

DAILY TRUST

MONDAY, MAY 3, 2010

JIMADA ULA 19, 1431 A.H.

TRUST IS A BURDEN

www.dailytrust.com VOL. 24 No 21 N150

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PHOTO: NAN

WORKERS at the May Day rally in Lagos on Saturday.

Federal workers insist on strike today

By Francis Okeke

FEDERAL civil servants yesterday vowed to go ahead with their planned five day warning strike starting today despite pleas from Acting President Goodluck Jonathan in his address on May Day for them to cancel it and conclude all negotiations with government in three months time.

Jonathan had last Saturday informed Nigerians during the May Day rally at the Eagle Square, Abuja that

“Minister of Labour reiterated Jonathan’s plea to the workers, not to throw away the “good gestures”

he had directed the Minister of Labour and Productivity and the Head of Civil Service of the Federation to conclude all negotiations in three months’ time and come up with increased wages.

Minister of Labour and Productivity Chief Emeka Wogu yesterday reiterated Jonathan’s plea to the workers, asking them not to throw away the “good gestures” of the Acting President

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Deltans corner top oil posts

By Hamisu Muhammad

LESS than three months since Dr. Goodluck Jonathan took over the reigns as Acting President of the Federal Republic, men and women from his native oil-rich Niger Delta region have

grabbed and cornered twelve of the most plum positions in the Petroleum Resources Ministry and the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), *Daily Trust* confirmed in Abuja at the weekend.

The Minister of Petroleum Resources, Mrs

Diezani Allison-Madueke, the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum, Mrs. Elizabeth Umerun the director of the Department of Petroleum Resources, four out of the NNPC’s eight Group Executive Directors as well as its

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Oshiomhole urges better welfare for workers

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

EDO State Governor Comrade Adams Oshiomhole has called for improved welfare for Nigerian workers.

The governor spoke as workers in Edo State joined their counterparts across the country to observe the Workers' Day at the weekend.

According to Comrade Oshiomhole, in the face of harsh working environment, the workers are responsible for creating the wealth of the nation, adding that nothing can justify the difference in the salaries of the federal and state workers.

The governor said the state government had implemented the reviewed wages of judicial workers, doctors, teachers and the Academic Staff Union of Universities.

He noted that despite the huge deposit of natural resources in the country, Nigerians were getting poorer, stressing that the 2010 statistics showed that seven out of 10 Nigerians were poor.

In another development Oshiomhole said the objective of Thursday's "One Man One Vote" rally to bring people from different political groups across the country to discuss ways for the nation's electoral problems had been met, and that he was satisfied that it was a huge success.

Speaking with newsmen in Benin Friday, the governor said he had no regret for inviting former military president, retired General Ibrahim Babangida to the rally, warning that it was high time Nigerians shunned politics of exclusion.

"We should work together. No politician can be more principled than Balarabe Musa, no one made more sacrifice than this man. He stayed behind and spoke his mind. I think we should work together to reform the electoral system", the governor said.

Some leaders of the Action Congress (AC) including former

Lagos State governor, Ahmed Bola Tinubu shunned the rally.

But Oshiomhole described the boycott as unfortunate, adding that it was a reflection that friends could differ and attributed such difference to styles and strategies.

Oshiomhole said the presence of Babangida was appropriate since he was a former ruler of the country, adding that shutting the door against people is not the solution.

"The objective was clear, to assemble people across the various political parties, leaders and politicians to renew the campaign for electoral reform which we called One Man One Vote. I don't

believe in the politics of exclusion and that was why we threw open the invitation", he said.

"Politics of exclusion is not helpful. Democracy is also politics of tolerance.

My trade union training allows me to engage my opponent and not to avoid him and that is kind of constructive engagement that this political environment deserves.

The ultimate is to bring in those who are not yet on board. And I restated that it was not a partisan gathering. I respect the judgment of those who boycotted it, but I do not agree with it", he added.

PIC: FELIX ONIBGINDE



FROM left: Director General, Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation, Otunba Segun Runsewe, two Nollywood actors Chinedu Ikedieze and Osita theme alias Aki and Pawpaw during the South African national day celebration in Abuja recently.

Ex-Edo Majority Leader questioned over gun

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

FORMER Majority Leader in the Edo State House of Assembly, Frank Okiye, was yesterday arrested and questioned by the police for allegedly being in possession of a pump action machine gun. He was later released.

Okiye who is currently representing Esan North East in the State House of Assembly was said to have been arrested along Benin-Auchi expressway by a team of stop and search policemen who took him to the state headquarters for questioning.

He was sighted at the police headquarters where he was said to be making statements.

Police sources said he called his family members to bring the gun license to him before he was released.

Spokesman of the Edo State Police Command, ASP Peter Ogboi confirmed the arrest of Okiye but said he was yet to get details. Another senior police officer said the police had prohibited the issuance of firearms license for pump action machine guns. The former majority leader while responding to a text message sent to him said, "I am licensed to carry arms."

E-payment obstacle to prompt salaries—Shekarau

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

KANO State Governor Malam Ibrahim Shekarau has attributed the delay in the payment of workers monthly salaries and wages to the introduction of the e-payment system by the Federal Government.

Shekarau spoke at the May Day rally in Kano Saturday. He said even with the commitment of his administration to ensure timely payment, the electronic system had been an obstacle.

He said the state would however strategise to minimise the

problems created by the system. "The obstacle arising from the exercise shall be closely monitored to reduce the inherent hardship attendant to the process of streamlining inter-bank transfers for workers to access their salaries with ease", he assured.

The governor further described the workers' day as a special day for celebrating their contributions as an indication of wealth through their talents and energies for socio-economic development not only in Kano and Nigeria but globally.

He said it was through the

annual occasion that the government utilizes acknowledges the pivotal role of the working class in both public and private sectors, adding that their contributions form the basis of noble pursuits of livelihoods and material development for ensuring desired human progress.

Shekarau also said his administration had renewed its solidarity and commitment of ensuring that due attention would continue to be accorded workers within its available resources, especially in the improvement of their welfare.

He said agitations by different unions and associations for increase in wages and allowances had led to the actualization of full implementation of consolidated Tertiary Institutions Salary Scale (CONTISS II) with effect from January 2010 and solicited the support of the workers.

The Chairman, Nigerian Labour Congress, Kano State chapter, Comrade Yunusa Isah Danguguwa assured the government of support of the congress as he commended the administration for improving workers' welfare.

Dust keeps Kano residents indoors

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

KANO residents yesterday woke up to a dusty atmosphere as sand particles covered the state for hours. The dust came less than

three weeks after a similar haze which affected vision and forced many residents to wear face masks. The dust was believed to have originated from the Sahara desert.

The return of the hazy weather

yesterday came a few days after Kano witnessed its first rainfall this year. It was not clear what caused yesterday's dust, but many residents decided to remain indoors throughout the hours it

lasted. A few people were seen venturing into streets in some parts of the state with their faces and heads covered in veils.

A resident who spoke to *Daily Trust* described the dust as strange,

saying nobody expected it, especially as rains have started. The haze began to fade in the afternoon. But there are fears that it may continue in the absence of more rainfall.

Riyom killing: Police forced to release LG boss, traditional ruler

By Fidelis Mac-Leva, who was in Jos

THE Riyom local government council chairman and a traditional ruler arrested by the Plateau State Police command following the outbreak of attacks on passenger vehicles were released "because pressure was mounted on us to do so," the state police commissioner Ikechukwu Aduba has said.

The Joint Military Special Task Force (JTF) set up by the Federal Government to help restore peace in Plateau State said it discovered seven corpses buried in the bush in Riyom after an attack by the youths on the Riyom highway.

The corpses are believed to be those of passengers travelling along the road who were waylaid by the youths

on the Riyom highway.

He said also police could not promptly respond to the attacks on Dogon Nahawa and other communities surrounding Jos, the Plateau State capital, because of distance and difficult terrain.

Aduba made this known at the weekend while receiving a coalition of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) who were in Jos on a fact finding mission over the recent wave of crises that engulfed Plateau State.

"We were constrained by the difficult terrain of Jos and environs as well as poor communication and lack of logistics. For instance, It may interest you to know that Dogon Nahawa is 25 kilometres away from the nearest Police station so it was difficult for us to get there in good time", the Police

Commissioner said, adding "we are not getting enough logistics support even from the Plateau state government."

Expressing worries over the spate of crises in Plateau, Aduba said: "The crises have no religious connotation. The Berom were killed; the Hausa-Fulani were also killed. Jos is now polarized and can no longer be controlled."

Leader of the delegation of CSO coalition, Dr. Jibrin Ibrahim, executive director of the Centre for Democracy and Development, said something needed to be done urgently to prevent the Jos crisis from snowballing into a national crisis.

He said the visit was to sympathise with the government and people of the state as well as fashion out a roadmap for the resolution of the enduring crises.

'ECOWAS citizens can travel without visas'

By Boco Edet

CITIZENS of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are guaranteed movement for 90 days across member states without a visa, Prof. Mohammed Ladan has said.

Ladan who was a resource person at a seminar on Human Rights in ECOWAS community organized by The Community Court of Justice said the right to free movement of persons, goods and services for 90 days without a visa is guaranteed for citizens under the 15 member states.

He said most ECOWAS member states are not aware of this right which is what necessitated the seminar to enlighten staff as "you can't find this right in any of our individual national constitutions."

The professor noted that the west African sub-region has the largest numbers of displaced persons not by natural disaster but by ethno-religious and political conflicts.

"ECOWAS court of Justice is not supposed to assume jurisdiction of human rights violation cases before the national jurisdiction. People are expressing concern about how many cases the court has handled but when the court was established it was not allowed to entertain cases from individual citizens. However since 2005 this initial protocol was amended and it is now more proactive," he said.



POLICE cruisers stand by at sunrise at the scene where a crude car bomb had been parked at 45th Street and 7th Avenue in Times Square yesterday in New York. Police found a crude but potentially powerful bomb in the vehicle in Times Square and disabled it.

El-Rufai faces EFCC Tuesday

By Boco Edet

FORMER Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Nasir el-Rufai has been invited to the headquarters of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in Abuja on Tuesday to come and answer allegations of financial misappropriation totaling N32billion accrued from sale of federal government houses and lands.

El-Rufai who has denied the allegations is back in Nigeria after almost two years of self-exile and has expressed interest in returning to politics.

EFCC's spokesman Femi Babafemi said an invitation was sent to him yesterday and he is expected to be interrogated by operatives on Tuesday.

Asked whether the former minister had received the invitation Babafemi said he could not

confirm that but "we are expecting him on Tuesday."

The ex-Minister who is wanted by EFCC arrived at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja on Saturday morning, was given a free pass by security officials and welcomed by family, friends and fans.

He also said he was not afraid of any federal government agency which may want to

question his financial dealings during his tenure as Minister.

EFCC said over the weekend it was displeased at the easy passage security officials granted el-Rufai at the airport and maintained he still had a case to answer before the anti-graft agency.

El-Rufai was declared wanted by EFCC on December 21, 2008 after he shunned several invitations extended to him.

4 NAFDAC staff kidnapped after visiting late colleague's family

By Ruby Leo

AN Assistant Chief Regulatory Officer of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) Mr Obi Emeka Wohley has been killed by yet to be identified persons in his village in Imo state where he went to spend the weekend.

Wohley was recently transferred from the Warri office of NAFDAC to Port-Harcourt, Rivers State.

Director General of NAFDAC Dr Paul Orhii, who disclosed this at the weekend, said the death of his

officer was not known till late on Wednesday when his room in his village was broken into and his mutilated body found.

Orhii said it was only by Tuesday when nobody heard of him that a search was conducted that led to the discovery of his body.

A new dimension was added to it, when four of Wohley's colleagues in Port-Harcourt who travelled to his village on condolence visit were kidnapped on their way back, the NAFDAC boss said.

The four staff included a pregnant woman who

the suspected kidnappers released on compassionate grounds.

The DG said the suspected kidnappers have made a demand of N16m ransom for both the staff released and those they are still holding.

Orhii explained that although they released the female staff, they are insisting that her own ransom of N4m will have to be added to the N12m that have to be paid for the release of the three staff still with them.

The DG said he had reported the incident to relevant security agencies.

Behold, the new man at NIPSS

By Nasiru L. Abubakar

FORMER Vice Chancellor of the Usman Danfodio University, Sokoto Professor Tijjani Muhammad-Bande is expected to resume duties tomorrow at the nation's elite institution, the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies at Kuru, Plateau State as the new acting Director General. His appointment was approved by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan late last week, hours before Bande boarded a plane for the United States to start a one year's sabbatical at the George Mason College.

In tapping Professor Bande to head the crisis-ridden NIPSS, the Acting President settled for a man with a long and very distinguished academic and teaching career as well as an impeccable record in university administration, who also for 5 years headed a major pan-African institution that trains top-level public servants.

His 5-year headship of the Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, which ended in February, 2009, witnessed a rapid rise in UDUS' profile as a citadel of learning, culminating in its taking the first position among all Nigerian universities in three successive accreditation exercises between 2005 and 2007. This was in addition to major infrastructural expansion and an enviable record of industrial harmony and peaceful student unionism.

Prior to his appointment as UDUS' Vice Chancellor in 2004, Professor Bande from January, 2000 to February, 2004, the Director General of the Centre African de Formation et de Recherche Administrative pour le Development (CAFRAD) in Tangier, Morocco. This is Africa's premier institution

with responsibility for training and research in public administration and management. CAFRAD works with the United Nations, donor agencies and national partner institutions in the attainment of its objectives. It was created by African Governments in 1964; it presently has 39 African states as members, though up to 45 of them regularly participate in its activities.

While he headed CAFRAD, it conducted pan-African 19 Workshops/Seminars; regularly produced the acclaimed journal African Administrative Studies, published results of its researches in its Studies and Documents Series and Web Newsletter; and organized many major meetings of African Ministers of Civil Service.

Before he went to CAFRAD, Bande was UDUS' Deputy Vice Chacellor (Academic) in 1995 - 1999. Before that, he was the Acting Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences & Administration, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto 1992 - 1993 and just before that, he was the Acting Head, of UDUS' Department of Political Science in 1989 - 1993.

In between those periods too, he was External Examiner for Postgraduate Programmes, at various times, to the Departments of Political Science at Ahmadu Bello University (Zaria), University of Lagos, University of Abuja and Bayero University, Kano.

In 1993-94, Professor Bande was Senior Research Fellow at the National Council on Inter-Governmental Relations (NCIR), Abuja where helped in drafting numerous memoranda on major issues in the Nigerian federal system. This was complementary to an earlier involvement with the Research Department of the Centre for Democratic Studies, Abuja (1990 - 1993) and the National



PROFESSOR Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

Electoral Commission, Lagos (1991-1992).

Now 52, Bande was a graduate of the 1979 Political Science graduate of the Ahmadu Bello University's Kano Campus, and began his long and distinguished career as an NYSC English and History teacher at the Government Teachers' College, Ahoada, Rivers State in 1979 - 1980. He bagged an M.A in Political Science from the Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA in 1981 and he bagged a PhD in Political Science from the University of Toronto, Canada in 1987. In 1999, he did a Special Summer Programme on the US Constitution at the Centre for the Study of federalism at Temple University, Florida, USA.

He joined UDUS' Department of Political Science as a gradu-

ate assistant in 1980 and rose to become a professor in 1998. His main fields of teaching all these years are Political Theory and Political Sociology. He supervised 70 postgraduate theses, including 9 doctoral theses to successful completion. Academics apart, he also dabbled into journalism, as a founding member of the Editorial Board of the Abuja-based CRYSTAL Magazine in 1999, and as a member of the Editorial Board of The Guardian Newspapers since 2007. This academic guru has got several dozen academic papers published in learned society journals in Nigeria abroad, as well as several dozen unpublished papers presented at academic and other fora all over Nigeria and abroad.

Among the subjects he has tackled in three decades of aca-

ademic and other writing include a critique of The Apology and Crito, democratic transition, theories of substance abuse, tradition and modernity, democracy and development, human rights and democracy, federalism, ideology and development, federal character, civil service, and praise singing and democracy.

His is a member of many academic societies, including the Nigerian Political Science Association, African Political Science Association, Academic Staff Union of Universities and International Political Science Association, among others.

Professor Bande, who was born at Zagga in present-day Kebbi State, speaks, Hausa, English, Fulfulde, French and Arabic. Among many honours and awards, he has received the University of Toronto Open Fellowship (for outstanding graduate students) in 1984, 1985, 1986; the University of Florida, USA award (for Research on African Governance, 1994); USAID and Temple University, USA (for Study on the U.S. Constitution, 1999); USAID Sponsorship for Two Conferences on Higher Education and Development; Sheikh Abdullahi Fodiyo Award (2001) "for contribution to the development of Nigeria" (by Gwandu Emirate Development Association); Government of the Peoples' Republic of China (for a 3-week visit to China, 2005); and Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic (OFR), 2005.

He is expected to bring his wealth of experience in academics, research and administration to bear at the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, whose immense prestige has been somewhat blighted in recent years by a string of scandals.

N4bn controversy: PDP summons former NWC member

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has summoned its former National Organising Secretary during Dr Amadu Ali-led National Working Committee (NWC) Alhaji Umaru Dahiru.

A letter dated April 26 which was signed by PDP National Secretary Alhaji Abubakar Kawu Baraje asked Alhaji Dahiru to appear before the NWC on Wednesday May 5, 2010 to clarify issues raised on the N4 billion generated from the sale of nomination forms in 2007.

The letter read in parts: "I write to invite you to a meeting with the NWC of the PDP to clarify comments credited to you to the effect that the immediate past NWC handed over N4 billion to the current NWC. This is with a view to assisting the party to locate the money."

Umaru's remarks at the function organized by 'PDP Reform Forum' had angered some members of the current NWC who are demanding for an explanation on the fund generated by their predecessors.

Umar had said that out of N4billion they generated, N1 billion was deposited into the PDP Building Development Fund for the building of the National Secretariat with little information on the remaining N3 billion.

PDP National Publicity Secretary Prof. Rufai Ahmed Alkali had earlier described these comments as unfortunate, regrettable and baseless allegation which will leave a wrong impression in the minds of party members if they kept quiet.

Alkali explained that Dr Amadu Ali-led NWC handed over the total amount of N281,887,273.96 to them contrary to N4billion being speculated following Alhaji Dahiru's remarks.

Nigeria asks BBC to stop airing Lagos documentary

By Atika Balal

THE Federal Government has asked the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) to desist from airing a documentary on Nigeria which portrayed the city of Lagos as a slum.

The documentary entitled, "Welcome to Lagos," was broadcast on BBC2 in the United Kingdom on April 15.

The government expressed disappointment that the BBC with its acclaimed reputation in the media failed to adhere to the ethical code of balance and fairness in the production of the documentary.

Information and Communications Minister, Professor Dora Akunyili said in a statement that BBC should restrict the documentary from further circulation in the best interest of relations between the corporation and the government and people of Nigeria.

She said the government views the documentary as a deliberate attempt to denigrate the dignity of Nigeria before the international community and to create fear and frustration in the minds of tourists and potential investors in the country.

The statement said a formal letter of protest is being forwarded to the BBC, Broadcasting House in London through the BBC Office in Nigeria.

Ritual killing: 300 policemen cordon Zuma rock

By Misbahu Bashir

ONLY one man was arrested during the 3 hour operation by a combined team of 300 policemen from Niger State and Federal Capital Territory on the Zuma Rock vicinity in search of suspected ritual killers.

The Police Public Relations Officer in Abuja Moshood Jimoh said the police at the weekend barricaded area surrounding of the rock, which serves as a tourist attraction, to arrest criminals including ritual killers after receiving directives to do so from the Inspector General of Police Ogbonna Onovo.

"One person living in an uncompleted building around the area was arrested. He is being investigated by the police but for now didn't seem to be a criminal. The man has been living in the area for 12 years now," he said.

Recently, people complained to Onovo of the presence of ritual killers living around the Zuma area as well as disappearance of people believed to be snatched by the killers. The PPRO said during the search, police did not find evidence of ritual killings in the area.

N/Deltans corner top oil posts

Continued from page 1

Company Secretary are all from the South-South region, *Daily Trust* learnt. Jonathan also failed to appoint a Minister of State for Petroleum Resources in order to give Mrs. Madueke an unfettered hand. He however appointed ministers of state for many lesser ministries. In just two weeks as Petroleum Resources Minister, Mrs. Diezani Alison-Madueke carried out a major staff reorganisation that ended up inserting her kinsmen from the Niger Delta in key positions in the NNPC and the DPR, leaving many other large geopolitical of the country unrepresented or underrepresented in these agencies.

Officers from Mrs. Allison-Madueke's native Bayelsa State got the lion's share of lucrative NNPC and MPR posts, alongside others from the South-South states. Under the restructuring, Mr. Andrew Obaje from Bayelsa State took over the powerful post of Director, Department of Petroleum Resources [DPR], the federal government agency that allocates oil blocs and supervises the entire industry.

Mr Voka Mokoru from Delta State became the NNPC's new Group Executive Director (Gas & Power); Mr Faithful Abbiye Suku from Rivers State became NNPC's

Group Executive Director (Corporate Services); Mr Billy Agha, also from Delta State, became NNPC's Group Executive Director (Engineering & Technical) while Engr. Philips Chukwu from Imo State is the Group Executive Director, Exploration & Production of the NNPC. Imo is not a Niger Delta state, but it is a minor oil producer.

Under Mrs. Madueke's changes, another Bayelsan, Mr Anthony Fiddi became the Group General Manager, National Petroleum Investment Management Service (NAPIMS), the NNPC

subsidiary that manages all the Joint Venture Operations as well as linkages between NNPC and all the International Oil Companies (IOCs).

NNPC's Human Resources Division is now led by a Group General Manager, Mr. Chris Osarumwense from Edo State who will also report directly to another Niger Deltan, the GED C&S.

The changes made by the minister also have Mr Abiye Membre from Rivers State as the Managing Director, Nigeria Petroleum Development Company, which

is the major provider of NNPC's revenue at the moment. NNPC's lucrative Crude Oil Marketing Department is now under the supervision of a Group General Manager, Mr Jedy Agba, who is from Delta State.

Many oil industry officials now accuse the Minister of catapulting fellow Niger Deltans over and above their colleagues from other parts of the country. Some of the officials affected by the changes who are yet to be assigned other duties include the former GGM Human Resources Malam Auwalu

Abubakar, the acting GGM Crude Oil Marketing, Malam Farouk Bello and Mrs. Aisha Abdurahman, the former MD Hyson.

Efforts to obtain comments from the minister or her aides proved abortive at the weekend because Mrs Allison-Madueke and several top NNPC officials had travelled to the US to attend an international oil conference in Houston, Texas. Messages sent to the Chief Press Secretary of the Petroleum Ministry, Clinton Oni and NNPC's spokesman Levi Ajuonuma were not answered.

Position	Name	State of origin	Region
1. Minister of Petroleum Resources	Diezani Alison-Madueke	Bayelsa	South-South
2. Permanent Secretary	Elizabeth Umerun	Akwa Ibom	South-South
3. Group Executive Director (Gas & Power) NNPC	Voka Mokoru	Delta	South-South
4. Group Executive Director (Corporate Services) NNPC	Mr Faithful Abbiye Suku	Rivers	South-South
5. Group Executive Director (Exploration & Production) NNPC	Philips Chukwu	Imo	South-East/Delta
6. Group Executive Director (Engineering & Technical) NNPC	Mr Billy Agha	Delta	South-South
7. Company Secretary/LA NNPC	Yinka Omoruigae	Edo	South-South
8. Group, General Manager (NAPIMS) NNPC	Anthony Fiddi	Bayelsa	South-South
9. Group General Manager (Human Resources)	Chris Osarumwense	Edo	South-South
10. Director, Department of Petroleum Resources	Andrew Obaje	Bayelsa	South-South
11. Managing Director, Nigeria Petroleum Development Company, NNPC	Mr Abiye Membre	Rivers	South-South
12. Group General Manager (Crude oil Marketing) NNPC	Jedy Agba	Delta	South-South

Federal workers insist on strike today

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dent.

However, Chairman of the Joint National Public Service Negotiating Council (JNPSNC), Trade Union side Comrade Olakunle Olaitan said yesterday that the strike must go on as intended because all their members across the nation have approved and sealed the decision.

Federal civil servants are demanding a salary increment of 75.37% but the government, after a series of meetings, only agreed to a 10% increase. They are also calling for the abolishing of the "wide disparity" that exists in the salaries of permanent secretaries and directors in the Service.

They decried a situation where "a permanent secretary earns up to ten times what a director earns and it is the directors who do all the work." They called for relativity in the amount earned by all categories of workers "for the sake of justice."

Comrade Olaitan who is also the President of the National Association of Senior Civil Servants of Nigeria (ASCSN) said his members met with government until late Saturday night with nothing tangible coming out of the interaction but the pleas by the Acting President.

He said "the strike is still on. It will commence as planned tomorrow (today) because before we finished last night's meeting, it was very, very late. We asked them what they have brought back to the negotiating table; they have brought back the Presidential plea. That is what they have brought to the table for the association.

"They are calling on the JNSNC to suspend its strike for the period of three months, but we tell them that they should do something beyond that, something concrete, which we can take to our members, the Nigerian civil servants."

He said all the eight unions will have to be consulted on the pleas but also that the workers are all agreed that they cannot accept government's offer of 10% against their demand for 75.37% salary increment.

On his part, Minister of Labour Emeka Wogu, while appealing to the workers not to embark on the planned strike action said the Federal Government was "committed to the process of working out improved working and welfare conditions within the three months time frame given to the JPSNC by the Acting President.

"The issues involved are very serious and government is not taking it lightly and I am appealing to the workers union to please reciprocate the gestures of the Acting Presi-

dent. He has asked for a three month timeframe to enable government come up with the financial implications of whatever increase will be made.

"The Acting President as you saw yesterday (May Day) has come out to identify with our workers and he saw the banners, he saw their expressions and I must confess truthfully he is more than determined to ensure that Federal Government workers go home monthly with living wages.

"All I am asking is for the workers to suspend the strike and return to the negotiating table to enable us agree on the details for whatever increase is going to be agreed, and there is no way we can agree in a war situation. We cannot build this castle in the air, whatever figure we agree must be built on realizable financial estimates and that is exactly why we are asking for the opportunity for the talks."

Wogu said that a Federal Government team led by the Head of Service of the Federation, Mr. Steve Oronsanye, himself and the Minister of Special Duties met with the trade union side of the JPSNC after the May Day celebrations.

"I am hopeful that the strike will be called off because our workers are patriotic and they will not throw away the good gestures of the Acting President. They saw him yesterday (Saturday) at the May Day parade and they saw his body language and I don't think they would want to miss this opportunity."



FROM left: Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives Usman Bayero Nafada; House members Dino Melaye and the Olubunu of Bunu, Oba J. A. Ikusemoro, after Dino was conferred with a chieftaincy tittle at the weekend at Bunu, Kogi State.

Masari, Nnamani, others are power hungry, PDP says

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) yesterday described former Federal House of Representatives Speaker Aminu Bello Masari and former Senate President Ken Nnamani and others as power hungry.

The assault on the duo and 17 other prominent members of the PDP followed a recent publication over the weekend signed by Nnamani, Masari and Chief Raymond Dopkesi which highlighted areas that required reforms in the party. PDP National Secretary Alhaji Abubakar Kawu Baraje, who condemned their activities under the auspices of 'PDP Reform Forum', said the group's latest roadmap for the party titled "Charter of Reform for the Peoples Democratic Party" was another evidence of acts of indiscipline and disregard for rule of law and judicial process in high places. Baraje said their action further established the level of desperation by those who do not wish for a stable, democratic and well administered PDP, adding that the party reacted in order to set 'the records straight without impugning on a matter already before a court of law'.



MANAGING Director, Stratech Roses Limited Mr. Moses Obisesan (left) with Managing Director, Eli Business Support Services Limited Mr. Frederick Apeji (right) and Managing Director One Financial from UK, Mr. Jeff Todd (middle) during Stratech Roses special empowerment workshop to mark this year's May Day celebration in Abuja.

Death threat: Journalists to get police protection

By Misbahu Bashir

FOUR journalists who were issued with death threats through GSM text messages may be given protections, the police have said.

The journalists, Yusuf Ali of *The Nation* Newspapers, Olusola Fabiye of *The Punch*, Chuks Okocha of *ThisDay* and Gbenga Aruleba of Africa Independent Television (AIT) received anonymous messages over the recent action of Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to direct the former Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission Professor Maurice Iwu to commence pre-disengagement leave.

The message read "You

all have no hiding place. You must be happy now that Prof. Maurice Iwu has been sacked due to your bad stories and reports. We will deal with you soon. Remember Dele Giwa, Bayo Ohu, and Edo Ubagwu? Good luck?"

The Police Public Relations Officer in Abuja Moshood Jimoh said case is being investigated by the police and if it is confirmed to be correct, the journalists will be protected. "It is our responsibility to protect the people and if anybody is threatened and the person request police protection, definitely he will be protected," he said.

Giwa, Ohu and Ubagwu were journalists killed by unidentified people.

NDLEA finds 2kg of heroin in stethoscope

By Shehu Abubakar

A 54-year old man, Igwilo Emmans Mathias, has been arrested for allegedly importing 2 kilograms of powdery substance that tested positive to heroin concealed in a stethoscope.

Mathias was arrested at the arrival hall of Murtala Mohammed International Airport (MMIA), Lagos, by operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) while passing through the body scanner mounted at the airport.

When the hand bag he was holding was opened, five packets of stethoscopes were inspected and were found to have contained heroin each totalling 2 kilograms neatly packed in them.

The 54 year old Mathias that allegedly imported the narcotic substance arrived the airport with his Nigerian passport on board an Emirate flight from Indian. The five stethoscopes packed with heroin were also found containing jewelheries.

Mathias told *Daily Trust* that he had lived in Bombay, India for 10 years working in a factory and that he is mar-

ried with six children.

"My family that lived in Lagos were ejected for their inability to pay their rent. My wife and six children in Lagos are homeless. I was greatly disturbed and needed some money to rent a house for my wife and kids. They promised to pay me 3,000 dollars if I had succeeded. I am from Anambra state," he said.

NDLEA Commander at the airport Alhaji Hamza Umar commended his officers for the discovery despite the ingenious mode of concealment. He said the suspect will soon be charged to court.

Minister warns officials against maltreating prisoners

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

INTERIOR Minister Capt. Emmanuel Iheanacho has warned prison wardens against maltreating inmates saying the days of brutality are over.

The minister also admonished officials to see their service in the Nigeria Prisons Service as a patriotic call to serve humanity and their fatherland.

Capt. Iheanacho gave the charge in response to the recent botched attempt at jailbreak in Kaduna, after a working visit to prison, which is one of the oldest in Nigeria.

He advised officials to always be guided by the rule of engagement so that the long arm of the law does not catch up with them in the discharge of their duties.

While inspecting the cells, the minister encouraged the inmates to conduct themselves in a manner that public peace would

not be breached again.

He also directed that those with injuries be treated promptly and regularly too.

Capt. Iheanacho solicited the cooperation of the inmates as government is doing everything it can to decongest the prisons to "provide a good environment for all our prisons."

The minister assured the inmates that those in unnecessary captivity will soon be set free and urged them to be of good behaviour to justify the positive intention of government.

Earlier, the Comptroller General of Prisons Mr. Olusola Ogunipe had pleaded with the minister to encourage governors to use their power of clemency as the surest way to decongest prisons.

He said a situation where 60 - 65% of inmates are awaiting trials is putting unnecessary pressure on the prisons in terms of manpower and resources.

Cleric defends Yarima's marriage to teen

By Abbas Jimoh

THE chief Imam of Fouad Lababidi Central Mosque Sheik Tajudeen Bello said those protesting the marriage of Senator Ahmad Sani Yarima are hypocrites.

Speaking at the special family seminar of the Islamic Da'awah Group (IDG) yesterday in Abuja themed "The Ideal Husband", the Muslim cleric also said that the tit-for-tat killings in Plateau State would not stop until perpetrators of the killings were brought to book by the government.

Senator Yarima has been in the eyes of the storm for marrying an Egyptian girl who was alleged to be 13 years old.

"It is unfortunate that the same people criticising Senator Yarima cannot criticise and protest the wanton child abuse going on in the country. Under their nose in Abuja, girls of school age are involved in prostitution and can be seen at hotels and streets. There is nothing wrong in that marriage as far as Islam is concerned."

Sheik Bello listed sincerity, justice, forgiveness, wisdom, contentment, firmness, fear of Allah and imbibing the teaching of Islam as practiced by Prophet Muhammad as some of the characteristics of an ideal husband that goes a long way in shaping state of the family, society and world.

In his contribution, an educationist and Muslim cleric, Ustadh AbdulFatah Adeyemi, enjoined couples to seek ways of living harmoniously with each other, adding that obedience to the provisions of Islam is a guarantee of peaceful family life.

The Chief of Imam of University of Abuja, Dr Taofik AbdulAzeez, who urged Muslim couples to see their unionism as a destiny, test and trust from Allah and should ensure that they guard it to enjoy everlasting joy, said that married couples should prepared themselves to forgive each other and overlook their shortcomings.

Arewa youths hail Media Trust

By Abdulmetallib A. Abubakar

AREWA Youth for Peace and Security (AYPS) has applauded Media Trust Limited, publishers of Daily, Weekly and Sunday Trust newspapers, for promoting peace and stability in the entire country.

National president of the group Abdulganiyu Aminu made the commendation when he led the group on a visit to Media Trust's corporate office in Abuja.

He also commended the newspapers over their coverage of the recent ethno-political conflicts in some northern

states.

He said Daily Trust newspaper has not taken part in all the religious and ethnic crises in the north and unbiased in reportage of events in the country adding that it has always been a vanguard of promoting peace and everything good in the country.

Aminu identified economic deprivations and injustice as some of the reasons why the youths partake in crises. He said if the Federal Government would engage the youths economically and educationally, they wouldn't have the time to take part in conflicts.

Kaduna approves N98m death benefits for civil servants

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

GOVERNOR Namadi Sambo of Kaduna State has approved the payment of death benefits to 63 civil servants in the state who died in active service.

The governor in a statement

by his Special Adviser on Media and Public Affairs Alhaji Umar Sani said N98.5 million had been approved for the purpose.

He said the beneficiaries cut across various ministries and parastatals in the state, adding that the prompt payment of the ben-

efits was in line with the administration's commitment to the welfare of workers.

The governor has also approved the release of N5.6 million for BATC students fees for the 2010 NABTEB modular grade certificate examination.

"The money is for a total of 1,163 students, out of which 116 are undergoing training in building, 343, carpentry, 294, electrical appliances, 178 motor vehicle repair, 46 plumbing, 34 radio maintenance and 152 for welding," he said.

Anambra to make agriculture attractive

From Beatrice Onuchukwu, Awka

ANAMBRA State governor Mr. Peter Obi has assured farmers in the state of his plans to make agriculture attractive through enduring policies.

Governor Peter Obi said this yesterday at the launch of the state's 2010 farming season in Awka. Obi assured the farmers that the government was aware of the importance of the agriculture sector and promised that the state fertilizer plant under construction would soon be completed.

He also promised that the government would ensure that adequate fertilizer is procured and sold to farmers at the grassroots at a subsidized rate.

He said for this year's farming season, that government had procured 4,350 metric tonnes of fertilizer for N343,687,500. The distribution of the fertilizers was also flagged off yesterday.

"It is on record that this administration is pursuing its agricultural policies with vigour as substantial achievements have been recorded in the sector. All Counterpart Cash Contributions (SCCC) for all externally sponsored agriculture programmes have been paid for.

These programmes include FADAMA III, National Programme for Food Security (NPFS), Root and Tuber Expansion Programme (RTEP) and IFAD-Assisted RUFIN Programme," he said.

The governor added that the state government had concluded plans to resuscitate the Anambra State Integrated Livestock Company (AILL) and that the Federal Government had acceded to the request for the transfer of ownership of the Giant Rice Mill at Omor to the state for resuscitation and proper management.

The state Commissioner for Agriculture Chief Ezenagu commended for his efforts at boosting agriculture in the state.



EUROPEAN Union Trade Representative Mr. Peter Thompson (middle) flanked by Head of Politics, Trade and Economics, EU Delegation, Nigeria, Mrs. Belen Calvo Uyarra (left) and EU Regional Trade Officer Marta Zaoralora at the briefing on new trade partnership with Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific in Abuja yesterday.

Civil servants to repeat promotion exam in Niger

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

CIVIL servants in Niger State who failed the recent promotion examination have been given another opportunity to retake the examination. It is expected to be taken within the next two weeks, Governor Babangida Aliyu has said. Aliyu, who said this Saturday during his speech to mark the 2010

May Day celebration in Minna, said the decision was to give the workers an opportunity to be promoted.

"We are not out to fail anyone and we cannot promote any officer who is not qualified. But in view of the request by the NLC chairman, we will give those who failed another opportunity to re-write the examination and we shall wait

to see the outcome," he said.

Aliyu also directed the Head of Service Alhaji Abdullahi Dan Yahaya to ensure that the examination is conducted for the affected civil servants and that the gesture should also be extended to new officers who are qualified for promotion. He commended the state NLC for its donation of hospital equipment worth over N2 million

to state government's rural health programme.

"I am happy to note that Niger State workers are playing their parts at different levels to ensure the realization of our aspirations," he said. Earlier, the chairman of the state chapter of the NLC Comrade Seth Abner said the equipment would be distributed equally among the three geo-political zones of the state.

Group cautions Adamawa PDP leadership on Atiku

From Abdulfatai Abdulsalami, Sokoto

THE National Youth Discussion Group (NYDG) has cautioned some leaders of the Peoples Democratic Party in Adamawa State to stop the campaign of calumny against former Vice President Atiku Abubakar.

Addressing newsmen in Sokoto at the weekend, the group's National President Ibrahim Abdullahi said they were calling on the leadership in the state to settle the issue amicably. The group maintained

that Atiku's return to the party was a homecoming as he is one of the founding members of the party.

According to the group, the former vice president remains a bona fide indigene of the state and a strong pillar of the party in the state as well as nationally.

The NYDG urged Atiku's supporters to discountenance any negative action by anyone or group against the former vice president, saying he had neither violated the constitution of the nation nor that of the party.

Muslim women, students back Yarima on marriage

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

A female Muslim group, Women in Dawah and the Muslim Students Society of Nigeria (MSSN) in Kaduna State yesterday said they were behind the former Governor of Zamfara State Senator Ahmed Sani Yerima, saying his alleged marriage to a 13 year old Egyptian girl was in line with the teachings of Islam.

The groups in separate interviews warned all those criticizing Senator Yerima over the issue to desist, saying any attack on him would be seen as an attack on the religion. The state Coordinator of the Women in Dawah, Mallama Rabi'atu Sufyanu Ahmad, said the Shariah legal system allows Muslims to marry a girl of 13 years as long as the parents of the girl give their consent.

"Yerima should be praised for marrying a girl of 13 years because he was trying to emulate the prophet

Mohammed (SAW). The prophet married his wife, Aisha at the age of 9. So you see, what Yarima did was in line with the teaching of Islam," she said.

She urged those castigating the former governor to desist and allow him to practice his religion as guaranteed by the country's constitution. "All those women groups claiming to be championing the interests of women should intensify efforts at correcting societal ills in the country, especially as it concerns women and not on issues bordering on religion," she said. The Publicity Secretary of the Northern zone of the MSSN Malam Yusuf Argasiyu also said what the former governor did was in line with the teachings of Islam and that those attacking him were assaulting Islam.

"Yerima or any other Muslim in Nigeria has the right to marry any girl of his choice even if she is just one year old as long as her parents give their permission," he said.

'Kebbi ready to pay minimum wage'

From Isma'il Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi,

GOVERNOR Saidu Usman Dakingari of Kebbi State has said that his administration is ready to pay workers in the state civil service the new minimum wage being demanded by the Nigerian Labour Congress, if approved by the Federal Government. The governor said this while addressing workers in the state at an event to mark this year's workers day in Birnin Kebbi. Dakingari said his administration was committed to eradicating poverty in the state and creating an enduring society through an efficient and dedicated workforce.

"Kebbi State is doing well, we are not owing salaries or allowances and anytime the minimum wage is approved, we will pay it," he said.

He said the achievements of his administration in the past three years, particularly in the health, education and agriculture sectors were as a result of contributions of the efficient civil servants in the state.

"My government has never turned down any request aimed at improving the welfare of workers because we believe they have to be taken care-of to be able to contribute to the development of the state," he added.

The governor enjoined the workers to be patient with his government on the difficulties being experienced with the e-payment exercise, saying the e-payment system was necessary to know the exact number of workers on the government's pay roll.

"It will not be fair if people are not being paid their salaries at the end of the month, it will also be bad if we do not pay the entitlements of retired workers. We want to do all these without hitches, that is why we opted for the e-payment system. I know that some people who are dead and are still collecting salaries in Kebbi State, I know of a messenger in the civil service, who is collecting N90,000.00 per month, I know some people in my household, who are not working, but are collecting salaries. I also know of housewives who are being paid, we have to stop all these, if we

must pay workers promptly. Some people in the system are not happy about it because they are benefiting from it, but I have vowed to protect the right of every worker in the state. If anyone wants money, he must work for it, if anyone in the Ministry of Finance is found making the e-payment system difficult for workers, he/she will be made to face the law," he said.

He said his administration was working on modalities to make it possible for workers to secure loans from the state government. He therefore urged them to help his administration to make life meaningful and comfortable for the people. The state chairman of the NLC, comrade Muhammed Nasir, said the May Day accords workers the opportunity to share ideas, reflect on the past and plan for the future. He thanked the Dakingari administration for making the impact of the government felt in areas such as road constructions, rural and urban water supply, hospitals rehabilitation, implementation of the HATISS for health workers and the 27.5 percent salary increment for teachers in the state.

Doma pledges commitment to Nasarawa-Kogi link

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

NASARAWA State Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma has pledged his administration's support to the Federal Government and the Kogi State government to ensure the completion of the Guto-Bagana road project, which is expected to provide a link between Nasarawa and Kogi States.

Doma, who made the pledge during his "Meet the people tour" at Loko Development Area of the state yesterday said, "I will like to use this opportunity

to assure the people of Loko Development Area of the completion of the Guto - Bagana road project, which is a collaborative effort of the Federal, Kogi and Nasarawa State government. I have no doubt in my mind that once, this project is completed, it will open up the area to the world, enhance accelerated socio-economic activities, generate employment and create wealth for the people."

The governor said the tour had given him an opportunity to assess the administration's developmental efforts

and to brainstorm with stakeholders on how to make the area better.

The governor also visited Udege Development Area and Nasarawa Local Government Area, where he pledged his administration's commitment towards improvement in the areas of education, health and agriculture.

He expressed satisfaction with the works on the Kokona junction, Agwada - Udege Mbeki road, construction and upgrade of the Nasarawa Urban Water Supply Scheme.

Borno NLC faults govt on unemployment

From Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

THERE has been no visible commitment on the part of the Borno State government to tackle unemployment as it has neither resuscitated any ailing industry nor created an enabling environment for the resuscitation of dormant industries in the state, the state Chairman of the Nigerian Labour Congress Malam Garba Ngamdu has said. Delivering his speech during this year's May Day celebration in Maiduguri on Saturday, Malam Ngamdu observed that the lack of industries had denied unemployed graduates in the state the opportunity of contributing their quota to the

development of the state. He added that there was a need for the state government to expand the micro-credit finance banking scheme to all the 27 local government areas through the involvement of clubs and associations to empower entrepreneurs at the grassroots and encourage self-reliance. Acknowledging the state government's efforts at improving the welfare

of civil servants in the state, which was demonstrated through the signing of an agreement now at 95 percent implementation stage, he appealed to the state government to hasten the completion of the Borno State Information Technology Institute to reduce unemployment rate in the state.

Victims of Riyom killings receive mass burial

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE nine travellers killed and buried in shallow graves in Riyom Local Government Area of Plateau State, last month were at the weekend in Jos given a mass burial, following the exhumation of the bodies. It was reported last month that seven passengers, who were travelling through Jos were attacked and killed by youths in Riyom Local Government Area and subsequently buried. Two extra bodies were also discovered during the exhumation, bringing the

number to nine.

Speaking with our correspondents after the burial at the Naraguta burial ground, leaders of the Jama'atul Nasril Islam (JNI) who supervised the burial said the delay in burying the deceased was as a result of the autopsy, which was carried out to ascertain the real cause of their deaths. He added that the death certificate showed that they were forcefully killed.

The JNI said the consent of the deceased's families was sought before they were buried.

Bauchi pays N800m pension arrears

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

BAUCHI State Governor Isa Yuguda says his administration has paid over N800 million as pension arrears which he inherited from the administration of former Governor Adamu Mu'azu, adding that he would continue to improve the welfare of civil servants in the state.

The governor, who said this at the 2010 May Day celebration in Bauchi, described civil servants as the bedrock of any society, saying it was in view of this, that his administration approved and implemented various professional salary structures such as the HATISS, CONTISS, TSS and Hazard allowances. The governor said 90 percent of the 1,600 civil servants that

sat for promotion examination in the state passed and had been promoted, adding that over 1,000 cars were also purchased for the civil servants to motivate them.

The state acting chairman of the Nigeria Labour Congress, Comrade Hashimu Gital, while commending the governor for his efforts in improving the living condition of the civil servants, called on the government to promote those who were yet to be promoted. Comrade Hashimu also commended the government for allocating to the NLC, 55 hectares of land at Natsira village, along Gombe road for the construction of houses for workers. He urged the state government to provide the village with all necessary social amenities.



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NOTICE

TENDERS BID EXTENSION

This is to inform the general public that the closing date of tender bidding published in Daily Sun Newspaper (April 6th 2010), Daily Trust Newspaper (April 6th 2010) and Federal Tender Journal (April 5th 2010), which was scheduled to close at 12noon on 10th May, 2010 has now been extended.

The tender now closes on the 31st May, 2010 by 12noon. All other conditions remain unchanged.

Signed
Management

ACF @ 10: Forging a greater North

In spite of articulating northern position on issues, defending the north at the Oputa panel and intervening in the Tiv/Jukun crisis in Taraba State and other trouble spots in the North, the never-ending crises in Jos is an open sore on the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF's) attempt at forging a one North, one people monolith which it is seeking to reinvent. However, there is still hope, as the 10th anniversary celebration of last Thursday has shown.

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

REUNIONS, milestones and anniversaries call for celebration and sober reflection and last Thursday, the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) rolled out the drums, received a few knocks and several plaudits. Politicians, traditional and religious leaders, as well as businessmen, including elder statesmen and retired military generals felicitated with the ACF at 10. Similarly, the Ijaw National Congress, Agbo Peoples Assembly and other regional bodies clicked glasses with the pan northern group.

In addition, thousands left their abodes, businesses and work places and trooped to the Arewa House in Kaduna for the anniversary lecture and the venue, as early as 10 am, was filled to the brim as people jostled for space. At 11.10 am, the event kicked off one hour 45 minutes late but the brilliant presentations made up for the lost time.

Specifically, Ibrahim Bata Malgwi Haruna, a retired general and ACF's chairman, set the tone in his welcome address. The ACF, according to him, was founded to foster unity in the North and peace and stability in Nigeria. The forum, in this regard, remains firm and resolute and northern leaders, since inception, have been funding its struggle for these ideals. The forum, the chairman said, has not fared too badly in the last 10 years and ACF has cause to celebrate. Thereafter, Justice Lawal Uwais, representing former Head of State General Yakubu Gowon, reiterated the forum's raison d'être. Crises, ethno-religious tensions and other dreadful events led to the formation of the ACF.

In 1999 or thereabouts, the North was ridden with strife and northerners, according to Gowon, "became their brothers' killers and not keepers." Surprisingly, the hostilities broke out in communities, the general lamented, "that have lived together for centuries in total peace and brotherhood." Strangely, mistrust and animosity were growing and people were getting divided along ethnic and religious lines and to stem the tide, preserve northern unity and brotherhood, the ACF was established to serve the

diverse communities. In conclusion, Gowon saluted the vision and sacrifices of the founding fathers, as well as ACF's past and present leaders for actualising the vision.

Similarly, Architect Namadi Sambo, the Kaduna State governor, re-echoed ACF's objectives, describing them as noble and novel. The forum was founded on March 7, 2000 in Kaduna by traditional rulers and eminent leaders of thought to serve as a platform for consultation within northern communities on all matters of security and welfare as well as a vehicle for conflict resolution and promoting northern unity. Particularly, Alhaji Muhammad Macido, the late Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Ibrahim Sulu Gambari, the emir of Ilorin and ex President Shehu Shagari, including Malam Yahaya Gusau, now deceased and Alhaji MD Yusuf, former Inspector General of Police and the late Chief Sunday Awoniyi as well as Alhaji Liman Ciroma and Justice Mamman Nasir and a host of others were the behind the forum. Similarly, Alhaji Yusuf Maitama Sule, Danmasanin Kano, Alhaji Aminu Dantatta, a prominent business man and retired Generals IBM Haruna and Jeremiah Useni played significant roles. The theme, "Fighting corruption and social conflicts towards achieving development," according to the governor, was both timely and apt and he wished ACF a happy anniversary celebration.

Thereafter, Sulu Gambari revealed how the ACF was formed, recalling the mood of that moment. The forum, without any doubt, was the creation of Macido and in 2000, after the Kaduna crisis, the then sultan rallied round prominent northerners and met in Kaduna. The sultan, according to Gambari, mooted the idea and the meeting agreed to float a pan northern group. Shagari, at that meeting, was mandated to do the ground work but politely, the ex president declined the offer, citing his Turaki committee. Thereafter, the sultan assigned Gambari and the emir and other northerners got cracking and ACF was born.

Significantly, Generals Haruna and Gowon, including Sambo and Sulu Gambari's remarks were mere plots to the main act



GENERAL Yakubu Gowon

of "Fighting corruption and social conflicts."

Sultan Saad gave the prologue to the main address, delivered by Professor Bolaji Akinyemi, a distinguished scholar and public servant. The sultan, before Akinyemi's paper, said religious and political leaders, as well as leaders of thought, were responsible for peace in their domains and God and posterity "will not forgive us if we fail to discharge this responsibility seriously and equitably."

Leaders, at all levels, should protect everyone in their area and using the blood, honour and livelihood of the citizenry for political gains, he reminded the audience, "translates into misery and continued insecurity of our people." In addition, development challenges such as high number of drop outs, infant and child mortality rates and desert encroachment, including other declining development indices, worry the sultan.

However, to slay the ogre of corruption, he gave a simple and age long panacea, steeped in the teachings of Sheikh Abdullahi Ibn Fodio who asked leaders to "rebuke anyone who fails in his duties. Remove anyone against whom complaints have been made. Whoever is found to have wealth over and above what he earns from his work, the ruler should confiscate and return the wealth to the treasury. If there is a doubt over the origin of the wealth, we shall confiscate half of it from the employees."

The sultan, in his speech, merely scratched at the surface of corruption but Akinyemi, the lead presenter, dug deep into the phenomenon and his

presentation was rich and incisive. Using facts and figures, he illustrated the nexus between corruption and underdevelopment and Nigeria, from his analysis, looked like a giant with clay feet. First and foremost, he listed bribery, graft, patronage and trading influence, as well as nepotism and cronyism, as inhibiting our progress. In addition, embezzlement, kickbacks, electoral and voter fraud, including unholy alliances are all forms of corruption. In the latter, business cartels collude to frustrate government policies for vested interests. Interestingly, workers who receive salaries, according to Akinyemi, for not doing their work engage in "quiet corruption" which impacts more on the poor who have no alternative. Combined, from 1960 to 1999, these corrupt practices have stolen 400 billion dollars from Nigeria and the thievery still continues as the nation ranks low in every development index.

Conversely, in 2009, the country was 139th out of the 180 countries in Transparency International's corruption perception index. In 2005, the life expectancy in Nigeria was 46.5 years, Akinyemi stated, while Gabon's was 56 years. Similarly, Namibi, Ghana, Murtania as well as Sao Tome and Principe have higher life expectancy than Nigeria, with 52,59,63, and 65 years respectively. Also, war ravaged Congo(54), Togo(58), Haiti(60), Gambia(59) and Bangladesh's(63) figures are higher than the giant of Africa's. In addition, the professor reeled off more gory statistics, suggesting that Nigeria may become a failed state. In 2009, the Fund for Peace

released the failed states index and Nigeria, according to Akinyemi, ranked 15 out of the 117 nations that were surveyed as states most likely to fail. Nigeria, on all 12 factors, suffers a deficiency on issues that determine the stability or failure of a state.

After wards, Muazu Babangida Aliyu, chief servant of Niger State, took the stage and dominated proceedings. The governor asked the North to forget the presidency in 2011. The North, in his opinion, should articulate its "concerns and needs and judge candidates by what they can deliver to us rather than where they come from."

Poverty, educational backwardness and infrastructural gaps, including the almajiri challenge stare the North in the face and the region, according to him, should aim to tackle them instead of hankering for power. The governor launched the History of ACF, a book detailing the actors, travails and trajectory of the forum. Coaxing, cajoling and needling fellow governors and other dignitaries, the chief servant extracted over N15 million in pledges.

Thereafter, presentations continued but after Akinyemi's treatise, there was little else to add as other speakers merely aligned with him. Senator Jibril Aminu, representing the senate president, said Nigerians, in spite of everything, were a happy people and the coun-

try was not a failed state. Alhaji Yayale Ahmed, the Secretary of the Government of the Federation, represented Acting President Goodluck Jonathan and the chief scribe, like Akinyemi, acknowledged the ills of corruption. However, going back to the basics, in his opinion, is the way out.

Nigerians, in his view, should stop lionising corrupt people and the ACF, as a pan northern group, should sanction any public officer of northern origin that is corrupt and by so doing, it will earn respect. Significantly, Yayale's speech ended the first segment but the lecture continued in the afternoon, when Mrs Farida Waziri, the EFCC chairman as well as Professor J.O Irukwe, former chairman of Ohanze Ndigbo, including Professor Abubakar Saddique, a lecturer in ABU Zaria, also delivered papers. At the afternoon session, the lecturers kept referring to Akinyemi's presentation and Mrs Waziri promised to turn it into a booklet and distribute.

At 10, ACF has several garlands around its neck as it has articulated northern interests, but the crises in Jos, like a whitlow thumb, have defied the forum's intervention. However, the presence of the Gbong Gwon Jos, Da Jacob Gyang Buba at the anniversary celebration, showed that there is a silver lining in the cloud of the Jos crises.

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RE-CEAT, VNL TECHNICAL COLLABORATION

We seek to redress reports in some national dailies that Ceat Pvt. Limited India and Viramsun Nigeria Limited (VNL) have signed technical alliance for the production of Suntrac Tyres, as on date, no such collaboration currently exist, between both companies and its subsidiary, Associate Ceat (Pvt) Limited (ACPL), Sri Lanka.

Suntrac brand of tyres are currently being produced by ACPL for VNL under a mutual agreement which does not infer any technical partnership as was previously published. We regret the misinterpretation of facts in this instance.

Viramsun Nigeria Limited is therefore committed to consistently deliver excellent products and services at competitive prices by ensuring total conformity to established worldwide-quality systems to its customers and in ensuring the best cost/km for its entire range of products.

Signed for & behalf of
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BORNO STATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE COMMISSION

P.M.B. 1098 MAIDUGURI

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Borno State Local Government Service Commission is inviting competent and reputable contractors to submit expression of interest for the following jobs as indicated below:-

- Establishment of Data Bank
- Procurement and supply of office furniture

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Application for pre-qualification should be accompanied with the following:

- Evidence of incorporation with Corporate Affairs Commission
- Evidence of Registration with Borno State Government
- Tax clearances certificate for 3 yrs and VAT Registration
- Verifiable evidence of previous work done with Government Agencies
- Detail company profile (personnel)
- Letter of recommendation from the company's Bankers indicating the financial capacity of the company to undertake the job if awarded.

COLLECTION OF BID DOCUMENTS

All contractors and Companies wishing to express their interest to bid for this project shall be invited to collect Tender documents upon-payment of a non-refundable bid fee of fifty Thousand Naira (N50,000.00) only.

SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Interested Contractors and Companies must submit their pre-qualification document to the office of the Executive Chairman, Borno State Local Government Service Commission P.M.B. 1098 Maiduguri, and bidding will commence on 6th May, 2010 at the Permanent Secretary office at 10:00am.

SIGNED:
ALH. GALADIMA ZANNAH
PERMANENT SECRETARY
FOR: EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN



THE PRESIDENCY THE GOVERNING BOARD THE NIGERIAN NATIONAL MERIT AWARD

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE AUCTIONING OF A USED 500KVA SOUND PROOF PERKINS GENERATOR SET.

The Nigerian National Merit Award hereby invites competent and registered auctioneers to tender for the auctioning of a used 500KVA sound proof Perkins generator set.

2. BIDS REQUIREMENTS

- Certificate of incorporation/registration with The Corporate Affairs Commission;
- Registration with relevant bodies;
- Previous experience on similar job(s);
- Current Tax Clearance Certificate;
- Company profile;
- Evidence(s) of Compliance with the provision of Pension Reform Act, 2004;
- Demonstration of financial capabilities.

3. SUBMISSION OF BIDS

i. All bids documents should be submitted in five (5) copies in a sealed envelop marked "BID TO AUCTION A USED 500KVA SOUND PROOF PERKINS GENERATOR SET" at the top left hand corner.

ii. All submissions should be returned within six weeks from the date of the advertisement and addressed to:

The Secretary
Nigerian National Merit Award
3rd Floor, Merit House Complex
No.22 Aguiyi Ironsi Street
Maitama, Abuja.

OPENING OF BIDS DOCUMENTS

Submissions shall be opened at 10.00a.m on 15th June, 2010 in the presence of all bidders at the NNMA Secretariat Board room 3rd Floor of the Merit House Complex.

Signed
Secretary, NNMA



STUDY IN THE UK



The University of Bath is a high ranking UK University with a strong reputation for Management, Engineering, International Development, Economics, Social Policy and Science. Set in the South-West of England, it provides students with an attractive, safe and well resourced learning environment, and enjoys a strong reputation among employers worldwide

The University of York is a high-quality, research-focused University offering a diverse student lifestyle. You can expect a welcoming environment and strong support networks alongside excellent academic and social facilities, all close to the historic city of York. We have around 30 Nigerian students studying Management, IT, Communication Engineering, Public Administration and Health related subjects.

Ms. Jo Power from the University of Bath and Mr. Doug Pearce from the University of York will be visiting Nigeria in May to hold interview sessions and to generally advise students on the advantages of studying at their respective world-class institutions. Presentations in UK study generally and specifically on the Universities of Bath and York will be held continuously throughout the day.

The interview sessions will hold as shown below:

Abuja

Date: Tuesday 4th May 2010
Time: 10am - 4pm
Venue: Dave Abion Consulting
Suite 206 (second floor),
JINIFA PLAZA (opposite Securities &
Exchange Commission Office),
Muhammadu Buhari Way,
Central Business District, Abuja F.C.T.
Contact: Mary or Tola
Tel: 09-8729252
Mobile: 08068559860, 08085246888,
08058356774, 07094023031
E-mail: daveabionbj@yahoo.com

Lagos (Ikeja)

Date: Friday 7th May 2010
Time: 10am - 4pm
Venue: Dave Abion Consulting
6th floor, (wing F)
Elephant Cement House,
Alausa Ikeja, Lagos.
Contact: Tara or Ify
Tel: 01-7379959, 7379960, 7746088
Mobile: 08062700622, 07055177000,
07087757986
Fax: 01-2714723
E-mail: daveabion@yahoo.com

Lagos (Ikoyi)

Date: Thursday 6th May 2010
Time: 10am - 4pm
Venue: British Council
20 Thompson Avenue, Ikoyi, Lagos.
Contact: Vivianne or Henry
Tel: 01-4627838
Mobile: 07033383220, 08081172252,
0705877704
E-mail: daveabion_vi@yahoo.co.uk

Lagos (Ikeja)

Date: Saturday 8th May 2010
Time: 10am - 4pm
Venue: Dave Abion Consulting
6th floor, (wing F), Elephant Cement House,
Alausa Ikeja, Lagos.
Contact: Tara or Ify
Tel: 01-7379959, 7379960, 7746088
Mobile: 08062700622, 07055177000,
07087757986
Fax: 01-2714723
E-mail: daveabion@yahoo.com

All intending foundation, undergraduate and postgraduate students attending the interviews should bring along originals and photocopies of their certificates, transcripts, testimonials, academic and work references (if applicable).

Please contact any of the Dave Abion Consulting offices indicated above to make an appointment



ENERGY COMMISSION OF NIGERIA



PRE-QUALIFICATION

1. INTRODUCTION

The Energy Commission of Nigeria (ECN) invites interested and credible Companies to apply for pre-qualification for the various Projects of the Commission for the 2010 Fiscal Year.

2. SCOPE

The scope of work includes:

- LOT 1: Solar Based Rural Electrification (Solar Street Lights) – Provision of 10kW solar PV installation for Rural Electrification in various locations in the country.
- LOT 2 Solar based water pumping project.
- LOT 3 Sustainable Energy Development:
- Manpower development,
 - Energy Modelling and
 - Energy Efficiency.
 - Pilot Project
- LOT 4 Biofuel, Biomass, Land-fill gas and Biogas Projects for Electrification
- LOT 5 Development of Energy Farm for Pilot Biofuel Production.
- LOT 6 Supply and Installation of VirtualDoxx Record Management and File Tracking System (RFID)
- LOT 7 Supply and installation of 500KVA & 300KVA 33/415 & 11/415 Transformers
- LOT 8 Procurement and installation of 500KVA/33 Transformers at various locations

3. PRE-QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

The following requirement for pre-qualification must be submitted

- i) Evidence of Company Incorporation in Nigeria
- ii) Evidence of Tax Clearance and VAT Certificate
- iii) Evidence of Registration with the Energy Commission of Nigeria
- iv) Company Profile with list of Technical/Managerial Staff with evidence of previous work experience detailed clients, nature of work/contract, contract sum etc
- v) Articulated Work Plan and Methodology.
- vi) Evidence of Financial capability
- vii) Evidence of submission of Annual returns from CAC
- viii) Experience in handling similar job is an added advantage.
- ix) Full Office Address of the Company and GSM Number(s)

4. SUBMISSION

Pre-qualification documents must be in sealed envelope marked, "CONFIDENTIAL PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR ECN 2010 FISCAL YEAR CAPITAL PROJECTS" and the LOT of interest clearly printed at the top left corner of the envelope and submit within six (6) weeks from the date of this publication to:

The Director General/CEO
Energy Commission of Nigeria
Plot 701C, Central Business Area
P. M. B. 358, Garki,
Abuja.

Note - The submission of the pre-qualification documents is not a guarantee for the award of contract. Only pre-qualified companies shall be invited to pick the Bid document.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL/CEO
Energy Commission of Nigeria, Abuja.



THE PRESIDENCY THE GOVERNING BOARD THE NIGERIAN NATIONAL MERIT AWARD

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF BOOKS AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE NNMA LIBRARY.

The Nigerian National Merit Award (NNMA) is desirous of developing a library that would compete favourably with any standard academic library around the globe in terms of collections and infrastructure. In the light of the foregoing, The Governing Board of the NNMA hereby invites interested and reputable Publishing Houses/ companies to tender for the supply of:-

(A) Research Books.

The books required will be in the four core areas:-Viz. Science; Medicine; Engineering/Technology; Humanities and other fields of human endeavour.

(B) Library Equipment: - Double sided shelves, 7' X 3'deep closed; Reading Carrels and Reading Chairs.

2. Tender Requirements:

i. Evidence of legal status of the company (i.e. certificate of incorporation/registration);
ii. Registration with relevant bodies; iii. Previous experience on similar job(s); iv. Project Personnel Compliment lists; v. Current Tax clearance certificate; vi. VAT Registration Certificate; vii. Company's profile; viii. Evidence(s) of Compliance with the Provision of pension Reform Act, 2004; x. Demonstration of financial capabilities; xi. A non-refundable tender fee of N20,000.00 payable to the Nigerian National Merit Award.

3. Submission of Documents

i. Interested publishing houses/companies should obtain the list of the Books and Library equipment from the NNMA Secretariat
ii. All submissions should be returned within six weeks from the date of advertisement;
iii. The envelope should be clearly marked "Tender for the supply of Books for the NNMA Library" or "Tender for the supply of Library Equipment" and addressed to:-

The Secretary
Nigerian National Merit Award
3rd Floor, Merit House Complex
No. 22, Aguiyi Ironsi Street
Maitama, Abuja.

N/B: All submissions should be made in five sets of hard copy and two sets in electronic format (Microsoft word or Excel) 2003 or 2007 format in flash disk with appropriate label.

4. Opening of Tender Bids Documents

Submissions shall be opened at 10:00 a.m. on 15th June, 2010 in the presence of all bidders at the NNMA Secretariat 3rd floor of the Merit House Complex.

Signed
Secretary, NNMA.

Community Health and Research Initiative (CHR) Kano, Nigeria - RC No. 15,356

2008 CHR EXTERNAL AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income and expenditure account or the year ended 31st December 2008

	NOTES	2008	2007
INCOME:		N	N
COMPASS/USAID		4,135,860	1,470,985
PATHS/DFID Grants		4,560,981	4,946,877
APHRC, Nairobi Grants		3,140,747	4669,516
Management Strategies for Africa		295,000	
MacArthur Foundations Grants		8,850,000	
Population Council Grant		498,750	
Internally Generated Revenue	7	987,115	554,305
		22,468,453	7,441,683
LESS: EXPENDITURE			
COMPASS/USAID Expenses		2,553,981	1,143,575
PATHS/DFID Expenses		4,558,092	3,943,826
APHRC, Nairobi		3,135,877	
Management Strategies for Africa		295,000	
MacArthur Foundation		7,814,827	
Other expenditure	8	1,325,664	2,396,237
		19,683,441	7,483,438
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year		2,785,012	(41,755)
Surplus/ (Deficit) B/F		(173,007)	(131,252)
Surplus/ (Deficit) C/F		2,612,005	(173,007)

External Auditors:
Ahmad Rabi'u & Co.
Certified National Accountants

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



Minister advocates review of teacher education programmes

MADAM Minister, with all due respect, why is it that you all dodged away from the simple

truth about education in this country? New curriculum, teacher

skills & whatever you may think of will not help. There is only one thing that

will help and that is improving teachers' welfare! Other than that, madam, you

can do no magic!
Ado A Umaru
umaruado@yahoo.com

Iwu refuses to hand over

IT'S apparent that nobody in this country wants Iwu to be reappointed to head the INEC. If he is doing the job for the public and the people don't want him any longer, what is he still doing? People are tired of corrupt leaders.

Buhari Sani Gusau
sanibuhari@gmail.com

As commendable as the 'sacking' of Iwu is - at least it satisfied the agitations of many Nigerians - the Acting President needs to make good his promise of changes in the entire electoral system. There is no point putting new wine in an old wineskin.

Oyeniran Opeyemi
oneope@yahoo.com

It was very unfortunate that the acting President had to eat his words. He told CNN that Prof. Iwu's tenure expires in June... why didn't he allow the constitutional provision take effect? This is the kind of double-talk leadership you are presenting to us and yet you are secretly aspiring for the presidency. I hope you may not do the same thing to Sanusi, the CBN governor since security advisers have turned into economic experts without having anything related to his experience. May God save Nigeria.

Engr. Baba Shehu

Why are we not screaming? I will scream

SIR, allow me to shed tears for a few minutes while I try to put into words the hurting in my heart. Truly, the person of the Nigerian common man and woman alike have been raped so badly that we have all submitted to the blind fold being forced on us by the powers that be (or so we are being fooled to believe every day).

But please allow me to promise the common Nigerian that more hardship is on the way unless we change our mindset and foolish attitude of placing our trust in whichever of our fellow unfair human beings that we elect to seats to work for the betterment of this country's future.

I will surely come and join whoever is interested in going for a "peaceful demonstration" at the Three Arms Zone to tell "them" that 'their head no correct'. We must wake from our slumber.

Shuaibu Hassan
shabala99@yahoo.com



FORMER INEC Chairman Maurice Iwu

ibnabubakar@gmail.com

The old Prof. doesn't want to believe that the curtains have finally closed for him, does he? Even if he burns a billion calories or calls a million souls, his career has finally tasted the ropes...and broken necks hardly mend...or do they?

Pane Ibrahim
raheempaine@gmail.com

It's my advice that we should show the world that we are law abiding citizens. Since Iwu's appointment is constitutional it would have been better to allow him end his tenure as directed by the con-

stitution. I don't know why most of the higher office holders in Nigeria normally end in disgrace rather than reward.

Abubakar Chika Maru
abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com

I hope Iwu will not rig his appointment against the Acting President's order. Well, we'll wait and see.

Ozoku
ozoku2008@gmail.com

What sort of employee is this who wants to dictate to his employer? Iwu, your services are no longer required! Thank you

very much. We wish you well in your future endeavors.

Pita
justpita@yahoo.co.uk

Asking Iwu to leave is one of the boldest steps the Acting President has taken.

Ikechukwu
ike2kings@yahoo.com

I like the man Iwu, not because of his sincerity but his courage to call the spade with no other name. Iwu knows those beneficiaries of his ignoble, serial riggings and rip-offs of the country's democracy. Why should they sacrifice him at this crucial hour?

We all want him to go but let him finish well so that we may know the truth about the 2007 "selection" and how it was stage managed.

H. I. Rogo
papaharuna09@gmail.com

Iwu was bad in INEC but the way of his sacking was unconstitutional. Iwu and other smart Nigerians like Onovo refuse to obey Jonathan's order because they are well knowledgeable about the fact that the constitution does not back him (Jonathan) to act as a President.

Alkasim Wudil
alkasimhussien@yahoo.com

Sultan: ACF has done well but...

THE Sultan has spoken the minds of many Northerners. We wish we have more of such rulers. For instance the ACF has failed in its duty to stop the incessant communal crises in the region. Jos for one is always ready to go up in flames at the slightest provocation. Armed banditry, desertification, almajirancy, educational backwardness, early girl-child marriage, nepotism, religious nihilism, poor economic structures etc. should be the foci of ACF's concerns and to a large extent everybody's concern in the north.

Abdullahi Ibrahim
giriabdul@yahoo.com

Well, I hope the call that the Sultan made goes into the good

ears of the northern leaders and that they are going to act positively. I pray that Allah guides us alongside our leaders.

Bala Y. Toro
balatoro@gmail.com

The Sultan as usual was bold and hit rightly but those he challenged were there only to listen to praises and praise singers. The truth is that the Sultan should lead a new struggle for the North's development using true and young patriots in the academics and private sector and not the so-called political leaders.

They reap politically only whenever blood is spilled, where illiteracy flourish and poverty blooms.

H. I. Rogo

papaharuna09@gmail.com

With all due respect sir, I quite agree with you but the complete failure of ACF here is that instead of it to be acting as a pressure group that can force any of our governors to do right they have ended up as a tool used by the governors to achieve their selfish desires. Why is it that our children still beg in the streets for no benefit and no reason and yet the ACF has not forced that to end? Who among our politicians can take his child to the Almajirai school? We must stop deceiving ourselves. Why is it that some states in the north keep on deteriorating as a result of bad leadership?

Usman Ahmed Danbaba
danbaba1986@yahoo.com

Egypt embassy says Yarima's bride still in Egypt



SENATOR Ahmad Sani

PLEASE leave Yarima alone. Is Yarima the most wanted man in the world? It seems there is no right of religious affiliation in Nigeria. I believe him when he said that his detractors are after him since his introduction of Shari'a.

Hamza Adamu Yakoub

yhtsafe@yahoo.com

The marriage of the former Zamfara state is not against Islamic rules. But this is not the issue, the issue is how long will the marriage last?

Aminu Bakenah

bakenah@yahoo.com

Sani Yarima's detractors are not sincere. They would not substantiate their wicked insinuations with fact and evidence.

Garba A. Dunari
gaa1972@yahoo.com



GEN. Muhammadu Buhari: Removal of Iwu not enough

WE completely agree with the General that removing Iwu is not enough but we sincerely believe this is a good first step. More should follow.

Dr Said Amin
saidmamin@yahoo.com

You are very correct, General and we shouldn't be deceived by that. We have to continue pushing on for the full implementation of Uwais' panel recommendations because Iwu alone is not the problem and he shouldn't be taken care of in isolation.

Usman Ahmed Danbaba
danbaba1986@yahoo.com

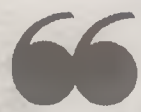
Harangue of the Taciturn

I am utterly disappointed in Gen. Gusau's comments on the banking sector reforms and Mallam Sanusi. He should not stop at only making his criticism public, but also proffer solutions if he has any. But anyway, he must have solutions to everything after all he is General Aliyu Mohammed Gusau, the spook of all spooks.

Hammadu Isa
hammadui@hotmail.com

I am pleased with your take on Gusau. What more could one say? Keep it up.

Mohammed Bello
muhdhat3@yahoo.com



By Ahmed Usman

Niger: A word for David Umaru's hatchet man

The initial reaction upon reading the article, titled "Niger Governorship Tussle: The Contention as Appeal Court Resumes Hearing" on page 45 of Tuesday 27th April, 2010 edition of the Nation Newspapers and the timing leads one to conclude that a faceless and disgruntled Adegoke Atanda, falsely masquerading as a legal practitioner, intends to preempt the exercise by the Appeal Court, of its powers to adjudicate on the said application.

It is needless to state that, every Legal Practitioner ought to know that cases are not argued on the pages of newspapers, but in court, and based on facts and the law, having regard to the peculiar surrounding circumstances.

Accordingly, wise counsel requires that I exercise restraint, and not to respond to the technicalities and arguments canvassed in the publication, the Application itself being already subjudice, and within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Appellate Court to do so.

However, in view of the likelihood that unsuspecting members of the public may be misled upon reading the parochial article, it is nonetheless imperative to highlight the misrepresentation, legal summons and mischief the article may portend for the reading members of the public in general.

Firstly, it is an incontrovertible position of the law that the Court of Appeal is the final court for the determination of appeals arising from the Governorship and Legislative Houses Election Petition Tribunal, and it is a fact that the Appeal Court, Abuja Division has since determined the fate of Mr. David Umaru's Appeal before it.

What Mr. Umaru, the ANPP candidate has now sought to achieve by the present application, is to ask the Appellate Court to reopen his case and set aside the existing decision of the same court, by a panel hitherto properly constituted.

In other words, to entertain and grant his application, it would amount to sitting on appeal against its own decision, and by necessary implication, allow the appellant to take a second undue bite at the cherry, as it were.

I have exhaustively perused the judgment of the Appeal Court and the present application, and I am unable to find any new facts or points of law which the ANPP candidate had not previously addressed in his Appeal and the brief of argument, which the same court had previously considered and determined in favour of the incumbent Governor of Niger State.

By virtue of the Electoral Act, 2006, the Court of Appeal is the final court in this matter. Indeed, the courts have held in numerous cases, that there must be an end to litigation. This evidently informs the imperative of terminating all such electoral appeals before the Court of Appeal.

Consequently, it is not only against the Law to reopen an Appeal, which has already dealt with, and determined the same issues now being canvassed by way of an application, not only before the Court, but preposterously on the pages of a newspaper.

It must however be stated for the avoidance of doubt, that the conditions precedent for reopening a judgment for the purpose of being set aside, as enunciated in the "remark" of Justice Uwani Abba-Aji quoted in the said publication, does not apply to Governorship and Legislative Houses Election matters, decided by the Appellate Court, neither is it a license for vexatious applications of the nature filed by Mr. Umaru.

Assuming, but without conceding, that it applies to election matters, a careful analysis of the Conditions precedent for reopening an appeal already decided for purpose of being set aside would suffice here.

An Appeal would be set aside *Ex debito* Justice in the following instance:

- (i) When new facts emerge to show that the previous decision was wrongly decided; or
- (ii) Was decided per incuriam, or that it
- (iii) Was decided without jurisdiction.

i. Upon a thorough reading of the appeal, the previous judgment, and the present application, one is unable to find any new facts, which the appellant had not canvassed previously, and upon which the court had not made its decision.

Indeed, the appellant's brief of argument dealt extensively on the issue of why the petition was not statute barred, and the issue of jurisdiction to entertain the Cross Appeal.

The Appeal Court then considered all the issues of Law canvassed by the parties (which is replicated in the present application), before reaching its verdict.

Clearly, Mr. Umaru's present move has not met this condition precedent.

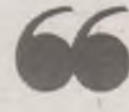
ii. The question of whether or not the judgment was made per incuriam could be appreciated from the preliminary objection raised by Dr. Babangida's lawyers, and the response frantically articulated by Mr. Umaru's lawyers before the court in their respective briefs of argument, and the treatment of the same in the judgment, which needs no repetition here.

What then is a decision made per incuriam? Black's Law Dictionary, 8th Edition, defines it as:

"(of a judicial decision) wrongly decided, usually because the judge or judges were ill informed about the applicable law."

To be concluded.

Usman, a legal practitioner wrote in from Abuja.



By Yusuf Dingyadi

Yarima: What the hullabaloo is all about

It is disheartening to hear that some people are campaigning for the prosecution of Senator Ahmed Sani Yariman Bakura over his celebrated marriage to an Egyptian girl, which the Nigerian media have portrayed mostly in negative light. While the media continue to claim that the bride is 13 years of age, Sani has insisted that she is not (*Daily Trust*, 29th April, 2010).

The Senator assured that his wife is already back to school in Egypt, and has described the ongoing media onslaught as invasion of his privacy by asking his wife's age.

Joining the fray last week, the Senate Committee on Ethics and Privileges announced that it will investigate the Senator's marriage issue. It was reported in the *BBC Hausa service* that part of the issues at stake include Sani's alleged violation of the Child Rights Act.

The most unfortunate comment came from the Minister of Women Affairs, Mrs Josephine Anenih, who announced that the Minister of Justice would be asked to press criminal charges against the Senator.

Senator Sani's marriage is a domestic affair, concerning his personal and family life; hence so sensitive that no sensible person will interfere in it.

As a Muslim, a Northerner and married man, there is no reason embarking on unnecessary campaign against the Senator's marriage since it was in accordance

Senator Sani's marriage is a domestic affair, concerning his personal and family life

with his cultural and religious orientation. And this is where the crux of the whole matter lies. Those who are trying to make an issue over the matter must realize that the Senator has a well-grounded culture and religion that shape his personal life and worldview.

And as a matter of reality his culture and religion is not national or international to warrant equating his action with what obtains in either other parts of Nigeria or Europe.

It is the realization of these cultural and religious differences that might make opinion and religious scholars from North to be silent on this fundamental issue. They might possibly speak out later, but the questions one is expecting them to answer are: Is a Muslim permitted or not to marry a girl of

13 years of age? Is Yarima's action a taboo or not in Northern Nigerian context? Is this the first time such an act is committed in the Muslim/Hausa setting or is it a normal cultural practice?

No serious media expert would ignore the central place of cultural, historical and religious factors in analyzing the actions of men and women in society. They are a powerful force in shaping human action or inaction, behaviour and

Is this the first time such an act is committed in the Muslim/Hausa setting or is it a normal cultural practice?

value system. To ignore this basic ingredient in explaining humanity does more harm than good.

By jumping towards Europe and taking the personal life of European as a yardstick to measure our way of life here is surely uncalled for. This can only be done where the campaign is politically motivated and one aimed at inflicting political injury.

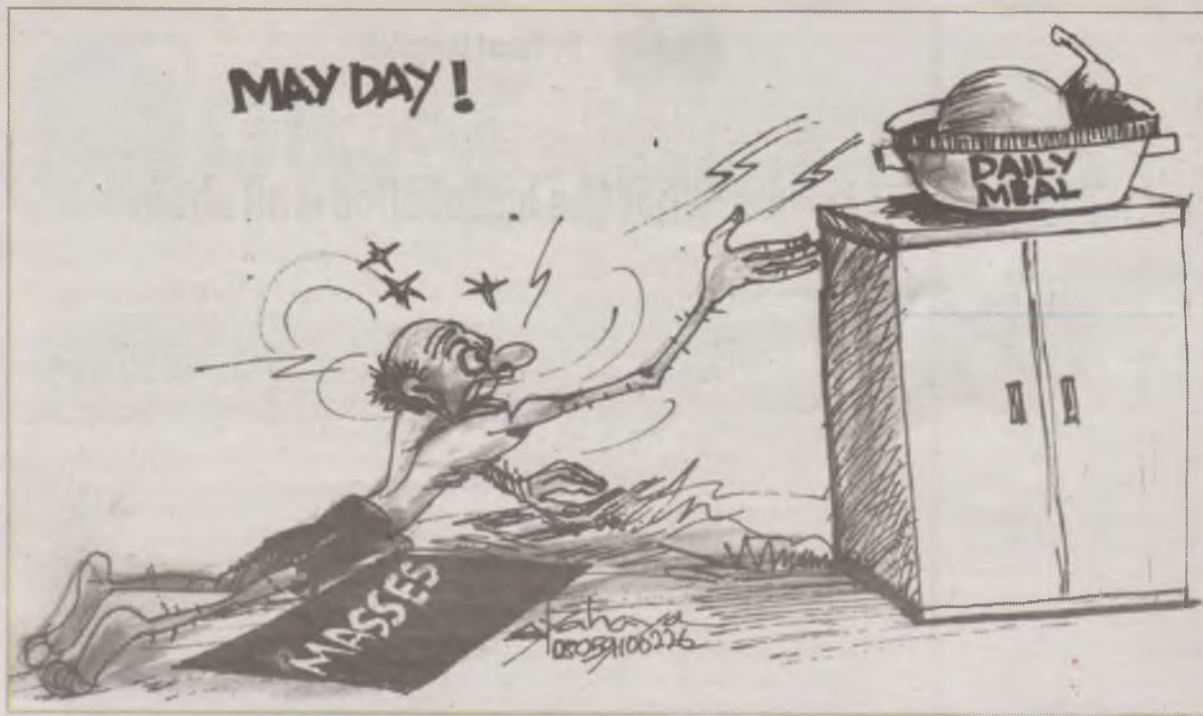
After all, for those insisting on Universal Law as set by the United Nations and making reference to European culture, the paradox is clear. Doesn't the UN recognize fundamental differences in human cultures and religions? Is Europe morally upright than Nigeria? What do the European culture and dominant religion say about marriage, sex and human dignity vis-à-vis the ongoing sex scandal in the Church over there? In a sense the recurring paedophile issues rocking the papacy are sufficient to make Nigerians to stop aping the so-called standard morals of Europe.

But true to character, we are already taking the heat from the Yarima's case and some of us are already running for cover. This is mere distraction from the real issue, which is now openly manifesting itself: that a section of the elite who feign ignorance of the Hausa Muslim culture and religious orientation is bent on using Sani's case to launch political missiles at him.

Sani will emerge victorious when his action is weighed in our Law Courts, and not through political or personal sentiments.

Going by the tactics of this political war against the Yarima, it is not difficult to ascertain that the sponsors of this episode are coming from enemies of our development and progress.

Dingyadi wrote from No 88 Emir Yahaya Road, Sokoto.



Your Letters

Send your letters to letters@dailytrust.com

Re: Aliyu Gasau's strange remarks

I join you in saying that the comments credited to the National Security Adviser on both the CBN and the EFCC were quite inappropriate and unexpected from a man regarded as the Head of Nigeria's security system.

The comments have coloured the present administration as strong supporters of financial sector robbers. How can somebody in his right senses say that the reforms of the CBN are rubbish and that the EFCC is ineffective?

Let me recall what we witnessed in the recent past on happenings in the CBN. Lamido came to discover that most of our banks were headed by looters.

He proved this by exposing their methods of looting the banks to which their chief executives. Imagine a bank's chief executive giving 13 billion naira to a nanny without collateral. The same CEO got loan from the same bank to build houses and let them back to the bank at outrageous amount for ten years.

Another CEO, who is at large, was exposed and rather waiting to defend himself he is still on the run. So goes for other Executives of these banks including their Board of directors.

Somebody now wakes up and says that such revelations were rubbish. This is nothing but open support for robbers. It gives the impression that some people in government want to legitimise stealing and not fight corruption.

Now he said the EFCC is ineffective. This is laughable, ridicu-

lous and unacceptable.

How can you compare the present EFCC with the Ribadu's EFCC? Except for the supporters of third term agenda who are interested in bringing back Ribadu as being rumoured, no right-thinking Nigerian will agree with the statement credited to NSA and even to the Acting President during his interview on CNN. I think it is time for the EFCC to re-open the case of the wife of the acting president as is doing with Ogbulafor.

Like the Lawyer of Orji Uzor Kalu once pleaded that what is good for the goose is equally good for the ganders when he was pleading that his client should be forgiven as the Federal Government forgave Ribadu by withdrawing all cases against him

John Adio, Wuse II, Abuja

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Fight graft, Chinese way

THE solution to Nigeria problems is to have sound and effective leaders, who would lead the country on behalf of the masses, not their respective pocket as they think fit. There should be a law to punish any tempering with public funds, like China does.
NURA Yumfawa, Kano, 08038928543.

A customer's counsel

BANKS and GSM companies should concentrate on improving their services and stop the extravagant spending on advertisements as well as avoiding the customers and subscribers' exploitation.

BALA Mohammad, FCE (T) Potiskum, Yobe State 07039040650.

Iwu's going not enough

HIS departure has not met the

demand of Nigerians, not until state INEC commissioners are sent packing too. Hoping the new ones will announce real elected persons, not arranged ones. I propose that Justice Uwais and Soyinka can do the job.

SALIS R. Salis, Rijiyar Gwangwan, Maiduguri road, Dankande, Kano., 07030339299.

What is Chief Servant up to?

DR Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu should be called to order for the statement he made on Thursday in Kaduna on the 10th anniversary of Arewa Consultative Forum to the effect that the North should forget presidency in 2011. He wants to squander the North because of his interest to be vice president? It baffles me that his colleague governors in the North are not challeng-

ing him.

MUSA M Musa, Birnin Kebbi, 08037003839.

I support the Gbong Gwom but...

I see no wrong in having state police and military as advocated by Gbong Gwom Jos, but the danger lies in people like the current governor being control of such vital security institutions.
MUHAMMAD Tukur Mujaya, Sokoto, 08065327829.

No way!

I want to ask the Gbong Gwom Jos that what happens if a governor decides to use the said state police to carry out ethnic cleansing; who then will come to the aid of the victims? Is he not aware of what took place in his home state i.e. Plateau?

BASHIR Muazu Tela, Bukuru, Plateau State, 08034089487.



By Aishatu Umar

Yerima: Anti-Islam bashers find another lightning rod

It is really unfortunate that the menace of using nongovernmental organizations to attack Islam has arrived in Nigeria. NGOs have now become weapons of fighting Islam as part of the current Islamophobia around the world.

Could one presume that this is caused by what can be described as a conflict of ideology? People's cultures, religions and histories differ. Everyone is entitled to his own belief and has the right to adopt what best fits him. The trend today around the globe is that of submission to the greed and selfish aggrandizements of the Euro-American West and their Israeli allies. They insist that everyone in the world should submit to their whims and caprices and they don't have respect for anyone else's dignity. As a result of this, what they define as civilization is whatever they are into and those they refer to as civilised are those that enslave themselves to their monopoly.

This unfortunate trend has given a new meaning to ethics and morality. They respect moral misfits and coin some respectful-sounding adjectives to address them. Nudity is now referred to as model-ling and advertisement. The worst part is that they have even legalised same-sex marriage, even protect what they assert are the rights of those who engage in it. This perversion of marriage is a practical violation of the rule of creation, and it even violates the concept of biology but it is okay with Western concept of civilization.

Every human right activist must feel bad about these misdeeds but simply because these have to do with their selfish interests they do not make any issue of it. It is only when a 52-year-old prince in Saudi Arabia marries a 12-year-old girl that they remember they have work to do; or when a Sharia activist in Nigeria is married to a 14 year old girl that they begin to mobilise their forces to attack his personality at the legislature. This tells a lot about their one-sidedness and partiality.

Why are they against legal marriage between a man and a girl in her teens but in support of sex abuse of young boys by a man? Also why are they against legal marriages between men and teenage girls but in support of same-sex marriages and gay activities? This is most irrational. Marriage in Islam is not necessarily only for the sake of sex but also for the sake of cleansing the socio-moral status of the society and making it morally and ethically upright.

In Euro-American societies, social problems present the worst control problems. These include calamities like rape, incest, lesbianism and homosexuality. These trends have automatically been controlled by the Islamic systems in such a way that the concept of Islamic civilization has solved and resolved the problems in those societies without spending as much billions as are being spent in those Euro-American countries.

Definitely, the trend around the world today is that of trying to use people's weakness to discredit Islam and Muslims in order to keep their corrupt civilisation alive. They have engaged in calling Muslims terrorists and Islam terrorism while they over-look the rate at which they kill human beings around the world. The anti-Islamic propaganda is the only reason why the so-called human rights organizations are attacking Alhaji Ahmad Muhammad Sani. Those who are into it for political reason because they have been paid by the Yerima's opponents, should consider the danger of what they are doing. It is legal and accepted for him to marry the teenager he married in Islam. It is now left for the Nigerian Muslims to be informed by the legislature the type of Islam the Nigerian constitution allows the Muslims to practice. If they accept it then they quit the Islam prescribed by God Almighty and practice the one prescribed by the Nigerian constitution.

Umar wrote from No 7 Sokoto Road Kaduna (aisharku@yahoo.com)

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EDITORIAL

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Departure of Maurice Iwu

Acting president Goodluck Jonathan last week asked the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Maurice Iwu to proceed on pre-disengagement leave with immediate effect. The directive is a culmination of heated public debate, often acrimonious, and widespread perception that Iwu would be a most inappropriate candidate for a renewed term in office. Under Iwu's tenure, INEC lost its credibility in the eye of the public after the outcome of 2007 general elections, viewed by many local and international observers as flawed. Many Nigerians also saw it as the result of Iwu's personal failings. Matters were not helped by Iwu's disposition and statements justifying the performance of the agency, causing outrage.

Despite public outcry, Iwu not only believed that the 2007 elections were credible; he was set always to match his critics word for word and to vilify those who pointed out areas that clearly showed shortcomings. Given such disposition, many have come to the conclusion that Iwu cannot be trusted to continue to occupy the umpire seat in further elections. He is eligible to seek extension of tenure, but his forced departure at this time came to many as long overdue especially with impending general elections. INEC under Iwu came to represent all that is bad and could go wrong in the electoral process.

We must however point out that restoring faith in the electoral process goes far beyond the removal of one individual from the scene. A more holistic surgery is therefore called for if Nigerians are to begin to have confidence in the electoral system. There have been calls, since the recent development for a general overhaul of the INEC to ensure that all those who are seen to be tainted with the tar of corruption and compromise of the electoral system are weeded out. Though we appreciate the constitutional provisions that may circumscribe the acting president's action in this regard, for instance providing little room to manoeuvre in dismissing the INEC Chairman, the measures he has taken, we believe, are adequate and address the problem.

With Iwu's departure we suggest a full-scale overhaul of INEC that will cut across the board. A situation where only a few commissioners are left to run the affairs of the commission is antithetical to constitutional provisions and indeed the principles of federal character. Under the circumstances, it is valid to question the validity of the decisions taken under Iwu in the dying months of his tenure, with members that could not form the necessary quorum, though we blame this lapse on the government. The acting president owes a duty to Nigeria to reconstitute INEC to reflect not only federal character but re-energise it to perform optimally. In doing this, he must ensure that a credible replacement is found to take over from Iwu as head. At both levels, those to be appointed must be credible men and women in whom majority of Nigerians would have full confidence based on their proven track record.

Nigerians and indeed those who wish the country well would be looking forward to seeing that happens within the shortest time possible, especially as constitutional amendments might make early elections imperative. An electoral umpire who the people have confidence in is the antidote to the general apathy and apprehensions that greeted recent elections and re-runs. We expect that Iwu's replacement as INEC Chairman would be of such stature as to command the confidence of Nigerians. At the very least, this would be the minimum required to bring back hope to the electorate that this country can conduct credible elections.

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Political economy of 2010 budget

Budget 2010 remains the most "politicised" estimates of Nigeria's annual national expenditures and incomes in recent times. For once since the commencement of the 4th Republic, the sitting but ailing President did not perform the formality of personally laying the government's financial plan before the National Assembly. Budget 2010 was the first product of the doctrine of necessity. Also for the first time, the two chambers separately received the budgetary proposals from the Federal executive. Some equality in disunity for the two chambers! Ironically the two chambers are expected to be united in legislating in unison for the good governance of the country. With respect to 2010 budget, the first "acting President" was not Goodluck Jonathan but the Special Adviser to the President on National Assembly Matters, Senator Mohammed Abba Aji. It was the former that performed the brief ritual in the two houses after the Senate invoked order 17 of its standing rules to allow him and the Special Assistant to the President (Senate) Dr. Cairo Ojougboh into the Senate chambers. Abba Aji laid the budget estimates on the Senate table and bowed twice before taking his leave. He immediately proceeded to the chamber of the House of Representatives where he performed the same ritual, followed by Alhaji Ibrahim Zailani, the Special Assistant to the President (House of Representatives). The politics of this budget must excite chroniclers of budget estimates. It would be recalled that there is a bagful of doubts about the authenticity of the first signed document ostensibly taken to President Yar'adua in Saudi Arabia.

Yours sincerely searches in vain for some informed analyses on the 4.6 trillion Naira budget. While there are few footnotes about the breakdown of almost 5 trillion Naira rain, politics and corruption discourse (not Development discourse) hits the headlines, from the stale news of PDP's predictable volcanic eruptions, alleged pilfering party chairman of a ruling party, to the unsung return of some unsung exiles. So much then for the politics of 2010 budget! What then about its economics?

N4.6 trillion was signed into appropriation Act by the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan for the 2010 fiscal year. This is an increase of N600 billion (almost a trillion) proposed by the Executive but increased by the National Assembly. The two chambers received the estimates separately but they were united in bloating it up almost with unanimous Yes vote. With this

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huge financial sum, Nigerians legitimately expect accelerated recovery of the Nigerian economy as a matter of necessity if we were to be consistent doctrine of necessity. Nigeria has been voting trillions Naira budgets in the past 10 years without any positive impact on the economy and public welfare. The Acting President pledged that the 2010 budget would accelerate Nigeria's economic recovery through targeted fiscal interventions aimed at stimulating the economy, sustaining private sector growth and enhancing the pace of national development. The 2010 budget unfortunately is silent on clear cut concrete economic parameters to measure the perform-

meltdown, Europe and America are being revived through huge budget deficits. The challenge lies in how we must have value for the increased deficit in 2010 budget.

One practical way to measure the value is urgent revival of the industry. With particular reference to industry, there is an urgent need to recapitalise Bank of Industry for long-term funding of the industry. Nigeria must also address the problem of power crisis. Industry must be subsidized to offset the existing cost of privately provided energy by manufacturers. Interestingly, the 2010 budget promises improvement in power infrastructure aimed at doubling electricity capacity to 10,000 megawatts (Mw) by the end of 2011. Some stories we have heard before.

Nigeria should not return again to the road of indebted-

It is untenable that 10 years after so much official rhetoric about economic diversification, Nigeria is still oil dependent

ance of the budget such as the expected level of capacity utilisation, number of jobs to be created. On the contrary, the budget was predicated on the same old parameters - oil production capacity (of 2.35 million barrels per day), oil price benchmark (of \$57 per barrel) and an average exchange rate of N150 to the US dollar. Inflation Rate was also put at 11.2% and Real GDP Growth at 6.1%. 2010 budget is industry shy. It is untenable that 10 years after so much official rhetoric about economic diversification, Nigeria is still oil dependent. It is time to break out of oil dependency and diversify the economy through activist Federal Ministry of Industry and Commerce and Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity. It is time we reversed the worsening unemployment situation due to mass closures of industries, failing which the budget will end up as other failed past budgets. 2010 budget does not make provision for the proposed minimum wage. There is therefore the need for supplementary budget to address this.

With 2010 budget, deficit is on the increase. N1.3 trillion deficit is 4.5% of GDP above the limit approved within the Fiscal Responsibility Act. Deficit is good if it is targeted towards economic recovery. In the wake of the global economic

ness. The Minister of Finance should therefore clear the air on the issue of \$1 billion debt from World Bank to finance part of the 2010 budget.

The match to another round of indebtedness starts with "token" loan which cumulatively may prove unsustainable. We should learn from the current "civil war" in Greece that he who goes a borrowing ultimately goes a sorrowing. Best way to ensure effective management of the budget is to stop the existing leakages. The main source of leakage is the National Assembly. Legislators engaged in wasteful self-helps by jacking up the Executive budget proposal without an eye on national well being but personal/group well having and grabbing.

The Minister of Finance, Olusegun Aganga must make good his promise "to make sure that there are no leakages". The best way is to audit the so-called Constituency projects and stop prohibitive allowances National Assembly members award themselves through multiple memberships of various committees. The point cannot overstate that the quality of Nigeria's budgetary process is declining. Nigeria must urgently overcome late budget approval. We must return the country to the era of early budget approval that allows for national planning.



As you take time off work, we wish you all the peace you need to enjoy this day of rest.

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FIKA EMIRATE COUNCIL

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Message Of Appreciation

His Royal Highness the Emir of Fika and Chairman Yobe State Council of Chiefs, Alhaji (Dr) Muhammadu Abali Ibn Muhammadu Idrissa, on behalf of Fika Emirate Council and the entire people of Fika emirate expresses gratitude to the Almighty Allah and extends his appreciation to members of the public, individuals, groups and corporate bodies who, in one way or the other, contributed to the success of the historic occasion of his presentation of first class staff of office as the 43rd Emir of Fika by His Excellency the Executive Governor of Yobe State Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam FNCA, CPA on Saturday 24th April, 2010.

The dignitaries who immensely contributed and/or attended the ceremony are too numerous to mention at this small available opportunity, but most notable among them are the representative of the Acting President Dr Goodluck Jonathan GCON, in the person of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Alhaji Mahmoud Yayale Ahmed CFR, The Executive Governor of Yobe State His Excellency Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam FNCA, CPA who was the Special Guest of Honour of the occasion. The Executive Governor of Gombe State His Excellency Alhaji Muhammadu Danjuma Goje, Sarkin Yakin Gombe, Jajin Fika, The Executive Governor of Borno State His Excellency Senator (Dr) Ali Madu Sheriff, The Executive Governor of Kano State His Excellency Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau Sardaunan Kano and the Deputy Governor of Yobe State, Engr



His Excellency Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam FNCA, CPA
Executive Governor of Yobe State



His Royal Highness,
Alhaji (Dr) Muhammadu Abali Ibn Muhammadu Idrissa,
Emir of Fika and Chairman Yobe State Council of Chiefs

Abubakar D Aliyu FNSE.

Others are His Eminence the Sultan of Sokoto and President General Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs in Nigeria, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar 111, CFR, MNI who was also the Royal Father of the day, HRH the Shehu of Borno Alhaji Abubakar Ibn Umar Garbai Al-Amin El-Kanemi and all the 12 Emirs in Yobe State led by the Deputy Chairman of Yobe State Council of Chiefs HRH The Emir of Bade Alhaji Abubakar Umar Sulaiman.

Other Emirs around included those of Gombe, Lafiya, Ilorin, Hadejia, Etsu Nupe, Tor Tiv, Biu, Shani, Dukku, Minna, Dutse and Ringim. Others are Emirs of Misau, Jama'are, Nafada and Ningi. Others are Kontagora, Deba, Kaltungo, Tangale, Zamfara, Bakura, Awe and Anka. Worthy of mention are also the emirs of Kazaure, Suleja, Ochi Idoma, Zurmi, Azara, Chairman Akwa Ibom State Council of Chiefs, Shehu Malami Sarkin Sudan na Wurno, Ambassador of Pakistan, Zanna Dujuma of Borno (Dr) Bukar Umaru Mandara, Alhaji Ibrahim Talba Chiroman Tikau and representatives of Chief of Army Staff, Major General Saleh Maina, Emirs of Kano, Zazzau, Lamido Adamawa, Bauchi, Keffi, Katagum

and Daura.

In addition, other distinguished guests included the Honourable Minister of Police Affairs, Alhaji Adamu Maina Waziri, The Inspector General of Police and the Nigerian Police Command, the Nigeria Army, Nigeria Civil Defence Corps, members of the National and State Assemblies, members of the Judiciary, the various aid groups and other security operatives, the Federal College of education (Technical) Potiskum, Ashakacem, NNPC, Total E and P Nigeria Ltd, the Federal, State and private print and electronic media organizations as well as other private enterprises who have all contributed to the success of the great historic occasion.

Others still are those inadvertently omitted from this long list through natural human error and printer's devil for which we humbly solicit their patience and forgiveness.

Indeed your various contributions and attendance to this great occasion will forever remain perpetually indelible and memorable in the history of Fika Emirate. We therefore pray Almighty Allah (SWT) to reward you for this great gesture most abundantly, amin.

Signed

MALLAM ADAMU CIROMA

Madakin Fika

INTERNATIONAL

UN investigates LRA massacre of 100 in DR Congo

THE United Nations is investigating reports that Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army rebels killed 100 people in February, the latest in a string of massacres in Congo's remote northeast.

UN aid chief John Holmes spoke of the reported Kpanga massacre while visiting the region, where the Ugandan rebels have forced 300,000 people from their homes and, since December last year alone, killed

400 people and kidnapped 400 more.

The violence comes amid fears that President Joseph Kabila's desire to see UN peacekeepers start withdrawing in June, in time for the 50th anniversary of Congo's independence, and leave by elections next year, will worsen the security situation as the country's army will be unable to fill the gap.

"We've seen again massacres,

rapes, acts of unimaginable brutality, which are continuing," Holmes said on Saturday while visiting Nyangara, the main town affected by LRA attacks in Congo's Orientale province. Human Rights Watch said last month the LRA had killed 321 people in a previously unreported December massacre in the area.

Congo's government initially denied the massacre took place, however, a local government offi-

cial has since confirmed the killings but put the toll lower, at 188.

"We heard today that there was a very bad massacre in the area where we were in December; and another massacre recently in February with perhaps another 100 people again," Holmes said.

The U.N. is investigating the latest killings, he added.

In Nyangara, Holmes visited a 23 year-old woman who was being treated by doctors after her

lips and ears were ripped off in a trademark attack by rebels seeking to silence its victims.

Leontine Masini, another resident, spoke of a six-month ordeal that ended when she escaped as the fighters were asleep.

"They take wooden sticks and ask those who have been captured to hit someone with that stick on the head. If you don't kill that person, you are being hit too," she said.

Somali Islamists seize pirate haven

DOZENS of fighters from one of Somalia's most powerful rebel groups moved into a northern town yesterday where pirates operate, sending the pirates fleeing in a development that could end the piracy trade, witnesses said.

Fighters from the militia group Hizbul Islam moved into the strategic pirate den of Harardhere. The Islamists could be looking to take over the trade or simply take a cut of the millions of dollars in ransom that pirates take in. Hizbul Islam is also likely to gain a foothold in Harardhere before the rival militant group al-Shabab moves in.

"Around 200 heavily armed militants with 14 vehicles mounted with guns moved into our town early this morning and took up strategic positions, such as the police station and some former government premises," resident Aden Jim'ale told The Associated Press by telephone.

Mohamed Abdi Aros, Hizbul Islam's head of operations, confirmed that his fighters had entered the town. He claimed that locals had requested that they enter to provide security. Militants al-Shabab, Somalia's most dangerous rebel group, sent scouts into the town earlier this month.

"Two days ago Hizbul Islam sent agents to the coastal towns saying they wished to move into the area before al-Shabab and demanded a slice of the business, but the pirate leaders ignored the request. That is why they moved in today," said Abdiwali Gadid, a self-proclaimed pirate.

Hundreds of pirates could be seen leaving the town hours before the militia moved in, using luxury cars and trucks to carry away TVs, generators and mattresses. "Hundreds of the town's well-known pirates in luxury cars had fled from the town toward nearby Hobyo," said resident Suleyman Mumin.

Darfur rebels say peace process with Khartoum has ended



PATIENTS sit at Panzi hospital, a centre that specializes in the treatment of rape victims in DR Congo.

THE Sudanese government has brought the Darfur peace process to an end by launching a military offensive, the region's main rebel group, the Justice and Equality Movement has warned.

Government "aggression has ended the political process," JEM spokesman Ahmad Hussein Adam told AFP late at the weekend.

"The government has ended the ceasefire on the ground" with an offensive against the JEM, Adam said. "The government is now in a state of total war" with the rebels.

The group on Friday accused government forces of launching an offensive in the western region of Darfur that Adam termed "an attempt to impose a military solution" to the conflict.

He also criticised what he termed the inaction of African Union

and United Nations peacekeepers in Darfur since his announcement on Friday of attacks by government forces. JEM, one of two key Darfur rebel groups, signed a framework accord in February in Doha that was hailed by the international community as a major step toward bringing peace to the region devastated by a seven-year war.

But talks between Khartoum and the JEM have since run into problems and a deadline set under the accord for completing the peace deal passed on March 15 without agreement.

Darfur, an arid desert region the size of France, has been gripped by a civil war since 2003 that has killed 300,000 people and displaced another 2.7 million, according to UN figures. Khartoum says 10,000 people have died.

Egypt police kill two African migrants near Israel border

EGYPTIAN police shot dead two African migrants yesterday in separate incidents near the border with Israel, a security official said.

Police killed an Eritrean migrant who tried to enter Israel

illegally, and in another incident along the border shot dead another migrant also trying to cross into the Jewish state. His nationality was unknown.

The official said warning shots were fired before police took aim

directly at the migrants. Another 12 migrants were also arrested in the two incidents.

Fourteen African migrants have been killed since the beginning of year, and Cairo's policy of shooting migrants who try to

enter Israel has generated harsh criticism from human rights groups.

The migrants, many of them from Sudan and Eritrea, say they want to leave Egypt because of poverty and discrimination.

International



SECRETARY of State Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks to the American Jewish Committee annual gala dinner in Washington.

Clinton has doubts on Afghan reconciliation

SECRETARY of State Hillary Rodham Clinton expects there will be some reconciliation between those fighting in Afghanistan, but she says she doubts that some US foes will be willing to set aside differences.

Clinton tells NBC's "Meet The Press" in an

interview aired yesterday that she has doubts whether Taliban leader Mullah Omar will say he's giving up his ties to al-Qaida.

But Clinton says she is not resigned to the Taliban being a part of the Afghan government in the future. She says she

doesn't know of any conflict in recent times that didn't have some political resolution.

Clinton says she thinks there are leaders within the Taliban who have come over to the other side. But she says they have to renounce al-Qaida and violence.

5 killed in heavy flooding across Tennessee

MORE rain and storms loomed as emergency officials in Tennessee yesterday coped with evacuations and closed roads from heavy flooding that claimed five lives, covered city streets and left cars stranded on interstate highways turned into rivers.

A line of strong thunderstorms Saturday dumped at least 10 inches of rain on Memphis and produced tornadoes and hail along the Mississippi River Valley in Mississippi, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky and northward.

But rescuers could be stymied reaching all of the far-flung areas affected: The forecast called for more rain through the day Sunday.

"There's more weather coming through right on top of us," said Jeremy Heidt, spokesman for the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

The five deaths in Tennessee were related to the storm, but the exact causes were not yet known. The Leaf Chronicle in Clarksville reported that two of the victims were swept away in a rain-swollen creek in Stewart County, about 65 miles northwest of Nashville.

They came a day after a tornado in Arkansas killed a woman and injured about two dozen people. After the worst of the rain on Saturday night, Heidt said no more fatalities had yet been reported in Tennessee.

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INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION RE-ENGINEERING OF COMPRESSORS 16-K-01/02 TURBINES CONDENSER SYSTEM

Warri Refining & Petrochemical Company Limited (a Subsidiary of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation - NNPC) invites submission for pre-qualification of reputable companies with relevant experiences in Engineering, Procurement, Installation & Commissioning of heat exchange equipment for Engineering, Supply and Installation of Compressors 16-K-01/02 Turbines Condenser System

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In the Fluid Catalytic Cracking Unit (FCCU) of Warri Refining and Petrochemical Company Limited (WRPC), partial condenser, also known as air coolers, tagged 16-A-12 is used under vacuum system at the exhaust of the turbines, 16-KT-01 and 16-KT-02 of the centrifugal compressors 16-K-01 and 16-K-02 respectively. For quite some years now, this condenser has not been performing satisfactorily, as it has never been able to deliver the required heat duty due to constant loss of vacuum. To meet process conditions, operators usually resort to external cooling by using pressured water as sprays on the air cooler tubes. This operational method has been problematic over the years and needs immediate solutions.

A systematic study of the problem has been carried out and part of the solution is provision of a separate surface condenser for 16-KT-02.

2.0 SCOPE OF WORK

The work scope entails Engineering, Procurement, Installation, and Commissioning of the surface condenser system, detailed below;

2.1 ENGINEERING DESIGN

Detailed engineering design of the surface condenser system using the data provided below (3.0).

2.2 SUPPLY

Supply of one (1) No. Surface Condenser and the accompanying one (1) No Steam Jet Ejector.

2.3 INSTALLATION

2.3.1 MECHANICAL

- * Provision and installation of the condensate evacuation pump
- * Re-routing of the steam turbine outlet piping to the condenser
- * Provision and installation of condenser steam outlet piping
- * Provision and installation of condenser cooling water piping
- * Provision and installation of ejector steam/water piping
- * Provision of mechanical plot plans and all relevant mechanical drawings, including existing layout drawing facilities

2.3.2 CIVIL

- * Definition, specification, and construction relevant civil works
- * Provision and erection of necessary supports for the condenser system

2.3.3 ELECTRICAL

- * Specification of all electrical equipment/drawing, including cable requirements.
- * Connection of electrical and control cable from the field of substation

2.3.4 INSTRUMENTATION

- * Specification of all instrument equipment/drawings, including field and control room equipment
- * Integration of the condenser system and accessory control into the DCS system

2.3.5 COMMISSIONING

- * Testing and commissioning of the condenser system
- * Handover of the condenser system and all as-built drawings to WRPC

2.3.6 OTHERS

- * Witness factory acceptance test.
- * Training of six (6) operation and maintenance staff.
- * Delivery to site and handover of 2 years spare parts.

3.0 SPECIFICATION

3.1 SURFACE CONDENSER

Parameter	Shell Side	Tube Side
Fluid Circulated	Steam	Cooling water
Total Fluid	15000.00 kg/hr	141.94 m ³ /hr
Vapour	600.00 kg/hr	
Liquid	14400.00 kg/hr	141.94 m ³ /hr
Specific Heat	4.20 KJ/Kg °C	4.20 KJ/Kg °C
Latent Heat	2260.00 KJ/Kg	
Temperature, in	74.10 °C	31.00 °C
Temperature, out	71.70 °C	44.00 °C
Operating Pressure	-735.00 mm Hg	4.00 kg/cm ²
No of passes per shell	1.00	2.00
Velocity	30.408 m/s	2.00 m/s
Tubes, No: 1095, OD: 19.05mm, L: 4.84m, Pitch: 25mm		
Shell, ID: 871mm		

3.2 STEAM JET EJECTOR

No of Stages	2.00
Fluid Handled	Vap+Steam
Suction temperature (S.T), °C	71.7
Fluid pressure, at S.T. mm Hg abs	310
Discharge pressure, m Hg abs	760
Steam pressure available, min, kg/cm ²	15
Steam temperature available, °C	230
Steam Consumption, kg/hr	499
Condensation water temperature Inlet/Outlet, °C	75/90max
Condensation water pressure, kg/cm ²	7.3
Condensation water consumption, m ³ /h	100
Fluid ejected, kg/hr	600
Design pressure steam chest/diffuser	24/15
Design temperature shell/tube, °C	275/100
Water inlet I.D. inch	4
Water outlet I.D. Inch	4.

4.0 PRE-QUALIFICATION

Interested reputable companies are required to submit for pre-qualification, the following information with suitable evidence of compliance

- 4.1 Evidence of incorporation of the company in Nigeria.
- 4.2 Profile including Nigeria Shareholding, Certificates of Incorporation, Certified True Copies ("CTC") of Memorandum and Articles of Association, forms C.07 and C.02.

4.3 PARTNERSHIP WITH ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURER (OEM)

- * Evidence of partnership or affiliates with OEM of heat Exchangers for non OEM companies
- * Guarantee to get the OEM engineer(s) to supervise the installation and commissioning

4.4 NIGERIA CONTENT

- * Evidence of company's presence in Nigeria.
- * Evidence of storage facility in Nigeria
- * Evidence of office site for coordination of activities in Nigeria.
- * Evidence in Nigeria personnel in the company.

2.5 Evidence of company registration with NNPC/WRPC as an Engineering company

2.6 Company profile and evidence of relevant previous experience on similar jobs with NNPC or other similar organizations.

2.7 Evidence of financial capability and provision of performance Bond when required.

2.8 Reference letter from a reputable Bank.

2.9 Company's Audited Account for the past three years and Tax Clearance Certificates.

2.10 Company's quality standard and quality organization for works and services.



WARRI REFINING AND PETROCHEMICAL COMPANY LIMITED, EKPAN-WARRI
INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION RE-ENGINEERING OF COMPRESSORS 16-K-01/02 TURBINES CONDENSER SYSTEM

- 2.11 Details of relevant verifiable experience of similar works that the contractor has undertaken with CV's of key personnel and equipment list.
- 2.12 Payment of a non-refundable fee of N150,000.00, (One hundred and fifty thousand naira only)
- 2.13 Copy of latest Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) registration Certificate to operate as a Contractor in the Oil industry.
- 2.14 In case of Joint Ventures, the Contractor shall provide joint venture agreement.
- 2.15 Detailed report on Company's Health Safety and Environmental Policy and program, including evidence of a suitable, qualified safety officer.
- 2.16 Detailed submission on community relations plan proposal showing how your company has successfully handled community related issues in the past and proposed plan for the above project.

Note:

- * All claims Must be adequately substantiated and be verifiable.
- * WRPC shall deal directly with only authorized officers of the interested companies and not through individuals or agents (ownership is therefore essential). WRPC may require to be provided power of Attorney in respect of the authorized individual.
- * This pre-qualification exercise shall not be construed as commitment on the part of WRPC, nor shall it entitle interested companies or any of their shareholder or associate to make any claims whatsoever and/or seek any indemnity from WRPC and/or any of its associates or shareholders, by virtue of such interested company having responded to this invitation.
- * All expenses incurred in the preparation and submission of any responses to this invitation shall be borne solely by the interested company.
- * WRPC is neither committed nor obliged to include any contractor on the list of bidders
- * WRPC reserves the right to send the tender document only to qualified bidders.
- * This advertisement is not an invitation to bid and should not be treated as such. Full bidding procedure shall only be provided to companies that have been pre-qualified.

5.0 SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENT

All pre-qualification documents sealed and marked "PRE-QUALIFICATION ENGINEERING, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF COMPRESSORS 16-k-01/02 TURBINES CONDENSER SYSTEM" shall be addressed to:

The Secretary,
 Company Tender Committee,
 Warri Refining & Petrochemical Co. Ltd,
 Ekpan- Warri.

This will reach him within five weeks from the date of this advertisement.

For further information and/or clarification, please contact:

The Manager,
 Engineering and Technical Services Dept.
 WRPC - Ekpan-Warri,
 Delta State, Nigeria.

Signed: MANAGEMENT

OLORUNSOGO POWER PLC P. M. B. 1017 OTA, OGUN STATE.



RE: GENERAL INFORMATION ON 2010 PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST/PREQUALIFICATION OF MANUFACTURERS, SUPPLIERS AND CONTRACTORS FOR THE PROVISION OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR 2010 FISCAL YEAR AT OLORUNSOGO POWER PLC, OTA, OGUN STATE.

Preambles:

Olorunsogo Power Plc wishes to inform the general public of her intention to implement project activities for year 2010 in accordance with her proposed Budget.

EXPECTED SCOPE OF WORK(S)/SUPPLY

- i. Combustion Inspection of GE Frame 6 Turbines.
- ii. Rehabilitation / Overhaul of GT6 (GE Frame 6 Turbines)
- iii. Supply & Installation of Conversion Skids for the GE Frame 6 Gas Turbines.
- iv. Supply of Mark VI Control Cards (various)
- v. Supply of Air Inlet Filters
- vi. Supply of Technical Tools (Mechanical, Electrical, Instrumentation & Control, Vehicle etc.)
- vii. Supply of Materials handling equipment, Automobiles and PPE.
- viii. Supply of Turbine Lubricating Oil.
- ix. Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Laboratory Equipment (various)
- x. Supply of Laboratory Chemicals (various)
- xi. Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Security System (CCTV), Fire Extinguishers & other Safety Devices.
- xii. Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 1500 Ah DC Battery bank
- xiii. Supply of Office furniture and Equipment (various)
- xiv. Construction & furnishing of Standard Staff canteen for 80 personnel.
- xv. Construction of Condensate tank, LPFO Storage tank with associated equipment.
- xvi. Construction of Fuel dump with dispensing pump and associated items.
- xvii. Chemical Extermination of termites, termitaries & fumigation of their colonies.
- xviii. Corrosion control on plants and associated equipment.
- xix. Personnel Training (Technical and Non technical)
- xx. Construction of living apartment.
- xxi. Construction of Perimeter wall fencing with woven or razor-wire (plastering & painting inclusive)
- xxii. Maintenance of Administrative and other buildings.
- xxiii. Construction & Installation of burglarproofs in the stores, laboratory, pump rooms and some offices.
- xxiv. Supply of Air conditioners (split and window units) and Lawn Mowers.
- xxv. Provision of Insurance Coverage for Infrastructures & Personnel
- xxvi. Provision of IT infrastructure, management & maintenance

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Procurement of the above Works & Goods will be conducted in accordance with Procurement Act 2007 and its applicable guidelines, e.g.
 - a. Certificate of Incorporation/Business Registration
 - b. Tax Clearance Certificate for the last 3 years
 - c. Value Added Tax Registration Certificate (VAT).
 - d. Evidence of Registration with Pension Commission (PENCOM).
 - e. Evidence of successful execution of similar project(s) (applicable to vi, ix, & x).
 - f. Company's resume including profiles of staff to be deployed for execution of contract (i, ii & iii) above
 - g. Must possess the legal capacity to enter into procurement contract.
 - h. Must not be in receivership, insolvent or bankrupt.
2. All submissions and claims are subject to verification as companies with false claims/submissions will be disqualified.

This is a General Procurement Notice NOT an invitation to Bid. All interested and eligible bidders that wish to be considered for the provision of goods/works for the above mentioned projects as well as those requiring additional information should contact the Office of the Station Head, Olorunsogo Power Plc. Or call 07038539669.

N.B

This advertisement supersedes our earlier advert of 8th March, 2010, where a statutory requirement was inadvertently omitted. All companies that responded to our earlier advert are by this notice requested to withdraw their submissions and respond in accordance with this advertisement.

Specific Bidding Advertisement will be published during the year in the Federal Tenders Journal and Two National Dailies as well as our Notice Board in accordance with the Public Procurement Act of 2007.

All inconveniences are regretted.

Signed:
 Management
 Olorunsogo Power Plc
 Ogun State

MANAGEMENT

PHCN.....Providing Power for National Growth.

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVISION FUND
UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVISION FUND

INVITATION FOR PROPOSAL (IFP)

To Establish Solar Powered Base Transceiver Stations (Solar-BTS) in (Rural) Un-Served/Under-Served Areas of the Federation

1. The Universal Service Provision Fund ("USPF") was established by the Federal Government of Nigeria to facilitate the achievement of national policy goals for universal service and universal access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) in rural, un-served and under-served areas in Nigeria.
 2. The mandate of the USPF includes; facilitating the widespread availability and usage of ICT services and application services throughout Nigeria by providing funding through subsidies and grants for the provision of network facilities and network services and application services to rural, un-served and under-served areas or to underserved groups within an institution or a community.
 3. The Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) hereby invites interested telecommunications companies and other firms to submit their proposals for the establishment of a Solar Powered Base Transceiver Station (BTS) under its Solar-BTS Project.
 4. The project which is expected to be rolled out in several locations in Nigeria is aimed at providing or extending telecommunications services to rural un-served or under-served areas of the federation, through the use of energy efficient solar powered BTS and associated equipments such as Mobile Switching Centers (MSC), Base Controller Stations (BSC), Transmission equipment (microwave/fibre/FSO etc).
 5. The details of scope of work, eligibility and tender delivery instructions as well as other details are contained in the RFP on our website www.uspf.gov.ng. Interested bidders are advised to view the content of RFP from USPF website before purchasing hard copy from USPF.
 6. Interested Firm should submit their proposal to the undersigned on or before **June 11, 2010 by 4.00 pm**.
- All proponents are to note that failure to comply with the tendering instructions shall lead to disqualification.
7. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of N100, 000.000. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security (Bid Bond) of N200, 000.00. Proposal without bid Bond shall be rejected. The tendering fee of N100, 000.00 should be in draft in favour of the Universal Service Provision Fund. The Technical and Financial proposal must be in separate envelopes and must be marked clearly **USPF/RFP/Solar-BTS/2010/ TECHNICAL** and **USPF/RFP/Solar-BTS/2010/FINANCIAL**.

Director / Secretary,
Universal Service Provision Fund,
Universal Service Provision Fund Secretariat
Nigerian Communications Commission Head Office, 7th Floor,
432, Aguiyi Ironsi Street,
Maitama District,
Abuja.

For further clarification on the RFP, please send your enquiries to Engr. O.Y. Asaju on 094617462

Signed:
FUNSO FAYOMI ESQ
Director / Secretary
Universal Service Provision Fund

Website: <http://www.uspf.gov.ng>

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVISION FUND
UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVISION FUND

INVITATION FOR PROPOSAL (IFP)
USPF/RFP/CCCIV/010/2010

To Establish Community Communication Centers (CCCs) in Unserved/Underserved Rural Communities in Nigeria

1. The Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) hereby invites interested Network Service Providers, ICT Companies and other Firms and Organizations that meet the requirements set out below, to submit proposal for the establishment and operation of Community Communication Centers (CCCs) in 109 (One Hundred and Nine) locations in the Country. Copies of the Request For Proposal (RFP), containing the details of the services to be provided, technical specifications, terms and conditions, can be obtained from USPF website or from the Office of the USPF as detailed below.
 2. The USPF was established by the Federal Government to facilitate the widespread availability of ICT infrastructure and services, especially in the underserved/unserved rural Communities; promote technological innovations in ICT services and delivery and bridge the digital divide between the urban and non-urban or rural areas.
 3. To achieve these laudable objectives and mandate, USPF, under the phases I & II of the scheme in 2007/2008 established some CCCs in various locations across the Country. In continuation of the implementation, USPF intends to establish, under the phase IV of the scheme in 2010 additional 109 (One Hundred and Nine) CCCs in various rural Communities in the Country.
 4. Each CCC will provide Internet access, Voice, ICT training, emergency call services and other related services to the community where it is located. The service delivery platforms will not be technology specific, but will be robust enough to guarantee specified levels of service availability, quality and future network expansion.
 5. The CCCs will be managed under a profitable but regulated tariff regime. The USPF will provide an output-based-subsidy for the establishment of the CCCs in the respective locations.
 6. The details of scopes of work, eligibility and tender delivery instructions as well as other details are contained in the RFP on our website www.uspf.gov.ng. Interested bidders are advised to view the content of RFP from USPF website before purchasing hard copy from USPF.
 7. Interested Firm should submit their proposal to the undersigned on or before **June 11, 2010 by 4.00 pm**.
- All proponents are to note that failure to comply with the tendering instructions shall lead to disqualification.
8. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of N100, 000.000. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security (Bid Bond) of N200, 000.00. Proposal without bid Bond shall be rejected. The tendering fee of N100, 000.00 should be in draft in favour of the Universal Service Provision Fund. The Technical and Financial proposal must be in separate envelopes and must be marked clearly **USPF/RFP/CCC/2010/TECHNICAL** and **USPF/RFP/CCC/2010/FINANCIAL**.

Director / Secretary,
Universal Service Provision Fund,
Universal Service Provision Fund Secretariat
Nigerian Communications Commission Head Office, 7th Floor,
432, Aguiyi Ironsi Street,
Maitama District,
Abuja.

For further clarification on the RFP, please send your enquiries to Engr. O.Y. Asaju on 094617462

Signed:
FUNSO FAYOMI ESQ
Director / Secretary
Universal Service Provision Fund

Website: <http://www.uspf.gov.ng>

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVISION FUND
UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVISION FUND

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

To Submit Proposals for the Provision of Passive Telecommunications Infrastructure for Purpose of Co-Location of Telecommunication Companies in Rural/Unserved Areas of Nigeria:

1. The Universal Service Provision Fund ("the USPF") in its desire to promote the widespread availability of telecommunication services intends to provide subsidy to qualified proponents to facilitate the construction and provision of shareable (passive) telecommunications infrastructure that will stimulate the provision of ICT services in unserved and underserved communities in Nigeria.
2. The objectives of the project amongst others is to accelerate the provision of passive telecommunications infrastructure that will stimulate the provision of ICT services in unserved/underserved communities where such infrastructures will be located.
3. The successful proponents, [operators, communities, NGO's or private entrepreneurs] will be required to construct telecommunication towers/masts and associated infrastructures (passive infrastructures e.g. Land, Perimeter fence, Generator, Storage tank for fuel, Shelter, etc.) for the purpose of extending ICT services to communities which are unserved and underserved.
4. The USPF shall pay Subsidy as an incentive to Proponents in accordance with milestones to be identified in the contract agreement.
5. The details of scope of work, eligibility and tender delivery instructions as well as other details are contained in the RFP on our website www.uspf.gov.ng. Interested bidders are advised to view the content of RFP from USPF website before purchasing hard copy from USPF.
6. Interested Firm should submit their proposal to the undersigned on or before **June 11, 2010 by 4.00 pm**

All proponents are to note that failure to comply with the tendering instructions shall lead to disqualification.

7. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of N100, 000.000. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security (Bid Bond) of N200, 000.00. Proposal without bid Bond shall be rejected. The tendering fee of N100, 000.00 should be in draft in favour of the Universal Service Provision Fund. The Technical and Financial proposal must be in separate envelopes and must be marked clearly **USPF/RFP/CIP/2010/ TECHNICAL** and **USPF/RFP/CIP/2010/FINANCIAL**.

Director / Secretary,
Universal Service Provision Fund,
Universal Service Provision Fund Secretariat
Nigerian Communications Commission Head Office, 7th Floor,
432, Aguiyi Ironsi Street,
Maitama District,
Abuja.

For further clarification on the RFP, please send your enquiries to Engr. O.Y. Asaju on 094617462

Signed:

FUNSO FAYOMI ESQ
Director / Secretary
Universal Service Provision Fund

Website: <http://www.uspf.gov.ng>

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVISION FUND
UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVISION FUND

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

AGREGATION OF BANDWIDTH FOR THE CONNECTIVITY ASPECT OF OUR VARIOUS INITIATIVES UNDER THE SCHOOL ACCESS PROGRAMME (SAP) OF USPF AND COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS CENTRES (CCCs).

1. The USPF has a national mandate to provide strategic investments in national ICT projects geared at providing unserved, underserved and rural communities access to information and Communication Technology (ICT). As part of the mandate, the USPF has over the years provided grants to enable access to basic ICT- enabled learning tools in several schools across the country under its School Access Programme (SAP) and Community Communications Centres (CCCs).
2. The main objective of the bandwidth aggregation is for the implementer to purchase and distribute bulk bandwidth required by all the Secondary and Tertiary Institutions under the School Access Programme, as well as Community Communications Centres (CCC) locations in the Thirty Six States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory Abuja. The bandwidth aggregation project will enable the USPF to provide common connectivity platforms and solutions for all the schools and CCCs for standardization of quality of internet service received by the schools and centres.
3. This project is in six Lots of one per six geopolitical zone of the Federation. Thus, Separate proposal should be submitted for each zone and clearly marked accordingly. Proposal that is not in line with the lots will be rejected.
4. The selected firms are expected provide detailed design on how to aggregate the bandwidth, appropriate connectivity models, infrastructure options and bandwidth allotment in the six geo-political zones of the country including the Federal Capital Territory, with the aim of implementing a sustainable, standardized and optimized connectivity model that will maximize bandwidth provision and usage by target schools and CCC centers to meet their educational needs as well as the social demands of the surrounding communities.
5. The details of scopes of work, eligibility and tender delivery instructions as well as other details are contained in the RFP on our website www.uspf.gov.ng. Interested bidders are advised to view the content of RFP from USPF website before purchasing hard copy from USPF.
6. Interested Firm should submit their proposal to the undersigned on or before **June 11, 2010 by 4.00 pm**.
All proponents are to note that failure to comply with the tendering instructions shall lead to disqualification.
7. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of N100, 000.000. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security (Bid Bond) of N200, 000.00. Proposal without bid Bond shall be rejected. The tendering fee of N100, 000.00 should be in draft in favour of the Universal Service Provision Fund. The Technical and Financial proposal must be in separate envelopes and must be marked clearly **USPF/RFP/AG-BANDWIDTH/2010/ TECHNICAL** and **USPF/RFP/AG-BANDWIDTH/2010/FINANCIAL**.

Director / Secretary,
Universal Service Provision Fund,
Universal Service Provision Fund Secretariat
Nigerian Communications Commission Head Office, 7th Floor,
432, Aguiyi Ironsi Street,
Maitama District,
Abuja.

For further clarification on the RFP, please send your enquiries to Engr. Wakili Bako on 094617465

Signed:

FUNSO FAYOMI ESQ
Director / Secretary
Universal Service Provision Fund

Website: <http://www.uspf.gov.ng>



TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF NIGERIA (TCN)

PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR ENGAGEMENT OF PRIVATE AVIATION SERVICES FOR TRANSMISSION LINE SURVEY, SURVEILLANCE DIGITAL MAPPING AND MAINTENANCE

INTRODUCTION

The Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), intends to engage Private Aviation Services for Transmission Line Survey, Surveillance Digital Mapping and Maintenance of existing High Voltage Transmission Line Infrastructure and new Transmission Line Mapping and Route Design.

SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of work shall include:

- a. aerial survey of existing high voltage transmission lines
- b. aerial survey for new transmission lines mapping and route design

PRE-REQUISITE

Interested companies are to provide the following:

1. Evidence of company registration in Nigeria (forms CO2 and CO7 must be attached) or overseas.
2. VAT registration certificate, where applicable
3. Technical specification of digital cameras to be used.
4. Provision of make and model of aircraft to be used, including flight history logs.
5. Proof of expertise of personnel in the area of High Voltage Power Line Surveying.
6. Evidence of safety in previous high voltage transmission surveys.
7. Comprehensive company profile which should include:
 - a. Populated organizational structure, and key professional staff with relevant experience. Availability of requisite and appropriate skills among key staff and persons to be engaged in the project (please attach certified curriculum vitae of key staff).
 - b. List of Company Directors, their individual addresses, phone numbers and certified curriculum vitae.
8. Production of evidence of authorization to operate the aircraft in Nigeria airspace.
9. Evidence of having successfully carried out at least two (2) similar works within the past five years and/or details of on-going projects.
10. When a company is in Joint Venture (JV), Partnership or Consortium agreement, the role of each partner must be clearly defined in the JV agreement. Additionally, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) must specify the lead partner. Evidence of such a relationship must be signed by the Chief Executives/ Partners. A copy of the firm legal relationship must be attached.
11. Audited Account of the company along with the corresponding 3 years Tax Clearance Certificate which shall be verified and the original sighted on demand.
12. The company must not be in receivership.
13. Submission of evidence(s) of compliance with the provisions of the Pension Reform Act 2004, in accordance to Section 16 (6) (d) of the Public Procurement Act 2007.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. PHCN/TCN reserves the right to verify claims made by authority and guarantee for such verification (post qualification exercise may be carried out where necessary)
2. Technical and commercial bids shall be sealed in **separate envelopes**. (Only commercial bids of technically qualified bidders shall be opened. To be qualified, a bidder must score a minimum point of 70% based on evaluation criteria).
3. All the information requested for qualification shall be provided in English Language by all applicants.
4. All applicants submitting through courier services must provide means of identification on the parcel as management will not be liable to misplacement of such document.

5. Failure to provide information / supporting document that is essential for the evaluation of the applicant's qualifications, or to provide timely clarification or substantiation of the information supplied, may result in disqualification of the applicant
6. Due to the urgency of the surveys, the successful bidder shall be required to start the survey within six weeks from contract award date.

PURCHASE AND COLLECTION OF BID DOCUMENT

Interested and experienced firms should purchase the qualification document for the above services from the office of:

The Asst. General Manager (Procurement),
Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN),
Room 228, Corporate Headquarters,
Plot 441, Zambezi Crescent,
Maitama, Abuja.

The document containing the scope of work is available for collection following payment of non-refundable fee of N50, 000.00. The payment should be made by certified bank draft in favour of Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) Headquarters, Maitama, Abuja.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Interested applicants should submit their bids as requested above, delivered by hand or registered mail to reach the following address not later than 12.00 noon, Monday, 14th June, 2010. Opening of bids will be at 12.30pm, the same day, Monday, 14th June, 2010, in the TCN Conference Room, 2nd Floor, PHCN Headquarters, Plot 441 Zambezi Crescent, Maitama, Abuja.

Each bid (Technical & Commercial, with one hard copy and a soft copy of proposal) should be in a separate envelop with the name and mailing address of the company, which shall be clearly written on the envelope(s), and marked 'TCN Transmission Line Survey, Surveillance, Digital Mapping' at the left hand corner of the envelope and submitted to the office of:

The Asst. General Manager (Procurement),
Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN),
Room 228/230, Corporate Headquarters,
Plot 441, Zambezi Crescent,
Maitama, Abuja.

ENQUIRIES

For all enquiries regarding the invitation to tender, please contact the following e-mails:

1. solaakinniranye@yahoo.com
2. asabada@gmail.com
3. Atonack@yahoo.co.uk

SIGNED:
MANAGEMENT
TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF NIGERIA



TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF NIGERIA (TCN) PUBLIC NOTICE

Supply of Frequency Disturbance Recorders

INTRODUCTION

The Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), in its efforts to ensure power system stability, intends to purchase **Second Generation Frequency Disturbance Recorders** that would be deployed in Transmission Stations nationwide.

Reputable companies are hereby invited to apply for the design, manufacture, supply and installation of the required Frequency Disturbance Recorders.

SCOPE OF WORK

Design, manufacture, supply and installation of Second Generation Frequency Disturbance Recorders in the following locations: Lagos, Kaduna, Benin, Enugu, Port-Harcourt and Osogbo Transmission Regions.

QUOTATION PRE-REQUISITE

Interested companies are to provide the following:

- 1) Certificate of Incorporation in Nigeria or overseas.
- 2) Evidence of source of supply, including product brochure(s).
- 3) Tax Clearance Certificate for the past three years (original Tax Clearance Certificate must be sighted).
- 4) Evidence of Financial capability and banking support.
- 5) Evidence of VAT registration.
- 6) Submit evidence(s) of compliance with the provisions of the Pension Reform Act, 2004.
- 7) Any other relevant additional information.

COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENT

Interested applicants are requested to indicate their interest, by **requesting** for the "TENDER DOCUMENT" from the office of:

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

Applicants shall pay a non-refundable **Tender Fee** of **₦20, 000.00 (Twenty Thousand Naira)** only, in bank draft payable to the **Transmission Company of Nigeria, Abuja**, before collecting the tender document(s). However, applicants whose Technical Proposals score less than 70% after evaluation will have their **Tender Fees** refunded to them and their **Financial Proposals** shall not be opened.

SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

1. Completed **Technical** and **Financial** bid documents shall be submitted in separate envelopes, sealed and clearly marked "**Technical Proposal**" and "**Financial Proposal**", respectively, "**for Supply and Installation of Frequency Disturbance Recorders**", at the top left corner of the envelope and submitted to the office of:

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

2. The name and mailing address of the Applicant Company must be clearly marked on the envelope(s).
3. **Technical Proposals** must bear the relevant **quotation pre-requisites** and completed **Tender Forms** issued with the Tender Document.

CLOSING DATE

Submission of tenders shall close at **12.00 noon, Monday, 14th June, 2010**. The Technical Proposals shall be opened by **3.00 p.m.** on the same day.

NOTE

1. Tools and materials proposed must be in agreement with the **TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION SCHEDULE** included in the Tender Document.
2. All the information requested shall be provided in English Language by all applicants.
3. Failure to provide information/supporting document that is essential for the evaluation of the applicant's qualifications, or to provide timely clarification or substantiation of the information supplied, may result in disqualification of the applicant.
4. TCN reserves the right to verify any claim by applicants. Applicants should therefore, include in their submissions necessary authority and guarantee for such verification.

For further information and/or clarification, please contact the following e-mails:

- i. asabada@gmail.com
- ii. atonack@yahoo.com

**SIGNED:
MANAGEMENT
TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF NIGERIA (TCN)**



TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF NIGERIA (TCN)
PUBLIC NOTICE

RE: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR CONSULTANCY ON POWER SYSTEM DYNAMIC STABILITY STUDIES AND ASSOCIATED WORKS.

ADDENDUM

This addendum is to further explain the scope of assignments of the above mentioned expression of interest, published in the Federal Tenders Journal, Punch and Daily Trust newspapers of Monday, 19th April, 2010.

SCOPE OF WORKS

The Scope of works covered under the assignment can be divided into the following Tasks:-

Task 1

1. Technical audit and collation of (i) existing generator controllers in the system, determination of requirements of generating unit governor at each power station. (ii) 330/132kV and 33/11kV transformers and substation switchgears specifying their functional status.
2. Determine the suitability of existing switchgears at 330kV, 132kV, and 33/11kV levels in terms of their Break and Make capacities and recommend appropriate break ratings at 330kV, 132kV, and 33/11kV voltage levels at various locations in the grid.
3. Determine the Earth Resistance Values and the integrity of earthing arrangement at various locations in the system, with a view to recommending ways of improving them.

Task 2

4. Perform load flow (losses, compensation, voltage control and voltage collapse studies), short circuit studies to determine maximum symmetrical and asymmetrical fault levels at 330kV, 132kV, 33kV and 11kV bus bars and Transient Stability Studies; NEPLAN Power System Analysis Tool must be used.
5. Determine the minimum MW primary control power to secure the network for various network configurations corresponding to the following load levels: 6000MW, 10000MW, 15000MW, and 20000MW.
6. Advise on distribution of the required primary control power among the Generating Units, to ensure system frequency stability for each of the load level.

Task 3

7. Review existing settings of protection relays and effectively set the relays where necessary, to conform to the established fault levels, taking into consideration the short circuit withstand capability of major equipment like transformers.
8. Carryout functional tests on all existing protection relays, recalibrate where necessary and identify faulty relays for replacement.
9. Co-ordinate effectively protection relays at the various substations in the grid, to ensure discriminatory tripping.
10. Determine the adequacy, or otherwise, of the entire protection system and establish a protection philosophy for the Grid System.
11. Provide drawings for all the protection schemes for the entire system 330/132kV, 132/33kV, and 33/11kV and detailed documentations.

Task 4

12. Establish an overall encompassing System Data Web Based Portal.
13. Determine the best options in the deployment of Carrier Aided Schemes.
14. Assess the present Communication Schemes and proffer solutions for the attainment of adequate infrastructure for EMS and SCADA.

The Tasks 1 – 4 are expected to be performed by a single Firm / Company.

Groups of consultants whose areas of competencies cover all the Tasks (1-4) listed above can partner together to boost their qualification. Firm / Company to be pre-qualified must show evidence that they have a team that will be able to handle all the Tasks (1-4) together.

NEW CLOSING DATE

In view of this addendum, the closing date is hereby extended to Monday, 14th June, 2010. For further clarification, please contact:-

GM (PSPD) + 2348033119096 e-mail: atatikut@yahoo.co.uk
AGM (PSPD) + 2348052502117 oluwafemizaccheaus@gmail.com

Signed
MANAGEMENT
TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF NIGERIA (TCN)



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

**4th COMBINED CONVOCATION CEREMONY (2001-2009)
HOLDING ON SATURDAY, 15th MAY, 2010**

The Provost, Alhaji Ibrahim Jibril wishes to invite all the granduands and the general public to the Convocation Ceremony as follows:

MAJOR EVENTS

1 PRESS CONFERENCE

Date: Thursday 13th May, 2010
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Venue: Council Chamber, FCE (T) Bichi, Kano

2(a) PRE-CONVOCATION LECTURE

Topic: "The use of ICT in Teacher Education for Sustainable Development in Nigeria"
Speaker: The Provost of Federal College of Education (Technical) Potiskum, Dr. Shettima A. Saidu
Chairman: Ambassador Emmanuel A. I. Agum

Date: Friday 14th May, 2010
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Venue: Lecture Theatre

2(b) FRIENDLY FOOTBALL MATCH

FCE (T) Bichi Vs FCE, Kano
Date: Friday 14th May, 2010
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Venue: College Sports Ground FCE (T) Bichi, Kano State

2(c) CONVOCATION DINNER

Date: Friday 14th May, 2010
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Venue: CET – FCE (T) Bichi, Kano State

3. CONVOCATION CEREMONY

Award of NCE Certificates, TTC, Presentation of Prizes and Award of Fellowship on the following:

1. His Highness, Alhaji (Dr.) Ado Bayero, CFR, LLD, JP, the Emir of Kano
2. His Excellency, Malam (Dr.) Ibrahim Shekarau, (Sardaunan Kano), the Executive Governor of Kano State.
3. His Excellency, Chief Godswill Obot Akpabio, the Executive Governor of Akwa Ibom State.
4. His Excellency, RT. Hon. Gabriel Suswam, the Executive Governor of Benue State.
5. His Excellency, Dr. Aliyu Magatakarda Wammakko, the Executive Governor of Sokoto State.
6. Honourable Farouk Lawan, Chairman, House of Committee on Education, National Assembly, Abuja.
7. Mr. Leo Stan Ekeh, Chairman/CEO Zinox Technologies Limited, Lagos.
8. Dr. Nafisatu Dahiru Muhammad, Executive Secretary, Nomadic Education Commission, Kaduna.

Date: Saturday 15th May, 2010
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Venue: Convocation Ground – FCE (T) Bichi, Kano

Granduands would be required to pay a total sum of non-refundable fee of **N500:00** for a copy of order of proceedings and academic gown from 11th – 14th May, 2010

Signed:
ALH. (DR.) MUHAMMAD ALI
Registrar



The 4th African Rural and Agricultural Credit Association [AFRACA], Agribanks Forum

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the Nigerian Agricultural Co-operative & Rural Development Bank (NACRDB) and other AFRACA member Institutions in Nigeria cordially invite stakeholders, members of the collaborating institutions and relevant government agencies to the 4th AFRACA Agribanks forum.

Theme: "Financing options for Agricultural and Rural Development in Sub-Saharan Africa."

Venue: Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Ladi Kwali Hall, Abuja, Nigeria.

Date: 5th - 7th May, 2010

PROGRAMME is as follows:

Day one: Wednesday, 05/05/2010

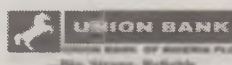
Time	Activity	Resource persons
Session 1 09:00 - 10:00	Opening session	Member of Honour
	Welcome Remarks	B.U. Girei MD/CEO, NACRDB
	Opening Remarks	Edmund Mkwawa, AFRACA Chairman & MD Dar es Salaam Community Bank (DCB), Tanzania
	Objectives of the 4 th Agribanks Forum	Rasmane Ouedraogo - AFRACA Secretary General
	Keynote Address	Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)
	Opening Speech By Guest of Honour	Dr. Olusegun Aganga - Hon. Minister of Finance, Nigeria
	Group photo	All
10:00 - 10:30	Health Break	
Session 2 10:31 - 12:30	Institutional Support for Rural and Agricultural Development	Chairman of Session: Governor, CBN
	Financing the Agriculture Sector using the Rural Value Chain Model	George Macharia - Equity Bank, Kenya
	Rural Finance Approaches Suitable for Africa - The Experience of Zimbabwe	Sam Malaba - Agribank Zimbabwe
	Financing Contract Farming of Rice - The Mali Experience	BNDA Mali, TBA
	Discussions	
12:31 - 13:00	Government Support Mechanisms for Agricultural and Rural Development - CAADP Framework	Boaz Kelzire, African Union (AU)
	Discussions	
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break	
Session 3 14:01 - 15:30	Instruments and Mechanisms for Risk Management in Lending to Agriculture	Chairman of Session: CNCA, Senegal
	Insurance Options in Risk Management in Agricultural Finance	K.K. Yusuf, MD/CEO, NAIC, Nigeria
	Risk Management in Financing Agriculture - Successful Initiatives & Lessons Learnt	Renate Kloeppingertodd, World Bank
	Risk Management in Lending to Small-Holders and the Agribusinesses in Nigeria	G. Ehigiamusoe, MD/CEO LAPO, Nigeria
	Discussions	
15:00 - 16:00	Health Break	
Session 4 16:01 - 17:45	Initiatives for supporting Agriculture and Agricultural financing	Chairman of Session: ARB Apex Bank
	Agricultural Finance Support Facilities - International Experiences	Graham Owen, World Bank
	Framework for Increasing Investment in Agribusiness and Agro Industry: The HLCD-3A Conference	Calvin Miller - FAO
	Financial Modalities and Facility for Increasing Investment in Agribusiness and Agro Industry	Patrick Kormawa - AfDB/UNIDO
	Discussions	

Day two: Thursday, 06/05/2010

Time	Activity	Resource person
08:30 - 09:00	Recap of Day one	Mr. Femi Adebisi
Session 5 09:00 - 10:00	Initiatives for Supporting Agriculture and Agricultural Financing	Chairman of Session: Bank of Mozambique
	Commercial Bank Lending, Linkage Banking through Guarantee Facilities in Ethiopia	Habtu Dimtsu Weres - CBE, Ethiopia
	Community Commercialization and Financing Components of the Rural Value Chain	Stanley Mwangi - Farm Concern, Kenya
	Discussions	
10:01 - 10:30	Making Finance work for Africa	GTZ, Rep in Nigeria
	Financing Agriculture: Reaching Smallholders, Raising Production	Tim Prewitt - Managing Director, USAID Markets
10:30 - 10:45	Health Break	
Session 6 10:46 - 13:00	Accessing Untapped Resources for Financing Agriculture	Chairman of Session: Banque Centrale du Congo
	Enhancing Rural Incomes through Agricultural Commodities Markets and Warehouse Receipts	Yusuf Abdurrahim MD/CEO ASCE - Nigeria
	Global Energy Crisis - The Untapped Opportunities for Commercial Agriculture and Bio-Fuels Development in Sub-Saharan Africa	Prof. Idris Bugaje - University of Maiduguri, Nigeria
	Discussions	
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break	
Session 7 14:01 - 15:30	Moving forward	Chairman of Session: Dr. K. Moghalu, Dep. Gov. FSS, CBN
	Presentation of actions points on data structure development and management (from the training on 4 th May 2010)	Josephat Mboya Kiweu - Training facilitator
	Plenary discussion, "Way forward for Investing in Agriculture in Africa"	Mr. Femi Adebisi Facilitator
	Forum feedback survey	AFRACA & Facilitator
15:00 - 16:00	Health Break	
Session 8 16:01 - 17:00	Closing session	Chairman of Session: Dr. K. Moghalu, Dep. Gov. FSS, CBN
	Presentation of Summary and conclusions	Mr. Femi Adebisi, Facilitator
	Remarks by Secretary General of AFRACA	Rasmane Ouedraogo
	Closing speech by Guest of Honour	

Day three: Friday, 07/05/2010: Field visit;
see details as provided in workshop folders

Day four: Saturday, 08/05/2010: Departures





Investments & Securities Tribunal

Plot 823, Ralph Sodeinde Street
Central Business District Abuja

INVITATION TO TENDER

1. INTRODUCTION:

In compliance with Public Procurement Act, 2007 for the procurement of goods, works and services in the public service of the federation, the Investments and Securities Tribunal hereby invites tenders from qualified contractors/consultants for the supply and installation of the following items under its 2010 capital vote:

2. SCOPE OF WORK: CAPITAL VOTE 2010

S/N	ITEMS
1.	Supply of Office Furniture
2.	Supply and installation Medium Duty Panasonic Photocopiers (with full accessories)
3.	Supply and installation of small office PABX systems
4.	Supply and installation of Desktop Computers.
5.	Supply of Laptop Computers
6.	Supply of Computer Servers with a set of 6x146 GB SAS HDD each; Online Server UPS; HD Network Printers with Windows SBS & Server Licenses & network Server Antivirus.
7.	Supply of Desktop Printers
8.	Supply of Multimedia Projector & Screen with scanners
9.	Supply and Installations of Internet Access
10.	Supply and Installation of Case Flow Management Software – Design Study/Module Acquisition
11.	Court Recording Machine with Public Address System and LAN
12.	Supply of Legal/Capital Market/Pension Books and Publications & e-library system.
13.	Supply and installation 27 KVA Generating Sets.

3. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission
- Comprehensive list of all Directors of the bidder's company and key staff
- Financial Reports, Balance Sheets, Profit and Loss Statements, Auditor's Report and Bank References with documents for the past 3 Years.
- Tax clearance certificate for three (3) years
- VAT registration certificates.
- A reference letter from bidder's bank
- List and evidence of satisfactory similar supplies/jobs executed for government agencies or/and the private sector within the past 5 years, stating value, evidence of award and completion certificate.
- Information on past 5 years litigation in which the bidder has been involved or in which the bidder is currently involved (IF ANY)
- Evidence of payment of non refundable tender fees.
- Evidence/link with manufacturers will be an added advantage.
- Evidence of well equipped service/repair workshop as well as spare parts availability where necessary.

4. INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

- Prospective bidders are expected to collect bid documents

upon payment of a non refundable tender fee of N 10,000.00 (Ten Thousand naira) only per lot in Bank draft payable to INVESTMENTS AND SECURITIES TRIBUNAL (IST).

- Bidders are expected to respond to this advert, simultaneously with the TECHNICAL and FINANCIAL bids in separate envelopes clearly marked. However, only bids from companies which meet the qualification criteria will have their financial bids considered.
- All prices shall be quoted in Naira.
- All bidders shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of its tender; the Tribunal shall not be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the tendering process
- Any bidder or company who fails to submit the required documents will not be considered.
- All bids should be sealed and dropped in the tender box at the reception area not later than *six weeks* from the date of this publication.
- Pursuant to (f), the deadline for submission of all tenders is 4 pm, 11th of June, 2010.
- ALL bids must be accompanied by a sworn affidavit from a Court of record detailing copies of submissions made by the bidder.
- The tender as well as all correspondence and documents relating to the Tender shall be written in English Language.
- The sealed envelope containing the documents should be marked with the appropriate LOT NO. at the top right hand corner and addressed to:
THE SECRETARY,
TENDERS' BOARD,
INVESTMENTS AND SECURITIES TRIBUNAL,
PLOT 823 RALPH SHODEINDE STREET,
CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT,
ABUJA.
- Any bid submitted after the close of submission will be rejected.
- All qualified bidders are enjoined to be physically present or be represented by persons with the requisite authority at the Tribunal's Head Office on 14th of June, 2010 for the opening of bids by 12 pm prompt.
- This Invitation to Tender shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of Investments and Securities Tribunal (IST) to award any contract, nor shall it entitle the submitting firm to make any claims whatsoever and or seek any indemnity from IST by virtue of such firm having responded to this advert.

Management



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS & REGULATIONS ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (NESREA)



ACCREDITATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Following the advertisement placed in some National Newspapers on 22nd March, 2010 by the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) regarding the accreditation of Environmental Consultants, applications were received from prospective Consultants and interviews conducted. Arising from the process, the following Consultants have been duly accredited and placed according to their areas of competence:

CER T NO	CONSULTANCY OUTFIT	E-MAIL ADDRESS/ PHONE	AREAS OF COMPETENCE						Waste Management
			Environmental Audit	Environmental Management Systems	Environmental Studies	Environmental Technology	Laboratory		
125	AKAB INVESTMENTS LIMITED	akabinvest@yahoo.com RC 122,791	YES	YES	YES				
126	ALBA NEG. LTD	alba_b@yahoo.com, info@albaneg.com RC 45189			YES				YES
127	AWML INTERNATIONAL LTD	awmlint@aol.com, atart@westnet@yahoo.com RC 174414	YES		YES				
124	BASAL & COMPANY LTD	basal@basal.com RC 204547	YES	YES	YES				YES
128	BODLEY COMPANY LIMITED	bodley@boc.com RC 201,523	YES		YES				
129	Brightest Hope Company Ltd	brighthead@bhc.com RC 332,637	YES	YES	YES				
130	BYTRAX TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED	bytrax@btrax.com www.btrax.com RC 747933			YES				
122	CAPPOLEN CONSULTANTS INTERNATIONAL LTD	chryso@cap.com RC 629633	YES		YES				YES
131	CERASE ENV. SERV. CES LTD LAGOS	simon_oladun@yahoo.com RC 088387	YES	YES	YES				
132	CHEMICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING LTD	chemicalenv@yahoo.com RC 146736	YES		YES	YES			YES
133	CLEAN ENVIRONMENT SYSTEM	clean_enviro@yahoo.com RC 62,023664							YES
134	DIVERSE INDUSTRIES & ALLIED RESOURCES LTD	diverseindustriesalliedservices@yahoo.com RC 732832			YES	YES			
135	EARTH PUSH LTD/GTE	earthpush@yahoo.com andrea_adriana@yahoo.com RC 628873	YES	YES	YES				
136	ECC-CONSERVE LTD	eccconserv@yahoo.co.uk RC 362953	YES		YES				
137	ENOBEL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULT LTD	enobel@yahoo.com RC 330,438	YES	YES	YES				
138	ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH & GEOSCIENCE LTD	enviresearch@yahoo.com RC 083,091			YES				
139	ENVIROW QUEST NEG LTD	envirowquest@yahoo.com RC 428070	YES		YES				
140	FTJ CONSULTS LTD	ftjconsult@yahoo.com, topdog@yahoo.com RC 635462	YES	YES	YES				
141	GH GLOBE CONSULTING LTD	ghglobeconsulting@yahoo.com RC 082164	YES	YES	YES				
142	IF ENVIRONMENT	ifenvironment@yahoo.co.uk 011 958147	YES		YES				
143	JACE MASTERWELL EDUCATIONAL CENTRE	jacemasterwell@yahoo.com CAE/11/70 19766	YES		YES				
144	JOHAKOD NEG. LTD	johakod@yahoo.com RC 120,928		YES	YES				
145	KONDRED TECHNOLOGIES	kindredtech@yahoo.com 011 984833	YES						
146	KOLATE DEVELOPMENT LTD	kolate@yahoo.com RC 876667	YES		YES				
147	LABSTAFF NEG. LTD	labstaff@yahoo.com RC 493538	YES		YES			YES	
148	MADAPAD ENG. NEG. LTD	madapad@yahoo.com RC 501,819			YES	YES			
149	MATTIVI NEG. LTD	mattivi@yahoo.com RC 62747	YES	YES	YES				YES
150	MINERAL WATCH CONSULTS LTD	mineralwatch@yahoo.com contact@mincon.org RC 308348	YES		YES				
151	MONA-CERM LTD	monacerm@yahoo.com RC 621056	YES	YES	YES				
117	MORGAN OIL & GAS LTD	morganoilgas@yahoo.com, marcanerenergyservices@yahoo.com RC 638351	YES	YES	YES				
118	NATIONAL CHEMICAL & ALLIED PRODUCTS LTD	evergreen@yahoo.com RC 363534						YES	YES
152	ONIONNY ASSOCIATE	onionny@yahoo.com, afonabe@oufe.org.ng 0112002061					YES	YES	
153	OTA-SAM AGRO TECHNICAL NEG. LTD	otam@yahoo.com RC 151,341	YES	YES	YES				YES
154	PMS CO. LTD	pmscom@yahoo.com RC 221750							YES
155	PHELPS INTERNATIONAL LTD	phelps-international.com RC 650077	YES				YES		
119	RAMIFAS NEG. LTD	ramifas@yahoo.com RC 327988	YES	YES	YES				
156	RENEY LTD	reney@yahoo.com RC 414852							YES
120	SAAG CHEMICAL NEG. LTD	saagchem@yahoo.com RC 170896	YES	YES	YES				YES
121	SAHEL CONSULT LTD.	sahelconsult@yahoo.com, sahelconsult@yahoo.com RC 611885	YES	YES	YES				
157	SALVAGES LIMITED	salvages@yahoo.com RC 701820	YES		YES				
158	SCAN ASSOCIATES CONSULTS LTD	scanassoc@yahoo.com RC 668828	YES		YES				
159	SCHROEDER NEG. LTD	schroederlimited@gmail.com RC 670997	YES					YES	
160	SOUTH-SEA DATCOMM LTD	southseadatcomm@yahoo.com RC 324856	YES		YES				
161	STENO ENGINEER (WEST AFRICA) LTD	stenoengineer@yahoo.com RC 610880	YES		YES			YES	
162	T-GLOBAL INVESTMENT LTD	tglobal@yahoo.com RC 652877	YES	YES					
123	UNILAG CONSULT NEG. LTD	unilagconsult@gmail.com 548866	YES		YES				YES
163	UNITED INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEMS LTD	unitedinfra@yahoo.com RC 740770	YES	YES	YES				YES
164	UPTONVILLE NIGERIA LTD	uptonville@yahoo.co.uk RC 166367	YES		YES				
165	VICTORIA ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGERS LTD	victoriainfo@yahoo.com RC 816401			YES				YES
166	WELTON SERVICES NEG. LTD	weltonservices@yahoo.com RC400354						YES	YES
167	ZETTA ALLIED DIGITAL ENERGY LTD	zetalaboratory@yahoo.com RC 777728			YES				YES

- The accredited Consultants are requested to come to the Agency's Headquarters at No. 4, Oro Ago Crescent, Garki II, Abuja, to sign for, and collect their Certificates of Accreditation from Tuesday 4th May, 2010.
- Existing accredited Consultants whose certification expired 1st May, 2010 are expected to make arrangements for their renewal before 31st May, 2010.
- All the accredited Consultants are expected to operate within the extant rules and guidelines.

Dr. (Mrs.) Ngeri S. Benebo, JP
Director General/Chief Executive Officer



**FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
HEALTH SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT II
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SECRETARIAT
(WORLD BANK ASSISTED PROJECT)**

Ref: IFB/FCTHSDP II/NCB/GOODS/03/04/05/09

Date: 03/05/2010

PUBLICATION FOR CONTRACTS AWARD BY NCB

(A)

NAME: FCT HEALTH SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT II

COUNTRY: NIGERIA

PROJECT ID: 4522

BID/CONTRACT DESCRIPTION: Procurement of 7 No. Laptops, 32 No Computers & Accessories and Installation/ Expansion of the Internet Facility for the FCT Schools of Nursing & Midwifery Gwagwalada

SCOPE OF CONTRACT: Procurement of 7 No. Laptops, 32 No Computers & Accessories and Installation/ Expansion of the Internet Facility for the FCT Schools of Nursing & Midwifery Gwagwalada.

Ref: IFB/FCTHSDP II/NCB/GOODS/03/09

DURATION: 60 Days

Contract Award Date: 29th of April, 2010

AWARDED BIDDER				
NAME & ADDRESS OF AWARDED BIDDER		BID PRICE AT BID OPENING	FINAL BID PRICE	
NAME: M/S MAIB COMPUTER INVESTMENT		N25, 633, 750:00	N25, 633, 750:00	
ADDRESS: 2 ND FLOOR, NIGERIA AGRICULTURAL CO-OP. & RURAL DEV. BANK BUILDING, PLOT 2A, HERBERT MACAULEY WAY, ZONE 5, ABUJA.				
EVALUATED BIDDER(S)				
S/N	NAME OF EVALUATED BIDDER(S)	BID PRICE AT BID OPENING	FINAL BID PRICE	
1	M/S Phefa Nig Ltd	N14, 805, 000:00	N14, 805, 000:00	
2	M/S Maib Computer Investment	N25, 633, 750:00	N25, 633, 750:00	
3	M/S Quion Nig Ltd	N23, 528, 500:00	N23, 528, 500:00	
REJECTED BIDDER(S)				
S/N	NAME OF REJECTED BIDDER(S)	BID PRICE AT BID OPENING	FINAL BID PRICE	REASON FOR REJECTION
1	M/S Phefa Nig Ltd	N14, 805, 000:00	N14, 805, 000:00	NON RESPONSIVENESS
2	M/S Quion Nig Ltd	N23, 528, 500:00	N23, 528, 500:00	NON RESPONSIVENESS

(B)

BID/CONTRACT DESCRIPTION: Procurement of 30 No. Split Unit Air Conditioners, Office Equipment and Furnitures and 550 Student Tables and 550 Student Chairs for the FCT Schools of Nursing & Midwifery Gwagwalada.

SCOPE OF CONTRACT: Procurement of 30 No. Split Unit Air Conditioners, Office Equipment and Furnitures and 550 Student Tables and 550 Student Chairs for the FCT Schools of Nursing & Midwifery Gwagwalada.

Ref: IFB/FCTHSDP II/NCB/GOODS/04/09

AWARDED BIDDER				
NAME & ADDRESS OF AWARDED BIDDER		BID PRICE AT BID OPENING	FINAL BID PRICE	
NAME: M/S Sadro Soft Ltd		N48, 627, 000:00	N48, 627, 000:00	
ADDRESS: No. 2, Darban Street, Wuse - Abuja.				
EVALUATED BIDDER(S)				
S/N	NAME OF EVALUATED BIDDER(S)	BID PRICE AT BID OPENING	FINAL BID PRICE	
1	M/S Setdrad Nig Ltd	N28, 740, 200:00	N28, 740, 200:00	
2	M/S Sadro Soft Ltd	N48, 627, 000:00	N48, 627, 000:00	
REJECTED BIDDER(S)				
S/N	NAME OF REJECTED BIDDER(S)	BID PRICE AT BID OPENING	FINAL BID PRICE	REASON FOR REJECTION
1	M/S Setdrad Nig Ltd	N28, 740, 200:00	N28, 740, 200:00	NON RESPONSIVENESS

(C)

BID/CONTRACT DESCRIPTION: Procurement of 30 Seater Bus for FCT the Schools of Nursing Gwagwalada and 4 Ambulances.

SCOPE OF CONTRACT: Procurement of 30 Seater Bus for the FCT Schools of Nursing Gwagwalada and 4 Ambulances.

Ref: IFB/FCTHSDP II/NCB/GOODS/05/09

AWARDED BIDDER				
NAME & ADDRESS OF AWARDED BIDDER		BID PRICE AT BID OPENING	FINAL BID PRICE	
NAME: M/S INEH MIC AUTOMOBILE CO. LTD		N43, 300, 000:00	N53, 200, 000:00	
ADDRESS: PLOT 1357, AHMADU BELLO WAY, AREA LL, GARKI, ABUJA..				
EVALUATED BIDDER(S)				
S/N	NAME OF EVALUATED BIDDER(S)	BID PRICE AT BID OPENING	FINAL BID PRICE	
1	M/S Inch - Mic Automobile Co. Ltd	N43, 300, 000:00	N53, 200, 000:00	
2	M/S Fos International Ltd	N39, 232, 000:00	N39, 232, 000:00	
REJECTED BIDDER(S)				
S/N	NAME OF REJECTED BIDDER(S)	BID PRICE AT BID OPENING	FINAL BID PRICE	REASON FOR REJECTION
1	M/S Fos International Ltd	N39, 232, 000:00	N39, 232, 000:00	NON RESPONSIVENESS

Therefore the above Unsuccessful Bidders should please report to the Project Office and collect their Bid Securities.

Signed:

JAMILU ISA YANKWASHI, MNIM, PNM
Project Manager
FCT Health Systems Development Project II
(World Bank Assisted Project)
Health and Human Services Secretariat.

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536

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 +234 705 666 9020
 web: www.oas-helicopter.com
 E-mail: contact@oas-helicopters.com



FG achieved 74% budget implementation last year -AGF

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

ACCOUNTANT General of the Federation Alhaji Ibrahim Dankwambo has said that though figures of unspent budget are still being collated across the ministries, departments and agencies, the federal government achieved 74 percent budget implementation last year.

Last year, the federal government signed into law a budget of N3.1 trillion and a supplementary budget of N353.60 billion making a total of about N3.45 trillion.

Based on the 74 percent implementation rate, about N2.55 trillion would have been spent in 2009 by MDAs and a balance of about N900 billion may be collated.

Analysts decry the huge unspent budget often recorded by the federal government in the face of decaying social infrastructure and institutions.

The AGF told newsmen in Lagos at the weekend shortly after receiving Institute of Chartered Accountant of Nigeria (ICAN) merit award for his reforms in government accounting system that: "The year end was extended to March and we are still collating data. But as of 31st March, we have 74 percent

of budget implementation.

We have also achieved high in implementing the supplementary budget passed in November. We will make that public when we are done. But the unspent budget is actually the opening balance for the budget balance 2010."

On recent discrepancies in CBN and NNPC accounts, he explained that the "NNPC and the CBN do not form part of the account by the federal government because they are autonomous and they prepare their own accounts."

He also dismissed criticism of the current revenue sharing formula. "The revenue sharing formula as it is now is okay until the new one is introduced," he said.

Speaking on his award, he noted that, "I congratulate ICAN for deeming it fit to reward those who have worked transparently in various institutions in the practice of accounting. I am surprised and impressed that the Institute has actually monitored all the developments and all the reports that have taken place in the office of the accountant general in the last two years. I am

deeply touched that for the first time in the history of this country, we have produced an up to date published financial statement on Nigeria and it is made public and people can access it and hold public officers accountable to public monies.

"I want to thank my colleagues for their service to the nation and cooperating with me to achieve all that I have achieved. All the honour goes to the staff of the accountant general of the federation."

He expressed satisfaction with the e-payment system he introduced. "What we are trying to do is to bring accountability in public funds. E-payment tracks transactions to ensure that the business is credible and all parties involved are credible as well without delay.

"We have succeeded in implementing the direct payment system and manual e-payment system. Going forward from June, we will introduce end-to-end e-payment system. At this level all manual processes would be removed from the payment system" he said.

BRIEF

200 business leaders for Nigeria's London summit

By Sunday Williams

OVER 200 top business executives and some of the world's leading corporations will participate in Nigeria's golden jubilee business summit which is scheduled to take place between June 28th -29th 2010 at the Marriot Grosvenor hotel in London. A statement from the Managing Director, Business in Africa, Christian C Udechukwu said the event will discuss the current economic trends, outlook for the nation and today's emerging opportunities in the country. He said that the event is designed to harness investment potentials, update investors on the realities of business and politics today and to provide them with factual information to take right investments decisions to support Nigeria's sustained development. He said the summit is also expected to interface Nigeria's leadership, some FEC members, law makers and more with the world's leading business players, policy formulators and opinion makers to explore opportunities for mutual national development and how international companies can partner local businesses and key in on Nigeria's commercial prospects.

STOCK MARKET INDEX

Date:	Friday, April 30, 2010
Index:	25,789.53
Volume:	488,353,448
Cap.:	N6,398,379,830,660.00

TRUST INDEX

Inflation	11.8%
GDP	6.68%
Budget	N4.6tr
Ext. Reserves Acct	\$40.3bn
Excess Crude Acct	\$3.9bn
Poverty Ratio	54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	6%
Banks	24
Oil Price (Bonny light)	\$85.9 a barrel
Power Supply	3,700MW
Oil output per day	2.6mbd
Broad Money Supply	N11,010,063.6m
Credit to Private Sector	N10,037,422.5m
Inter-Bank Rate	1.2000%
Treasury Bills	2.02%
Deposit Rate	7.51%
Prime Lending Rate	18.06%

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

26/4/2010	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.2802	0.2902	0.3002
DANISH KRONER	26.4331	26.5227	26.6123
EURO	196.8078	197.4749	198.142
HONG KONG DOLLAR	228.2122	229.0159	229.7895
RIYAL	39.336	39.4694	39.6027
SDR	223.1679	223.9244	224.6808
SWISS FRANC	137.1293	137.5941	138.0589
US DOLLAR	147.31	148.01	148.71
WAUA	222.2933	223.0468	223.8003
YEN	1.5661	1.5714	1.5767

Bureau de Change Rates

BUYING	
Dollar	N151
Euro	N203
Pound	N234
SELLING	
Dollar	N152
Euro	N205
Pound	N236

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





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Port Harcourt 3rd Floor, Admiralty Building, Plot 202, Olu Obasanjo Road, GRA Phase II, Port Harcourt

Business

Power supply drops by 450MW

...As Shell shuts Afam Plant

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

NIGERIA'S current power generation of about 3700MW will drop by 450MW if Shell

Petroleum Development Company Limited SPDCL makes good its intention to shut down its power Plant at Afam this week. Shell

has written to the National Power Holding Company of Nigeria, PHCN, indicating its intention to shut down its power plant at Afam [Afam-

V1] in Rivers State.

In a letter communicated to the management of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria, PHCN, Shell says

the proposed shutting down of the Afam plant scheduled to take place from 4th-5th May 2010 was to allow final tie-in of the full combined

cycle phase, test and stabilize the units.

During the period of shut down daily power generation into the national grid will slump by 450MW from the current power generation of about 3700MW.

This development comes as the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company of the PHCN offered apologies to its customers within the Federal Capital Territory FCT over poor power supply resulting to load shedding in recent time.

Special Adviser [Media] to the Power Ministry, Yakubu Lawal said his boss [Minister of State, Power] was aware of the proposed shutting of the Afam power plant through the PHCN.

The PHCN management has also confirmed receiving notice of the proposed shutting of the Afam power Plant.

A statement made available by Mrs. Efuru Igbo, PHCN's Public Affairs Manager said: "In the circumstance, we appeal to our esteemed customers and other stakeholders, especially the mass media for understanding and cooperation as there will be substantial improvement in power supply nationwide after the tie-in of the additional 200MW unit".

Banks connected to Credit Registry

From Kayode Ekundayo & Chris Agabi, Lagos

THE country's 24 banks are now hooked to Credit Registry Service (Credit Bureau) Plc, its managing director Taiwo Ayedun has said.

Credit registry was incorporated in 2003 as the first credit bureau in Nigeria.

Ayedun told journalists in Lagos at the weekend during a training organised by the CR services that banks and other financial institutions now check up credit behaviour of those applying for loans before given them credit.

He said when Nigerians know that their credit behaviour can impact on their future businesses; they would be more responsible in paying debts.

He noted that, if the banks had used credit bureau services, the incidence of huge bad debts that led to the financial crisis in banks would have been minimised.

He explained that to guard against individuals giving false identity, he said CR has integrated biometrics and facial recognition a part of customers identity.



MY CONSTITUENCY LEGACY

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

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

For participation/enquiries, please contact :

Leke Adelere on 08059100282

Lilian Tanimola 08052377534.

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

Thank you as we anticipate your participation.

Management

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Business/Finance

How to grow insurance in the North —MD SA Insurance

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

How would you describe insurance penetration in the North compared to the South?

The level of insurance penetration in the North compared to the South is relatively low because of the prevalent religious inclinations among the people up there.

In your opinion, what is militating against the growth of insurance business in the North?

The low level of education on the importance of insurance has been a serious factor militating growth of the underwriting business up North. Naturally, the majority of the people up North are Muslims who do not ordinarily believe in the tenets of insurance.

For insurance to grow in that region, players in the sector must jointly package sound enlightenment and/or educational activities that should explain the importance and the place of insurance in their lives in a very simple and clear language that the people will easily understand.

I think this is the first step to take towards raising the level of growth in insurance in the North

Mr. Tom Imokhai is the Managing Director Standard Alliance Insurance Company Plc. In this interview, he says providing insurance education in the North can bridge the wide disparity between the North and South.

to what is currently obtainable in the Southern part.

What is your company's insurance market share in the North?

Standard Alliance Insurance Plc currently has a good share of the available market. This is partly because of our reliable prompt claims payment ability, good name and integrity. The insuring public among them trust us and would always want to remain with us.

What is your marketing objective for the North?

We plan to take our insurance products to the grassroots. We are currently using the direct marketing strategy to reach the people one-on-one. We have also signed deals with some notable IT companies to provide the right IT applications that will boost our e-insurance devices.

With this, we can be accessed from any corner of the country. We have just installed the Turn Quest Pinnacle Insurance Suite

to automate our operations and business transactions. With this device, businesses could be initiated and concluded online with the company within few minutes. Also payments can be made online. The idea behind the installation is essentially to provide customers wherever they are with such a mobile technology platform which enables them to transact business with us just at the cliché of a button.

How many branches do you have in the North and where are they located?

At the moment, we have six branches located in Abuja, Ilorin, Jos, Kano, Kaduna and Maiduguri. We also have sales outlets spread across the remaining state capitals in the North.

What are the products you have that could woo insurers in the North, particularly those who wouldn't insure for religious reasons?

Apart from the compulsory insurances, we have just intro-

duced the sale of Third party Motor Insurance policy in scratch card form. This was introduced to save the time of the buyer and check the patronage of fake motor insurance policy. We have Travel insurance, investment linked products, personal accident policy and a lot more.

What would be your advice to the North on insurance?

My advice to our people up North would be that religious belief or not, life is full of risks.

There are several risks that surround us in our daily life. Insurance helps to reduce the burden or losses the insured would have suffered.

I will want to encourage them to pick up the culture of buying appropriate insurance policies.

How can we grow insurance industry in Nigeria generally?

As the saying goes, knowledge is power. We need to introduce insurance as a subject from the secondary school level.

The more people are aware of what insurance is all about, the more they will have beliefs in it and patronise it. Also, we need to be more innovative by introducing into the markets products that will meet the needs of the insuring public.



MR. Tom Imokhai

What are the challenges confronting life insurance in Nigeria?

There are numerous challenges confronting the performance of life insurance in the country. First, is the low level of education. The people are not well informed about the product and its significance. Also, there is the challenge of the poor economic power among a larger percentage of the citizenry. People who cannot meet their daily needs will not think of buying insurance. Today, the life insurance and virtually other insurance products are mainly patronised by the elite class who know the value of insurance.

'Islamic Insurance, best option for the North'

Lawan Sarki Gagarawa is the branch manager, Northlink Insurance Limited, a subsidiary of Unity Bank Plc. In this interview, he speaks on the problems with insurance in northern Nigeria and possible solutions to such problems.

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

What are the benefits of insurance?

The benefit basically is that if you insure and the insured event, for instance if you insure against fire, and the house eventually got burnt, there are two issues, the insurance company will make it as good as it was before if got burnt, so also if the damage is just partial, the company will also bear responsibility of repairing it to the level it was before the damage. So you see the benefit is that the insurance company takes responsibility of the loss unlike in a situation where such properties were not insured.

If for instance, one is insuring a house or a car, does that mean that he is doing so against the three conditions you mentioned; damage, theft and total loss?

Basically there are three insurances as far as a property is concerned. There is the comprehensive, third party-fire and theft and there is also third party, these are technical anyway. Comprehensive

combines everything from theft, to destruction and to even damage as a result of mob action. Here, everything that affects the car is covered. There are however some exceptions, you have to pay some additional amount to have a comprehensive cover. For instance, if you go to an insurance company, the insurer will give you a comprehensive without the extension of riot, strike and civil commotion whereby if an insured car was attacked by people on demonstration and somehow the car was destroyed and its insurance was not extended to riot, strike and civil commotion, the comprehensive will not cover it. There is third party-fire and theft, here, the agreement is that if for instance you damaged somebody's car, the insurance company will pay for the damage made on the third party's car but it is your responsibility to repair yours and if your car were stolen or gutted by fire, the company will pay. The third category is the third party and here, the limit of compensation to the third person is when you hit, kill or damage somebody's property, it is the responsibility of the insurance company to compensate the third party while you shoulder your own



LAWAN Sarki Gagarawa

responsibility.

Let's take for instance one insures his property and eventually, it was damaged, how long will it take the insurance company to make the compensation?

That largely depends on the insurance company. The speed with which one company treats a claim differs from the other and there are circumstances surrounding that. If for example you reported a damage to me and I gave you a list some supporting documents which will aid the compensation, depending on how long you are able to provide such documents, your compensation will be made. Such documents may include a police report, photographs of the vehicle, estimate of loss, your ability to avail the adjuster (a professional who inspects and gives estimate) to carry out his work. Also, the adjuster's report will be

used to adjust the claims you have made because in insurance, you don't benefit beyond what you are entitled to benefit. So all these will determine when your compensation will be made.

What is the level of acceptance of insurance in this part of the country?

I can assure you that unless it is made compulsory, it is far less than 10% if compared to the southern part of the country.

What do you think are the factors responsible for that?

The argument on that has been religion but what we in the insurance sector are saying is that if people can accept to receive loans from banks on interest, there is no basis for saying people shouldn't safeguard their properties. Another problem I think associated with that is the way people compare insurance with some gambling which in the real sense is not. The purpose of insurance is to make good your losses, no more, no less and unlike in gambling were people put in certain amount and bet, the winner takes it all. In insurance, when a property is insured against a lost, a substantial amount or value of that insured property is compensated by the insurance company in terms of loss or damage. It is only in the North that people on the basis of religion do not accept insurance even though no one can

give a concrete reason for that even in the religion. People make mere assumptions that because people insure to be compensated in terms of any damage or loss, which is a predetermined arrangement. The assumptions are actually wrong and misleading. I will tell you that people do a lot of insurance everyday of their lives. For example, people try to own their houses which is an insurance against living in the open or in rented houses. This is also insurance, so also savings or owning more than one car. I think the major problem is that people don't really get the proper meaning of insurance and that is why the misconceptions. Take for instance the issue of life insurance, people think it's a protection against death but it is not, it simple means a guarantee for a saving for the family after one dies. Also, I think we the insurance companies have to do more in the area of enlightening the public what in the actual sense insurance means.

How do you think the problem could be addressed considering that religion is a sensitive issue?

As I said earlier, we need do more on enlightenment and also interaction with those public with insurable properties but do not insure. And on the issue of religion, I think insurance could also be modified by way of having Islamic insurance just like the Islamic banking system.

Business

Savannah Bank depositors to get paid

By Idris Ahmed

NO depositor in Savannah Bank would lose his or her money when the bank starts operation in a few months time, the media manager of the bank Obi Adiele said at a press conference yesterday in Abuja.

He said the bank has already taken over about 90 percent of the bank's assets after the bank was handed over to its management team last year by the Central Bank of Nigeria and

the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Savannah Bank lost its operational license in 2002 and it was returned back to it last year after court ruled that the license should be given back to it.

The Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation is currently verifying the branches of the bank after which the bank would takeover.

Central Bank of Nigeria is also currently verifying the account balance of the bank,

Daily Trust learnt.

The management of Savannah Bank said most of its properties belong to it and would have no problem in the smooth taking over.

Such assets would form the liquidity for the takeover of the bank, its management said.

Foreign bodies have joined the bank to provide funds for its operation. The current Chairman of the bank, Richard Abraham, is one of the foreign partners.

NIPC to assist states in foreign investment

By Sunday Williams

THE Executive Secretary Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) Engr. Mustafa Bello has said that the commission is ready to assist all the states of the Federation to set up investment promotion outfits to help attract foreign direct investments in the country.

Speaking to a delegation from Cross River state Investment Promotion Bureau, the Executive Secretary said already about twelve states have presented their request for the commission to help them set up

their own investment promotion commissions.

Represented by the Director of Finance and Administration, Steve Amase, the Executive Secretary said that most of the investors that come into the country end up in the states after the usual enlightenment.

He said: "It is not enough for us to give investors the red carpet treatment here in Abuja just for them to go to states and be left at the mercy of bureaucratic bottlenecks. That's why we are building the capacities of states on investment promotion to be able to track

the investors down."

Engr. Bello challenged the Cross River state Investment Promotion Bureau delegation to go back and be more effective in their mandate in order to woo FDI for the state and the country at large.

Speaking, the leader of the delegation who is the Deputy Director, One-Stop-Shop Investment Centre, Investment Promotion Bureau, Calabar, Mr. Ufono Gabriel, said they are in NIPC on a study tour to seek capacity building in order to upgrade and prepare themselves for their mandate.

He said: "We have a lot of foreign investors that keep coming in to our state. Most of them are foreign, some are nationals of Nigeria and we have been talking with them and some have even taken off in the areas of agriculture and industrial development."

“Already about twelve states have presented their request for the commission to help them set up their own investment promotion commissions.”



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OPEN LETTER TO THE ACTING PRESIDENT: HELP PREVENT ANARCHY IN ZAMFARA STATE.

We wish to congratulate you on your assumption of office as the Ag President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria predicated upon the resolution of the National Assembly. Your assumption of the office is the victory of Rule of Law and Constitutionalism over anarchy and predatory politics. We must not fail to commend the way you have stirred the ship of the Nation from the bank of precipice to safety. We have noticed improved power, efficient distribution and pricing of petroleum product across the Nation and we believe you will bequeath to the Nation a credible electoral process as you have promised.

On assumption of office in May 2007, this regime made a solemn promise to Nigerians to uphold the Rule of Law. One of the cardinal principles of rule of law is respect and obedience to the decision of the court of law. It is a manifestation of courage and statesmanship for leaders to obey decisions even when they are against their personal interest.

In Zamfara State, a dangerous scenario is emerging where the State Government does not respect the rule of law. The state government fails and refuses to obey the decisions of the court that are not favourable to it. It will employ the state apparatus to frustrate the implementation of unfavourable decisions. The state as a creation of law ought to give effect to the decisions of the court without the court wielding her coercive powers that may lead to executive judicial confrontation. It is in everyone's enlightened self interest to uphold the independence and integrity of the judiciary to enable them discharge their sublime functions as the bastion of democracy, a bulwark against tyranny and dictatorship. If the judiciary is rubbished, as is being done with brazen impunity in Zamfara State, we can start our dirge on democracy.

In brief, let us recap the facts the State Governor because of the disagreement with Alhaji Salisu Maibuhu Gummi proceeded to dissolve the democratically elected council led by the chairman; Alhaji Sulieman Gyalange. Alhaji Sulieman Gyalange challenged the dissolution at the Zamfara State High Court of Justice. The High Court of Justice Per Coram, Hon. Justice M. Musa Anka held that the dissolution was unconstitutional, null and void and granted injunctions restraining the Governor, State House of Assembly and the Attorney General from interfering with the Council as led by Alhaji Sulieman Gyalange.

The State Governor being dissatisfied with the judgment appealed to Court of Appeal and in the interim a stay of execution was granted pending the determination of the appeal. On the 12th day of January, 2010 the Court of Appeal sitting in Sokoto dismissed the appeal. After the dismissal of appeal, Alhaji Sulieman Gyalange sought and obtained leave of Court to enforce the injunctions against the Governor of Zamfara State and others. On the 19th day of March, 2010 the injunctive orders were enforced by the court with the assistance of the Nigeria Police Zamfara State Command. This execution has been interpreted by His Imperial Majesty to mean inciting riot, breaking into office of the chairman and stealing N3million. The State responded by abducting Alhaji Sulieman Gyalange from his office and since then has being held as a Political Prisoner on trumped up charges of inciting riot and stealing N3 million belonging to the Local Government Council. This execution was performed in the presence of Nigeria Police, State Security Service, Civil Defense Corps, the sheriff of Zamfara State Judiciary. Their report was peacefully executed, without any incident, not a lourve was broken. It is puzzling that the Local Government was said to have lost N3m without any complaint whatsoever to the Police.

Your Excellency, the reinstated Council have being going to work since March 19, 2010 but the hand of co-operation expected from the State Government is yet to manifest. The State Governor and his Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs had shunned overtures by the reinstated Council for a courtesy visit.

The Gummi Local Government Secretariat is deserted by the principal workers on the instructions of the state government in order to prevent the reinstated Council from carrying out their mandate. The principal workers only congregate in front of First Bank Nigeria Plc Gummi branch to share the statutory allocation due to Gummi Local Government Council. All statutory functions of the Local Government in Gummi have been in abeyance because of insensitivity of the state government. We pray that nothing untoward happens because the council is effectively incapacitated. What is bordering every Zamfaran is, is the Governor's brazen impunity in this matter hinged on his having shelter under the umbrella of PDPs?

Sir, we implore you to use your good office and prevail on the Zamfara State Government to restore and extend right hand of fellowship to the reinstated Council of Gummi Local Government. This is the only way we can show to the international Community, we are not a lawless Society.

For more information visit ; www.Goodgovernancemonitors.org.

Signed
ALHAJI UMARU ABBAS.

Business/Agric

Farmers in Kano embark on early planting

FARMERS in some parts of Gabasawa Local Government Area in Kano, have started to plant after three rains in the area.

Some of the farmers sighted around their farms said that their action was to avoid the shortage of food experienced in 2009.

Malam Musa Maikaji, a farmer, told our correspondent that they had started planted in spite of the warnings of some "figure head farmers" that they should wait till the rains became regular.

"Last year we were told the same thing and the season became short and burnt away many of our farm produce that is why we ignored those warnings and planted early this year," Maikaji

explained.

Another farmer, Malam Harazimi Inusa, noted that the rain had already stabilised with three heavy rains and the only option for them was to start planting.

He added that they would pray for more rain so that the crops would not die away like it did last season, leaving farmers with low production.

An agricultural expert in Kano, Malam Muhammad Salisu, said that it was unwise for farmers to plant certain crops and good to start planting some others.

He stressed that farmers could plant beans and groundnut early, while the grains should be planted later. (NAN)

NIPSS tasks Kano irrigation project

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

THE National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) Kuru has tasked Kano State Government on the need to give adequate attention to the irrigation farming project in the state to attain maximum benefits of the scheme.

The charge was given by the leader of the institutes delegation Mr. S. A. Adebayo who was on a study tour to the Kadawa irrigation scheme in Garun Malam Local Government Area of the state.

Adebayo said irrigation farming is a significant factor in addressing the rate of unemployment among Nigerian youths. He said he was impressed

by the nature and size of the scheme saying, it will also boost the economy of the state and nation at large.

He further promised to forward a recommendation to the institution's authority on the project with a view of giving it more attention.

Speaking earlier, the council Chairman, Alhaji Abdullahi Maikano Chirromawa thanked the institution for the choosing the Garun Malam irrigation scheme as one of the sites for its study.

Maikano described the irrigation project as a major contributor to the provision of food in the country. He said its contribution in production of rice, vegetable and other farm products can never be overemphasized.

Niger to buy 2,500 tractors



GOVERNOR Muazu Aliyu

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

NIGER State is set to buy 2,500 tractors for its 25 local

governments, Governor Muazu Babangida Aliyu has said.

"We intend to provide 100 tractors per each local government in the state over the period of the next five years.

In addition, we are preparing and making some payments to access our share of the federal government's co-operative tractor hiring scheme in which we expect 185 number tractors", he said.

Aliyu made the disclosure Saturday in Minna where he flagged off the distribution of 117 tractors in the state to all 25 local governments under the state Agriculture Development Program (ADP).

According to the govern-

nor, each local government is to get four each while 17 kept in reserve as he added that a total of 83 tractors are also being expected.

Aliyu said that the 117 tractors acquired were bought at the total cost of N760 million which he said is a state government initiative in partnership with the local governments toward giving the agricultural sector a boost.

"The tractors being distributed today represent an enormous investment by the government for the improved well being of our people. May I therefore call on the local government councils to the advantage of this opportunity by effectively and efficiently

utilizing these machineries", he said.

Speaking earlier at the occasion, the state commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Alhaji Aminu Yusuf said the tractors are meant for hire by rural farmers in the state.

"We will boost tractor hiring services in the 25 local government areas of Niger state for the purpose of boosting agricultural productivity in the state but I urge all to handle the machineries with utmost care.

We need to harness the agricultural potential in the state to break away from the vicious circle of poverty in the state", he said.

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Mon 3rd May 2010	Global Education Counselling Office, 48 Saka Tinubu Street, Victoria Island Lagos	11am to 4pm
Tue 4th May 2010	Hamdala Hotel Kaduna, 26 Muhammadu Bohari Way, Kaduna	11am to 4pm
Wed 5th May 2010	British Council Abuja	12 noon to 5pm

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“Irrigation farming is a significant factor in addressing the rate of unemployment among Nigerian youths.

Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Friday, April 30, 2010

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)				
2ND-TIER SECURITIES								
CAPITAL OIL PLC	27	0.52	4,036,000	2,094,878.00				
Sector Totals	27		4,036,000	2,094,878.00				
AGRICULTURE								
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	20	0.92	707,900	629,989.95				
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	28	0.82	1,732,443	1,385,739.17				
THE OKOMU OIL PALM COMPANY PLC	9	17.63	160,000	2,820,800.00				
PRESCO PLC	7	7.79	16,000	120,460.00				
Sector Totals	64		2,616,343	4,956,989.12				
AIR SERVICES								
AIRLINE SERVICES AND LOGISTICS PLC	10	4.33	39,773	163,864.76				
NIG. AVIATION HANDLING CO. PLC	82	12.05	783,278	9,438,499.90				
Sector Totals	92		823,051	9,602,364.66				
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE								
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	5	0.50	122,640	61,320.00				
R. T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	38	5.70	605,431	3,463,444.59				
Sector Totals	43		728,071	3,524,764.59				
BANKING								
ACCESS BANK PLC	190	9.21	32,742,883	294,420,543.09				
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	109	2.29	10,405,605	22,671,378.20				
DIAMOND BANK PLC	113	8.08	14,334,556	114,161,680.51				
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	53	5.50	641,681	3,501,530.83				
FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	60	7.73	5,938,024	45,508,718.55				
FIDELITY BANK PLC	127	2.84	8,578,941	24,254,243.81				
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	1,426	16.27	39,150,502	630,929,528.54				
FINBANK PLC	82	0.60	12,816,472	7,636,414.86				
GTBANK PLC	563	18.20	19,501,569	367,137,116.21				
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	34	8.99	1,146,954	10,311,116.46				
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC	79	1.63	2,500,655	4,227,044.82				
OCEANIC BANK INTERNATIONAL PLC	78	1.80	3,973,384	7,087,107.12				
BANK PHB PLC	83	1.36	8,136,577	10,789,598.72				
SKYE BANK PLC	135	7.50	4,276,577	32,168,753.90				
SPRING BANK PLC	19	1.00	757,883	747,351.77				
STERLING BANK PLC	100	1.94	5,493,794	10,148,230.52				
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	647	11.77	49,266,208	566,691,341.14				
UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	134	5.90	2,496,723	14,580,292.71				
UNITY BANK PLC	49	1.03	7,365,910	7,418,429.29				
WEMA BANK PLC	29	1.10	1,264,359	1,352,307.23				
ZENITH BANK PLC	262	15.43	6,857,029	105,049,100.55				
Sector Totals	4,372		237,646,286	2,280,791,828.83				
BREWERIES								
GUINNESS NIGERIA PLC	76	152.08	817,338	121,915,907.75				
INTERNATIONAL BREWERIES PLC	112	5.15	1,678,568	8,349,053.30				
NIGERIAN BREWERIES PLC	150	70.14	1,410,908	98,745,881.99				
Sector Totals	338		3,906,814	229,010,843.04				
BUILDING MATERIALS								
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	122	21.00	2,615,016	54,745,267.22				
BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC	67	64.05	1,878,153	124,957,739.71				
CEMENT CO. OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	68	19.22	955,072	18,306,776.84				
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	108	41.00	3,763,260	148,749,137.97				
Sector Totals	365		9,211,501	346,758,921.74				
CHEMICAL & PAINTS								
BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC	13	8.33	78,629	631,840.20				
CHEMICAL AND ALLIED PRODUCTS PLC	2	31.15	2,223	72,692.10				
DN MEYER PLC	10	5.02	124,272	654,913.44				
PORTLAND PAINTS & PROD. NIG. PLC	1	5.67	500	2,695.00				
PREMIER PAINTS PLC	1	13.40	27	361.80				
Sector Totals	27		205,651	1,362,502.54				
COMMERCIAL/SERVICES								
AFROMEDIA PLC	9	0.71	360,473	259,545.29				
COURTVILLE INVESTMENTS PLC	12	0.63	1,760,000	1,108,800.00				
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	17	3.99	640,910	2,555,300.90				
Sector Totals	38		2,761,383	3,923,646.19				
COMPUTER & OFFICE EQUIPMENT								
HALLMARK PAPER PRODUCTS PLC	1	3.22	1,900	5,814.00				
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC	1	8.13	296	2,288.08				
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	8	0.78	136,071	106,135.38				
Sector Totals	10		138,267	114,237.46				
CONGLOMERATES								
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIGERIA) PLC	16	3.85	186,119	742,369.27				
CHELLARAMS PLC	2	11.53	927	10,159.92				
PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	59	30.03	769,895	23,152,890.75				
TRANSNATIONAL CORP. OF NIG. PLC	19	0.52	1,218,171	634,809.42				
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	39	50.31	116,594	6,088,305.09				
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	73	27.00	1,954,696	52,671,978.87				
Sector Totals	208		4,246,402	83,300,513.32				
CONSTRUCTION								
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	78	8.37	1,351,629	11,293,547.09				
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC	56	53.01	372,384	20,354,443.58				
MULTIVERSE RESOURCES PLC	8	0.50	763,722	381,861.00				
Sector Totals	142		2,487,735	32,029,851.67				
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY								
CUTIX PLC	15	4.00	168,955	691,336.76				
NIGERIAN WIRE AND CABLE PLC	2	1.06	191,400	202,884.00				
Sector Totals	17		360,355	894,220.76				
FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOBACCO								
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	16	42.42	77,187	3,253,165.59				
BIG TREAT PLC	48	0.87	5,432,618	4,454,319.90				
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	83	23.61	1,540,199	36,239,515.03				
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC 190	21.74	831,923	18,086,015.02					
DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	99	18.66	1,857,502	34,617,253.60				
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	118	73.99	2,434,046	176,733,524.35				
HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	26	8.50	436,981	3,710,408.50				
NATIONAL SALT COMPANY NIGERIA PLC	21	8.46	595,067	5,034,266.82				
NIGERIAN BOTTLING COMPANY PLC	24	34.21	191,150	6,311,881.26				
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	34	314.00	76,177	24,134,511.36				
NORTHERN NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC	2	39.14	495,551	19,395,866.14				
TANTALIZERS PLC	10	1.13	796,300	899,819.00				
NIGERIA PLC	9	1.39	621,070	863,287.30				
Sector Totals	680		15,385,771	333,733,824.87				
FOOTWEAR								
LENNARDS NIGERIA PLC.	1	3.85	600	2,196.00				
Sector Totals	1		600	2,196.00				
HEALTHCARE								
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	21	1.55	620,184	938,873.24				
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	6	2.86	245,881	702,719.66				
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG. PLC	24	20.85	657,682	13,712,669.70				
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	38	7.98	441,941	3,314,648.93				
NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARM. PLC	6	3.24	61,300	188,804.00				
PHARMA-DEKO PLC	1	4.73	1,000	4,500.00				
UNION DIAGNOSTIC & CLINICAL SER. PLC	26	0.72	3,946,012	2,825,374.28				
Sector Totals	122		5,974,000	21,687,589.81				
HOTEL & TOURISM								
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	1	3.62	5,000	17,200.00				
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	43	2.50	3,088,795	7,802,772.20				
Sector Totals	44		3,093,795	7,819,972.20				
INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS								
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	3	10.22	4,500	46,065.00				
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIGERIA PLC	3	0.51	203,069	102,985.19				
VITAFAM NIGERIA PLC	14	6.50	550,402	3,573,321.54				
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	4	0.53	120,000	63,100.00				
Sector Totals	24		877,971	3,785,471.73				
INFOMATION & COMM. TECHNOLOGY								
CHAMS PLC	12	0.80	321,700	257,360.00				
MASS TELECOM INNOVATION NIG. PLC	1	0.50	45,000	22,500.00				
STARCOMMS PLC	22	2.12	1,959,162	4,132,030.90				
Sector Totals	35		2,325,862	4,411,890.90				
INSURANCE								
AFRICAN ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	5,000	2,500.00				
AICO INSURANCE PLC.	136	1.40	9,685,410	13,223,519.88				
CONTINENTAL REINSURANCE PLC	13	1.36	2,090,291	2,842,795.76				
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE CO. PLC.	19	0.75	3,996,234	2,998,377.78				
CUSTODIAN AND ALLIED INSURANCE PLC	24	3.65	4,531,666	16,153,234.40				
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	3	0.50	154,000	77,000.00				
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	24	0.80	4,976,907	3,838,929.32				
GUARANTY TRUST ASSURANCE PLC	62	2.62	5,783,993	14,845,751.66				
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	3	0.50	105,000	52,500.00				
CONSOLIDATED HALLMARK INS. PLC	5	0.50	265,200	132,600.00				
INT'L ENERGY INSURANCE CO. PLC	40	0.59	5,369,047	3,061,021.13				
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	47	0.51	4,549,028	2,324,412.62				
LAW UNION AND ROCK INSURANCE PLC.	21	0.60	12,434,169	7,422,721.40				
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSURANCE PLC	46	0.54	15,576,513	7,903,040.41				
N.E.M. INSURANCE CO. (NIG.) PLC.	55	0.57	18,001,150	10,534,290.00				
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	13	1.20	566,900	680,280.00				
OASIS INSURANCE PLC	1	0.77	5,000	3,700.00				
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	6	3.81	52,076	207,927.75				
REGENCY ALLIANCE INS. CO. PLC	2	0.50	11,000	5,500.00				
SOVEREIGN TRUST INSURANCE PLC	7	0.50	3,514,118	1,757,059.00				
STACO INSURANCE PLC	64	0.54	21,036,526	10,621,275.36				
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC	22	0.57	4,855,500	2,767,635.00				
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	12	0.77	369,186	274,687.56				
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE COMPANY PLC	3	0.50	272,500	136,250.00				
INTERCONTINENTAL WAPIC INS. PLC	13	0.93	1,164,469	1,085,536.17				
Sector Totals	642		119,370,883	102,952,545.20				
LEASING								
C&I LEASING PLC	16	3.62	639,395	2,280,237.38				
Sector Totals	16		639,395	2,280,237.38				
MARITIME								
JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERVICES PLC	51	1.55	673,573	1,044,038.15				
Sector Totals	51		673,573	1,044,038.15				
MEDIA								
DAAR COMMUNICATIONS PLC	25	1.09	293,650	320,078.50				
Sector Totals	25		293,650	320,078.50				
ABBAY BUILDING SOCIETY PLC								
ASO SAVINGS AND LOAN PLC	1	1.61	250	382.50				
RESORT SAVINGS AND LOANS PLC	148	0.51	59,135,484	29,679,042.00				
UNION HOMES SAVINGS AND LOANS PLC	2	0.50	206,000	103,000.00				



CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE PRINTING OF THE CBN ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2009

INTRODUCTION

The Central Bank of Nigeria hereby invites reputable printing outfits with proven experience and expertise in handling flagship publications to tender for the printing of the CBN Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December, 2009 °

SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of work involves the printing of five thousand (5,000) copies of full colour process Annual Report, with a page extent estimated at 310 pages. Your tender should be based on the under mentioned (a - f) specific requirements. In addition, your tender should contain information on (h - j). The page rate should be inclusive of the value added tax (VAT).

The prototype of the Report is available for inspection in the Office of the Administrator, Research Department.

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|---|
| a) | Paper Grammage: | 120gms extra coated com-coded white paper |
| b) | Font Type/Size: | 10 Points (Century Gothic) Single Line Spacing |
| c) | Colour Design: | Full Colour Process (As in Prototype) |
| d) | Cover Design: | 300gms, Suede forest green card, foiled and embossed spot UV designed |
| e) | Trim Size of the Report: | 11½" by 8" |
| f) | Inner Demarcations: | 150gms, Suede forest green paper, foiled, spot UV |
| g) | Binding: | Perfect Binding |
| h) | Delivery Date: | |
| i) | Page Rate: | |
| j) | Payment Terms: | |

GENERAL REQUIREMENT

- (i) Evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission
- (ii) Evidence of payment of tax for the last three (3) years as when due
- (iii) Comprehensive company profile including registered office, functional contact email address, GSM phone numbers
- (iv) Verifiable evidence of similar jobs successfully executed within the last three years.
- (v) Reference letter from a bank stating the financial ability of the contractor to carry out such project(s)
- (vi) Current Company's audited statement of accounts
- (vii) Evidence of employees Retirement Savings Accounts (RSA) with a pension fund administrator
- (viii) Evidence of remitting employer and employee pension contributions to the appropriate pension fund custodian
- (ix) Evidence of transferring all Pension Funds and Assets prior to the commencement of the pension reform Act to licensed pension operators.

SUBMISSION

Companies are to submit their bids in a wax-sealed envelope boldly marked at the top left corner "Bid for the printing of CBN 2009 Annual Report" and forwarded to:

The Secretary,
Major Contracts Tenders Committee, 2nd Floor, Wing C
CBN Head Office Complex,
Central Business District,
Abuja, FCT Nigeria.

CLOSING DATE:

All submissions must be received at the above address on or before May 14, 2010.

OPENING DATE

Tenders will be opened on 18th May 2010

The CBN will enter into further communication only with the successful company.

Signed
MANAGEMENT.



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Ahmadu Bello Way, Central Business District, Abuja.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Federal Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Federal Government, invites proposals to provide Consultancy Services for the process audit of the Internally Generated Revenue of Federal Government Agencies.

The Process Audit Consultant is expected to be a reputable Audit Firm (foreign or local) with several years qualitative experience in process audit.

OBJECTIVES:

The Process Auditor is to perform the following services:

a. To evaluate the processes and procedures by which the relevant Agencies derive, determine and remit operating surpluses and other Internally Generated Revenues to Government;

b. To audit past remittances from such Agencies as per appropriateness, accuracy and efficiency.

SCOPE OF WORK:

- To review the processes and procedures for computing, determining and remitting operating surpluses and other items of Internally Generated Revenue payable by the relevant agencies in line with extant rules, regulations and legislation;

- To audit for accuracy, effectiveness and efficiency; past transactions documenting revenue remittances to the Federal Government;

- To identify prospects for the improvement of the current systems and controls regarding the process of computing, determining and remitting operating surpluses and other revenue remittances, and articulate relevant recommendations towards improving the system within a reasonable timeframe;

- To summarize and report on exceptional issues that have attracted the Process Auditor's attention during the engagement, and may have significant impact on the overall integrity of the system for computing, determining and remitting operating surpluses and other revenue receipts;

- To prepare a Process Audit Report, together with Executive Summaries, Annexes and other documentation as may be necessary, on key findings, outcomes, results and recommendations;

- To propose a process re-engineering mechanism to improve the system of transactions in the given Agency that will make computing, determining, remitting of operating surpluses more efficient, transparent and acceptable; and

- To make presentation(s) to the Honourable Minister of Finance, and other relevant Government Agencies and committees, on the key issues and matters arising from the engagement.

REPORTING:

The main deliverable will be a Final Report which should include the following sections:

- **Executive Summary and Recommendations:** a stand-alone Executive Summary which summarizes the key issues emanating from the Process Audit, including the main recommendations;

- **Main Report:** with comprehensive details of the key issues emanating from the Process Audit, outlining the recommendations and indicating any timeframe within which any recommended and/or corrective action should be implemented, and which must of itself, clearly communicate the main findings;

- **Annexes:** These should include any additional material that will aid the full comprehension of the contents of the Report.

PROFILE OF THE PROCESS AUDITOR

The Process Auditor shall have a proven track record of process audit in a complex challenging engagement. The Process Auditor must demonstrate an in-depth understanding of Process Auditing and shall have sufficient technical exposure to public sector financial management and controls, to guarantee a competent and a professional approach to the work.

The Process Auditor must also demonstrate the ability to detect challenges in the revenue remittance process, proffer a range of practical solutions thereto, and summarize the relevant information in a concise and easily understandable manner.

A firm will be selected under Quality and Cost-Based Selection procedures as described in the RFP (Request For Proposals)

This advertisement is also posted on the Ministry's website, - <http://www.fmf.gov.ng>. More information on the instruction to consultant, conditions of contracts and terms of reference are contained in the RFP and can be downloaded therefrom.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS:

Interested Process Auditors are to submit their applications stating the following:

1. Names, qualifications and experience of their principal Officers.
2. Major work recently undertaken by the firm either jointly or severally, in the last three years.
3. Evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission and Office of the Auditor General of the Federation.
4. Evidence of three years Tax Clearance
5. Evidence of three years Audited Accounts
6. Financial proposal in a separate sealed envelop enclosed along with the Technical Proposal

Sealed applications (10 hard copies and 1 soft copy) to be addressed and submitted not later than 21 days from the date of this publication to:

The permanent Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Finance,
(Room 508, 5th floor),
Central Business District,
Abuja.

Signed
Permanent Secretary
For: The Honourable Minister



**PEOPLES' DEMOCRATIC PARTY
OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL SECRETARY (PDP)**

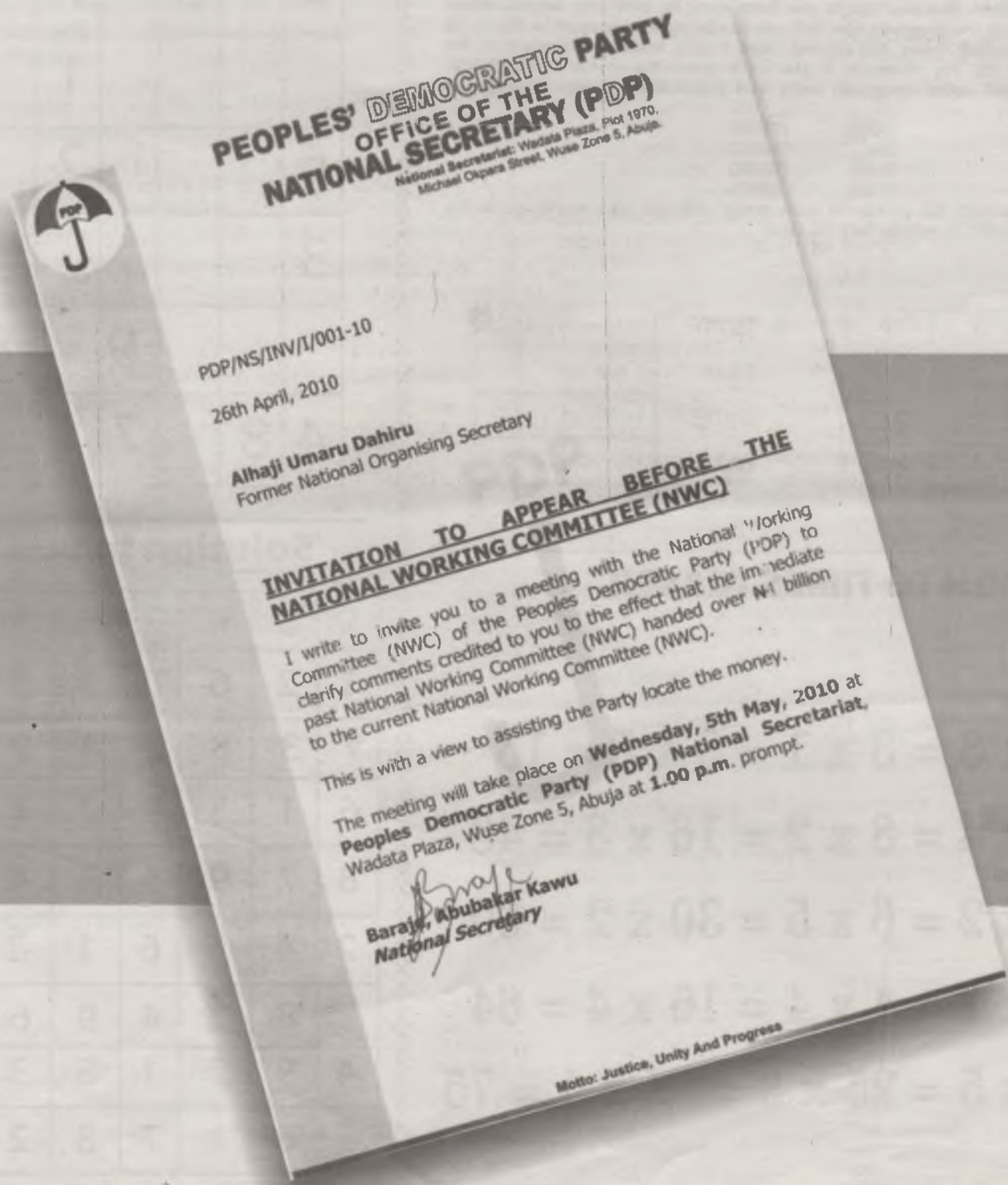
National Secretariat: Wadata Plaza, Plot 1970,
Michael Okpara Street, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja.

PRESS STATEMENT

Nigerians, particularly members of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) will recall that on Thursday, 22nd of April 2010, at a meeting of the so called PDP Reform Forum held in Abuja, Alhaji Umaru Dahiru former National Organising Secretary publicly and recklessly stated that the Amadu Ali administration in which he was a member left a whopping sum of N4 billion in the coffers of the Party.

In view of the furore generated by this unguarded statement, the NWC has decided to write him to provide further insights on the whereabouts of the funds. Below is the invitation letter sent to him to appear on Wednesday, 5th May, 2010.

Baraje
Baraje, Abubakar Kawu
National Secretary



**PEOPLES' DEMOCRATIC PARTY
OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL SECRETARY (PDP)**
National Secretariat: Wadata Plaza, Plot 1970,
Michael Okpara Street, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja.

PDP/NS/INV/I/001-10
26th April, 2010

Alhaji Umaru Dahiru
Former National Organising Secretary

**INVITATION TO APPEAR BEFORE THE
NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE (NWC)**

I write to invite you to a meeting with the National Working Committee (NWC) of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to clarify comments credited to you to the effect that the immediate past National Working Committee (NWC) handed over N4 billion to the current National Working Committee (NWC).

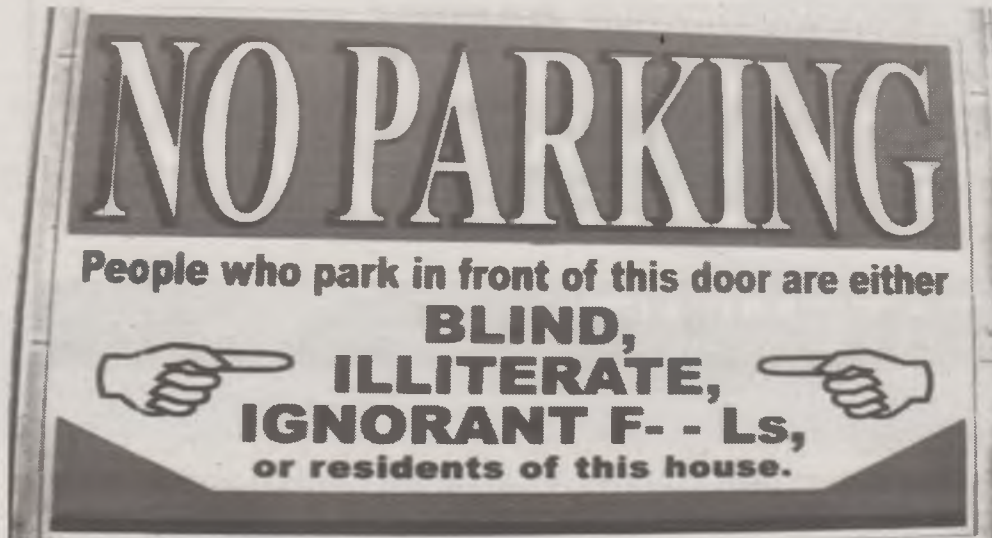
This is with a view to assisting the Party locate the money.

The meeting will take place on **Wednesday, 5th May, 2010** at Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) National Secretariat, Wadata Plaza, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja at **1.00 p.m.** prompt.

Baraje
Baraje, Abubakar Kawu
National Secretary

Motto: Justice, Unity And Progress

Sign Language



Or, all of the above.

Photo location: Cochin, by Lilyfolly

Culled from www.signspotting.com

ANAGRAM WORD SQUARES

In each puzzle, you are to anagram each word and place it in a row of boxes in the diagram to the right. The new words you form must be everyday words. When you place the words in the diagram, the first word reading across must be the same as the first word reading down, the second word across must be the same as the second word down, etc. For example, if you were given the words PONE, OGRE, SEND, and DEAR, you could anagram them and place them in the diagram as follows:

GORE	(OGRE)
OPEN	(PONE)
READ	(DEAR)
ENDS	(SEND)

Note: As in the example, the words in each group will not necessarily go in the boxes in the same order in which they appear.

1. MODE

2. DYED

MOAT

LEAP

TEAR

WADE

DRAB

DALE

SOLUTION TO TIMES TEASER

1. $1 \times 3 = 3 \times 1 = 3 \times 5 = 15$
2. $2 \times 4 = 8 \times 2 = 16 \times 3 = 48$
3. $3 \times 2 = 6 \times 5 = 30 \times 2 = 60$
4. $4 \times 1 = 4 \times 4 = 16 \times 4 = 64$
5. $5 \times 5 = 25 \times 3 = 75 \times 1 = 75$

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.

140

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

Solution to Sudoku 139

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

News Extra

New York escapes car bomb attack

Police evacuated New York's famous Times Square early yesterday morning after a dark-colored sports utility vehicle was seen smoking and a small 'flash' was observed by firefighters on the scene.

Officers at the scene said the evacuation order stemmed from an 'emergency investigation' and dozens of officers blocked access to the busy central Manhattan square, which is popular with tourists and theater-goers. It's three miles north of the World Trade Centre site, where the atrocities of September 11, 2001, were carried out.

New York Police Department spokesman Paul Browne said a vehicle had been left in Times Square, with smoke seen coming from it. It was discovered to contain explosives and a timing device.

It appears to be a car bomb left in a Pathfinder between Seventh and Eighth (avenues), he said at 6am GMT, adding that the device contained 'explosive elements' that included 'propane tanks, some kind of powder, gasoline and a timing device.'

Both US President Barack Obama and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg praised police for their quick response.

'We are very lucky,' Mr Bloomberg told reporters. 'Thanks to alert New Yorkers and professional police officers, we avoided what could have been a very deadly event.'

He said the bomb 'looked amateurish' but could have exploded, adding that the incident was a 'reminder of the dangers that we face.'

Kevin Barry, a former supervisor in the New York Police Department bomb squad, told the New York Times he was told it was an improvised explosive device. But somehow, he said, the ignition source 'failed to function the main charge.'

The vehicle's registration plates belonged to a different vehicle, police said.

A New York City firefighter who said he arrived early on the scene described the vehicle as a dark-colored SUV, and said it was parked at the corner of 45th Street and Seventh Avenue.

He confirmed the vehicle was smoking and also said he saw 'a flash' from the back of the SUV. The firefighter said a 'mini-explosion' occurred between 6pm and 6.30pm.

'The SUV was smoking. There was a flash and we put two and two together' and an evacuation was ordered, he said.

Other emergency personnel on the scene called the incident a 'car fire.'

The firefighter said the bomb



A bomb squad officer examines the Nissan Pathfinder car. Smoke emerging from the vehicle first alerted officers to the 'car bomb'



BOMB squad members worked through the night to diffuse the explosive device found in the car



A policeman stands guard on one of the deserted streets after the alarm was raised

squad remained at the scene as of 9pm, including a firefighter in a bomb suit. A robot was being used

to investigate the suspicious SUV. Reuters reporters on the scene said they heard an explosion

from the area of the SUV around 9.15pm.

Two fire trucks were also at

the scene, prepared to douse the vehicle with water if needed, the firefighter said.

Police said they planned to 'close down' Broadway shows in the vicinity, but it was not clear whether any theaters had actually been evacuated.

The square itself was mostly evacuated by 8pm according to Reuters reporters on the scene. Police had evacuated an area stretching from about 42nd Street up to 47th Street and including Seventh Avenue and Broadway.

But people dining inside the Blue Fin restaurant in a hotel at 47th and Broadway were allowed to continue and some people were being allowed in Broadway theaters in the area.

Police officers earlier told Reuters the area was shut down due to 'an emergency investigation.'

The SUV was smoking. There was a flash and we put two and two together' and an evacuation was ordered, he said

News Extra

"I 'cremated' Adolf Hitler"

... Russian soldier refuses to reveal where he scattered his ashes

Exactly 65 years after Adolf Hitler perished in his Berlin bunker, the man who Moscow claims destroyed his bones has refused to reveal the exact spot in Germany where he 'cremated' the Fuhrer.

Vladimir Gumenyuk, a 73-year-old retired KGB officer, vowed to take his secret to his grave so that the location in the countryside around Magdeburg would not become the focus of pilgrimages by neo-Nazis.

The veteran is said to be the last man alive from a team of three who were secretly tasked in 1970 by Yuri Andropov - then KGB leader and later head of the Soviet Union - with digging up the bones of Hitler, his mistress Eva Braun along with the remains of Joseph Goebbels and his family.

He told a Russian newspaper that having burned the bones of the Nazi leader and his entourage, he and two colleagues drove the ashes to the top of 'a cliff on a small unnamed stream' before they were released to the wind.

It was a pre-determined location decided by Moscow. 'No-one was there,' he said. 'Twenty seconds - and job was done. It was just the last flight of the Fuhrer.'

Gumenyuk's role was first claimed by Moscow in revelations from the secret services in 2001.

He gave a few additional details but said he had turned down large sums from the German media to identify the exact spot he disposed of Hitler.

'I believe that the coverage of this subject is not appropriate,' he said.

Making clear he would go to his grave with his knowledge, he said: 'There are still too many neo-Nazis around. There would be pilgrimages. They would even put up a monument.'

He said that he had been haunted by a fear of 'failure' since

Gumenyuk's role was first claimed by Moscow in revelations from the secret services in 2001.



ADOLF Hitler



VLADMIR Gumenyuk (left) in 1970s and now

1970, concerned that knowledge of the operation might leak out before its disclosure was officially sanctioned.

'I and two other colleagues were given a secret order - due to the transfer of a Soviet military town - to burn the remains of Hitler and all his entourage, and blow them to the wind,' said Gumenyuk, who served in a special KGB department linked to the

Red Army in East Germany.

'They had been buried there after the war in a secret place. And we were told the coordinates under conditions of such secrecy that even now I cannot tell you everything.'

The burial location at the Soviet military base was surrounded by German-built tower blocks, he said.

When they went to dig up the macabre remains, they pretended to be fishermen on a trip, and pitched a tent over the site where the bones had been hidden in the aftermath of the war.

Their initial dig failed to produce any results. But then they realised they had counted 45 metres instead of 45 paces from a secret co-ordinate, so they moved the tent.

Five feet below the surface, they found the rotting wooden crates that the German high command had been buried in.

'The remains had been lying for a long time in the ground, and I'm generally a squeamish person, so I took rubber gloves, boots, and a special suit of chemical protection.

'I thought the smell would be terrible, and even took the mask.

'But when they began to dig, nothing like that happened. Sometimes when digging in the garden, you find a bone - it was the same thing here. We shifted the bones and put the ground back.'

Their order was to burn the bones 'but in Germany the fire at night, even at the river bank is something quite unusual. The people here are disciplined, and it wasn't allowed to make fires outside in the GDR.'

So they waited until morning, he said, drove around Magdeburg making sure they were not being followed, and went to a river, a spot screened by trees, posing as fishermen.

They lit a fire to make soup - and then a second blaze to burn Hitler's remains.

'We wasted the whole canister of gasoline on him,' he said.

Later he collected the ashes in his rucksack and 'went to a pre-determined location' - by the cliff - where they disposed of Hitler.

'It was over in no time at all. I opened up the rucksack, the wind caught the ashes up in a little brown cloud, and in a second they were gone.'

He wrote a report saying they had completed the task, never talking about it, even to his wife.



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GIRLS' COLLEGE, KEANA, NASARAWA STATE
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION POST-BASIC (STEP-B) PROJECT

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Procurement of Science & Technology Equipment, Chemicals,
Solar Power, Office and ICT equipments.

IDA CREDIT No. 4304-UNI

DATE OF ISSUANCE: 3rd May, 2010

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement notice for this Project that appeared in Development Business. Issue no. 591 of 2nd July, 2007.
2. The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association towards the cost of Science and Technology Education Post Basic Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for the procurement of science and technology equipment, Chemicals, solar power, office and ICT equipments at contract number: STEP-B/FGGC/KEANA/GDS/NCB/01/2010.
3. The Science and Technology Education Post-Basic (STEP-B) project, Federal Government Girls' College, Keana now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the procurement of the following:

LOT NO	Description of items	Quantity	Bid Security	Delivery period	Bid Validity Period	Location
1	Science and Technology equipment and Chemicals	Various	At least 2.5% of Bid price	60 days maximum	90 days	FGGC, Keana
2	Solar Power Equipment/Installation	Various	At least 2.5% of Bid price	60 days maximum	90 days	FGGC, Keana
3	Office/ICT Equipment	Various	At least 2.5% of Bid price	60 days maximum	90 days	FGGC, Keana

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 at the address below and inspect the Bidding Documents from 3rd May, 2010 (8:00am to 4:00pm Mondays to Fridays), except on public holidays.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English 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 N10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira) only. The method of payment will be Bank Draft in favour of STEP-B, Federal Government Girls' College, Keana. The Bidding Documents will be collected by the representative of the Bidder or by courier, on request.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 12:00 noon, on Thursday, 4th June, 2010. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives, who choose to attend in person at the address below at 12:00 noon on Thursday, 4th June, 2010.
8. Bidder may bid for one or more complete lot as award will be based on individual lots. Any bid submitted for incomplete lots will be declared non-responsive.

The address referred to above is:

The Project Manager,
Science and Technology Education Post-Basic (Step-B) Project,
Federal Government Girls' College, Keana
PMB 045, Lafia,
Nasarawa State.
Telephone: 07034019332, 08037240917
E-mail: stepbnasarawafggckeana@gmail.com



REVENUE MOBILISATION ALLOCATION AND FISCAL COMMISSION

PLOT 210 TAFAWA BALEWA WAY, CENTRAL AREA, ABUJA.

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

The Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission wishes to invite reputable contractors and other service providers to apply for Pre-qualification for any of the Jobs specified below in its 2010 Recurrent and Capital Budget:

Lot Number	Project Description
LOT I.	Supply of Office Materials (General).
LOT II.	Supply of Library Books & Periodicals.
LOT III.	Supply of Computer Materials.
LOT IV.	Production of Security & Non Security Documents.
LOT V.	Supply of Medical Drugs.
LOT VI.	Supply of Uniforms & Other Clothing
LOT VII.	Supply of Other Materials.
LOT VIII.	Supply of Diesel, Fuel & Lubricants to the Commission.
LOT IX.	Maintenance of Motor Vehicles.
LOT X.	Maintenance of Office Furniture.
LOT XI.	Maintenance of Office Equipment.
LOT XII.	Maintenance of Plant/Generators.
LOT XIII.	Other Maintenance Services.
LOT XIV.	Supply of Furniture & Equipment to Phase II Building Project
LOT XV.	Supply of Equipment & Furniture befitting to the Library of the Commission.
LOT XVI.	Supply & Installation of Intercom, PABX and other Communication Equipment for the Head Office phase II building.
LOT XVII.	Supply & Installation of Wide Area Network Infrastructures of Head Office, Zonal/State Offices
LOT XVIII.	Supply & installation of LAN infrastructure at the Head Office, (500 Network Points)
LOT XIX.	Procurement of Desktop Computers, Laptops, Printers and Scanners to the Commission.
LOT XX.	Supply & Installation of LAN Infrastructure at the Commission's Data Recovery Site.
LOT XXI.	Maintenance of Building- Office.
LOT XXII.	Maintenance of Building-Residential.
LOT XXIII.	Maintenance of Other Infrastructures.
LOT XXIV.	Consultancy Services;
	a. Provision of Security Services.
	b. Cleaning & Fumigation Services.
	c. Financial Consulting.
	d. Information Technology Consulting.
	e. Legal Services.
	f. Other Professional Services.
	g. Retainer ship of Service Agreement on Computer Maintenance/ Technical Support Services.
	h. Training of Network Administrators, System Administrators and users of Office Application & Web Portals

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

In order to be considered for pre-qualification, Contractors and Service Providers must submit the following documents:

- a) Valid Certificate of Incorporation / Registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission.
- b) Current Tax Clearance Certificate for the last 3 years (2007, 2008, & 2009).
- c) Evidence of VAT Registration and Remittances.
- d) Company Profile including names and Technical Qualification(s) and Experience(s) of key personnel.
- e) Evidence of Financial Capability to handle the job including letter of reference from your Banker.
- f) Evidence of Execution of Similar Contracts with any Government establishment.
- g) Audited Account of the Company for the past 3 years (2007, 2008 & 2009).

SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS.

The complete Pre-qualification documents should be enclosed in an envelope sealed and marked "PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS FOR THE (indicate the Lot at the top right corner of the envelope)" and must be addressed and returned within two (2) weeks from the date of this publication to:

"THE SECRETARY,
REVENUE MOBILISATION ALLOCATION AND FISCAL COMMISSION,
PLOT 210, TAFAWA BALEWA WAY,
CENTRAL AREA, GARKI-ABUJA."

PLEASE NOTE THAT:-

- i) This is not an invitation to tender. Full tender documents will be given to bidders that have been Pre-Qualified and found capable of executing the Job.
- ii) The Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission reserves the right to reject any or all Pre-qualification documents that fails to meet expected standards.
- iii) Late Submissions will not be entertained.

SIGNED

HEAD OF PROCUREMENT
FOR: SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION

PROPERTY

property@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

As Dansadau probes FCT land deals

By Nasir Imam

THAT land values in the FCT are among the highest in Nigeria is no longer in dispute therefore land racketeering may have informed the recent suspension of key officials of the Abuja Geographic Information System (AGIS).

FCT Minister, Senator Bala Mohammed, last month approved the immediate compulsory leave of the FCT Director of Lands, Hajia Nana Buhari, and the Deeds Registrar, Dr. James Agbonhese.

A statement quoted the minister as saying that the action became necessary in order to allay widespread public anxiety over alleged land racketeering and other shady practices in land allocations in recent times, particularly after the dissolution of the immediate past Federal Executive Council (FEC).

"The need for the officers to embark on compulsory leave is to create an unfettered atmosphere for an unbiased investigation into the allegations of shady land deals in the affected department and the charges arose from certain petitions from members of the public," he explained.

While the two officers that were suspended were not accused of direct complicity to perpetrate illegal activities at AGIS, they may have accepted their fate in good faith because it was on their tables that the buck stops.

And apparently worried about the activities of land racketeers in the city, former FCT Minister, Adamu Aliero had sacked more than 83 members of staff of AGIS about 685 plots of land were and revoked sometimes last year.

It was also gathered that a cabal operates in the AGIS conniving with both unsuspecting and even fraudulent land buyers to forge documents and input them into the computer system of the AGIS, thus allocating lands to people without the authority of the minister.

But while reacting at that time, Director of Lands in the FCT, Mrs Nana Buhari, explained

that the workers were laid off simply because they were casual workers.

Haji Nana was brought on board AGIS by the administration of Nasir El-Rufai to oversee the re-certification of FCT Area Councils, and rose to become AGIS Director during the era of Dr. Aliyu Modibbo Umar.

According to her, "They were employed as casual staff at the beginning of the recertification exercise in 2004 to assist in the computerization of land records in the FCT. Now that the exercise is almost concluded, it became imperative to reduce the staff strength."

Daily Trust authoritatively gathered that Aliero allocated

400 plots of land in Maitama, yet failed to allow Hajia Nana to allocate land despite the pressure on her as the head of AGIS.

Dr. Aliyu Modibbo Umar, established an eleven-member FCT Land Use Allocation Committee (LUAC) on June 16th, 2008, with Hajia Nana being AGIS Director acting as Secretary, but not once had the committee met or recommended for allocation any plot of land in the FCT.

During her tenure as Director, Hajia Nana had made moves to sanitise AGIS, for example through the blockage of access to vital data to staff that are not directly responsible for handling same.

She proposed a coding system

such that any staff that can access any data in AGIS will have his name identified in the computer print-out.

This is to help checkmate leakages leading to the loss of revenue by the FCT Administration.

The FCT Administration has just recently appointed Senator Sa'idu Dansadau to head a 12-member Ministerial Investigation Committee on Lands Administration in the Federal Capital Territory. Senator Bala Mohammed, who revealed this while lifting the embargo on land allocated and development control approvals from January 2007 to date, said that the lifting of the embargo was done in public interest to enable genuine

land owners appropriately take possession and complete all its processes.

The minister revealed that the committee which is to submit its report in three weeks is expected to conduct verification exercise on all land allocations made from 2007 to date and mass housing allocations from 2004 to date with a view to sorting out and arresting the prevalence of multiple allocations, forgery and abuse of records at the Land Registry and AGIS.

So, as Nigerians wait for Senator Dansadau's committee to conclude its assignment, it is hoped that the real culprits be brought to book, while those exonerated should be given a clean bill of health.



AN interchange under construction along the Abuja airport road

'Nigeria requires 17.5 m houses'

By Mustapha Suleiman

DR. Mustapha Zubairu, Director of Advancement and Development, Federal University of Technology, Minna, has said that by the end of 2010, Nigeria will require an estimated 15-17.5 million housing units of various types to meet its backlog of housing deficit as a result of increasing rural-urban migration.

The don was speaking in Abuja over the weekend while presenting a lecture titled "Housing the low-income in urban Nigeria: re-thinking the role and responsibilities of the Federal Housing

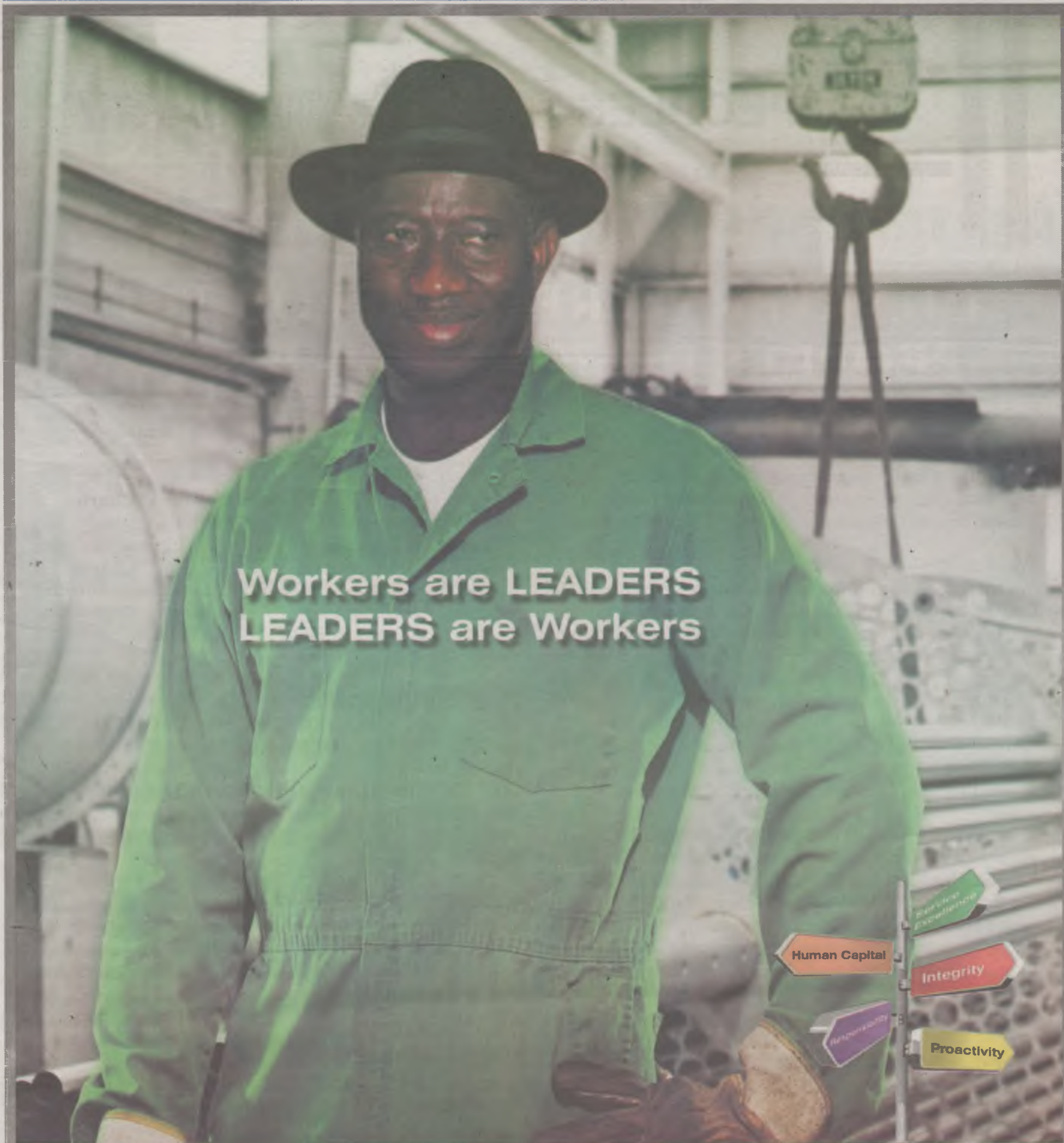
Authority" organised by the Senior Staff Association of Communications, Transport and Corporation (SSACTAC) of Federal Housing Authority (FHA) to mark this year's May Day.

He noted that homelessness and incidence of people living in poor and unhealthy neighbourhoods are rapidly increasing in Nigeria, adding that the housing problem is much more acute in the urban areas due to the shortage of affordable housing for the low-income household and the poor, who constitutes over 70 percent of the urban population.

According to him, for Nigeria to achieve tangible result in tackling its huge housing deficit; there is

need for "Nigeria to network with many developed and developing countries in the transfer of best practices in all aspects of housing development; mobilize cheap and long-term funds; secure access to appropriate technology for producing local building materials, components and finishes that can facilitate large scale production of cheap and affordable housing for low-income in particular."

Zubairu stressed that Federal Housing Authority has a central role to play in developing effective and sustainable strategies for producing cheap and affordable housing for the low-income, with the full participation of all stakeholders.



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PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY REFORM FORUM

PDP REFORM FORUM

CHARTER OF REFORM FOR THE PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY

I. PREAMBLE

(1) The public image of the Peoples Democratic Party has declined to an unacceptable low-level under the regime of Prince Vincent Ogbulafor as National Chairman and the present National Working Committee (NWC) of the Party.

We of the Reform forum are very unhappy with this image. We are not an "opposition group" within the Party. We are not a campaign organization for anybody. We are responsible and loyal Party members who have had the privilege of holding office at Government/Party levels at various times in the past. Many of us were the "facilitators" who midwived our great PARTY INTO BEING IN 1998. We are therefore committed to the realization of the founding ideals of our great party - the PDP; ideals which we have a duty to re-examine from time to time to reassure ourselves that the Party is on track.

(2) We the members of the PDP Reform Forum are concerned for our Party and we are concerned for our nation Nigeria. Our conscience directs us to speak out in favour of the founding ideals of the Peoples Democratic Party which were based on time-tested tenets of democracy, and the vow of the founders of the Party "to promote and nurture democratic ideals and tradition, on a sustainable basis".

The founding fathers of the Peoples Democratic Party envisaged a "peoples democracy" hence the slogan "power to the people" and the people of Nigeria responded favourably and gave the Peoples Democratic Party the mandate to govern. We of the Reform Forum, after eleven years of governance, desire for our Party to examine how we have kept faith with the dreams of our founding fathers.

(3) Finally, we note that Nigeria as a nation is currently going through political events for which there is no precedence. Such a period as the nation is now witnessing demands that the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), as the political Party which won elections and installed the Federal Government and twenty-eight (28) State Governments, ought to have risen to the occasion and played a major role in normalising the trying situations to ensure stability in the polity. Sadly, the Party failed to rise to the occasion. Consequently, others such as former Heads of State, Presidential Advisory Committee, and the National Assembly stepped in to stabilize the nation; all these without the political Party in power. In our view, this represents a very serious failure on the part of the leadership

of the Party which requires to be corrected immediately.

(4) Based on the above considerations we of the PDP Reform Forum present here-below our "Charter of Reform for the PDP". We are compelled to make this "Charter" public so as to dispel certain insinuations being peddled by those opposed to change. This "Charter" is derived from, and owes its being to the very noble founding ideals of our great Party - "The Peoples Democratic Party" - which are explicitly stated in the manifesto of the Party.

II. THE CHARTER

Elements of our TEN POINT AGENDA FOR CHANGE IN THE PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY are stated here below:

(1) INTERNAL DEMOCRACY IN THE PARTY

Simply stated what we seek is free and fair primaries in the PDP such that the people elect who they desire into various positions of authority.

Against this background, the recent disgraceful performance of the Party in Anambra State with the huge sums of money involved which became a national embarrassment is completely unacceptable to decent Party members and members of the PDP Reform Forum.

The founding fathers of the PDP in 1998 promised the people of Nigeria that:

"in the selection of candidates for political office and in its appeal to the public, the Party must emphasise ability, commitment to the common man's welfare and accountability. A NEW TYPE OF LEADERSHIP MUST EMERGE."

(2) SEPARATION OF THE PARTY FROM GOVERNMENT.

The Party shall be built on solid foundations that will guarantee its independence from Government. It is the desire of the PDP Reform Forum that State Executive Committee meetings should hold at State Party Secretariats with Governors in attendance and not the other way round.

In seeking to re-establish the pre-eminence of the Party the PDP Reform Forum is guided by the Manifesto of our great Party, by the founding fathers' demand that "those put in positions of power (by the Party) including the

CHARTER OF REFORM FOR THE PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY (Cont'd)

President, will regard themselves as holding such power in trust for the people.

(3) FUNDING

The founding fathers of the Party clearly, outlined the manner in which the Party should be funded to ensure its independence. The inability, lack of creativity and failure of the NWC of the Party to successfully actualize the funding vision of the founding fathers of the Party has resulted in the "over-dependence" of Party on donors, with the attendant emergence of "godfathers" and others.

A major agenda of the PDP Reform Forum is to actualize the funding vision of the Party.

(4) QUALITY LEADERSHIP

We of the PDP Reform Forum maintain that the quality of leadership of any organization is **CRITICAL** to the attainment of the goals and mission of that organization.

Infact our founding fathers said explicitly in the manifesto "Great leadership elicits respect. Inspiring leadership ensures acceptance by the followership. A caring leadership can positively influence social re-orientation within the nation. AND WE (THE PDP) WILL PROVIDE THAT LEADERSHIP."

We of the PDP Reform Forum demand quality leaders of the Party and from the Party.

(5) TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The founding fathers of the Peoples Democratic Party vowed "to set a pattern of political management which encourages **PROBITY**".

The PDP Reform Forum refuses to ignore situations which fall short of Transparency and Accountability. A PDP situation such as happened recently in Anambra State, where the sum of close to five hundred million Naira (N500,000,000) was expended without conducting any primaries, requires to be **accounted for** by those in charge.

(6) PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

We of the PDP Reform Forum demand a return to participatory democracy as envisioned by our founding fathers where they vowed to "defend the sanctity of democratic elections, enthrone a more respectable system of Party politics and avoid the mistakes of the past, namely politics of winner takes all and loser loses all, politics of exclusion, cash and carry politics."

(7) REFORM OF DELEGATE SELECTION/ELECTIONS.

Our Communique states that: "the PDP must revisit the current criteria of selection/election of delegates for our various Congresses and convention with a view to seriously reducing the members appointable by a

SINGLE INDIVIDUAL - be he a State Governor or the President/Commander-in-Chief'. We specifically demand that "ELECTED DELEGATES" must outnumber "APPOINTED DELEGATES." We believe that a situation where a single individual exerts an overriding influence on the emergence of POP flag-bearers for elections does not augur well for Nigeria's democracy.

(8) "ELDERS COMMITTEES" IN THE STATES.

In 2008 the Party set up a committee headed by the former Vice

President, Chief Or. Alex Ekwueme, in which many of the founding fathers of the Party, such as Mallam Adamu Ciroma and Prof. Jerry Gana served. The findings and recommendations of this high-powered Committee was expected to be a road map for the Reform of the Party.

The PDP Reform Forum demands the full implementation of the Report of the Dr. Alex Ekwueme Committee and not its selective piece-meal application. In particular we urge that "Elders Committees" be inaugurated in the States as recommended.

(9) PDP - PARTY CONFERENCE

In well-developed democracies such as England and the United States of America, there are usually Party Conference/Conventions which take place either annually or biennially with the objective of re-affirming the ideals of the Party and to articulate Party Programmes.

The PDP Reform Forum proposes the introduction of such a Party Conference which should take place every two years. The Party conference shall afford members opportunity to ask questions, air their views, and provide fresh ideas and perspectives on governance.

All of us do recall that President Obama, before he was elected as President, emerged as a national figure in the USA from his speech at the Democratic Convention. In Nigeria, how can an Obama emerge if we destroy the environment that gives rise to such emergence.

(10) AN AGENDA FOR CHANGE

The detailed document, incorporation details of the issues raised in this charter shall be made public on a later date.

III. CONCLUSION

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is the largest political Party in Nigeria. What it does and what it does not do, will always have a major impact on the polity. All that we require, as the PDP Reform Forum, is that our Party which received the mandate to form the Federal Government and twenty-eight (28) State Governments must have a **SOUL**, and it must reconnect with the people. All that the PDP Reform Forum demands is that our political Party must have a **CONSCIENCE**. On our part, the members of the PDP Reform Forum are people of conscience, and our conscience shall not be stifled, nor deformed, nor shall it be blurred. We shall seek to develop what is good, and correct what is wrong. This matter of soul in an organization is a fundamental problem which should never be minimized or put on a secondary level.

Senator Ken Nnamani, GCON

Rt. Hon. Aminu Bello Masari, CFR

High Chief Raymond Aleogho Dokpesi, M.C. O.S.C.



INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Zambezi Crescent Maitama District, P.M.B 0184 Garki -Abuja
Federal Capital Territory

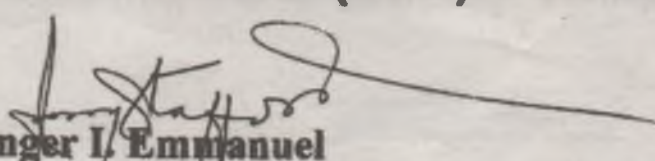
INEC GETS ACTING CHAIRMAN

Following the directive of the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to the effect that Professor Maurice Iwu, the former Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) should proceed on disengagement leave with effect from April 28, 2010, the National Commissioner in charge of Information and Publicity Committee of INEC, Barrister Philip Umeadi Jnr, has assumed the mantle of leadership in the Commission as its Acting Chairman.

Barrister Philip Umeadi who was appointed National Commissioner on September 6, 2006 to replace Professor Maurice Iwu, following his appointment as INEC Chairman in 2005, is the most Senior National Commissioner in the Commission consequent upon the simultaneous exit of Barrister Victor Chukwuani.

It would be recalled that the directive from the Presidency specifically stated that the most senior National commissioner should immediately take over in order not to leave a vacuum in the leadership profile of the Commission.

This development should naturally put an end to insinuations from some segments of the media that there is a vacuum in the leadership of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) at the moment.


Umenger I. Emmanuel
Director, Public Affairs

April 30, 2010

IT WORLD

Hotline:08056159961



FROM right: Emeka Ezekwesili, Director, Strategic Planning & Research Department, NITDA; Prof Cleopas Angaye, DG, NITDA and Adeyinka Adeyemi, MD, Interarc Consulting Limited, at a press briefing in Abuja, recently.

NITDA trains, facilitates jobs for 6000 unemployed graduates

By Zakariyya Adaramola

THE National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) has said it trained and facilitated jobs for 6000 unemployed graduates in 2009.

Disclosing this at a press briefing to announce the e-Nigeria 2010 Summit in Abuja last Thursday, the Director General of NITDA, Prof. Cleopas Angaye, said the 6000 trained graduates, 1000 from each of the six geopolitical zones, were trained in Information Technology (IT) by experts in the industry.

According to Prof. Angaye, the agency would train another set

of jobless graduates this year to reduce the high rate of unemployment in the country.

He said most Nigerian graduates are unemployable because they lack basic IT skills, which is what most companies now require.

He said the agency is poised to begin the implementation of the planned Software Development Centres and IT infrastructure centres across the country.

While reiterating the country's resolve to become a software hub like India, the NITDA DG said the FG is seriously working to shift its attention away from oil and concentrate on other sectors like ICT.

He said ICT has long been

identified as a goldmine, adding that NITDA would continue to work out how the country can effectively tap from it.

"The agency, in its resolve to help reduce unemployment, has trained 6000 unemployed graduates across the country. We took 1000 from each geopolitical zone and thereafter we facilitated how they got jobs.

ICT is a very lucrative sector but many of our graduates do not know this. Most graduates still don't have any knowledge of IT and this why they are unemployable because companies would not employ them without ICT knowledge", he said.

Glo introduces Frenzo Voice Chat

By Zakariyya Adaramola

GLOBACOM says its subscribers have been visiting the portal of its Frenzo Voice Chat, the new phone chat service recently introduced by the company.

The Frenzo phone chat, according to Glo, is designed as an exclusive social networking service for the company's subscribers. The service enables registered subscribers to find and make friends on the chat service based on defined profiles.

According to Globacom's Head of Value Added Services, Samson Isa, the new service has been recording an average of 100,000 hits per day.

"The response by our subscribers has been amazing. In the first few days of introducing the service, we recorded over 30,000 hits per day. Now the figure has

shot up to an average of 100,000 daily hits and it is still growing," Isa noted.

To activate the service, Samson Isa said, a subscriber needs to dial the short code 547, follow the voice prompt and listen to the pre-recorded profile of other users on the system. To enjoy the full features of the service, first time users need to register their profile on the chat engine by recording short and interesting information about themselves.

"The chat can also be done through SMS. Once registered, the subscriber can manage his account, edit his profile, block/unblock any friend's chat ID, edit search criteria and opt for regional chat rooms. All these contribute to making the Frenzo Voice Chat the most robust and dynamic chat service available," Isa explained.

Indigenous technology firm unveils inverter battery

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

INDIGENOUS technology company, Pragmatic Technologies Limited has introduced PRAG Gel Tech Battery into the Nigerian market. At the Launch Event which took place in Lagos, the CEO of the organisation, Mr. Biodun Marquis explained that the PRAG Gel-Tech Battery is a tremendous improvement on the traditional AGM/VRLA Model of battery which is dominantly found in the market presently. It is suitable for powering of Inverters, UPS and Solar Applications.

While addressing the audience at the event, Mr. Moses Mokogwu, who is the Product Manager, Com-

puter and Power Products for the technology firm stated "The introduction of the PRAG Gel Tech Battery is borne out of a passion to continually add value, we love to explore all possibilities to ensure continual improvement on existing technologies, hence we continually churn out products that are second to none in the various sectors of the market where we compete".

Stating further, Mokogwu said "compared to the traditional AGM/VRLA models, PRAG Gel Tech Battery has double life, withstands higher temperature range and accepts charging current four times more, it is designed for extreme performance"

Software: Nigeria's hidden goldmine

Over reliance on oil sector has made Nigerians and their rulers to forget that there are other one hundred and one sectors that can fetch the country much revenue. One of such sectors is Information and Technology (IT). Our reporter reveals what Nigeria is losing due to software negligence.

By Zakariyya Adaramola

RATHER than be a source of happiness and development for Nigeria, the discovery of crude oil has been a source of trouble and backwardness for the country. Many an economic experts have said it would have been better for the country if it had not got oil at all. They argued that before crude oil was discovered in commercial quantity in a Niger-Delta village many years ago; all the regions in the country then were buoyant and contributing adequately to the growth and development of the nation. Then, nobody complained of marginalisation or resource control because all were competing to participate in the baking of the so called national cake. And this healthy rivalry paid off for the country as its financial reserve continued to swell and things moved smoothly in all

regions.

The regions in the North with cotton and groundnut and some other agricultural produce could feed their teeming population with balance diets three times a day. Ditto the regions in the South with cocoa, palm oil and other agric produce could feed their men, women and their children with three square balance diet meals. But this healthy rivalry and the pride each region held when contributing to the national development started a backward journey shortly after oil was discovered and what seemed then like 'free money' began to flow in. All the regions at once discarded what they were known for; and what they were contributing to the nation were no longer forthcoming---all wanted to scoop from the 'free oil money'. The country's leaders at the time even said money was not our problem but how to spend it. And that period marked the beginning of downward movement for the country. And from those days till now, the country has been trying to come out of the woods but has not yet got its bearing.

One of the ways the country could head to get out of the woods, according to ICT experts, is to thoroughly explore the many

opportunities in ICT sector. One of such opportunities, which countries like India, Brazil and Singapore have explored and are making optimal use of it, is software developing. A strong advocate of software-for-Nigeria-development project, Dr. Chris Uwaje of the Computer Society of Nigeria said software could fetch the country more than what crude oil is fetching it at the moment. According to Dr. Uwaje software could fetch the country up to \$200,000b annually if properly harnessed. He said with the help of software, India and Brazil are gradually catching up with the so called developed nations, adding that these countries are already exporting software to developed countries.

Also speaking on the need for the country to shift its attention to software development in order to catch up with advanced economies, the chairman of Zinox Nigeria Limited, Chief Leo Stan Ekeh, said a time would come when this country would not have money to found its budget if its leaders failed to head the direction every other serious nation is headed. According to Chief Ekeh, every other serious nation on earth now is headed towards ICT. He said its needs

not much emphasise to say ICT is ruling the world and any nation that fails to harness from it would be left behind. The chairman of Zinox said since Nigeria is blessed with so many experts in ICT, home and abroad, it should not be difficult for it to make much revenue from IT. But he said it is sad that successive government in the country has not found it imperative to tap from knowledge of experts as regards how IT could be used as a tool for development.

But another IT expert Emmanuel Ekuwem is of the opinion that the government needs to fix the problem of electricity first before Nigeria could benefit from ICT. Mr. Ekuwem of the Association of Telecommunications Companies of Nigeria (ATCON) said the ICT sector is capable of making the restive youths in the country to be productive and contribute positively to its development.

And this, the Director General of National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Professor Cleopas Angaye, said is true. He told news men in Abuja how the agency trained 6000 unemployed youths across the six geopolitical zones in the country in IT.



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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
TRANSPORTATION SECRETARIAT

FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION

NO 1 KAPITAL STREET, AREA 11 GARKI.
GARKI, Area 11, P. M. B. 24 ABUJA - NIGERIA.

**INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PRE-QUALIFICATION/
TENDERING EXERCISE FOR TRAFFIC MARKINGS.**

The Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) through the Transportation Secretariat is inviting competent and interested companies to submit prequalification documents, and financial bids for the traffic marking.

2. **THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT INCLUDES:**
Lane marking, Zebra crossing, Channelization and Arrows.

3. **PRE-QUALIFICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The criteria for pre-qualification include the following:-

- (i) Evidence of Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).
- (ii) Evidence of Tax clearance for the last three (3) years.
- (iii) Company Audited Account for the three (3) years.
- (iv) Evidence of financial capability and Banking support (original).
- (v) List of key personnel officers that will handle the project stating their roles, designation, qualification and experience.
- (vi) List of verification documentary evidence of similar jobs.
- (vii) VAT Registration and evidence of past VAT remittances.
- (viii) Evidence(s) of compliance with the provisions of the Pension Reform Act 2004

Please, note that the absence of any of criteria (i)-(iii) above would be considered **NON-RESPONSIVE** and that automatically disqualifies any applicant for pre-qualification. Also, the original or scanned copies for criteria (i) and (ii) above must be produced for sighting during the opening session.

COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

Interested companies should collect bid documents from the office of the Director, Public Transportation, former Engineering Block Annex. Area 11, Abuja upon the presentation of evidence of payment of N10,000.00 non-refundable tender fee paid into the FCT Treasury Account at Fidelity Bank (Central Area) A/C No. 0511503010000426.

SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS AND FINANCIAL BID.

Responses to this invitation should be in two separate sealed envelopes (clipped together) containing the pre-qualification documents and the financial bids respectively, each marked for clear identification. Each of the documents should be submitted in **THREE COPIES**. The documents are to be dropped Room 043 (Former Public Building Block) Area 11, Tenders Board Secretariat, Garki, Abuja on or before 12.00 on 19th May, 2010. Representatives of the bidding companies are invited to witness the opening of the prequalification documents on the same day at Room 04, Archives & History Bureau, near AGIS, Area 11, Garki, Abuja.

NOTE

- (i) This invitation should not be construed as a commitment on the part of FCT Administration.
- (ii) A bid security of 2% of the bid price by way of a Bank Guarantee issued by one of the Consolidated Banks would be required where the bid is in excess of N50million.
- (iii) The execution of the project is subject to the approved budget provision for year 2010.

MANAGEMENT

Transportation Secretariat.

CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513
email: citynews@dailytrust.com

Beggars attack AEPB task force

By Nasir Imam

AN Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) task force team comprising of policemen, officials of the Social Development Secretariat and AEPB, was at the weekend attacked by a group of irate beggars in front of the Abuja National Mosque.

The team had swooped on the area to arrest the beggars but were resisted by a large number of the beggars.

Our reporter observed that the

beggars, mostly women, children and elderly persons with various degrees of physical disabilities, used sticks, stones, clutches and cudgels to defend themselves.

A Hiace bus with registration number Kano XA491MDB which conveyed the task force to the National Mosque for the exercise had its windscreen smashed with the members fleeing for dear lives towards the back of the Central Bank of Nigeria.

The beggars complained that the taskforce was denying them

their fundamental human rights to live in Abuja

FCT Minister, Senator Bala Mohammed, who learnt of the incident, ordered for a reinforcement of more policemen to the team and removal of the beggars from the streets of Abuja.

The minister also called for the rehabilitation of all those apprehended, after which they will be taken to their states of origin.

While speaking with our correspondent, some of the beggars who spoke in Hausa language

blamed the successive administrations in the FCT for abandoning them, arguing that they were paid N4,000 monthly as allowances under the Nasir el-Rufai administration.

They faulted government's policy of repatriation of beggars to their states of origins, claiming that they had often been dropped off on the roads far from their destination in the name of repatriation.

Reacting to all the allegations, the Director Finance and

Administration at the Social Development Secretariat, Alhaji Garba Mohammed Dukku, said that the intention of government to remove beggars from the streets of Abuja was to take them to any of the FCT's rehabilitation centres in order to train and empower them.

The director described the attack on his men as unfortunate as he reiterated that the intention of government was to rehabilitate them at rehabilitate centres in Bwari, Gwagwalada and Lugbe.

PIC: ABUBAKAR YAKUBU



NUJ members protesting during the May Day celebration Saturday.

NUJ Abuja protest over murdered journalists

By Abubakar Yakubu

MEMBERS of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Abuja Council Saturday carried placards to protest the killings of journalists and insistent threats to their lives.

The journalists, who joined other workers to mark the May Day celebrations at Eagle Square Abuja, held placards that read 'Stop the killings of journalist', 'Journalists need to be protected' and 'FOI bill is for every one'.

Our reporter learnt that the council had before that day sent

a petition to the FCT Police Commissioner, Mr. John Haruna, over plans by yet to be identified persons to kill some journalists in the course of their constitutional duties.

In the petition, Mr. Jacob Edi, chairman of the council, expressed the worries of the council that politicians and political actors have made journalists targets of assassinations.

The chairman stated that a council member, Chuks Okocha of This Day, sent him a text he received that read thus:

"Gbenga Aruleba (AIT), Yusuf Ali (The Nation), Olusola Fabiyi (PUNCH), Chuks Okocha (This Day). U all have no hiding place. U must be happy now dat Prof. Maurice Iwu has been sacked due to ur bad stories and reports. We will deal wit u soon. Remember Dele Giwa, Bayo Ohu and Edo Ubagwu? Gud luck?"

The council chairman expressed worry over the development and called on the FCT police boss to provide 24-hour security for the affected journalists and others as well as leave

nothing to chance in bringing to book all those that are responsible for the senseless killing of journalists in the country.

"By this protest letter, we are handing over these journalists to your protective custody and hope that no harm will come to either of them or members of their family," the petition read.

City News further learnt that several attempts to the GSM number 08063623794, where the threat came from yielded no result as the service provider kept saying the number was out of service.

Motorists comment on new AYA flyover

By Ben Atonko

MOTORISTS at the weekend commented on the newly opened AYA over-head bridge in Abuja and said the traffic jam that normally occurs between AYA to Nyanya still persists.

The flyover, which lingered for five years and was expected to ease traffic gridlock on Abuja-Keffi road was opened unceremoniously to motorists last Tuesday, thereby causing serious traffic jam at the tail end of the bridge during week days.

Commuters as well as commercial drivers spoken to, contend they have not noticed much difference since they started using the bridge last Tuesday.

Friday Aji, a commercial driver who plies the Abuja-Keffi road daily with a green-white-green Mitsubishi bus, told this reporter that he is happy that the bridge's work is completed. He however lamented that the traffic jam is still heavy.

Adamu Isa who works for the Federal Capital Territory Development Authority (FCDA), suggested that the new bridge would ameliorate the situation only if the traffic light at the Sani Abacha Barracks is made to show green for a longer time in the morning so those coming into the city from Keffi side would move faster.

According to him, the reverse will be useful when the build-up starts after the close of work, when more vehicles are leaving the city.

Meanwhile, many have expressed happiness over the completion of the project.

The bridge's contract was awarded to an indigenous construction firm, Dantata and Sawoe and the bridge is about 200 meters long.

An official of the Engineering Services Department of the FCDA, when contacted, confirmed that motorists have free access to the bridge, and that very soon the construction of the roundabout under the flyover, will soon be completed.

Woman denies adultery allegation

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A middle-aged woman, Deborah Yakubu, Friday in court denied having extra marital affairs as claimed by her husband Mr. Simon D. Balami.

The woman's husband had petitioned a Karu Upper Area Court to dissolve their four-year old marriage.

Deborah, who agreed that she has a different sim card in her possession, said the card belongs to

her brother-in-law and not lover, as stated by her husband.

She said her husband's younger brother gave the card to her to keep for him, adding that she has no secret lover.

"I don't know why I should be cheating on my husband and I want the court to inquire from my brother-in-law about the card," she said.

She told the court that the misunderstanding she has with her husband does not warrant

them to divorce as she still loves him.

Deborah then pleaded with the court to appeal to her husband to forgive her and promised to make him happy henceforth.

Earlier, the husband, Simon had alleged that his wife is an adulteress, who has a secret sim card, where she receives phone calls from her male friends.

He also said that she threatened to kill herself and locked him up in their house because she

saw him with another woman.

He told the court that since they got married in 2006, they had one child, who died and cannot settle their differences.

The man urged the court to dissolve their marriage, despite his wife's plea.

Judge Issa Alhaji Yahaya ordered them to go and reconcile since the wife has pleaded and promised to change. Case then adjourned to May 13, 2010 for further hearing.

Youths group celebrate 10th anniversary

By Ben Atonko

YOUTHS belonging to a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), 'Education as a Vaccine', at the weekend celebrated its 10 years of existence.

The popularly called EVA, started its celebration with a one-day roundtable discussion which reviewed the organisation's past achievements in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and in the states of the federation.

The gathering discussed the strengths, weaknesses of the organisation in the past years and generated ideas for improvement.

There were presentations highlighting programmes, and lessons learnt from the activities of the NGO over the decade.

Speaking during the meeting, EVA's Executive Director, Mrs Fadekemi Agarau said the NGO had uncovered a lot about youths' sexuality and reproductive health.

According to her, Nigeria's development is compromised by sexual reproductive health issues afflicting the youths, adding that lack of sexual health information and services make young people vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unintended pregnancy.

Mrs Agarau maintained that over 1.3 million unintended pregnancies occur annually in Nigeria and well over half of these pregnancies result in abortion.

Participants were drawn from government organisations, including the Nigeria Institute of Human Virology, National Action Committee on AIDS (NACA), Society for Family Health (SFH), as well as sister NGOs and the media.

NGO to train women on driving

By Hussein Yahaya

AN Abuja-based Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), the Foundation for Empowerment and Human Rights Promotion (FIST), has said it will soon commence accelerated driving training for women both in the rural and urban settlements.

The organisation's founder, Musa Ismaila Olarewaju, who said this in Abuja on Friday during a press conference, said the decision of the NGO was informed by the incessant accidents being recorded on the nation's high ways as a result of recklessness by some drivers.

Musa, who cited various accidents recorded on high ways in recent times, observed that if women are properly groomed in the act of driving, they will perform gallantly as professional drivers.

"If women are driving Double Decker buses in England and American and flying aeroplanes, why can't Nigerian women take up a career in driving?" he asked.

He said for the organization to achieve its aims, it has developed an aggressive package that will enable female professional drivers meet the evolving challenges of the 21st century and fit into any society.

The NGO's boss noted that drivers must be super intelligent, highly professional, vigilant and very sensitive, adding that the course content of the programme, which includes the basis of mechanical engineering, driving lesson, highway codes/ traffic regulations, auto care among others, was carefully designed to meet these qualities.

He hinted that the NGO was established specifically to fight poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, child labour and hunger among others.

Musa however admitted that to accomplish the short and long-term objectives of the organisation, the NGO will liaise with relevant government parastatals, private professional organisations, like transport unions, specialised United Nations agencies, FRSC and other NGOs.



GBAGYI cultural group displaying at a recent event in Abuja.

Mabushi residents express mixed feelings over demolition

By Ogechi Ohalee

RESIDENTS of Mabushi in the Federal Capital Territory yesterday expressed diverse opinions over the demolition of structures in the area last Thursday by officials of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA).

Marcel, a resident, said all they were not informed of the demolition, the exercise has wiped out crime as those that commit them live within such structures.

"Government neglected Mabushi for so long and I am happy they have woken up as this action

shows that we can now sleep peacefully," he stated.

Another resident, Malam Sulaiman, expressed satisfaction with the demolition, adding that some illegal built churches contributed in causing noise pollution in the area, through the use of loud speakers to air their services.

Mrs. Dunusa, a resident, condemned the action and called it a heartless operation. According to her, squatters could have been informed by FCDA officials of the demolition plans, so that they seek alternative accommodation arrangements rather

than shocking families with bulldozers and a large contingent of security operatives.

"We have no money or place to stay during this raining period and this is not good as we also have children with us," she lamented.

Amaka Nwosu, a resident, advised the FCT Administration to construct good roads in the area.

She insisted that the administration could have concentrated first on constructing or repairing roads in the area before carrying out the demolition exercise.

Council builds abattoir at Bwari

By Hussein Yahaya

AN abattoir being built by the Bwari Area Council for butchers in the area has reached its completion stage.

The abattoir is located behind Bwari new market along SCC road in the outskirts of the town and is meant to serve about 20 butchers at a time.

Our reporter who visited the market yesterday learnt that the building of abattoir close to the market is part of the council's effort to internationalise the market.

Cross section of butchers in Bwari expressed gratitude to the council authority for building the abattoir but pleaded with the council to let it meet international standard.

Some of them called on government to assist them with soft loans to help them expand their businesses.

Alhaji Musa Shehu, said members of his profession have not been receiving much government attention in the past, for the nation's economy to grow, no sector must be looked down or neglected.

"Honestly we appreciate the council effort to build a new abattoir for us. It is a welcome development but they can still do more for us," he said.

Spokesman of the Bwari Area Council chairman earlier said the market will be provided with the necessary facilities including a modern abattoir that will make it meet international standard.



FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION

FCTA TENDERS BOARD SECRETARIAT
FCTA Secretariat, Kapital Road, Area 11, P.M.B. 24, Garki Abuja, Nigeria

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PRE-QUALIFICATION EXERCISE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PERMANENT OFFICE COMPLEX FOR MUSLIM PILGRIMS WELFARE BOARD

Federal Capital Territory Administration through the FCT Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board has provision in the 2010 budget proposal for the construction of a permanent office complex at Gudu District and intends to use part or whole of it to finance the project. Competent and interested companies are hereby invited to submit technical bid for the project.

SCOPE OF WORK:

The works comprise of the construction of an Office complex, Mosque, Crèche, Stores and associated external works.

PREQUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Interested companies shall forward copies of the following documents and the originals to be made available for sighting during the tender opening.

- Evidence of Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and Articles of Memorandum of Association.
- Tax Clearance for the last three years.
- Interested companies should have up to date returns with the CAC and be informed that due diligence could be conducted.
- List of verifiable documentary evidences of similar jobs successfully executed within the last three.
- Evidence of audited account from a chartered accounting firm for the last three years.
- Sworn affidavit in line with the provisions of part iv, section 16, sub section 6 (c, e & f) of the Public Procurement Act, 2007.
- List of key personnel/officers to be attached to the project stating their roles, designation, qualification and experience. Enclose photocopies of professional certificates where applicable. Copies of professional certificates are to carry bearers seal and endorsement.
- List of equipment and plants to be deployed for the project, where applicable, stating their location and whether the equipment is owned or on lease.
- Bank reference and statement of account for the last 12 months.
- Letter Authorizing FCTA or their representatives to cross check the submitted account of the company.
- Evidence of registration with pension commission and up to date remittance of employee pension fund contribution.

SUBMISSION:

The technical/prequalification documents should be sealed and labeled (Technical bid for the construction of permanent Office Complex for MPWB).

The document is to be dropped in the Tender Box at the office of the Secretary, FCT Tender Board, FCT Tender Board's Secretariat, Room 043, Former Public Building Department, Area 11, Garki, Abuja, not later than 12noon, 20/05/2010; being three weeks from the date of publication. The representatives of the bidding companies are invited to witness the opening of the bids on the same day at Room G9 Archives & History Bureau Building near AGIS, No. 4 Peace Drive Area 11 Garki-Abuja at 2.00pm

NOTE

- Only pre-qualified companies/firms would be invited to submit financial bid
- Prequalification is free.
- Failure to provide necessary information/supporting documents as required could lead to disqualification.
- The general public and members of the civil liberty groups are invited to attend the opening exercise. Their conduct is to be in line with the code of conduct issued by the Bureau of Public Procurement.

Signed:
Hajara Muhammed.
DD (Proc)/ secretary FCTA Tenders Board



INVITATION FOR BIDS

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
FEDERAL SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE,
OROZO-ABUJA

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION POST BASIC (STEP-B) PROJECT

PROCUREMENT OF TRACTOR, TRACTOR COUPLED IMPLEMENTS AND AN INCUBATOR
Credit No: 4304 Issuance Date: 03/05/2010

- This invitation for bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this project that appeared in the Development Business Issue No: 591 of July, 2007.
- The Federal Government of Nigeria has received a credit from International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of Science & Technology Education Post Basic Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for the procurement of Tractor, Tractor Coupled implements, and an Incubator for Agricultural Science and Agricultural Mechanisation Workshop.
Contract No: STEP-B/FSTC/ORO/GDS/NCB/01/10
- The Science and Technology Education Post Basic (STEP-B) Federal Science and Technical College, Orozo-Abuja now invites bids from eligible Bidders for procurement of the following:

Lot No	Description	Qty	Bid security	Bid validity period	Delivery period	Delivery location
1	Procurement of tractor and tractor coupled implements	1 each	3%	90 days	60 days	FSTC, Orozo
2	Incubator	1	3%	90 days	60 days	FSTC, Orozo

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

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Science and Technology Post Basic (STEP-B) Federal Science And Technical College, Orozo-Abuja and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 0800hrs-1600hrs daily, Mondays to Fridays excluding public holidays

6. A complete set of bidding documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee of Ten thousand Naira (N10,000.00) only. The method of payment will be by Bank Draft in favour of Science and Technology Education Post Basic (STEP-B) Project Federal Science And Technical College, Orozo-Abuja. The document will be collected by hand.

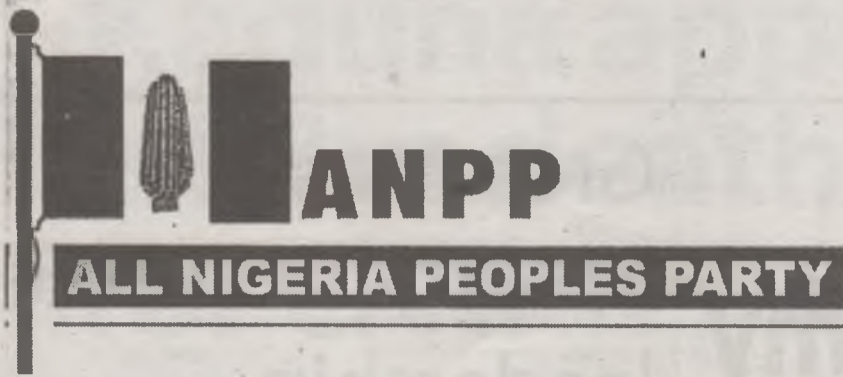
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 1200hrs, Tuesday 1st June, 2010. All bids must be accompanied by bid security of three (3%) percent of bid price in Naira or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives, who choose to attend at the address below at 1200hrs Tuesday 1st June, 2010.

8. Bidders may bid for one or more lots as award will be based on individual lots. Any bid submitted for incomplete lots will be declared non-responsive.

9. The address referred to above is

The Project Manager
Science and Technology Education Post Basic (STEP-B) Project,
Federal Science and Technical College,
Orozo-Abuja, FCT, Nigeria
Email: stepbftstcorozo@gmail.com
Telephone: Principal-08058175891, PM-08065932533,
PO-08059646160

Signed:
MANAGEMENT



National Secretariat
Plot 759 Bassan Plaza,
Behind NICON Insurance Plaza,
Central Area, Abuja.
Tel: 09 - 6700075, 2347558
E-mail: anpp@anpp.org.ng

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

ANPP NEC MEETING

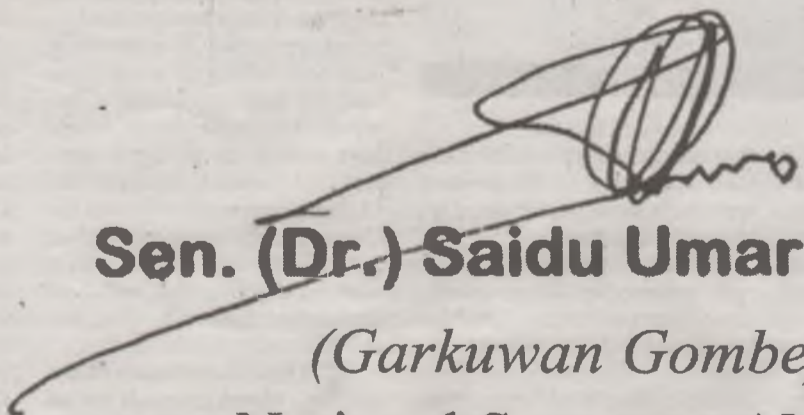
This is to inform all the National Executive Committee (NEC) Members of our great party the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) that the NEC meeting is scheduled to hold on Saturday, 15th May 2010.

- DATE:** Saturday 15th May 2010
- VENUE:** Maiduguri International Hotels, Borno State
- TIME:** 12 NOON Prompt.

Accreditation of members will commence on Friday 14th May 2010 at the same venue and no proxy will be allowed.

The meeting is strictly for members as only they (members) will be allowed into the venue.

We wish all members a safe trip to Maiduguri



Sen. (Dr.) Saidu Umar Kumo
(Garkuwan Gombe)
National Secretary ANPP

Inside Politics

AC: Obasanjo committed blasphemy

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

THE Action Congress (AC) has said former president Olusegun Obasanjo's statement last week that not even Jesus Christ can organise acceptable elections in Nigeria was blasphemous and unbecoming of a self-acclaimed born again Christian.

Obasanjo was quoted to have said at the Leon Sullivan Dialogue on Nigeria held on Thursday in Washington, D.C., that "with all due respect, if Jesus Christ could come to the world and be the chairman of INEC, any election he would conduct will be disputed." He made the statement in reaction to the sack of INEC chairman Maurice Iwu.

But in a statement in Lagos

yesterday, spokesman for AC Lai Mohammed said contrary to Obasanjo's statements, "Nigeria is capable of organising free, fair and credible polls. The 1993 presidential election is widely acknowledged to be free, fair and credible, and was not organised by a spirit, but by a human being, a Nigerian named Prof. Humphrey Nwosu."

The party said Obasanjo's statement trivialised the clamour for electoral reform when he said unless politicians are reformed, electoral reform would be meaningless.

"Obasanjo got it all wrong by taking electoral reform on the superficial level. Our answer to him is that electoral reform is all encompassing. It involves strength-

ening institutions. Of course strong institutions will checkmate crooked as well as do-or-die politicians," AC said.

It urged the former president not to discourage leaders from ensuring that the next general elections in 2011 are free, fair, credible and violence-free.

"Obasanjo, as president, presided over the worst elections in Nigeria's history. Obasanjo, as president, appointed the most biased and incompetent electoral umpire in Nigeria's history. Therefore we have nothing to learn from this self-important former president and he should leave Nigerians alone as they seek to chart a better electoral path for themselves," AC said.

Group tasks Jonathan on INEC leadership

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan has been tasked not to entrust the leadership of this country and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to tribal and geopolitical sentiments.

President of the All Youth Association of Nigeria (AYAN), Malam Usman Ibrahim, made the plea in Abuja over the weekend, stressing that building Nigeria as great nation was the responsibility of all.

He said in any tribe, religion or geopolitical zone, a qualified person could be found and that

such person should be given the opportunity to shoulder the duty of moving the country's democratic process for socio-economic development.

"It is our duty to help build Nigeria and make Nigeria greater based on the principle of unity in diversity, which runs on objectivity and rational thought and action, hence the leadership of this country shouldn't be compromised to tribe and religious sentiments and neither should her electoral process and leadership be caged in geopolitical zoning because they are anti-progress," Ibrahim said.

'PDP forum not after Ogbulafor'

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

What is your group's strategy towards removing PDP national chairman Prince Vincent Ogbulafor now that some of the leading lights of your group have been suspended?

There is a total misconception of the aim and objectives of the PDP Reform Forum. The issue of Ogbulafor's removal has never featured in our agenda and it is not our priority. If the federal government can come up with political and electoral reforms, why can't we look at the lapses in the PDP constitution with a view of reforming it? We have made some observations in the constitution and we are trying to make amends. The two major things that we want to achieve is to clearly separate the party from the government. Right now, the PDP constitution says that the president is the leader of the party at the national level, while the governor is the leader of the party at the state level. Likewise, the council chairman is the leader at the local government. In 1979, the then chairman of NPN, Chief Adisa Akinloye could summon the president to his office but from 1999 to date, no PDP party chairman has summoned either his governor or the president. In some states, the party chairman will hang around the governor's office for two to three hours trying to see him. In fact, if the National Working Committee had bothered to look at the aims of our group, they would have discovered that we want to free them from bondage and give them relevance in the current politics. This independence will bring about internal democracy in PDP. Our

Alhaji Mohammed Namadi Musa had contested the chairmanship of Kaduna North and was chairman of Kawo Development Area. Now, he is the secretary of the PDP Reform Forum's strategy committee and in this interview, the engineer turned politician reveals the group's real agenda. The interview was conducted before last week's meeting of the PDP national executive committee.



ALHAJI Mohammed Namadi Musa

party lacks internal democracy right now. Take for instance what happened in Anambra when the former CBN governor was imposed on the people. PDP came third in that election. So, our fear is that what happened in Anambra could be a reflection of what is likely to happen in most of the states of the federation. That is why we are concerned that this is changed.

Some party members also complain about the large number of delegates for primary elections

that the governors command to their advantage in the present system. Is your group also trying to change that?

The introduction of the delegate system gives the governors unnecessary advantage. This was introduced in 2003 when the delegates were increased from 10 to 25. So, if there are 15 executives in a particular ward and there are 25 delegates in that ward, that means the governor can pick ten delegates single handedly; so he doesn't even need the executives! The ten delegates will invariably

vote for him. We want the criteria of who becomes a delegate clearly spelt out. Apart from the delegate system, there is also the caucus which we want dissolved. Unfortunately, the governor is the chairman of the caucus. Before any election, this caucus meets and decides where to zone positions to. The governor will just invite some members of the state assembly and House of Reps members, may be about 10 of them but he will nominate about 30 people within the state as members. So, when the caucus sits, it will merely ratify what the governor wants. The constitution says that there should be a caucus but it has not spelt out who should be a member.

The party had earlier set up the Alex Ekwueme committee in order to address these lapses. What has become of the report?

Most of these things that we are talking about have been identified by the Ekwueme report. If the report had been implemented, there would have been no need for our group. In fact, what we would have been calling for would have been the implementation of that report. Ekwueme report would have solved the problem completely. Ekwueme report to the PDP is synonymous with what the Uwais report is to the nation. Just as the Uwais report was thrown into the dustbin, that was how Ekwueme report was also discarded.

Since the mission of the reform group is not as sinister as it was presented, why didn't Ken Nnamani, Aminu Masari and Co go before the party and clarify the group's position when they were summoned by the National

Working Committee?

They were not trying to disrespect the party by not appearing. They pleaded that they should be given another date. The date that they were summoned coincided with the group's meeting and they had invited people from all over the country and they have booked Nicon Luxury suites in Abuja. They pleaded for another time and date. None of them had received any letter of invitation, some of them read of the summon on the pages of the newspapers.

It is widely speculated that your group is being promoted by Acting president Goodluck Jonathan in order to pave way for his election in 2011, how correct is this impression?

This is totally untrue but people are free to say that because of one reason. We insist that Jonathan should be allowed to contest election in 2011 and unfortunately, the PDP chairman, without waiting for the National Working Committee, said that the acting president should not contest. In 1999, when the party zoned the presidency to the south, didn't Abubakar Rimi contest the election? In 2007, when the presidency was zoned to the north, Rochas Okorochoa contested. Why are you saying that Jonathan should not contest? It is left for the party to zone the presidency and it is left for the individuals to contest if they so wish. So, you cannot tell the whole world that Jonathan should not contest. It is because we are saying that he should contest that is why people are saying that the acting president is financing us. As far as we are concerned, zoning is not constitutional, it is undemocratic.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

CENTER FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT (CFD)

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for Registration under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

- TRUSTEES**
- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Musa Argungu Muhammad | Chairman |
| 2. Sanusi Mohammed Mairiga | |
| 3. Abdullahi Sule Argungu | |
| 4. Ibrahim Musa Guema | |
| 5. Dr. Sulaiman Balarabe Kura | |
| 6. Engr. Ibrahim Buge | |
| 7. Abubakar Bala | |
| 8. Zayyanu Magaji | |
| 9. Mamuna Umar Rabo | |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To improve access to and quality education of the marginalized, especially girls.
 - To provide access to basic health and quality health services.
 - To provide and improve access to safe portable drinking water.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B. 198, Maitama, Abuja, within Twenty Eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:
Abdullahi Sule Argungu
Secretary

GLOBAL HEALTHCARE ADVOCACY FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

- THE TRUSTEES ARE:**
- PASTOR JAMES MAICHIBI (CHAIRMAN)
 - PROF. ZOAKAH AYUBA IBRAHIM
 - DR. CHARLES KOPKAMAGONYOK
 - DR. SAMSON GRAND-ONIMISI (SECRETARY)

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To provide healthcare services
 - To advocate for free healthcare to the less privileged.
 - To provide health resources to communities.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Secretary

COMMUNAL SUPPORT FOUNDATION OF NIGERIA (COSFON)

This is to notify the general public that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part 'C' of the companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

- TRUSTEES:**
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Muhammad A. Mechina (Chairman) | 2. Isa Ibrahim Chana |
| 3. Ali Ahmed Othman | 4. Muhammad Ahmad |
| 5. Baba Musa Aliyu | 6. Usman Hassan Maraya |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- The aims and objectives of the foundation shall be among others:
- To pursue universal peace and brotherhood
 - To attend kindness, care, equity and justice among other virtues among communities in Nig
 - To assist in ensuring proper maintenance of graveyards and provision of facilities and logistics required for efficient burial activities
 - To promote and propagate the ideals of members of the foundation and the members legitimate rights and interests in Nigeria and beyond
 - To organize lectures, seminars and programmes for propagating brotherhood and communal responsibility in society
 - To promote and assist the establishment of community based social security funds, the activities of which would include provision of sustenance to, and rehabilitation of destitute.
- Any objection to the registration of the above named organization should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Nofia Square, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED
Muhammad A. Mechina (Chairman)

IBRAHIM KHALIL FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

- THE TRUSTEES ARE**
- Sheikh Yahya Tanko
 - Mal. Muazzam Mai Bushira
 - Dr. Saidu Dukawa
 - Alh. Abdulkadir Kabiru Bayero
 - Danladi Umar
 - Alh. Nasiru Danaji
 - Alh. Mohammed Isma
 - Alh. Garba Musa

AIMS AND OBJECTIVE

- To promote the teaching and ideas of mallam Ibrahim Khalil
 - To promote education and learning.
 - To do any other thing that will promote the ideology, life and personality of mallam Ibrahim Khalil.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed BARRISTER HASSAN TANKO KYAURE

ASHORPATH ORPHANAGE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Malam Mahe Bashir Wali Cfr, Oon, Npm, Dip(Rtd) | 3. Mal. Ibrahim Khalil |
| 2. Mal. Nuhu Gudaji | 4. Mohammed Aminu Kabir Bayero |
| 5. Mrs. Kaltume Umar | 6. Muhammed Balarabe |
| 7. Rakiya Sarki Ibrahimoon | 8. Barr. Hashiya Ben Umar |
| 9. Aishah S. Umar | 10. Kabiru Shehu Tahir |
| 11. Al-Amin Lukman | |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To educate orphans and vulnerable children in to western education as an effort to meet the millennium development goal education for all by the year 2020.
 - To collaborate with local government state, federal toward health care service delivery to orphans vulnerable by company within the community concern.
 - To contribute into social development of the people.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

FORUM FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & INTEGRATION (FHDI)

The General public is hereby notified that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part C of the companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

The Trustees are:-

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Bankole Oluogun | 2. Dr. Fajemirokun Bola |
| 3. Mrs. Bankole Temilola | 4. Mr. Sadare Ayoola |

Aims and Objectives:

- To promote all forms of positive education geared at improving the quality of lives of Nigenans and other nationals.
- To establish grassroots communication platform for educationally disadvantaged people.
- To serve as a catalyst for change of attitude of people towards a better and qualitative living.
- To update people on the management of HIV/AIDS and other related issues.

Any objection to the registration of the above association should be forwarded to the registrar general corporate affairs commission plot 420 Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Mr. Bankole Oluogun

MADRASATU TARBIIYATU AULADIL MUSLIMEEN ORGANIZATION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Organization has applied to Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- Alh Muhammad Lawan Muhammad
- Alh Isah Yusuf Abubakar
- Alh Abdullah Abul-Azz
- Dr. Ibrahim Adamu

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- To organize Islamic lectures and symposia
- To preach and teach Islam
- To promote, disseminate and propagate Islamic education and culture

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street P.M.B. 198, Maitama Abuja within 28 day of this publication.

SIGNED:
BARR. MUSA ABDU
08036497116

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS FARIDA SALMA FASKARI, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS FARIDA SALMAN GARBA of B8 Nupe Road Kaduna State. All former documents remain valid. The general public should please take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS TOLULOPE OLUSOLA OSENI, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS TOLULOPE OLUSOLA YUSUF. All former documents remain valid. The general public should please take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS BLESSING UNDOIDI UGBU, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS BLESSING UNDOIDI AWOSEMUSI. All former documents remain valid. The general public should please take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as BALA ZAGI, now wish to be known and addressed as ILIYA B. ZAGI. All former documents remain valid. The general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I formally called BABAYO ALIYU now wish to be called BABAYO ALIYU SHANGA. All documents remained valid. Federal College of education (Technical) Potiskum and the public to note.

I, formerly known as BABA ALI GOKARU, now wish to be called as DAHIRU AHMED KACICIYA. All former documents remain valid public should take note.

I, formerly known as ISMAILA IDRIS now wish to be called as yunusa usman. All former documents remain valid Toro Local Government and Public should take note.

Formerly MISS KAFAYAT MOHAMMAD now wish to be called MRS KAFAYAT AHMAD SADIQ. Former documents remain valid. Public take note.

I formerly MISS HAUWA ORAHACHI YUSUF; now wish to be known as MRS HAUWA ORAHACHI YUSUF ABDULSALAM. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly MISS OLUWATOSIN OTITOJU. Now wish to be known as MRS. OLUWATOSIN ALLI-ODUNSI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I formerly MISS ZAINAB BABA now wish to be called MRS ZAINAB BABA. All former documents remain valid. buk, NYSC and general public to note.

I formerly MISS SURAYYA AMINU ILU now wish to be called MRS SURAYYA AMINU. All former documents remain valid. BUK, NYSC and general public to note.

I formerly MISS MARY IGBEKELE JEGEDE now wish to be called MRS MARY IGBEKELE ABAH. All former documents remain valid. Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital and general public to note.

I, formerly NAZIFI GARBA, now wish to be known as MUHD NAZIFI ABUBAKAR. All former documents remain valid. L.E.A Buji and general public take note.

I, formerly known as MS DESTINY NKECHI AUGUSTINE now wish to be known as MRS DESTINY IDONGESIT NQUOT. Dorben Polytechnic, Intercellular Nig. Plc and general public take note.

I, formerly known as FATIMA MUHAMMAD DANEJI now wish to be called MRS FATIMA IBRAHIM SULAIMAN. All former documents remain valid. BUK, NYSC Directorate and general public to note.

I, formerly known as AGORO OLAIDE MUIBAT now wish to be called AL-AMIN IBRAHIM MUHIBAT. All former documents remain valid. General public should note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS NNENNA CHINANU IHEDIOHA now wish to be known and addressed as MRS NNENNA CHINANU EZE. All former documents remain valid. British High Commission and the general public take note.

I, formerly known as NURAT JUMOKE OLOYEDE now MRS NURAT JUMOKE TIAMIYU. Former documents remain valid. Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria, SHMC and general public take note.

I, formerly MISS OGOHI LAMI FADIMATU now wish to be called MRS OGOHI-SANI LAMI FADIMATU. All former documents remain valid. Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) and general public take note.

THIS SPACE IS FOR SALE



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

Plot 1370 Ukpo Close, Off Oro Ago Crescen, Off Muhammad Buhari Way, (by Old CBN),
Garki II District, P.M.B. 252, Garki Abuja. Tel/Fax : 09-6706861
e-mail: info@ncac.gov.ng. Www.ncac.gov.ng

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR SELECTED PROJECTS TO BE DONE BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURE IN YEAR 2010

The National Council for Arts and Culture, Abuja wishes to re-advertise its 2010 capital budget. In view of the above, the office is inviting competent and reputable companies/contractors/suppliers to tender for the pre-qualification for the following jobs.

- LOT 1 National Research Centre on Textile Traditions at Osogbo, Osun State
- LOT 2 National Research Centre on Boat Regatta in Uyo, Akwa-Ibom State
- LOT 3 Development of Crafts Centres (3a) Awka, (3b)Ikare, (3c) Kano (3d) Sokoto
- LOT 4 Purchase of Office Furniture and Equipment for Five (5) out of Ten (10) Zonal Offices
- LOT 5 Maintenance/Improvement of Herbal Garden of Indigenous Medicinal Plant Species in Abina, Ebonyi State
- LOT 6 Equipment for the Promotion of Traditional and Herbal Project
- LOT 7 Maintenance/Improvement of the Durbar Gallery in Kaduna
- LOT 8 Maintenance/Improvement of Lagos Craft Centre
- LOT 9 Herbal Garden of Indigenous Plant Species Project in Taraba State
- LOT 10 Purchase of Audio-Visual and Library Equipment for Specialized Cultural Libraries.
- LOT 11 Maintenance and Improvement of Masquerade Gallery in Enugu.
- LOT 12 Maintenance and Improvement of Herbal Garden of Indigenous Plant Species in Getso, Kano State.

2. Pre-Qualification Requirements

Interested contractors are required to submit the following pre-qualification documents:

- Evidence of company registration with Corporate Affairs Commission
- Company Audited Account for three (3) years
- Evidence of Tax Clearance Certificate for three (3) years
- Evidence of Financial Capabilities and Banking Support
- Experience/Technical qualification of key personnel
- List of similar project executed and evidence of knowledge of the industry
- VAT registration and Evidence of past VAT remittances
- Equipment deployment and equipment/technology capacity
- Evidence of compliance with the provision of the Pension Reform Act, 2004.

3. Submission of Pre-Qualification Documents

The Pre-Qualification Documents should be neatly bound and submitted separately in a sealed envelope and marked at the top left hand corner "The Lot number/project name" to the Executive Director, National Council for Arts and Culture, Plot 1370, Ukpo Close, Garki II, P.M.B. 252, Garki Abuja on or before two (2) weeks from the date of advertisement on 3rd May, 2010. Opening by 2pm on the closing date i.e. 17th May, 2010.

4. Additional Information:-

- i. This advert superceed the earlier advert of 22nd March, 2010. Therefore all interested bidders including those that have responded to the earlier advertisement should submit their bidding documents to the address mentioned in (3) above.
- ii. Tender information and instruction shall be given only to contractors that have been screened and found suitable to provide the services.
- iii. The Advertisement shall not be considered as commitment on the part of the National Council for Arts and Culture nor shall it entitle potential companies to make any claim whatsoever and/or seek any indemnity from the National Council for Arts and Culture by virtue of such company having responded to the advertisement.
- iv. Late submission of pre-qualification documents will be rejected.
- v. Only pre-qualified contractors will be allowed to participate in the competitive tender.
- vi. The National Council for Arts and Culture reserves the right to reject any application.

SIGNED
Executive Director/CEO
NCAC Abuja.



NIGER STATE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, P.M.B 52, MINNA, NIGER STATE. 2009 EDUCATION TRUST FUND (BOT SPECIAL PROJECT) AT GGSS BIDA

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

Ministry of Education Niger State intends to execute the following approved Projects under the 2009 ETF Intervention (Board of trustees Special projects) at GGSS Bida:-

- a. Procurement of Kitchen and Dining Equipment
 - b. Procurement of Health care clinic Equipment
 - c. Procurement of ICT Laboratory Equipment
 - d. Procurement of Hostel Furniture
 - e. Procurement of classroom furniture
 - f. Procurement of Biology Laboratory equipment
 - g. Procurement of Mathematics Laboratory Equipment
 - h. Procurement of Chemistry laboratory equipment
 - i. Procurement of Physics laboratory equipment
 - j. Procurement of laboratory glassware
2. All interested and reputable contractors/suppliers are hereby invited to submit the following documents for pre-qualification exercise.
- a. Evidence of registration with cooperate affairs commissions
 - b. Up to date registration as a contractor with Niger State Due Process Office
 - c. Evidence of Financial, technical and managerial capability to handle the Jobs.
 - d. verifiable list of similar and other projects completed on the last 3 years, stating location, completion dates and evidence of completion.
 - e. Tax clearance for the last 3 years
 - f. Audited account for the last 3 years
 - g. Customer service reference letter from banker
 - h. Evidence of Vat registration and remittance
3. **IMPORTANT NOTE**
- a. This is not an invitation to tender
 - b. Only technically qualified companies whose documents fulfill the minimum requirement will be invited to tender for the proposed Project.
4. The Pre-qualification document should be submitted in a sealed envelop and clearly marked "PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR TENDER" addressed to: The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education, P.M.B 52, Minna, Niger State not later than 2 weeks from the date of Publication.

DR. MAHMUD N. MUHAMMAD, M.B.B.S.S., Ph.D, Surg.
Permanent Secretary (Chairman RDPT)
Ministry of Education, Minna.

Urgent VACANCY for CATERER



A reputable organization based in Abuja is looking for an experienced caterer to handle it's catering services for its staff.

Qualification:

The Ideal caterer may be corporate or individual person with proven record of experience and possession of necessary certificates of competence from governmental, educational and regulatory bodies.

Interested organizations or persons should forward their applications and resume to the following:

Human Resource Manager,
P. O. 6873
Wuse Zone 3,
Abuja.

Closing:

All applications must be submitted within 2 weeks of this publication.

SPORT

Mayweather
too strong for
Mosley

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Nigeria spent N37m on hotel cancellation

Ismaila Lere, with Agency reports

THE Federal Government will pay a hefty fine of \$250,000 (N37.5 million) as penalty for canceling the booking of the New Hampshire hotel initially chosen by the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) for the Super Eagles.

Sports Minister Ibrahim Isa Bio and his entourage which included Nigeria's ambassador to South Africa, Brig. Gen. Mohammed Buba Marwa and top Nigeria Football Federation looked at other hotels in Johannesburg and Pretoria before picking a 4-Star Protea Waterfront Hotel at Richards Bay, a 79-room facility and one of the hotels approved by FIFA on Saturday.

Nevertheless, the NFF will still have to go through an administrative process before payment can be made for the Waterfront Hotel.

However, Bio told Brila FM.net from South Africa that the Federal Government is ready to pick the extra bills for the hotel as it will now serve as training site and base camp of the Super Eagles during the World Cup.

"We are satisfied with the hotel, I think it suit our needs. The FG will help out with bills as we look forward to a favorable World Cup in South Africa" Bio said.

The Nigerian delegation led by the sports minister after a meeting with the hotel manage-

ment agreed to cough out the huge sum being charge for contract cancellation.

During a tour of the New Hampshire hotel, Bio had expressed concern about security and the hotel's porous security.

"I am concerned about the noise and unsure of the security of this place. We can not toy with the safety of our players who are ambassadors of our great country," he said.

Sheena Mistri, from FIFA Match's accommodation office, said the Nigerian delegation had visited the province last year December and were shown all the available Match-approved hotels.

The New Hampshire Hotel was originally not a FIFA-approved hotel but the NFF was insistent it was the property they wanted. "They requested us to approve the hotel for their team accommodation."

Phindani Nene, who assisted the provincial government in securing World Cup team base camp accommodation, said the most important person to make the decision about the hotel was the coach.

"Our mandate was to satisfy the coach, which we did. But since December Nigeria have changed their coach," he said.

The high cost of the change in base camp by Nigeria may be as a result of the insistence of FIFA last week that no country would be allowed to change its base camp for the World Cup.



PORTSMOUTH Nigerian striker John Utaka celebrates scoring a goal during the English Premier League match between Portsmouth and Wolverhampton Wanderers at Fratton Park in Portsmouth England on Saturday. Utaka's goal was incidentally the English Premier League 1,000 goal.

S/Africa drags Nigeria to FIFA over Flamingoes' ages

SOUTH Africa has reported Nigeria to FIFA, protesting the alleged inclusion of four over aged players in Flamingoes' line-up, which ousted them from the U-17 World Cup.

The U-17 Flamingoes overcame a first half goal deficit to record a 2-1 win over their South African counterparts in the cadet World Cup second leg qualifier.

The Nigerians had won the first leg 5-0 two weeks earlier in Abeokuta. The South African team manager, Fran Hilton-Smith, said they had lodged a protest with the referee and Match Commissioner, alleging the winners paraded at least four over aged players.

"We officially lodged a protest with the referee. We submitted the names of the four girls that we believe are not U-17 and the rest is up to FIFA to rule on our protest," Hilton-Smith said.

She said the South Africans did not mind losing, but lamented that losing to a team with over aged players was pathetic.

Hilton-Smith said the team had paid the stipulated protest fee and hoped FIFA would look seriously into the matter and pass the right judgment.

Sports Minister, Alhaji Ibrahim Bio, who watched the match, disputed the claims of the South Africans.

"These are allegations and allegations unless proved cannot be said to be true," he told (NAN).

"You know some of our girls. These days, a girl of about 16 years can be very huge and tall depending on the kind of food she is eating and the environment.

"We have tried and put all mechanism in place to ensure all our players are age compliant in age group competitions and the issue of over aged players will never surface in Nigeria," Bio said.

Bio orders quick resolution of NFF/Amodu face-off

SPORTS Minister, Alhaji Ibrahim Bio said yesterday he had instituted a committee to resolve the lingering contractual face-off between former Super Eagles' coach Shaibu Amodu and his employers, the NFF.

Speaking with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Johannesburg, Bio said the committee was expected to report back to him within two weeks.

NFF redeployed Amodu to handle the home-based Eagles after the Africa Cup of Nations in January in Angola, where Nigeria finished third after an unimpressive

outing.

Former coach of Sweden, Lars Lagerback was employed in February after an extensive search for a foreign coach, which took officials of the National Sports Commission (NSC) and NFF to Europe.

Bio said: "I have set up a committee to look into his matter and we are looking at the legal agreement between him and NFF.

"I've directed the DG, NSC and NFF to withdraw the matter from court of arbitration and address it and report back to me in two weeks time.

"I have given them an assignment and I'm waiting for them to give me a reply and watch in the next few weeks to see what will happen," said the minister.

Bio said he had talked to all parties and he would know after the two weeks whether they have failed or succeeded.

"It is only then that I can go to the next level but I'm sure they have the ability to resolve the matter," he added.

Three-time Eagles coach Amodu is embittered over his redeployment after bagging the 2010 World Cup in November 2009, claiming his

reassignment violated his contract with the NFF.

The minister admitted that apart from funding, management was a major challenge facing sports in Nigeria.

Bio observed that management of sports had been politicised in the country over the years.

"Instead of being technically oriented, people are more concerned with succession, who becomes president of federation, NOC or, who becomes Secretary-General rather than who has the technical skill to take sports to the next level.

"That should be our goal at all

levels but what you see playing out in the last few years is politics of succession, who occupies what without having the requisite technical skill to take that sports to the next level.

"It's a big challenge and I need support of stakeholders to address it," he said.

Bio noted that the private sector would put in its money if it was assured that the money would be well managed.

He said the proposed sports summit holding this month would discuss the challenges facing sports.

Drogba, Lampard fire Blues towards title

CHELSEA edged closer to the Barclays Premier League title with a crucial victory over Liverpool at Anfield.

An error by Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard handed Didier Drogba a simple opening goal in the first half and Frank Lampard added a second after the break.

The result ensured Chelsea remained in pole position to win their first championship for four years but also finally put paid to the Merseysiders' hopes of securing Champions League football next season.

With Manchester United a point behind before kick-off and playing later in the day, Carlo Ancelotti's side knew anything less than a win would hand the initiative to their rivals.

And with next week's final weekend seeing United host Stoke - Chelsea are at home to Wigan - there was no margin for error.

Chelsea were undoubtedly the better side but the match may have turned out differently had they not been gifted a 33rd-

minute lead.

The conspiracy theorists would certainly have had a field day.

Some fans had been suggesting all week they would rather Chelsea win an Anfield than beat the Stamford Bridge side and hand United the chance to eclipse the club's tally of 18 league titles.

However, even they could not have prophesied the manner of Chelsea's goal.

Gerrard failed to notice Drogba when he passed back to Jose Reina and the Ivory Coast international nipped in to round the goalkeeper and tuck the ball home.

Six minutes into the second half Kalou muscled his way past Mascherano to drill a cross into the six-yard area, where Anelka failed to get the touch which would certainly have brought a second Chelsea goal.

But the Frenchman played a more influential role in the 54th minute when his cross picked out Lampard who bundled home from close range.



TOP man... Frank Lampard celebrates scoring Chelsea's second goal.

Supporters Club budgets N120m for World Cup

From Adeolu Johnson, Lagos

THE Nigeria Football Supporters Club has budgeted the sum of N120 million to cater for its members at the World Cup finals in South Africa next month.

Disclosing this, the President General of the Club Dr. Rauf Ladipo said the amount would be needed to take care of the members who will be in South Africa to support the national team.

He said the amount would take care of their accommodation, match tickets, feeding and other logistics for 31 days.

Ladipo appealed to corporate organizations and philanthropists and state government to come to their aid.

He explained that he was launching this campaign to avoid what they experienced in Angola during the Nations Cup finals where they spent over N54 million.

The President General said whenever they went to Abuja to support the national team, they spent millions of naira in doing so.

He however thanked Globacom for ever supporting them.

"For the past seven years it has been Globacom has been the pillar behind the supporters club, without them the story would have



NIGERIAN supporters cheer during a match. Two thousand supporters' club members will be in South Africa to cheer the Super Eagles.

been different," he said

"If we have two or three companies like Globacom, the Nigerian Supporters Club would have been the best in the world," he added.

He disclosed that 10 Nigerians would have the opportunity of going to South Africa free of

charge courtesy by sending a text message to 33006 on Globacom network.

He revealed that the club is planning to organize a Dinner in the last week of May to solicit for funds from Nigerians.

He explained that they cannot continue to rely on only

Globacom as the national team belongs to all of us.

Also speaking at the gathering, Globacom's Modele Sharafa Yusuf said her company would continue to support the Supporters Club because they appreciate what they are doing to Nigeria.

Utaka nets EPL 1000th goal

NIGERIA international John Utaka grabbed the historic 1,000th goal in the 2009/10 English Premier League season when he netted Portsmouth's second goal in a 3-1 home win over Wolves.

Utaka, recalled to the World Cup-bound Super Eagles, hit target after 39 minutes with a low, left-footed drive from inside the box for Pompey to regain their lead after Wolves had cancelled an Aruna Dindane opener.

It was Pompey's last home game before they drop down to the English Championship after they went under administration.

Another Nigerian star on target in Europe at the weekend was defender Rabi Afolabi, who scored for Red Bulls Salzburg in a 4-2 home victory over SC Wiener Neustadt.

Afolabi scored his team's fourth goal in the 27th minute with a powerful header off a corner kick.

He was also on target for his club two weeks ago with Eagles assistant coach, Roland Andersson, watching.

Red Bull thus remain on course to retaining their Austrian Bundesliga crown.

They lead the standings with 73 points from 33 matches, six points clear of closest rivals Rapid Vienna.

Windstorm blows off Birnin Kebbi Stadium roof

STREET traders close to the Halliru Abdu Stadium in Birnin Kebbi narrowly escaped death on Sunday as the roof covering a section of the stadium blown off by windstorm almost crushed them.

A correspondent of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)

reports that the metal and zinc roofing sheet measuring about 40 square metres was completely blown off by the windstorm, landing close to where the traders displayed their wares.

Malam Audu Baba, a roadside tea seller, told NAN that his kiosk was almost crushed by the roof.

Baba said "some hanging telephone cables and poles prevented the roof from burying us."

Another eyewitness, Malam Mohammed Isa, said the storm destroyed many roofs in the metropolis and broke branches of many trees.

Isa said some streets were

blocked by roofs and other objects blown off by the heavy wind.

A maintenance officer at the stadium, who craved anonymity, described the storm as "too powerful", adding that the portion of the roof that was blown off would be replaced.

RESULTS

Nigeria Premier League
 Gateway 0, Rangers 0
 Ocean Boys 2, Zamfara 0
 Sunshine 2, Gombe 0
 Lobi 1, Sharks 0
 Pillars 4, Wolves 0
 Dolphin 3, Bayelsa 1
 Kaduna Utd 3, Heartland 2
 Enyimba 3, Tornadoes 1

Last gasp Ronaldo keeps Real on Barca's tail

CRISTIANO Ronaldo headed an 89th minute winner for Real Madrid as they came from behind to beat Osasuna 3-2 at home to stay hot on the heels of leaders Barcelona in La Liga yesterday.

The world's most expensive player rescued his team, heading in Gonzalo Higuain's cross from a metre out, for his second of the night and 22nd of the campaign.

Real made life difficult for themselves against mid-table visitors twice going behind to goals from Carlos Aranda and Krisztian Vadocz. Ronaldo and Marcelo grabbed the equalisers before the break.

Barca have 90 points after beating Villarreal 4-1 away on Saturday and are one point ahead of Real, with three matches to play.

"It seemed like an easy game on paper but it turned out to be tough. This often happens in these types of games. You have to show plenty of fighting spirit to win," Ronaldo told Spanish television.

"The win was the most

important thing because we still have hopes of beating Barcelona to the title, though they won't give it up easily."

Real got off to an awful start when defender Raul Albiol failed to control a ball and allowed Aranda to break away and score after only seven minutes.

Ronaldo put them level in the 25th after streaking off the left flank to score from the edge of the area, but the hosts were found wanting at the back again from an Osasuna throw in.

They failed to clear the ball and Vadocz smashed a spectacular volley past Iker Casillas in the 43rd, though Real only needed a minute to equalise this time, Marcelo nodding in from close range.

A nail-biting second half had Casillas saving point-blank from Aranda and Osasuna's Masoud missing an open goal before Ronaldo rose above the mediocrity to keep the title race alive with his late strike.

Earlier, Sevilla won the dress rehearsal for the King's Cup final by beating Atletico Madrid 3-1

at home and raised their hopes of returning to the Champions League next season.

Sevilla climbed to fourth on 57 points with three matches left to play, one ahead of Real Mallorca who visit Athletic Bilbao in the late game.

Any doubts that Atletico would be taking it easy after also reaching the Europa League final three days ago, were dispelled in a frenetic opening, even though they had fielded a weakened side.

Brazil's Luis Fabiano put Sevilla ahead from a corner in the fifth minute and almost immediately Portugal's Tiago volleyed the visitors level after a free kick.

Two disputed penalties, scored by Alvaro Negredo in the 12th and 39th minutes, put the hosts back in control and they held firm to take a psychological advantage into the Cup final at the Nou Camp on May 19.

A worrying note for Sevilla and Brazil coach Dunga, however, was that Fabiano had to be substituted with an injury just before the break.



REAL Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates with teammate Marcelo.



NANI hits the winner for Manchester United against Sunderland

Ferguson refuses to give up hope

MANCHESTER United's boss Alex Ferguson refused to give up hope of claiming a record fourth successive Premier League trophy after yesterday's 1-0 win at Sunderland ensured the title race would be decided on the final day of the season.

Portugal winger Nani was the hero for the second game in succession as his third league goal of the campaign maintained the pressure on leaders Chelsea.

United will be champions if they beat Stoke at Old Trafford next Sunday and Chelsea slip up at home to Wigan.

Ferguson said: "All we can do is win our game next week. We want to do that in front of our own fans on the last game of the season.

"I would not underestimate Wigan in any shape or form. They are a really good football team, they will have ago and you never know what happens in football. It is a crazy game."

"Manchester City did us a great turn by beating them twice and now we are looking for a favour from another neighbour.

"We are clutching at straws a little bit but the important thing is for us to win and enjoy it. We have kept the nerves going so you never know."

United could have been forgiven for being deflated by Chelsea's 2-0 win at Liverpool earlier in the day but the champions dominated almost from the first whistle.

Ryan Giggs came within inches of giving Ferguson's side an early lead when his left foot curler smashed against the crossbar.

Nani opened the scoring in the 28th minute, rounding of a fine passing move by sending a low right foot shot into Craig Gordon's bottom right corner from the angle of the penalty area.

TRIBUTE

ILLUSTROUS OTAKI MIJINYAWA OYIGBENU oon, mni (1951-2009)



"One day, my heart is going to stop, and that will be the end of my body...but not the end of me." - Rick Warren

No matter what the repercussion of what being "dead" ever means, i still know that your life has not ended. (Apologies to death).

"Life is a preparation for eternity. We were made to last forever, and God wants us to be with Him in Heaven." - Rick Warren

Till today, your household still talks about you in present form because everywhere and everything in the house still screams of your presence and also because we reckon that we are all going to live trillions of years in eternity together because you have just gone to get the best place for us (maybe mansions in

heaven are on first come, first serve basis and being the smart breadwinner you are, you've gone to get ours before we arrive).

All you did on earth was *the warm up act, the dress rehearsal*. God gave you time to practice on earth, what you will do forever in eternity. I see! That was why you went about doing good and being selfless to all whose path crossed yours, but most of all, being a meticulous father and husband. You did all these to the hilt.

Baba, from gist about heaven, you are not even missing out from all that is going on within the earth.

You left peacefully and in radiance while still shining in your endeavour, in full control of your faculties and while life was as best as it could have been even 100 years from now. What else could one ask for?

ADONGARI (the beauty and glory of our town) you are well named by the King Makers because four months after, the mention of your name still makes strong sense, *a preserve of exclusive men like you*.

We will join you soon. Take good care.
• Onyawole Maureen Otaki

THE MONDAY COLUMN

Mahmud Jega

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The madman's summary

Discussions that have been going on in Nigeria for many years now about how to improve election conduct and achieve free and fair polls in 2011 were completely fouled up at the weekend when Chief Olusegun Obasanjo said in Washington, DC that even Jesus Christ cannot conduct undisputed elections in Nigeria.

Subhanallah. I wish to urge the National Open University of Nigeria [NOUN] to immediately withdraw the Diploma in Theology that it recently awarded to this man for glaring evidence that he was not worthy in learning, at least. Every Christian and every Muslim [that means most people in Nigeria] believe that Jesus Christ was a divine miracle worker who broke a single loaf of bread and one fish into 5,000 large pieces each and fed multitudes, who healed the sick, the lame and the blind with a mere touch, and who even raised the dead back to life. For someone who did that, surely conducting a free and fair election in Nigeria is a piece of cake?

During our school days, whenever anyone did an over generalisation, our wise classmate Haliru Shuaibu would say, "You have stated it like the madman would."

Obasanjo's contention was that Nigeria will continue to have disputed elections until this country's politicians are "reformed." To insist on such a nebulous, neither-here-nor-there condition before good elections can be held is to say that we shall never have free and fair elections here. What are the parameters for "reforming" Nigerian politicians, who will do this reformation [Obasanjo will not trust either Martin Luther or John Calvin to carry it out], and at what point could we say that they have been reformed?

In any case, our stated national aim for now is to have free and fair elections, not undisputed ones. The fact that an election is disputed does not necessarily mean that it was not free and fair. Probably the fairest successful elections we had in the last 30 years were those of 1979 and 1999, but the losers hotly disputed them. Luckily, there are local and foreign observers today who could pass judgement on an election, protests or lack of protests notwithstanding.

Why did the organisers of the Leon H. Sullivan Dialogue on Nigeria that took place in Washington, DC last Thursday chose Obasanjo to speak about Nigerian elections? They ought to know, with CIA help, that in the last 7 years, Obasanjo was the single biggest factor in the incredibility of Nigerian elections.

Actually, his controversial remarks were made in response to last week's removal of Professor Maurice Iwu as INEC chairman. It wasn't surprising, since Obasanjo was the man who appointed Iwu and backed him to the hilt, and is still unhappy that Iwu was removed despite all the havoc they together wrecked on Nigerian politics and elections.

Most of the worst incidents of election shenanigans in Nigerian election management were done by Obasanjo, and many of the most brazen cases of INEC partisanship were done by Professor Iwu at Obasanjo's behest. Take, for example, his blatant [though unintentional] admission at the last Annual Trust Dialogue that he single-handedly picked and imposed Malam Umaru Yar'adua in the Presidency according to his own whimsical personal criteria.

Obasanjo was the single biggest culprit in the destruction of internal party democracy in the PDP, prior to the onslaught on democratic choice in the wider polity. There isn't enough space here to detail all the cases, so let us mention only ten. They include the serial removal of PDP national chairmen, one of them at gunpoint; party "re-registration" to throw out unwanted members; appointing party "link-

men" in the states to rig membership; issuing the EFCC "Election Advisory" on the eve of elections; forcing out presidential aspirants using the EFCC; serial impeachment of state governors who disagreed with him; anointing himself as Party Leader with the power to handpick candidates at all levels; the clumsy substitutions of candidates who won party primary elections; arranging for his estranged Vice President to be kept off the ballot paper, as well as declaring the 2007 elections "a do-or-die" affair.

As for Iwu, among the things he did at Obasanjo's behest including phoning the Adamawa Resident Election Commissioner and ordering him to drop AC gubernatorial candidate Ibrahim Bapetel's name from the ballot after voting had already started; the clumsy candidate substitutions in many states; locking up the Edo INEC secretariat and blatantly forging the results; declaring the Delta election results in Abuja before the state REC sent them in; declaring the presidential election results in Abuja with only 11 states officially compiled; as well as INEC's desperate and stubborn effort to keep Atiku off the ballot, which led to the emergency printing of ballot papers without serial numbers in South Africa with only two days to the presidential elections.

Obasanjo actually repeated in Washington what he said in Jigawa last year, that he does not see the need for electoral reform in Nigeria. He must be the only person in Nigeria who does not see such a need.

From what I can see, the most important prerequisite for holding relatively free and fair elections in Nigeria is to have a Federal Government that is not partisan. That largely explains why the polls of 1979 and 1999 were relatively free and fair, even though they were disputed.

Trouble was, after the 1979 and 1999 elections, we did not expect again to have an election in which the Federal Government was not partisan. Which is why, the most important reform needed now is to remove the power to appoint or remove the INEC chairman and commissioners from the President. This was exactly what the Uwais panel proposed. Even if the President must appoint the election umpires, let us at least deny him the power to remove them, as in India, where the Chief Election Commissioner, once appointed, has the tenure security of a Supreme Court judge. The result is visible for all to see.

It is true, in Nigeria, that election commissioners' loyalty to the President and the ruling party because they appointed them, or even the fear that they could remove them, are not the only or even the main threats to impartiality, because there is also the bribery factor. A rich and powerful ruling party could still bribe its way through, even if it didn't appoint or cannot remove the election commissioners.

Yet, if the INEC chairman is a carefully chosen person with a solid record of personal integrity and non-partisanship, there are many things he can do to improve election conduct in Nigeria. The late Justice Ephraim Akpata showed an example in 1999 when he tapped into the last remaining pockets of idealism in Nigeria [namely some university lecturers, NYSC and university students], and appointed Vice Chancellors of Federal Universities as State Returning Officers for gubernatorial elections.

In Sokoto, for example, the then UDUS VC Professor Aminu Mikailu was appointed the Returning Officer, and he in turn appointed Faculty Deans and Professors as Local Government returning officers. You see, there is a lot of rot in Nigeria, including in the universities, but I don't think there is a VC of a federal university who would accept money from a political party and add undue figures to anyone's election total.

The Vice Chancellor of a Nigerian university wouldn't do that, we said. Now, imagine if Jesus Christ were the INEC chairman.

SPORTS REPORT



USAIN Bolt is mobbed by fans after his blistering 19.56sec run in the 200m at the Jamaica International Invitational track meet in Kingston.

Bolt runs history's fourth-fastest 200m

Usain Bolt, the triple Olympic and world champion, ran the fourth-fastest 200m in history with a blistering 19.56sec sprint in front of his home fans at the Jamaica International Invitational yesterday. Only Bolt (twice) and the former world record holder Michael Johnson have ever set faster times.

"I felt good, the race

was a good one and I am on target to have a good season," Bolt said after his first individual race of the season. "My training has been going well and I am pleased with my performance."

The Jamaican's world record stands at 19.19sec, which he set at last year's world championships in Berlin, and his latest effort was all the more impressive as it was run into a headwind of 0.8 metres per second.



VICTORIOUS... Floyd Mayweather defeated Shane Mosley in Las Vegas.

Mayweather too strong for Mosley

Floyd Mayweather Jr extended his perfect record to 41 fights with a unanimous points victory over Shane Mosley in a welterweight contest in Las Vegas on Saturday night.

The 33-year-old, in his first fight since taking on Juan Manuel Marquez in September, suffered a brief scare in round two but from that point on always had the measure of his courageous 38-year-old opponent.

Mayweather exhibited more aggression than usual as he sought a knockout victory to excite a Vegas crowd brimming with stars of stage and screen.

The fight underlined Mayweather's status as arguably the finest fighter on the planet and will surely lead to renewed calls for a showdown with Filipino star Manny Pacquiao, after the original fight collapsed over a disagreement over dope testing procedures.

