INEC boss? How can she then lead INEC to deliver free and fair election that will ensure the rejection or failure of PDP if Nigerians so insist and desire?

Uwadi wrote from Mmahu-Egbema, Imo state.



By Amos Giandam

Before we crucify Gaddafi (II)

Cont'd from yesterday.

(3) *Demand for weaker center or state police:* The south has been very vociferous in the demand for a weaker federal system of government, where the confederating states will be controlling very thing in its jurisdiction except military and currency. This request has reached a crescendo, so much so that the National Assembly is now debating passing it into law. In fact Lagos state created local governments irrespective of the fact that creation of local government is a responsibility of National Assembly, on the ground that Kano state of the north is unjustly having more local governments than Lagos.

(4) *Shara in the Muslim North:* This is an Islamic legal system that controls every aspect of the life a Muslim. This legal system came into full operation in all the northern states of Nigeria between 1999 and 2000. In this arrangement an act that is not an offence in the South is so much an offence that can lead to execution in the north.

(5) *Gideon Orkar coup:* In April 1990 Major Gideon Orkar carried out an unsuccessful coup, where he claimed in his coup broadcast that the coup was well conceived to free the middle belt and the south from inter-

Though the coup was unsuccessful, he had supporters and sponsors; some of them still alive.

nal slavery and colonization and proposed to excise the following states from Nigeria Sokoto, Borno, Katsina, Bauchi and Kano. Though the coup was unsuccessful, he had supporters and sponsors; some of them still alive.

(6) *Ethnic affiliations:* No matter how we diminish, suppress, deny and play down the malevolent or benevolent activities of Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND), Movement for the Actualization of Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), Northern and southern Governors forum, Odua Peoples Congress (OPC), Niger Delta People Volunteer Force (NDPVF), National Salvation Front (NSF), etc a little and honest investigation may convince you that Gaddafi is not mad after all.

(7) *Research:* When the United States of America Intelligence Council predicted a total collapse of Nigeria come 2015, all hell was let loose by some prominent Nigerians in condemnation of the report. Flabbergasted by this, the organization went back to research some years later to verify whether they have committed what statisticians call type one error in their conclusion. This is the error committed when we reject a null hypothesis that is true. That is, concluding that an indicator for a col-

lapse is significant when in fact it is not. The finding of the second survey did not only confirm the earlier conclusion but bought the collapse date nearer to 2013.

(8) *Poverty and corruption:* The way and manner poverty and corruption beleaguered the nation is evident in the popular demand for

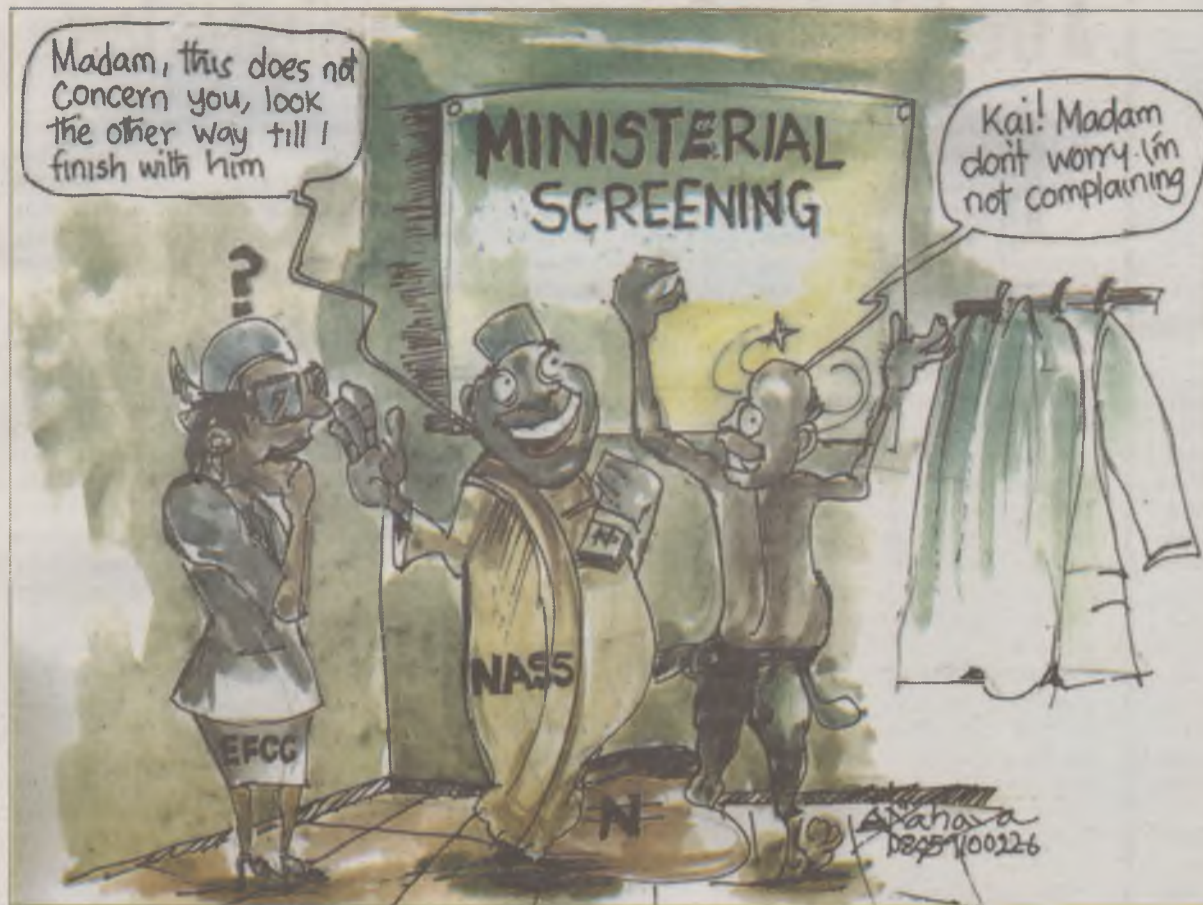
When the truth was known, each of the 15 members in the union went his own way successfully in 1991

revolution among northern youths and resource control among their southern counterparts. In 2009, the Transparency International, the world most credible organization that measures domestic and public sector corruption ranked 180 countries of the world on corruption perception index (CPI) using zero (0) to ten (10) scales, with zero indicating high level of poverty and 10 low level of poverty. Nigeria scored 2.5 out of 10 points, degeneration from her 2008 score of 2.7. Somalia, which can hardly now qualify as a nation due to poverty and corruption scored 1.1 implying that Nigeria's distance from Somalia using this index is 1.4.

Economic downturn is the major force that pushed the Soviet Union to the oblivion, when Gorbachev the then president embarked on structural programs, initially aimed at widening opportunities to address economic stagnation caused by dramatic drop of oil price in 1985 to 1986. His policy relaxed government control of some industries and this liberalization led to communist party losing its absolute grip of the media, previously used to conceal and deny truth. When the truth was known, each of the 15 members in the union went his own way successfully in 1991.

Despite several unsuccessful effort made in the past to unite this country such as, the Federal character principles, which has been described by Prof. Mamud Mandni as the cause of conflict in his lecture at Nigeria institute of international affairs, civil war, NYSC, unity schools, etc, our moment of truth is when our corrupt leaders realize that the unity in Nigeria as at now is the unity of Jonah in the belly of a Whale and not the unity of a catholic marriage as encapsulated by Dim Odumegwu Ojukwu (Insider Magazine no 44, November 16, 2009). The whale realized that Jonah, after 3 days in its belly, was not dead, not to talk of digestion and assimilation into its body; but was praying, vomited Jonah and had peace and Jonah gained freedom to go for his prophetic message.

Concluded.
Giandam wrote from No 35 Danmua Road Maiduguri.



Your Letters

On the Umaru Musa Yar'adua University

Katsina State governor may not be aware, but all is not well with the Umaru Musa Yar'adua University that much of the State government resources are being invested in. The management staff members of the university have turned to demi-gods in handling the affairs of the University as their personal property. The academic principle is being vio-

lated, maintenance culture is no more. Admission process is not being as only those that come through the management officials were offered admission; the management did this by cancelling the Post-UME exam to test the ability of the qualified students to be admitted. Academic rules and regulation are also not being followed, the management appoints even HODs. Academic staff welfare is being tampered with from their earnings to fellowship with the daily verbal law that the management often comes with to favour their interests.

University properties have

been turned to personal uses, acute shortage of water in the university buildings and the student hostels, but the university water tanker is busy supplying the residents of the management staff on daily basis. The University vehicles are been turned to personal properties as the academic staff members are denied access to them. The State government look into all these issues in order to find a lasting solution to the unfortunate situation the university is in now.

Ahmadu Babangida, No.15, Kofar Durbi, Katsina (ahmadbabangida44@yahoo.com)

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Exasperating

I think we should forget everything that is going on in our country, because the leaders are only deceiving us by telling us the acting president has not seen the ailing president.
08067087596.

Re: Blasts in Warri

YOUR position on this issue is understandable, but I believe that the issue in Niger Delta cannot be solved by amnesty alone. There must be a separate treatment for criminals as distinct from armed activists. Overlooking that truth will have the armed forces eventually fighting MEND as the LTTE was in Sri Lanka. Criminality is different from armed activism.
TMK, Kaduna, 08037214347.

Doubtful data

It is not true that in every

two marriages, one ends in divorce, because I was born and grew up in Kano, and 40 years old. I can swear that there has been no single divorce among my age mates for the past 15 years.

IBRAHIM Ishaq, Kawo, Kano, 08035971412.

Jobless Nigerians Vs teachers

THE proposal by the NIPC that jobless Nigerians would earn N25, 000 monthly is a welcome idea. But there're teachers in some states that take less than that amount as monthly pay. The RMAFC should come to their rescue.

IS'HAQ Ibn Isa, Barkin-Ladi, Plateau State, 08060921968.

Political mabarata

HAIJIYAYYE'S endless list failed to capture the political mabarata,

i.e. those begging for Ministerial appointments, official mabarata, etc.

MUKHTAR M. Mansur, 08029366163.

...And others too

HAIJIYAYYE hit the nail on the head. Northern Muslim elite should emulate TY Danjuma in setting up foundations to cater for the millions of the genuine mabukata and marabata in our midst at all levels of our society. Otherwise our unjustifiable display of ostentation may lead to social explosions in which the elite would be the target. It is also an antidote against stereotype, GORI that, northerners are: CIMA KWANCE (Parasites) and MALALATA (Lazy).

ABU Abba, Gwarinpa, Abuja, 08099347572.



By AbdulGaniy Tejumola

The return of Daggash

Borno State born Mohammad Sanusi Daggash, who graduated in Architecture from Ahmadu Bello University, ABU, Zaria, in 1982, was the pioneer minister of National Planning, in the present administration, and was strategic to the economic plan of the administration. In that position, he was Chairman of both the National Steering Committee on Nigerian Vision 2020, and the National Council for Development Planning. He was equally the Vice chairman of the Economic Management Team, EMT and Member of several other committees, including Committee of African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), National Energy Council (NEC) National Economic Council, NEC, National Council on Nigerian Vision 2020 and National Council on Privatization, NCP among others.

Besides, at Council meetings, reports indicated that he was always at his best, a situation that made one of the senior officials of the government to once admit at a function that the likes of Daggash make the north proud.

But when he was eventually dropped, politically analysts were locating reason behind his sack, especially considering the fact that the unofficial reasons were that some of them were either incompetent or at loggerheads with their various state governors because of the 2011 elections.

To encounter Daggash is to encounter someone determined to serve his country. An architect by training, Daggash understands the political economy of Nigeria very well. This no doubt stands him out among his peers. Apart from having a Master of Science in Development Economics, University of London and another in Public Administration MPA, from the University of Maiduguri, he has attended series of certificate courses. Among the courses are Oil Pollution & Environmental Management, Petroleum Economics for Nigeria Legislators, Executive Programme on Budgeting and Financial Management in Public Sector in Harvard University, USA, Executive Education Program on Finance and Accounting for the Non-Financial Executive in Columbia University, Graduate School of Business NY, and International Human Resources Development Corporation (IHRDC) Certificate in International Petroleum Management Certificate Programme.

In a recent interview on "How to Fix Nigeria," Daggash noted: "Leadership has a role to play here because whatever you need to do the nation or the state or the community bothers on leadership. And whatever happens up there filters down into the system. So if you have to change the bottom, you have to change the top. So, we as leaders have to change our attitudes to doing things, governing, facilitating development, giving proper leadership to encourage those who are charged with this kind of responsibility of production, development, infrastructures, by giving them the necessary confidence for even those who are coming in from without with direct investment and so on. We know the problem, security is the problem, infrastructure is the problem, power is the problem, road is the problem and so on and so forth. But this is a very, very fertile area for investment. If you are looking for a market, you are the market, you are in the market already, 150 million people, that is a large market... we study our five or six percent growth levels right now, what can we do about it, we study our institution, we study our education, health, we study the civil service which is the backbone of any form of development in a system in terms of delivering service to the people we study our security situation, requirements and needs. So you have enough time to be able to map out what need to be done and based on what I said earlier, you will also have enough time to secure a kind of resources necessary for development rather than relying solely thinking that foreign investments will come.

"Like I told you earlier, all the resources you think are there for development in Nigeria exist in any other country, so investor will go to where he thinks he can invest in a stable environment, unfortunately we haven't been able to create that necessary confidence so far, so you go to Cameroon, you will even go to Botswana or even go to Ghana and use that platform because there is something called ECOWAS and export your goods to Nigeria in the same market because effectively Cotonou (Benin Republic) and Lagos how far are they off Maiduguri, they are just about 2,000 kilometres apart."

Returning Daggash to the Cabinet is indication that the enormous potential of the young man has been recognized. It is hoped that senators, whose duty it is to confirm ministerial nominees, realise this too.

Tejumola wrote from Kaduna (saddygold@yahoo.com)

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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

Gaddafi's unhelpful gaffe

Libyan President Muammar Gaddafi recently suggested that Nigeria be split along religious lines. His comments followed the recent outbreaks of communal violence in Plateau State. Expectedly, the prescription proposed has generated a lot of heat in Nigeria, and a diplomatic spat between both countries; Nigeria has recalled its ambassador to Tripoli. Ironically, several times in the past, some Nigerians had called for a similar split as solution to social upheavals, out of ethnic bigotry or to press home the resource control issue.

Gaddafi's call is not entirely new. Ethnic-based organisations like the *Oodua* People's Congress (OPC) have repeatedly called for excision of the Yoruba nation from the Nigerian body polity. Similarly, the Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) has, for about a decade been calling for another secession attempt, after the failed one of 1966. Added to these are the some prominent Nigerians calling for a sovereign national conference for the purpose of dissolving the Nigerian Federation. However, Gaddafi's intervention is certainly the most preposterous. He was unrepentant at the weekend, modifying his suggestion to say that the split he called for should be along ethnic lines, like in the case of former Yugoslavia.

Whoever is familiar with the ethno-religious make-up of Nigeria knows that there are numerous ethnic groups in the country where staunch adherents of both Christianity and Islam exist in large number. Even within the same families in such communities, adherents of the two faiths can be found, interacting peacefully. It is true that the recent sectarian clashes in Plateau state and many others before them belie this undeniable reality, but the point is that these crises do not necessarily reflect the level of intolerance between Muslims and Christians that is being ascribed to them.

Even Gaddafi's suggestion that the Christian country should be the South of Nigeria with its capital in Lagos and the North should be the Muslim country with its capital in Abuja betrays an ignorant grasp of the Nigerian situation. The Yoruba in the South for instance are majority Muslim; the same goes for the millions of Christians who are the majority in such Northern states as Benue, Plateau, and Taraba. From whichever way you view it, Gaddafi's call was naive, ignorant, impractical and unbecoming of a statesman of his stature.

Though we suspect that the Libyan leader's unwise comment was made out of concern for a sister African nation beset by recurrent ethno-religious conflicts, it is clear that the Nigerian nation is so interwoven and inter-dependent that a two-state solution along religious lines can only exacerbate the problems rather than solve them. The example Gaddafi gave of the Indian split of 1947, which gave birth to the nations of India and Pakistan, was at best, a poor case to cite. For one, the split itself cost the two countries no less than 200,000 lives, while echoes from the split have continued to reverberate to this day, spilling blood, especially in the disputed Kashmir province.

In the final analysis, leaders like Gaddafi are well advised to comment on issues they are very knowledgeable about, especially if they concerned other nations of the world. In particular, Gaddafi's prescription makes a mockery of his United States of Africa advocacy, where he emphasises African unity over and above religious and national boundaries. Nigerian leaders should see the Gaddafi episode as a wake-up call to begin to take measures towards ending the cycle of sectarian crises in the country. In our view, recalling the Nigerian ambassador to Tripoli was an overreaction on the part of the Nigerian government, as there are diplomatic channels that should have been followed before that action was considered.

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e-mail: opinion@dailytrust.com

A fresh look at Borno's new emirates law

By Mohammed Gujbawu

The Borno State House of Assembly recently passed a bill empowering the governor to create additional emirates and chiefdoms in the state, an exercise which has been cleverly avoided even by military administrators and elected governors in the past. Under normal circumstances and with best of motives, new emirates would have been a welcome development but for the inauspicious mood of the people of the state and "absurdity" of the whole exercise. Many a people see the creation of the new emirates and chiefdoms not only as a misplaced priority but also as an open vendetta to settle some old political scores as 2010 elections beckon. Ironically and unfortunately, government apologists and crumb pickers see proponents of this idea in very negative perception.

Those who belong to the critical school of thought would argue that it amounts to sheer waste of resources for the Borno state government to approve a princely sum of 300 million solid Nigerian Naira for the construction of a "befitting" palace for the newly appointed Shehu Abba Tor Shehu Masta, the Emir of the new Dikwa emirate. If indications coming out of government circles are anything to go by, three other emirates and several chiefdoms would follow suit soon thereby overstretching scarce resources. The economic implications of all these on the impoverished people of the state are better imagined.

This is valid reasoning because the millions of Naira to be expended on the construction of palaces and maintenance of courtiers and the likes would have been used to improve water supply to villages and hamlets that are in dire need of it. Intuitively, the state government had ordered for and had taken delivery of several state of the art water rigs with the capacity to drill boreholes even on the rocky mountains of Kandahar and *Tora Bora*, let alone in the soft deserts of Abadam or Kwaya Kusar. While it is true that some scores of people are truly suffering due to economic deprivations and despondency, we should also not lose sight of the fact that these new emirs and chiefs are also humans, in fact they have royal bloods in their veins and therefore a virement of a mere N300 million from the joint account should not be a problem at all. After all, the excess crude account is always there to serve as a reserve. Lest we forget these new emirs and chiefs would require new limos, concubines, cooks, stewards, and of course new court jesters to message their ego and be at their beck and call.

I don't really understand how *ungrateful and myopic* some people could be despite the uncountable achievements the present government has recorded in the past six and a half years or so. Some of these strides were

so formidable that even if one puts together the achievements of former governors in the state like Musa Usman, Muhammadu Buhari, Mustapha Amin, Mohammed Goni, Maina Ma'aji, etc, they would not come near what the present government has achieved. Ask the civil servants they would tell you they never had it so good in the last 20 years, ditto for lecturers in the institutions of higher learning.

Yet, like Oliver Twist, these ungrateful lecturers still want some more, forgetting that tertiary education is not absolutely necessary in this part of the world. After all even most of those who represent us in the National Assembly are barely educated and such A-Level qualification here is a waste of time. The lecturers should not disturb us with unnecessary demands as

major preoccupation of the people, be it civil servants, politicians or business men and women is to sit down under a tree, doing nothing other than criticizing the good policies and gestures of the state government. For example, when I visited my mechanic last weekend to fix my Tokunbo Toyota car at Bolori area within the metropolis, I had a bitter experience with a disgruntled man, maybe from the opposition, who argued rather blindly that there were only a handful of contractors doing contracts in the state presently as against, for example, during the tenures of Mohammed Goni or the "stingy" Maina Ma'aji Lawan. I took my time to explain to this man that times have changed and as such fewer contractors would rather execute contracts as efficiently as possible instead of dolling it out to a bunch of novices and hungry politicians who might even abandon the contracts and abscond.

After all even most of those who represent us in the National Assembly are barely educated and such A-Level qualification here is a waste of time

sale of handouts is still lawful in all our schools. What disturbs me most is the constant outcry of Borno state students in the institutions of higher learning. Just like their lecturers they are also greedy. They always complain that the annual bursary award of N3,500 given to them by the government is grossly inadequate. But at least it can comfortably buy them five packets of *Cabin Biscuits* and several "jumbo" of pure water.

The good people of Bama should please harbour no hard feelings at all as the intention of the state government was to off load some of the heavy burdens of the former Shehu whose schedule of duties were unbearable and too much for just one person to carry.

The insinuation that the former Shehu Kyari was punished for not following a simple order from "above" to sack the "arrogant" Aji Sudani of Dikwa who has become pompous and recalcitrant because of his ordinary PhD and his appointment in Abuja as a messenger of the President in the National Assembly does not hold water at all. Further argument that Shehu Kyari had during the reign of late Mala Kachallah refused a similar request, again from the "above" to sack the Galadima of Dikwa is also sheer bunkum, an argument as flimsy as gossamer.

Today in Borno state one

I tried to make him understand that since these few expert contractors usually dole out a lot of money to hangers-on and politicians, what then is the fuss all about? After all, the end justifies the means. Must one unnecessarily suffer before satisfying his needs when there are generous people around him? He further made me livid with anger when he said only families of top politicians and their friends benefit from contracts; I wasted no time in telling him to give contracts to his enemies when he becomes a governor or a local government chairman.

Still on the same issue of Semirate creation out of Biu, Gwoza and in northern Borno, again I don't understand why people are dissipating so much energy on it. It is the same people that protested and demanded for creation of new emirates and chiefdoms. They must have seen or realised how emirs and chiefs are enjoying themselves, marrying under -16 girls and their cheeks bulging because of good life. They wanted their rewards right here on earth unlike the foolish teachers who want theirs in heaven irrespective of whether it is guaranteed or not. So, let the new emirates roll out.

Gujbawu wrote in from No.8, Dipcharima Street, Old G.R.A. Maiduguri.



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8	First Bank of Nigeria Plc	8,083
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11	Guaranty Trust Bank Plc	343
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INTERNATIONAL

Uganda rebels deny mass killings in northeast Congo

ONE of Africa's most brutal rebel groups, Uganda's Lords Resistance Army (LRA), said yesterday a report that its members killed hundreds of villagers in the Democratic Republic of Congo late last year was fabricated.

In a report, the US-based Human Rights Watch said 321 people were massacred in a killing spree that took place in villages in DRC's remote northeast

in December. The report was backed by the United Nations. "These claims of massacres coming almost four months late are yet another fabrication by NGOs, which are advocating war," Justine Labeja, LRA's Nairobi-based spokesman, told Reuters.

The LRA fought a two-decade insurgency in northern Uganda before crossing into Congo in 2005. A Ugandan-led multina-

tional force attacked its jungle bases in late 2008, and the rebels splintered into groups.

Most of the fighters crossed into Sudan and Central African Republic, where they have carried out waves of attacks, but experts think one group remains based in Congo.

"Yes, we are in Congo but we have no problem with the Congolese people or its government and

we continue to call for a ceasefire to end this war," said Labeja.

Colonel Michael Anywar, an LRA official in the Kenyan capital, accused the United Nations of making the rebel group a scapegoat and an excuse to stay in the mineral-rich nation.

"The UN are being kicked out of Congo against their will but they now want to use us as an excuse to stay there," he said.

The cult-like group, which is led by Joseph Kony and is accused of turning boys into child soldiers and girls into sex slaves, says it wants to rule Uganda according to the Bible's Ten Commandments.

At the height of Kony's war, thousands were killed and 2 million Ugandans were forced to seek safety in camps that dotted northern Uganda and southern Sudan for close to two decades.

Brazil switches to online visa application

By Charles Onunaiju

HENCEFORTH, all visa applicants to the embassy of the Federation of Brazil can do so online by filling in the application form.

According to an official of the embassy in Abuja, Mr. Carlos Fretas, (vice consul), the measure is design to fast-track visa application and processing, given the expanding relation between Brazil and Nigeria.

According to a document released on the online visa application, applicants can access and fill in the application form at the Provided Website (www.scedv.sepro.gov.br/frscedv/index.ksp) and thereafter bring the completed form and other requirement for interview.

The embassy however noted that payment of consular consultation fee and submission of documents does not in any way guarantee that visa shall be issued.

Furthermore in the general information contained in the new online visa application format, the embassy pointed out that visa in accordance with international law is an expectation of authorization to enter the territory of a boundary and in the case of Brazil, the immigration officials at the borders have discretionary power to allow or deny entry of any foreign citizen, even when such person holds a valid visa, adding that the embassy shall not provide any clarification about the action of the immigration officials.

Deputy chair of Kenya reconciliation panel resigns



KENYAN police fire tear gas at protestors in the Kibera slum of Nairobi.

THE deputy head of a panel set up to probe rights violations after Kenya's 2008 poll unrest resigned over allegations the body's chair was linked to abuses, a statement said yesterday.

Betty Murungi stepped down from the Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC)

after co-authoring a newspaper article Sunday listing cases in which the panel's chair Bethuel Kiplagat was mentioned.

Murungi noted Kiplagat's naming in an inquiry into illegal land acquisition, being a witness in a probe into the assassination of a minister in the 1990s and links to a 1980s massacre.

"It is upon all three of these allegations that we base our concerns, and upon which we find reasonable the questions raised about the impartiality of our chairman and the credibility of the commission generally," said the article.

Murungi resigned "given the public position I have expressed

with regard to matters facing the commission's chair," the TJRC said in a statement.

Kiplagat has recently come under pressure to step down, but he has vowed to stay on. In February, Desmond Tutu and other eminent peacemakers called on Kiplagat to quit over the allegations.

Niger junta arrests a dozen for 'subversive activities'

NIGER'S military junta has arrested a dozen close aides of former president Mamadou Tandja, who was ousted in February, for alleged subversive activities, a police source said yesterday.

"A dozen former officials were

arrested because they are suspected of subversive activities," a police source told AFP on condition of anonymity.

The arrests, which include of former ministers, were on Sunday but the nature of the "subversive

activities" was not specified.

It was the first major round-up of Tandja loyalists since the February 18 coup that toppled the former strongman who ruled the west African country for a decade.

Those arrested include former

finance minister Ali Lamine Zene and former justice minister Garba Lompo as well as directors of corporate firms.

They are being held at a police camp in the capital Niamey, the police source said.

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NAN OBITUARY

INNA LILLAH I WA INNA ILAIHI RAJI'UN !!!

The Board, Management and staff of the **NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA** regret to announce the death of Mallam Salihu Abubakar.

He died on Saturday March 6, 2010 in Abuja after a brief illness and was buried on the same day according to Islamic rites.

Until his death, Mallam S. Abubakar was an Assistant Editor-in-Chief and Special Assistant to the Managing Director in charge of ICT, Govt & General Liaison.

He also served as the Agency's State House Correspondent from 1999-2007.

He is survived by two wives and seven children.

May His Gentle Soul Rest In Peace.



Mallam Salihu Abubakar
(24th April 1957 - 6th March 2010)

Signed: **MANAGEMENT**

International

Ali Jinnah, Ghaddafi and the fate of Nigeria

By Charles Ounnaiju

LIBYAN leader, Colonel Muammar Ghaddafi in his suggestion for a partition of Nigeria along Christian/Muslim lines as antidote to the brutal killings in the Plateau, allegedly on confrontation between the two faiths, called for the emergence of Mohammed Ali Jinnah, in Nigeria, perhaps to lead the Muslim community.

He also suggested that former president Olusegun Obasanjo could lead the Christian half. In

ship of league feared that Gandhi's fiery nationalism, with a core legislative agenda of land reform, immediately after independence would upset a traditional political and social structure in which the peasants acknowledge their place in the scheme of things.

However, as Jinnah insisted Pakistan emerged as a separate state at the end of British colonial rule of the Indian sub-continent.

Both India and Pakistan persisted on the mutual animosity that has trailed the congress party and Muslim league in the Indian

ist view and brought it to India's mainstream politics. Occasionally, exploding with fiery anti-Muslim rhetoric, since after it oversaw the demolition of the mosque in Ayodya, the BJP in the 1990s has not indulged itself in any major confrontation.

For Pakistan, the establishment of state for the Muslims from the India sub-continent did not usher in the cherished calm.

In the early 70s, a fiery East Bengal nationalist, Shiekh Abdul-

lines, drawing from the partitioning of India sub-continent at independence in 1947 at the prompting of Mohammed Ali Jinnah and his Muslim league party is entirely misleading.

The partition was however successful, but the mutation of Pakistan into another bit of state, was neither in keeping with the ideal sense of Muslim community that Ali Jinnah envisaged. The internal turmoil of Pakistan occasioned by the sectarian violence and corrupt military dictatorship did not quite commend partition

on the Libyan leader. One even took it a ludicrous level, when he questioned why a man who have stayed on one army rank for more than 40 years should not be considered a mad man.

However, the federal government reacted by recalling Nigeria's ambassador to Libya for consultation. Unfortunately, Libya does not currently have an ambassador in Nigeria. Since then, newspaper editorials, opinions and commentaries have continue to trail Colonel Ghaddafi's suggestion and most of it have denounced the Libyan leader.

No doubt, Ghaddafi's therapy is quite simplistic for a complex problem. Should even the Ghaddafi butchers knife were to be deployed to partition Nigeria, along the lines, he suggested, the fate of the communities resulting from the partition will not be far from the turmoil and further decapitation that followed Pakistan. However, except for grandstanding, nobody honestly or seriously believes that Nigeria is working in its current frame work.

Ghaddafi's prescription might reflect uninformed and distant view, but also a likely concerned frustration of a seemingly intractable problem. The structural deficiency of the Nigeria current framework is all too glaring to see.

The Ghaddafi's maximum antidote may well remain way off, from any constructive or reasonable solution as his own reference to Pakistan shows, but to assume that Nigeria can function perpetually in its current framework is the extreme opposite to the Libyan leader's therapy.

The hysteria of responses to Colonel Ghaddafi is unnecessary. Ghaddafi is popular for his theatrics. On his first address to the United Nations general assembly, last year he shuffled papers and threw some away in a high drama that did not baffle anybody who knows him. When an American official recently made joke of the event, Tripoli demanded apology, which Washington promptly offered.

Apart from the public spat, with which Nigeria has berated the Libyan strongman, there is nothing else it could do. The Libyans on the hand has a more punishing retaliatory punch. Ten of thousands of Nigerians impoverished by our public corruption live in Libya, mostly illegally to earn a living or in transit to Europe. The new found militant nationalism of calling Colonel Ghaddafi names could invoke a heavy backlash on those innocent persons. Meanwhile it is doubtful if any single Libyan live here. The enigma of Ghaddafi is in the high pitch antics, and theatrics for which he is well known for nearly half century.



ALI Mohammed Jinnah, founder of Pakistan with Indian leader, Mathama Gandhi.

reference to Ali Jinnah, he obviously meant the fiery leader of the Muslim League, that yanked off Pakistan from the Indian sub-continent.

Ali Jinnah, a British trained lawyer could never be pacified by Mahatma Gandhi, the venerable leader of the Indian congress party, for united India. Jinnah was clear that the Muslim community already short-changed in government bureaucracy and public service under the British colonial rule, will further be marginalized in a Hindu-majority independent India.

However, as the hierarchy of the Muslim league, he led was dominated by land-owning upper class, Ali Jinnah and the leader-

sub-continent prior to independence and partition. Pakistan did not become an oasis of peace and its political development was significantly blighted by military dictatorship. India did become more stable, with expanding democratic space, but its stratified social structure and debilitating poverty did not end.

While the liberal congress party was in charge for most period of its independence, things stayed calm, except for Maoist insurgency in some far flung states, and the rise of the Hindu extremist party, the BJP which was to reveal an appalling fracture in India's widely admired democracy.

However, the BJP stint in power moderated its extrem-

rahman Mujibur touched off storms by yanking off the Pakistan region to found Bangladesh. India under the congress party greatly helped out Shiekh Mujibur to consolidate the independence of Bangladesh.

In a bitter twist of irony, both Pakistan and Bangladesh went into protracted dictatorship, with the army in Bangladesh wiping out Shiekh Mujibur and his entire family in a coup d'etat, save for his daughter that was then out of the country. Interestingly, that only surviving daughter is Shiekh Hasina Mujibur, the current Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

Colonel Ghaddafi's suggestion of partitioning Nigeria along religious

especially of the Pakistani type to any community drawn to ethno-religious confrontation.

However, the reactions to Colonel Ghaddafi's incendiary suggestion has been more hysterical than constructive. The Senate President, Mr. David Mark on been drawn attention to the Libyan leader's suggestion, quickly dismissed Ghaddafi as a mad man whose views is not worth the attention of the Senate.

The House of Representative debate on the issue was more puerile, even as the Speaker, Mr. Bankole, cautioned his colleagues against disparaging the leader of a sovereign state with an indecent language. The caution did not make a difference as members take their turn to pour scorn



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TO: ALL PROSPECTIVE NII CONTRACTORS
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Sequel to section 16(6) of the Public Procurement Act, 2007 that any supplier, contractor or consultant bidding or soliciting contract business from any Federal Government Ministry, Department or Agency must fulfill statutory obligation of its employee with respect to pensions, the Institute is obliged to draw the attention of all its prospective contractors, suppliers and/or consultants to the above section.

In view of this, kindly refer to the advertisement for 2010 invitation for pre-qualification for Tender by National Judicial Institute in the *Daily Trust* Newspaper, *Leadership* Newspaper and Federal Tenders Journal, all of Monday 22nd March, 2010 and include in their pre-qualification documents, requirements of section 16 (6)(d) of the public Procurement Act, 2007.

Signed:
Secretary, Tenders Board
For: Institute Secretary

International

Britain's Blair to join UK's election fight

BRITAIN'S former leader Tony Blair is making a dramatic comeback to domestic politics ahead of the country's national election.

Blair will make a speech defending his successor Gordon Brown's record, and attacking opposition leader David Cameron's claims to have dramatically changed his Conservative Party.

Currently envoy to the Quartet of Mideast peacemakers, Blair has made few appearances in Britain since he quit as prime minister in 2007.

In January, he defended his actions over Iraq to the country's inquiry into the war — but has had little other involvement in national politics.

Blair will speak today in his former parliamentary district in northern England.

Aides say he's likely to make other appearances during the election campaign.



FORMER British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

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INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR SUPPLY/INSTALLATION OF MEDICAL LABORATORY EQUIPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION WORKS AT LAMINGO INTRODUCTION

The Federal School of Medical Laboratory Technology, Jos invites interested and reputable Contractors with relevant experience and good track records for pre-qualification for the:

1. Procurement of Medical Laboratory Equipment (Research and General Laboratory)
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2.0 PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT

In order to be considered for pre-qualification, bidders must submit the following:

- (i) Certificate of Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission
- (ii) Evidence of Current Tax Clearance company all, dUed account for the last 3 years
- (iii) VAT registration certificate
- (iv) Original copies of documents listed in item (i-iv) above must be presented for sighting during the opening session, which is scheduled for 8th April, 2010 at 12.30 p.m.

- (vi) Evidence of experience with similar jobs in the past three years. This should include the scope/volume of work and the amount, which should be verifiable
- (vii) Evidence of financial capability to handle the job and bank support
- (viii) Location of showroom, ware house and maintenance workshop (Not Postal address(es))
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- (x) Evidence of availability of spare parts
- (xi) Evidence of maintenance capability and after sale service for at least 5 years from date of commissioning of equipment
- (xii) Registration with the school is not mandatory

3.0 SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

The complete pre-qualification documents should be enclosed in an envelop, sealed and marked appropriately and addressed to:

The Provost Federal School of Medical Laboratory Technology Jos Plateau State.

4.0 The completed pre-qualification documents should be deposited in the Tender Box situated at a designated place in the Provost office and the Administrative Department on or before 12.00 Noon on 8th April, 2010.

5.0 Opening of the submitted documents will be opened on the same day in the presence of bidders or their representatives who choose to attend at the School's Mini Hall at 12:30 p.m. prompt on 8th April, 2010.

6.0 This is not an invitation to tender, full tendering procedure will be applied only to bidders that have been pre-qualified and found capable of project delivery

7.0 Tenderers should note that only pre-qualified companies would be invited to submit financial bids. The school reserves rights to reject any or all pre-qualified documents.

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YOBE STATE GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF BOARD OF INTERNAL REVENUE OFFICE COMPLEX

Yobe State Government hereby invites reputable Contractors Registered with Yobe State Works Registration Board (i.e State Tenders Board) for the construction of Yobe State Board of Internal Revenue Office Complex; one story Building.

Interested Contractors are requested to collect Tender Documents from the Directorate of Planning, Research and Statistics, Yobe State Board of Internal Revenue, along Sir Kashim Ibrahim Way (Gujba Road), Damaturu upon payment of non refundable fee of **N50,000.00**. Payable to **ZENITH BANK DAMUTURU** and present the Bank teller to the Secretary State Tenders Board, Ministry of Finance, Damaturu and obtain the receipt.

REQUIREMENT:

- i. Company Certificate of Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission.
- ii. Three years Tax Clearance.
- iii. Evidence of similar Job (s) executed in the past.
- iv. Ability to complete the project within specified period.

SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

The Tender Document should be neatly packed in sealed envelope marked "**CONFIDENTIAL TENDER BID FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF YOBE STATE BOARD OF INTERNAL REVENUE OFFICE COMPLEX**" and should be submitted not later than two weeks from the date of this publication, addressed to Executive Chairman, Yobe State Board of Internal Revenue, along Sir Kashim Ibrahim Way (Gujba Road), Damaturu.

Notwithstanding the submission of tender bids document, the Board of Internal Revenue shall not;

- i. Be committed or obliged to include any company in the exercise or award contract to any contractor or agents or associates.
- ii. Will only recognize and correspond with duly authorized officers of the companies through individuals or agents or associates acting on their behalf as duly registered with Yobe State Tenders Board.
- iii. Reserves the right to reject in part or whole tender bids package.

All concerned should note.

Signed:

Shettima Balube

(Secretary Tenders Board)

For: Honourable Commissioner (MOF)



Nigerian Export Promotion Council

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- iv. Fax
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- vii. Name and position of Contact person

The above information should be sent online to the nearest NEPC Offices as listed below:

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3.	Sabo Bello	Kano	08037867817 sabo.bello@yahoo.co.uk
4.	S.B. Auta	Minna	08033235972, 08077953388 autasb@yahoo.com
5.	Iranloye M.A.	Akure	08052666652, 08023284847 olakitani@yahoo.com
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15.	Veronica Oni	Benin	08038173112, 08072713990 deveron-b@yahoo.com



OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE

ANNOUNCEMENT

PAYMENT OF PENSION ARREARS TO VERIFIED PENSIONERS OF PARASTATALS UNDER FEDERAL MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH

The Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation, National Pension Commission and the Budget Office of the Federation wish to inform pensioners of Parastatals under Federal Ministries of Education and Health that were verified in 2008 but whose names were either omitted or were shortpaid in the payments made in June 2009 that arrangements have been concluded with the underlisted Commercial Banks to remit their pension arrears directly into their bank accounts. The payments also include pensioners of parastatals under Federal Ministries of Education and Health who had submitted invalid bank accounts in June 2009 now corrected and those who were newly enrolled in 2009. Details of the above payments are as follows:

PARASTATALS PENSION ARREARS

A. PENSIONERS WHO WERE UNDERPAID (i - vii)		
S/N	NAME OF INSTITUTION	NUMBER
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2	UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS	81
3	UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA TEACHING HOSPITAL, ENUGU	709
4	UNIVERSITY OF UYO	23
5	USMAN DANFODIO UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL, SOKOTO	7
6	WAZIRI UMARU POLYTECHNIC BIRNIN-KEBBI	4
7	YABA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY	203
II. DIAMOND BANK		
1	PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, BENIN CITY	14
2	UNIVERSITY OF PORTHARCOURT	18
3	UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL, IBADAN	634
4	UNIVERSITY OF BENIN TEACHING HOSPITAL, BENIN	106
5	UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR	47
6	UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR TEACHING HOSPITAL, CALABAR	78
7	UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN	336
III. ECO BANK		
1	AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL, ZARIA	162
2	ALVAN IKOKU COLLEGE OF EDUCATION	1
3	FCE (TECHNICAL) AKOKA	12
4	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, BAUCHI	78
5	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, MUBI	20
6	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, NASARAWA	32
7	FMC, ASABA	12
8	PUT MINNA	2
9	JOS UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL, JOS	23
10	LAGOS UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL, LAGOS	278
11	NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH & D	3
12	NATIONAL PRIMARY HEALTH CARE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY	3
13	NIGERIA INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH, YABA	12
14	NIGERIAN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL	31
15	OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL, ILE	227
16	PHARMACISTS COUNCIL OF NIGERIA	1
17	PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, ABEOKUTA	62
18	PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, YABA, LAGOS	18
19	UNIVERSITY OF PORTHARCOURT	2
20	UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA TEACHING HOSPITAL	27
IV. EQUATORIAL TRUST BANK		
1	ABUBAKAR TAFAWA BALEWA UNIVERSITY BAUCHI	12
2	ADEYEMI COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ONDO	13
3	AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY - ZARIA	113
4	AKANU IBIAM FED POLY, UWANA-AFIKPO	69
5	ALVAN IKOKU COLLEGE OF EDUCATION	17
6	BAYERO UNIVERSITY KANO	10
7	FCE ABEOKUTA	4
8	FCE ASABA	4
9	FCE KANO	8
10	FCE KONTAGORA	7
11	FCE BANKSHIN	7
12	FCE POTISKUM	7
13	FCE ZARIA	20
14	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, ADD-EXTI	44
15	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, ALICI	88
16	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, BIDA	54
17	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, EDE	14
18	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, IDAH	6
19	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, ILARO	8
20	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, KAURA NAMQDA	2
21	FMC, MARIGI	5
22	FMC, NGURU	1
23	FMC, OWO	1
24	FMC, UMUAHIA	26
25	INSTITUTE OF NIGERIAN LANGUAGES, ABA	5
26	IRRUA SPECIALIST TEACHING HOSPITAL, IRRUA	2
27	KADUNA POLYTECHNIC	41
28	MEDICAL & DENTAL COUNCIL OF NIGERIA	5
29	NAT ORTHOPAEDIC HOSP, DALA KANO	41
V. FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA		
1	UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE ABEOKUTA	58
2	UNIVERSITY OF BENIN	95
3	UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN TEACHING HOSPITAL, ILORIN	14
4	UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA - NSUKKA	231
VI. OCEANIC BANK		
1	DIVISION OF AGRIC. COLLEGES (ABU ZARIA)	0
2	MASS LITERACY COMMISSION	0
3	UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN	96
4	UNIVERSITY OF MAIDUGURI	26
5	USMAN DAN FODIO UNIVERSITY SOKOTO	131
6	FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY OWERRI (FUTO)	63
7	FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AKURE (FUTA)	63
8	FRENCH LANGUAGE VILLAGE	11
9	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, NEMBE	7
10	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, OKO	16
11	NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR COLLEGES OF EDUCATION (NCC)	22
12	FCE (TECHNICAL) BUCHI	8
13	FCE SOMBE	38
14	FCE KATSINA	9
15	FCE OBUQU	4
16	FCE OHENE	17
17	FCE OMOKI	5
18	FCE OYO	22
19	FCE YOLA	14
20	FCE EHA-AMUFU	11
21	NNAMDI AZIKWE UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL, NNEWY	6
22	FMC, BAYELSA STATE	1
23	FEDERAL NEUROPSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, ENUGU	6
24	PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, CALABAR	3
25	PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, SOKOTO	6
26	NATIONAL POST GRADUATE MEDICAL COLLEGE	1
VII. STERLING BANK		
1	NAT ORTHOPAEDIC HOSP, ENUGU	54
2	NAT ORTHOPAEDIC HOSP, LAGOS	285
3	NATIONAL AGENCY FOR FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND CONTROL	110
4	NATIONAL BOARD FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION (NBTE)	29
5	NATIONAL BUSINESS & TECHNICAL EDUCATION BOARD	5
6	NATIONAL EYE CENTRE, KADUNA	1
7	NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA	16
8	NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY	1
9	NATIONAL TEACHERS INSTITUTE	39
10	NNAMDI AZIKWE UNIVERSITY AWKA	108
11	OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY ILE-IFE	115

B. PENSIONERS WHOSE NAMES WERE OMITTED (I & II)		
S/N	NAME OF INSTITUTION	NUMBER
I. INTERCONTINENTAL BANK		
1	AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL, ZARIA	23
2	FCE (TECHNICAL) AKOKA	4
3	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, MUBI	20
4	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, NASARAWA	4
5	FMC, ASABA, ZAMFARA	1
6	UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE MAKURDI	1
7	PUT MINNA	12
8	JOS UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL, JOS	33
9	LAGOS UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL, LAGOS	63
10	NATIONAL EXAMINATION COUNCIL (NECO)	2
11	NIGERIA INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH, YABA	4
12	NIGERIAN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL	3
13	OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL, ILE	5
14	PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, ABEOKUTA	49
15	PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, YABA, LAGOS	40
16	UNIVERSITY OF BENIN	14
17	UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR	7
18	UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN	1
19	UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA - NSUKKA	36
II. FIRST BANK		
1	ABUBAKAR TAFAWA BALEWA UNIVERSITY BAUCHI	4
2	ADEYEMI COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ONDO	1
3	AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY - ZARIA	7
4	AKANU IBIAM FED POLY, UWANA-AFIKPO	3
5	ALVAN IKOKU COLLEGE OF EDUCATION	20
6	AMNU KANO TEACHING HOSPITAL	1
7	BAYERO UNIVERSITY KANO	0
8	FCE ABEOKUTA	0
9	FCE KANO	2
10	FCE KONTAGORA	0
11	FCE BANKSHIN	1
12	FCE UMUNJE	1
13	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, ADD-EXTI	0
14	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, ALICI	0
15	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, BIDA	0
16	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, IDAH	0
17	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, ILARO	1
18	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, KAURA NAMQDA	0
19	FMC, MARIGI	1
20	FMC, OWO	0
21	FMC, UMUAHIA	2
22	KADUNA POLYTECHNIC	0
23	NAT ORTHOPAEDIC HOSP, DALA KANO	0
24	NAT ORTHOPAEDIC HOSP, ENUGU	0
25	NAT ORTHOPAEDIC HOSP, LAGOS	12
26	NATIONAL AGENCY FOR FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND CONTROL	4
27	NATIONAL BOARD FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION (NBTE)	2
28	NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA	0
29	NATIONAL TEACHERS INSTITUTE	0
30	NATIONAL UNIVERSITY COMMISSION	0
31	NNAMDI AZIKWE UNIVERSITY AWKA	0
32	NURSING & MIDWIFERY COUNCIL	0
33	OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY ILE-IFE	10
34	PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, BENIN	6
35	UNIVERSITY OF PORTHARCOURT	1
36	UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL, IBADAN	4
37	UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, MAKURDI	4
38	UNIVERSITY OF BENIN TEACHING HOSPITAL, BENIN	3
39	UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR	3
40	UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR TEACHING HOSPITAL, CALABAR	28
41	UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN	22
42	UNIVERSITY OF JOS	19
43	UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS	1
44	UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA TEACHING HOSPITAL, ENUGU	3
45	UNIVERSITY OF UYO	7
46	USMAN DANFODIO UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL, SOKOTO	3
47	YABA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY	21

C. PENSIONERS WITH INVALID ACCOUNTS NOW CORRECTED (I & II)		
S/N	NAME OF INSTITUTION	NUMBER
I. INTERCONTINENTAL BANK		
1	AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL, ZARIA	83
2	FCE (TECHNICAL) AKOKA	7
3	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, BAUCHI	7
4	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, MUBI	2
5	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, NASARAWA	2
6	FMC, ASABA	4
7	FMC, KATIRNA	1
8	PUTYOLA	6
9	JOS UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL, JOS	42
10	KADUNA POLYTECHNIC	1
11	LAGOS UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL, LAGOS	67
12	NIGERIA INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH, YABA	6
13	Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council	6
14	OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL, ILE	25
15	PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, ABEOKUTA	28
16	PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, YABA, LAGOS	17
17	UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA TEACHING HOSPITAL	3
18	UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE ABEOKUTA	16
19	UNIVERSITY OF BENIN	6
20	UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN TEACHING HOSPITAL, ILORIN	26
21	UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA - NSUKKA	51
II. UNION BANK OF NIGERIA		
1	ABUBAKAR TAFAWA BALEWA UNIVERSITY BAUCHI	11
2	ADEYEMI COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ONDO	24
3	AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY - ZARIA	7
4	AKANU IBIAM FED POLY, UWANA-AFIKPO	6
5	ALVAN IKOKU COLLEGE OF EDUCATION	16
6	AMNU KANO TEACHING HOSPITAL	3
7	BAYERO UNIVERSITY KANO	3
8	FCE ABEOKUTA	10
9	FCE ASABA	0
10	FCE KANO	1
11	FCE KONTAGORA	0
12	FCE BANKSHIN	0
13	FCE ZARIA	3
14	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, ADD-EXTI	22
15	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, ALICI	12
16	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, BIDA	36
17	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, EDE	2
18	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, IDAH	41
19	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, ILARO	10
20	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, KAURA NAMQDA	3
21	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, OFFA	4
22	FMC, BIDA	4
23	FMC, MAKURDI	2
24	FMC, NGURU	2
25	FMC, OWO	17
26	INSTITUTE OF NIGERIAN LANGUAGES, ABA	4
27	IRRUA SPECIALIST TEACHING HOSPITAL, IRRUA	2
28	JAMB	6
29	KADUNA POLYTECHNIC	64
30	MEDICAL & DENTAL COUNCIL OF NIGERIA	1

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

31	NAT ORTHOPAEDIC HOSP, DALA KANO	16
32	NAT ORTHOPAEDIC HOSP, ENUGU	16
33	NAT ORTHOPAEDIC HOSP, LAGOS	33
34	NATIONAL AGENCY FOR FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND CONTROL	6
35	NATIONAL BOARD FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION (NBTE)	4
36	NATIONAL BUSINESS & TECHNICAL EDUCATION BOARD	2
37	NATIONAL EYE CENTRE, KADUNA	7
38	NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA	7
39	NATIONAL TEACHERS INSTITUTE	47
40	NATIONAL UNIVERSITY COMMISSION	5
41	NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY AWKA	5
42	NURSING & MIDWIFERY COUNCIL	1
43	OBAFEMI AWOLowo UNIVERSITY ILE-IFE	6
44	UNIPORT	15
45	UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION	1
46	UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL, IBADAN	63
47	UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, MAKURDI	11
48	UNIVERSITY OF BENIN TEACHING HOSPITAL, BENIN	42
49	UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR	2
50	UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR TEACHING HOSPITAL, CALABAR	15
51	UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN	10
52	UNIVERSITY OF JOS	7
53	UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS	8
54	UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA TEACHING HOSPITAL, ENUGU	46
55	UNIVERSITY OF UYO	1
56	USMAN DAN FODORO UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL, SOKOTO	10
57	YABA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY	18
		768

D PENSIONERS NEWLY ENROLLED IN 2009		
UNION BANK		
1	ADEFEMI COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, ONDO	3
2	AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL, ZARIA	11
3	AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA	10
4	AKANU IBIAM FED POLY, UWANA-AKIKPO	3
5	ALVAN IKOKU COLLEGE OF EDUCATION	7
FCE (TECHNICAL) AKOKA		
7	FCE ABEOKUTA	1
8	FCE GUSAU	1
9	FCE KATSINA	3
10	FCE OKENE	1
11	FCE OYO	1
12	FCE ZARIA	6
FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC		
13	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, AUCHI	2
14	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, BAUCHI	4
15	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, DAMATURU	1
16	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, IDAH	3
17	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, ILARO	4
18	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, MUBI	2
19	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, NABARAWA	4
20	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, NEKEDE	2
21	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, OKO	12
FMC		
22	FMC, ABAKALIKI, EBONYI	1
23	FMC, ABEOKUTA	6
24	FMC, IDO-EKITI	2
25	FMC, MAKURDI	1
26	FMC, OWERRI	2
27	FMC, OWO	2
28	FMC, UMUAHIA	1
29	FUTAKURE	2
FUTOWERRI		
31	FUTYOLA	1
32	JOS UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL, JOS	3
33	KADUNA POLYTECHNIC	6
34	LAGOS UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL, LAGOS	26
35	NAT ORTHOPAEDIC HOSP, DALA KANO	4
36	NAT ORTHOPAEDIC HOSP, ENUGU	4
37	NAT ORTHOPAEDIC HOSP, LAGOS	20
38	NATIONAL AGENCY FOR FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND CONTROL	2
39	NATIONAL BOARD FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION (NBTE)	1
40	NATIONAL BUSINESS & TECHNICAL EDUCATION BOARD	1
41	NATIONAL PRIMARY HEALTH CARE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY	1
42	NATIONAL TEACHERS INSTITUTE	1
NURSING & MIDWIFERY COUNCIL		
44	OBAFEMI AWOLowo UNIVERSITY ILE-IFE	3
45	OBAFEMI AWOLowo UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL, ILE	28
46	PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, ABEOKUTA	2
47	PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, BENIN CITY	1
48	PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, CALABAR	1
49	PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, YABA, LAGOS	2
50	UNIVERSITY OF PORTHARCOURT	3
51	UNIPORT TEACHING HOSPITAL, POR	1
52	UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL, IBADAN	27
53	UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, MAKURDI	2
54	UNIVERSITY OF BENIN	2
55	UNIVERSITY OF BENIN TEACHING HOSPITAL, BENIN	35
56	UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR	5
57	UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR TEACHING HOSPITAL, CALABAR	2
58	UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN	5
59	UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN	2
60	UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN TEACHING HOSPITAL, ILORIN	10
61	UNIVERSITY OF JOS	4
62	UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS	14
63	UNIVERSITY OF MAIDUGURI TEACHING HOSPITAL, MAIDUGURI	5
64	UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA - NSUKKA	6
65	UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA TEACHING HOSPITAL, ENUGU	36
66	UNIVERSITY OF UYO	1
67	USMAN DAN FODORO UNIVERSITY SOKOTO	11
68	YABA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY	2
69	NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL, NNEW	1
70	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, BIDA	1
71	UNIVERSITY OF MAIDUGURI	1
		388
	Total Number of Pensioners Paid	7,976

The affected pensioners should take note of the following:

* The list of the pensioners, details of amounts due to them and their bank details have been made available to their respective Parastatals.

* **Correction of Bank details:** Pensioners whose bank account details have not been correctly reflected should submit the correct details to their Parastatals within 30 days of this publication. Pensioners are advised to go to their banks and obtain their correct bank details that are **e-payment** compliant in order to avoid unnecessary delays in the remittances of their pension arrears.

* **Short-payments and Omissions:** Pensioners who still have genuine complains on short payments or who were verified in 2009 but their names omitted should forward their complaints to their respective Parastatals within 30 days from the date of this publication.

ALL PENSIONERS SHOULD CONFIRM REMITTANCE OF THEIR PENSION ARREARS IN THEIR BANKS AS FROM WEDNESDAY 7TH APRIL, 2010.

Signed
Accountant-General of the Federation

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Website: www.acicnigeria.org
e-mail: info@acicnigeria.org

VENUE School premises

DATE 17th April, 2010

TIME 9a.m, prompt.

Obtain your form at the COLLEGE premises

BUSINESS

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From left: The Executive Director; Products & Markets Aso Savings & Loans Plc, Maimuna Aliyu, MD/CEO, Aso Savings and Loans Plc, Hassan Usman and Senate President David Mark, during the courtesy call by the MD/CEO, Aso Savings & Loans Plc to the Senate President recently.

Investors stake N21 bn on 2.5 bn shares in 5 days

INVESTORS last week staked N21.1 billion on the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) for a total of 2.5 billion shares in 47,293 deals, reports the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN).

The figures were contained in the weekly review of capital activities released on Monday by a stock broking firm, Meristem Securities Ltd.

The banking sub-sector was the toast of investors as 1.2 billion shares worth N12.1 billion were traded in 19,789 deals in the week under review. The banking sub-sector was driven by investors' interest in the shares of Zenith Bank Plc, UBA Plc, Guaranty Trust Bank Plc and First Bank of Nigeria Plc.

According to the firm's review, trading in the shares of the four banks accounted for 490.7 million shares or 42.1 per cent of the sub-sector's turnover.

The insurance sub-sector followed with 443 million shares valued at N517.3 million traded in 4,345 deals.

The sub-sector's trading was boosted by investors' interest in the shares of Law Union and Rock Insurance and Guaranty Trust Assurance Plc.

Stock Market Index

Date: Monday, March 29, 2010

Index: 25,322.87

Deals: 8,073

Volume: 559,057,114

Value: N5,294,827,809.20

Cap.: N6,124,980,573,941.45

Trust Index

Inflation → 12.3%

GDP → 6.90%

Budget → N3.1tr

External Reserves Acct → \$41bn

Excess Crude Acct → \$3.2bn

Poverty Ratio → 54.4%

Monetary Policy Rate → 6%

Banks → 24

Oil Price → \$82 a barrel

Power Supply → 2,500MW

Oil output per day → 2.5mbd

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%

E-payment is slowing down govt business -FIRS, accountants

By Idris Ahmed

THE electronic payment system introduced by the Federal government last year to fast track payment in Nigeria is slowing payment, the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) and Forum of Accountants-General of Nigeria have said.

Chairman of FIRS Mrs. Ifueko Omoigui Okauru and Chairman of Forum of Accountants-General of Nigeria Tunde Abdualkarim said at a workshop on e-payment in Abuja yesterday that multiple challenges confronting the system must be resolved urgently.

In some states and local government councils, people don't receive money paid

through the e-payment into their bank accounts at the right time because of lack of power.

FIRS is having problem in reconciling tax revenue paid through the e-payment to banks because there is no device to track such money. "We don't know what goes into the banks. There is diversification of e-payment accounts from designated accounts to other accounts. There is indirect payment instead of direct payment", Okauru said.

Even though the federal government said it has achieved tremendous success in the e-payment system, it is not rosy in some states. There are no banks and electricity in some local government and rural areas to implement the system.

"Sometimes you pay through the e-payment and for five to ten days people don't get their money", chairman of the Forum for Accountants General Abdualkarim said.

The Accountant General of the Federation Hassan Dankwambo said government is doing everything possible to address the challenges.

He said a common national platform to configure payment system in all federal ministries and departments will be put in place before the end of the year.

"We are going to train and retrain people in the implementation of the e-payment system to make it acceptable", the AGF said.

CBN EXCHANGE RATES			BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES	
	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)	
CFA	0.2805	0.2905	0.3005	DOLLAR.....N150
DANISH KRONER	26.4933	26.5832	26.6731	EURO.....N204
EURO	197.2494	197.919	198.5885	POUNDS.....N230
POUNDS STERLING	219.0498	219.7934	220.5369	
RIYAL	39.28	39.4134	39.5467	
SDR	222.9827	223.7396	224.4965	
SWISS FRANC	137.8439	138.3118	138.7797	
US DOLLAR	147.3	147.8	148.3	
WUA	222.5201	223.2755	224.0308	
YEN	1.5892	1.5946	1.6	

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

Business/Finance

African countries cut interest rates

By Jibrin Abubakar

THE economic meltdown sweeping across Africa has made some of the countries to cut interest rates.

Nigeria had slashed its interest rate by 2 percentage points- from 8 per cent to 6 per cent.

The economic downturn exposed cracks in the Nigeria's money and capital markets, leaving regulators to scramble for emergency reforms.

South Africa's fell to a 30-year low on Friday, when Rwanda also cut, following Kenya earlier this week - as states emerge from hard times well placed to chase

growth, the Africa-Investor online reports.

The South African Reserve Bank cut the repo rate by 50 basis points to 6.5 per cent on Thursday and Rwanda dropped its rate 50 basis points to 7 per cent. Kenya also unexpectedly cut its bank rate by 25 basis points to 6.75 per cent tomorrow.

The Bank of Ghana, the cen-

tral bank of West Africa's third biggest economy, slashed its main interest rate by 200 basis points to 16 per cent in February, exceeding expectations, and Nigeria halved its deposit rate to 1 per cent earlier in March.

On the other hand, African central bank lending rates remain relatively high, some, such as Botswana and Ghana, in double-dig-

its, partly due to the food and fuel shocks of 2008 that stoked inflation.

Despite cutting interest rates by these African countries, our reporter says they are still relatively high, compare to rich economies in Europe.

Inflation is slowing in most African countries, driven by lower food costs and aided by low risk from price pressures in advanced economies.

In Nigeria, at 12.3 per cent, the inflationary risks have eased, giving space for added stimulus to accelerate the recovery from last year's global downturn.

Provisional data from the

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) show that real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will grow by 6.68 per cent in the first quarter of 2010, down from 8.23 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2009, but up from the 4.50 per cent in the first quarter of 2009.

Overall GDP growth for 2010 is projected at 7.53 per cent, higher than the 6.90 per cent recorded last year. The non-oil sector, especially agriculture, wholesale and retail trade, as well as services would remain the major driver of growth, likely to be complemented by a modest increase in the growth of oil sector GDP, if peace is sustained in the Niger Delta.

COUNTRY	CURRENT INTEREST RATE	PREVIOUS RATE
Nigeria	6 %	8.0 %
South Africa	6.5 %	7.0 %
Egypt	8.25%	8.50 %

Zenith posts N277bn earnings

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

THE Zenith Bank Group yesterday declared a gross revenue of N277 billion, up from N211 billion in 2008, representing a 31 per cent earnings growth.

The bank also proposed a total dividend payout of N11.3 billion and a bonus of one-for-four for the reporting period ended December 31, 2009.

The Bank result which was released on the floor of the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) in Lagos showed a pre-tax profit of N35 billion and a profit after tax of N20.6 billion out of which over N11 billion has been set aside for dividend payout.

During the period under review, the Zenith group recorded gross revenue of N277 billion, up from N211 billion in 2008, representing a 31 per cent revenue growth and increasing dominance in its market share. In achieving this great feat, the group leveraged on its strong liquidity, capital base and more efficient ICT enabled service.

Although the result was commended by financial analysts and investors as an outstanding one, as it shows the ability of Zenith Bank to sustain its performance, raise the bar of competition and continuously meet the expectations of shareholders in the face of daunting economic challenges.

Similarly, the bank's Capital Adequacy Ratio stands at about 30 per cent, three times the 10 per cent regulatory minimum requirement under the Basel II framework and also above the industry average while the bank's liquidity ratio stood at 60 per cent, more than double the 25 per cent minimum regulatory requirement.

The bank, in a statement said the shareholders' fund of N337 billion unimpaired by losses, equity to total asset ratio of 20 per cent was a strong indication that Zenith Bank has sufficient liquidity to support its businesses and other expansion plans.

"No doubt, this strong capital base provides the stakeholders a

high level of comfort that Zenith Bank is well placed to withstand any unexpected turbulence in the financial sector", it said.

Some shareholders who spoke on the bank's performance said the latest result has further enhanced the bank's reputation as a market leader especially with regard to return on investment. "This outstanding result again shows the ability of the Zenith Brand to sustain its place as the foremost bank in the country," one analyst said.

Most observers noted that the outstanding result would further endear the bank to shareholders who have reaped excellent returns on their investment, especially since the bank went public in 2004.

FG, World Bank to reposition solid minerals sector

THE Federal Government and the World Bank are collaborating to reposition the country's solid minerals sector through manpower capacity building.

Already, 50 gemstone miners have been trained on skill acquisition, as part of government's resolve to professionalise the sector and boost local production of the resource.

Dr Linus Adie, Project Coordinator, Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources Project, Ministry of Solid Minerals, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) yesterday in Abuja that miners were trained on the fundamentals of gemstone and mineral specimen mining.

He described gemstone mining as a high risk venture, adding that the training also included basic First Aid treatment and general safety methods.

Adie said the programme was a train-the-trainer project aimed at empowering the relevant personnel to enable them to impart the knowledge on others.

With the training, the miners have gained a better understanding on the geology and mineralogy of gem deposits, the types and usage of mining equipment, methods of explosives and blasting as well as and mineral dressing" he added.

Adie explained that the trade, which was carried out by artisanal and small scale miners, was in the past categorised as substandard, noting that the skill acquisition would also entrench professionalism in the sector.

He said the ministry, under the \$120 million World Bank assisted scheme, had also empowered selected mining communities and cooperatives, through the acquisition of tools and machineries.

The coordinator also announced that a Danish agency had been engaged to build the capacity of Artisanal and Small Scale Mining (ASM) operators for best global practices in the sector.

Five foreign firms may bid for BUA's N45bn plant

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

THREE European companies-F. L. Smith; Polysius; KHD Humbolt; and Sinoma CDI and CBMEC from China may be part of the shortlisted companies to bid for the construction of a new two million tonnes production line for BUA's Edo cement plant.

Besides, the group has concluded arrangements to raise the production capacity of Sokoto-based Northern Cement Company of Nigeria (CCNN) from its current production capacity of 500,000 tonnes to 700,000 tonnes a year.

BUA had earlier acquired CCNN and Edo Cement Company at Okpella Edo State, under a N15 billion deal.

The expansion scheme will also involve the conversion of CCNN's power source to coke, to make the company's production costs to be more competitive.

CCNN's directors, at a recent board meeting, where Abdulsamad Rabiu emerged chairman of the company, by virtue of being majority shareholder, approved the facility upgrade scheme.

Some of the companies in the construction and cement industries that have received the tender docu-



BUA Group chairman, Abdulsamad Rabiu

way to Sokoto."

He added that "the initiative will save the company substantial sums of money once the conversion to coke is in place." This, according to him, is part of the massive investment envisioned in the expansion plan.

Already, BUA has sent out tender documents for the construction of a new two million tonnes production line for its Edo cement plant.

Rabiu expects that the cost of the new two million tonnes production line, together with the civil works, power and earth moving equipment would not exceed \$300 million. Tender documents, which had gone out since January 2010, were being expected with prices/quotes by mid April, while the contract would be consummated by the end of June.

However, the expansion programme for the Sokoto plant was scripted, under an expenditure profile of \$50 million (N7.5 billion), through a bridge financing agenda within the next two months.

At the acquisition of the two companies last year, Rabiu had unfolded plans to upgrade and modernise the production capacity for Edo Cement Company by

ments and are expected to feature in the bidding process are three European companies-F. L. Smith; Polysius; KHD Humbolt; while Sinoma CDI and CBMEC from China are also in the race.

Rabiu disclosed that BUA is currently holding talks with Gaslink and Nigerian Gas Company, with the aim of extending gas supply to Okpella, which is only 20 kilometres from a major gas pipeline, to power its production process.

Rabiu lamented that "the company spends huge sums of money on Low Pour Fuel Oil, (LPFO), which is transported by road all the

Business

Nigeria's foreign reserves drop to \$41 b

A CBN report released yesterday in Abuja said Nigeria's foreign reserve dropped from \$42 billion to \$41 billion.

The report, The Movement in Reserves, posted on the CBN website, said the reserve stood on \$40.5 billion as at March 25, 2010.

It said the reserve had earlier been hovering on \$42 billion, sometimes rising to \$43 billion and \$44 billion in the third quarter of last year.

In January and February 2010, the reserve hovered between \$42 billion and \$43 billion.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the reserve

picked up in August 2009 after months of steady decline from \$61 billion in mid 2008.

The reserve, which rose to more than \$61 billion in mid 2008, entered a free fall in the second half of the year when crude oil prices started fluctuating.

The reserve dropped to \$52 billion by the end of 2008 and continued to fall, reaching as low as \$41 billion in some months.

The reserve, tied to the pricing of crude oil as Nigeria's major foreign exchange earner, cruises along with the pricing of the oil in the international market. The price of crude oil rose to an all

time high of \$147 in March 2008, but dropped to less than \$42 by the close of 2008.

The slide in the price of crude oil pushed the reserve down and also triggered a dependence on the excess crude account to supplement the 2009 budget.

The benchmark for crude oil per barrel in the 2009 budget was \$45 per barrel.

The National Assembly, however, pegged the benchmark for the 2010 budget at \$67 following an improvement in the price of crude. The price of crude per barrel now hovers between \$75 and \$80. NAN

Problems with states' free trade zones- NEPZA

By Sunday Williams

CONTINUITY in the programs of most state Governors accounts for the setbacks in the development of free trade zones across the country, the Managing Director of Nigerian Export Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA) Sina A Agboluaje has said.

Nigeria has twenty four free trade zones, most of them partly own by state governments and providing over 19,000 employments between 1999 and March 2009.

Addressing newsmen yesterday in Abuja, the Managing Director said whenever a new government comes in place, it tends to redefine its priority and in most cases stop the ongoing process of the free zones which

causes its delay. He said: "When an incumbent government starts a free zone and the next government don't want that immediately though he knows that is important. That also is a political reason why some of these zones are not fast developing."

He said both the Executive and the legislature are looking forward to amending the free zone law to be in reality with the modern times.

He said the draft bill which started some years back was submitted to the National Assembly but could not be tabled before the last legislative calendar.

He said: "We are looking forward also in the near future that the executive will resubmit this draft bill to the National Assembly for the commencement of the review process."

'Kaduna Refinery produces 1.5 m litres of fuel daily'

From Mohammed Shocanya, Lagos

THE Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Dr. Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo said the Kaduna Refining and

Petrochemical Company Ltd, a subsidiary of the Corporation currently produces an average of 1.5 million litres of fuel daily after its turnaround maintenance which was executed within budget.

Dr. Barkindo disclosed this last week while briefing members of House of Representatives Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream) on the state of the refineries in the country.

According to him, the completion of the turnaround maintenance of the three refineries in the country has helped the Corporation to address the fuel supply and distribution challenge in the country.

He decried the incessant vandalism of the Corporation's pipelines, saying that the security of these pipelines are of national importance and urged the Committee to seek for a technology that would monitor the pipelines.

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Star Interview

At a time, FRCN was a military outfit

In this interview with **Tadaferua Ujorha**, the Director General, FRCN, Barrister Yusuf Nuhu, unfolds on the remarkable growth of FRCN over the years, the 32 FM station project, the transition to digital mode, FRCN's plans for Nigeria at 50, and other issues. Excerpts:



BARRISTER Yusuf Nuhu, DG, FRCN.

YOU trained as a lawyer. How did you end up in broadcasting?

I ventured into broadcasting in 1966 after my HSC, when I couldn't immediately gain admission to the University of Lagos to study Mass Communications. So, I joined the Broadcasting Corporation of

Northern Nigeria (BCNN) as a Programme Assistant. After two years I got a scholarship to read mass communication in London. I graduated in 1972 with HND in mass communication.

So to answer your question briefly I started as a graduate journalist in 1972. That was a

year before NYSC was introduced, and at that time it was only degree holders and NCE holders who were allowed to participate in NYSC. So I couldn't serve because they excluded HND. It was only later on they dropped NCE and included HND. After returning home I rejoined BCNN as Chief

Staff Editor. I went back to London to work with BBC African Service. I spent 5 years with the BBC and when I returned I joined the *Daily Times*. I left *Daily Times* in 1979 for New Nigerian Newspaper and from there to NTA Sokoto where I worked as Senior Editor. In 1981 I returned to my first employer, that is BCNN, after the amalgamation of BCNN and Eastern Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation, which is what is known today as FRCN. So, you see, I have been in journalism for a long time. It was in 1987 that I decided to take a course in Law at the ABU. So I was first a Journalist then later a Lawyer.

What did you consider your greatest challenge when you assumed duties as DG in 2009, and how did you resolve it?

I was familiar with most of the challenges because I was the Executive Director of Kaduna National Station from 2002 up to 2007. FRCN, before 1999, was just FRCN without any action. It was not until 1999 when the new Director General Dr Eddie Iroh was appointed by the civilian Government that FRCN woke up from its slumber, liberated and rejuvenated.

So, I was familiar with most of the challenges as a member of the management. The challenges were enormous, enormous in the sense that there was no sense of direction because of the long years of military administration. Eddie Iroh brought a new lease of life to FRCN, bringing it up to be what it is today. The challenges he faced were, first of all, dilapidated equipment, no style, no sense of direction, no method whatsoever. It was just a military outfit. Even the way of editing was biased. So he had to start retraining most of the staff in line with demo-

cratic practice. How reporting in democracy was different from military dictatorship. He achieved well over 90% of whatever he set to achieve, that is, waking FRCN from sleep, so to say. FRCN of today is really different from the FRCN of the yesteryears, before the advent of the civilian administration.

So our greatest challenge, coming in, was to take the organization to a higher pedestal, to achieve national and international positions in the broadcast industry.

Another pressing challenge discovered in the media industry is the transition from analogue to digital mode, which is slated for 2015 as the deadline. Do you see FRCN meeting the deadline, and what are the measures on ground to achieve that?

That challenge was faced and taken by the horn since 1999 when Eddie Iroh took over, and that was what brought the 32 FM Stations project. Most of them are digital. So we started digitization long before the deadline given by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU); FRCN started as early as 2002. We are advancing to reach the deadline within 2010 to 2012. We are on course.

We still have some equipment to replace, some transmitters to change. But the major challenge is actually for the listeners: digital radio sets are not readily available or affordable for an ordinary man along the street. This is the only challenge, mainly for the listener. Even when we fully transmit digitally, we have to convert to analogue, so that listeners can receive us with the current analogue radio sets.

What would you say is your main achievement

within your one year in office?

I took off from where my predecessors stopped. Specifically, we have taken FRCN to collaborate with other media outfits. Previously, there was a sort of adversarial relationship with other media. When we came in, we said let's face each other, let's collaborate because the whole system of government itself is collaboration. You can't be an island.

So the major thing we did was to take FRCN to other outfits. DAAR Communications was the first port of call, and there again they were really surprised. They said 'this is the first time, FRCN, is reaching out.' Another aspect of what we developed within the year under review is bringing back live coverage of sporting activities. We re-introduced its past glory. FRCN was always first class in sports, but it went to sleep and we woke it up. Even recently plans are on the way to participate in the World Cup in South Africa. We are taking FRCN to many places where it was never reached out to before. We are collaborating with PTDF, ETF, Ministry of Niger Delta, etc. We are also retraining our people for 21st Century broadcasting.

What is the status of the 32 FM Station Project?

Presently, only nine of the FM stations are awaiting completion, out of 32. You see, over 90% has been achieved. If not because of the delay in release of funds, the whole project would have been completed by now. With this year's budget, if fully disbursed, we will complete either seven or eight out of the remaining nine. Most of the 23 completed stations are functioning, but not at 100% capacity because of the issue of spare parts, which we are fighting very hard to acquire. Unfortunately, we had put the

was just like - DG



BARRISTER Yusuf Nuhu making a point during the interview.

cart before the horse when the project began. We should have provided the spare parts warehouse before establishing the stations.

These modern digital equipment are often not repairable. It's the replacement that is peculiar to the digital equipment. There is no improvi-

sation. If a Power Module is bad, you replace it, not repair, and when there are no spare's we have to wait to get any part which is faulty. However, we are addressing all these and are

about to complete the whole project.

History will never forget how the military used FRCN to

always announce coups. Why was FRCN always attractive to the military?

FRCN was the national station owned by the federal government and those wanting

to take over from the federal government would have to go through the federal government mechanism. It was then the only medium that you could use to reach the people everywhere. Because of its national reach, coup plotters felt that once you capture FRCN, it means you are successful. Also, it was believed that whatever is said from FRCN was the truth and nothing but the truth.

There is great competition among media organizations. What are your plans to take FRCN to the forefront to become one of the best stations in Africa?

In spite of the challenges enumerated before, the deregulation of broadcasting in Nigeria has broken the monopoly of FRCN. Before, you either come to FRCN or nowhere. So, we're first of all tackling the issue of our broadcast equipment to make them world class.

Secondly, we are dealing with staffing matters. A lot of the private stations are poaching our staff. Our structure is a government structure. When we lose trained staff, it leaves me with the problem of getting somebody, the loss is immeasurable. So we are trying to motivate staff by training and retraining, and providing more incentives, so that they don't have to leave. There are also advantages to staying with a government agency. The private stations have less training and that's why, once they steal from established organizations, that reduces their expenditure for capacity building generally, because they have employed an already-made person, so they can afford to give high salaries. But if they suffer bankruptcy, it means you are finished. For those who agree to stay with us, we motivate them and at the end of the day they end up very happy.

So, with modern equipment, training of staff and adoption of international broadcast best practices, we'll get there.

What are FRCN's plans for 50th Nigeria Independence anniversary?

Well it is going to be a low key because of lack of funds, but definitely it is going to be very rich in content. You will hear the voices and the echoes of yester-years, those national voices that are being forgotten. We will bring them to the fore. There will be features and documentaries on our history, heroes and heritage. It will be low key, but very rich indeed.

“The challenges he faced were, first of all, dilapidated equipment, no style, no sense of direction, no method whatsoever. It was just a military outfit. Even the way of editing was biased. So he had to start retraining most of the staff in line with democratic practice.

Business/Aviation

NACHO officials arrested over stealing

THE Airport Police Command in Lagos has arrested three officials of the Nigerian Aviation Handling Company (NAHCO), for allegedly stealing goods which value had yet to be ascertained.

Briefing journalists yesterday at the Murtala Mohammed Airport, Ikeja, the CP Airport Command, Mr Dan-

azumi Doma, said the workers were arrested on March 23.

According to Doma, the trio broke into the NAHCO warehouse on the night of March 22 and carted away the goods.

He said the items stolen included two Samsung plasma televisions, a cartoon containing 100 handsets, 21 pieces of

expensive wrist watches and seven automatic electric door handles.

Doma said that when arrested these items were recovered from the suspects.

The CP said investigation was still going on and when concluded those found culpable would be charged to court (NAN).

NAAPE urges pilots to obey weather pre-flight information

THE National Association of Aircraft Pilots and Engineers (NAAPE) has called on pilots flying in and out of Nigeria's airspace to strictly adhere to weather brief from the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) in order to ensure safe flight operations.

Speaking at a one day workshop organized by NAAPE, the National

President of Association Mr. John Erigbe noted that the workshop was to enlighten pilot on the need for weather information as regard the hazardous weather being faced in the nation's airspace.

Erigbe stated that the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) document on weather requires that pilots should be well

informed about weather on it en-route, departure and destination flight plan and must abide by information provided to them.

Meanwhile, the General Manager of NIMET, Mrs Mary Iso lamented attitude of pilots for not taking weather information from the agency before embarking on flight operation.

Minna to have first airport city in Africa

Stories from Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

NIGER State is on the verge of making a landmark history in the African continent with location of the first aeropolis in the state capital, Minna.

Unveiling the Master plan of the project, Mr. Tunde Fagbemi, managing director of Maevis Ltd, initiator of the project at the Niger State Government House over the weekend, noted that the project is about the emancipation of the down trodden people.

According to him, the project was informed by the need to empower people as well as the call for sustainable change in lives of Minna people.

Fagbemi explained that from the prototype of MAC project, the economic benefit of it is going to spread across the country.

He said that airport city is duty free zone where all the facilities require to make a modern town are present close to the airport.

Mr. Fagbemi said that the project will also provide jobs opportunities through economic integration.

He disclosed that the Federal Ministry of Trade, Ministry Finance and Ministry Commerce, the Nigerian Immigration Services, Nigerian Customs Services and other stakeholders are all involved in the project because it is going to be trade zone.

His words: "Minna is



GOVERNOR Muazu Babangida Aliyu

going to be cargo hub in Nigeria; the project is like a tourism and economic programme. It is just like building an entire city while the airport is at the centre of the city. It is expected to develop itself and establish market opportunity for people."

Also speaking at the event, the chairman of Sheppard Robson Group, the architect partner on the project design and master plan, Mr. Graham Norton-Standen explained that Niger State is endowed with the requires radius of land to accommodate an airport city.

He stated that the MAC project is occupying 30,000 hectares of lands and can house 6million people with

capacity for 50 million square feet for industries, 9240 manufacturing units and just 272 kilometres to major cities.

Robson chief explained further that the MAC project will have all facilities available in major cities such as the airport at the centre, educational facilities, health, industries, shopping malls, residence, etc and different mode transport links.

At present the largest airport city projects are being developed in Amsterdam, Dallas/Fort Worth, Dubai, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, Vienna, Hong Kong, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and many other cities around the globe while MAC is the first in Africa.

Air Traffic soars in late 2009 as FAAN records 12million passengers

THE Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria recorded a tremendous growth for the 4th quarter annual passenger traffic in the year 2009.

According to figures made available to the media by the FAAN Directorate of Operations, the record represents a growth of about 21 per cent over the corresponding figure of 2008. The General Manager of Public Affairs Mr. Akin Olukunle said that the trend defies earlier predictions that passenger traffic globally would witness a drastic decline of at least about five per cent during the period under review.

Olukunle stated that the actual traffic figure for the last quarter of 2009 was 3,576,656 as against 3,025,185 recorded in 2008. The figures, he said revealed that more people are patronising air transportation

as a means of travelling within and outside the country, since air travel has been shown not to be only safest but also fastest means of transportation for both business and pleasure.

He disclosed further that Aircraft movement also witnessed a marginal growth, in the same quarter with the total of 59,583 aircraft flown in and out Nigeria. Olukunle said the growth in aircraft movement was calculated at 10 per cent as against 53,978 recorded within the same period in the year 2008, for both the local and international routes.

Meanwhile, the cargo movement, he said, was not an exception as it recorded a positive growth figure of 45,691,120.8 as against the figure of 29,991,259.7 in the preceding year, representing a

52.5 per cent growth. He said: "The total passenger traffic figure of 12.5million passengers in 2009 is an indication that Nigerian airports have great potential for growth and the Management of FAAN is not unmindful of this fact. Facilities that need to be upgraded and refurbished have received attention in recent times. Runways are being overlaid, airfield lightings are either being replaced or installed. The Port Harcourt International Airport was re-opened recently, and its AFL upgraded."

Olukunle added that "The security of all the passengers is receiving greater attention, with the introduction of more modern security equipment such as hand-held metal detectors, X-ray machines for luggage, as well as body scanners which were recently acquired and are being installed."

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Business/International

'W/Africa consumes 50% of Nigerian goods'

By Sunday Williams

ABOUT 50 percent of made in Nigeria products are consumed by the entire West African countries, the president Nigeria-Mali Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines, Agriculture and Tourism (NAMACCIMAT) has said.

He said Mali and Burkina Faso import informally more

than 300 tons of various made in Nigeria products every week, which amounts to 1200 tons monthly.

Michael Awunor made this remarks in Abuja yesterday preparatory to a one-day NAMACCIMAT/NEPC exhibition/seminar titled, 'ECOWAS market: the Malian experience' schedule to take place in Abuja today.

According to him, the exhibition is arranged to showcase and promote businesses between Nigeria and Mali in spare parts/accessories, furniture/household items, pharmaceuticals, cement, solid minerals products, confectioneries, building materials, aluminium products and services, kitchen utensils/equipment, shoes/

leathers and bags.

He said there is some degree of ignorance on the part of Nigerian potential business men and women who could make use of the enormous opportunities that are abound in Mali like the Export Expansion Grant (EEG).

Mali is Africa's largest producer of cotton, third largest producer of gold and has lots of

fruits and sheep among others.

Awunor said that there is little or no stress to do any legitimate kind of business in Mali, adding that with less than a N100,000, serious minded investors can export products to Mali.

He said: "There is trade liberalization among West African countries. People from member country are free to

work and leave in Mali just as it is applicable to any other West African country."

Speaking, the Executive Secretary of NEPC, David Adulugba who was represented by Aliyu Lawal said the council has considered it necessary to collaborate with NAMACCIMAT in order to showcase made-in-Nigeria non-oil products.

DRC lines up \$3bn crude pipeline



PRESIDENT of Democratic Republic of Congo Joseph Kabila

THE Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is targeting 2015 as a start date for construction of a \$3 billion pipeline to export potential oil finds from its central basin to the coast, Joseph Pili Pili, director of projects at the country's oil ministry said.

According to Africa-Investor online, Congo will look to companies and banks to fund the 1500-kilometre project taking hoped-for oil from blocks under forests in the heart of the country to the coast.

Several oil companies have expressed interest in the Cuvette Centrale region's 21

blocks, but no exploration has started. Blocks 1, 2 and 3 have been allotted to Brazilian company Comico, pending a presidential decree to start exploring.

"We think we can start building the pipeline in 2015," Joseph Pili Pili, director of projects at the ministry of hydrocarbons, told Reuters on the sidelines of a conference.

"To finance it we will go to the companies, and the banks," he added, giving the \$3 billion price tag.

The pipeline, dubbed "The Reptilian" after its lizard-like route across the country,

would link the Cuvette Centrale to Matadi river port on the western coast.

Pili Pili also said the ministry of hydrocarbons plans to add more blocks to the area, bringing the total to about 80.

Congo hopes a spate of proposed exploration that has oil giants Total and Eni interested will bring its stagnant oil sector to life.

Its tiny oil industry, which produces about 25,000 barrels per day from onshore and offshore blocks in the southwest, is also waiting presidential go-ahead for exploration of blocks - some of which are disputed - in the east, Reuters.



PRESIDENT of Brazil Lula da Silva

Brazil wants to support bio-industry in Africa

BRAZIL said it is negotiating with the African Development Bank and other international financial institutions on a financing facility to support the bio-industry in African countries including Zambia, the Africa-Investor online reported.

And the country says Zambia needs effective co-operation and exchange of high technology equipment for the bio industry to grow.

Brazilian Ambassador to Zambia Josal Luiz Pellegrino said his country is on the verge of concluding the negotiations with various international banks to finance projects in the region including Zambia.

"We are at the verge of negotiations with various banks and we hope the Zambian bio fuel sector can benefit. Both private and public firms can take advantage of the funds after the negotiations have been finalised," he said in an interview in Lusaka recently without giving more details.

He said Zambia has a strong position in bio fuels, saying with its sugar cane plantation there is need for co-operation and exchange of high technology equipment.

"So, we are of the view that Zambia needs co-operation and exchange of technology, high tech equipment. We are trying to bring the Brazilian

technology to Zambia which we have developed since the 1970s, when our country had a huge oil crisis and prices of oil skyrocketed," he said.

Pellegrino added that Brazil never produced oil but decided to invest in sugar cane research to produce ethanol which Zambia could also replicate.

He further said Zambia should consider introducing flexi auto mobiles to provide motor users with a variety of fuel to use including ethanol.

Pellegrino said currently, most countries use automobiles with flexi engines where users can choose the kind of fuel they want to buy at a gas station, either ethanol, petrol or diesel.

"We are convinced that the Brazilian experience is quite adequate, adaptable and useful for Zambia," he said. He also commended the Bio-fuel Association of Zambia for being an active stakeholder in this area and working with the embassy through exchange of views.

Last year, Brazil held a seminar with the Ministry of Energy and Water Development and brought in three experts to share the Brazilian experience with Zambia.

Japan, China rivalry leaves Kenya with contract billions

KENYA has become the latest beneficiary of the battle heating up between Japan and China for control of Africa's economic landscape, raking in billions of shillings in new project finance and grant funds in the past two years, the Africa-Investor online reported.

Though China has been the more brazen hunter of opportunities in the country's vast infrastructure and natural resources sectors, the scales have been tilting in favour of Japan in recent months as the Asian economic powerhouse

unleashed its corporate giants for pieces of the action.

With the support of their government, Japanese firms are making few but high strategic entries into East Africa, targeting the expected windfall in mineral extraction and consumer goods markets.

Japan has for decades defined its presence in Kenya through aid, but is now widening its scope to the private sector-- a move that places it in a head-to-head battle with China.

"There is some kind of

soft competition emerging between China and Japan, not just in Kenya but across Africa," said Gerishon Ikiara, a lecturer at University of Nairobi's Institute of International Relations.

"It's a fight that involves both economic and political dominance. Japan has been here for long, but is now stepping up its efforts upon realisation that China is fast increasing its influence in key economies such as Kenya," he added. Both embassies declined to comment.



PRESIDENT Mwai Kibaki of Kenya

Ivory Coast mid-crop cocoa harvest may decline 8.6%



PRESIDENT Laurent Gbagbo of Ivory Coast

COCOA production in Ivory Coast, the world's biggest grower, may decline 8.6 percent in this year's mid-crop season because of poor rains, spurring global prices for the commodity, the Africa-Investor online reported.

Output may drop to about 300,000 metric tons from 328,117 tons last year, said an official at the state-run Bourse de Café et du Cacao, or BCC. The official declined to be identified because the forecast hasn't been made public yet. Harvesting of the mid-crop, the smaller of two annual harvests, begins this week and ends in September.

"The mid-crop should be quite influential in terms of setting the tone to see if we'll see a rebound" in prices, Sadakshina Unnikrishnan, a commodities analyst at Barclays Capital in London, said in an interview yesterday. "We're not expecting a big rebound, which should be supportive of prices."

"The market is looking for a fresh catalyst to move out," Unnikrishnan said. "If we see weakness of the mid-year crop numbers, the market will definitely take notice."

Production in Ivory Coast has been hampered by low rainfall in the country's

main growing areas in the south and south-west, said farmers including Serges Pano, who owns a plantation in the eastern region of Abengourou.

"The rains came too late this year," Pano said in a phone interview on March 19. "Anyone saying it will be a good mid-crop here probably isn't well-informed about cocoa."

Outbreaks of swollen shoot disease also curbed output in the central regions of Bouafle and Sinfra, causing annual output to drop to 30,000 tons from 80,000 tons, BCC.

Business/Agric

Fight rice cartel — Niger Gov

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE governor of Niger State Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu has called on Nigerians to stand against rice importers with the aim of stimulating consumption of locally produced rice in the country.

The governor lamented a situation where certain group of people have constituted themselves to prevent the production of good rice products locally, adding that Nigeria spends the sum of \$800 million annually on rice importation.

Aliyu who made the disclosure yesterday in Minna at a function launching National Rice Development Strategy, called on the federal government on the need to increase import duties to frustrate the trend.

"It is a shame that a nation like Nigeria that has the capacity to feed Africa with rice staples imports rice from other countries to meet its consumption requirement due to activities of certain people.

"If we don't fight against the cartel by raising import duties of rice so that it can be made expensive to the cartel and people are forced to eat our own local production, Nigerians will continue to be exploited", he said.

He called on the federal government to provide basic infrastructural facilities like rail roads, road networks linking Niger and other parts of the country to facilitate the movement of products to parts of the country.

Scientists to develop drought resistant cowpea

Tina A. Hassan

SCIENTISTS conducting a research have discovered a means of developing a variety of cowpea that is resistant to drought.

The improved variety when introduced to farmers would help overcome constraints of disease, parasitic weeds, insect pest and drought especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The researchers from the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), University of California, Riverside separately discovered that a portion of the Cowpea known as the genome is responsible for disease and drought resistance among other.

This discovery has led to the researchers' working on improving the resistance of the plant to drought.

Known for its rich protein content, 70 per cent of world cowpea is grown in the savannah region of Africa and is a source of incomes to its consumers.

However, cowpea faces several production constraints among which are diseases, insect pests, parasitic weeds such as Striga, and drought which is becoming increasingly important in the cowpea producing zones of sub-Saharan Africa.



YAM tubers for sale.

N200bn agric loans: Farmers say banks are not lending

By Tina A. Hassan

FARMERS registered under Goshen Potato Farmers Co-operative said there is no way they can access the Commercial Agricultural Credit Scheme if the Federal Government does not review the conditions for borrowing.

The farmers who are members of the Potato Farmers Association of Nigeria (POFAN) said all their efforts to access the said credit scheme yielded no result as the banks were not willing to co-operate with them.

Speaking on behalf of the farmers in Abuja, Chief Dan Okafor, the president of POFAN explained that the group tried some banks but they refused to lend. He said the explanation he got was that only N40 billion was set aside for small scale farmers and they are not permitted to start disbursing the money because they Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has not yet given them guidelines on how to distribute the sum meant for small scale farmers.

Chief Okafor had earlier told Daily Trust that the farmers were met with very stiff conditions for borrowing when they went to the banks to access the loan but the banks are now saying the money is meant for big commercial farmers.

"Our members have very big farmlands in Nyanya, Mararaba and many other places but they said we cannot get this loan so the Federal Government needs to do something if they really have us farmers in their heart."

"We had a meeting with first bank on the issue of the loan and it is clear that the government has not gotten it right and we would continue to worry them and hoping that things would change", he said.

When asked if they have gone to any of the microfinance to access some loan, he said even the microfinance banks are charging very high interest rates.

Another farmer Caroline Weribe said Goshen farmers are ready to feed Nigeria with food from their farms but the government is not easing the difficulty of getting tractors for mechanized farming and other modern farm equipment.

According to her: "We have up to 200 members and I want government to come to our farm and see how serious we are. We are ready to send potato outside Nigeria let the whole world know as potato farmers but government must be responsible."

Some of the banks contacted refused to talk and would not want to be quoted.

Nigeria to produce 12.85m tonnes of rice in 2018

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, Alhaji Aliyu Gusau has disclosed plans to scale up production of rice staples to 12.85 million tonnes by the year 2018. He explained that the federal government has mapped out strategies to solve the inherent problems associated with production of rice in Nigeria, identifying post-harvest handling and processing, land development and irrigation and seed development as areas to stimulate towards bumper production.

The Federal Permanent Secretary who made this public at an occasion marking the launching of Nigeria's Rice Development Strategy Document (NRDS) in Minna yesterday also stated that rice production as at 2008 stands at 4.179 million tonnes.

According to him, Nigeria with a population of over 140 million people consume up to 5 million tonnes of rice every year, adding that only 2.21 million is produced domestically.

"Available data indicates that annual milled rice demand in the country stands at 5 million tonnes while domestic production is about 2.21

million tonnes with a national deficit of 2.79 million tonnes.

The Nigeria's Rice Development Strategy Document has the overall goal of increasing rice production in Nigeria from 4.179 million tonnes paddy in 2008 to 12.85 million tonnes in the year 2018", he said.

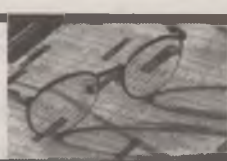
Alhaji Gusau who said the occasion is in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has identified Niger state as a model to actualize the dream production of rice staple in Nigeria.

The Niger state governor, Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu speaking at the occasion stated that the Niger has spread its tentacles to exploit its rice production potentials by resuscitating the Badeggi rice mill to full production capacity.

He added that with the present production level of 30 thousand tonnes, the state government will soon be producing up to 100 tonnes when two additional rice mills are added to the present one.

Aliyu, while reiterating the state commitment in boosting rice production for domestic and international purpose, called on the federal government to keep to earlier promise to fund states in agriculture as he said that Niger has delivered on its own side of the agreement.

Business/Finance



Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Monday, March 29, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	10	0.52	2,336,000	1,202,659.40
SECTOR Totals	10		2,336,000	1,202,659.40
AGRICULTURE				
FTN COCOA PROC. PLC	68	1.02	4,935,851	4,956,496.00
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	17	0.72	545,598	402,046.54
OKITIPUPA OIL PALM PLC	2	6.21	900	5,589.00
OKOMU O/PALM COY PLC	1	21.62	190	3,902.60
PRESCO PLC	11	5.84	40,350	247,264.50
SECTOR Totals	99		5,522,889	5,615,298.64
AIR SERVICES				
AIRL/SERV. & LOG. PLC	15	2.85	267,733	774,843.67
NIG. AV. HAND. COY PLC	101	11.55	784,118	8,983,315.04
SECTOR Totals	116		1,051,851	9,758,158.71
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	268	10.18	24,415,010	245,580,404.02
AFRIBANK NIG. PLC	115	2.83	9,636,351	26,546,986.03
DIAMOND BANK PLC	146	9.80	16,543,925	161,312,083.17
EBOBANK NIGERIA PLC	96	7.04	8,116,691	56,631,096.58
F/CITY MON. BANK PLC	68	9.00	6,041,631	55,034,984.45
FIDELITY BANK PLC	298	3.48	27,403,099	94,000,784.70
FIRST BANK OF NIG. PLC	825	15.91	40,030,828	638,385,879.94
FINBANK PLC	122	0.73	12,342,572	8,708,104.98
GTBANK PLC	488	20.94	30,910,259	647,056,428.70
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	56	11.09	1,553,358	17,140,304.22
INTERCONT. BANK PLC.	97	1.99	5,815,403	11,687,729.12
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	180	2.02	19,774,023	40,050,330.33
BANK PHB PLC	87	1.73	3,873,177	6,837,776.52
SKYE BANK PLC.	205	8.30	18,004,730	150,503,107.62
SPRING BANK PLC.	22	0.95	1,080,680	1,058,078.57
STERLING BANK PLC	90	2.55	9,959,262	25,331,154.16
UNT. BANK FOR AFR. PLC.	288	14.91	23,409,488	352,352,032.70
UN/BANK OF NIG. PLC	230	6.09	12,572,266	72,763,932.55
UNITY BANK PLC	29	1.04	2,036,593	2,149,702.38
WEMA BANK PLC	41	1.05	2,325,622	2,485,523.56
ZENITH BANK PLC	275	19.01	14,820,217	280,046,953.85
SECTOR Totals	4,026		290,665,185	2,895,663,378.15
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	120	18.95	5,039,842	92,450,756.05
BEN/CEMENT COY PLC	48	62.20	878,737	54,975,704.87
CEM. CO. OF N/NIG. PLC	51	19.95	1,067,282	21,198,835.40
LA FARGE WAPCO PLC	51	34.50	941,993	32,420,065.77
SECTOR Totals	270		7,927,854	201,045,362.09
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERG. PAINTS NIG. PLC	10	5.40	10,917	61,899.39
CHEM. & ALL. PROD. PLC	9	29.67	7,340	217,777.50
I. P. W. A. PLC	5	1.26	242,000	304,920.00
PREMIER PAINTS PLC.	1	13.40	20,000	254,600.00
SECTOR Totals	25		280,257	839,196.89
COMMERCIAL/SERV.				
AFROMEDIA PLC	2	0.51	102,000	52,020.00
C/VILLE INVEST. PLC	3	0.50	180,000	90,000.00
SEC. ELECT. TECH. PLC	2	3.40	2,100	6,783.00
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	20	3.30	990,192	3,267,633.60
SECTOR Totals	27		1,274,292	3,416,436.60
COMP. & OFF. EQUIP.				
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	13	0.54	309,379	168,168.45
SECTOR Totals	13		309,379	168,168.45
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC	16	3.63	329,014	1,194,320.82
JOHN HOLT PLC	2	9.28	2,777	24,493.14
PZ CUSONS NIG. PLC	46	31.43	201,728	6,657,024.00
TRANS. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	46	0.53	4,908,700	2,587,272.65
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	54	50.90	994,579	50,147,426.31
UNILEVER NIG. PLC	110	28.22	1,683,085	47,575,716.15
SECTOR Totals	274		8,119,883	108,186,253.07
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	25	5.83	436,760	2,546,180.80
JULIUS BERGER NIG. PLC	25	31.51	782,412	24,545,880.50
M/VERSE RESOURCES PLC	1	0.50	35,000	17,500.00
SECTOR Totals	51		1,254,172	27,109,561.30
ENGINEERING TECH.				
CUTIX PLC	9	3.11	130,200	404,922.00
INTERLINKED TECH. PLC	2	5.15	3,000	14,700.00
NIG. WIRE AND CABLE PLC.	13	0.57	933,500	532,930.00
SECTOR Totals	24		1,066,700	952,552.00
FOOD/BEV. & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	16	32.13	37,026	1,248,886.98
BIG TREAT PLC	58	0.90	8,108,666	7,266,433.09
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	72	18.81	1,249,339	23,313,297.30
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	307	18.63	6,570,349	121,866,562.96
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	63	19.64	676,319	13,244,363.16
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	86	61.21	810,742	49,588,227.93
HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	41	8.99	1,524,749	13,480,959.79
NAT. SALT COY NIG. PLC	67	8.56	3,108,352	26,570,842.91
NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC	26	32.68	164,928	5,361,871.68
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	35	270.00	60,063	16,279,751.35
N/NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	4	29.33	14,600	438,362.00
TANTALIZERS PLC	25	1.20	975,124	1,170,148.80

UNION DICON SALT PLC	4	5.16	217,500	1,122,300.00
UTC NIGERIA PLC	8	0.66	158,616	104,687.04
SECTOR Totals	812		23,676,373	281,056,694.99
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	7	1.20	126,034	151,240.80
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	71	3.58	2,324,474	8,300,406.62
GLAXOSM. CONS. NIG. PLC	28	29.45	326,674	9,964,374.55
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	13	5.30	129,950	716,763.50
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	24	1.69	1,611,715	2,723,098.35
UNION DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	58	0.80	6,591,264	4,489,464.88
SECTOR Totals	198		11,110,111	26,345,348.70
HOTEL & TOURISM				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	14	3.21	551,160	1,760,223.60
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	2	1.98	33,000	68,310.00
SECTOR Totals	16		584,160	1,828,533.60
IND./DOMESTIC PROD.				
ALUMACO PLC	1	10.50	2,700	26,946.00
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	28	9.35	515,871	4,651,671.20
NIG. ENAMELWARE PLC	1	47.70	7,994	381,313.80
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC	6	0.52	71,080	36,348.60
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	39	5.80	624,905	3,383,795.87
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	2	0.57	86,083	49,067.31
SECTOR Totals	77		1,308,633	8,529,142.78
INF. & COMM. TECHNOLOGY				
CHAMS PLC	25	0.70	3,591,524	2,510,066.80
MASS TEL. INNOV. NIG. PLC	2	0.50	50,000	25,000.00
STARCOMMS PLC	48	2.35	2,394,721	5,502,739.70
SECTOR Totals	75		6,036,245	8,037,806.50
INSURANCE				
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	102	1.17	10,244,378	11,747,092.24
CONTIN. REINSURANCE PLC	16	0.98	5,660,250	5,443,785.00
C/STONE INSUR. CO. PLC.	22	0.57	3,005,694	1,739,241.52
CUST. & ALLIED INSUR. PLC	20	3.85	1,155,500	4,408,808.76
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	14	0.73	962,257	702,447.61
GUAR. TRUST ASSUR. PLC	100	3.45	82,060,458	280,588,649.74
CONS. HALLM. INS. PLC	2	0.50	290,200	145,100.00
INT. ENERGY INS. COY PLC	39	0.53	2,319,540	1,236,474.00
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	51	0.50	6,337,213	3,200,836.50
L/UNION & ROCK INS. PLC.	17	0.54	1,533,000	832,946.50
MUTUAL BEN. ASSUR. PLC	48	0.54	4,693,475	2,551,901.50
N.E.M. INS. CO. (NIG.) PLC.	32	0.56	2,542,663	1,423,891.28
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	52	0.75	4,991,301	3,687,783.55
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	20	3.26	468,360	1,636,438.82
STACO INSURANCE PLC	28	0.50	1,876,120	930,960.00
STAND. ALL. INSUR. PLC	9	0.50	193,300	96,650.00
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	22	0.82	1,408,705	1,144,322.41
UNITY KAPITAL ASS. PLC	1	0.58	1,500	840.00
INTERCONT. WAPIC INS. PLC	27	0.92	934,300	884,345.44
SECTOR Totals	622		130,678,214	322,402,514.87
MARITIME				
JAP. OIL & MARIT. SERV. PLC	86	1.55	4,278,974	6,632,409.70
SECTOR Totals	86		4,278,974	6,632,409.70
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ABBEY BUILD. SOCIETY PLC	1	1.61	200	322.00
ASO SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	9	0.66	324,710	216,797.00
RES. SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	29	0.50	14,008,100	7,004,050.00
UN/HOMES SAV. & LOANS PLC	59	0.98	7,691,526	7,453,095.15
SECTOR Totals	98		22,024,536	14,674,264.15
OTHER FINANCIAL INST.				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC.	11	1.00	666,480	667,298.00
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	18	0.61	5,840,474	3,560,176.25
SECTOR Totals	29		6,506,954	4,227,474.25
PACKAGING				
NIG. BAG MANUF. COY PLC	269	3.55	2,896,459	10,282,429.45
BETA GLASS CO. PLC	17	13.54	315,577	4,352,842.58
SECTOR Totals	286		3,212,036	14,635,272.03
PETROLEUM (MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	17	43.13	157,002	6,433,941.96
BECO PETROL. PROD. PLC	28	1.76	1,859,500	3,293,710.00
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	3	69.79	2,898	212,336.46
CONOIL PLC	37	44.00	389,533	17,065,769.47
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	29	8.19	218,718	1,765,071.96
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	7	107.64	8,265	845,178.90
OANDO PLC	213	79.00	12,554,138	1,001,655,583.69
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	13	149.62	9,553	1,483,342.17
SECTOR Totals	347		15,199,607	1,032,754,984.61
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	13	8.22	37,257	305,106.17
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	24	6.69	512,860	3,330,994.34
SECTOR Totals	37		550,117	3,636,100.51
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROP. DEV. CO. PLC	29	22.21	1,235,242	28,012,802.50
SECTOR Totals	29		1,235,242	28,012,802.50
ROAD TRANSPORTATION				
ASSOCIATED BUS COY PLC	20	1.09	542,358	586,715.82
SECTOR Totals	20		542,358	586,715.82
THE FOREIGN LISTINGS				
ECOBANK TRANS. INCORP.	37	18.00	2,596,818	48,276,031.63
SECTOR Totals	37		2,596,818	48,276,031.63
OVERALL Totals	8,079		599,057,114	5,294,827,809.20

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		
FLOURMILL		2.91
UACN		2.40
CONOIL		2.00
NBC		1.55

LOSERS </		
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**YOBE STATE MINISTRY OF HEALTH DAMATURU
HEALTH SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT II
(World Bank Assisted)**



INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Name of Country: NIGERIA
Name of Project: YOBE STATE HEALTH SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT II

Brief Description of Works:

1. Completion of maternity complex
2. Renovation and extension of 3no.health facilities including construction of 2bed room blocks in each of the facility
3. Construction of 1block of 3 classrooms

CREDIT NUMBER: CN4522-NG

DATE OF ISSUANCE: March 30, 2010

This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in Development Business, issue no. 637 and *Daily Trust* newspaper of Nigeria of July 3rd, 2009.

2. The Federal Republic of Nigeria has received credit from the International Development Association (IDA-World Bank) in various currencies to finance the cost of the Yobe State Health Systems Development Project II. It intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for the above civil works activities.
3. The Yobe State Health Systems Development Project II, now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the completion, renovation and extension including construction

Lot No	Description Of Work	Location LGAs	Bid Security	Completion Period	Delivery Location
1	Completion of Maternity Complex	Specialist Hospital-Damaturu LGA	At Least 3% Of The Bid Price	120 days	Yobe State Health Systems Development Project II Goni Baba Gana Street Njiwaji Layout, Sabon Fegi Damaturu Yobe State
2	Renovation of Yunusari Health Facility Including Construction of 2bed Room Block	Yunusari Kanamma LGA	-Do-	120 days	-Do-
3	Renovation of Machina Health Facility Including Construction of 2bed Room Blocks	Machina Machina LGA	-Do-	120 days	-Do-
4	Renovation And Extension of Kurmi Health Facility Including Construction of 2bed Room Block	Kurmi Fika LGA	-Do-	120 days	-Do-
5	Construction of 1block of 3 Classrooms	School Of Nursing Damaturu	-Do-	120 days	-Do-

Bidders may quote for one or more complete lots, bids for part of a lot will be considered non-responsive

4. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB), a procedure specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from
Yobe State Health Systems Development Project II
Goni Baba Gana Street
Njiwaji Layout, Sabon Fegi Damaturu
Yobe state
Office Hours 8:00AM – 4:00PM
Tel: 07068857600 or 08024248856
E-mail: dr_kurmi@yahoo.com

And inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given above.

6. Qualification requirements include:
 - (a) Financial Capability
The Bidder shall furnish documentary evidence that it meets the following financial requirement (s)
External Audit Report of the last three (3) years.
Banker's Authorization that the Bidder has the Financial Capacity or a line of credit to execute a Contract of the same magnitude (as contained in the Schedule of Requirements)
copies of original documents defining the constitution or legal status, place of registration, and principal place of business of the Bidder; written power of attorney of the signatory of the Bid to commit the Bidder;
Experience and Technical Capacity
The Bidder shall furnish documentary evidence to demonstrate that it meets the following experience requirement(s):
Previous experience in works of a similar nature and size for each of the last five years,
Details of work under way or contractually committed; and clients who may be contacted for further information on those contracts
Qualifications and experience of key site management and technical personnel proposed for the Contract;
Evidence of adequacy of working capital for this Contract (access to line(s) of credit and availability of other financial resources);
A margin of preference for eligible national contractors shall not be applied. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
 - (b) Experience and Technical Capacity
The Bidder shall furnish documentary evidence to demonstrate that it meets the following experience requirement(s):
Previous experience in works of a similar nature and size for each of the last five years,
Details of work under way or contractually committed; and clients who may be contacted for further information on those contracts
Qualifications and experience of key site management and technical personnel proposed for the Contract;
Evidence of adequacy of working capital for this Contract (access to line(s) of credit and availability of other financial resources);
A margin of preference for eligible national contractors shall not be applied. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.

7. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee of #15,000:00 including BOQ and Drawings or its equivalent in a freely –convertible currency. The method of payment will be by cash or bank draft payables into the Yobe state HSDPII account No: 6019001739 Zenith Bank Plc, Damaturu Branch. The Bidding Document will be available at the project office or can be forwarded to the bidders by courier service on request.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 10:00am, 11th May, 2010. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend at the address below;

Yobe State Health Systems Development Project II
Goni Baba Gana Street
Njiwaji Layout, Sabon Fegi
Damaturu.
Yobe state.

9. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security as indicated in the table under paragraph 3 above.

**Dr Kurmi I G
Project Manager**

RE: GOMBE STATE MINISTERIAL NOMINATION (A REJOINDER)

With reference to an Open Letter written to His Excellency the Acting President Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCON, by a faceless group under a purported organization that calls itself "Gombe South Senatorial District Peoples Assembly," on the above subject matter, which appeared simultaneously in two National Dailies:- The Daily Trust and Leadership Newspapers of Thursday 25th March 2010.

The so-called representatives of the group signed the petition in only the Leadership Newspapers, purporting to be individuals representing the four Local Government Councils of Gombe South Senatorial District, the area which used to be called Tangale-Waja. First of all, this Open Letter couldn't have elicited any response nor the need to refute these absurd allegations, but for the twisted motive and unfounded allegations and the misuse of data to achieve a selfish agenda by people who want to scheme out the people of Gombe South Senatorial District from the Political Activities of Gombe State and the Country at large.

Their motive is to give its people a bad name in order to hang it politically, socially, economically etc. The signatories to the letter are NOT indigenes of this area. These names are fictitious under a fake organization that doesn't exist. Our findings have shown that these fictitious writers and their purported organization don't exist either through the Co-operate Affairs Commission or with the Gombe State Ministry of Youth Development and Student Affairs.

The write-up was done by mischievous people that want to put the Senatorial District against the Government of Gombe State under the able Leadership of His Excellency Alh. (Dr.) Muhammad Danjuma Goje (Sarkin Yakin Gombe) and the Federal Government of Nigeria because the issue of negating the Federal Character is NOT TRUE. Only one aspect of the appointment was brought-up in their jaundiced report.

They deliberately refused to show the public other Federal Appointments that were made from the Gombe South Senatorial District which His Excellency the Governor of Gombe State was instrumental to since 1999, that has virtually the same weight with the portfolio in question, such, as Ambassadors and Chairmen of various Federal and State Government Parastatals.

Furthermore, they tried to create political acrimony and hatred amongst the three Senatorial Districts of Gombe State by showing a jaundiced disparity of political office holders in Gombe State. They want to ensure that they smear the good names of our distinguished elders and people of former Tangale-Waja against other peoples of the State. More especially, those political office holders that His Excellency Alh. (Dr.) Muhammad Danjuma Goje (Sarkin Yakin Gombe) graciously appointed. His quest to spread all the dividends of democracy evenly in the three Senatorial Districts of the State cannot be overemphasized.

For instance, the assertion in the publication that only 2% are the slots allocated to Gombe South Senatorial District in the appointments of Federal Boards and Parastatals is NOT true. The following are posts which the Gombe South Senatorial District had and are still holding:

namely,

- (i) 3 Ambassadorial appointments (at various periods)
They are:-
 - Ambassador Saidu Muhammed Fawu
 - Ambassador Adamu Ajuji Waziri
 - Ambassador Timothy Mai Shelpidi
- (ii) Permanent Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission. -
Hajiya (Mrs) Lami Buba
- (iii) Member of the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission. - Ambassador Saidu Muh'd Fawu
- (iv) Federal Permanent Secretary. - Alh. Sulaiman D. Kasim And
- (v) Chairmen and Members of Federal Boards and Parastatals etc.

At the State level, the following posts were deliberately omitted by the mischief makers which are occupied by Gombe South Senatorial District :-

- i) State Chairmen PDP (from 2003-date)
 - Hon. Nuhu Poloma
 - Hon. Jack G. Gumpi
- ii) Chairmen, State Independent Electoral Commission (from 2003-date)
 - Mr. Bukar Mallafiya
 - Mr. Caleb Maina
- iii) State Chairmen Water Corporation/Board (from 2003-date)
 - Dr. Arabs D. Rukuje
 - Hon. Nuhu Poloma
- iv) Head of Service. (from 2003-2007)
 - Late Alh. Yakubu Lidani Bada
- v) Deputy Chief of Staff (from 2003-date)
 - Hajiya Bibiye Sadeeq
 - Hon. Danladi H. Garba
 Including,
- (vi) Commissioners and members of various Boards and Parastatals.

It is a fact that a Governor can only nominate ministers, but the final appointment is the exclusive prerogative and preserve of Mr. President. It is also on record that on several occasions His Excellency the Executive Governor of Gombe State Alh. (Dr.) Muhammad Danjuma Goje has nominated several sons of Gombe South Senatorial District for ministerial positions. These faceless writers and mischief makers refused to come to terms with the gigantic developmental projects undertaken in the Gombe South Senatorial District by the Goje-led administration. The area that is known of its mountainous terrain, a lot of rivers criss-crossing the area and the hard and chilling topography of the area that has given the people a lot of hardship in terms of political, economic and social developments.

An area that the Colonial Government and other subsequent Governments refused to develop because of the hardship. Today the MYTH is broken by no other person than the Sarkin Yakin Gombe. Alh. (Dr.) Muhammad Danjuma Goje Governor of Gombe State.

Today, the Mararraban-Tula Road (a Plateau that has defied solution by all); Yolde-Nyuwar Road; Todi-Sheila-Tudukwaya Road; Fliya-Kushi-Burak road; Swa-Gelengu Road; Cham-Kulani-Putoki Road; Kaltungo-Boh-Lalaipido Road; Kaltungo-Lapan-Boh Road; Mararraban Kwage-Talasse Road; Kaimai-Kashere Road and all township roads within the four Local Government Headquarters. These are roads that previous Governments NEVER attempted to execute. Also, intensive Rural Electrifications and Rural Water Scheme were provided in virtually all the Towns and Villages of Gombe South Senatorial District.

The provisions of dividends of democracy to the people of Gombe South Senatorial District by the Goje - led administration is LEGENDARY. These projects in Education, Health, Social amenities etc. are physically seen and they abound in all the areas of the District for any doubting Thomases to see. In short, it has NEVER been so good to the people of Gombe South Senatorial District as it is today, whether our enemies like it or NOT.

From the above analysis therefore, one can easily discern that whoever masterminded the write-up, for every reasonable mind will totally be dismayed by these action. They could have focused their search-light on actions of some politicians that are dreaming and aspiring to govern the state come 2011. It is easily known that if they wanted to be fair to the state, for instance a highly placed Deputy-Speaker of the NASS couldn't have sponsored his cousin for a ministerial slot to represent Gombe State, rather than giving it to any other person in the state.

Furthermore, his disdain to sponsor other people other than his own kith and kin to be appointed at Federal Level is clearly seen from the persons he masterminded in their appointments in to Federal Parastatals and organizations.

This clearly shows that the man has no regard for other people in the state except his kinsmen. Above all, the clique around him speaks for itself. Political naivety that have divisive tendencies. Yet, a person who has evenly distributed all his developmental programmes and activities cutting across all religious; regions, ethnic groups and different peoples of the State, is being castigated and given a bad name by group of mischievous persons that are undertaking the hatchet job of disgruntled politicians.

We wish to call on His Excellency the Acting President Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan GCON to ignore their wrangling as pure mischief makers, who do not wish for peace to reign in Gombe State and the country at large. We also urge him to continue his passionate quest for even development in the country through the distribution of dividends of democracy to the people of Nigeria.

We strongly advise these faceless writers along with their sponsors to desist from fomenting trouble and hatred among the good people of Gombe State and the Country at large. Our people are politically matured enough to identify mischief makers wherever they may be. They cannot instigate us against our brothers in other Senatorial Districts of Gombe State.

Finally, we challenge them to come out openly and show us their identity and contributions in the development of Gombe State and the country at large. Enough is enough. Gombe South Senatorial District cannot be sacrificed at the altar of greed and selfishness, just to satisfy a few disgruntled elements that want to operate through the back door.

Thank you and God bless.

Long live Gombe South Senatorial District,
Long live Gombe State,
Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Signed by :-

1. Balanga Local Government

a) Alh. Halilu B. Galadima

b) Alh. Halilu Umar Bambam

2. Billiri Local Government

a) Shuaibu Sabulu

b) Hon. Rosemary I. Mairangu

3. Kaltungo Local Government

a) Mr. Philemon Layi Kamo

b) Mr. Gideon M. Nde

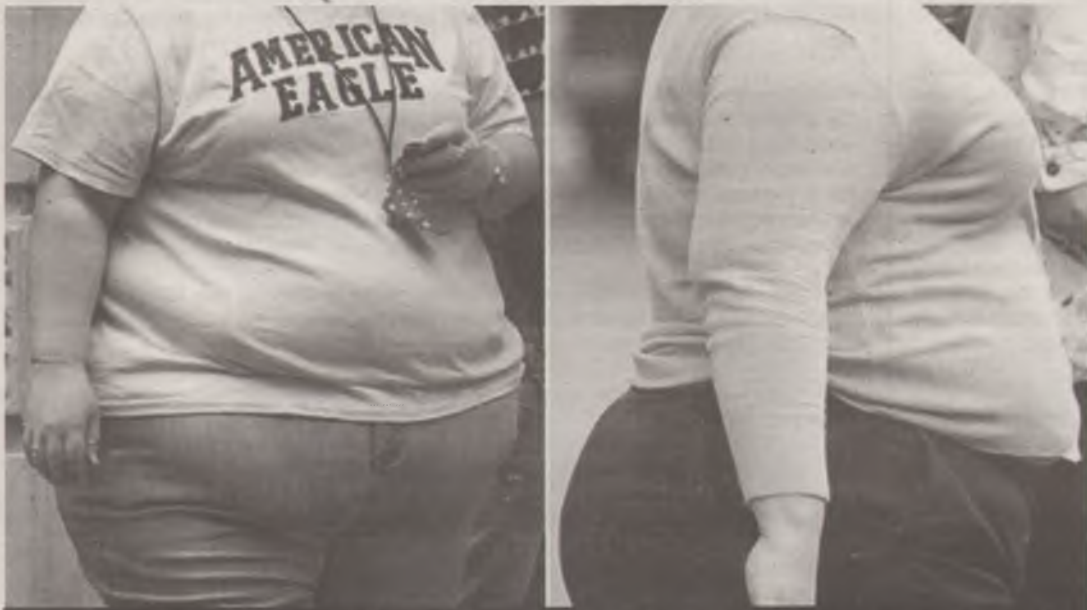
4. Shongom Local Government

a) Hon. Danladi H. Garba

b) Alh. Abdullahi Dan Gombe

DIGEST

Thirty per cent of breast cancer 'is caused by obesity'



MODERN lifestyles which feature regular drinking, lack of exercise and increased obesity are fuelling the rise of breast cancer

UP to a third of breast cancer cases could be avoided if women ate less and exercised more, researchers claim.

Experts believe more than 14,000 women a year would probably not develop the disease if they had adopted healthier behaviour from an early age.

Modern lifestyles which feature regular drinking, lack of exercise and increased obesity are

fuelling the rise of the disease, the European Breast Cancer Conference heard yesterday.

Around 45,000 cases of breast cancer are diagnosed each year in Britain.

Carlo La Vecchia, of Milan University, told the conference in Barcelona: 'What can be achieved with screening has been achieved. It's time to move on to other things.'

Dr La Vecchia said the International Agency for Research on Cancer estimates that 25 to 30 per cent of cases could be avoided if women were thinner and did more exercise. But Robert Baan, an IARC expert, said it was not clear if already overweight women could lower their cancer risk by slimming down or if long-term damage had already been done.

Around one in five British

women is classified as obese. Research shows they are almost 50 per cent more likely to die from breast cancer than women carrying fewer pounds.

It is unclear why obese women are more at risk, although changes in sex hormone levels triggered by weight gain could be behind oestrogen-dependent tumours, which form the majority of cases.

The World Cancer Research Fund last year suggested up to 40 per cent of diagnosed women - around 18,000 a year - could avoid cancer by adopting a healthier lifestyle.

Studies show drinking one large glass of wine a day increases the chances of developing the disease by a fifth, say experts. Again, this could be linked to alcohol raising levels of oestrogen.

Dr Rachel Thompson said the WCRF had reviewed 954 separate studies.

'The evidence is now convincing that drinking alcohol, being physically inactive and having excess body fat all increase risk of breast cancer,' she said.

'There is also convincing evidence that breastfeeding reduces the mother's risk of breast cancer. Overall, we estimate about 40 per cent of breast cancer cases in the UK could be prevented through these lifestyle factors.'

Delegates also heard a warning from a British surgeon that increasing numbers of women who have a breast removed to treat cancer are panicking into having a second mastectomy.

Ajay Sahu, who works at Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, said many women diagnosed with the disease are extremely frightened and make the wrong decision in a hurry - despite little evidence it will improve their survival chances.

He said a study of 27 patients who had asked for the removal of their unaffected breast revealed all had overestimated their risk of developing a second tumour by five to ten times.

After 'cooling off' for a year, 23 chose not to have the second operation.

The conference will hear today how breast cancer survivors can safely try for a family without triggering a recurrence of the disease.

A review of 14 trials, involving thousands of survivors, showed that not only was pregnancy safe, it might improve their chances of beating the disease in the long-term.

Those who got pregnant had a 42 per cent cut in their risk of dying from cancer compared to those who did not have a baby, researchers found.

Fifth of spouses snoop on partners emails and texts

A fifth of spouses admit checking their partner's emails or text messages, according to a new study.

The report also found that in a fifth of relationships, at least one partner had checked their spouse's browser history on the computer.

Entitled "Netiquette within married couples", the study involved an analysis of data from nearly 1,000 UK couples by researchers from the London School of Economics, the University of Oxford and Nottingham Trent University.

Ellen Helsper, who led the study, said: "Our findings showed that there are surprisingly high levels of surveillance.

"One of the surprising findings was that surveillance was undertaken more often by wives than husbands.

"This contrasts with research that suggests that women are less technologically skilled than men. It seems that they are able to overcome these barriers when they feel their relationship is at stake."

The researchers, who report

their findings in the journal, *Computers in Human Behavior* this week, analysed replies given to a series of questions about internet use. When partners were asked whether they had read their spouses emails, eight per cent of men and 14 per cent of women said they had. In a further ten per cent of cases, both had done so.

Asked the same question in relation to text messages, seven per cent of men and 13 per cent of women said they had. Again, in a further ten per cent of cases, both said they had done so.

This equates to around a fifth of spouses admitting to checking emails or text messages.

One in 10 women and six per cent of men had check the browser history of their partners. In a further four per cent of relationships, both said they had.

One per cent of both men and women had used monitoring software, and one per cent had posed as someone else to contact their partner.

Ms Helsper added: "It is clear



WHEN partners were asked whether they had read their spouses' emails, eight per cent of men and 14 per cent of women said they had.

that internet users do not shy from taking action when they think their partner might be undertaking activities that they are not comfortable with.

"Whatever the reason for the

monitoring, partner surveillance was wider spread than we initially assumed, with one out of every three couples having at least one partner who monitored the other partner's behaviour using some

kind of technological tool."

The average age of those taking part was 49 and the couples had been married for an average 19 years with 1.6 children.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

Sign Language



Are they birds or supermen?

Photo location: China, by Navjot Singh

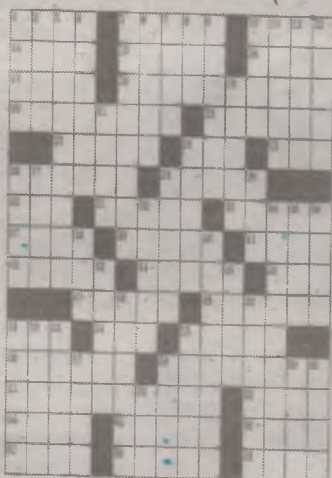
Culled from telegraph.co.uk

EASY CROSSWORDS

20

- ACROSS**
- Smell out baggins, given a few scents and cents
 - She went Roman through the woods to hunt
 - Object of a tolling bell
 - Two fathers in one
 - Heavenly rot that some stars are in
 - What most people will do to win the lottery
 - It's shaken, not stirred: 2 wds.
 - Things that keep some folks from knowing what color shoes they're wearing
 - Put a hair on
 - The most boring items I know
 - "The brewer of wood is twice warmed" or "He who hesitates repents at leisure"
 - Something put on by an afflicted person
 - Utter the utter truth
 - As gas goes, this doesn't have a knock coming
 - Nickel summer
 - Hula-hula hula
 - After a knight in the can, King Arthur was sure glad to get out of this
 - French doghouse made of wood
 - Amount of food my cat needs: 2 wds.
 - Lowest forms of understanding—ask any heel!
 - Bookworm's snack
 - They enable motorists to run into each other on their own sides
 - Zemith's rival
- DOWN**
- Hats off! Well, really up
 - Light-headed accessory
 - Next to the weather, probably the most popular subject to discuss
 - Building with many stories of the Far East
 - Lady stuffed-shirts (come attached to looking glasses on sticks)
 - Wretched and wraging
 - Little Lincoln
 - Way to finish tennis
 - Throw the first snowball in the Cold War
 - Big 19th-century party

- Gets an edge
- Two super girls together with another singer and then the yelling begins
- Adjective for her hair after you run your fingers through it
- Pear-shaped ukuleles, producing pear-shaped tunes
- Bit of banana
- Good description for bed lines, opinions, but not domestic differences
- Give it a ring sometime, and you'll get a shiner
- How tickler
- Bear's intro
- Criminals don't give it, but usually have to take it
- This is supposed to talk, yet it really doesn't hang around long enough to do so
- They make the best shock absorbers on the bumpy road of life
- Shane, according to his wife
- Big trip
- Asks holiday no matter which way you look at it
- Sucked a dust
- Counter attraction
- Only feature that's left out of an affordable apartment
- Shin eye
- Put in the Army and Navy teams again
- There's no problem for him
- A lovely place to knock a-bout in
- How Adam addressed Eve when he introduced himself
- Will (but not my rich uncle's)
- A very Hardy heroine
- Lets put the capital here
- Branch station
- Major in military service
- Auto to look up at



Solution to Easy Crosswords

19

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

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.

116

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

Solution to Sudoku 115

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

News Extra

All the president's emails

In a unique experiment in democratic transparency, Barack Obama – a BlackBerry owner, and the first American president to use email while in office – has agreed to copy G2 in on his otherwise highly confidential electronic communications. Each week, we present a selection from recent days:

To: All White House Staff
Subject: sing it with me!
 HEALTHCARE!
 HEALTHCARE! HEALTHCARE!
 HEALTHCARE! HEALTHCARE!
 HEALTHCARE! HEALTHCARE!
 CAAAAARRRRRRRE! xB

To: VPOTUS <joe.biden@whitehouse.gov>
Subject: Re: what did I do NOW????

Joe: in the grand scheme of

things your latest gaffe (dropping the F-bomb when you introduced me at the bill signing yesterday, in case you forgot) isn't really a "big fucking deal", although it did lower the tone of an otherwise historic moment. It wasn't your fault; your mic should have been turned off. In fact I checked, and it was turned off (apparently yours cuts out automatically as soon as the autocue stops). It was my mic



PRESIDENT Obama

that picked it up. That's why my staff are insisting that whenever you embrace me in future we stand at least 15 feet apart. It's not a punishment, just a precaution. Don't take it the wrong way. Barack

To: All Democratic Representatives; All Democratic Senators
Subject: death threats, etc.

Like many of you I've been shocked by the vandalism and violence we've seen in the wake of the healthcare vote. Unlike any of you, I'm surrounded by dudes with guns and earpieces 24/7. That's why I'm urging you to take extra care. I don't know whether the Republicans will find the courage to part company with extremists, or choose to remain in thrall to the moronic right. But from our point of view, it's all good. BHO

To: President Hu Jintao <hu.jintao@gov.cn>
Subject: Re: did you get my message?

Really? I guess it must have gotten lost somewhere. Did you check your spam folder? Or maybe you need to change your privacy filter settings from COMPLETELY PARANOID to SLIGHTLY LESS FREAKED OUT BY THE INTERNET. It was a clip of a panda smoking a pipe, for chrissakes. Best, Barack

To: All White House staff
Subject: Re: sing it with me!

For all those requesting further information: it's meant to be sung to the tune of Amazing Grace. HEALTHCARE! HEALTHCARE! HEALTHCARE!

Culled from guardian.co.uk



IS it @rt? The Museum of Modern Art in Manhattan has hailed the symbol's 'extraordinary elegance and economy'

Any modern art gallery worth its salt is periodically required to raise a hue and cry with some new acquisition, to provoke a chorus of bemused or angry onlookers to exclaim: "But is it art?" By that token, the Museum of Modern Art in Manhattan just put itself back at the top of the big league. It has announced to the world that it has "acquired" the @ sign, and will "exhibit" it as a symbol of our relationships and communications with others in the digital world. The requirement for inverted commas is telling. The symbol is, of course, not owned by anyone from whom the museum could acquire it, and MoMa's curators haven't yet begun to work out if and how they will give it physical form.

The museum acknowledges this is the first time that it has acquired something that "can-

not be had".

If there might have been bafflement in the general population, then MoMa's move sparked a firestorm of debate in the design world, with experts dismissing the move as a stunt, or worse, demeaning to real designers who design real new versions of the @ for fonts. Others, though, saw MoMa reinventing its design gallery for a new, virtual world, where so much exists only intangibly on the internet.

And at the centre of the storm is a momentous day in 1971 when a Boston computer programmer called Ray Tomlinson sent the world's first email. It was Mr Tomlinson who chose to use an otherwise obscure character to separate a recipient's name from the computer they used. MoMa credited Mr Tomlinson with being the (unintended) designer of the modern @.

"The appropriation and reuse of a pre-existing, even ancient

symbol – a symbol already available on the keyboard yet vastly under-utilised, a ligature meant to resolve a functional issue (excessively long and convoluted programming language) brought on by a revolutionary technological innovation (the internet) – is by all means an act of design of extraordinary elegance and economy," said Paola Antonelli, MoMa's curator for architecture and design, answering the question: "But is it design?"

Unconvincing, counters Mike Essl, design professor at The Cooper Union, one of New York's most prestigious art schools. "I think it is conceptually light. It's like putting in the letter A. I think that certain typefaces render the @ sign particularly sexy, but I saw this and rolled my eyes. It has the advantage for MoMa of being a recession-proof acquisition. But I'm not going to go to

When @ became art

The symbol of the internet age is to be inducted into New York's MoMa gallery

MoMa to see the @ sign."

In the official blog post announcing the decision to add the @ symbol to the collection, Ms Antonelli declared a new world of possibilities. "It relies on the assumption that physical possession of an object as a requirement for an acquisition is no longer necessary."

She called it the only "free" piece in the collection, if not the only "priceless" one, and promised that it would be displayed in various typefaces, with the font listed as if it were the materials used in a piece by a sculptor or painter.

There's no official history of the @ symbol, and no real agreement on what to call it, either. It is known variously as the "at sign", a monkey's tail or the "sign of the meow". While some linguists believe it was first used in the fifth or sixth century to fuse the Latin words for "at" and "towards" together in a single symbol, it has also been used a unit of measurement before turning up as an accounting

term, as in "3 @ £2".

For something so intangible, the @ sign is firmly ubiquitous, part of an estimated 200 billion emails sent every day and a signifier of all parts of our digital lives.

Tobias Frere-Jones, principal at the font design studio Hoefler & Frere-Jones, for one, loves it. "It is definitely a crowd-pleaser, in terms of rendering. In the pre-email days, it was part of a second class of characters, along with the asterisk, the % sign, and copyright and trademark symbols – not important enough to draw each time for each new font."

Now, he says, it poses a unique challenge. "When this one obscure symbol suddenly came to centre stage, people found it a generic, Helvetica-looking thing, so for me and other designers, it became a point of pride to design an @ sign that was specifically suited to each new font family. There's not much else in a typeface that goes to the same level of complexity as the @ sign."

Brief history of the @: A sign of the times

1448 In one reputed early use, the @ symbol appears before a wheat shipment from Castile to Aragon.

1885 The first typewriter includes the still-obscure sign, mainly used by accountants to denote cost per item.

1971 The first email, sent by American programmer Raymond Tomlinson, uses the symbol to indicate the recipient's location.

2010 With an estimated 210bn emails sent per day and many other uses besides, the @ sign is one of the most ubiquitous pieces of punctuation in the world.

Culled from theindependentsunday.co.uk

News Extra

Moscow bombing:

Who are the Black Widows?

Russia's FSB security service has said a pair of "black widow" female suicide bombers blew themselves up on the Moscow metro killing at least thirty five people.



RESCUE services and firefighters take care of victims from the Park Kultury metro station yesterday after an explosion that went off in a carriage of a train on the platform.

Fragments of the two women's bodies, including the head of 'a young woman' and the remains of 'an older woman,' have already been recovered. The attack has struck fear into Muscovites and refocused attention on the female suicide bombers willing to martyr themselves in the name of Islamist Jihad or holy war.

The last time the black widows struck outside their volatile North Caucasus homeland was in 2004. That was a bloody year for Russia. Black widows blew up two passenger planes that took off from Moscow airport, bombed the Moscow metro twice, and took part in the infamous siege of Beslan's School Number One. Hundreds of innocent civilians, including children, lost their lives in the carnage.

Last year, after a long pause, they began to strike again in the predominantly Muslim North Caucasus region far from Moscow that includes Chechnya, Ingushetia and Dagestan. Their cause is the creation of an Islamist caliphate along Russia's southern spur.

They are called black widows because they have usually lost their husbands, brothers or

close relatives in one of the two Chechen wars that Russia fought against Islamist rebels since 1994 or indeed in more recent clashes with Russian-backed forces. Grieving for their loved ones and intent upon revenge, black widows, who are usually poorly educated, can therefore be recruited and trained up by Islamist extremists with relative ease. Human rights groups say it is a problem of the Kremlin's own making. They accuse Russian forces of using overly brutal tactics against the civilian population, including women, in order to flush out rebel fighters. It is a counterproductive strategy that only serves to radicalise people, they say.

There have been credible reports in the past year of dozens of suicide bombers being trained up, and earlier this year, Doku Umarov, the leader of the Chechen rebel movement, warned that terror would be coming to Russia's big cities such as Moscow and St. Petersburg in the near future.

Blood will no longer be limited to our (Caucasus) cities and towns," he said in an interview on a website regarded as a rebel mouthpiece.

"The war is coming to their cities." Also, earlier this month, a man known as Russia's own 'Bin Laden' who was thought to be training black widow suicide

They are called black widows because they have usually lost their husbands, brothers or close relatives in one of the two Chechen wars that Russia fought against Islamist rebels since 1994

bombers, was killed by Russian Special Forces in a shoot-out. Other prominent Islamist rebel fighters have been killed in recent weeks and analysts believe the black widows may have been "sent into battle" now to wreak revenge. At a time when the Kremlin is claiming more and more success against the Islamist rebels, Monday's atrocity will be seen as a sign that the rebels have their backs against the wall and have therefore resorted to their most desperate and deadly tactic.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk.



SPLATTERED with blood, a wounded man makes a phone call on his mobile outside Park Kultury metro station shortly after the blast yesterday.

Laurel
To A Distinguished
Professor
And Administrator



Hearty Congratulations to an Eminent Professor and University Administrator, as you are recognised and rewarded by the System, with an Honourary Doctor of Science (D.Sc) Degree conferred on you by Bayero University, Kano on February 27th, 2010.

We wish you many more years of meritorious service to our Fatherland.

PROFESSOR IDRIS ALHAJI ABDULKADIR

Former Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission (NUC)

Signed:

Dr Abdulrahman Sambo
Mr Bode Agbaoye
Dr (Mrs) Uloma Egekwu
Arch. Bolaji Balogun

Dr Godwin A. Ogwuche
Engr. Ubale A. S. Maska
Mr Chris J. Maiyaki
Mr Goddy Nnadi

ENVIRONMENT environment@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

Cities switch off for Earth Hour

OFFICE blocks and floodlit landmarks around the world have been plunged into darkness in a gesture to highlight environmental concerns as part of the fourth annual Earth Hour, organized by the World Wildlife Fund.

Some 4,000 cities in more than 120 countries switched off to reduce energy consumption at 8.30pm local time.

In Britain, the lights went out at Buckingham Palace and Downing Street as well as Big Ben and other UK landmarks.

The event began in the remote Chatham Islands off the coast of New Zealand, where, as local time hit 8.30pm, light switches were flicked to the off position.

In the UK, the Millennium Stadium, Windsor Castle and Edinburgh Castle were among the landmarks plunged into darkness.

Elsewhere, the Empire State Building, Sydney Opera House and the Eiffel Tower were among the structures saving electricity in a bid to pledge support to tackling climate change.

Praising the event, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said: "Earth Hour is both a warning and a beacon of hope."

"By switching off non-essential lights for an hour, people will join a symbolic display that can inspire the change we so urgently need."

Prime Minister Gordon Brown said: "I'm delighted to support WWF's Earth Hour."

"Tackling climate change is urgent and vital to both safeguard our environment and our children's future."

"We can make a difference if we act now and act together."

In Europe, Germany was planning to have Berlin's Brandenburg Gate and the Cologne Cathedral go dark, while Amsterdam was cutting the lights at most city buildings including Schiphol Airport, Artis Zoo and the Amsterdam Arena.

This year, China participated in Earth Hour for the second time, with the giant panda Mei Lan kicking off the event in 30 cities by walking onto a platform amid dimming lights in her enclosure at the Chengdu Panda Breeding Research Center in the southwestern province of Sichuan, said Chris Chaplin of WWF in China.

Lights were also turned off in Beijing's imperial palace known as the Forbidden City.

Oil spillages kill 30 in Bayelsa

By Muideen Olaniyi

OIL spillages in Azuzuama Community of Bayelsa State have resulted to the death of over thirty children this year, a repentant militant leader of the South Wing of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger-Delta (MEND) Mr. Selki Kile Torughedi said yesterday.

Mr Torughedi also known as general young shall grow therefore called on the oil com-

panies operating in the area especially Agip Petroleum to fulfil their promises made, saying their operation in the community has caused untold hardship to the Bayelsa people.

Torughedi, who spoke with reporters in Abuja, warned oil companies operating in Azuzuama Community of Bayelsa State to stay clear of the politics surrounding the post amnesty programme.

He said failure on the part of oil companies

to distance themselves can create crisis, noting that the ex-militants are getting frustrated with the way the post-amnesty programme has been managed so far.

He gave the warning following the seeming failure of the amnesty programme designed to re-integrate repentant militants in the region back to society and proposed crucial meeting of stakeholders in the region and government functionaries.



A sewage disposal vehicle discharging waste into a manhole in Jabi, Abuja

Agency analyses changing weather phenomenon

By Benjamin Auta, Lagos

THE recent weather phenomenon in the country has called to bear the effective and accurate collection and utilization of data by regulatory bodies in charge as well as the end users of the information.

Recently the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) celebrated its 60th anniversary as the only institution responsible for the collection, analyzing and disseminating data pertaining to weather in the country.

On the recent report of acid rain and its medical effect as a causative agent for cancer, the agency through its Acting Director,

Weather Forecasting Service, Mr. Ifeanyi Nnodu, said that Nigerians should go about their normal business as acid rains does not cause cancer as alleged in some quarters.

"Acid rain does not cause cancer; people should go about their normal business and can come out even during acid rain, this rain is caused by activities of industries and it mainly causes corrosion on roofing and kills plants and it is caused by oxides of metals emitted by industries," he said.

He said that the recent change in weather pattern is a usual phenomenon as the only difference is that the present weather pattern noticed is "typical of late January and February

but we are witnessing in March."

He said that the reason for such pattern is because the soil is still dry which account for the loss of the top layer of the soil and transported by strong wind.

"The normal implication is that those having health issues like asthma, long because these dusts are irritants are usually advised to keep indoors," he said.

The March 23, every year Nigeria joins the International community under the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to celebrate activities marking the day which this year has a theme "WMO:60 years of service for your safety and well being."

75m Africans face increased water stress by 2020

By Nasir Imam

BY 2020, climate change is projected to expose an estimated 75 million people in Africa alone to increased water stress.

Citizens against Climate Change in Nigerian (CACCIN), in a statement

signed its CEO, Olusoji Daomi, said towards the end of the 21st century; a projected sea-level rise will affect low-lying, heavily populated coastal areas like Lagos and other Niger Delta state in Nigeria.

"Adaptation costs could amount to at

least 5-10 per cent of GDP. New studies confirm that Africa is particularly vulnerable to climate variability and change due to its multiple stresses and low adaptive capacity.

"The droughts that decimate a village's food and water supply create ach-

ing hunger, to be sure - but hunger alone is just one facet of this terrible story. A hungry family may not be able to send their children to school or afford health care. Hunger may drive families out of their homes, creating an environment that fosters crime.

Environment



environment@dailytrust.com

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Low turnout for FCT sanitation exercise

By Mustapha Suleiman

THERE was low turnout of residents in Abuja for last Saturday's environmental sanitation exercise as most of them relaxed in front of their houses with vehicular and passenger traffic were also on the high side in various parts of the Abuja metropolis.

The exercise holds between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. during which movements are restricted in Abuja since the Federal

Capital Territory (FCT) administration declared the last Saturday of every month as environmental sanitation day for the residents to tidy their environment.

In Area I market and other shops were not open but traders stood around their shops waiting for the exercise to end while their surroundings remained filthy.

On Lagos Street in Garki II, liquor shops and restaurants were open and people were seen cooling off with drinks.

Hawkers were not left out as recharge card sellers and shoe

repairers were seen moving about the streets.

At the Wuse market, Malam Sulaiman Adamu, a trader, said they were not aware that the exercise would hold due to the April 10 council election.

Mr Ibe Nwankwo, who claimed that he was a traveller, said he was not aware of the exercise.

Also at Mpape, a small settlement near the city, Mr Sunday Seyi, a resident, called on AEPB to give more attention to Mpape to guarantee clean environment for its residents.

Climate change: UN team visits Delta

From Monday Osayande, Asaba

DELTA State Government has acknowledged that the state is at the receiving end of environmental pollution and degradation of Climate Change because of oil exploration and exploitation activities.

The state has therefore keyed into the Territorial Approach to Climate Change (TACC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Yesterday in Asaba, the state said its stance on climate change was informed by the adverse effect it may let loose on the state henceforth. Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan who spoke through his deputy, Prof. Amos Utuama (SAN) on the issue during a brain storming session with UNDP team said climate change is a cross border phenomenon. The governor has become the strongest voice on climate change in Africa. Why has he decided to be that strong voice because like you said the entire Delta State is a victim of climate change.

He said "Delta State because of its natural endowments of oil and gas has become a victim of mining and exploration of oil with the very incidence of pollution and environmental degradation all the fishes have disappeared from the rivers because of oil pollution. It is against this backdrop that the governor who has been witnessing this dramatic change has become a strong apostle of climate change.

"It is all our responsibility to address the adverse effects of climate change. Climate change is causing poverty as a result of draught and even over flooding have demonstrated farm lands, harvest are destroyed. In fact climate change is causing havoc and if not addressed it can consume all of us at one level or the other and at one time or the other."

British Council launches photo exhibition on climate change

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

THE British Council, in collaboration with Bank PHB Plc, has launched an exhibition to support advancement of photography and professional advancement of Nigerian photographers.

In his remark at the launch in Kano, the Director Programmes of the council, Mr Ben Fisher, said the exhibition's theme was inspired by the need to raise awareness of climate change issues across Nigeria.

Fisher said photography was an expressive medium of value in the country, and as a respectable choice of profession, was a concept in early formation. "But the mood is rapidly changing and the word is out that photography is gaining a place in a country steeped in rich culture of the traditional arts," he said. He said eight photographers have travelled across the country from the "arid north, the riverine south, to the bustling commercial south west and east, addressing climate change issues through their lens.

According to him, the effect of climate change could be seen across the landscape, in the cities, the town centres and the villages. He said the changes, like in other African countries, could be acutely felt among the urban and rural communities. "The pictures captured by the photographers tell vastly differing stories - of a vast land where the topography, the people and the accompanying culture of one region differ markedly to that of the next," he said.

The Director Programmes however said in addition to providing the photographers with a platform to showcase their talents, British Council presented each of the eight photographers with the award of "a professional camera" worth N500,000, to further support them as they embark on their photography career.



RESIDENTS of Kabiyesi street, Surulere, Ikate local government cleaning their surroundings during the environmental sanitation exercise in Lagos on Saturday

PIX: OLADIPUPO ODUNEWU

Towards curbing global warming

THE unsustainable human development activities of the past which focus on economic and social elements but totally neglect environmental issue have caused serious ecological and human health problems, coupled with increase poverty in the process especially in third world countries. For instance in Nigeria, until the Koko waste episode of 1988, general national awareness on environmental issues was low. Government was glad to grant permits for new industries to operate without environmental consideration to operate without environment consideration.

There is no doubt that the past unsustainable industrial development is the major cause of the global environmental problems plaguing the world today. These problems include climate change and global warming; stratospheric ozone layer depletion; acid rain, loss of Biodiversity and the trans boundary movement of toxic and hazardous waste. These problems are linked to hazardous waste and toxic chemicals release into the environment from anthropogenic activities especially industrialization and agriculture.

Global warming refers to the increase in the temperature of the earth's surface above the natural average required to sustain life on by the release of excess green house gases such as carbon dioxide (Co₂) carbon monoxide (Co) and methane gas (CH₄) into the atmosphere. These

gases when in excess, trap heat into the atmosphere thereby, increasing the amount of infrared radiation that goes back to the earth. The result of this is an increase in the temperature of the earth's surface and a subsequent release of green house gases that cause global warming.

According to the latest report of inter governmental panel on climate change (IPCC) indicate that the global surface temperature is likely to rise a further 1.1 to 6.4 (2.0 to 11.50f) during the 21st century. IPCC added that he uncertainty in this estimate arise from the use of models with differencing sensitivity to green house has concentrations and the use of differing estimates of future green house gas emissions.

Inter governmental panel on climate change (IPCC) report warned that more widespread outbreaks of disease could be one of the crippling effects of global warming and that malaria may contribute most strongly to the climate related disease burden in Africa.

Most studies focus on the period leading up to the year 2100. However, warming is expected to continue beyond 2100 even if emissions stop, because of the large heat capacity of the oceans and the long life time of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. An increase in global temperature will cause sea levels to rise and will change amount and pattern of precipitation. Other effects include changes in the frequency and intensity of extreme

weather events, species extinction, and change in agricultural yields and increase in the rages of disease vectors change.

To minimize these global problems in Nigeria, government should take proactive measure by finding lasting solution to the problem of electricity supply in the county, thereby providing a basis for regulating the use of power generating plant at both domestic and industrial levels.

Environmental regulatory agencies, National Environmental Standards and Regulations Agency (NESREA) in particular should ensure total compliance with National Environmental Protection Regulations s.19 of 1991 which place restriction on the release of toxic substance into the air, water and land Nigeria.

More so, government should control indiscriminate importation of used vehicle and ban the use of old ones, which pump out toxic gases through their exhaust fumes.

To achieve this effectively, it will be imperative that government should empower the people economically since the alarming rate of poverty situation in the country is what forced many to patronized used vehicle.

By **Abdulazeez Kabiru, Imoniaga Justina Tegirow and Daniel Magaji** are of the Department of Mass Communication, Federal Polytechnic, Bida Niger State



KANO STATE GOVERNMENT

DONATE TO KANTIN KWARI FIRE VICTIMS

The Governor of Kano State **Malam (Dr) Ibrahim Shekarau, *Sardaunan Kano***, the government and the entire people of the state wish to call on corporate organizations, individuals, business communities, governments, international donor organizations, non-governmental organizations, politicians, civil servants and the general public to generously donate to the victims of the unfortunate fire incident which destroyed billions of naira worth of property at the Kanti-Kwari International Market Kano.

Your donation will surely go a long way in assisting the victims and restoring the lost glory of one of Africa's biggest heritage.

We once again clamour and solicit for your magnanimity as we together strive to reduce the untold hardship being experienced by the victims.

For donations please contact:

1. Chairman, Kano State Government Committee on Kanti-Kwari fire incident Honorable Commissioner of Projects Monitoring, Alhaji Ibrahim Garba on 08053135091

2. Sub-Committee Chairman, Honorable Commissioner of Commerce, Mines And Cooperatives Alhaji Ahmed Ibrahim Yakasai on 08052715731

3. The Permanent Secretary REPA, Cabinet Office Alhaji Bello Shehu

All donations could also be directed to the following dedicated account numbers:

- 1- FIRST BANK, KWARI MARKET BRANCH:
AC: NO. 2162040000032
- 2- FIDELITY BANK, KOFAR RUWA BRANCH
AC NO. 139401010000620
- 3- OCEANIC BANK, ZOO ROAD BRANCH
AC NO. 3311301005658



Malam (Dr) Ibrahim Shekarau
(*Sardaunan Kano*)
Kano State Governor

PLEASE DONATE GENEROUSLY TO A JUST CAUSE.

Signed:

Committee Chairman;

Honorable Commissioner of Projects Monitoring,

Kano State Alhaji Ibrahim Garba

HEALTH REPORT

Malnutrition, cause of deaths – Experts

From Yemi Bamidele, Ibadan

MALNUTRITION has been identified as a major silent killer in Nigeria, which is responsible for over 60% avoidable maternal and infant mortality especially those under-five, the President, Nutrition Society of Nigeria, Professor Ignatius Onimawo has disclosed.

According to Professor Onimawo, malnutrition contributes to 60% of underlying causes of avoidable deaths, making Nigeria one of the country's in the world with the worst maternal and infant morbidity rate recorded among the comity of nations.

Professor Onimawo was speaking at the opening ceremony of the 21st anniversary of the Food Basket Foundation International Initiative at the University of Ibadan on repositioning Nutrition For National Development in Nigeria at the weekend.

He called for the review of the current national food and nutrition policy to accommodate the emergence of severe to moderate acute malnutrition as well as upsurge of metabolic syndromes which was not envisaged in the current policy.

His words, "Issues of nutrition will continue to be of

great concern to every well meaning Nigerian considering the abysmal statistics of infants, under-five and maternal mortality rates in Nigeria."

"It has been proven and demonstrated that malnutrition contributes approximately 60% of the underlying causes of these avoidable deaths that paints Nigeria in red among comity of nations."

"It is instructive to know that of the over 100 universities currently operating in Nigeria only five run degree courses in nutrition and yet nutrition holds the key for the reversal of the vicious attack of these deadly diseases."

Professor Onimawo alerted food manufacturers in Nigeria of the need to become nutrition conscious in order to minimize the current upsurge of metabolic syndrome.

Also speaking at the occasion, the Commissioner for Health, Oyo State, Dr. Babalola Owolabi asked food and nutrition expert to deconcentrate euro-centric definitions of nutrition and look for the basic food requirements of Nigeria located within their culture in order to get out of the current malnutrition debacle.

In his address, the Chairman of the National Committee on Food and Nutrition (NCFN), National Plan-

ning Commission, Abuja, Paul Odiachi stated that over 10 million children in Nigeria are currently chronically undernourished.

His words: "Malnutrition is recognized by government as one of the most important factors in development, welfare, social and health challenges being faced in Nigeria especially by infants, children, women and the elderly as well as one of the leading cause of death among children under age five.

"It is equally recognized as both the cause and consequence of poverty, disease and mortality. In Nigeria, 41% of under-five year old children are chronically malnourished, making Nigeria the leading country in Africa and 3rd globally with over 10 million children chronically undernourished."

While calling for concerted efforts from all stakeholders to fight malnutrition in Nigeria, Odiachi maintained that "the alarming shape, scale and complexity of malnutrition in Nigeria calls for more concerted efforts from all stakeholders beyond public pronouncements and policies but requires concrete contributions from the private sector, academia and civil society organizations such as the food basket international."

Malaria control integral to achieving MDGs – Perm sec

By Ruby Rabi

THE only way the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) can be achieved by 2015 is if malaria is eradicated from Nigeria, the Permanent Secretary of the federal ministry of Health Linus Awute has said.

Mr Linus Awute stressed that malaria is responsible for the high infant and maternal mortality rates recorded in the country, adding that Nigeria loses over one hundred billion naira to the disease annually.

Awute who was speaking during the 7th annual Roll Back Malaria review meeting held in Abuja said, "Malaria has caused a strain on socio-economic growth, monies meant for development is lost in man hours caused by absenteeism and treatment of malaria. This is why the federal government has introduced a five year strategic development plan to eradicate malaria

"The federal government is stretching its intervention to achieve universal coverage for nets distribution, improve behavioral change communication, scale up capacity for treatment and diagnostics", he said.

Meanwhile, National Coordinator of the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP), Dr Folake Ademola-Majekodunmi disclosed that Ninety percent of Nigerians are at risk of contracting malaria each year.

According to her malaria contributes 60 percent of all clinic attendance in the country causing 30 percent of childhood deaths as well as 11 percent of deaths among mothers.

Ademola-Majekodunmi added that it was imperative for the federal government to eradicate the disease with an integrated approach which includes the distribution of 63 million insecticide treated nets by December 2010,

multi-sectoral advocacy and vector control.

She stressed the need for states and Local Government Area councils to key into the national malaria control pro-

gramme because issues such as water and sanitation if not handled properly can be detrimental to the progress made in fighting the disease.

PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE.



L-R: Director General, National Malarial Control Programme, Dr. Folake Ademola-Majekodunmi, Kano Commissioner of Health, Hajiya Aisha Kiru and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Linus Awute at a meeting on malarial control programme in Abuja yesterday.

Health tips

What to expect in normal pregnancy

CESSATION of menstruation known as amenorrhea

Nausea and vomiting known as morning sickness, appears from 5 weeks

Though there are cases when it could get severe and become a serious abnormality called hyperemesis gravidamm which requires admission and treatment.

Breast discomfort and changes; feeling of fullness and tenderness as early as 6-8 weeks

Urinary symptoms; frequent urination due to increase in size of womb

Fatigue; tiredness and drowsiness

Abdominal enlargement which becomes enlarged or 12 weeks.

North central, others lack AIDS testing kits

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

NASARAWA and some other states in the North Central zone of Nigeria are presently not having adequate HIV/AIDS Counseling and Testing Kits (HCT), a development which is threatening the prevention and control of the pandemic, a five day workshop in Lafia heard.

But the Enhancing Nigeria's Response for HIV/AIDS (ENR), has declared that it would spend about 100 million Pounds in some key programmes that would ensure that Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the country, including those in Nasarawa state, begin to look inwards to mobilize

funds to tackle key HIV/AIDS issues such as shortage of HCT Kits.

The Lafia workshop which ended at the weekend was organized by ENR on Resource Mobilization.

The HCT Kits are used to test and ascertain the HIV/AIDS status of individuals. It also implies that without the kits it would be difficult for individuals to do the Voluntary Counseling which is part of the total package that comes with the HCT.

Among the three key outputs of the ENR programme, which the 100 million Pounds budget would tackle is strengthened stewardship for an effective multi-lateral and evidence informed HIV/AIDS prevention,

response for federal and state governments; Improved Institutional and Technical Capacity of CSOs to engage in HIV/AIDS prevention.

Others include improved knowledge, change in attitudes and availability of communication of safer practices for effective HIV/AIDS prevention.

Executive Director, Nasarawa State HIV/AIDS Action Committee on HIV/AIDS (NASACA), Dr. Ishyaku Bako explained that with the economic meltdown, donors have asked Nigeria to look inwards for resources.

According to him the HIV/AIDS burden in the state is high and there is need for effective response to mitigate the impact.

CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513
email: citynews@dailytrust.com

Nine die in Abaji auto crash

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

SIX days after 13 passengers lost their lives in a multiple accident, another nine persons lost their lives in an accident that happened on Sunday evening at

Manderegi village, along the Abuja-Lokoja highway.

Among the dead on Sunday were two children and our reporter learnt that the accident involved a Toyota Corolla car with registration number DR

764 RSH and a Volkswagen Jetta car with registration number HB 612 ABC.

A witness said the driver of the Toyota car lost control while at top speed and collided with the Jetta vehicle, killing nine

persons on the spot.

"One passenger, who survived the accident sustained serious injuries and was rushed to Abaji General Hospital by a rescue team officials of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC).

FRSC Abaji unit Commander, Mr. Joseph Ojerinde, attributed the accident cause to speed violation, adding that some of the corpses were identified and handed over to relatives for burial.

Pharmacist calls for war against fake drugs

By Misbahu Bashir

AREA council's authorities in the Federal Capital Territory have been told to intensify the war against fake drugs by educating residents within their council areas on ways to examine legal drugs and other food products.

Chairman of Cristabel International, Julie Okoye, stated this at a seminar tagged 'Adulterated and Sub-standard Food Product, a fight for all'.

She advised patients to always examine the drugs they want to take in order to ascertain if it has correct registration details, including an unexpired manufacturing date.

According to her, the check is necessary for drugs obtained through a pharmacy and over-the-counter drugs purchased from any store or through the Internet.

"Examining the drugs and packages are steps patients can take to ensure safety and people must be aware of new or unusual side effects," she added.

Okoye informed patients to report negative changes arising from intake of drugs to the appropriate authorities.

The Director-General of Standard Organisation of Nigeria, John Akanya, explained that the seminar will enable people at the grassroots to know more about adulterated drugs and food substances as well as strengthen partnership between government and private organisations.

Representatives of the six FCT area councils attended the two-day seminar.



A pupil of I.Q Academy receiving a trophy won by red house during the school's inter-house sports competition in Abuja recently.

Convict pleads against prison sentence

By Usman A. Bello & Janefrances Nweze

A convict sentenced to six months imprisonment by an Abuja magistrate court for theft yesterday pleaded with the magistrate to forgive him and said he has suffered for so long in prison.

The accused, Samuel Ngida of number 45 Suez Crescent, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja, was last Tuesday

arraigned before the court on a one count charge of theft, punishable under Section 287 of the Penal Code Law.

During the hearing, Prosecutor Francis Tanko told the court that one Isaiah James of the same address reported to the police that the accused entered his room and made away with N100,000 and recharge cards valued at N30,000.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and begged the court to give him time to refund the money to the complainant.

After the confession, the prosecutor asked the court to try the accused summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code and the magistrate reserved sentence to yesterday.

At yesterday's hearing, the accused who spoke in pidgin, pleaded for leniency.

"I don't suffer for prison and I get children to cater for, so make court forgive me, as I go face wetin carry me come Abuja," he said.

Magistrate Grace Oyamendan sentenced the accused to six months imprisonment or to pay N500 fine as option.

Monarch tasks council boss on right projects

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE Gomo of Kuje, Alhaji Ibrahim Jibril Tanko, has called on the Kuje Area Council Chairman, Mr. Danladi Etsu Zhin, to continue to provide meaningful infrastructural projects that have direct bearings on the masses of the council.

Tanko, gave the advice at the weekend, when the council boss approached him to seek his blessing for re-election under the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

He explained that any person seeking for political office, who later succeeded through majority votes from the masses, must provide dividends of democracy to them, adding that the administration of

Zhin has transformed the council.

"The incumbent council boss has provided democratic dividends to the poor masses and there is need for him to continue in order for the poor masses to continue to feel the impact of his administration," the monarch said.

He further charged the council boss to exercise tolerance as a politician and accept any form of criticism.

Chairman of the council, Mr. Danladi Etsu Zhin, while addressing electorates, promised to open new roads within metropolis of the council if re-elected for a second term.

He told them that his priorities will be on health, education, agriculture, youth/women empowerment if re-elected.

FCT INEC denies excluding NUJ from observers' list

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

THE FCT Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) yesterday denied that the commission excluded the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) from the lists of accredited observers, who will monitor the April 10 councils' polls.

NUJ Abuja Council Chairman, Jacob Edi, had alleged that the council was excluded from the list by INEC Resident Electoral

Commissioner in FCT, Dr. Stephen Many.

Reacting to the allegation, INEC's Head of Public Affairs in FCT, Mr. Okezie Nwankwo, said observers apply directly to the commission's national headquarters, which accredits genuine observers for the election.

He stated further that the observers' list has not been made available by INEC's headquarters to the resident electoral commissioner in FCT.

"Even those who applied through FCT office were directed to channel their applications to the headquarters and we are still waiting for that list, so how can the resident electoral commissioner remove the NUJ from the list which we have not gotten yet," the spokesman said.

He however acknowledged that the commissioner appreciates the role played by the media and the assistance it offers to the commission.

RALLY! RALLY!! RALLY!!!

ON

ELECTORAL REFORM

- To take our Electoral system back from the captivity of government sponsored rigging is a Task before the Religious Leaders, Trade Unionists, Professionals, NGOs, etc.
- Electoral Reform must ensure that INEC is independent of the Executive in appointment and finances.

Iwu Must Go.

The Nigeria Labour Congress, Alliance for Credible Elections, Labour Civil Society Coalition, Trade Union Congress, Make our Votes Count and the Civil Society Coordinating Committee on Electoral Reform invite all Nigerians, young and old, to the Grand National Rally and protest march in the nation's capital, Abuja.

DATE: Wednesday, 31st March, 2010

TIME: 8.00 am Prompt

TAKE OFF POINT: Labour House

Country people, Election wuruwuru no gree us get responsible leadership, constant power, good road, better schools, drugs for we hospitals, jobs for our youths, food for we table. So, whether you be student, tailor, doctor, civil servant, pastor, Imam, driver, passenger, trader, artisan or you no kukuma get job, make we join hand together *march against our common enemy - Election Wuru Wuru!*

**Now is the time to take back our country from the hands of the
Cabal of Professional Election Riggers.**

OUR VOTES MUST COUNT NOW OR NEVER!!!

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Berger driver denies causing passenger's death

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 42-year-old Julius Berger driver yesterday in court denied causing the death of a passenger of a Toyota Carina car.

The driver, Edwin Azubule of Mpape village, Abuja, was accused of driving a Julius Berger trailer with registration number XE 953 ABC in a dangerous manner, without giving any consideration to other road users.

Prosecutor Mohammed Ahmed told the court that on March 20, the accused drove the said trailer along Murtala Mohammed Way, Abuja, and as a result hit a Toyota Carina car driven by one Ibe Linus of Mpape village, Abuja.

"As a result of the accident, Franca Chukwura, John Moses and Monday Nwadialo sustained serious injuries and were rushed to the Maitama General Hospi-

tal for treatment," the prosecutor said.

He said Monday Nwadialo was later rushed to the Gwagwalada Specialist Hospital for treatment, where he died.

According to him, the Toyota car was badly damaged and the offences committed punishable under Sections 27 and 29 of the Road Traffic Act CAP 548 law of 1990.

When the charges were read to

the accused, he denied them and his counsel made an oral application for his bail.

Chief Magistrate David Ochimana granted the accused bail in the sum of N500,000 with a reasonable surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction and swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to April 26 for further mention.

“The accused drove the said trailer along Murtala Mohammed Way, Abuja, and as a result hit a Toyota Carina car driven by one Ibe Linus of Mpape village, Abuja.

...Another driver accused of stealing plasma TV

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 35-year-old commercial driver was yesterday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly stealing a plasma television set and some valuables belonging to one Safrat Talubi.

Adekunle David of Bassa village, Airport road, Abuja, was accused of stealing the items on March 17 and was arrested by the police on the same date.

Prosecutor Yilkudi Dungji told the court that on March 17, Safrat Talubi of Federal Housing Authority, Lugbe, Abuja, complained to the police that she returned to her house only to discover that the place had been burgled.

"The complainant discovered that a plasma television set valued at N195,000, N40,000 cash, three lace materials, four English wax materials, five Kampala materials and a Nokia handset were stolen," the prosecutor narrated.

He said during police investigations, the accused confessed that a man hired his vehicle to convey the above-mentioned items to Nyanya, adding that he told the police he offloaded the items by the roadside and could not locate the man's house.

"The offences committed are punishable under Sections 79, 347 and 288 of the Penal Code Law," the prosecutor stated.

When the three-count charge was read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and his counsel, Obaimoke A.F. made an oral application for his bail, promising that his client will not jump bail or interfere with prosecution.

In her ruling, Chief Magistrate Hafsat Soso granted the accused bail in the sum of N200,000 with two reasonable sureties in like sums, of which one must be a civil servant, while the two must reside within the court's jurisdiction.

The case was adjourned to May 5 for hearing.



VACANCIES

RECRUITMENT OF GRADUATE TRAINEES AND EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS FOR A REGULATORY AGENCY IN THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

The attention of interested candidates is hereby drawn to our earlier publication of TUESDAY, MARCH 16TH, 2010 in respect of the following vacancies.

GRADUATE TRAINEES

POSITION	REF NO.
Petroleum Engineer	T:ENG-1
Chemical Engineer	T:ENG-2
Electrical /Electronics Engineer	T:ENG-3
Mechanical Engineer	T:ENG-4
Civil Engineer	T:ENG-5

Geologist	T:SC -1
Environmentalist	T:SC -2
Chemist	T:SC -4
Computer Sc/Engineer	T:SC -5
Surveyor	T:SC -6
Geophysicist	T:SC -7
Statistician	T:SC -8
Quantity Surveyor	T:SC -9

Technical Officer	T:STA - 4
Accounts Assistant 1	T:ACCT -1
Economist	T:ECO -1
Higher Technical Officer	T:STO -1
Human Resources Officer	T:HR -1
Senior Accounts Assistant	T:SACCT-1

EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS

POSITION	REF NO.
Petroleum Engineer	EXP:ENG -1
Chemical Engineer	EXP:ENG -2
Electrical/Electronics Engineer	EXP:ENG -3
Mechanical Engineer	EXP:ENG -4
Civil Engineer	EXP:ENG -5

Geologist	EXP:SC -1
Computer Sc/Engineer	EXP:SC -5
Geophysicist	EXP:SC -7

Petroleum Economist	EXP:ECO -1
Accountant	EXP:ACCT -1

Applicants are requested to apply on the new website www.eraproservejobs.com. The closing date for submission is now TUESDAY 27TH APRIL, 2010.

The requirements and conditions remain the same as previously advertised.

Applicants who have successfully submitted their applications through the earlier published website need not re-apply.

**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GIRLS' COLLEGE MINJIBIR

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION
POST BASIC (STEP-B) PROJECT**

**PROCUREMENT OF SCIENCE, TECHNICAL, ICT, OFFICE EQUIPMENT,
TEXT BOOKS AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

Credit No: IDA 4304-UNI
Issuance Date: 30th March, 2010

Invitation For Bids

1. This invitation for Bid, follows the general procurement Notice (GPN) for this project that appeared in Development Business Issues No 541 of 2nd July 2007.
2. The Federal Government of Nigeria Has receive a Credit from the International Development Association toward the cost of a Science and Technology Education Post Basic (STEP-B) project, and it intends to apply a part of the proceeds of this Credit to payment under the contract for the procurement of science, Technical, ICT, office Equipment, text books and other instructional materials- STEP-B/FGGC/MJB/GDS/NCB/01/10.
3. The Science and Technology Education Post Basic (STEP-B) Project Federal Government Girls' College Minjibir, Kano State now invites Bids from eligible bidders for:

Lot	Description	Qty	Bid Security	Bid Validity Period	Delivery Period	Delivery Location
1	Procurement of Science and Technical Equipment & Chemicals	Various	2.5%	90 days	60 days	FGGC Minjibir
2	Procurement of Office Equipment	Various	2.5%	90 days	60 days	FGGC Minjibir
3	Procurement of ICT Equipment	Various	2.5%	90 days	60 days	FGGC Minjibir
4	Procurement of Text Books & Other Instructional materials	Various	2.5%	90 days	60 days	FGGC Minjibir

4. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedure 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 define in the Guidelines.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the **Science and Technology Education Post Basic (STEP-B) Project Federal Government Girls' College Minjibir Kano State**, and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from **0800hrs-1600hrs daily, Mondays to Fridays**
6. A complete set of bidding document 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 **NS,000.00** the method of payment will be in Cash or Bank Draft in favour of Science and Technology Education Post Basic (STEP-B) Project Federal Government Girls' College Minjibir. The document will be collect by hand.
7. Bid must be delivered to the address below at or before 1100hrs on **Tuesday 30th April 2010**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of 2.5% of the bid price in Naira or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or who choose to attend at the address below at 1100hrs Tuesday 30 April 2010.

The Project Manager

Science & Technology Education Post- Basic Project Office.
Federal Government Girls' College Minjibir,
Kano State.

For Enquiries please call the following numbers:
Tel: 08035863873, 08065527834

جَمَاعَةُ نَصْرِ الْإِسْلَامِ

**JAMA'ATU NASRIL ISLAM
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**



COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING OF JAMA'ATU NASRIL ISLAM, HELD ON 5TH RABIUL THANI 1431 (21ST MARCH, 2010) AT THE JNI HEADQUARTERS, KADUNA

Bismillahir-Rahmanir-Raheem

PREAMBLE:

The Jama'atu Nasril Islam held its Central Council Meeting in Kaduna on Sunday 5th Rabiul Thani 1431AH (21 March, 2010). It was attended by many Emirs, Ulama, Intellectuals, Professionals, Technocrats, and representatives of Women and Youth Organizations from the Muslim Community nationwide. The Meeting was presided over by His Eminence, the Sultan of Sokoto and President-General of Jama'atu Nasril Islam, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar, CFR, mni. The Governor of Kaduna State, Arc. Muhammad Namadi Sambo was the Special Guest of Honour. A delegation of a Ministerial Committee on Almajiri System led by its Chairman Professor Shehu Galadanchi also attended the meeting and made a presentation on its assignment. The Council reviewed progress made on the activities of the JNI and also deliberated on the State of the Nation, following which a communiqué is issued as follows:

On the Crisis in Plateau State: The Council

- Viewed as most unfortunate, the recurrence of the Plateau State Crisis, barely a year after a previous mayhem, which led to a massive loss of human life and property and severely fractured community relations that took decades to establish and nurture.
- Was disturbed by the misguided attempts of some mischievous elements and groups with vested interest, to take advantage of the Plateau Crisis and sow discord among Muslims and Christians in the Country. The statements credited to individuals and groups, especially the Northern Christians Elders Forum calling for the removal of the Chief of Army Staff is viewed as not only unfortunate but capable of polarizing the nation. The various governments and people of Nigeria were advised to always be vigilant and shun such mischievous elements and their antics.
- Noted with dismay the inaction of authorities on security issues and called on leaders and citizens to note that impunity and lawlessness can only breed societal instability and undermine the bases of ethnic and religious harmony among our diverse people.
- Wished to underscore the fact that the Nigerian Constitution guarantees the right of all citizens of Nigeria, regardless of creed and ethnic origin, to settle where they wish, in peace and security, and to engage in the legitimate pursuit of their livelihood without let or hindrance.
- Observed that to date Muslims in Plateau are denied their fundamental rights including burying the dead in their own cemetery as contrary to the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and called on the Federal and Plateau State Governments to ensure that such denial of rights is discontinued henceforth in the interest of lasting peace in the State.
- Noted with deep concern the attitude of some print and electronic media against Islam, the Muslim Ummah and Nigeria as a Country and warned against inflammatory and prejudice publications that tended to promote disharmony among peace loving and law abiding Nigerians of all faiths.

On the State of Nation: The Council

- **Reiterated that there is no alternative to peace in our collective existence and urges all citizens to recommit themselves to building durable peace, promoting mutual understanding and respect.**
- Called on religious leaders and, especially elders, to exhibit a high sense of maturity and restraint in their comments, and refuse to allow themselves to be dragged into matters they hardly understand by persons or groups with vested interest.
- Urged leaders to refrain from dragging our military institution and other security agencies into partisan politics or religious factionalism.
- **Called on leaders to be fair to all and refrain from displaying discriminatory tendencies which alienate any segment of the Society as this breeds injustice and instability in the polity.**

On Unity: The Council:

- Called on the Muslim Ummah to adhere to the Qur'anic injunctions 'to hold fast to the "Rope of Allah" and not to be divided' because the Ummah's greatest strength lies in this unity which should not in any way be jeopardized.

On Almajiri: The Council

- Expressed its deep concern at the persistence of Almajiri especially in the Northern States of Nigeria which has reduced Scholars, the patrons of the noblest profession in the Muslim Community, to abject poverty and to earn their livelihood through begging.
- Urged all governments to support the integration and institutionalization of the traditional Islamic education sector and promote its ideals.

Commendation:

The Council:

- Commended the Federal Ministry of Education and the former Minister of State for Education Hajiya Aisha Jibril Dukku for establishing a Ministerial Committee to formulate a coherent Madrasah Policy for Nigeria.
- Noted with satisfaction the strides being made by Kaduna, Kano and Sokoto State governments to reform the Almajiri system through planned economic empowerment programmes and introduction of boarding facilities in Almajiri Schools. Council also called on other States to emulate this.
- Appreciated the positive role of the Ulama and Traditional leaders in promoting peace and security in Kaduna State as formally testified by the State Governor.
- Called on all stakeholders in Islam in Nigeria to come together and work for the development and progress of the Muslim Ummah as well as explore other ways to diversify the sources of funding education such as establishing Waqf to take care of the needs of the Ummah and the educational system.

Condolence:

- The Council expressed its heartfelt condolences to the Ummah on the loss of lives and properties in Jos, the death of late Lamido of Adamawa and the spouse of HRH the Emir of Kano, Alhaji Ado Bayero.

Signed:
Abdulkarim Mu'azu Palladan
Acting Secretary-General

Inside Politics

Three years after, I've not received gratuity – Ex deputy gov

ALHAJI Suleiman Muhammad Argungu is former Deputy Governor of Kebbi State during the administration of Alhaji Adamu Aliero. He is also the leader of the Integrity Group of the ANPP and a loyalist of Gen. Muhammad Buhari. In this interview, he speaks on a number of political issues in the country, and particularly his home state of Kebbi. Excerpts:

From Imail Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan has been told to forget about 2011 as the North will have to complete the slot based on PDP zoning formula. What is your take on this?

Like I have said earlier that it is not enshrined in our constitution. PDP is just trying to use this to execute its unholy agenda. Ideally, every Nigerian should be allowed to contest the Presidency because when we restrict it to a particular section of the country, it means we are still dictating who should rule this country and this will prevent other able and patriotic Nigerians to have the chance of ruling Nigeria.

I think the PDP is doing the wrong thing. Even if they want to prevent the Vice President from becoming the next President on the platform of PDP, they shouldn't have restricted him from taking charge of the affairs of the country. They should have taken a letter from Yar'Adua so that Jonathan can take over because it is obvious that the President is incapacitated, he cannot rule this country again. They should allow the Vice President to take over as substantive President of this country. In any case I believe it is an opportunity for us in the opposition to take advantage of the situation.

Are you saying that you are opposed to the zoning system of the PDP?

I do not believe in zoning because it may deprive more qualified Nigerians to rule this country. And it is only the PDP that has this issue in its constitution. But then we may agree as Nigerians because of the kind of division we have as in north and south, we can agree that if the President comes from the North, for instance, then the Vice President should be from the South and vice versa.

But I do not know why we continue to do what the constitution of the Federal Republic does not provide for. And then there are other issues that the constitution has provided for, yet we refuse to implement them. For instance why would they not have the President write a letter to inform the National Assembly that he was proceeding on medical vacation to enable the Vice President assume power as Acting President?

What is your reaction to General Buhari's exit from ANPP, some people said he had committed political suicide?

I completely disagree with this. Buhari is a complete gentleman who was a loyal party man. We all know what happened in the party after the 2007 election. Those of us who are close to him knew he was not keen in going to court after the election but the party said no, there are irregularities in the election therefore you have to go to court. And being a man who always wants to go with the collective will and the rule of law, and who obeys the leaders of his party, Buhari agreed with them. But he said the party should take its own lawyer and he [Buhari] employed his own. And you witnessed how the party unceremoniously, without notifying Gen. Buhari, withdrew its case against Yar'Adua midway. The action was a complete betrayal by leaders of the ANPP. Many of us, including people outside the ANPP, felt bad about it. But we saw how he was able to pursue the case to a logical conclusion.

Don't forget that Buhari was not only ANPP candidate in the election; he was a candidate of over seven political parties under an alliance. Finally, he got the note from his supporters across the country to dump the ANPP, form a new party, or join another political party, but not the PDP.

You will recall that immediately the leaders of the ANPP decided to withdraw their case against the PDP, they joined the Government of National Unity without informing the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the party, which is the highest organ of the party.

We believed that the GNU they joined was for their selfish interest because at the end of the day the ANPP National Chairman got his son as Special Adviser to Mr. President, the National Secretary of the party gave his own name and was appointed Special Adviser, the vice National Chairman (South) gave his own name, the assistant National Chairman, North East, gave his own name and Senator Ahmed Sani Yerima gave his wife's name. So you see! All these things were done with selfish interest.

So what Buhari did [leaving ANPP] was in order because there is no future for the party. You can see that not many people are left

in the party now. We lost two governors [of Zamfara and Bauchi states] in the last one year. They left because of bad leadership in the party.

Are you moving to the CPC with other members of the integrity group?

We said earlier that we believe in his principles and appreciate the way he conducts himself. Members of the integrity group met him in his home in Kaduna two weeks after he announced that he was leaving the ANPP and assured him of our support. But we do not intend to abandon our court case against the leadership of the ANPP until we get a judgment.

If the party has a good leadership, the issue of anybody forming a new party, or the talk of a mega party, would not have arisen. ANPP would have been a good platform where everybody would support to challenge the PDP in future election.

What is your political ambition ahead of 2011 in Kebbi State?

I have been participating in various activities of my party at the state and national level. For now, I won't be the one to say I want to contest this position or that. I am a democrat and I know that I don't have to impose myself on the people. It is the people that will have to say this person should contest whatever position. If my people say I should contest for councillor, I will not object to it.

What is your view on the rift between your immediate past boss Senator Aliero and Governor Dakingari?

The whole thing is built on insincerity. When I was Deputy Governor, there were many well meaning citizens of Kebbi State who want to vie for the governorship position but Governor Aliero felt he must bring his own boy so that he can dictate the affairs of the state even after he had left office.

Unfortunately, you know God is merciful and that is why things are happening the way they are happening now. We thank God that he has spared our lives, including that of Aliero and those that left the ANPP to PDP, to see this turn of events.

They had expected Dakingari to be a stooge of Aliero and I am



ALHAJI Suleiman Muhammad Argungu

happy with the way the governor stood up and confirmed to everybody that he cannot be a stooge; that he is the executive governor of Kebbi State and he takes responsibility for his actions. I really appreciate what is happening.

I do not pity anyone in the circumstance because I know that at the end of the day ANPP will take advantage of the situation. I also appreciate the crisis that is going on in the state over PDP's chairmanship position. I want the crisis to continue.

How true is it that you have been denied gratuity as former Deputy Governor?

It is true that I have been denied my gratuity. Since I resigned my position as Deputy Governor of Kebbi State three years ago, I have not received a kobo from my entitlement to. This is in spite of the fact that government has signed into law that provides what the governor and his deputy should

enjoy after leaving office.

I think it is for political reasons. Even the deputy governor who served for only 3 months has been paid his entitlements. But I understand that the governor has sent a letter to the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission in Abuja to advise him on whether I am entitled or not. Alhamdulillah, after due investigation I learnt they have sent a letter to him that I am entitled as prescribed by the constitution and the Act of the state Assembly.

I am only waiting to see if the governor will do away with political sentiments and pay me my entitlements.

“I think it is for political reasons. Even the deputy governor who served for only 3 months has been paid his entitlements.”

Inside Politics

Ogbulafor to Andy Uba: You were imposed in 2007

By Muideen Olaniyi

NATIONAL Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Prince Vincent Ogbulafor, yesterday said that the party's governorship candidate for Anambra State in 2007 Dr Andy Uba was imposed on members in the state.

Ogbulafor who spoke through his Special Assistant on Media and Public Affairs, Edmons Chijioke Adindu, was reacting to Uba's statement in a national daily that PDP is bound to be doomed under Ogbulafor's leadership.

"Uba as a beneficiary of the discredited and utterly despicable 'garrison' politics of impunity of old, was unjustly foisted on the people of Anambra State in the 2007 election as Governor but was summarily dethroned by the law court on account of the flawed process that threw him up," Ogbulafor said.

"Being a man who believes in the politics of manipulation, he was perhaps expecting that the Ogbulafor-led PDP will simply hand over the governorship ticket to him even when he did not pick nomination forms for the primaries nor fulfilled the party's conditions for the exercise," he added.

He said Uba jumped ship to contest in the Labour Party when he discovered that it was not business as usual.

Adindu said PDP National Chairman had no hand in the misfortune of the former Special Assistant on Domestic Affairs to the former President Olusegun Obasanjo, stressing that it was not Ogbulafor who nullified his election in 2007.

On Uba's claims that he sponsored some people into the National Assembly, Ogbulafor said the



PRINCE Vincent Ogbulafor

courts had found out the 'fraudulent nature' of their victories and removed them, adding that Uba is reaping the rich harvest of his political opportunism and desperation.

Adindu stated that the PDP has become greater under Ogbulafor, saying that 'Uba and his ilk must realize that their hubris and failed desperate political ambitions cannot and will never spell doom for the party.'

'Tapgun's ministerial nomination good omen for Plateau'

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

THE choice of Josephine Tapgun as the ministerial nominee for Plateau State is neutral and in the best interest of the state, elders in the southern senatorial part of the state have said.

The elders in a statement said the nomination of Tapgun is a wise decision especially under the present circumstance in Plateau state. They said Tapgun is a neutral person in the politics of Plateau state who cannot be identified with any of the camps or caucuses in the political division in the state.

Abraham Kumsha who signed the statement on behalf of the elders said Tapgun has no less than 28 years experience in the civil service, which stands her out as a seasoned technocrat, hence possesses the right experience to offer to the present administration what it needs to deliver to the people.

He said more important is the fact that Tapgun enjoys the confidence and the support of the people of the state and is seen as somebody who will carry people along irrespective of differences and ensure that all parts of the state are carried along in the

scheme of things.

The statement said her disposition and experience would definitely add value to the process of peace building and help Acting President Goodluck Jonathan and the presidential committee on the Jos crisis led by Chief Solomon Lar to achieve its aim of finding lasting in the state in good time.

Kumsha called on the people of Plateau state to support the choice of the Acting President saying it would go a long way in uniting the people of the state and ensuring that development gets to the people.

Guber aspirant lauds Jonathan's electoral reform

By Abbas Jimoh

A governorship aspirant of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Nasarawa State, Alhaji Umaru Tanko Almakura, has commended Acting President Goodluck Jonathan for showing commitment to the electoral reform, the constitution of the Presidential Advisory Council

(PAC) and the appointment of retired General Aliyu Gusau, as the National Security Adviser (NSA).

Speaking to journalists yesterday in Abuja, Almakura said that Dr. Goodluck Jonathan has displayed political maturity and wisdom in the appointments he has made so far especially that of General Gusau bearing in mind that the tension and

uncertainty in the polity needs to be calmed.

He said that with the militant activities in the Niger Delta and the Jos crises threatening the security and social fabric of the nation, only people with the experience, exposure and national goodwill like General Gusau can bail the nation out.

I'm the substantive Nasarawa ANPP chair – Abdullahi

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

AHMED Abdullahi, the man at the centre of the crisis that has engulfed the Nasarawa State chapter of the All Nigerian People's Party (ANPP) has said that he still remained the substantive chairman of the party. Abdullahi was ordered recently by the national headquarters of the ANPP to hand over to his deputy, Dauda Manger.

Abdullahi told *Daily Trust* on telephone yesterday that he is not perturbed by the decision of what he called "a section of the state exco" to sack him from office, alleging that the action violated the party's constitution.

He said the May 31, 2009 vote of no confidence passed on him carried the signature of Sulaiman Tanko who claimed to be secretary of the party in the state while he is

an ex-officio member.

"The so called state exco meeting where the vote of no confidence was passed was convened by the same S. Tanko claiming to be the secretary," he said.

He also faulted the NWC's decision, saying it treated a matter that was supposed to have been ratified by the zonal office.

"So you see the illegality," he said, adding that he was not given fair hearing before the vote of no confidence passed on him at the state level.

"Some of my exco members made allegations against me but could not produce any proof and nobody gave me the opportunity to defend myself," he said.

But Tanko who confirmed he is serving in dual capacity as secretary and ex-officio, stressing that he was named acting Secretary of the party in order fill a vacuum.

Sokoto Guber Appeal: Rights group berates NBA president over comment

By Abbas Jimoh

THE recent intervention by the president of the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), Rotimi Akeredolu (SAN), urging the Supreme Court to refrain from dabbling into election matters in the country is condemnable, the Human Rights Writers' Association of Nigeria (HURIWA) has said.

National Coordinator of the group, Emmanuel Onwubiko, told journalists yesterday in Abuja that there was no where that the executive council of NBA deliberated on the Sokoto guber Appeal and authorised Akeredolu to criticise the Supreme Court.

"We concede that he has the fundamental human right of freedom of expression but the exercise of this right goes with responsibility. We disagree entirely with the jaundiced opinion expressed by the NBA president on the Sokoto matter for the two simple but critical reasons that Chief Akeredolu has the penchant for making controversial and politically-motivated comments in the name of the esteemed professional body without proper consultations with the Executive Council of the body," Onwubiko said.

He said that HURIWA viewed Akeredolu's comment as a direct abuse of his office.

I didn't say Albishir will get automatic ticket in PDP – Sen. Talba

By Turaki A. Hassan

SENATOR Adamu Garba Talba (PDP, Yobe South) has denied a media report that Senator Usman Albishir who decamped to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) recently will get automatic ticket from the party to contest the 2011 governorship election.

"What I said was that, Albishir and his supporters will be given automatic waiver to enable them contest for any elective position under the platform of our party. This is certain because the moment you join the PDP, you are automatically given waiver to contest for any position of your choice," he said yesterday while speaking to our

correspondent.

"So those coming in they should be rest assured that they will be treated equally. It is only the ticket that is not automatic because we are in democracy and we have to exercise democracy even Adamu Waziri who contested about three times did not get automatic ticket but went to primaries with other aspirants and he defeated them," he added.

Talba maintained that, with Senator Albishir in PDP, ANPP will be history in Yobe.

Secretary of the PDP in Yobe State Alhaji Adamu Abubakar Waziri said Senator Usman Albishir and thousands of his supporters will be formally received at a ceremony in Nguru on tomorrow.

SPORT

Young blood
threats hit
Aiyegbeni

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I am satisfied with Eagles Team B – Lulu

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE

PRESIDENT of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Alhaji Sani Abdullahi Lulu said he was satisfied with performance of Super Eagles Team B despite the team's ouster from the African Nations Championship (CHAN) by lowly Niger Republic.

The home-based Super Eagles, handled by Daniel Amokachi, drew goalless with the Nigeriens in the second leg of the qualifiers in Kano on Sunday and were eliminated 2-0 on aggregate.

Addressing newsmen yesterday in Dutse, Alhaji Sani Lulu said that Nigerians should not view the team's elimination from the 2011 CHAN by Niger as total failure.

The NFF boss explained that the country had achieved two out of three goals upon which the tournament was aimed to achieve.

He said that the game was aimed at three things: to unite the people, project the image of the country and also to win.

Lulu added that the match had been able to achieve the first two aims.

"The match had projected the image of the country in the positive manner as well as united Nigerians," he contended.

The NFF president further said the game of football was not only about winning.

He urged Nigerians to exercise patience, as the NFF was ready and prepared to take the team to greater height.



SUPER Eagles Team B defender Fortune Chukwudi vies for the ball with a Nigerien player during the African Nations Championship (CHAN) qualifiers in Kano on Sunday.

Amodu 'saddened' by CHAN failure

FORMER Super Eagles coach Shuaibu Amodu is saddened by the failure of the players from the domestic league to qualify for the African Nations Championship following a 2-0 aggregate loss to Niger.

Amodu, who has been on leave since being redeployed to the team after his removal from the senior squad, refused to gloat over the team's fiasco despite feelings in certain quar-

ters that he has been vindicated.

"It is sad that we failed to qualify, but it is a collective failure of our system and not the players and the coach," Amodu told Kick-OffNigeria.com.

In an interview just before the African Nations Cup in Angola, Amodu stated that when he was employed two years ago, he submitted a written proposal for a long term camping for the local players, but that idea was dismissed by the NFF, who asked

him to focus on World Cup qualification and leave the task of grooming the home-based players to then coach Okey Emordi.

That team eventually failed to qualify for the inaugural event of the competition.

"What I have always said is that there is talent among the local players, but the environment in which they play does not help them bring out that talent the way they should," Amodu said.

"That is why, as a professional


who knows his onions, I asked for a long term camping for them to help them break that barrier."

"In the past, it was easy to pick players from the local league. Rangers, Shooting Stars and Insurance alone would have supplied up to three national teams. But that is no longer the case. And anybody who understands this would know that you have to approach the problem in a different way from what happened in the past.

"But they said I didn't know what I was talking about."

Amodu also refused to claim vindication.

"Vindication for what? It is not about me, but about what is best for this country. I said what in my opinion was a professional judgement, but it was ignored. It is sad for me that we have to learn the hard way, but if that will help us to make better decisions in future, then that is fine by me."



NEITI

Nigeria
Extractive
Industries
Transparency
Initiative

HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Transcorp Hilton, Abuja
Thursday, April 1, 2010 - 9.00 a.m

SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR & KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Acting President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
Dr. Ebele Goodluck Jonathan

OTHER SPEAKERS

**Establishing the Institutional Linkage Between
Technical and Financial Institutions Involved in
the Oil and Gas Sector**

*Dr. Bright Okogu, Director-General, Budget
Office, Ministry of Finance*

NDDC Act 2000: Between Policy and Practice
*Mr. Chibuzor Uguoha, Managing Director,
Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)*

**Interpretation of Legislation for Effective Tax
Assessment**

*Ifueko Omouigui-Okauru, Chairman, Federal
Inland Revenue Service (FIRS)*

Strengthening DPR to Fulfil its Strategic Role
*Godwin Billy-Agha, Director, Department of
Petroleum Resources (DPR)*

**Applying Best Practices to Marketing and Sale
of Crude Oil**

*Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo, Group Managing
Director, Nigerian National Petroleum
Corporation (NNPC)*

**Managing and Control of Financial Flows from the
Oil Sector Using Financial Information and
Management Systems**

*Mallam Ibrahim H. Dankwambo, Accountant-
General of the Federation*

**The Petroleum Industry Bill: Correlation to
Reforms Necessary for Remediation**
*Dr. Bello Aliyu Gusau, Secretary, Oil and Gas
Sector Reform Implementation Committee (OGIC)*

**Laying the Foundation for Foreign Direct
Investment in Solid Minerals through EITI
Implementation**

*Prof. Siyan Malomo, Director-General, Nigerian
Geological Survey Agency*

Redefining Civil Society for Impact

*Dr. Sam Amadi, Policy Director, Good Governance
Group*

Thrust of the World Bank Support for NEITI
Onno Ruhl, World Bank Country Director

The Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, NEITI, ensures transparency and accountability in the management of payments by extractive industry companies to the government and government-linked entities; and in the revenues received and reported by the government and entities.

Amiesimaka: Defeat to Niger shows state of Nigerian football

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE

FORMER international Adokiye Amiesimaka said yesterday that the country's failure to qualify for the African Nations Championship for the second consecutive time was a reflection of the state of football in Nigeria.

In a telephone interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), Amiesimaka said it was shameful that Nigeria had to be beaten by Niger.

He said Nigeria would have beaten Niger 10 nil home and away 10 years to 20 years ago.

Nigeria's home-based Super Eagles, handled by Daniel Amokachi, drew goalless with the Nigeriens in the second leg of the qualifiers in Kano on Sunday and were eliminated 2-0 on aggregate.

The Nigeriens had won the first leg 2-0 two weeks earlier in Niamey.

Nigeria also failed to qualify for the maiden edition held last year after Ghana halted the Eagles in the qualifiers.

Blaming the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) for the parlous state of football in Nigeria, Amiesimaka said football administration was at fault in Sunday's loss.

Football administration in Nigeria, he said, "is competition focused instead of development focused", adding that football in the country was retrogressing.

He said the administrators were more interested in participating in competitions instead of developing the game.

Amiesimaka, a member of the team that won the Africa Cup of Nations in 1980, said the administrators "were too lazy to accept to work for the development of the sport".



SUPER Eagles Team B defender, Chibuzor Okonkwo, attempts to dribble a Nigerien player during their African Nations Championship (CHAN) second leg qualifying match in Kano on Sunday.

He said the way forward was for the NFF to organise competitions for junior secondary school students, where players could be discovered for grooming for

two years to three years in preparation for the U-17 team.

He said there was no substitution for a "graduated process" for the development

of the game.

The Confederation of African Football (CAF) inaugurated the African

Nations Championship for players in the respective

national domestic leagues.

Congo DR won the maiden competition held in 2009 in Cote d'Ivoire. Sudan will host the second edition in 2011.

NOC election holds May 4

From Adeolu Johnson, Lagos

THE much awaited Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) election will now finally come up on May 4 but with yet to be named venue.

This was announced by the executive committee of the body after an emergency meeting held at the Secretariat of the committee at the National Stadium in Lagos.

The Olympic Committee has been in deep crisis following the decision of the former Sports Minister Engineer Sani Ndanusa who was the second Vice Chairman to challenge the incumbent, Engineer Habu Gumel.

This resulted in petitions and counter moves as the matter was later dragged to court.

But a three man panel headed by Reverend Moses Iloh, a former Cycling Federation President to proffer solution to the imbroglio and the panel which included

“The coast is now clear for the election to hold.”

former Chairman of Nigeria Football Association (NFA) Alhaji Ibrahim Galadima and Chief Olatokunbo Thomas later chose later fixed the election for March 31.

This was however upturned by the Executive Committee who arrived at the May 4th day after a lengthy meeting.

Briefing journalists after the meeting, first Vice President of the body, Chief Jonathan Nnaji explained that 17 association Presidents who attended the emergency meeting out of the total number of 18 resolved that the election should hold on May 4.

He stated that the election which should have come up earlier than now, was put on hold because of litigations from aggrieved members, but expressed happiness that since the litigants had withdrawn their cases from court, the coast is now clear for the election to hold.

Nnaji who is also the President of Nigeria Taekwondo Federation stated that an emergency annual General meeting would hold within the next 28 days as notice has been served to all members, adding that no venue has been chosen for the meeting.

He added that the agenda will be exactly the same with the botched Jigawa congress.

Eagles defeat, a huge disappointment - Adepoju

By David Ngobua

FORMER international and General Manager of 3SC Ibadan, Mutiu Adepoju has described last Sunday's inability of Super Eagles Team B to qualify for the 2011 Africa Nations Championship as a huge disappointment.

Super Eagles Team B coached by ex-international Daniel Amokachie played 0-0 with their opponents from Republic of Niger who

had beaten them 2-0 in the first leg in Niamey.

Speaking to Trustsports yesterday, Adepoju said the team's defeat which he described as very unfortunate came at a wrong time because it is has occurred at a time that Nigerians are beginning to develop confidence in the domestic League.

He said it is a pity that the players who had on their hands a golden opportunity

to make a case for themselves as far as playing for the senior national team is concerned, failed to live up to expectations.

"It is a pity that they could not qualify. It is also a huge disappointment because it has happened at a time that most Nigerians are beginning to develop confidence in the local League. Had they qualified, it would have gone a long way to ginger more support for the domestic

League", he observed.

"The players have indeed missed a golden opportunity to make a bold statement as far as playing for the senior national team at the highest level is concerned".

The General Manager of 3SC Ibadan however maintained that the dismay outing of the team should not be enough for Nigerians to write off the domestic League.

He said the elimination of

Eagles Team B has not in any way reduced his conviction that the League is blessed with quality players who can feature in the present senior national team.

"The defeat is not an indication that the League is too poor to produce quality players. I still hold tight to my belief that the Nigerian League is one of the best in Africa and can always produce players for the national teams", he stated.

OBITUARY

We wish to announce the passing away of



CAPT. AHMED NASRA ALIYU

(1954 - 2010)

Ag. Director, Directorate of operations and training (DOT), Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA)

HE HAS SINCE BEEN BURIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH MUSLIM RITES.

Venue: 8TH DAY FIDAU PRAYERS WILL HOLD AT HIS FAMILY HOUSE, SOKOTO

Date: TUESDAY 30TH MARCH, 2010.

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PERFECT PEACE

**SIGNED:
THE FAMILY**



Bayern wary of Rooney

■ But ready to spring surprise



BAYERN Munich cannot match Manchester United for consistency but tonight's Champions League quarter-final, first leg is a one-off where the German side can cause a shock, according to coach Louis van Gaal.

Bayern host United in Munich with Dutch winger Arjen Robben, their best player this season,

“We need a player like Robben. But if he is not 100 percent fit he will not play.”

in doubt with a minor calf muscle injury, and wary of the threat posed by United striker Wayne Rooney

Yet Van Gaal sounded confident the Bavarians can match their opponents' quality for at least one match.

“We can surprise every team, I believe that. Bayern are not yet a top level team like Manchester but we can achieve that level for a



ROONEY... Manchester United's forward has scored 33 goals this season.

game,” the Dutchman said.

Van Gaal said Robben would not play unless he was fully fit, after picking up the injury in their 2-1 defeat to VfB Stuttgart

on Saturday.

“I think we have to be careful with a player who makes so many dribbles with such intensity in one game,” Van Gaal said.

“It is clear that he is not injured but his muscles are tired and I have to be certain that a player is 100 percent fit. This is a big match and we will try everything.”

“We need a player like Robben. But if he is not 100 percent fit he will not play.”

For all Rooney's goals this season, the United forward has scored 33 so far including four in his last two Champions League matches, Van Gaal said if Bayern play as a team the England striker may find the going tough.

“I think that Rooney is difficult to contain but maybe we can do that as a team. We have to do it as a team,” van Gaal said, wary that the 24-year-old has come of age.

“Wayne Rooney is a super player and when he was younger I wondered if he had vision in his game.

“He has developed that and that makes a player a great player. He has this vision now.”

Van Gaal feels if Bayern match Manchester's on-pitch discipline they are in with a fighting chance.

“I know one thing and that is that the discipline at Manchester is always very good. I am jealous of this discipline and if we have that tomorrow we have taken a big step forward.”

Apart from Robben, Van Gaal will also be without suspended midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger, while striker Mario Gomez has recovered from a muscle injury but will sit on the bench.

Lyon face arch-rivals Bordeaux

OLYMPIQUE Lyon are perfectly aware that their clash with Girondins Bordeaux has little to do with domestic duties and is all about making a real impact in Europe at last. Lyon, hosting the Ligue 1 champions in the first leg of their all-French Champions League quarter-final tonight, are determined to seize the chance to advance to the last four of European club soccer's premier event for the first time.

“We're not playing against Bordeaux, we're playing against ourselves,” Lyon keeper Hugo Lloris, who was instrumental in his side's shock elimination of Real Madrid in the previous round, told reporters.

“We must score a goal or two and not concede any. We have all it takes to go through.” To French soccer fans, two Ligue 1 sides facing each other in the last eight means one will feature in the semi-finals.

Lyon and Bordeaux, however, see it differently. After winning seven Ligue 1 titles in succession before losing their crown to Bordeaux last year, Lyon want to show they are still a force to be reckoned with.

Whereas Bordeaux, who under threat from several teams including Lyon in the league title race, are eager to prove they belong in Europe and can handle the pressure of the big matches.

That was far from obvious on Saturday when they lost 3-1 to Olympique Marseille in the French League Cup final, although it was clear their focus was already switched to the battle against Lyon.

“Playing a final while handling the preparations for the match against Lyon was never going to be easy,” Bordeaux coach Laurent Blanc told reporters after the defeat by Marseille.

“It is a good thing that we have to play again as early as Tuesday,” he added. “We have a fantastic opportunity to put our disappointment behind us and to bounce back straight away.”

Lyon will be almost at full strength, with only defenders Francois Clerc and Cleber Anderson sidelined with long-term injuries, and coach Claude Puel will be able to field his best-possible lineup.

Things are not that simple for Blanc, with holding midfielder Alou Diarra serving suspension after being sent off in the previous round against Olympiakos and defender Marc Planus nursing a knee injury.

With Bordeaux 2-0 down against Marseille shortly after the hour mark in the League Cup final, Blanc substituted arguably his two best players, France playmaker Yoann Gourcuff and Morocco striker Marouane Chamakh, to spare them for tonight.

Bayern Munich v Man. Utd: The Key Battles

DANIEL Van Buyten v Wayne Rooney

ONE of the world's foremost attackers will cast his formidable shadow over the Allianz Arena tonight as Rooney comes to town. Manchester United's number one gunslinger has created havoc all season



VAN Buyten

long, no matter the opposition, with off-days very much in the occasional file. After cutting a swath through Milan in the last round, the England front-man has shown he cares not a jot for reputation.

In this respect, the big Belgian could be in for a schooling. Rooney needs no second invite to pounce on mistakes, of which there have been many on the part of Van Buyten in recent weeks. The strapping centre-back looks less assured than earlier this season as FC Hollywood have slumped on the domestic scene. Factor in dubious fitness and a tendency to go walk-about and Rooney could have himself a fifth Champions League strike of the season very quickly, and United a vital away goal.

FRANCK Ribery v Gary Neville

By all accounts, it has been a modest season for Franck Rib-

ery. The former Galatasaray stand-out has been cast to the fringes of Bayern's narratives this term as his running buddy Robben continues to receive the acclaim.

Should the Dutch winger fail to start then there is a tangible opportunity for Ribery to re-emphasise his credentials as one of the continent's most devastating attackers on the grandest stage and remind the doubters why Real Madrid were prepared to part with around €60 million for his services last summer, presuming he overcomes fitness concerns of his own.

In his way will stand the veteran Gary Neville, who has had a consistent European campaign this term, with John O'Shea and Wes Brown regularly sidelined. While possessing a counter-attacking threat of his own, the Manchester United captain's main task of the evening will be to nullify the

electrifying Frenchman.

Depending on Neville's aptness at dealing with the pace and manoeuvrability of Ribery, this is the area of the field in which Bayern could make most in-roads. Then again, Bayern fans have been waiting all season for Ribery to catch light.



NEVILLE

THE TUESDAY COLUMN

Sanusi Abubakar

sanusiabubakar@dailytrust.com

Sorting out the minimum wage mess

Why do we keep on the myth of a "National Minimum Wage" when in actual fact even some state and local governments don't pay that? And how do we deal with the millions that earn nothing, at least not

officially?

When in March 2009, the Nigerian Labour Congress gave the government a two-week ultimatum to raise the National Minimum Wage to N52,000 from the prevailing N5,500 some of us felt it was about time. I am not quite sure what became of that struggle, but there was near universal support for the increase to at least something approaching a living wage. Last reviewed in 2000, the paltry N5,500 comes to about \$36, or \$1.20 per day. Given the definition of the poor as those living on less than a dollar a day, it may sound as if the minimum wage is at least slightly above that. In actual fact it is not. Most of these workers have at least a wife. Even without adding kids we are talking of about 60 cents per head, per day. Thus even our minimum wage institutionalizes poverty, and is truly a living shame. By the time the wage earner starts a family of one or two kids, the minimum income comes to less than 30-40 cents per head. And we pretend to imagine that they can somehow pay for housing, food, clothing, water, firewood, drugs and so on? Not unless they "source" some additional income, legally or otherwise.

Officially, we pay workers below the international poverty threshold.

But even that is misleading; most employers, including state governments, don't pay anything near that minimum wage. I have figures for some of the worst states but I shall spare you the unpalatable details (at least for now). Indeed, unless the labour movement starts forcing some of the governors to begin paying the minimum wage all these talks about improved "take home pay" will remain just plain dishonesty. The reality is that besides some public sector workers, and a few organized private sector employees, not many get paid this N5,500 minimum, and we all know it but prefer to turn a blind eye. Most house-helpers, drivers, shop assistants and the like hardly get up to N3,000 monthly, especially in our villages and small towns.

This low general wage feeds on itself. These low paid workers cannot meet their obligations with subsequent detrimental effects on family cohesion and internal discipline. Divorces, wayward children and crime become the order of the day. And that is not all. Because they cannot pay, demand for mass consumption items suffer. Factories close down and more people are rendered unemployed, i.e. without any paying jobs. So they cannot pay their helpers, meet their other obligations or survive honestly via hard work. Wages and even demand in the so called informal sector gets further depressed.

Quite seriously, the issue of improved minimum wage cannot be wished away or postponed indefinitely. It needs to be re-addressed now. Inflation, devaluation and more dependents all continue to devastate the low paid workers and all we offer them is endless talks and "miracles" conventions.

A well paid work force is not a liability, but the basis of building a healthy, educated and happy family. It is also a market for agriculture, industry and services. Contrary to prevailing myths, not all wage increases are inflationary.

In a situation of massive "under-consumption", of people unable to afford essential mass-consumer items, increases in wages and salaries stimulate demand, revive industry and generate additional employment. When people pay for their necessities it stimulates the economy and even adds to social cohesion and strengthen social safety-nets.

Strangely enough, even as the NLC and other unions are taking their time, it seems some organs and agencies of the government are getting impatient. The Nigerian Investment Promotion Council (NIPC) is currently recommending N25,000 for unemployed youth. However, some graduates don't get that much even after several years of service with some state governments. NIPC intends to place these unemployed youth in private firms, with the hope that they would be retained by the firms after some time. Great idea, you may say. But hold on. When a large percentage of some already employed graduates are earning far less, what justification do we have to pay some fresh recruits higher? How do we start the selection process? What incentive would the companies have to move these free labourers to their own

wage bill? Where are we going to source the funds, and for how long?

The employment guru in NAPEP, Magnus Kpakol, wasted our fund in some *magu-magu* and declared that poverty was ending. It transpired that he was not even as good in voodoo statistics as Soludo was. He was simply interested in purchasing more *Keke-NAPEP*, what the South-East Asians call *Tuk-tuk*. But Kpakol's tragedy, as with all these super-brainy imports from the Diaspora, is that he never understood the root of our unemployment but was satisfied to keep on throwing money at it. Actually, it is not just our approach to employment creation and living wages that we need to rethink. We must also coordinate the whole social insurance and even unemployment assistance programs if we are to have a logical frame-

work that would actually work.

Theory is important as it is the basis from which we must evolve workable practice, despite our disdain for it, which we probably inherited from our military rulers. We need to define poverty and unemployment and examine their roots. Then, and only then, do we start working out practical solutions. We must also consider how others approached these issues and see if some of their approaches can assist us in designing our own. Do we endorse Sule Lamido's approach of giving handouts to the unemployables and the physically challenged? How do we sustain it? Do we evolve unemployment assistance? How, and for how long? Or, in the case of NIPC, do we select some kids and place them in organizations with wages that are unrealistic, given what those already in employments currently earn? Can they take the time to repackage the proposal? Is direct employment generation even the responsibility of NIPC or of some other agency? What are the roles of ITF, SIWES and the Ministry of Labour and Productivity? What are the lessons from NDE, social insurance, health insurance, and poverty alleviation schemes around the country?

Chronic unemployment and sub-human wages may not directly affect us now. But do we notice the rise in armed robbery, ethnic unrest and juvenile delinquency? For goodness sake, these issues are as important as "deregulation" of petroleum prices.



But Kpakol's tragedy, as with all these super-brainy imports from the Diaspora, is that he never understood the root of our unemployment but was satisfied to keep on throwing money at it. Actually, it is not just our approach to employment creation and living wages that we need to rethink

SPORTS REPORT



ITORO Umoh

Umoh hired to coach Clemson

Former Clemson Nigeria female basketball star Itoro Umoh has been hired to revive the Lady Tigers' basketball program:

The school said yesterday that Umoh had been hired to replace Cristy McKinney, who resigned earlier this month after five losing

seasons.

Umoh was an all-Atlantic Coast Conference point guard at Clemson from 1995-99, helping the Lady Tigers to conference tournament titles in 1996 and 1999. She has been an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Penn State the past three seasons.



YAKUBU Aiyegbeni

Young blood threats hit Aiyegbeni

Another revelation has emerged from Goodison Park that Everton striker, Yakubu Aiyegbeni is inching closer to the exit, as The Toffees' coach, David Moyes is reportedly now looking for fresh blood in the club's attack.

With Aiyegbeni showing signs of a losing battle with his fitness and apparently finding it difficult to return to a regular run of goals off his boots, Moyes appears justified in seeking exuberant replacements for the former Middlesbrough and Portsmouth hit man.

The report from Merseyside indicates that Aiyegbeni's future at Everton is under scrutiny, as Moyes is already posting scouts to check on European striker targets.

Aiyegbeni has struggled with form and fitness since returning from a lengthy injury lay-off after rupturing his Achilles tendon in November 2008.

