

LIBRARY
Complementary Copy
NOT FOR SALE

DAILY TRUST

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2010 SAFAR 6, 1431 A.H.

TRUST IS A BURDEN

www.dailytrust.com VOL. 23 No 49 N150

Yar'adua being briefed
on Jos crisis - FEC

Page 4



Jos: Senate rejects motion
for state of emergency

Page 4



Inside
Today's
Daily Trust

Business

The FG has disbursed N300 billion subsidy to oil marketers between Aug 2009 and January this year **25**

Digest

A space-age 'plasmajet' that eradicates tooth decay without fillings 'set to replace dentist's drill' **35**

Politics

Senator Ume Ekaette says the alleged impeachment plot against President Yar'adua is uncalled for **52**

Sport

Super Eagles yesterday booked a place in the quarter finals of Angola 2010 by beating Mozambique 3-0 **53**



Abdulraheem is Daily Trust African of the year

By AbdulFattah Olajide

THE late Nigerian activist, scholar, newspaper columnist, social campaigner and exemplary Pan Africanist Dr. Tajudeen Abdulraheem was last night named as the *Daily Trust* African of the Year for 2009. The choice was announced by the Advisory Board at a special dinner and award ceremony at the Congress Hall of the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja, which was attended by Mrs Winnie Madhkezela-Mandela and the Ghanaian Member of Parliament Mrs Samia Nkrumah, among other prominent guests.

Taju, as he was popularly known among his very wide circle of pan-Africanist friends and associates, died on May 25, 2009 in a car crash in Nairobi, Kenya, where he was based.

Chairman of the *Daily Trust* African of the Year International Advisory Board Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, who announced the selection and read the citation, said the choice was

simultaneously humbling and inspiring. He said "even in death, Tajudeen still speaks and is recognised for his tremendous contributions to the development of the continent. We are aware that the next generation will not grow up to see Tajudeen, therefore we must work together to create a better society such that we could say to the next

generation, this, is the world Tajudeen helped to build."

“He said “even in death, Tajudeen still speaks and is recognised for his tremendous contributions

Dr. Salim, who was a former prime minister of Tanzania and former Secretary General of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU, now known as African Union), also said the overwhelming responses and tributes which followed the announcement of Taju's death attest to the impact he made on the lives of all Africans. He also described the African of the Year as a loving husband and father. Taju's wife Mounira, a Tunisian, and his two children, Aisha and Aida, were present at last night's award ceremony.

Dr Tajudeen Abdulraheem, **Continued on page 5**



THE late Pan-Africanist scholar Dr. Tajudeen Abdulraheem, Daily Trust African of the Year 2009.

...Al-Hussein is runner-up

By Habeeb I. Pindiga

SUDANESE journalist Lubna Ahmed al-Hussein, who was convicted and jailed for "dressing indecently" by wearing trousers, was declared last night as the runner-up of the *Daily Trust* African of the Year.

Lubna was arrested in July last year along

with 12 other women by the Sudanese police in a Khartoum restaurant for wearing trousers, and was later charged with violating the public dress code.

She was convicted and sent to prison in September after refusing to pay a fine of about \$200, saying she did not want to "give the verdict any legitimacy." The fine was paid by the Sudanese

Union of Journalists to secure her release.

By this action, Lubna drew wide acclamation from women groups especially in the West.

Reading the citation of the runner-up at the *Daily Trust* African of the Year Award Dinner in Abuja last night, one of the members of the award's advisory board, South African Professor Tandeka

Continued on page 5

Jos crisis contained – Army chief

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Lieutenant General Abdurrahman Dambazau yesterday said the Jos crisis has been contained following the deployment of troops from other parts of the country to the Plateau State capital.

Dambazau made the assertion while briefing newsmen after a tour of the affected areas.

The COAS who arrived Jos at about 11:00am was accompanied by other top military officials from the Defence Headquarters and received by the General

Officer Commanding (GOC) 3rd Armoured Division Major General Sale Maina at Mararaba Jama'a, said he was satisfied with the level of deployment, adding, "I believe very much that we were able to contain the situation because we have also made deployment in such a way that there will be no spill over".

Speaking on fake military/police men alleged to be involved in the crisis, the COAS said about five people were arrested for claiming to be police officers, stressing that only one was able to produce an ID card to

show that he was a police constable. Dambazau visited areas like Dutse Uku (the spot where the crisis started), Congo Russia, Bukuru and other flash points. On how long the troops would be on ground, he said, "It is a situation where you cannot give specific time, but subject to review from time to time in consultation with the state government".

Dambazau said that the cause of the crisis could not be ascertained, saying, "The best way to find out is to investigate and I think at this stage that we are now, nobody can really come out to tell

you that this is exactly the cause".

At the Air Force School, Old Airport Road where over 5000 refugees are taking shelter, the COAS said humanitarian services such as provision of medical services, potable water and other necessary assistance to make their life easy would be provided. During his visit to Governor Jonah David Jang at his Du residence, Dambazau said the purpose of his visit to the state was not only to assess the carnage but to also ensure among other things that the deployment of the troops was sufficient. Dambazau who

appreciated the effort of the state government also noted that part of the reasons for visit was also to find lasting solution to the Jos crisis as well as assist victims of the crisis where he directed the GOC of 3rd armoured Division to deploy their medical team and provide other necessary support that would help the refugees.

In his remarks, Governor Jang thanked the Federal Government for the prompt action in sending reinforcement to the state but decried the recurrence of crisis in Jos, saying time had come to end the crises.

Gov relaxes 24-hour curfew

From Andrew Agbese & Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE 24-hour curfew imposed on Jos and Bukuru in Plateau State Tuesday has been relaxed to between 5 pm and 10 am, a statement from the state Commissioner for Information Gregory Yenlong said yesterday. The statement said the governor took

the decision after consultations with the state security council. Commercial motorcycles known as Okada have however been barred from operating for now. Residents have welcomed the relaxation of the curfew as they say the seven hours allowed for movement would enable them run around for essentials.

Adamawa women knock perpetrators

From Ibrahim Muhammad, Yola

WOMEN in Adamawa have condemned the Jos crisis, attributing it to selfishness of individuals and

groups. The group added that citizens should be free to live in peace and harmony irrespective of religion or tribe. Speaking with our correspondent in Yola yesterday, the Coor-

dinator and spokesperson of the women group Mrs Akiliwa Griffith Kpakai called on Jos residents not to destroy the state under the guise of political, tribal or cultural differences.

Uneasy calm as violence subsides

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

VIOLENCE which led to the imposition of a 24-hour curfew in Jos and Bukuru seemed to have calmed down by yesterday afternoon as there was cessation of hostilities in most of the areas affected.

Our correspondent learnt that though areas like Bukuru and Kuru in Jos South Local Government and Bisichi in Barikin Ladi woke to sounds of gun shots, the tense situation had eased considerably by around 2:00pm

yesterday when sounds of gun shots ceased in those areas. There were reports however that youths mounted heavy road blocks even yesterday in far away local governments like Panskin and Riyom and demanded to know the identities and religions of passersby before being allowed to proceed. Areas like Nasarawa Gwong, Rikos, and Rukuba Road in Jos North Local Government where the crisis started Sunday morning also experienced relative calm

yesterday afternoon as most residents were more concerned about how to survive the 24 hour curfew than engaging in fresh acts of violence.

The mutual suspicion between adherents of the two major religions however continued as each side seemed to be watching the moves of the other. Residents in most parts of Jos who could not engage in any other activity were seen outside their houses assessing the situation and analysing how best to deal with it.

Winnie Mandela, Samia Nkrumah arrive for Trust Dialogue



GUEST speaker at the 7th Annual Trust Dialogue Winnie Madikizela Mandela on arrival at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, yesterday.



WINNIE Mandela with the Managing Director of Media Trust Limited, Alhaji Isiaq Ajjibola, as she arrived Abuja to deliver a lecture at the 7th Annual Trust Dialogue



WINNIE Mandela (right) and a representative of the South African Embassy in Nigeria at the lounge of the Abuja airport.



MS Samia Nkrumah, Member of Ghanaian Parliament and daughter of Ghana's first president shortly after her arrival in Nigeria yesterday.

PIX: Afolabi Sotunde

AFRICAN OF THE YEAR 2009 AWARD NIGHT AND DINNER

PIX: AFOLABI SOTUNDE



CHAIRMAN/CEO of Media Trust Limited Malam Kabiru Yusuf presenting his welcome address at the African of the Year 2009 award night and dinner at the Congress Hall, Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja last night.



FORMER Lagos State Deputy Governor Mrs Kofo Bucknor-Akerele, former Foreign Affairs Minister Professor Bolaji Akinyemi, and Chairman of the Daily Trust African of the Year Advisory Board Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim at the award night and dinner last night.



PROF. Bolaji Akinyemi with the publisher of Vanguard Newspapers Uncle Sam Amuka at the dinner.



LEGENDARY anti-apartheid fighter Mrs. Winnie Madikhizela-Mandela [right] with Ghanaian MP Mrs. Samia Nkrumah (left), daughter of the Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, at last night's dinner. They are both lined up as guest speakers at today's Trust Annual Dialogue.



MRS. Samia Nkrumah (left) with the widow of the African of the Year 2009, Mrs. Mounira Abdurraheem at the award ceremony.



UNITED Bank for Africa's (UBA) Regional Director, Abuja Mr. Dan Okeke, delivering the bank GMD's address. UBA supported the award.

Yar'adua being briefed on Jos crisis - FEC

By AbdulFattah Olajide

PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua is being briefed on the on-going sectarian crisis in Jos, the Plateau capital, Minister of State for Informa-

tion and Communications Alhaji Aliyu Bilbis said yesterday.

Bilbis gave the hint while addressing State House Correspondents in Abuja after yesterday's Federal Executive Council (FEC)

meeting presided over by Vice President Goodluck Jonathan. He said that the president was aware of all actions being taken by the vice president to address the crisis.

The minister said FEC was dis-

turbed by the Jos crisis. "Do not forget that the Vice President has been acting on his behalf and I assure you that whatever is happening here, Mr President is being briefed. The Council expresses its deep sympa-

thy to all those who lost their loved ones and property in the crisis and promises that government will do all in its power to ensure that lives and properties are protected," he added.

'Use restraint in curbing Jos violence'

By Boco Edet

HUMAN Rights Watch has cautioned security forces in Nigeria to apply restraint and comply with international standards on the use of force in responding to the latest outbreak of inter-communal violence in Jos, Plateau state.

"This is not the first outbreak of deadly violence in Jos, but the government has shockingly failed to hold anyone accountable," said Corinne Dufka, senior West Africa researcher at Human Rights Watch yesterday. "Enough is enough. Nigeria's leaders need to tackle the vicious cycle of violence bred by this impunity."

The rights group said according to credible reports from civil society leaders, and national and international media, the violence was carried out by sectarian mobs armed with guns, bows and arrows, and machetes. Roving gangs are reported to have burned and looted houses, cars, and shops, as well as several churches and mosques. There are also several credible reports that the military and police used excessive force in responding to the violence.

Human Rights Watch called on the Nigerian security forces to abide by the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials in carrying out their duties.

It advised government to also take concrete steps to end the discriminatory policies that treat certain groups as second-class citizens and that lie at the root of much of the inter-communal violence in Nigeria. Dufka said government policies that discriminate against "non-indigenes" - people who cannot trace their ancestry to those said to be the original inhabitants of an area - underlie many of these conflicts. Non-indigenes are openly denied the right to compete for government jobs and academic scholarships. In Jos, members of the largely Muslim Hausa ethnic group are classified as non-indigenes though many have resided there for several generations.

Human Rights Watch has called on the federal government to pass legislation prohibiting government discrimination against non-indigenes in all matters that are not purely cultural or related to traditional leadership institutions.

"Nigeria needs to act now to end discriminatory policies and hold accountable those who commit these terrible acts of violence," Dufka said.



SENATE President David Mark, receiving a document on the State of the Nation from former Senate President Anyim Pius Anyim who led 41 concerned elders to the National Assembly, Abuja, yesterday.

Jos: Senate rejects motion for state of emergency

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE Senate yesterday rejected a motion by some senators demanding the declaration of state of emergency on Plateau State following sectarian crisis that has been rocking the state capital since last Sunday.

Moving the motion, Senate

Majority Whip Mahmud Kanti Bello suggested that Senate "Should urge the acting Commander-In-Chief, Goodluck Jonathan to declare state of emergency in Plateau State", saying Governor Jonah Jang has failed to secure lives and properties of the people.

When Senate President David

Mark put the question majority of senators voted against it. The Senate however resolved that the Plateau State Government and other relevant security agencies should "Fish out the perpetrators and sponsors of this latest act of violence and bring them to book to serve as deterrent to others with similar ten-

dencies."

During the debate, senators frowned at the non implementation of panels reports on previous crisis in Plateau State adding that the failure to punish perpetrators of the series of crisis that has engulfed the state was the reason for its reoccurrence.

Jos : Security beefed up in Kano

By AbdulMutallib A. Abubakar

SECURITY agencies in Kano State have been placed on red alert to forestall the spread of the sectarian crisis that has been rocking Jos, the Plateau State capital, to Kano.

Governor Ibrahim Shekarau made the remark yesterday while speaking on Voice of America, Hausa Service. He urged reli-

gious leaders to pray for enduring peace in the state.

The governor added that measures were taken to prevent the entrance of some victims who may incite the people in the state stressing that presently apart of the accurate and balanced reports by media houses the inhabitation of the state are not being misinformed by any information that can disturbed business.

'Gender disparity challenges ECOWAS'

By Akor Ojoma

WIDESPREAD gender disparities and inequalities characterized by the marginalization of women and absence of adequate opportunities for women's participation in the development process is one of the major development challenges facing the ECOWAS region, Dr Adrienne Diop, commissioner for Human development and

gender of the ECOWAS commission has said. The commissioner stated this yesterday at the opening ceremony of the National Gender training workshop in Abuja. She said the inequalities and disparities existing in the region derive essentially from the social, economic and political injustices that have been meted out to women and girls over the centuries.

Anyim, 40 others urge N/Assembly to uphold constitution

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Nasidi A. Yahaya

FORMER Senate President, Anyim Pius Anyim and 40 other eminent Nigerians yesterday stormed the National Assembly yesterday to call on the leadership of the Legislature "to take concrete steps to uphold the Constitution with due regard to national stability and democracy"

While presenting a position paper on behalf of the Group of Concerned Nigerians, Senator

Anyim said Section 145 of the Constitution "Grants a lot of discretion to the President to transmit this notice to the National Assembly. In addition the Section does not contemplate a circumstance where the President is not capable of transmitting such written declaration for reasons of health, haste or any other circumstances beyond his control."

The group insisted that "every effort should be made to effect the amendment of necessary sections

of the Constitution in this regard to forestall a reoccurrence in the future."

They said President Umaru Musa Yar'adua's refusal to hand over power to the Vice President Goodluck Jonathan as enshrined in the constitution was responsible for the protest by some eminent Nigerians, saying until section 145 provision is abided the country may be thrown into another round of confusion.

In his reaction, Senate President David Mark said the National

Assembly remains on the part of the Constitution saying "May I assure you that this Senate and indeed the National Assembly will be guided by the Constitution. Whatever we do we must not go outside the Constitution."

Also responding when the group visited the House of Representatives, Speaker Dimeji Bankole said the people should obey the judgment of the High Court which gave the VP power to act as president.

PHOTO: NAN



FROM left: Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Aloysius Katsina-Alu, his predecessor, Justice Idris Kutigi, and Justice Nicky Tobi, during the valedictory session in honour of Justice Kutigi in Abuja yesterday.

Trust Dialogue holds today

By Sunday Williams

THE 7th Annual Trust Dialogue which is expected to be chaired by former president Olusegun Obasanjo holds today at the Congress Hall, Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja. This year's dialogue with the theme 'The African Woman and Politics', focuses on the participation and contribution of women in the effort to improve good governance in the continent.

Nigeria's First Lady, Hajiya Turai Yar'adua and former Chairperson of the National Council of Women Societies, Hajiya Laila Dogonyaro, will be the Special Guest and Guest of Honour respectively at the occasion. Legendary South African anti-apartheid fighter, Mrs. Winnie Madhikizela Mandela and daughter of the first President of Ghana Dr. Kwame Nkrumah who is a Member of the Ghanaian Parliament, Mrs. Samia Nkrumah are among the guest speakers at the dialogue.

Other Guest speakers include, Hajiya Naja'atu Mohammed, the first female president of ABU Students Union and political activist and Mrs Kofo Bucknor-Akerele, former Deputy Governor, Lagos state and PDP stalwart. The event is also expected to have in attendance top politicians, public office holders and captains of industry from across the continent. The Trust Dialogue began six years ago where participants brainstorm on key national and global issues. In the course of the past six years, several prominent speakers have attended the Annual Trust Dialogues.

'African of the Year Award is for achievers'

By Misbahu Bashir

CHAIRMAN of Media Trust Limited Malam Kabiru A. Yusuf said yesterday that *Daily Trust* African of the Year Award which began last year is targeted only at Africans who have achieved great feats in their respective endeavours.

"This is the second edition of the award aimed at celebrating the life of ordinary Africans, who have done extra-ordinary things", Yusuf said.

The Media Trust boss paid glowing tribute to the late Secretary of the *Daily Trust* African of the Year Advisory Committee Dr. Tajudeen Abdulraheem who was selected post-humously as the *Daily Trust* African of the Year.

He noted that Dr. Abdulraheem's death within the first year of the programme, "deeply affected all his colleagues."

He said the committee had earlier decided that from this year there would be only one *Daily Trust* African of the Year awardee. However, he said a citation of one runner-up, who came closest to clinching the award, would also be read by one of the committee members. He said "the award is a home-grown prize, in which the nomination, the selection and the award, are all done here in Africa."

Like last year, he added, the United Bank for Africa Plc (UBA) is partnering with *Daily Trust* by offering the prize money of 50,000 US Dollars.

Abdulraheem is Daily Trust African of the year

Continued from page 1

Dr Tajudeen Abdulraheem was born at Funtua, Katsina State, Nigeria on January 6, 1961. The citation said "although he was born in northern Nigeria, his roots were from South West Nigeria. He attended Government Secondary School, Funtua and then went to Bayero University, Kano where he graduated with a First Class degree in Political Science. After youth service, Taju bagged the prestigious Rhodes Fellowship to Oxford University where he graduated with a D.Phil. He was the first Northern Nigerian to win this award."

Dr. Salim said while Taju could have gone from Oxford to work in any country or company of his choice, he instead returned to Africa to help rebuild it. Among the many inspiring things he did were his appointment in 1992 as General Secretary of the 7th Pan African Congress Secretariat in Kampala, Uganda. He organised

a very successful Congress in 1994 with delegates from 47 countries.

The congress was however overshadowed by events in Rwanda, so Taju went with a Pan African Movement delegation to Rwanda for a first hand assessment of the situation. They were ambushed near Kigali and they narrowly escaped unhurt.

After 1994, Taju remained in Kampala as Secretary General of the Global Pan African Movement. Salim said "he inspired an entire generation of Africans and Africanists. Taju was emphatic that the Pan African effort must be coordinated from the African soil."

Before his premature death last year, Taju was Africa Deputy Director of the United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC), from which position he kept a vigil over continent-wide efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Salim also said "Taju spoke the truth to those in power. He

boldly took to task African leaders who did not have the courage of their convictions, including publicly critiquing Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi for the cumbersome and restrictive visa regime in place at the seat of the African Union."

The African of the Year award ceremony was supported by United Bank for Africa (UBA), which donated \$50,000 as cash prize to the winner. The bank's Regional Director, Abuja Mr. Dan Okeke said UBA sets aside one percent of its annual profits before tax for a Foundation that is spent in many social projects such as education and health. He said UBA is Africa's global bank because it already has branches in 17 African countries, the most recent one just opened in Zambia. Many more will soon be opened in other African countries, he said.

Among dignitaries at last night's event were former Lagos State Deputy Governor Mrs

Kofoworola Akerele-Bucknor, Hajia Naja'atu Mohamed, Professor Bolaji Akinyemi, House of Representatives member Mrs Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Vice Chancellor of Bayero University, Kano Professor Attahiru Jega, Nigeria Labour Congress deputy president Comrade Issa Aremu, the South African High Commissioner and the Chadian Ambassador, wife of the former Kaduna State deputy governor Mrs. Charity Shekari, and the prominent Kebbi politician Alhaji Mai'eka Bello Mohamed.

Also present at last night's award ceremony and dinner were other members of the Advisory Board, including Professor Tandeka Nkiwane of South Africa, Ms L. Muthoni Wanyeki of Kenya, Professor Kwame Karikari of Ghana, Professor Abdoulaye Bathily of Senegal, Dr. Obadiah Mailafia of Nigeria, as well as Professor Okello Oculli, described as "once a Ugandan, now more a Nigerian."

...Al-Hussein is runner-up

Continued from page 1

Nkiwane, said Lubna could have chosen the easy path of pleading guilty and paying the fine, or even using her immunity as a UN staff to avoid trial.

But she chose to challenge the interpretation and enforcement of the law in name of the Sudanese women who do not have the privilege, Nkiwane added.

Because of this, the award committee said, Lubna succeeded in making the Sudanese police "more aware of the need to interpret the law in a reasonable manner and not to enforce it in a

manner that amounts to harassment of and extortion from all the ordinary Sudanese women who risk arrest under it every day."

Widowed Lubna, who is in her 30s, is author of a weekly newspaper column 'Men Talk', and was a press officer of the United Nations mission in the Sudan.

She was arrested while "wearing loose, dark green trousers, a thigh length blouse and a patterned hijab...in the Kawkab Elsharq Hall, where she was watching an Egyptian singer and having a drink as she made a reservation for her cousin's wedding party, and while she waited she

watched an Egyptian singer and sipped a coke."

Lubna, the award committee said, "decided to plead not guilty, ask for a lawyer, go to court and risk the 40 lashes so as to argue for the elimination of Article 152."

Speaking on her ordeal, Lubna told the British newspaper Telegraph: "The acts of this (Al-Bashir) regime have no connection with the real Islam, which would not allow the hitting of women for the clothes they are wearing and in fact would punish anyone who slanders a woman."

"These laws were made by this current regime which uses it

to humiliate the people and especially women. These tyrants are here to distort the real image of Islam.

"Flogging is a terrible thing - very painful and a humiliation for the victim. But I am not afraid of being flogged. I will not back down.

I want to stand up for the rights of women, and now the eyes of the world are on this case I have a chance to draw attention to the plight of women in Sudan.

"I hope the situation of women improves in Sudan. Whatever happens I will continue to fight for women's rights."

JOS CRISIS

Security agencies still compiling reports - IGP

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

INSPECTOR General of Police Ogbonna Onovo said in Jos yesterday that the police and other security operatives were still compiling the reports of the Jos crisis to ascertain its remote and immedi-

ate causes. Mr Onovo told newsmen at the Jos Airport, "The crisis has done intensive damage to both human and material resources. Several people were killed and several property were lost".

He said the crisis started at the impoverished areas of Nassarawa

Gwong, Buchit and Bukuru. Onovo commended the Plateau State government for initiating dialogue and reconciliation between religious and community leaders.

He advised Jos residents to embrace peace, adding that vio-

lence does not solve problems.

He said security agents had been deployed to every part of the state. Onovo's comments came two days after the Plateau State Police Commissioner Gregory Anyanting told newsmen that from the report they received, Muslim youths without

provocation attempted to burn the Saint Michael's Catholic Church, a statement which the Muslim community debunked, saying the crisis started when one Alhaji Kabiru tried to rebuild his house which was burnt during the November 2008 crisis in the state.

Implement my report - Ajibola

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

FORMER Minister of Justice Prince Bola Ajibola and chairman of the commission inquiry into the 2008 crisis in Jos has called on the Plateau State government to implement his recommendations for a lasting solution to the religious restiveness in Jos.

He made the call in Minna yesterday while on a condolence

visit to former military head of state, General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida on the death of his wife. Prince Ajibola said the major problems leading to religious unrest in Plateau State had been identified in the recommendations based on the fact finding reports by the commission he chaired, adding that if they were put into action, the place would be rid of crises.

Nasarawa on the alert

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE Nasarawa State government is on the alert cautioning against utterances and actions that might provoke a spill-over of the violent crisis in Jos.

The government which condemned the crisis yesterday after a meeting of the Committee on Inter-Religious and Community Relations has called on religious leaders and groups in the state to sustain constant dialogue to prevent any spread to the state. A communiqué issued at the end of the meeting

by the chairman of the committee and Emir of Lafia Alhaji Mustapha Agwai and the state chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Bishop Mathew Ishaya Audu said the government was concerned about the crisis, calling it an "unwelcome development".

The communiqué called for the need to ensure sustainable peace, harmony and understanding in Nasarawa State, adding that the committee was grateful to God for the prevailing peaceful co-existence among the people of the state.

Kaduna assures of security

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE Kaduna State government has urged people of the state to go about their normal activities without fear. A statement by the state Commissioner of Information Alhaji Saidu Adamu assured that the state government was fully prepared to protect the lives and property of all citizens.

"Government is monitoring events in Jos and the movement of

people with a view to taking appropriate measures. Operation Yaki is on high alert to keep the peace and maintain law and order in the state. We should shun rumour mongering and go about our normal businesses," he said.

While calling on the people of the state to report any suspicious person to security agents for their prompt response, the commissioner stressed that crisis hinders development of the society.

Katsina Emir condemns killings

From Aliyu Machika, Katsina

THE Emir of Katsina Alhaji Abdulmunin Kabir Usman has condemned the recent Jos crisis, calling on government to intervene and ensure that the culprits are brought to book. Responding to the call made by the Secretary of the Sultan Committee on Farmers/ Cattle Rearers Conflict Resolution Alhaji Saleh Bayari for the emir's quick intervention, Alhaji Kabir Usman said the recent crisis was due to the

fact the perpetrators had never been made to face the law. "Last time we intervened to ensure that the crisis did repeat itself and that all the culprits were to be brought to book. But that was not really achieved. This time again, I have intervened and I have called on those in authority to ensure that the crises in Jos become a thing of the past and fully brought under control without any waste of time," he said. The emir condoled families of those who died in the crisis.



CHILDREN having a meal at the refugee camp at the Air Force base in Jos, yesterday.

Crisis beyond dialogue, reconciliation - Dahiru Bauchi

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

RENOWNED Islamic scholar Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi has said that dialogue and reconciliation would not solve the crises in Jos.

Sheikh Dahiru told our correspondent on telephone yesterday that the Federal Government should intervene and remove the state government and declare a state of emergency before knowing the next of action to end the crisis.

Dahiru Bauchi said the Plateau government was denying citizens their fundamental right to live as human beings and Muslims.

He advised the Federal Government to cancel the state and return its parts to where they belonged for the unity and stability of the country.

The scholar said in the past, they used dialogue as emirs, religious leaders, traditional and community leaders intervened to solve the problem but all their efforts failed as

the crises did not stop. "The best option is for the Federal Government to cancel the state and return it to Bauchi, Kaduna and Nasarawa States where it was before the creation", he said.

Dahiru Bauchi said the crises kept re-occurring and its spread was a clear indication that there was no good government in Plateau State and for that Federal Government must intervene to save the situation.

Jang consults monarchs, religious leaders

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE Plateau State government is consulting with traditional rulers, community and religious leaders and council chairmen to find a lasting solution to the crisis in Jos.

Special Adviser to Plateau State Governor on Media and Public Affairs Mr Dan Manjang said this in an interview with newsmen in Jos yesterday. He said government was worried about the incident and was consulting with the leaders with a view to addressing the situation.

Manjang said the state Com-

missioner for Local Government Affairs had also held a meeting with the 17 local government chairmen and directed them to ensure security of lives and property in their respective areas.

He denied reports that there was a fresh crisis in Pankshin Local Government Area of the state, adding that the council chairmen were directed to go back to their domains and report any security breach. Manjang said the Federal Government had deployed troops comprising mobile policemen and the Army to quell the crisis.

There were however reports from Pankshin Local Government Area that the crisis spilled to that area. Residents of the area told newsmen on phone that many people were killed and houses were burnt. Alhaji Muhammadu Salisu and Mallam Danjuma Goje, community leaders in Pankshin, told our correspondent that the mayhem started Tuesday night when youth stormed the town and started beating people and setting their houses and places of worships ablaze. They said the rioters burnt many houses and there were no security operatives to restore law and order.

Taju's college still waxing strong

By Ismail Mudashir who was in Funtua

MONTHS after the demise of late Pan African, Dr. Tajudeen Abdulraheem, his school, Hauwa Memorial College (HCM) which he acquired in year 2000 to provide qualitative education to the people of the rural community of Funtua, Katsina state, is growing by day.

"I established this college not as commercial venture whose only motivation is profit maximisation, it is a gift to the community in which I was born and raised. It is my way of giving back something so that other children will have a chance to dream and bring their dreams to fruition just like I did in the same Funtua," late Dr. Abdulraheem said this, according to the principal of the college, Alhaji Abubakar Garba when he acquired the college.

The enrolment of the college has skyrocketed from 39 in year 2000 to 211 now. The school has JSS 1 to SSS 3. From inception of the college to date, over 2000 students have graduated and a large number of them are doing well in various tertiary institutions across the country. The school has 14 teaching staff and 4 nonteaching staff.

The principal reiterated the commitment of the school to help in fast tracking the development of Funtua community by helping students to learn through excellent teaching in class and full extra moral activities to make them well-rounded students.

He said the proprietor before his death acquired 40 plots of lands for the proposed permanent site of the college along Funtua-Sokoto road. He added that Dr. Abdulraheem during his last visit in May last year directed them to start the foundation for the fencing of the site in preparation for the main work.

He said the major challenge facing the college is moving from temporary site in Tudun wada to the proposed permanent site. "We have been directed to move to our proposed permanent site, by the state ministry of education, here is a temporary one".

He said in obedient to the proprietor's directive, the school fees remain 5,000 naira, making it the cheapest among all private schools in the entire Funtua local government stressing that the money was just for running of the school not for profit.

Commenting on the school, the District Head of Funtua, Alhaji Sambo Idris Sambo said the contributions of the school to the development of education in the community cannot be measured and described it as one of the best in his domain.

"Hauwa Memorial College, established by late Dr. Tajudeen is serving the community very well. It will interest you to know that the college is one of the best private schools in this place. The college is receiving patronage from all because of its standard. It recorded the best results in last WAEC and NECO," he said.

Attesting to the efficacy of the crusade against moral decadence

embarked upon by the college, the traditional ruler said, "as preached by the late owner of the school, the teachers of the college are instilling discipline and good morals in our children. I visit the school regularly to encourage both teachers and students of the college.

"It is progressing, because I learnt that they have acquired a permanent site. I hope it will go beyond secondary school. Because of his immeasurable contributions especially in the provision of education to our people, the community is working to see that all what he left behind are not dead. We will not allow the college to die. I know it will continue to expand because of the goodwill Dr Tajudeen left behind," he said.

The Sarkin Maskan Katsina said the community is missing the advisory role of the late Dr. Tajudeen. Adding that, "we used to sit down here to advise on issues.. We are really benefiting from all what he left behind especially the college."

Country coordinator of Pan African Development Education Advocacy Programme (PADEAP) - Nigeria, Alhaji Shuaibu Shehu who is a family friend of the Abdulraheem's said death has aborted the plans by late Dr Abdulraheem of giving the community the best school.

"He had completed plans to start the foundation of the permanent site of the college. The college plan, design and all other necessary things were on top gear before his demise. He bought block-making machine in Kaduna, in fact we have started moulding blocks before the news of his death came to us. His love for education was unequal, he had value for education, hence his quest to assist the people of his community to get qualitative education," Shehu said.

He urged his friend and associates not to allow the dream of late Dr. Abdul Raheem to die by contributing to the building of the permanent site of his school. According to him, the chairman of the Funtua local government area in recognition of the deceased contributions to the area has immortalised him by naming a street and one secondary school after him.

"My major fear is about late Dr. AbdulRaheem's scholarship scheme because we don't have money to pay for the registration fees of the beneficiaries. They are about 20 in various tertiary institutions in across the country while some are in his college. He conceived the scheme to help train students who are from less privileged homes to pursue their education without hitch," he said.

The head boy of his college, Praise Edeh said the late Dr. Tajudeen Abdul Raheem taught them to be patriotic. "I don't pay school fees because; I am one of the beneficiaries of his scholarship scheme. He was a father, a role model and that is why most of us in the school are aspiring to become Human Right Activist and social crusader like him.

"We are praying to God to give



PARENTS say the college gives their wards quality education.



STUDENTS attending computer class



ENROLMENT in the college has risen from 39 to 211 in a decade.

us another Taju, we need people like him for the country to move forward in all sphere especially education which is the catalyst for social transformation. , he was a detribalised person. I'm from Enugu state and benefiting from his scholarship. We will continue

to pray for him and his family," he said.

A parent, Mohammed Nasir of Bakori local government area of the state said he enrolled his two children to the school because of the standard of the school.

"Daily my children come as far

from Bakori to Funtua because I want the best education for them and Hauwa college is giving them, this is why I don't mind the amount I spend daily on transportation and the school fees is affordable unlike other private schools," he said.

Anambra: INEC chief blows hot

By Abbas Jimoh

AHEAD of the February 6 governorship election in Anambra State, the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) for the state, Mr Josiah Uwazauranye, yesterday declared that he will not be intimidated by any of the stakeholders, including the parties and their candidates

for the elections.

Uwazauranye who was recently transferred from Rivers State made the declaration while speaking at the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) headquarters.

He said, "If you play according to the rules of the Electoral Act you won't get into trouble at all. I am used to elec-

tions and you also know that I came from the private sector and after this work I can always go back so I cannot do anything that will tarnish my image and cannot be intimidated by anybody.

"God is in charge and the security operatives are in place and we also prayed that God will touch the minds of the candidates.



FORMER military president General Ibrahim Babangida with students and pupils of Pace Setters College, Abuja, after paying him a condolence visit in Minna, Niger State, yesterday.

Kangiwa brothers challenge critics

By Shehu Abubakar

RETIRED Immigration Comptroller Hassan Kangiwa and retired Customs Comptroller Hussain Kangiwa have challenged critics to show evidence to substantiate allegations of abuse of office and political deceit recently leveled against them by "faceless, cowardly critics."

In a statement jointly signed by the Kangiwa brothers, they challenged the critics to make public their evidence "or shut-up."

They dismissed all the allegations made against them in

newspapers by one Lawal Ibrahim Kangiwa as baseless, mischievous and misplaced which was why the writer could not disclose his true identity. "We know as a fact that no person goes by the name Lawal Ibrahim in the whole of Kangiwa town where we were born and brought up and with which we have been in close contact in our entire lives."

The brothers also pointed out that Hussain had never been involved in active politics at whatever level because a larger part of his adult years were spent as an officer in the Nigerian Customs Service until his retirement from the service a few weeks ago.

Fuel scarcity: NNPC may use private jetties —Barkindo

By Hamisu Muhammad

THE Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation is considering a proposal to diversify its discharging and loading points of imported petroleum products to other coastal regions in the country.

The group Managing Director of the NNPC, Dr Mohammed S. Barkindo disclosed this yesterday at the inaugural meeting of the new executives of National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas (NUPENG) NNPC branch.

Barkindo said "the management has already gone ahead to identify some of these private jetties to lease them for the purpose of diversifying areas of discharge of petroleum and also spreading our leading

points to minimise the challenges we are facing in Apapa, Lagos."

According to him the Jetties in Lagos are highly congested and fraught with all other environmental risks which are hampering evacuation of products from the jetties.

The GMD however said the Corporation was concerned with other challenges associated with using private jetties such as products diversion and stealing.

Barkindo implored the Union to assist the management in monitoring the products at these jetties saying that the corporation lack the capacity to police the products that are being discharged or loaded, adding they should report any suspicious fraudulent activities."

Korea says no security threats in Nigeria

By Misbahu Bashir

THE government of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea said there is no need for big concern over security threats in Nigeria.

The Charge d' Affairs of its Embassy in Nigeria, Mr Han Man Hyok told the Minister of Police Affairs, Dr Ibrahim Yakubu Lame that his country considers Nigeria safe by all standards.

Mr. Hyok visited the Ministry in Abuja recently. He said Nigeria is an important partner to Korea and a key player in the international politics, going by its roles in global peace - keeping operations and its recent election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security

Council. He said he was in the Ministry to seek areas of collaboration between his country and Nigeria.

He described the security concerns about the country globally as a gross misrepresentation of the situation and said the successful hosting of the Under-17 World Cup competition by Nigeria recently was a clear evidence of the positive security situation in the country.

The Minister said government, has embarked on rehabilitation of all infrastructures of the Nigeria Police Force including training and retraining of the officers and men of the force. These, he said, are aimed at restoring the confidence and boost the morale of the Force.

Iwu briefs foreign observers on Anambra election

By Abbas Jimoh

CHAIRMAN of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Maurice Iwu, yesterday briefed foreign observers who are in Nigeria to monitor the Anambra governorship election scheduled for February 6, assuring them of the preparedness of the commission to conduct a free and fair election.

He told the observers led by the Chairman of the Ghanaian Electoral Commission (GEC), Dr Alfari Gyan, that the electoral system in Nigeria had undergone some surgical operations in the last four years which culminated with the

emergence of the 2006 Electoral Act and further changes are in the pipeline to create a better democratic culture in the country.

"After the 2007 general elections the commission had done a lot of stock taking and areas where we needed to make changes we had to as some of the structure when compared to Britain and America ours was better. Among the 57 political parties presently registered there is no single ideological difference, the only thing they have in common is one form of quarrel or the other which end up splitting them so there is need to continue nurturing them," Iwu said.

U.S urges FG to ensure justice in Jos violence

By Aisha Umar

UNITED States of America has urged the Government of Nigeria to bring to justice, in accordance with Nigerian laws and international standards of due process, all those persons responsible for acts of violence in Jos.

A statement by the U.S. embassy stated that, "We condemn mob violence in the strongest possible terms, and take this opportunity to urge all parties to support efforts to promote inter-communal and interfaith harmony and peaceful co-existence in Jos and the rest of Nigeria."

LAGOS:
13, Opebi Road, Ikeja, Lagos.
Tel: 01-2521033, 07028062361

2010 Collections. 50% off

Monan

ABUJA:
AUA Plaza, Plot 734 Koko Street,
Off Aminu Kano Crescent (Behind Tantalizers),
Wuse II, Abuja. Tel: 09-2909318, 08084238984

Yar'adua: Ajibola calls for national dialogue

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE present political situation caused by the absence of President Umaru Yar'adua calls for dialogue and not demonstrations, former Minister of Justice Prince Bola Ajibola has said.

He has also called for an Acting President as the right move to cool the heated political atmosphere.

Speaking with newsmen in Minna yesterday after commiser-

ating with former military President Ibrahim Babangida over the death of his wife, Maryam, he said the situation requires an urgent national dialogue.

He identified former presidents, Heads of State and traditional rulers as stakeholders who should converge to find a lasting solution to the continuous absence of the president which he said had caused a constitutional crisis. "I am of the opinion that we need

a national dialogue in which all stakeholders like the former presidents, Heads of State, traditional rulers, National Assembly members and other opinion leaders will sit together and think of the way forward immediately. The time is now.

"We must do something as fast as possible", he said.

Ajibola said many Nigerians living or dead, had struggled to keep the country together as one

over 50 years, dismissing possibilities of a military takeover as an option. He said stakeholders should pool experiences together with the aim of ending the logjam.

"We have worked so hard and labour to keep this nation for almost 50 years, we should not let things slide into abysmal chaos or serious problem.

If we fail to act now, if we fail to do something now, we may slip into abyss of hopelessness and

destruction", he said.

"There is need for us to have an acting president that will be able to hold fort. Things are deteriorating and we have to do something about it.

The situation is becoming serious. You have seen the case of Farouk Mutallab, you can see what is happening around us and we have seen our inability to take action on so many matters because there is no one in charge", he added.



FROM left: The Olufor of Ifon, Oba Adegoke Adeusi, the Olute of Ute, Oba Adetunji Akinrogbé and Ondo State Governor Olusegun Mimiko at the palace of the Olufor during the mass decamping of over 2000 former Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) members to Labour Party (LP) in Ifon, Ose Local Government Area of Ondo State, yesterday.

Protests in Benin over soldiers' withdrawal

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

THERE was tension in Benin City, the Edo State capital, Tuesday as civil society groups, students and traders took to the streets to protest the withdrawal of soldiers from the joint police and military security outfit, "Operation Thunderstorm" as they alleged that their removal was to facilitate importation of arms and ammunition into Etsako Central Local Government council by politicians.

A re-run election ordered into the state House of Assembly by the Court of Appeal is slated for next Saturday in Etsako. Led by the state chapter of the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) and Trade Union Congress (TUC) the protesters in their thousands which also included members of the Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria (RTEAN) were in Government House, state House of Assembly complex and the Oba's palace. The spokespersons of the groups include Kaduna Eboigbe, chairman of NLC, Joe Aligbe, chairman TUC among others.

A visibly angry Governor Adams Oshiomhole while addressing the crowd described as lame duck, the excuse that the withdrawal was a national directive as the military were also withdrawn from Anambra State until after the election.

He wondered why Edo where an election would be held in just one local government council would be compared to Anambra where an election would be in the entire state.

He lamented that Nigeria has remained underdeveloped "because of a few individuals who put their personal interests above state security", saying the cabal had made Nigeria irrelevant in the international community.

"I have never been accused of violence, I have never been accused of murder, throughout my career in the labour movement, even when I engaged presidents, I never used violence to engage them.

Lagos faults WHO on spread of swine-flu

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

THE Lagos State government has blamed the inability to combat the spread of Swine-flu in the country on the World Health Organization (WHO's) failure to supply the needed vaccines to treat infected people as the state has lost one person to the flu.

The Commissioner for Health Dr. Jide Idris who spoke at a news conference in Lagos where he gave details of the patient who died on January 5th noted that vaccine for the disease was not

available in the country and that the World Health Organisation had earlier promised to supply it to curtail the spread of the disease in Nigeria.

Following the death of the female patient, a total of 52 samples of swabs from those who had close contact with the deceased were taken to the laboratory. Results for 46 are out among which eight are positive.

Dr. Idris said when the woman was diagnosed, she had pneumonia, fever, headache, cough, shortness of breath and

respiratory distress.

"The patient was treated with various antibiotics but did not respond to treatment," he said.

He said samples from the patient were immediately collected and taken to the designated virology laboratory in Lagos early January 5, adding that the woman who was kept in a health facility custody died at about 10:20 pm on that day.

He urged members of the public not to entertain fears on the death of the 38 year old patient, noting that investigations on the

woman revealed that she had travelled to the United States about three months before she developed a respiratory tract infection.

Idris noted that the death of the woman had made it mandatory for the Ministry of Health to target those returning to the state from abroad to determine their swine-flu status.

He said the disease is rampant in cold countries, and that Nigerians who travel to such countries need to be monitored effectively as soon as they return home.

...Advises public on control measures

From Nahimah Ajikanle, Lagos

LAGOS State Governor Babatunde Fashola has advised the general public to adhere to the recommendations in the cam-

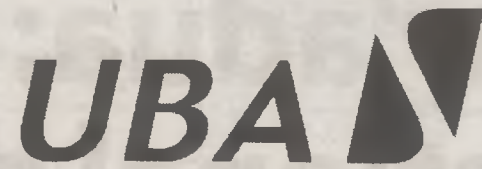
paign against swine flu to check the disease.

Fashola who spoke to journalists in Lagos yesterday said the state was adopting preventive measures to the spread.

According to him, out of the 52 people screened for the disease, eight people tested positive and a public awareness programme was being embarked upon to sensitise people on

personal hygiene.

Fashola said the Commissioner for Health Jide Idris had instructed medical officers in the state to ensure treatment of those who tested positive.



United Bank for Africa

STATEMENT OF THE BOARD OF UBA PLC

The Central Bank of Nigeria yesterday issued new guidelines in relation to the tenure of CEOs of Nigerian Banks. The new guidelines limit the tenure of Chief Executive Officers of banks to a maximum of 10 years inclusive of the years served in a pre-merger component bank. All CEOs of banks who would have served for 10 years by July 31, 2010 are required to handover to their successors by August 01, 2010.

By the new guidelines, the positions of the CEOs of some banks including that of United Bank for Africa Plc [UBA] will be affected.

The Board of Directors of UBA has met and hereby assures all stakeholders that:

- The implementation of the new guidelines will not alter the vision and plan of UBA as the bank is well positioned to meet the requirements of the new guidelines.
- UBA has for a considerable period of time put strong emphasis on ensuring that it nurtures a deep pool of senior management talent, largely developed internally and complemented by selective recruitments from global institutions, capable of guiding the bank.
- The bank has in place robust business continuity and succession plans.

The Board wishes to thank all customers, investors and stakeholders of UBA for their support and shall continue to serve them in a manner that delivers consistent value to all stakeholders of the bank.

We will update our stakeholders in due course on developments in relation to this announcement.

Board of Directors

January 20, 2010

Africa

London

New York

Paris

Tel: +234 700 2255822 Email: cic@ubagroup.com Web: www.ubagroup.com

Africa's global bank



By Haruna Idris

NBA: Professionalism, or political jobbery?

One is left aghast at the extent some go in trying to paint or depict government in unflattering colours and in the process, deliberately obfuscate facts, contributing to a lack or complete absence of perspicacity of the issues at stake.

It is a constitutionally stipulated fundamental right of every citizen to express his opinion on issues and offer constructive criticisms on those that he does not agree with.

However if one is to maintain any credibility at all, care must be taken to be objective, if that is not possible, one must at least be fair.

For the past month or so, since the president's enforced absence from office as a result of ill-health, a melange of opinions has cascaded forth in torrents. Each opinion has tried to canvass support for their point of view, using a myriad of arguments.

For politicians, one can excuse them for they are in the business of politicking. But when people or groups who are otherwise thought to be rational begin to delve into the realm of politics, and still contend that they are offering objective assessments. One begins to get worried.

The position of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) on the recent swearing in of the Chief Justice of the Federation is particularly poignant in

For politicians, one can excuse them for they are in the business of politicking

this regard.

The NBA officials either due to ignorance or intentionally decided to ignore completely the *raison d'être* of the swearing in was, and rather unfortunately decided to impute motives. The NBA President, Mr Akereolu in trying to put his arguments in an imponderable perspective went ahead to issue statements to the effect that what had taken place was illegal.

As the head of what is supposed to be a learned profession, one cannot say that he and his colleagues are complete ignoramuses. For the avoidance of doubt the 1999 constitution is very clear on the swearing of all public officers, the Chief Justice of Nigeria inclusive. The Oaths Act of 2004 in particular goes a step further by specifically mentioning that either the President or the retiring Chief Justice of Nigeria can swear in an incoming CJN.

One is therefore left incredulous when the Nigerian Bar Association can then go ahead to denounce such a swearing in that had completely followed the dictates of the law. Or is it that the Learned NBA has another agenda that it is not disclosing to the general public?

It is clear that the law as it is written long before anyone had any inkling that the situation we currently have at hand could occur, had made provisions for anyone of two to handle the ceremony. Some of the supposed learned lawyers have gone ahead to rely on commonsense or tradition and say that we would be having two CJNs at a time. Pray, when did lawyers begin to rely on commonsense or tradition for their arguments?

Supposedly learned individuals instead of relying one hundred percent on what the law says have rather been imputing motives. For God sake what has the former chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Idris Legbo Kutigi, got to gain from either swearing in or refusing to swear in a successor?

What is clear is that most of the commentators have become experts in doing what footballers say - that is completely leaving the ball and kicking the feet. It is very apparent that what the lawyers and other commentators are concerned about is the long absence of the President from the country without commensurate explanation from the authorities. But that is a separate matter and should not be confused with the former chief justice of Nigeria, Justice Kutigi carrying out a perfectly legitimate and legal activity. That all the Lawyers and the NBA are standing on quick sand is buttressed by the fact that none of them have been able to cite any statute to back up by their sterile arguments.

The antagonism of the present Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation, Mr Michael Andoaka, has reached such a pitch that anyone's effort to give credit where one is due is deemed a pariah, other wise he should be commended for research that was able to bring to light a law that was moribund into lime light.

That should not be. From the time of the president's absence from the country, an avalanche of criticisms has been directed at him. However, unlike the NBAs position, some have been more salutary.

The NBA should concentrate its energy in ensuring that its members become more professional in their work by not allowing politicians to make a mockery of the judiciary as has happened in many cases of late.

The NBA should be careful so that its hard earned reputation as renowned defender of the downtrodden is not frittered away through meretricious condemnations of legal activities. They should be careful and not display insouciance for fairness and objectivity as they have on this matter.

What the nation needs now more than ever before, are patriots, not ethnic jingoists dressed in the garb of objective commentators.

There is the need for all, irrespective of our misgivings to work hard in the interest of the nation and maintain its stability, social equilibrium and oneness of purpose.

Idris wrote from Area 1, Section 2, Kano Street, Garki, Abuja.



By Danladi Ndayebo

Niger State's code of service with accountability

At his inaugural in 2007, the Chief Servant of Niger State, Dr Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu pledged to provide accountable and responsive leadership with openness, transparency and equity. It is his belief that the servant-leadership governance paradigm means so much in defining the character of governance in Nigeria where leadership position is sometimes misconstrued to mean a God given opportunity to loot the treasury.

Knowing full well that he was elected by the people of the state to provide leadership driven by exemplary service, accountability, openness, and consensus, he had at all times created platforms to give vent to this ideal, which has made Niger State a leading example to emulate by others. Dr Aliyu's vision of governance is rooted on mobilizing support and buy-in of the people as key stakeholders in Niger Project, and their welfare, concerns and needs defines the policy goal and objective. He has consistently pursued this goal as he strove all these years to make Niger State an enviable one among its contemporaries. The Governor and his team share this ideal which has won the administration the support and followership of the people.

One of the novelties introduced by the Chief Servant in a bid to make Niger, the flagship of States in Nigeria is the State of Service Address, which

Also, the state took N6Billion bond for financing infrastructural projects throughout the State

was instituted in 2008. The rationale for this annual address to the people of the State is that the Government owes the people a duty to inform them in a thorough manner, the quality of governance they receive in a given period, key decisions taken by the government and the preference of some options over others, general overview of the revenue profile of the state and what are next lines of action that Government intends to adopt.

This no doubt is all geared towards reinforcing the fact that the citizens are central to governance and therefore getting their input in decision making process is imperative. For the Chief Servant, he owes the people a duty to inform, seek their consent and report back to them on the progress of work on a regular basis. For him, as the Chief Servant elected by the People, he and his team as a matter of good judgment need to constantly go back to the people through dialogue to keep them abreast of the state of his service to the people.

The 2009 edition of the State of Service address which he delivered

at the hallowed chamber of the Niger State House of Assembly on the occasion of the presentation of the 2010 budget estimates, on Tuesday, December 22, 2009 was an opportunity for Aliyu to engage the people of the state with key highlights of development and governance profile of the Administration in all sectors. He took out time to explain the administration's programmes in key sectors such as agriculture, education, human capital development, women and gender, youth development and job creation, tourism, etc. He also reviewed strategies for building alternative sources of revenue for the State.

Between July 2008 and November 2009, Governor Aliyu said, government sustained effort at strengthening budgetary processes and budget discipline among Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) which has made them more responsive to the needs of the people and more effective in service delivery even in the face of dwindling resources occasioned by the global financial crisis.

During the period, a total of N57,908,885,145.06k was received by the State Government, made up of N29,961,253,991.25k - statutory allocation from the Federation Accounts (FAAC); N7,069,340,012.49k from Value Added Tax (VAT); N5,942,516,933.02k from the Excess Crude Account; N8,114,861,626.64k from Federation Accounts augmentation, and N3,793,546,320.87k from internally generated revenues (IGR). In addition, the following revenues were received: N2billion bridge finance loan; N222, 410,060.18 - refunds from International creditors; and N804, 956,200.97 from exchange rate gains. Also, the state took N6Billion bond for financing infrastructural projects throughout the State.

From the profile of revenue inflows, the Niger helmsman gave a blow by blow account of monies expended and progress recorded in all the sectors, noting strongly that the State, during the period under review, relied heavily on the Federation Account for over 90% of its revenue receipts, forcing it to strengthen its internal revenue generation capacity by doubling the monthly collection target from N200million in 2008 to N400million in 2009.

It is however significant to note that the Talba administration recorded huge progress in spite of the meagre resources that were available after the payment of salaries and staff emoluments. In the agricultural sector for instance, government de-emphasized the mundane approach to agricultural practice which focuses mainly on tractor hiring, grains distribution and fertilizer procurement/ distribution to farmers, even where such was unnecessary. The move followed the realization that there was much more to agriculture in a fast changing world than fertilizer allocation and tractor hiring.

Ndayebo is the Director General (Media Relations & Strategy), Government House, Minna.



Your Letters

Nigeria's road to anarchy?

It is bitter but real. An average Nigerian is immune to bad governance, corruption, insecurity, poverty, hunger and lack of basic amenities. In the villages they build their own wells, resort to traditional medicine for the sick, they sleep in the dark or use the 'Obasanjo ya kasa' lantern. They hire vigilante to patrol their streets, settle disputes amicably through the traditional institutions, they abandon the western school system, because they see in reality those who finished from there end up being nuisance in the society with no jobs.

In the cities, those who can afford it buy generators, sink

boreholes, send their children to private schools or overseas, fly to Egypt or Saudi Arabia for medical check-ups; they also hire vigilante groups to patrol the neighbourhood. However, unlike the villages, where communality is still the norm, in the city everyone is for himself; dirty streets, congestion everywhere, poor town planning, loss of societal values, etc.

What future do we see for our dear country Nigeria? The issue is not the president's health; even if the president were to be around the same problems will persist. We must admit it: Nigeria is a failed state. No functional school system, hundreds and thousands are failing their final examination, which in years to come may become a societal problem; no basic skills, and semi-illiterates, unable to

contribute anything to the society. And we keep talking, deceiving and lying to ourselves that things are working. How? We have ourselves to blame, we take things for granted and leave our destiny in the hands of criminals, rogues and thieves. The future is bleak for over 150 million people, and the effect of this neglect has started catching up with us. Let us continue stealing and amassing billions and stashing them in foreign banks, but the truth is that, there is a payday. That day will come. We have seen what happened in Somalia, Liberia and Sierra-Leone and other African countries, where injustice, bad governance and corruption have become the norm. They should be a warning to us.

Kabiru Danladi Lawanti,
Area 11, Garki, Abuja.

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Plateau and Bauchi

THESE states have become relay players in a terrible game of violence. Those who claim to fight for God or Allah may find it different when they meet the CREATOR of all sects.

YAKUBU Tsammani, Tafawa Balewa, 08067872808.

A government's basic duty

...IS the protection of lives and properties of citizens. Where government fails to perform its tasks, the people fall back on self-help, 07087351209.

Serious problem requires serious solution

PLATEAU state represents a threat not only to its environs but a national security, hence it should be split and among its neighbours. You can't run from your shadow. **TARIF, Zaria, 07034980576.**

Declare emergency

THE recent crisis may have

erupted as a result of some of the revelations in public sittings of the Abisoye panel. The federal government should declare a state of emergency there.

UMAR Farouk, Minna, 08070751502.

To stop further crises

THE government must be seen to punish those who perpetrated previous ones.

AM Pantami, 07035639062

Another word for terrorism

...IS religious intolerance. The incessant crises in Jos and Bauchi make us to be a nation filled with it.

JAHUNELU Abinadab, Abuja, 08039470779.

True word

PEACE is not the absence of war but the presence of justice. Not until various governments address the real causes of this recurring crisis will there be peace in the former home of peace

and tourism. The trouble is that the government always treat the symptoms of what is obviously a big problem.

BELLO Lukman, Centre for Good Governance, Jos, 08034586787.

Out of line

BEING a retired army officer, I find it appalling that a serving police commissioner would go on the media and accuse one group of fomenting trouble in a sectarian scuffle. Duty and Decorum demand that an officer in that position be guarded in his comments. It is sad commentary on the police force.

TALIB Kolo, 08037214347.

Why withdraw JTF?

THE Federal Government should investigate and punish those behind the recent unwarranted withdrawal of JTF personnel from Edo State, because those behind the move are enemies of the state. **LUCKY Emegha, Kano, 08065451327.**



By Stevin Adikwu

Idoma nation: Onoja as architect of his own failures

The above titled article, which appeared in the *Daily Trust* of January 18 and 19, 2010, authored by retired General Lawrence Onoja, at once exposed the fallacious character of the Idoma elite.

Having chronicled the woes that have befallen the dynamic youths in the area as a result of failure of the elites to provide the needed direction, Onoja, pointedly admitted that he could not be exempted from blame, a candid admission that deserves to be praised; not many in his class will openly accept such failures.

He however soon fell by the wayside when he attempted to shift the blame someone else – David Mark, the Senate President and a longstanding foe. I am not holding brief for David Mark; he has his limitations, as every mortal does. Having said so, it must be said that Senator Mark towers above his peers in Idoma land in several spheres of human endeavour.

Onoja's latest outburst is an attempt to canvass relevance in an election year, after several strenuous but failed moves to recapture power. His foray into politics since the advent of the present democratic dispensation could best be described as a monumental disaster. On two occasions, he attempted to become the governor of Benue State without success, jumping from the PDP to the opposition and back to the PDP to no avail. Even though he claims to be a PDP chieftain, ANPP won in his local government in 2007 in the House of Assembly and House of Representatives elections.

Most annoying is his claim that he championed the creation of Apa State, especially during the Abacha years, and even accused Mark of truncating the process in the celebrated interview with the *Newswatch Magazine*, while on self-exile in Britain, during which Mark accused Abacha of attempts to perpetuate himself in power.

But how could that be, when Onoja himself was the Military Secretary and member of the ruling junta? Why did he not bring his influence to bear then only to come around to day to adduce some mundane technical reasons for his failure?

Now, the clamour for Apa State is again on front burner, but no one has heard his voice on the issue. Again, he believes Mark is at the head of the campaign, so it must not succeed.

Pundits are agreed that the problem with the Idoma nation has been that of leadership; even as it is not lacking in that respect. In the academia, people like Professors Eliagwu, Armstrong, Odeh, Idoko et al are a shining example. In the political turf we have had people like Obande, Senator Ebute, Audu Ogbe, Obeya, Lawani, and so on. In the military we have the Ekwues, Ejigas, AVM Yahayas, Abutu Garbas, Onojas and Marks, etc.

The problem of the Idoma elite has been the struggle for leadership. The so-called power elite have refused to recognize the fact that by the grace of God, Senator is today the nation's number three citizen. Had they rallied behind him, perhaps the situation would have been better.

Mark has attracted key millennium development projects to the remotest parts of Idoma land to the benefit, for the first time, of the larger populace.

What Onoja and his fellow-travellers should address is simple. They must recognize one of theirs and align with him so as to achieve what Onoja has said was the neglect of the youths who roam the streets and have literally turned executive beggars, instead of dissipating energy issues that are anti-development and self-centred. The disunity in the land is indeed worrisome and there can be no meaningful progress when a home is divided against itself. The youths must also stand up to the challenge and wrestle power if the elders have failed, as is the case currently.

Adikwu wrote from Abuja (aliadeyi@yahoo.com)

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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

Protecting journalists in conflict zones

Last year witnessed a steep increase in number of journalists that lost their lives in the line of duty worldwide. According to a report released recently by the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) media practitioners across the globe went through monumental challenges in discharging their duties. The report shows that 157 journalists were killed, while another 136 were imprisoned for no apparent crime, but simply trying to get the news out so that the world may be better informed. This, according to the report, represents an increase of 33 percent over the 109 deaths recorded in 2008. Majority of these journalists, the report noted, were victims of 'terror governments, drug barons and politicians', while some lost their lives in combat situation in war-prone place like Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia, among other trouble spots. Countries listed as 'unfavourable' for journalists in 2009 include, Mexico, Columbia, Pakistan, Philippines, Brazil, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Guatemala, Nepal, Venezuela, Russia, China, Cuba, Palestine, Honduras, Iran and Burma. The United States was listed among countries that held journalists captive in 2009, while Philippines got the dubious distinction of having the highest record of 38 journalists killed in a single year, involving drug barons and politics, followed by Mexico with 13 death cases in the battle against drug trafficking and smuggling.

In sub-Saharan Africa, the situation is worst in the war-torn countries such as Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar and Eritrea, with a total death toll of 35 journalists in 2009. Out of these, 19 were killed in Eritrea, 9 in Somalia, 4 in Ethiopia, one in Kenya and another in Nigeria, the assassination of political correspondent of The Guardian (Lagos), Mr Bayo Ohu. Similarly, 30 journalists, according to the report, are languishing in various jails across Africa.

At least ten journalists were reportedly killed monthly either by armed groups, government agents or through acts of terrorism. Others were kidnapped, abducted or exiled and, in many cases, silenced with no credible system of judicial review and punishment for the perpetrators. This condition has placed journalists in the list of endangered people who, because of their work, are increasingly being targeted.

In Nigeria, notwithstanding the relative freedom that the media enjoy since the country's return to democratic rule in 1999, journalists are still being harassed, intimidated and often detained by government agents. Journalists in the country have been known to be victims of political thugs and brutality. Press freedom is being practised in name only, in the absence of a law that not only guarantees it, but also compels access to official sources. The proposed Freedom of Information Bill that should enable that access has been kicked around in the National Assembly with no sign that it would ever get the due attention from the current crop of legislators.

It is against this background that we must unreservedly condemn the unwarranted attacks and killings of media practitioners on account of exercising their duties, and implore the United Nations, civil society groups among other stakeholders to intensify action towards protecting journalists to enable them perform their job without fear of harassment, threats to their lives or being killed. Being aware of the risk involved in the profession, there is need for media owners, especially in this part of the world, to embrace life insurance policy for their employees. Similarly, there is need for improved remuneration and better condition of living for working journalists. We also call on the authorities to respect the UN Charter on Human Rights and the right to freedom of information and access to it. On the other hand, media practitioners should exercise restraint, especially while performing their duties in war and other conflict zones of the world.

KABIRU A. YUSUF: Chairman/Chief Executive Officer
ISIAQ AJIBOLA: Managing Director/Chief Operating Officer
MANNIR DAN ALI: Executive Director/Editor-in-Chief
ALIU M. AKOSHILE: General Manager, Business & Strategy
MAHMUD JEGA: Editor, Daily Trust
SHEHU O. MOHAMMED: Asst. General Manager, Finance
GARBA ALIYU ABUBAKAR: Asst. General Manager (IT)
ABDULKADIR ALIYU: Head, Advert

e-mail: dailytrust@dailytrust.com

Reproductive health: Leaders take action (II)

Last week, this column featured the progress made by the participants at the leadership retreat the Kano based Development Research and Project Centre (DRPC)-organised for policy makers in Sokoto State with support from the United States Agency for International Development USAID.

From Sokoto I moved to Gusau, the Zamfara state capital to continue the assessment and there were inspiring stories of leaders driving change in the health sector. The unique development in Zamfara is collaboration on promoting reproductive health and reduction of maternal mortality that is developing between the legislators, the traditional rulers and the Islamic scholars who participated in the DRPC leadership retreats. The seven leading Islamic scholars and traditional leaders from Zamfara State who attended the USAID supported Islamic and RH/FP course in Alexandria, Egypt returned to Nigeria in August 2009 with zeal and determination to implement their joint action plan to sensitize the people of the state on the Islamic position on RH/FP. As they began reaching out through numerous sermons to the faithful during the holy month of Ramadan, the Islamic scholars and traditional leaders were also happy to learn that the same USAID funded project was also training political office holders to take leadership in reproductive health. They were encouraged to use the opportunity to move beyond the sermons to their followers and step into the realm of advocacy for reproductive health. It became clear to the leaders of this faith community that this receptive group of politicians in the state were ready allies in the promotion of a common development issue.

On December 14 2009, the Islamic scholars and traditional leaders of Zamfara state engaged political office holders by paying an advocacy visit to the Honourable members of Zamfara State House of Assembly. Leading the advocacy team were the District Head of Tudun Wadan Gusau, Alhaji Bashir Muhammad Dan Baba; the District Head of Wonaka, Alhaji Usman Kogo Abdulkadir; Sheik Nasiru Muhammad Assamarawi; and Sheik Aminu Mafara. The traditional and religious leaders of Zamfara State made two requests. They called upon the state political office holders to increase the state budget for reproductive health. Second, they requested the Assembly to urge the government to organize a special retreat for all traditional leaders and Islamic scholars of Zamfara state on reproductive health so that they could be given the information to convince their people that family planning is not against Muslim populations.

Members of Zamfara state House of Assembly who also attended the USAID funded DRPC training were receptive to the advocacy messages, reminding the group that at the end of the training they had developed a state action plan on

Civil Society Watch

By Hajiya Bilkisu (mni)

enacting an enabling law to reduce maternal mortality in Zamfara state as a whole. The members of the Zamfara State House of Assembly restated their willingness to give priority to the health sector during the forthcoming budget session. The Deputy Speaker, Honourable Murtala Adamu Jangebe, representing the Speaker, said that a new format will be introduced to involve all Islamic scholars and traditional leaders in local government budget preparations and promised to send a letter to the Ministry for Local Gov-

Abdul Aziz Nahuce, the Chairman House Committee for Special Duties in the Zamfara State House of Assembly also participated in the DRPC retreat on leadership development for Reproductive Health. In his assessment of he said 'it was well organised and educative. In my Action Plan which was focused on improving maternity services in my community, I promised to construct a ward which will be used as a labor room at the hospital in my community in Nahuce. A Primary Healthcare Centre PHC already exists and construction work has commenced on the project.' The PHC has been upgraded to a District Healthcare Centre and it is a site for a World Bank project which has provided a generator to the health facility. The facility now admits patients and he expects that the maternity ward will



In my Action Plan which was focused on improving maternity services in my community, I promised to construct a ward which will be used as a labor room at the hospital in my community in Nahuce

ernment requesting them to facilitate the participation of such representatives in budget preparations. Regarding their request for a state retreat on reproductive health, the Deputy Speaker promised to convey this request to the appropriate channels and promised that no less than 200 traditional leaders in Zamfara state will be invited to attend the state retreat on reproductive health.

One of the participants I interviewed during my monitoring visit to Zamfara was the Honourable Saidu Bageega who is the Chairman of the Committee on Health at the Zamfara State House of Assembly. Honourable Saidu Bageega, is a nurse who also had a post graduate training as a theatre nurse. When asked to assess the DRPC retreat he attended. He said 'By virtue of my profession I was aware of the reproductive health problems before the training and as the Chairman Health Committee I have attended various seminars on RH. In spite of my background, the DRPC retreat was very useful; it really enriched my knowledge about RH and generated a renewed commitment to address our reproductive health issues. I was really touched and appalled by the magnitude of maternal and child mortality. The retreat reminded me of several challenges faced by women. That is the reason why I decided in my Individual Action Plan to sponsor a bill on free maternal and child care in the state. I have also commence the building of a maternity centre which I stopped due to certain exigencies but after the retreat, I decided to also make that the focus of my action plan. The retreat motivated me to continue with the building which has reached advance stage. The centre has a labour room, maternity ward and the children's section. Hon.

also enhance the quality of services provided at the centre because the PHC administration has promised to provide the required human resources for the management of the Centre.

In an interview, another participant Alhaji Kabiru Dan Baba, the District Head of Tudun Wada in Gusau said 'I was one of the Royal fathers who went on a study tour to Egypt under the auspices of the Development Research and Project Centre DRPC. The sessions delivered by various resource persons were about maternal and child health and family planning. We were inspired by the presentations of the various resource persons who also showed us the link between leadership, maternal mortality and lack of family planning or birth spacing.

In the past we shunned any discourse on family planning because it was presented purely from a Western perspective but the Cairo study tour opened our eyes to the issue of maintaining a healthy population and the speakers provided us with the Islamic perspective of family planning. They quoted from our books, the Quran and hadith without mincing words to show us that as Muslims we have a responsibility to space birth in order to promote the health of mothers and ensure that we raise the children properly. We also have to make sure that our women, especially pregnant women maintain healthy habits and observe basic hygiene. In Islam cleanliness is part of faith. The resource persons in Cairo and some of the places we visited also provided us with relevant literature on consensus of learned people on our responsibility as leaders to promote the health and well being of our people.

Star Feature

Auchi: Roots of A

The Arafat mosque in Auchi was carefully built over a number of years. No appeal fund was organised for the project, and no interest was collected on the monies for the mosque. People gave to the mosque with pure hearts and a good volition. No wonder the completed mosque is so beautiful. Our reporter was in Auchi recently at its commissioning.

By Tadaferua Ujorha who was in Auchi

It was an event which Momoh I (1875-1944), the patriarch of the Momoh family of Auchi, would have been proud of. He took Islam to his people and therefore freed them from the worship of 'gods' and 'goddesses' and brought them the knowledge of the Almighty, the Eternal One. This was in the year 1912 when so many shrines were destroyed in Auchi, followed by an expansion in the knowledge of Islam. Less than a hundred years later, the splendid round Arafat mosque has risen on grounds where Momoh I once flourished. People say that he always walked with his head held up, as though constantly looking towards Heaven and praying. He brought the first bicycle to Auchi and was respected by the British colonial officers, who described him as 'evergreen', and 'by far and away the best chief in Kukuru country', in some of their glowing reports.

The new Arafat mosque in Auchi has five lofty domes. Five is significant in Islam and suggests the five pillars of the religion. When you enter the mosque you instantly become silent, amazed at the pillars, the floors, and designs which grace the inside. Then there is the ever present glow. It is not surprising that Arafat mosque has such a pure uplifting effect on visitors and townspeople alike. The reason for this can be found in a speech given by the Otaru of Auchi just before the commissioning of the Arafat mosque recently, where he stated 'in tandem with our wish and prayers for the purity of the Masjid (mosque) not to be soiled with stolen money by pronouncing to our people that the funding for the building of the mosque would not be derived through public and public fund raising events... The story of Auchi Arafat mosque must be in a class of its own'. The origins of the mosque are pure, so the mosque itself should naturally radiate purity. The commissioning of the mosque on January 8, 2010, which coincided with the 13th Auchi Day celebration, was also a chance for the Momoh family to gather and they came in large colourful numbers. HRH Alhaji Aliru H. Momoh, Ikelebe III, the Otaru of Auchi Kingdom, Tony Momoh, Bekisu Momoh-Aliu, Constance Momoh, Aziz Momoh, Gaz Momoh, Daz Momoh and many sons and daughters were present. Also present was Alhaji Awwal Ibrahim, the Emir of Suleja, Tafidan Kano, Alhaji Tijani Abubakar who represented the Emir of Kano, Alhaji Bagudu Audu, Sarkin Yamma Nupe, who represented the Etsu Nupe, Sarkin Bwari Alhaji Musa Ijakoro, Oba Kevin Danesi, the Aidonojié of South-Ibie Kingdom, and Oba Yahaya Elugbaju, the Obabio of Ife, who represented the Oni of Ife.

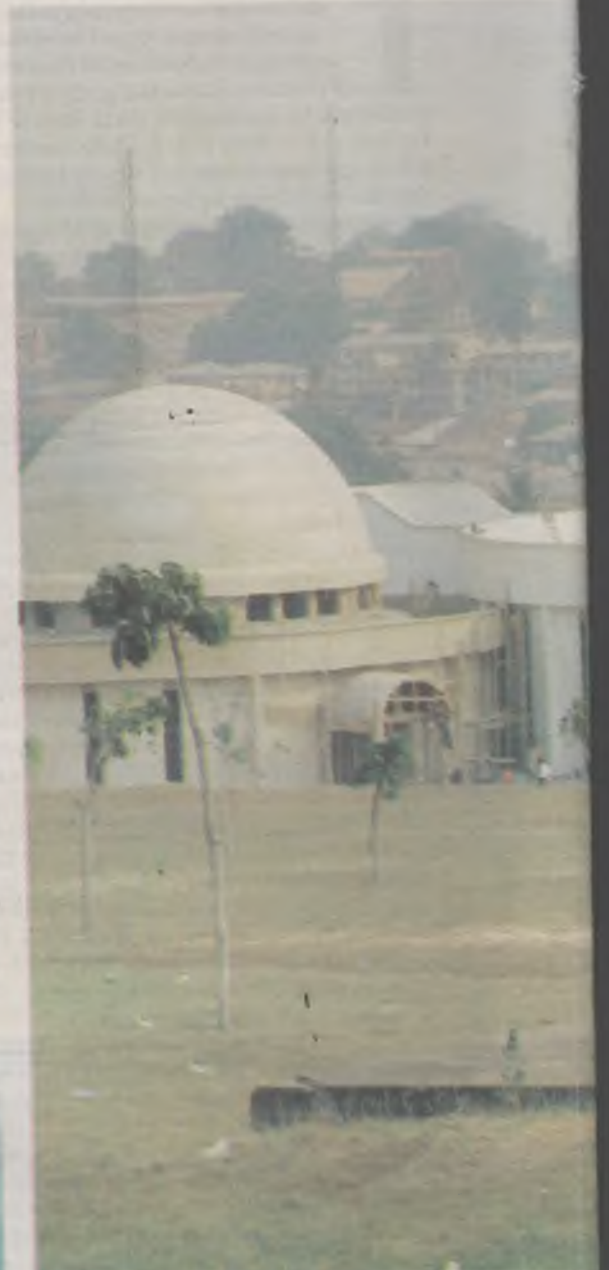
I travelled to Auchi a few years ago to do a series of features on Islam in both Auchi and Agbede. Is'haq Modibbo Kawu was Editor, *Daily Trust* at that time, and he put me on this assignment and gave me a background to the story. My guide then was Princess Bekisu Momoh - Aliu of the Auchi Royal family. She is a gifted nutritionist and dietician and played a major role in planning the menu for FESTAC 1977. I first met her in 1997 in Zaria, when I was studying for the MA at the Ahmadu Bello University. Later I found out that her sons were my seniors at Capital School Kaduna, when I had schooled there. She was really more than a good guide during that trip and gave me all the necessary tips and advice during this one. Through her I was

introduced to the Otaru of Auchi, as well as the leaders and Imams at Agbede. Soon we got to the site of the Arafat mosque which was under construction at that time. I was awed by its round shape and Domes which were already visible at that time, and were beautiful even though unpainted. I also used that opportunity to interview Prince Achieve Haliru Momoh, the gentlemen who architected the mosque. Over the years I have grown fond of the mosque. Sometimes, I found myself boasting to friends in Abuja and Lagos about the mosque project in Auchi. Upon hearing that the mosque will be opened in January 2010, I decided to cover the event. I had been present at the beginning. It made sense that I should be in Auchi now.

The Arafat mosque easily stands out as the favourite topic of HRH Alhaji Aliru H. Momoh, the Otaru of Auchi. He tells this reporter that when the roof of the old Central Mosque in Auchi was blown off, it dawned on him that it was time Auchi built a bigger mosque to replace the old one. His words: 'Arafat mosque is a concretisation of what I had in mind from 1991 when the roof of the Central Mosque was blown off. Eminent Mallams came to me asking that we should put back the roof and do some expansion. I told them that if the roof of the central mosque of



D.H. Momoh, (Momoh I) 1875 - 1944.



ARAFAT mosque: 'I have said that this must be a pur

Auchi is blown off, the Almighty is telling us that it is not able as a central mosque for this Kingdom. As a follow-up, I sold his big house in Lagos, and this provided the initial kick started the Arafat Mosque project. According to him, he sold the house I had in Lagos then, and chose to build Auchi, and that was that. It came to me just like that. He guided at every stage of the construction of the mosque throughout the process of sourcing monies for the great

He says, 'I told the estate agent that whatever he asked that asking price for the house is his. That was a vision with a voice'. Another remarkable part of the interest was received on the monies set aside for the mosque, this is forbidden in Islam, especially for a mosque project. On coming from numerous persons while the mosque was under construction. Mofe Boyo took care of the tiles, and Dr. L. D. plaster of Paris for the ceiling. Both are sons of Auchi. They helped in different significant ways to bring the mosque to

The gentleman who brought the initial design of the mosque was an idea of a mosque that should be eleven storeys tall. But it was scaled down. According to the Otaru, 'We asked him to give the plan of the proposed mosque. He is a very young man with a vision, and some of the ideas were out of this world. The plan had



BAYERO UNIVERSITY KANO

WELCOMES YOU

to the Ancient City of Kano for the
3RD WEST AFRICA UNIVERSITY GAMES
Football and Hockey Championship
January 20-31, 2010



BE PART OF THE
FUN & THRILL
with over 60 Universities Across West Africa



for sponsorship contact:
COMPOSITE BRANDS ABUJA
8 Sambrerio Cres. Off Limpopo Str. Maitama, Abuja
info@compositebrandsng.com, compositebrands@yahoo.com
CALL: 08033522585, 08063340021, 08020897777
www.compositebrandsng.com





DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES PARTY (DPP)

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

32 E. A. Ekukinam Street Utako, (Opposite ABC Transport) Abuja.

Tel: 08033156953, 08037872832

E-mail: salvagedppnigeria@ymail.com

A TEXT OF COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE MEETING OF DPP FACTION GROUP ON THE OCCASION OF AN EXTRA ORDINARY EMERGENCY NEC MEETING HELD IN ABUJA ON THE 10TH DAY OF JANUARY 2010.

A meeting of the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the Democratic Peoples Party (DPP) faction group was held in Abuja where issues affecting the unity of the party were reviewed.

Several issues were considered and after thorough brainstorming, the meeting resolved as follows:

The meeting noted with appreciation, the attendance of every member of the group at today's meeting except that of Chief Biodun Ogunbiyi and Aminu Abubakar.

The meeting noted with regrets that the purported faction never existed but was a creation of Alhaji Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko, the Executive Governor of Sokoto State to discredit the BOT Chairman and the Presidential Candidate in the 2007 general elections, Alhaji Attahiru Bafarawa (Garkuwan Sokoto).

The meeting also notes that Hon. Ibrahim Almustapha, the Minority Whip in the Sokoto State House of Assembly and a DPP member who pretends to be working to salvage DPP is actually the Governor's hatchet man.

The meeting therefore notes, that the reason why Wamakko is funding DPP while he is of the ruling PDP is nothing but to bring our leader and BOT Chairman, Alhaji Attahiru Bafarawa (Garkuwan Sokoto) to disrepute.

The meeting also resolved that Wamakko, the current Governor of Sokoto State should steer clear of our party and concentrate on his own party the PDP especially in view of the fact that the topic for discussion had always centred on ways of bringing down Bafarawa.

The meeting regretted with excruciating pain that over

the last one year, Wamakko through Ibrahim Almustapha has worked relentlessly to destabilize our party in order to achieve his own selfish political ambition.

The meeting therefore states that no member of DPP except Hon. Ibrahim Almustapha who is presently the Chairman of Continuity Mandate Group (CMG), a group working to ensure Wamakko's second term in office will not be used any longer to discredit Bafarawa.

The meeting hereby makes it categorically clear, that there was no faction in the first place to have warranted a parallel leadership and therefore, agrees that henceforth, there shall cease to be a group called DPP faction.

The meeting noted with pride and commendation, INEC's refusal to grant recognition to this stage managed and ubiquitous group.

The meeting finally resolves to write a letter of apology to His Excellency, Alhaji Attahiru Bafarawa (Garkuwan Sokoto), the leader and BOT Chairman of Democratic Peoples Party for some unguided utterances made on the pages of Newspaper, with copies be made available to the Inspector General of Police (IGP), the Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and, the Director General State Security Service (SSS).

The meeting noted and vehemently condemned the role of Sokoto State Governor, Alhaji Magatakarda Wamakko over the last 13 months at wanting to bring Bafarawa to disrepute by way of using his (Bafarawa's) party members against him.

Long live Democratic Peoples Party (DPP)
Long live Federal Republic of Nigeria

Jamil Vincent N.
Dr. Anyigor Vincent N.
National Publicity Secretary

Princess Gbemisola Adeniyi
Princess Gbemisola Adeniyi
National Women Leader

Jamil O. Egbedoku
CAPT. TONY OYEKANBIJU - Chairman
EKENNA IMA - Abis chairman
MUDASHIR KUNLE - NAT Youth Leader
Uche Simon - Ebonyi chairman

INTERNATIONAL

Rights report pillories African leaders over ICC

AFRICAN leaders have sent their people an alarming message by siding with Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir over his victims, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in its annual report.

The 600-page review of human rights in the world criticised African governments for blocking justice mechanisms and warned that rights activists were increasingly threatened.

The New York-based watchdog hailed the March 2009 International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant against Beshir for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Sudan's strife-racked Darfur region as "a major development".

But in an introduction entitled "The Abusers? Reaction: Intensifying Attacks on Human Rights Defenders, Organisations, and Institutions", it also deplored the African Union's decision to stand by Beshir.

"One would have wanted African leaders to applaud the move. After all, the world had dithered for more than five years as the people of Darfur faced mass murder and forced displacement," the report said.

"Unfortunately, some African leaders seemed less troubled by the slaughter of ordinary African people than by the audacious prospect that a sitting African leader might actually be brought to justice for these horrendous crimes," it said.



AFRICAN leaders have sent their people an alarming message by siding with Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir, seen here, over his victims, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in its annual report.

Ethiopian dam to 'wreck lives in Kenya'

THE livelihood of hundreds of thousands of Kenyans around the world's largest desert lake will be wrecked by an Ethiopian dam on the lake's main tributary, conservationists said.

"The Ethiopian dam project is going to bring nothing but tragedy and harm to Kenya," warned renowned archeologist and environmentalist Richard Leakey.

The Gilgel Gibe III dam being built on the Omo river, which supplies 80 percent of the water in Lake Turkana on the Kenya-Ethiopia border, is one-third com-

plete. During the two years it will take to fill the dam reservoir Lake Turkana will recede, increasing its salinity, damaging the local economy, degrading biodiversity and increasing the risk of cross-border conflicts, the Friends of Lake Turkana conservationist organisation said.

The group called for construction to be halted pending an assessment by Kenya, which has said it will import power generated from Ethiopia, on the impact the dam will have on the locals and the environment. "What we are asking

the Kenya government is to reassess, to rethink about what they are doing before it's too late," said Samia Bwana, a top official of the Kenyan group.

Around 300,000 fishermen and herders depend on Lake Turkana, while hundreds of thousands more, mainly farmers, rely on the Omo's annual flooding for river bank cultivation and grazing of livestock. "We are depending on a country that is known for drought, known for rainfall failure, to provide expensive power to Kenya," Leakey told reporters.

Somalia Puntland lawmaker shot dead

GUNMEN shot dead a lawmaker in Somalia's northern semi-autonomous region of Puntland, police said. Mohamed Ali Jibril was shot on Tuesday in Bosasso, Puntland's main port and economic capital, and died later in hospital.

"The lawmaker was gunned down by unidentified attackers and the police have so far arrested two suspects," Puntland police official Mohamed Awale told AFP.

Witnesses told how they saw the Puntland's assembly member gunned down.

"I saw a man shooting the lawmaker several times in the

head. He managed to escape after the shooting," Bosasso resident Ahmed Fanah told AFP by phone.

"Three men, one of them with a gun in his hand, ran into an alley close to where the lawmaker was shot.

"I'm sure they were the killers," said Hasan Mohamed, another witness.

Puntland, which proclaimed its autonomy in 1998, has been spared most of the unrest that has rocked central and southern Somalia in recent years but is still blighted by political and clan killings.

50,000 Seats @ N5,000 Only

for flights from 01/02/10 to 31/03/10

Sales on, Now!

book ahead and pay online

flyaero.com



aero
the reliable way to fly





THE POWERFUL NEW BOXER 125cc

BOXER
STRONGER FOR LONGER
from BAJAJ



125CC ENGINE | BIG MUSCLE FUEL TANK | 5-SPEED GEAR BOX | SNS SUSPENSION

Distributed in Nigeria by: DAG Motorcycle Ind. (Nig) Ltd. 122 Alprint Ind. Estate, Near Binatone Company, Apapa-Oshodi Express Way, Isolo, Lagos. Tel: 07032839785, 08025530694, 08028328108.

DEALERS LAGOS: VIP MERCHANDISE ENTERPRISES LTD. - 07028024854, LACHEZ 'O' INTER CONTINENTAL COMPANY LTD. - 08033489267, BERMACO BERNYERO LTD. - 08034108117, DEGAB COMMERCIAL STORE - 08034601962, UNIQUE AUTO - 08062710239, DDOH NIG. ENT. 55/200 OBALENDE RD. IKOYI - 07061125522. OGUN: LACHEZ 'O' INTER CONTINENTAL COMPANY LTD. - 08030826610, WETGULF AGENCIES - 08037230522, ALL-ROUND VENTURES - 08037181125, ADEKOYA - 08032285759, DE-SINCO NIGERIA LTD. - 08037207218. OYO: SSOOA ISEYIN - 08056430334, TEE AGBAJE INVESTMENT COMPANY NIG. LTD. - 08053885318. KWARA: ADUNMED NIG. LTD. - 08033073543, OSUN: ANEK VENTURES - 08055337806, ADEJOHNS VENTURES - 08037176628, G.A.LAWAL - 07041077742. SOKOTO: AKORDE NIG. LTD. - 07094111690. KANO: VIP MERCHANDISE ENTERPRISES LTD. - 07028024851, AZUBROUS - 08034512506. BORNO: OLASIMBO AND COMPANY LTD. - 08060862944, KADUNA: MENDOZA - 08063007799, BAUCHE: JAYS MART NIG. LTD. - 08035049284.



AREWA CONSULTATIVE FORUM

No. 11A Sokoto Road, P.O.Box 1149, Kaduna-Nigeria.

Tel: (062) 218007, 218009, Fax: 218004

Website: www.arewaconsultativeforum.org E-mail: info@arewaconsultativeforum.org

NOTICE OF JOINT MEETING OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF AREWA CONSULTATIVE FORUM. ACF

There will be a Joint Meeting of the Board of Trustees (BOT) and National Executive Council (NEC) of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF).

Date: Wednesday, 27th January, 2010

Venue: ACF Conference Hall No 11A Sokoto Road, Kaduna

Time: 11:00am

Please endeavour to attend as crucial issues would be discussed

Colonel Musa Shehu (rtd)
Secretary-General

International

Palestinians want US to negotiate on their behalf

PALESTINIAN President Mahmoud Abbas has proposed that the Obama administration negotiate the final borders of a Palestinian state with Israel, a Palestinian official said yesterday, as a U.S. envoy headed to the region for another attempt to restart Mideast peace talks.

Such a proxy arrangement could provide a way around the current deadlock over reviving Israeli-Palestinian talks, which broke off more than a year ago. Abbas says he won't return to the table without a complete Israeli settlement freeze, something

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has refused to do.

As an alternative, U.S. officials could replace Palestinian negotiators in border talks with Israel, said an Abbas aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the content of internal meetings. The U.S. negotiators would be given clear parameters, the aide said.

The state would have to be established in the territories Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast War — the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem — but the Palestinians

would agree to swap up to 3 percent of the territory to accommodate some Israeli settlements, the aide said.

Abbas made the proposal in recent meetings with Egyptian officials who passed the idea along to Washington, the aide said. It was not clear how the Americans reacted. Officials at the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem, which serves the West Bank, had no comment.

Abbas has said much ground has been covered in his talks with Netanyahu's predecessor, Ehud Olmert, and that the time

has come for decisions. In those talks, Abbas offered a swap of up to 1.9 percent of West Bank land for Israeli territory, while Olmert proposed 6.5 percent.

Alternately, Abbas could resume negotiations with Netanyahu, provided the Israeli leader agrees to a six-month settlement freeze in the West Bank and east Jerusalem. Netanyahu would not have to announce the freeze, the aide said, presumably to avoid a rebellion in his hardline coalition.

The Palestinians say settlements on lands they claim threatens the prospects for an inde-

pendent state.

Netanyahu has imposed a 10-month slowdown on West Bank construction, but opposes any freeze on east Jerusalem. The Palestinians seek east Jerusalem as their capital, while Israel considers all of Jerusalem its eternal capital. An Israeli official dismissed the idea of an undeclared freeze.

"It is not going to happen. This is against everything the prime minister stands for and believes in," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because it was not a formal offer.



ONE of the coffins of the eight UN peacekeepers killed in the devastating Haitian earthquake is wrapped in the national flag on arrival in Beijing.

China mourns eight 'martyrs' killed in Haiti quake

CHINA'S top leaders bid a final and sombre farewell yesterday to the eight nationals who died in last week's devastating earthquake in Haiti, where four of them had served as UN peacekeepers.

In a ceremony broadcast on state television, the eight were buried at the Babaoshan cemetery in western Beijing, where revolutionary heroes and the ruling Communist Party's top officials are laid to rest.

The nine members of the Politburo standing committee -- the party's top leadership, wearing black suits and white paper flowers in their buttonholes -- filed past the coffins draped with the national flag.

President Hu Jintao, Premier Wen Jiabao and the other leaders also saluted family members of the victims.

Beyond the four peacekeepers, the four others killed had just arrived in Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince as part of a delegation to hold talks with UN officials when the 7.0-magnitude quake struck. Between 100,000 and 200,000 people are thought to have died. The bodies of the Chinese victims were given a hero's homecoming on Tuesday in Beijing, and they were officially declared "revolutionary martyrs."

State television and newspapers have devoted non-stop coverage to the victims, and kung fu star Jackie Chan has

even recorded a song in tribute to them with Chinese singer Tan Jing entitled "Send You Home".

China, a permanent member of the UN Security Council that does not have diplomatic relations with Haiti, has nevertheless been present in the country since 1997 with a trade bureau and is active in the UN peacekeeping force.

The Caribbean country is one of 23 nations that still officially recognises the self-ruled island of Taiwan, where the nationalists fled in 1949 after the communist victory in a civil war on the mainland. China has sent a 60-strong rescue team to Haiti and allocated 30 million yuan (4.4 million dollars) in aid.

On Tuesday, foreign ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu angrily denied accusations that Chinese rescuers were searching only for Chinese nationals missing in Port-au-Prince as "false" and "made out of ulterior motives."

"The Chinese rescue team departed China immediately after the quake. They not only found the bodies of the Chinese peacekeepers, they also found the bodies of UN officers in Haiti and many others," Ma told reporters. "These actions are not selfish and brook no accusations.

The accusers should be accused," he said, after media reports about China's contribution to the humanitarian operation in Haiti.

Vietnam jails democracy activists for subversion

A court in Vietnam has convicted four activists, including prominent human rights lawyer Le Cong Dinh, of trying to overthrow the Communist government.

The four men received sentences of up to 16 years on charges of subversion.

Dinh was sentenced to five years, while internet entrepreneur Tran Huynh Duy Thuc received the longest term.

The case has drawn strong criticism from rights groups abroad, who see it as a sign of an increasing clampdown on democracy and freedom of expression.

It has been a long time since the Communist regime last tried anybody on subversion charges, considered one of the most serious offences under Vietnam's criminal code, says the BBC's Nga Pham.

The four accused - who were arrested in June - were initially charged with spreading anti-government propaganda.

But early last month, state prosecutors decided to bring more serious charges against them.

After a day-long trial, Le Cong Dinh, Tran Huynh Duy Thuc, Nguyen Tien Trung and Le Thang Long were all convicted of "activities aimed at subverting the people's administration".

Thuc received a 16-year sentence, Trung seven years, while Dinh and Long were sentenced to five years each. Three of the four could have been sentenced to the death penalty.

Dinh rose to prominence representing Vietnam's interests in the "catfish battle" during which US farmers accused the Vietnamese of dumping cheap seafood on the US market.

In recent years, he has also defended some of Vietnam's leading human rights and democracy activists, including fellow lawyers Nguyen Van Dai and Le Thi Cong Nhan who have also been jailed for anti-government activity.

International



NIGERIAN-BORN Londoner, Samantha Orobator, with British ambassador to Laos Quinton Quale at Vientiane's Wattay airport, last year.

Laos drug smuggling Londoner loses appeal

A London woman who was jailed in Laos for drug trafficking and transferred home to finish her sentence lost an appeal against her continued detention yesterday.

Samantha Orobator's lawyers had argued that her trial in Laos was a "flagrant denial of justice" and she should never have been jailed. Two judges at the High Court in London said they were in no doubt that the 20-year-old "was treated unjustly in Laos", but rejected her claim that she was

being detained in Britain unlawfully. They said she should serve at least 18 months in jail.

Orobator was arrested in August 2008 at the airport in the Lao capital as she tried to board a plane to Thailand, and was in June last year convicted of trafficking 680 grammes (1.5 pounds) of heroin. She would normally have faced the death penalty but became pregnant while in jail and was instead given a life sentence. She was transferred to a British

prison in August and gave birth to a baby girl in September.

In his submissions to the court last year, Orobator's lawyer Edward Fitzgerald said two Nigerian men had coerced his client into carrying the drugs by threatening her life and raping her.

"It is our submission that the conviction and sentence involved a flagrant denial of justice and therefore a detention based on that conviction and sentence will be unlawful," Fitzgerald had said.

Mexican prison brawl leaves 23 dead

TWENTY-THREE inmates were killed and several others injured during a prison brawl yesterday morning at a northern Mexico penitentiary, prison officials said.

The fight broke out between inmates at the state prison in the city of Durango that houses 2,025 inmates, said prison spokeswoman Carla Puente. Puente said she did not know the specific number of injuries nor the reason for the fight, which was quelled by guards.

More than 60 inmates have died during fierce fights at Mexico's often overcrowded and loosely run prisons in the past two years. Officials at the state-run prisons frequently complain that they are not equipped to handle violent drug traffickers who are being held on federal charges.

Once a quiet state, Durango

has seen an upsurge in cartel violence in recent years, both in its cities and its prisons. Last August, a fight among inmates facing drug charges at a state prison in the Durango city of Gomez Palacio killed 19 inmates and left more than 20 injured.

In October 2008, 21 prisoners died in a fight between inmates at an other state prison in the border city of Reynosa, across from McAllen, Texas. And in September 2008, two riots at La Mesa state prison in the border city of Tijuana across from San Diego, California, killed at least 23 people, including two inmates from the U.S.

La Mesa prisoners argued that officials weren't giving them food and water, but prison officials blamed troublemakers for the violence.

US extradites Bosnian Serb suspected of genocide

THE United States extradited to Bosnia yesterday a former Serb policeman suspected of taking part in genocide against Muslims in Srebrenica in 1995, Europe's worst massacre since World War Two.

A spokesman for the state prosecutor's office, Boris Grubestic, said 45-year-old Nedjo Ikonc had been arrested in the United States on an international arrest warrant.

He said Ikonc was a commander of a special police brigade operating within the Serb Republic interior ministry during the Bosnian 1992-95 war that claimed 100,000 lives.

"In 1995 Ikonc commanded the unit which together with the Bosnian Serb army controlled the roads to and out of the eastern town of Srebrenica," Grubestic told state radio.

Bosnian Serb forces, commanded by Gen. Ratko Mladic, killed about 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys after the east-

ern town, which was a United Nations-protected safe zone, fell into their hands in 1995.

Most were killed while trying to escape through the woods, and were either shot or arrested and taken to places of execution before burial in mass graves.

The U.N. war crimes tribunal at The Hague has sentenced seven Bosnian Serbs for the Srebrenica massacre. Nine more are on trial. Mladic is still on the run, 14 years after he was indicted.

Bosnian Serb wartime leader Radovan Karadzic, whose trial before the Hague-based court is adjourned until March, denies all 11 counts of war crimes relating to the Bosnian war, including the genocide at Srebrenica.

The Bosnian war crimes court, set up in 2005 to relieve the burden on the Hague-based tribunal, has put dozens of Bosnian Serbs on trial over Srebrenica. Twelve have been jailed, seven acquitted and seven are still being tried.



Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Name of Country: **Nigeria**

Name of Project: **Adamawa State Health Systems Development Project II**

Brief Description of Goods: **Medical and Laboratory Equipment**

Invitation for Bid No: **ADSHSDP/ICBG/003**

Credit No: **Cr 4522-NG**

Date of issue: **January 25, 2010**

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

2. The Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a Credit from the International Development Association (World Bank) in various currencies to finance the cost of the **Health System Development Project (II)**. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Credit will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the **Procurement of Medical and Laboratory Equipment**.

3. The **Adamawa State Health System Development Project (II)** now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the supply of **Medical and Laboratory Equipment**.

a) **Equipment:-**

Lot/Item No.	Description	Qty	Bid Security	Delivery Period	Delivery Location
1	Medical Equipment	344	At least 3% of the bid price	120	Adamawa State Health Systems Development Project II Office, No. 35A Sir Kashim Ibrahim Way, Yola
2	Laboratory Equipment	425 6	-do-	120	-do-
3	Laboratory Consumables	678	-do-	120	-do-
4	Laboratory Wares	746 5	-do-	120	-do-
5	Laboratory furniture	73	-do-	120	-do-
6	Laboratory Models, Charts & Posters	564	-do-	120	-do-
7	Safety supplies activity kits & Soft Wares	379	-do-	120	-do-

4. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) Procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the **Adamawa State Health Systems Development Project II, No. 35A, Sir Kashim Ibrahim Way, Yola** and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 10 am – 3 pm Mondays – Fridays, excluding Public Holidays.

6. Qualification requirements includes list of financial, technical, legal and other requirements. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Document. A margin of preference for eligible national contractors shall not be applied.

7. 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 ten thousand naira only (N10,000.00) or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. The method of payment will be by cash or bank draft. Bidding documents will be available from Monday 25, 2010

8. Bids must be delivered to the address below **Adamawa State Health Systems Development Project II, No. 35A, Sir Kashim Ibrahim Way, Yola** at or before **12 noon March 18, 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 or on-line at the address below **Adamawa State Health Systems Development Project II, No. 35A, Sir Kashim Ibrahim Way, Yola** by **12 noon on March 28, 2010**. All bids must be accompanied by a **Bid Security of at least 3 % the bid Price in local currency or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.**

9. *The address referred to above is*

Pharm. Mansur A. Suleiman

Project Manager

Adamawa State Health Systems Development Project II

No. 35A, Sir Kashim Ibrahim Way, Yola.

Tel: 08036517792, 07051271303

08052188539 (Procurement Officer)



UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC

AUCTION! AUCTION!! AUCTION!!!

NOTICE OF SALES OF PROPERTY MORTGAGED TO UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC.

Union Bank of Nig. Plc- has its registered office at 36, Marina, Lagos as unpaid mortgage pursuant to statutory right of sale conferred by Deed of legal mortgage, intends to sell its interest in the following under listed properties, mortgaged with IBI Branch, which is situated at IBI of Wukari, Taraba State.

MORTGAGOR	DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY	LOCATION	C. OF O. NO	DATE	TIME
Alh Ali Usman	Residential	No 87 Rimi Uku Opp. Danboy's Resident IBI	TS/12635	3-2-2010	11am
Emmanuel Okafor	Residential	No 42 Anyitan Str. Opp Hilltop Hotel Wukari	T/S/10882	2-2-2010	10am
Egbunem Ilo John	Residential	Kwararafa Ward Behind St. Mary Church, Wukari	TS/12649	2-2-2010	12pm
Okeke Aaron	Residential	Aloshi Street Wukari	TS/10883	1-2-2010	10am
Okeke Aaron	Residential	Avyi Ward GRA Wukari	TS/10884	1-2-2010	12pm

CONDITION GOVERNING THE SALE

- The sale is subject to the consideration and approval of the mortgagee at their absolute discretion
- The mortgagee reserves the right to withdraw the property from auction without notice before the auction or at the auction before the fall of the auctioneer's hammer.
- Upon the fall of the hammer, the Auctioneer shall issue receipt to the purchaser.
- Deed of assignment in favor of purchaser shall prepare at the expense of the payment.
- The Auctioneer and mortgagee shall not be responsible for possession in favor of the purchaser.
- The purchaser will pay any outstanding ground rent to the state government.
- The purchaser will make full payment on the spot or as agreed by the bank

SIGN

Walu Nig. Ltd

Licensed Auctioneer No 92 Hospital Road J/Yola Adamawa State.
Phone, 08034229341, 08054220360



CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA

TENDER NOTICE

NIGERIAN TREASURY BILLS

Notice is hereby given by the Central Bank of Nigeria that the Federal Government of Nigeria Treasury Bills of 91 and 182-day tenors amounting to N10,000,000,000 and N30,000,000,000 respectively would be issued by Dutch auction on Thursday, 28/01/2010.

All Money Market Dealers should submit bids through the CBN TEMENOS INTERNET BANKING between 9.00a.m and 11.00a.m on Wednesday, 27/01/2010.

Each bid must be in multiple of N1,000 subject to a minimum of N10,000. Authorized Money Market Dealers are allowed to submit multiple bids. A bid may be for authorized Money Market Dealers own account, Non-Money Market Dealers or interested members of the public. The result of the auction would be announced by 11.30a.m on Wednesday, 27/01/2010. The Bank reserves the right to reject any bid.

Allotment letters would be issued for successful bids on Thursday, 28/01/2010, while payment for the successful bids should be made to your account with Central Bank of Nigeria not later than 11.00am on Thursday, 28/01/2010.

*The Bank reserves the right to vary the amount on offer in line with market realities prevailing as at the period of auction of the Nigerian Treasury bills.

ISSUES OFFICE
CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA
TINUBU SQUARE
LAGOS.



The Presidency
Office of the Director General
NATIONAL LOTTERY REGULATORY COMMISSION
ABUJA-NIGERIA
Tel: 08033174900, 08037040360

**INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TENDER FOR THE
DESIGN, FINANCE, INSTALLATION AND OPERATION OF THE
MONITORING AND REVENUE ENHANCEMENT SYSTEM (MARES)
FOR THE NATIONAL LOTTERY REGULATORY COMMISSION.**

The Ministry of Special Duties through the National Lottery Regulatory Commission is desirous to enhance revenue generation by lottery operators in line with realities within the lottery section.

It is in this regard that interested, competent, experienced and reputable organizations (Local or International), Joint Venture or Consortium, with verifiable technical, and technological expertise are invited to put in place an effective Monitoring and Revenue Enhancement System to enhance revenue generation by lottery operators in Nigeria.

SCOPE OF PROJECT

The project is a design, finance, construct, install, and operate the Monitoring and Revenue Enhancement System pursuant to a concession contract.

**SUBMISSION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR
PREQUALIFICATION/TENDER BY ORGANIZATION**

In order to qualify to be considered for participation, as part of the Expression of Interest/Tender, each interested organization must supply the following documents stated hereinafter. Failure to submit any of the under-listed documents may lead to the disqualification of the applicant;

- Company Registration and Certificate of Incorporation
- Articles and Memorandum of Association
- Current Tax Clearance Certificate for the past three 3 years (where applicable).
- Details of staff strength including the Curriculum Vitae and Profile of key staff.
- Verifiable evidence of previous or relevant project undertaken, including scope, location and certificate of completion.
- Evidence of financial capability and banking support (Bank Reference).
- Evidence of payment of Non-refundable Expression of Interest fee of one Million Naira (N1,000,000.00) payable in Bank Draft in favour of National Lottery Regulatory

Commission.

- Evidence of ISO 9001 and ISO 27001 compliant policies and procedures and must be able to satisfy the National Lottery Regulatory Commission on this.
- Detail plan on how it can enable the National Lottery Regulatory commission to monitor the game of chance business effectively in Nigeria and generate revenue.
- The National Lottery Regulatory Commission reserve the right to verify the authenticity of any claims made in the prequalification bids submitted.

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

- The exercise is simply an Expression of Interest and invitation to bid.
- The expression of Interest shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of the Ministry of Special Duties/National Lottery Regulatory Commission nor shall it entitle any company to make any claims whatsoever by virtue of such company having responded to this advertisement.
- All cost incurred in the preparation and submission of the expression of Interest shall be borne entirely by the interested company.
- Only short-listed companies shall be invited for tendering.

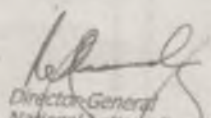
METHOD OF APPLICATION

The Expression of Interest documents shall be submitted in two (2) hard copies in a sealed envelop marked on the top left corner "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (MARES)" to be addressed to the Ag. Permanent Secretary, (Director, Parastatals) Ministry of Special Duties, The Presidency, First Floor, Federal Secretariat Room 3A 1, 89, Shehu Shagari Way, Maitama Abuja.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

This invitation for prequalification shall expire on Wednesday, 10th February 2010 by 12 noon.

Pre-qualified applicants will be notified within one (1) week of expiration.


Director General
National Lottery Regulatory Commission.

Merit House, Plot 22 Aguiyi Ironso Street, Maitama Abuja



NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

PAYMENT OF 2010 ANNUAL BAR PRACTICING FEES

TAKE NOTICE that the payment of 2010 Annual Bar Practicing Fees has commenced from 1st January 2010.

The three Banks approved to collect the Annual Practicing Fees with customized tellers and the account numbers are:

1. Guaranty Trust Bank Plc
Account No. 3232538262110
2. Intercontinental Bank Plc
Account No. 0300.001.3130
3. Access Bank Plc
Account No. 0090010015144

The payments shall be made in all the branches of the aforementioned Banks across the Nation.

SCHEDULE OF FEES:

	N
a. Senior Advocate of Nigeria and	20,000.00
b. Legal Practitioners of 15 years or more standing post-call	10,000.00
c. Legal Practitioners of 10 years or more standing, but less than 15 years post-call	7,500.00
d. Legal Practitioners of 5 years or more standing, but less than 10 years post-call	4,000.00
e. Legal Practitioners of less than 5 years post-call	2,000.00

It is instructive to note that due payment inconsonance with the NBA constitution is on or before the 31st March, 2010

Section 3(2) (a) (ii) provides "any member who fails or neglects to pay the prescribed Annual Practicing fees before the end of March in each year shall as long as he/she remains in default, have no right:

- (a) of audience in court.
- (b) to prepare, authenticate or frank any legal document including Memorandum and Articles of Association...

(iii) A failure or neglect to pay the Annual Practicing Fees, as and when due, shall be deemed to be an act of professional misconduct"

For further enquiries please contact:
NBA National Secretariat, Abuja –
(09)7800473, 6703623, 07098211663 or
NBA Lagos Office – (01)4618287, 4617649

DATED THE 6TH DAY OF JANUARY 2010

IBRAHIM EDDY MARK
GENERAL SECRETARY

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT WUSE, ZONE 5 COURT 9, ABUJA.
BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP: HON. JUSTICE O.O. GOODLUCK
SUIT NO: FCT/HC/CV/428/07**

BETWEEN:

ALHAJI BASHIR DALHATU : : } PLAINTIFF/APPLICANT
AND
 1. **NUHU RIBADU ESQ.,**
 2. **DAAR COMMUNICATIONS LTD : } DEFENDANTS**

CONSENT JUDGEMENT

Upon the application of T.T. Hyunde Esq. Learned Counsel for the Plaintiff praying this Court to enter Judgment as per the terms of settlement filed on the 16th September, 2009 and upon E.C. Dim Esq., learned Counsel for the 2nd Defendants concurring to T.T. Hyunde Esq., prayers, the terms of settlement contained in the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th July, 2009 between the Plaintiff and the 2nd Defendant are hereby enrolled as Consent Judgment as follows:-

1. The management of the 2nd Defendant, Daar Communication Plc shall air an unreserved apology to the Plaintiff on AIT and Ray Power FM 3 times a day for 7 consecutive days.
2. The same apology shall be published in a full page advert in the news segment of each of the following National dailies, that is, This-Day, Daily Trust, The Sun and the Leadership Newspapers.
3. The Newspaper Publication shall run consecutively for five days in all the aforementioned newspapers.
4. Notwithstanding, the fact that the case has been financially tasking and the Plaintiff's claim is for the sum of N2 Billion Naira, the Plaintiff hereby waives all financial claims against Chief Dokpesi in a gesture of friendship.

O. O. GOODLUCK, (SGN)
 HON. JUDGE
 16th September, 2009.

TERMS OF SETTLEMENT

WHEREAS

Africa Independent Television (AIT), a subsidiary of DAAR Communications PLC had on the 4th Day of November 2006 and on subsequent days thereafter aired a comment made by the immediate Past Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, alleging that Alhaji Bashir Dalhatu had swindled a Foreign Shipping Company and one Mr. Joseph Lopez Tapia to the tune of \$15,000,000 (Fifteen Million Dollars).

AND WHEREAS

The said Alhaji Bashir Dalhatu had since 5th February, 2007- while Mallam Nuhu Ribadu was still the Chairman of EFCC gone to court suing both Mallam Nuhu Ribadu and DAAR Communications Plc for Defamation of Character.

AND WHEREAS

From facts available to AIT, it appears that such allegation can neither be true nor proven, and that AIT aired the alleged Defamatory Statements without either giving Alhaji Bashir Dalhatu the opportunity of being heard or verifying the facts before publishing same.

NOW THEREFORE

DAAR Communication Plc hereby renders an unreserved apology to Alhaji Bashir Dalhatu.
 AND Alhaji Bashir Dalhatu has graciously accepted the said apology without any financial considerations and has consequently agreed to withdraw the case against DAAR Communication Plc ONLY, while proceeding with the case against Mallam Nuhu Ribadu.

IN CONCLUSION

This information shall serve as notice to the General Public, particularly the Family, Friends, Colleagues and Associates of Alhaji Bashir Dalhatu, before whom the said publications had demeaned him.

MR. TONY ANEGBE AKIOTU
 GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR,
 DAAR COMMUNICATIONS PLC

ALHAJI BASHIR DALHATU
 (WALIN DUTSE)

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536



GOVERNOR Ali Modu Sheriff of Borno State signing the 2010 appropriation bill in Maiduguri

India to invest \$359m in 2 oil blocks in Nigeria

INDIA is to invest 359 million dollars in two Nigerian oil blocs, Mr Mahesh Sachdev, the country's High Commissioner to Nigeria, has said. The two blocks, OPL 279 and OPL 285, are being jointly explored by Indian joint venture company of ONGC Videsh and Lakshmi Mittal's Mittal Investments Sarl (MIS), known as ONGC Mittal Energy Ltd, incorporated in Cyprus. The exploration for the blocs, which are located in the Gulf of Guinea, is for five years, from 2007 to 2012, Sachdev told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja on Wednesday.

He said that funding of 359 million dollars to ONGC Videsh Ltd, overseas arm, for the execution of the first exploration phase in the two Nigerian deepwater blocks, had been endorsed by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). He added that the budgeted estimates for the first phase of exploration included signature bonus and acquisition cost.

Also, the envoy said that a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU, had been signed between

ASPL will suggest short courses to the Ministry to be offered to graduate students in Nigeria so that their employment potential would be enhanced considerably

FG disburses N300bn subsidy to oil marketers

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Federal Government has said that it has disbursed over N300 billion subsidy to oil marketers in the country between August 2009 and January this year.

Executive Secretary of the Petroleum Product Pricing Regulating Agency (PPPRA), Abiodun Ibikunle disclosed this yesterday during a tour of oil facilities belonging to Folawiyo energy Limited, MRS energy and Capital Oil and Gas in Lagos.

He added that the agency still has an outstanding N27 billion to disburse to marketers, adding that the government would strive to pay subsidy to the marketers promptly from this year and beyond.

Speaking, Chairman of the agency, Senator Ahmadu Alli stated that the Federal government was ready to partner private companies to build refineries in Nigeria, calling on all companies to take advantage of the on-going reforms in the oil industry and build

refineries.

Alli, a former Chairman of the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP), on Tuesday declared that the fuel scarcity is one of the indicators that the Federal Government has failed.

Nigeria, the biggest oil exporter in the world has been wallowing in fuel shortage for over six months now while the Ministry of Petroleum Resources and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) have organized what analysts believed to be a usual talk-shop.

Alli, the new Chairman of the Board of Petroleum Product Pricing Regulating Agency (PPPRA) spoke during a tour of the oil facilities belonging to the NIPCO Plc in Lagos stressing that it is no news that the Federal Government is a failure with its inability to check the fuel scarcity.

"We all know that the government has failed," Alli retorted pointing out that unless "we get up and refine our products by ourselves we will never be out of this problem (of fuel scarcity)."

Alli was received by the Tunji Adeniji who represented the Managing Director of

the NIPCO Plc.

Adeniji however, declared that NIPCO, an indigenous company was planning to build a refinery in Nigeria with capacity to refine 100, 000 barrels of oil per day.

The former PDP Chair stated that the scarcity has rendered the import license given to marketers useless. "We all know what happens to the banking sector, with banks jittery to give loans, marketers who have licenses do not have funds to import product," he said.

He expressed confidence that the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) will, after passage, empowers the PPPRA to look after the nation's downstream business and later allow the agency to solve the scarcity problem.

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), which was hitherto responsible for importation of 47 per cent out of the 32 million litres of fuel consumed in Nigeria daily has been single handedly importing 100 per cent due to the withdrawal of oil marketers from the importation.

a Mumbai-based consulting and human resources specialist, Acubes Solutions (ACPL), to offer skills development and enhancement programmes to graduate students in Nigeria.

He said the MoU was signed recently in New Delhi by Nigeria's Minister of Labour and Productivity, Mr Adetokunbo kayode, and his Indian counterpart, Mr Mallikarjun Kharge. Sachdev explained further that the programme had been launched under the employment generation pilot scheme of the Ministry of Labour and Productivity with the objective of training more than 12,000 students in 2011.

"Based on the success of the pilot project, ASPL will suggest short courses to the Ministry to be offered to graduate students in Nigeria so that their employment potential would be enhanced considerably, primarily in the IT and telecom domains," the envoy said. (NAN).

CBN EXCHANGE RATES				BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES	
11/1/2009					
	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)	BUYING	
CFA	0.3014	0.3114	0.3214	DOLLAR.....	N152
DANISH KRONER	28.7781	28.8757	28.9733	EURO.....	N220
EURO	214.231	214.9577	215.6843	POUNDS.....	N250
POUNDS STERLING	238.4799	239.2888	240.0977	SELLING	
RIYAL	39.3093	39.4427	39.576	DOLLAR.....	N154
SDR	231.8759	232.6624	233.4489	EURO.....	N222
SWISS FRANC	145.003	145.4948	145.9866	POUNDS.....	N253
US DOLLAR	147.41	147.91	148.41	Source: S&J Bureau de Change, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja.	
WAUA	228.6019	229.3773	230.1527		
YEN	1.595	1.6004	1.6058		

Stock Market Index	
Date :	Wednesday, January 20, 2010
Index :	22,231.66
Deal :	24,265
Volume :	667,864,862
Value :	N 2,347,942,555.88
Cap. :	N 5,325,847,617,989.17

Business/Agric

Poor sales mar local chicken business in Kano

From Halima Musa, Kano

THE low patronage of local chicken by buyers is crumbling the poultry business in Kano. For their own personal reasons, people now prefer buying the hybrid chickens; popularly known as agric fowls to the local ones. This new development, according to findings is posing a great threat to the local chicken business in Kano. Before the agric chicken; local chicken was the main source of poultry meat for many people. Either on ordinary days or on festivities days, people buy local chicken to prepare their own meals.

Malam Abdullahi Ahmad Zango, chairman, Kasuwar Rimi Yan Kaji development association, in an exclusive interview with *Daily Trust* said the sale was low because people prefer the agric chickens for its meat and convenience.

"Most chicken buyers go for the agric chicken because it has more meat and the way it is being packaged makes its preparation more convenient," he said.

He attributed the problem to the fact that most of the people buying the agric chicken were the rich people that belong to the class of the elites and politicians, saying this group of people prefers modern things to the local ones. "The poor people don't buy chickens, it is the rich people among the elites and the politicians that buy chicken and unfortunately this group of people prefer the modern to the local ones which is sweeter and healthier," he posited.

Zango added that the booming period for the local chicken business was during such festivities like sallah and maulud. "We make big sales during sallah and maulud. This is the only time that the poor people save money to buy the chicken so that they could celebrate the important occasions."

Explaining the business, the chairman said they have been selling chicken in the Rimi market for the past thirty years. It started at the old market and when the market was relocated to its present site, the business was also relocated to the new site.

He revealed that their major source of local chicken was Bauchi State. "Even though we do get chicken from the state, our major source is Bauchi state. It is only in Bauchi state that you can always get local chickens in large quantity at any time of the year," he said. According to him, chickens in Kano State were seasonal, mostly during the harmattan and raining seasons.

He further explained that to start the chicken business fully, one would need not less than twenty thousand. "To start this business one will need not less than N20,000. This will enable a person to buy a number of chickens, transport it and buy a cage for putting the fowls in," he said.

He added that to start the business, the beginner must get the consent of the association, and the association has to be satisfied with all the information he would be required to give.

Daily Trust also learnt that people that have interest in doing



the business but have no fund to start can start by performing meaner works, such as slaughtering, plucking and cutting the chicken into pieces. To have ones chicken slaughtered and cut to pieces he pays N20 for each chicken. Apart from the N20 paid for each chicken, such organs like the liver, the kidney, the leg, intestines and the heads are left for the workers and they in turn sale it to people that come solely for these organs.

Depending on the number, these organs are packed in large quantity and sold to food sellers at the cost of N500 to N1000. *Daily Trust* further learnt that there are people that prefer these organs to the real meat, and they go to these food sellers to enjoy the delicacies. A chicken is sold at N500 to N700 depending on its size as against the agric chicken that sale for a thousand or more.

It is from this meaner work that a person interested in the business would begin to save so that he can start the business

in earnest.

Asked how they had fare during the bird flu epidemic, the chairman said they were compelled to close shops until when it was over. He stated that most of them stopped making fresh purchase; they tried to sale what was on ground and later closed their shops and waited for the whirlwind to pass.

Zango was however, optimistic that with time the market would bounce back to life because people would come to realise that it was better to consume the local chicken than the agric ones. He added that the local chicken was more nutritious, sweeter and harmless because they were not fed by chemically prepared food.

He noted that the local chickens were mostly fed from the remnants of foods cooked for human consumptions and even where a special food was prepared for them, it was prepared from the local foods available in the area.

FG revives 600 hectares of land for grazing

From Aliyu Machika, Katsina

THE Federal Government has said that it has already revived 600 hectares of land in Katsina State for the purpose of postural grazing.

The FG is also working towards the completion of about 43 grazing dams for pastoralists as a means of recalling the Fulani herdsmen back to their original location to develop agricultural sector especially in the North.

Taking round delegates of the National Committee on Pastoralists to the grazing sites, the Deputy Projects Manager of the National Livestock

Projects Division Dr. Aminu A. Umar said 400 hectares have already been fenced for easy control of the livestock while the remaining 200 where yet to be fenced.

According to Dr. Umar the sites where located at Ruma in Batsari, Runka in Safana and Kankara in Kankara Local Government Areas. Both sites are to be used by the pastoralists.

He disclosed that land encroachers have already entered about 10,000 hectares of the 122,000 hectares belonging to the federal government despite the warning against such encroachment.

'25 per cent of Northern pastoralists now in South'

By Aliyu Machika, Katsina

OVER 25% of pastoralists from northern Nigeria are now residing permanently in different areas of the southern part of the country, a committee report has said.

The report also revealed that about 45% of livestock farming has been taken over by the south, thereby posing a threat of short supply from the region to other places.

Secretary of the Sultan Committee on Farmers/Cattle Rearers Conflict Resolution Alhaji Saleh Bayari made this known in Katsina

yesterday while on a tour of the projects being executed by both states and federal government on grazing facilities for pastoralists.

He expressed worry that if northern Nigeria did not wake up to its responsibility, the south will no doubt take away the whole pastoralists.

According to him, in the past, the pastoralists use to leave the southern region after rainy season due to problem of Tse-tse fly, saying that due to intervention from southern states government, the problem has since been solved.

He said, "The Sultan's Committee on Farmers/Cattle Rearers Conflict Resolution has conducted a survey and found out that the north is loosing so much in terms of both pastoralists and livestock to the south. If our government especially states government do not intervene we will soon be buying from them which is too damaging to us."

"You cannot imagine a situation where the southern government is giving the pastoralists funds and other assistants to take care of their animals and livestock.

They also buy chemicals and fumigate the bushes where the pastoralists live and feed".

The report also revealed that about 45% of livestock farming has been taken over by the south, thereby posing a threat of short supply from the region to other places.

Business

Nigeria switches to energy saving bulbs

By Romoke W. Ahmad

IN the continuing effort to rectify power problem in the country, Energy Commission of Nigeria has continued with the replacement of energy consuming bulbs with energy saving lamps in Abuja and some states of the federation.

The lamps vary from 18watts, 14watts and 8watts that are equivalent to 100, 60 and 40 watts of the energy consuming bulbs respectively. The lamps, according to the residents of estates are brighter than incandescent lamps, conducive for eyes, and durable because

each lamp has 6,000 hours of life span and it does not emit heat like other lamps.

This was made known by Engineer Ahmad Tijani Ahmad, scientific-officer, energy commission of Nigeria during the continuation of the house to house replacement exercise of one million compact fluorescent lamps which took place at the weekend in Abuja and some parts of the country.

Ahmad said the initiative for this exercise came up in 2007 at a workshop organized by the Energy Commission of Nigeria, world energy council, Nigeria national committee, and commit-

tee on energy efficiency in Nigeria at the world energy council on energy efficiency in Nigeria.

"It was concluded at the workshop to embark on using the compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) in the member states and Nigeria through the energy commission of Nigeria, Cuban government and ECOWAS decide to start implementing the outcome that reflect the use of CFL while the trio signed a memorandum of understanding to start up the project which consist of one million CFL to be replaced within Nigeria with specific focus in the FCT," Ahmad said.

Banks chiefs say sack of staff may continue

CHIEF Executive Officers (CEOs) of banks on Tuesday in Abuja gave an indication that the ongoing sack of staff may continue, basing their action on unfavourable business conditions.

The Chief Executive Officers of Access Bank Plc, Mr Aig Imoukede and Finbank Plc, Mrs Suzanne Iroche, told newsmen that the decision to cut down allowances and reduce staff strength were taken to reposition the banks.

Imoukede said the banks had done their cost analysis as well as revenue projections and realised that it would be difficult to stay in business with a large number of staff.

According to him, the non-performing portfolio of banks had become very high and the institutions had to find a way of cutting costs.

"Even within the Bankers Committee, we discussed the realities of the challenges that face people who are no longer employed, particularly at this time and everything that is done must be done with a human face.

"Through cognition of the fact that when the industries are taken, the decision that must be bound, they should be prepared to welcome back people who are in the job market.

"But definitely, we are

extremely concerned about our colleagues who may find themselves out of employment," he said.

Iroche said the decision to right size was not collectively taken by the banks, adding that each bank looked at its profile and decided on reducing staff strength.

"This is not something you want to do forever. You want to do it now and get over it," he said.

The Director of Banking Supervision, Mr Sam Oni, said the decision by the banks to cut down the number of staff was not directed by the CBN.

He said the decisions of the banks were purely business-based.(NAN).

Lawmaker takes N200m MDG projects to Yobe

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

HOUSE of Representatives member Khadija Bukar Abba Ibrahim said she has lobbied the Millennium Development Goals office to execute some key projects valid at about two hundred million naira in Yobe State.

Khadija, who represents Damaturu, Gujba, Gulani and Tarmuwa federal constituency of Yobe State, said the projects include six standard boreholes spread across the four local government areas in her constituency valid at about N100 million which aim at boosting water supply in the area.

She also said she influenced the supply of hospital equipments to two primary health centres each at the cost of N45 million also through the MDG to enhance health care delivery.

The lawmaker also said using her membership of the House Committee on Communications she facilitated the establishment of an ICT centre at a secondary

school in Damaturu so as to train pupils on internet based educational research and also provide them access to electronic study materials.

The lawmaker equally noted that she has lobbied the MTN Foundation towards the building of a Kidney Dialysis centre at the General Hospital also in Damaturu, the Yobe capital which will assist people with kidney related ailments.

The representative said her focus in 2010 year is to partner with the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) to train youths on vocational trades after which she would provide them with tools to start up their own trades. She recalled that she had donated 430 telephony centres with each comprising sets of tables, chairs, an umbrella and mobile phones to some youths while she had also given out 43 giant size husking machines with each allocated to women under cooperatives in each ward for commercial husking of rice as source of employment.

FAAN completes emergency centre for MMIA

From Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

AS part of its preparation to meet the certification requirements of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), towards attaining Category One status for the Lagos Airport, the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria has completed the construction of an Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos.

The multi million naira World Bank assisted project is a control centre that would coordinate emergency situations such as fire rescue, bomb threat, hijack rescue operation or terrorist activities at airports. The availability of an EOC is a basic requirement for the certification of international airport by ICAO.

According to FAAN's Managing Director Mr. Richard Aisuebeogun, the project is 95% completed in MMIA and Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, while that of Malam Aminu Kano International Airport (MAKIA) Kano is 50 percent completed.

He explained that provision has been made for an Emergency Operation Centre at the Port Harcourt International Airport, Omagwa in the 2010 budget.

Mr. Aisuebeogun, who said this while outlining the World Bank assisted projects in FAAN to the visiting World Bank supervision mission at the Authority's headquarters in Lagos, said all the projects were interde-

pendent on safety and security at airports across the country.

According to him, the provision of CCTV is of great importance especially with the recent terrorist threats in the aviation world. In this direction, he appealed to the World Bank to ensure the early completion of the project, stressing that there was need to improve on the technology of the CCTV for optimum performance.

The FAAN boss hinted that the provision of equipment for electronic identity card system and badges would assist the Authority in identifying those who are barred from the restricted areas of the airport.

He however appealed to the World Bank to improve on the level of performance of the project by providing more logistic support to the Project Steering Committee to ensure the completion of the entire project in 2010.

The FAAN's Managing Director, also urged the World Bank team to assist the Authority in the provision of equipment and other related materials for the mitigation of bird strike hazard at the country's airports.

He also appealed to the bank to assist in provision of additional 3D body scanners for all the international airports in the country.

The leader of the team, Mr. Pierre Pozzo di Borgo in his response said the supervision mission was in Nigeria on routine supervision mission of the bank carried out twice in a year.

MISSING PERSON



Chief Oluwole Adelana

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that Chief Oluwole Adelana of the National Planning Commission, the Presidency, Abuja was last seen on Sunday 3, January 2010 at about 9:00pm around Area 1, Garki, Abuja. Chief Oluwole is of average height, dark in complexion and speaks English and Yoruba fluently. Anyone with useful information on his whereabouts should please contact the nearest police station or any of the following phone numbers:

08034484762, 08133139156, 07033229634, 07058019014, 08037872585



MEDIA TRUST

7TH ANNUAL TRUST DIALOGUE

PROGRAMME

- 10:00 a.m. All guests are seated
- 10:10 a.m. Arrival of Guest Speakers and Special Guests
- 10:20 a.m. Arrival of Chairman of the Occasion, **Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR**
- 10:25 a.m. Arrival of Special Guest of Honour
- 10:30 a.m. National Anthem
- 10:35 a.m. Introduction of Guests
- 10:45 a.m. Address of Welcome by Chairman/CEO, Media Trust Ltd, - **Malam Kabiru A. Yusuf**
- 10:55 a.m. Keynote Address by Special Guest of Honour - **Hajia Turai Yar'Adua**, First Lady, Fed. Rep. of Nigeria
- 11:10 a.m. Opening Remarks by Chairman of the occasion
- 11:25 a.m. Dialogue ! Dialogue!! Dialogue!!!



LIMITED

Theme:
**The African Woman
 and Politics**

AMME

Speakers:

- Hajiya Naja'atu Mohammed
- Ms. Samia Nkrumah
- Senator Kofo Bucknor - Akerele
- Winnie Madhikizela-Mandela

- 12:45 p.m. Presentation of the 6th Dialogue Book
- 1:00 p.m. Comments from guests and audience.
- 1:30 p.m. Closing Remarks by Chairman of the occasion
- 1:45 p.m. Vote of Thanks by MD/COO, Media Trust Ltd,
Alhaji Isiaq A. Ajibola
- 1:50 p.m. Closing Prayers
- 1:55 p.m. National Anthem
- 2:00 p.m. Guests depart

Date: Thursday, 21 January, 2010

Venue: Congress Hall, Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja

Time: 10.00 am



Good Investor, Good Citizen



Your investment in FGN Bonds is a good store of value and a solid saving for various purposes: marriage expenses, school fees, building or buying a house, starting a business, setting up a foundation trust, funding a community project etc.



By investing in FGN Bonds you are a patriot, helping to achieve the Seven-Point Agenda of President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua.

For further details, contact the DMO, any Primary Dealer Market Maker (PDMM), Bank, Discount House or Stock Broker.

Debt Management Office
The Presidency,
 Plot 447/448, Constitution Avenue,
 Central Business District,
 P.M.B. 532, Garki, Abuja - Nigeria.
 Tel: 234-9-675629. Fax: 234-9-5237396
 E-mail: corporateaffairs@dmo.gov.ng
 Website: <http://www.dmo.gov.ng>



Business/Agric

Rice importation and govt recklessness



SAYYADI Abba Ruma Agric Minister

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

LAST year, when there was global shortfall in rice production, the human race panicked and there was the cry of 'food crisis' on every lip. At that time major rice producing countries such as Brazil, Thailand and India reduced importation, thereby exposing the fragility of food sufficiency in several countries especially in the third world nations such as Nigeria. Like one in slumber, authorities in Nigeria awoke to the reality of poor food storage policy and that the few silos that dot the country are most of the times empty. Nigeria spends over N25 billion to import food annually.

It was at that time that the Senate reacted by setting up an ad-hoc committee which investigated the reasons behind shortage of rice and by extent the much touted food crisis in the country. The Committee which was chaired by Senator Abdullahi Idris (PDP, Gombe) conducted public hearings on the matter and also went on tour across the country. Though the committee is yet to table its report for debate, there were a lot of revelations during the sessions.

For instance, several contractors of abandoned silos were exposed to have collected money for the projects but absconded. It was also revealed that instead of releasing grains in the silos to the market at peak periods to crash prices, the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) prefers to share the grains to traditional rulers and prominent people who will in turn ensure it trickles down to their followers and loyalists.

On its part, the President Umaru Musa Yar'adua administration reacted to the rice shortage by releasing the sum of N80 billion as emergency fund for importation of rice into the country. The money was sourced from the Natural Resources Fund which is to take care of emergencies. That act widely criticized by several professionals and technocrats as an unwise spending arguing that the money would have been invested into boosting the nation's agric sector. On a second thought, government denied direct importation explaining that the fund is to be invested in the agriculture sector while it waived all duties on rice importation. Whichever way, the government utilised public fund in boosting rice production in other countries while Nigeria is left as a consumer nation.

However, a tour of some major irrigation projects across the country exposes the factors militating against sufficient rice production in the country. Recently the Senate Committee on Water Resources visited River Basins Development Authorities (RBDAs) in South-East and South-South zones as part of its oversight function. The visit uncovered the inefficiency of government offi-

cially managing key agricultural production projects. The tour took senators to the fertile irrigation land at the Lower Anambra Irrigation Project at Omor in Anambra State.

The project was commissioned in 1987 with the target of producing large quantity of standard rice for food sufficiency in the country and possibly for export. The Anambra-Imo Rivers Basin Development Authority which manages the irrigation project had cleared 3850 hectares of farm land to be allocated to local rice farmers. A dam was also constructed with pumping machines to supply water through the canals all across the farm land to ensure all year rice production.

To complement the expected large production, a rice mill was constructed with a capacity to turn out 5.5 tonnes of rice per hour. But the project has joined the array of failed projects that dot the country. During the senators' visit, the entire farm land is overgrown with weeds as there is no longer dry season farming. This is as a result of collapse of the pumping machine that takes water from the dam for supply through the canals.

The canals have also been blocked by silt. The local farmers now only rely on rainfall and this has defeated the aim of the founders of the project. Worse still, the rice mill at Omor has not milled a single grain of rice since 2004 when the machines developed faults.

Explaining the failure of the project to senators, Managing Director of the river basin, Engineer C.A Uzoho said contract for rehabilitation of the rice mill was awarded in 2004 at the cost of N1.3 billion. But that government failed to release funds for completion and even when allocation is made in the budget for the project, the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources prefers to short change the irrigation project.

He said in the 2008 budget the project was to receive 300 million for rehabilitation of the abandoned rice mill but that the money was released to the ministry but was never remitted to the river basin while in the 2009 budget a zero allocation was made in respect of the irrigation project. Engr. Uzoho said the project now require another N2.3 billion for rehabilitation due to variation of the contract sum brought about by higher inflation rate.

One would have expected that, government should invest part of the N80 billion special rice fund on the Omor irrigation project to increase local production, but nothing was released for turnaround maintenance of the mill. So, as government was empowering rice farmers in India, USA, Brazil and other countries, local rice farmers in the country got no encouragement. Consequently, the

local farmers continue to have poor harvest.

But in real terms, the project was conceptualised as to generate revenue and save government the cost of running the machines and maintenance of the water pumps and canals. There is provision for collection of payments on plots of land while farmers were expected to also pay some amount for water supply drawn from the canals. The rice mill was to serve as collection point where farmers were to take their rice produce for processing. This was to be done through cooperatives while the irrigation project mop up the rice and then pay the farmers after deducting cost of production. By the original arrangement, the irrigation was never intended to be a liability on government.

Reverse is however the case at the moment. Even as the project is redundant, government continue to pay salaries of many civil servants attached to the project. The managing director said the farmers no longer take rice to the mill for processing. This could be as a result of the fact that the river basin has failed to provide them with basic requirement to boost their harvest. Uzoho said local rice mills in the area have pushed the government rice mill reputed to be the largest in West Africa out of business.

The Japanese technology used in construction of the irrigation provided for diesel powered machines and at the time construction diesel was sold at about 80 kobo per litre. With Nigeria as a major oil producer, the Japanese never expected shortage of diesel. At present one of the reasons for the collapse of the machines is lack of diesel. As a contingency measure, the technology also enables the rice mill to be powered by the husk removed from the rice. This is also not possible as no rice is being milled.

Members of the committee were stunned by the revelation that the river basin has not been remitting Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) to government while the whole landscape of the irrigation project is covered by untended weed. Chairman of the committee, Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw queried the management of the irrigation project saying the founders of the project anticipated a self sustaining project that could generate revenue and remit part of it to government. Senators rejected the request of the management for allocation of N2.3 billion in the 2010 budget for rehabilitation of the mill.

A member of the committee, Senator Satty Davies Gogwim said there is no need to rehabilitate the mill. According to him, since the farmers no longer take their rice to the mill for processing and there is no longer dry season farming, the management will find it difficult to convince government to release funds for rehabilitation.

As the committee travelled through Enugu, Anambra, Ebonyi, Imo, Rivers, Akwa-Ibom and Cross River States inspecting dams and irrigation projects, the story is that of abundant potentials for food production thwarted by poor management and the attendant failed projects. Nigeria continues to spend over N25 billion annually on importation of various food items, even as it has the potentials not only to ensure food sufficiency for the people but to also export to other countries.



THE abandoned rice mill at Omor in Anambra State.

Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	QoQ. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
ADSWITCH PLC	2	2.30	40,000	87,600.00
CAPITAL OIL PLC	7	0.53	122,019,000	64,670,340.00
SECTOR Totals	9		122,059,000	64,757,940.00
AGRICULTURE				
AFPRINT NIGERIA PLC	2	0.86	376,925	324,155.50
FTN COCOA PROCES. PLC	23	0.67	1,545,500	1,031,579.50
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	13	0.65	426,100	278,469.00
OKOMU O. PALM COY PLC	1	22.75	864	18,679.68
PRESKO PLC	5	5.60	35,600	189,392.00
SECTOR Totals	44		2,384,989	1,842,275.68
AIR SERVICES				
AIRL/SERV. & LOG. PLC	15	2.56	453,950	1,097,618.00
NIG. AV. HAND. COY PLC	82	8.82	1,053,862	9,077,428.15
SECTOR Totals	97		1,507,812	10,175,046.15
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	28	0.50	8,384,885	4,192,442.50
R.T. BRISCOE (NIG.) PLC	9	6.27	20,233	120,588.68
SECTOR Totals	37		8,405,118	4,313,031.18
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	188	8.05	10,725,135	86,561,534.81
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	66	2.90	5,138,530	15,281,239.39
DIAMOND BANK PLC	104	7.80	9,281,087	72,113,127.85
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	9	9.60	213,322	2,047,891.20
FIRST CITY MON. BANK PLC	59	8.55	3,123,765	26,926,052.82
FIDELITY BANK PLC	181	2.51	17,368,677	44,657,163.62
FIRST BANK OF NIG. PLC	830	14.80	27,908,619	401,871,255.84
FINBANK PLC	119	0.64	21,496,204	13,527,849.96
GTBANK PLC	377	16.49	8,312,863	140,167,859.10
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	32	8.00	1,281,374	10,121,035.40
INTERCONT. BANK PLC.	102	2.02	1,788,088	3,611,937.76
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	202	2.13	7,733,971	16,451,256.91
BANK PHB PLC	486	1.96	6,108,654	12,160,439.65
SKYE BANK PLC.	115	5.93	2,528,760	15,041,401.54
SPRING BANK PLC	29	0.86	3,549,093	3,047,109.42
STERLING BANK PLC	57	1.37	7,059,104	9,886,493.93
UNT. B. FOR AFR. PLC.	182	11.22	16,674,175	185,318,208.00
UN/BANK OF NIG. PLC	210	6.41	3,091,106	19,698,446.09
UNITYBANK PLC	43	0.92	24,473,646	23,365,417.72
WEMA BANK PLC	47	1.08	4,269,737	4,625,865.25
ZENITH BANK PLC	280	15.49	6,853,996	104,962,798.97
SECTOR Totals	3,718		188,979,906	1,211,444,385.23
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	87	13.95	2,388,049	33,127,772.20
BEN. CEMENT COY PLC	39	50.45	822,233	41,343,789.61
CEMENT CO. OF N/NIG. PLC	41	14.80	531,994	7,568,648.25
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	49	30.00	383,006	11,543,887.89
SECTOR Totals	216		4,125,282	93,584,097.95
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS NIG. PLC	1	3.36	229,783	772,070.88
CHEM. & ALL. PROD. PLC	5	28.00	8,736	233,777.60
DN MEYER PLC	2	5.13	1,048,920	5,380,959.60
NIG.-GERM. CHEM. PLC	4	15.04	400	5,716.00
SECTOR Totals	12		1,287,839	6,392,524.08
COMMERCIAL/SERV.				
AFROMEDIA PLC	5	0.67	520,000	334,900.00
AVILLE INVEST. PLC	4	0.50	158,000	79,000.00
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	7	2.41	96,160	231,745.60
SECTOR Totals	16		774,160	645,645.60
COMP. & OFFICE EQUIP.				
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	19	0.60	1,168,000	693,180.00
SECTOR Totals	19		1,168,000	693,180.00
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC	20	2.54	1,107,939	2,814,165.06
PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	53	25.00	503,694	12,594,317.91
TRANS. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	58	0.52	16,657,180	8,524,031.50
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	40	40.00	539,583	21,585,463.37
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	67	25.16	2,061,417	51,418,333.43
SECTOR Totals	238		20,889,808	96,936,311.27
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	41	3.52	2,062,939	7,432,224.10
G. CAPPAL PLC	1	14.46	25,000	343,500.00
JULIUS B. NIGERIA PLC	6	28.50	11,521	307,788.00
M/VERSE RESOURCES PLC	4	0.50	225,500	112,750.00
ROADS NIGERIA PLC	5	3.46	110,300	381,638.00
SECTOR Totals	57		2,415,060	8,577,900.10
FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOB.				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	11	29.40	6,261	184,847.10
BIG TREAT PLC	15	0.90	491,827	453,510.26
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	33	14.11	402,285	5,676,241.35
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	237	12.60	3,438,638	43,700,294.05
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	69	15.00	3,038,256	45,582,927.97
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	37	38.00	98,836	3,698,383.80
HONEYWELL F. MILL PLC	4	8.07	2,600	21,270.00
P. S. MANDRIDES PLC	1	5.95	4,120	23,319.20
NAT. SALT COY NIG. PLC	90	6.65	3,530,249	23,411,208.59
NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC	23	26.00	140,727	3,656,466.39
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	26	252.00	95,584	25,213,549.95
N/NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC	1	21.80	473	9,795.83

What is Common Shares or Common Stock

Securities that represent part ownership in a company and generally carry voting privileges. Common shareholders may be paid dividends, but only after preferred shareholders are paid. Common shareholders are last in line after creditors, debt holders and preferred shareholders to claim any of a company's assets in the event of liquidation.

Google

TANTALIZERS PLC	19	0.85	770,550	659,549.50
UTC NIGERIA PLC	3	0.90	2,000	1,800.00
SECTOR Totals	569		12,022,406	152,293,163.99
FOOTWEAR				
LENNARDS NIGERIA PLC.	1	4.05	2,069,008	8,379,482.40
SECTOR Totals	1		2,069,008	8,379,482.40
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	10	1.08	144,394	155,945.52
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	39	1.97	2,502,881	4,918,075.57
GLAXOSM. CONS. NIG. PLC	19	22.01	123,529	2,718,742.90
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	15	5.47	114,674	627,136.78
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	10	1.68	158,879	260,792.33
UN/DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	21	0.65	2,184,274	1,408,731.56
SECTOR Totals	114		5,228,631	10,089,424.66
IND/DOMESTIC PROD.				
ALUMACO PLC		25.02	51,000	1,276,020.00
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC	5	0.48	422,333	203,899.84
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	33	5.54	1,268,252	6,766,055.60
SECTOR Totals	39		1,741,585	8,245,975.44
INF. & COMM. TECHN.				
CHAMS PLC	28	0.68	2,311,579	1,554,949.81
E-TRANZACT INT. PLC	5	6.08	2,100,000	12,768,000.00
MASS TEL. INNOV. NIG. PLC	3	0.50	6,533,000	3,266,500.00
STARCOMMS PLC	11	2.00	87,457	177,710.58
SECTOR Totals	47		11,032,036	17,762,160.39
INSURANCE				
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	67	0.97	1,897,394	1,822,770.09
CONTINENT. REINSUR. PLC	15	1.05	1,395,235	1,463,173.25
CORNERSTONE INS. CO. PLC.	20	0.54	2,942,210	1,605,717.40
CUST. AND ALLIED INS. PLC	24	2.80	24,040,287	67,327,380.69
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	3	0.50	51,000	25,500.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	3	0.61	86,500	52,765.00
GUAR. TRUST ASSUR. PLC	30	2.10	1,843,300	3,883,115.00
INT. ENERGY INS. COY PLC	34	0.64	3,844,142	2,522,724.96
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	32	0.54	1,974,650	1,078,156.00
L/UNION & ROCK INS. PLC.	7	0.56	231,779	129,518.45
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	38,500	19,250.00
MUTUAL BEN. ASSUR. PLC	22	0.64	2,284,934	1,462,357.76
N.E.M. INS. CO. (NIG.) PLC.	23	0.55	875,362	485,931.84
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	5	0.96	253,897	243,275.68
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	3	3.80	64,000	231,040.00
REG. ALLIANCE INS. COY PLC	5	0.50	12,967,800	6,483,900.00
SOVEREIGN TRUST INS. PLC	3	0.50	38,500	19,250.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	1	1.04	2,500,000	2,600,000.00
STAND. ALLIANCE INS. PLC	18	0.58	518,750	300,494.25
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	13	0.78	585,700	462,100.00
UNITY KAP. ASSURANCE PLC	3	1.78	158,000,000	281,240,000.00
UNIVERSAL INS. COY PLC	10	0.50	401,984	200,992.00
INTERCONT. WAPIC INS. PLC	21	0.99	1,175,922	1,129,273.35
SECTOR Totals	364		218,011,846	374,788,685.72
MEDIA				
DAAR COMMUNIC. PLC	15	0.52	180,567	96,106.18
SECTOR Totals	15		180,567	96,106.18
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ASO SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	24	0.66	2,420,000	1,594,900.00
RES. SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	5	0.50	802,000	401,000.00
UN/HOMESAV. & LOANS PLC	32	0.98	1,222,512	1,188,972.04
SECTOR Totals	61		4,444,512	3,184,872.04
OTHER FINANCIAL INST.				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC.	37	1.24	3,005,000	3,726,900.00
DEAP CAP. MAN. & TRUST PLC	2	2.02	23,000	46,460.00
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	23	0.59	21,875,787	13,035,355.14
SECTOR Totals	62		24,903,787	16,808,715.14
PACKAGING				
NIG. BAG MAN. COY PLC	17,845	1.59	20,381,172	32,804,074.38
SECTOR Totals	17,845		20,381,172	32,804,074.38
PETROLEUM(MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	58	36.50	443,986	16,012,576.54
BECO PETROL. PROD. PLC	14	2.29	82,308	180,171.44
CHEVRON OIL NIGERIA PLC	4	69.79	5,410	378,448.00
CONOIL PLC	28	33.57	253,087	8,501,111.66
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC	37	6.10	621,871	3,811,360.78
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	12	99.95	11,020	1,064,530.00
OANDO PLC	21	93.99	92,291	8,674,431.09
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	17	150.00	57,332	8,610,132.50
SECTOR Totals	191		1,567,305	47,232,762.01
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
ACADEMY PRESS PLC.	1	6.87	2,000	13,060.00
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	4	9.00	35,400	302,670.00
SECTOR Totals	5		37,400	315,730.00
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROP. DEV. CO. PLC	8	20.50	63,987	1,302,503.50
SECTOR Totals	8		63,987	1,302,503.50
TEXTILES				
UNIT. NIGERIA TEXT. PLC	6	1.81	274,940	497,641.40
SECTOR Totals	6		274,940	497,641.40
THE FOREIGN LISTINGS				
ECOBANK TRANS. INCORP.	24	14.36	1,078,978	16,128,700.00
SECTOR Totals	24		1,078,978	16,128,700.00
OVERALL Totals	24,265		667,864,862	2,347,942,555.88

GAINERS

NBC	1.00
NB	0.89
CADBURY	0.67
CCNN	0.65

LOSERS

ALUMACO	1.31
AP	0.60
ECOBANK	0.50
ZENITHBANK	0.44



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATION AND PRISONS PENSION OFFICE GWAGWALADA ABUJA

This is to further inform all the retired / downsized officers and the ex-Biafran Pardonees of the three paramilitary services (Customs, Immigration and Prisons) that the nationwide Verification Exercise currently going on has been extended to enable pensioners living in the rural areas turn up and be verified. The extended date for the exercise is as follows:

The exercise is re-scheduled to hold as follows:

Date: Thursday 21st January - Friday 29th January 2010

Time: 8.00am to 5pm daily

Venue: To hold at eighteen prisons service State Headquarters Offices across the country as shown below:

All retired and downsized paramilitary pensioners are expected to come along with followings:

1. Original copy of retirement letters
2. Pensioners identification card
3. Bank details
4. Two (2) passports sized photographs
5. Drivers licensed or national identifications card.

While the ex-Biafran Paramilitary Pardonees are expected to come along with the following:

1. Original letter of first appointment
2. Old Nigerian Paramilitary identification card (if any)
3. Discharge certificate
4. Any other vital documents that can be used as evidence to indicate that they served as paramilitary officers in Nigeria at that time.

NATIONWIDE PENSIONER VERIFICATION EXERCISE AND VERIFICATION CENTRES

S/NO.		STATE	CENTRE	VENUE
1	A.	SOKOTO	SOKOTO	PRISONS SHQ OFFICE
	B.	ZAMFARA		
	C.	KEBBI		
2	A.	KANO	KANO	PRISONS SHQ OFFICE
	B.	JIGAWA		
	C.	KATSINA		
3	A.	PLATEAU	JOS	PRISONS SHQ OFFICE
	B.	NASSARAWA		
4	A.	BORNO	MAIDUGURI	PRISONS SHQ OFFICE
	B.	YOBE		
5	A.	BAUCHI	BAUCHI	PRISONS SHQ OFFICE
	B.	GOMBE		
6	A.	FCT	KUJE	PRISONS SHQ OFFICE
	B.	NIGER		
7	A.	ADAMAWA	YOLA	PRISONS SHQ OFFICE
	B.	TARABA		
8	A.	BENUE	MAKURDI	PRISONS SHQ OFFICE
	B.	KOGI		
9	A.	IMO	OWERRI	PRISONS SHQ OFFICE
	B.	ABIA		
10	A.	EBONYI	ENUGU	PRISONS SHQ OFFICE
	B.	ANAMBRA		
	C.	ENUGU		
11	A.	LAGOS	LAGOS	PRISONS SHQ OFFICE
12	A.	ONDO	AKURE	PRISONS SHQ OFFICE
	B.	EKITI		
13	A.	OSUN	ILORIN	PRISONS SHQ OFFICE
	B.	KWARA		
14	A.	CROSS RIVER	CALABAR	PRISONS SHQ OFFICE
	B.	AKWA IBOM		
15	A.	BAYELSA	PHARCOURT	PRISONS SHQ OFFICE
	B.	RIVERS		
16	A.	KADUNA	KADUNA	PRISONS SHQ OFFICE
17	A.	OYO	IBADAN	PRISONS SHQ OFFICE
	B.	OGUN		
18	A.	EDO	BENIN	PRISONS SHQ OFFICE
	B.	DELTA		

For further enquiries please call the following numbers:
08037465364, 08034536661 and 08061603699

SIGNED:
MANAGEMENT (CIPPO)

COMMUNIQUE OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE OF DEANS OF POSTGRADUATE SCHOOLS
(CDPGS) IN NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES HELD AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, AKOKA, LAGOS ON
11TH JANUARY 2010

PREAMBLE

The special meeting of the Committee of Deans of Postgraduate Schools (CDGPS) in Nigerian Universities was held on 11th January 2010. After welcoming the members of the CDPGS to the University of Lagos, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Tolu Odugbemi declared the meeting open and pledged his support for the Committee. The Committee wished the President and Commander in Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria quick recovery.

The deliberations were exhaustive; and the following communiqué is hereby issued:

OBSERVATIONS

1. The Committee noted with delight that the industrial action embarked upon by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) was suspended in all universities, following the signing of the Federal Government/ASUU Agreement. It was noted with appreciation the intervention of their Eminences, the Traditional Rulers, in the ASUU/FGN face-off, following the appeal of the CDPGS, which contributed to the suspension of the strike by ASUU.
2. In order to improve the quality of the human resources of the universities, the Committee reiterated the need for organising training opportunities on research proposal writing to attract research grants.
3. The Committee noted the inadequacy of linkages with Nigerians in Diaspora with regard to funding, research and development in the Nigerian educational system.
4. It also noted with dismay that in spite of the policy decision of 2002 in respect of the funding of postgraduate education in Nigerian universities, the postgraduate programmes throughout the system are still being starved of funds.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of the above observations,

1. The Committee urges the Federal Government and other proprietors to fully implement the agreement reached with ASUU.
2. The Committee proposes to hold a train the trainers workshop on research proposal writing in Pan African University, Lagos from 15th to 19th March 2010.
3. The Committee accepts to honour the invitation by Nigeria In Diaspora Organisation (NIDO), New Jersey, USA Chapter, to an educational summit in June 2010 on the status of education and research in Nigeria among Nigeria Home and Diaspora Academic Community to enhance research and training in Nigerian Universities. The objectives of the summit include Net-Working on education and research in Nigeria.
4. It also calls on governments and other proprietors to implement the recommendations of the 2002 Education Summit with regard to funding postgraduate education in Nigerian Universities.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNIQUE DRAFTING COMMITTEE

1. Professor Abubakar Mustapha mnf, ope - University of Maiduguri - Chairman
2. Professor C.O. Awonuga - Covenant University, Ota - Member
3. Professor Ada C. Uwaegbute, Michael Okpara University of Agric. Umudike - Member
4. Professor Tunde Ogunsanwo, FCSN, FIDPM - Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye - Member
5. Professor J.O. Fiase, Benue State University, Makurdi - Member
6. Professor A.G. Yahaya - Postgraduate School, Usman Danfodiyo University, Sokoto - Secretary

Signed:

Professor Oluwatoyin T. Ogundipe
Honorary Secretary, CDPGS &
Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies, University of Lagos
08023201618, 01-7403307
E-mail: cdpgsecretariat@yahoo.co.uk, toyin60@yahoo.com

PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT FUND (PTDF)

**WELDERS TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION
PROGRAM WTCP FOR THE YEAR 2010**

1. Following the PTDF advertisement requesting interested Nigerians to apply for training consideration in the PTDF WTCP, and the subsequent aptitude test held at the PTI (Effurun) & Kaduna Polytechnic on 30th December 2009, some States of the Federation did not field enough candidates to meet the requirements of equity and balance in the training.

2. Consequently, the PTDF has decided to organize another aptitude test for interested candidates for the PTDF WTCP from the affected States for training consideration under the programme. In that regard, INTERESTED & QUALIFIED SCHOOL CERTIFICATE HOLDERS WITH PASSES IN ATLEAST 2 SCIENCE SUBJECTS from the following states of the Federation:

1. FCT, 2. ANAMBRA, 3. AKWA-IBOM, 4. BAYELSA, 5. CROSS RIVERS, 6. EBONYI, 7. EKITI, 8. KEBBI, 9. KWARA, 10. LAGOS, 11. ONDO, 12. OSUN, 13. RIVERS, 14. TARABA AND 15. ZAMFARA;

3. Are invited to submit applications for the PTDF WTCP. The training of these welders will be conducted in centres which meet IIW standards as accredited by the Nigerian Institute of Welding (NIW) and in accordance with IIW guidelines on welders training

4. CRITERIA FOR QUALIFICATION TO APPLY

Applications are hereby invited from candidates who meet the following criteria:

- i. Must be from any of the States listed above
- ii. Ability to speak and write in English language.
- iii. Must possess a school certificate with passes in at least two science subjects.
- iv. Must show proof of Local government of Origin.
- v. Must be between the ages of 18 and 30 years of age.
- vi. Must possess a medical certificate of fitness from a government hospital, including eye test (optical).
- vii. Must provide two referees who will formally attest to applicant's suitability, one of these must be his local government chairperson.

5. APPLICANTS WHO DO NOT MEET ALL THE ABOVE CRITERIA NEED NOT APPLY, AND THE ABSENCE OF ANY REQUIREMENT IS GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION.

6. Applications should be addressed to the Executive Secretary, Petroleum Technology Development Fund, Plot 672, Port Harcourt Crescent, Off Gimbiya Street, Area 11, Garki, Abuja.

7. All applications should be accompanied with photocopies of:

- Educational certificates
- Medical certificate of fitness as stated above
- Proof of local government of origin
- Birth certificate or declaration of age

8. Applicants should state clearly their current place of abode and also their permanent address. Contact details should include an active mobile phone number(s) and an email address (if any).

9. Additional information:

- Training will be for a period of 12 calendar months at the various accredited centres.
- Shortlisted candidates will be made to undergo a written aptitude test before final selection.
- All applications are expected to reach the PTDF by COB Friday January 29th 2010.
- Names of shortlisted candidates from the States above for the aptitude tests will be published on the PTDF website (www.ptdf.gov.ng) and aptitude tests will be conducted on Wednesday February 10, 2010, for all candidates at 2 centers (In Port Harcourt & Kaduna).

10. Successful candidates at the aptitude test together with successful candidates from the aptitude test held on 30th December 2009 will commence training in the first quarter of 2010.

11. THE COMPREHENSIVE RESULTS FOR THE 2 APTITUDE TESTS (of Decemeber 30th 2009 & February 10th 2010) will be published by the 3rd Week of February 2010 on the PTDF Website.

Please send ENQUIRIES to the following:

1. U. S. Pindar
Head, Mid and Downstream Department,
PTDF, Abuja.
E-mail: u.pindar@ptdf.gov.ng
2. Solomon I. Edebiri (JP) MON
President,
Nigerian Institute of Welding
5, Bakpa Street, Off Waico Road
Effurun
E-mail: president@niginstituteofwelding.com

Signed
PTDF Management

DIGEST

Space-age plasma jet 'set to replace dentist's drill'

A futuristic 'plasma jet' that eradicates tooth decay without fillings could be replacing the hated dentist's drill in as little as three years, it was claimed yesterday.

The space-age device fires a beam of electrically-charged oxygen atoms into tooth cavities to obliterate decay-causing bacteria.

Traditionally, the same job is done by drilling holes into the tooth that has to be filled.

Unlike the dentist's drill, the plasma jet is non-invasive and pain-free.

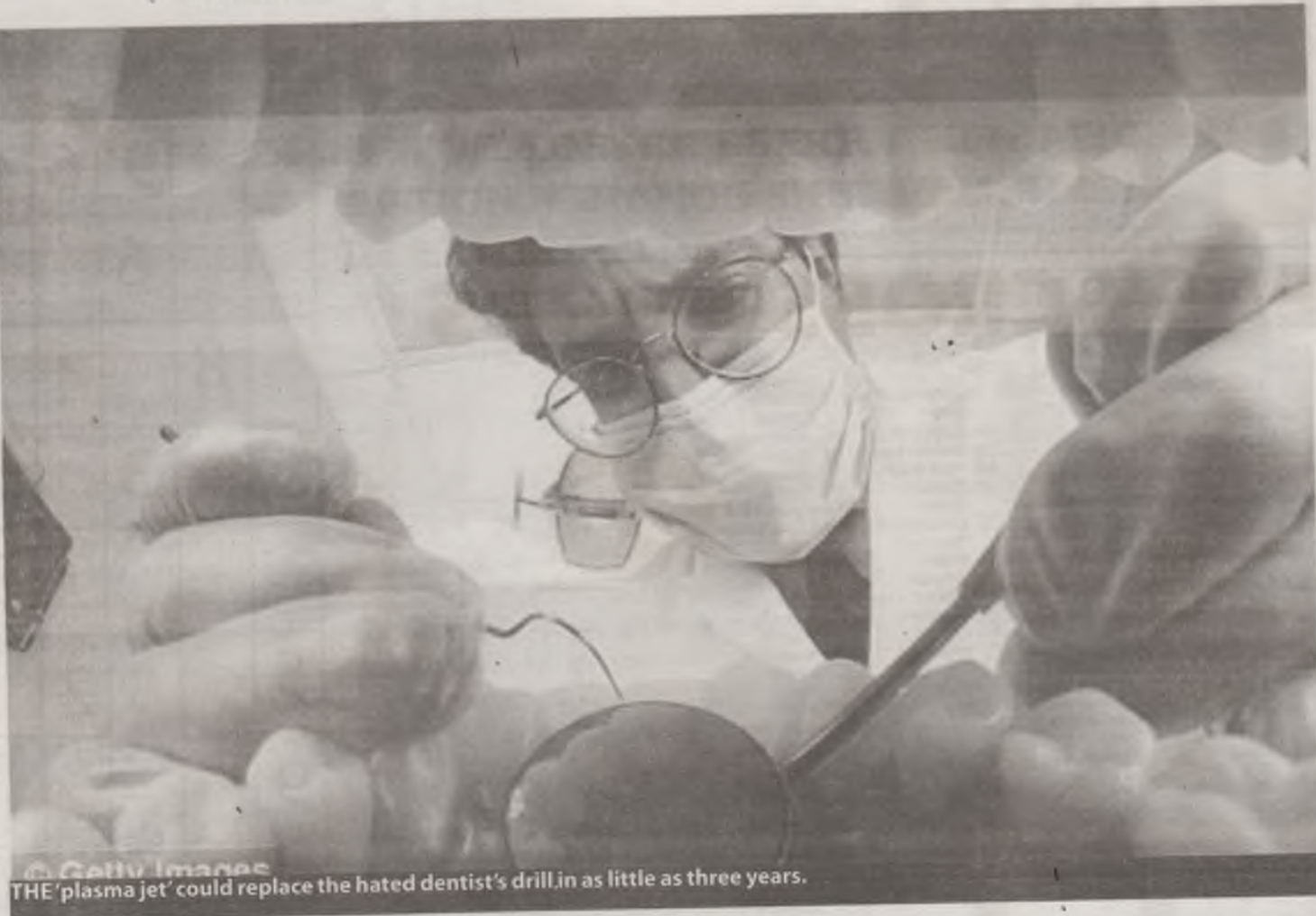
Fear of fillings is a genuine phobia for some people, causing them to avoid visits to the dentist. A new study has shown that firing low-temperature plasma beams at dentine - the fibrous tooth structure below the enamel - can reduce bacteria levels by up to 10,000 times.

Researchers in Germany tested the effectiveness of the plasma jet against common dental bugs including *Streptococcus mutans* and *Lactobacillus casei*.

Both form films on the surface of teeth and are responsible for the erosion of tooth enamel and dentine that causes cavities.

The scientists infected dentine from extracted human molars with four strains of bacteria and exposed it to plasma for between six and 18 seconds.

The longer the treatment continued, the greater the amount of bacteria that was eliminated. Plasmas are produced when atoms in a gas are stripped of one



THE 'plasma jet' could replace the hated dentist's drill in as little as three years.

or more of their electrons, leaving them positively charged.

Normally plasmas are formed at very high temperatures, but those tested by the German scientists were 'cold' plasmas no hotter than around 40C. Lead researcher

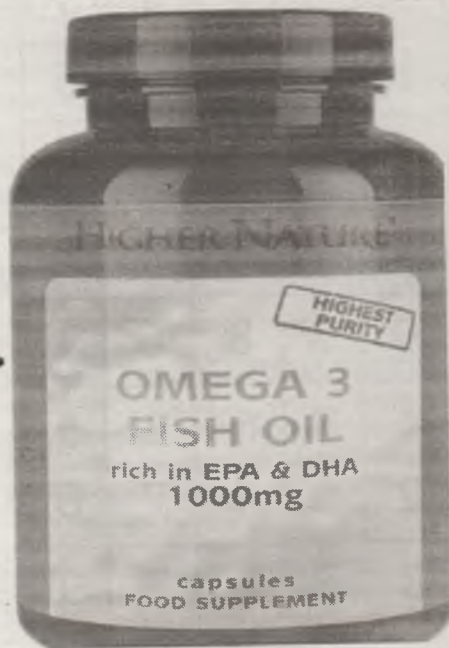
Dr Stefan Rupf, from Saarland University in Homburg, said: 'The low temperature means they can kill the microbes while preserving the tooth. The dental pulp at the centre of the tooth, underneath the dentine, is linked to the

blood supply and nerves and heat damage to it must be avoided at all costs.' He added: 'Drilling is a very uncomfortable and sometimes painful experience. Cold plasma, in contrast, is a completely contact-free method that

is highly effective.

'Presently, there is huge progress being made in the field of plasma medicine and a clinical treatment for dental cavities can be expected within three to five years.'

Is fish oil the elixir of life?



OMEGA-3 fatty acids may have a direct effect on extending the lifespan of cells

Fish oils may hold the key to longer and healthier life, claim researchers.

They say omega-3 fatty acids from fish oil may have a direct effect on extending the lifespan of cells.

Their study is the first to link the oils - either from fish or supplements - with the body's ability to resist premature ageing.

The 'elixir of life' discovery was made in heart disease patients, who are already advised to increase their fish intake to ward off repeat heart attacks.

Scientists from the University of California, San Francisco, looked at the effect of omega-3 fatty acids on 608 outpatients with heart disease.

They found higher levels of omega-3 slowed down damage to DNA contained in telomeres - tiny 'caps' on the ends of chromosomes which help protect against inflammation and other ageing processes.

Having longer telomeres is a sign of being biologically younger and also of being healthier.

As people age, their telomeres get shorter and they become more susceptible to certain illnesses.

Scientists believe this process is at the heart of many age-related diseases, and may even place a final limit on human lifespan.

Nutritionist Dr Carrie Ruxton, speaking on behalf of the Health Supplements Information Service, said: 'If this link between high omega-3 fatty acid levels and reduced ageing is confirmed in other studies, this has important implications for intakes of omega 3 fatty acids.'

At the start of the study, measurements were taken of the length of telomeres in the patients' white blood cells.

The tests were carried out again after five years, and showed a clear link with omega-3 intake, says a report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Patients consuming the least omega-3 had the fastest rate of telomere shortening while those in the top 25 per cent of consumption levels had the slowest rate

Lead researcher Dr Ramin Farzaneh-Far said animal research has shown that rodents live a third longer when given a diet enriched with fish-derived omega-3.

He said the latest study demonstrated 'a potentially novel pathway for the anti-ageing effects of omega-3 fatty acids'.

Omega-3 fatty acids are found in oily fish such as mackerel, herring, salmon, sardines or trout - and fish oil supplements - as well as soya beans, rapeseed oil, flaxseed, pumpkin seeds and walnuts.

White fish is also a healthy food although it contains lower levels of essential fatty acids.

But, said Dr Ruxton, Britons fail to consume recommended minimum levels of two fish portions each week, one of which must be oily.

Sign Language



Surgically I think.

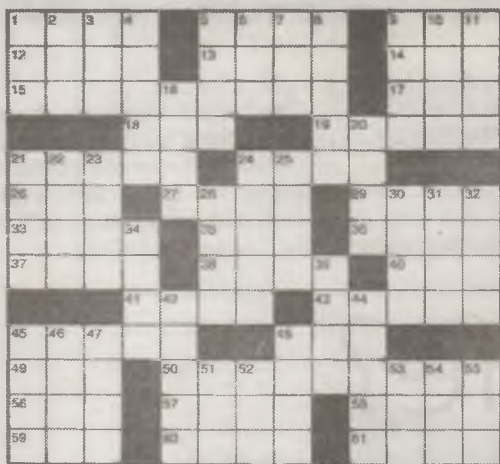
Photo location: Dublin, Ireland, by Linda E. Burg

Culled from www.signspotting.com

EASY CROSSWORDS

- ACROSS**
- Strong anxiety
 - Like "Vogue" models
 - Librarian's admonition
 - Lemon's kin
 - Teacher's helper
 - "The Bells" poet
 - Understood by all
 - "Flagged" doll
 - Actress Longoria
 - Chain Paris
 - ___ car (tram)
 - Not amateurs
 - One Mrs. Sinatra
 - Beaut
 - Poker player's phrase (2 wds.)
 - Caron film
 - Lower extremity
 - Flank
 - Banking insurance letters
 - Space org.
 - No longer working (abbr.)
 - Film star Pitt
 - Printing device
 - Muck
 - "Tail ___ story" (2 wds.)
 - Contained
 - Surrounded
 - Feel flush
 - Kukla's friend
 - Deborah of "Beloved Infidel"
 - Amount (abbr.)
 - Warbled
 - Corset stiffener
 - Director Lupino
 - Violin's kin
 - Reach across
 - Goose cry
 - Egg layers
 - Daredevil Knievel
 - Egyptian goddess
 - Young cow
 - Craving eagerly
 - Indonesian island
 - Beg
 - Floor coverings
 - Arm bone
 - Mud
 - March date
 - Snoods
 - Missile initials
 - One who mimics
 - Coral formations
 - Magazine holders
 - NBA center O'Neal
 - Café au ___
 - In a lazy manner
 - Chinese dynasty
 - '30s relief agency (abbr.)
 - Tin container
 - Permit
 - Pitcher's stat
 - Use a towel

57



Solution to Easy Crosswords 56

A	C	E		A	R	I	D		D	A	L	I	
F	A	X		L	I	M	E		E	V	I	L	
B	R	O		L	O	P	E		L	A	D	E	
			N	B	A		S	M	U	T			
H	O	E	I	N	G				H	A	G	A	R
E	U	R	O		O	R	E	O		O	F	A	
A	T	A		P	O	O	C	H		B	I	C	
R	E	T		I	N	C	H		H	A	R	E	
D	R	E	S	S			O	P	E	N	E	R	
				M	A	U	L		A	S	A		
B	R	I	E		G	O	A	L		N	H	L	
L	O	L	L		H	O	P	E		A	B	E	
T	I	L	L		S	P	E	D		S	O	T	

SUDOKU

The Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 square grid made up of smaller 3x3 square grids (regions). The numbers already present within the puzzle are "given"- these are there to start you off. The aim is to complete the puzzle by filling the empty cells. Every digit from 1-9 needs to fit in each row, column and region of 9 squares. Each row, column and region must contain just one instance of each number, 1-9.

69

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

Solution to Sudoku 68

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

DAILY TRUST
EDUCATION

E-mail: education@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 08035910371

10,000 benefit from UNESCO-Nigeria TVE project

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

THE UNESCO-Nigeria Technical and Vocational Education (TVE) Revitalization Project of the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) has trained over 10,000 and developed some 76 curricula for courses in the polytechnic sub-sector, National Project Coordinator (NPC) Engineer Nuru A. Yakubu, has said.

Yakubu, who disclosed this at the opening ceremony of experts meeting on the online use of curricula and instructional materials for ECOWAS member states, also revealed that about 356 e-books have been developed in the standard UNESCO format under the project.

He said under phase one of the project 57 curricula in engineering, science, business and the

humanities were either reviewed or developed, adding that the project has also established a system of continuous staff training for TVE staff by setting up six development centres where 10,000 staff have undergone training.

He said following the successes recorded in the first phase, the project went a step further to develop 19 number curricula

in 14 different fields while at the same time incorporating life-skills, entrepreneurship and communications skills.

In his remarks, the UNESCO lead Consultant, Dr Hashim Abdulwahab commended Nigeria for its pioneering efforts at book production, saying it is outstanding and a successful example because it has never been done elsewhere in the sub-region.

He said the initiative is model not only for the sub-region but Africa and other developing countries.

The representative of the Director of UNESCO in Abuja Dr Rosemary Nwangwu said the initiative is unprecedented, adding that the rich array of materials online will boost the quest for teaching and learning especially in the TVE sub-sector.

NUC partners S/Africa agency on quality assurance

TO boost quality assurance in Nigeria's university system, the National Universities Commission (NUC) may soon sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Council on Higher Education (CHE) of South Africa.

Indications of the development emerged in South Africa on Tuesday following a visit of an NUC team to the CHE to exchange views with its quality assurance committee.

The Manager of Quality Promotion and Capacity Development Directorate of the CHE, Mr Kgomo Legari, said the NUC team visit was a boost to mutual relations between both organisations which would be built upon.

"The visit has taken the team to the University of South Africa as well as to have some talks with us on quality assurance practices and we are looking at the possibility of signing an MOU or Memorandum of

Agreement," he said.

He explained that quality assurance was a continuing process and both countries had a lot to learn from each other in regulating programmes and institutions.

A member of the NUC board, Professor Femi Odekunle, who was part of the team, said the visit was to engender more understanding between both parties which were in the forefront of quality assurance in the African continent.

"We will collaborate as their council and the NUC are like the two giants in quality assurance in Africa. If we are able to understand each other and know each other's best practices, we will be able to help other African countries who are just starting or don't have anything like a commission that ensures quality. With the visit, they will learn from us as we learn from them," he said. (NAN)

Expert identifies factors hindering educational development

From John Kennedy Uzoma, Owerri

SELFISH interest, betrayal, political god-fatherism, assassination and opposition, among others, have been identified as factors hindering the development of the education sector in the country.

The Chairman of Imo State Joint Campus Committee (JCC) Comrade Mesahack Ogugbuoaja, who stated this at the inauguration of the committee in Owerri, said until these

problems are completely addressed, educational system in the country will remain a mirage.

He called on leaders at all levels to learn from past mistakes by shunning embezzlement, nepotism, tribalism, hatred and enmity in order to move the education sector forward.

He said the persistent unnecessary expenditure by government officials is responsible for increase in school fees, taxation and deduction from local government treasuries.



UNESCO lead Consultant Dr Hashim Abdulwahab (left), Executive Secretary of NBTE Engineer Nuru A Yakubu, and the representative of UNESCO office in Abuja Dr Rosemary Nwangwu at the ongoing meeting of Technical and Vocational Education (TVE) experts on the online use of curricula and instructional materials in Kaduna.

Unilorin matriculates 5,393 students for 2009/2010 session

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE University of Ilorin has matriculated a total number of 5,393 fresh students for the 2009/2010 session.

Performing the matriculation exercise at the university's auditorium, Vice Chancellor of the university Professor Ishaq Oloyede said the number was approved by the Senate of the institution out of the total of 5,512 students that were offered admission.

He said a total of 40,016 students applied for admission into the university out of which 35,107 sat for the post-JAMB test based on the 5,514 quota given to the university by the National Universities Commission (NUC).

Professor Oloyede implored the students to see their matriculation as a stage in life that needs not to be toiled with, saying "the average of four years you are spending in the university is

very short but it is this short period that will make or mar you. If you face your studies squarely opportunities will come your way right from here, the university will continue to support and promote excellence at all times."

He said, as a way of encouraging students, the university has re-introduced its Scholars Scheme two years ago where best students with good grades are

FG commissions ECCD centre in Abuja

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

IN its efforts to boost the implementation of the policy on Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) in the country, the Federal Government has commissioned a Model Early Childhood Development Resource Centre and Crèche in Abuja.

Daily Trust learnt yesterday that the ECCD centre would be replicated in all the State Ministries of Education across the country in order to serve the needs of private and government

ECCD centres.

Speaking at the commissioning of the centre, Minister of State for Education Hajiya Aishatu Jibril Dukku, said establishment of the centre was timely and was a response to the call at the 4th African International Conference on Early Childhood Development held in Dakar for African governments to accelerate the development and implementation of holistic integrated ECCD policies and services for all children.

The minister, who was represented

by the Permanent Secretary in the ministry Professor Oladapo Afolabi, said government has constituted the Integrated Early Childhood Development Consultative Committee (IECDCC) which comprised of line ministries and stakeholders in order to speed up action in policy implementation of early childhood education.

She explained that the committee is saddled with the responsibility of planning and coordinating of activities of early childhood care and development in the country.

DAILY TRUST

EDUCATION

Education insurance for debate at schools expo

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

STRUCTURING family finances without hurting education budget for the children and the need to take education insurance to guarantee children's educational future will form core discussions at the forthcoming international schools exhibition to be held in Lagos and

Abuja, Lead Consultant, of Edu-mark Consult Mrs Yinka Ogunde, has said.

Addressing journalists in Lagos on the conference, Mrs Ogunde, said the exhibitions would also expose participating parents to the curriculum their children are schooled, and the need to respect the special needs of their children.

She said apart from offering parents the opportunity to meet the over 90 participating schools in Nigeria and abroad, the conference will also make the parents understand how to structure their limited finances to provide quality education for their children.

She said the conference will also provide knowledge on lever-

aging on the benefits of education insurance to secure the children's future besides talks on special needs of children and understanding curriculum.

"We believe that a lot of parents do not understand what their children learn in school and the world we live in today is a rapidly changing one. There will be con-

sultants on ground to ensure that parents' questions are answered," she said.

According to her, the exhibitions will take place on February 11, February 13, and February 18, at Muson Centre Lagos, Sheraton Hotel Lagos and Yar'adua Centre Abuja respectively.



PRINCIPAL partner of Edumark Consult Mrs Yinka Ogunde (left) and the deputy marketing manager of Chamnet Mr Ayodeji Oyinola at a press briefing on the 2010 Nigeria International Schools Exhibition in Lagos.

Minister allays fears of polytechnic, COE staff over pay rise

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

THE Federal Government has reaffirmed its commitment to amicably resolve the demand for pay rise by unions operating in polytechnics and Colleges of Education (COE) across the country without discrimination.

Minister of Education Dr Sam Egwu, who stated this at a meeting between Federal Government and officials of unions in polytechnics and Colleges of Education, said the same principles used in fixing the new pay package for universities will be adopted.

He explained that the National Salaries, Income and Wages Commission (NSWC) had been directed to produce the new salary table for staff

in the two tertiary institutions within the shortest possible time in order to allow for signing of agreement to that effect.

Dr Egwu also commended the maturity of the staff of polytechnics and Colleges of Education for heeding government's appeal for dialogue rather than confrontation.

He said government has kept faith with its earlier promise that the outcome of the negotiation with ASUU would be extended to other unions, stressing that the action goes to show that it is not only by confrontation that unions can negotiate to get something for their members.

The minister enjoined officials of the National Salaries and Wages Commission to handle the assign-

ment with utmost seriousness, saying that the unions' cooperation was not a mark of weakness and should not be taken for granted.

In his remarks, Deputy National President of Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) Nigerade Peter Adeyemi commended government for the maturity with which it is handling the demands of the affected unions.

On his part, the National President of Colleges of Education Academic Staff Union, Comrade Mohammed Auwal Ibrahim commended Dr Egwu for his fairness and urged him to closely monitor the process of computing the new salary table to ensure that the final output is a true reflection of what has been generally agreed on.

Expert advocates integration of physiotherapy in tertiary education

From John Kennedy Uzoma, Owerri

THE Executive Director of Physiotherapy Centre-Stuttgart, Germany, Doris Iro, has advocated for effective integration of physiotherapy centres in tertiary institutions across the country.

Iro said in lecture entitled "The Role of Physiotherapy in The Concept of Public Health" organised by the Federal University of Technology Owerri

(FUTO), said physiotherapy which is a vital component in the health care delivery in the western world is still not prominent in Nigeria.

She said to reverse the trained, effective steps should be taking by all to ensure effective integration of the centre into the system through identification of the existing structures.

According to her, universities including FUTO, government and non-

governmental organizations are already working on vital issues in the field of public health with the aim of educating the youths and citizens of the country.

She also stressed the need for physiotherapy programmes to be offered in nursery, primary and secondary schools in the country, and called for proper funding for physiotherapist health care programmes to enable people start work and develop adequate concepts.

ECOWAS countries brainstorm on TVET in Kaduna

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

FIVE member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are currently brainstorming on the Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) at a meeting organized by the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) in Kaduna.

The countries attending the weeklong meeting sponsored by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) are Nigeria, Gambia, Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Speaking during the opening ceremony of the meeting, the National project coordinator of UNESCO-Nigerian TVE programme, Engineer Nuru Yakubu said the participants would share knowledge and experience on how to accelerate the development of technical and vocational skills in the region.

Zamfara approves 22 additional schools

THE Zamfara State Government has approved the establishment of 22 new junior secondary schools to address admission problem, Education Commissioner Alhaji Kabiru Marafa, has said.

In a statement issued in Gusau, the commissioner noted that the schools would be spread across the three senatorial districts of the state for equity.

He stated that the government had also approved the upgrading of 36 junior secondary schools to the status of senior secondary schools to encourage parents in the rural areas to

"Today we need to recognize that the world has become a global village, the members of which need the support of one another for a productive and fulfilled life. If this is true for the world, then we need to do more at the sub-region level by utilizing the systems closer to bringing our systems closer by utilizing the Knowledge and experiences of each other," he said.

Engineer Nura Yakubu who is also the executive secretary of NBTE said the UNESCO-Nigeria TVE project was one of the bilateral agreements entered by the Nigerian government with friendly nations for educational sector reform.

"It is a joint initiative of the government with UNESCO aimed at assisting the federal and states education authorities in their efforts to revitalize, reform and expand TVE for rapid socio-economic development with a view of meeting present and future needs of the nation," he said.

send their wards to school.

Marafa gave the names of beneficiary communities as Samaru, Galadima, Malale, Unguwar Gwaza, Sabongari and Millennium quarters, all in Gusau, the state capital.

Others are Magazu, Chediya, Ribeh, Gadar Zama, Ruwan Jema, Magami Kaura Maille, Birnin Yero, Gidai Kano, Kwana Kalgo, Gamji Bakura, Dankaiwa, Gama Giwa, Danisa, Yanbuki and Bukkuyum.

He said government accorded education top priority and would commit all available resources.

CAMPUS ROUNDUP

ABU, OAU, others to benefit from Awolowo Foundation's research endowment

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

THE Obafemi Awolowo Foundation has instituted Professorial Research Endowment (PEF), and the first four beneficiaries are Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), University of Ibadan (UI) and University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN).

Member of the foundation Dr Olatokunbo Awolowo Dosumu,

who is the daughter of the late Dr Obafemi Awolowo, made this known yesterday in Lagos at a conference on "Free Education in Nigeria 55 years on," as part of activities marking the Obafemi Awolowo Foundation Centenary celebration.

She said the endowment programme which will make research funds available to the four premiere institutions in Nigeria in their areas of strength would see

ABU benefit in the social sciences, OAU in jurisprudence, UI in economics and UNN in applied sciences.

According to her, the grant became necessary because of the dearth of research and research funding in Nigeria universities and in furtherance of the Awolowo bias for free quality education in Nigeria.

Discussants and participants who took turn to speak at the con-

ference unanimously agreed that free and compulsory education, what Awolowo preached, is still possible in Nigeria, especially at the primary school level.

Former governor of Lagos State Alhaji Lafeef Jakande said it is the government's sole responsibility to provide free and quality education, adding that the private-public sector approach being advocated is not necessarily. He said private education is

voluntary and elitist, hence the need for public sector to provide education to the citizens. The government he said has enough resources to do that if only it can block its leakages.

On his part, Dr Adedoyin Salami of the Lagos Business School wondered why governments at all levels have committed at least N1.1 trillion on education in the last five years without commensurate result.



PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

PUPILS of Holy Family Catholic Nursery and Primary School, Kuje, shortly after their 2010 first lesson.

NUC approves PG programmes for Adamawa varsity

THE National Universities Commission (NUC) has approved Post Graduate programmes in eight courses for the Adamawa State University (ADSU), Mubi. THE approval was contained in a letter signed by the Director of Academic Standards of the NUC, Professor Alhassan Bichi.

The university is to run Post Graduate programmes such as Graduate Diploma, Masters and Ph.d in Business Administration, Public Administration, Crop Production, Animal Science, Science Education, Guidance and Counselling, Education Management and Educational Technology.

The NUC advised the university to recruit more senior permanent academics for effective and reliable post graduate supervision, and granted the university the approval to run a Bsc programme in Political Science.

Established in 2002, ADSU is the first state-owned university in the North East sub-region.

Achievers University holds 3rd matriculation

From Abiodun Jimoh, Lagos

THE city of Owo in Ondo State will be full of activities as the Achievers University hold its 2009/2010 matriculation ceremony tomorrow, Friday, January 22, 2010 at the university's permanent site.

At the ceremony, direct entry and new students will formally be admitted for academic exercise, acting registrar of the university, Dr Tinuade Ojo, told Daily Trust.

She said the occasion will be presided over the Vice Chancellor of the university Professor Adebayo Odebiyi, and will be attended by the Ondo State Governor Dr Olusegun Mimiko and the Speaker of Ondo State House of Assembly Honourable Taofeek Abdussalam.

Others billed to attend the function are the

Caretaker Committee Chairman of Owo Local Government Prince Adeola Fagbayibo Olowo of Owo, Oba Folagbade Olateru-Olagbegi III; Oba Kofoworola Oladoyinbo Aruliwo III and Oba J. F. Okikiola, Alale of Idasen, among others.

Meanwhile, the Governing Council of Achievers University has approved an anthem for the institution. The two-stanza anthem was originally written by Mr. Kayode Komolafe, a Part III student in the Department of Computer and Information Systems of the university.

Chairman of the council Mr Bode Ayorinde said the anthem was modified by Mr Tokunbo Asogbon, an Ibadan-based musician before it was finally approved by the governing council.

He said the anthem is "a symbol of achieve-

ment and commitment to God."

Meanwhile, new students of the Achievers University have been charged to seize the opportunity provided by the university to make themselves real achievers at the end of their academic programme.

The call was made by the Pro-chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council of the university Mr Bode Ayorinde while addressing the new students on the vision and mission of the university and the need for the students to key into it.

"There had been no hiccup in the university's academic programmes because of the stakeholders' determination to excel and excelling in the spirit of hard work. Every great thing starts small. We are grateful for what God has done," he said.

Unilorin to create graduate employment office

UNIVERSITY of Ilorin has concluded arrangements to create graduate employment office to coordinate job placement for its products, Vice Chancellor of the university, Professor Is-haq Oloyede, has said.

"When graduates get to the labour market, they are always on their own, but Unilorin graduates would soon be an exemption," he said.

He said the institution would soon establish a department that would assist in the placement of its products in public and private establishments.

News Extra

'God is angry against humanity – not just Haiti but all humanity'

...Survivors of the Haiti earthquake tell their stories



KOMPE Filo

which, he says, predicted the earthquake six months ago. "God is angry against humanity – not just Haiti but all humanity. This is a message that man must change, and reconnect with the natural world around him."

Kompe Filo, 56. One of the most popular TV and radio personalities in Haiti, with a chat-show broadcast widely across the country. He had just finished his live programme, *Kalfou* [Creole for Crossroads], when the earthquake struck, and he jumped out of a second-storey window. He fractured his wrist, which is now bandaged. Much of the TV station caved in from three storeys into one, killing a cameraman and a music producer.

Since the disaster, Filo has been off air. "I feel like a journalist who has lost his pen or his camera." Now, when he walks down the streets through the mountains of rubble, crowds stop him to demand what has happened to him. "Where is Filo? Where is Filo?" they say. If he was able to broadcast now, he says, he would be calling on the government to mobilise core staff such as sanitation workers and army technicians to help communities cope. "I would demand the government to organise all the neighbourhoods into committees to participate in the rebuilding of Port-au-Prince." Filo has large silver rings on his fingers. Each one represents one of the spirits in him, he says, as he is a vocal practitioner of voodoo,



JUNIOR Fleurimand

Junior Fleurimand, 27. A law student, he lives in the street. Some nights he has a plastic sheet over his head, others not. But that's how it is with everything now. Yesterday he struck lucky: not only did his friends feed him, but strangers driving by stopped and gave him water. "I have no means," he says, using the French word *possibilité*. "And without money therefore no food. So I have to ask for help, always asking for help." Despite it all, Fleurimand is optimistic. "I know there's a relationship between all the people in this world. I know help will come."



BELASTON Gusall

Belaston Gusall, 36. She is living at the edge of a park, on the side of the road. For a roof there is a plastic ground sheet with the name of a French aid group stamped on it, slung between small palm trees. "We've had no water for the past four days, and no food. It costs me a dollar to buy a bottle of water, and I don't have that money. We would go down to the river to collect water there, but even that is dry."



ROSEMARIE Charles

possessions, clothes or money as she ran to safety when the quake struck. Like most poor Haitians she has no bank account; when her house collapsed she was left penniless.

There is food – fruit, vegetables, rice – brought in from the countryside to market every morning. But most of the people living on the streets have no money to buy it. As Charles talks, a crowd of her homeless neighbours gather around in curiosity. Asked whether she has seen any officials from the Haitian government or the international community come around the park to offer any help. A universal cry rises up from the crowd: "No! No!" "We haven't seen a single person. Not one," Charles says.

Rosemarie Charles, 53. Lost one child and saw five family members injured when her house collapsed. She is carrying a plastic satchel on her shoulder, stamped with images of a yellow Donald Duck. Inside is a bunch of black plastic bags, which she pulls out. There is nothing in them. Then she shows us the white plastic water bottle she is also carrying. It too is empty. "There is no food. I have no clothes. Everything I had is lost in the house." Like many hundreds of thousands of Haitians, she had no time to grab



DANEL Georges

to beginning to plan rebuilding efforts across the city. His own home was reduced to rubble, and he sleeps in the garden of a friend's house at the top of the hills overlooking Port-au-Prince. He has strong views about the nature and impact of the earthquake. "The battle for the independence of Haiti in 1804 involved the deaths of 10,000 people. Last Tuesday we lost 100,000 or 200,000 people. This was more than a tragedy. It was a comment on how Haiti has become mired in indifference and egotism. But with this catastrophe we have another chance, an opportunity to begin to build a new Haiti."

Danel Georges, 60. Runs one of the largest co-operatives in Haiti. An economist with 12 years' experience in the government finance ministry, he is now devoting his days to mobilising a network of volunteers in the rescue and humanitarian effort. He has redirected some of his people to health-care, others to search and rescue and some

Culled from theguardian.co.uk

News Extra

Shattered Haiti hit by second earthquake measuring 6.1

. Woman, 69, rescued after spending a week buried under rubble

Haiti was yesterday hit by a second massive earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale.

Witnesses reported shaking buildings and desperate people wailing in terror as they ran into the streets in panic.

Last week's quake - which killed an estimated 200,000 people - measured 7.0.

The latest disaster is likely to claim even more lives as many buildings which have not already collapsed have been left dangerously unstable. Survivors are still being pulled free from the rubble.

The new quake struck about 35 miles north-west of the capital of Port-au-Prince at a depth of 13.7 miles.

Last week's earthquake was 10 miles south-west of the capital and at a depth of around 6.2 miles. Both events were at a shallow level, causing more surface shaking.

A Disasters Emergency Committee spokesman said: 'In the middle of an extremely challenging aid operation, where many survivors are already terrified of aftershocks, the news of today's tremors are of grave concern.'

'We are assessing the impact of the aftershock with our field staff to see if there has been further large-scale disruption to survivors and aid operations.'

'As the full scale of the tragedy unfolds, there is still an urgent need for more funds and we continue to rely on the generosity of donors.'

International Development Secretary Douglas Alexander told MPs that the British search and rescue team was safe following the quake.

At question time in the House of Commons, he said: 'Since I've arrived in the House this morning, there has been a significant aftershock registering 6.1 on the Richter Scale but the word that I have received is that our search and rescue team is safe and are continuing their work.'

Haiti has experienced a series of aftershocks since last week's earthquake - of which this is the strongest. At 6.1, it is significant enough to be described as a quake.

On Tuesday night, a woman was rescued after spending a week buried under a collapsed cathedral, giving aid workers renewed hope yesterday that more people



A second earthquake hit Haiti yesterday morning, damaging buildings even further



HER arms outstretched, Ena Zizi is gently taken away from the rubble by rescuers



ENA takes her first sips of water after being pulled free as Mexican rescuer Oscar Olivia cries with joy and embraces a colleague



can be saved.

Dust-covered Ena Zizi, 69, was pulled free yesterday by Mexican firefighters from the wreckage of the Roman Catholic cathedral in the capital Port-au-Prince and declared: 'I'm all right, sort of.'

Experts have said that without water, buried quake victims were unlikely to survive beyond three days.

Christian Aid charity worker Sarah Wilson, who watched the rescue, said: 'It was an amazing thing to witness, no-one could believe she was still alive. Ena was rescued by a Mexican disaster team that was created in the wake of Mexico City's 1985 earthquake.'

Zizi said that after the quake, she spoke back and forth with a vicar who also was trapped.

But after a few days, he fell silent, and she spent the rest of the time praying and waiting.

'I talked only to my boss, God,' she said. 'And I didn't need any more humans.'

Doctors who examined her

Witnesses reported shaking buildings and desperate people wailing

said she was dehydrated and had a dislocated hip and a broken leg.

Her son, Maxime Janvier, told broadcaster CNN that he never gave up hope that she would be found.

'We were praying a lot for that to happen,' he said.

Elsewhere in the capital, two women were pulled from a destroyed university building. And near midnight Tuesday, a smiling and singing Lozama Hot-teline, 26, was carried to safety from a collapsed store by French rescuers.

In another part of the city the threat of looting and its consequences were becoming more apparent in the quake's aftermath. A 15-year-old girl was found shot in the head after looting from store.

Residents are becoming increasingly desperate for food, water and medicine with aid agencies only just able to reach those who need help most.



EDUCATION TRUST FUND

No. 6, Zambezi Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street,
Maitama - Abuja Tel: 413911-2, 4132105, 4139101

OBITUARY

With deep feeling of regret the Board of Trustees, Management and Staff of Education Trust Fund (ETF) wish to commiserate with the family and friends of our 1st Executive Secretary whose death occurred on 19th December 2009.

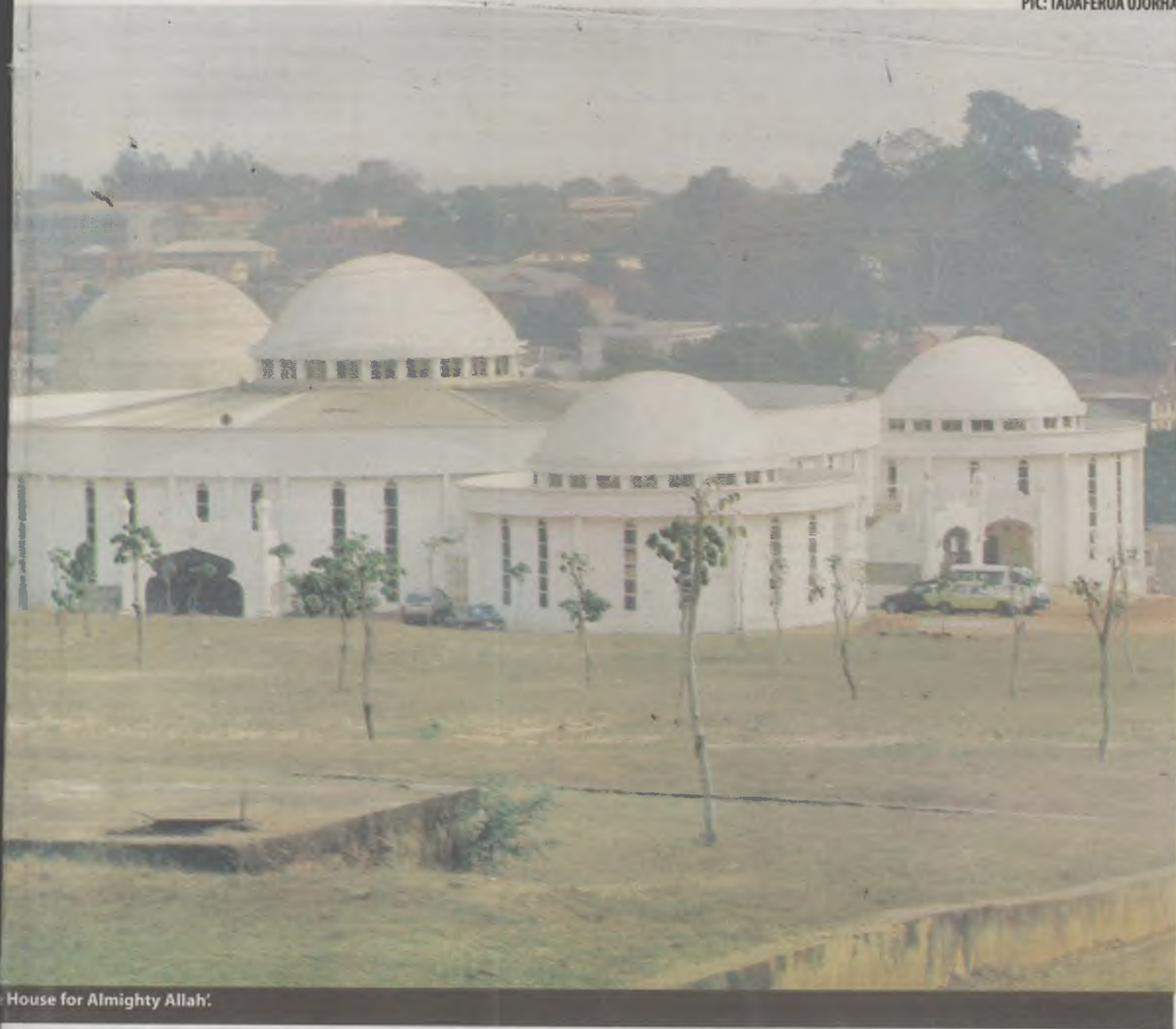


ALHAJI TIJJANI AHMED ABDULKADIR
(18th May 1955 - 19th December 2009)

Signed
Management

Arafat mosque

PIC: TADAFERUA UJORHA



House for Almighty Allah.



HRH Alhaji Aliru H. Momoh, Otaru of Auchi



PRINCESS Bekisu Momoh-Aliu

longer suit-
up to this he
lonies which
in 'I decided
a mosque in
was carefully
be, and also
task.

ceives above
me to me in
nt is that no
ue project,as
ct. Help kept
s under con-
ecky did the
Many people
completion.
mosque had
this was later
ve us a draw-
n good ideas,
brought was

eleven storeys high when we did a measurement. So we scaled it down, and he made some corrections to the original plan.

He tells *Daily Trust* that the name chosen for the mosque streamed from great inspiration. His words: 'I went back to look at the grounds of the mosque when we were preparing for the Eid prayers, and it occurred to me to call it Arafat, and I said this is Arafat ground. Later somebody came and said there can only be one Arafat in the whole world. I said, well, this is Arafat, and that's the name we have given it.' The Otaru is quick to make the point that Auchi has grown in leaps and bounds ever since the construction of the Arafat mosque commenced. His words 'I believe sincerely that since the beginning of the building of Arafat mosque, there has been a tremendous transformation of Auchi in various areas. We don't know how it happened, and people have been asking why Auchi is so transformed. Somebody said sometime ago that one newspaper published a story to the effect that the Auchi banking establishment is the largest in the country outside state capitals. We have thirteen banks in Auchi'. He also speaks on the sharing ratio in Auchi and how this helped the mosque project. His words 'There's a sharing ratio here. One third of the money derived in Auchi goes to me. When I came to the throne, I said it's too much. Make it one-quarter, so that other

villages will share the other quarter. We have nothing to share, because everything we get goes into Arafat. That's the beauty of the whole thing'. He says that the construction of the mosque began in 2001, and that there is a constant four year interval between the completion of the various sections of the mosque. His words 'First date was December 6, 2002, then December 6, 2006, and now the final January 8, 2010, note the even number days and years and the seemingly four year interval'. Interestingly, the mosque was commissioned on January 8, 2010. The number 8 when divided by 2 gives four.

He speaks on the way the mosque has affected visitors to Auchi. His words 'Visitors who came to Auchi recently could not believe that this sort of thing (Arafat mosque) could exist in Nigeria. They were pleasantly shocked. Some of those who were in the hotel moved out, and were sleeping in the mosque. So its name spread like wildfire throughout the country. Then I started receiving invitations to all parts of the country'.

Professor Zakariyau I. Oseni is the Chief Imam and Waziri of Auchi Kingdom, and Dean Faculty of Arts, University of Ilorin. He speaks on the significance of the spherical shape of the Arafat mosque. His words 'The round shape is suggestive of the idea of continuity or renewal. It has the sense of rebirth, and suggests that

things have a beginning as well as an end'. The Otaru declines to say how much was spent on the Arafat mosque. His words 'The reason we can't estimate is deliberate, and I cannot tell you how much I sold my house. We don't keep records of what we spend on a day to day basis. We just do it. Whatever you have at any point in time put it there. I have said that this must be a pure House for Almighty Allah'.

He comes from a tradition of great courage which is rooted in Islam and the truth: He was the only traditional ruler in Edo state who openly came out to support Adams Oshiomhole, even at the risk of losing his throne. He says he is a zero party man, and that he looks at individuals, rather than political parties. His words 'I am a zero party man. I do not look at parties. I look at individuals when I make decisions. I don't care what happens thereafter. These were the ideas which informed his decision to support Oshiomhole. He gave him a long time before the former became Governor of Edo state. Some years ago the Otaru led his people on a massive demonstration over the gully erosion menace. This is rare. His religion gives him strength, and is the root of great and memorable deeds.

labour report

NDE re-strategises for more jobs

By Francis Okeke

NATIONAL Directorate of Employment (NDE) is re-strategising and refocusing its activities to lead in the Federal Government's drive to generate jobs, Director General of the NDE Malam Abubakar Mohammed has said.

Mohammed disclosed this during the opening ceremony of

a retreat organised for NDE senior management staff from the 36 states of the federation and Abuja.

Represented by the Director of Inspectorate Department Abdullahi Gunda Abubakar, Mohammed said finding solution to the emerging problems of unemployment threatening the Nigerian economy remains the focal point of the directorate.

"The NDE has pursued this

mandate by designing and implementing strategies that aims at combating mass unemployment through imparting marketable skills that will make the unemployed employable or have the skills that will enable them set up and run small enterprises of their own."

With theme "The challenges of mass employment generation" retreat, which ends today aims to reposition and deepen the rel-

evance of the NDE as the apex government agency responsible for mass employment generation in Nigeria.

It would also rejuvenate and reinforce the directorate staff and all stakeholders in employment generation strategies and in determining effective and efficient service delivery with regards to mass employment generation.

The retreat would provide par-

ticipants, "especially the newly inaugurated members of NDE Board with the opportunity to thoroughly understand the mandate and operations of the NDE."

On his part, the Minister of Labour and Productivity Prince Adetokunbo Kayode who delivered the keynote address called for curriculum of secondary and tertiary institutions to include entrepreneurial skills for students.

Niger flags off capacity training for 1,500 youths

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

IN its effort to create an enabling environment for self employment among youths, the Niger state government has flagged off capacity training for 1,500 youths on trade acquisition and skills development.

While flagging off the first batch of beneficiaries of the scheme, the governor of Niger state Dr Muazu Babangida Aliyu urged the youths to take the training seriously as it is aimed at giving them the opportunity to be employers of labour.

He maintained that for the state to grow economically, the youths who comprise a high percentage of the total population of Niger State must be trained to contribute meaningfully to the economy.

"Do not misuse the opportunity because your success will always reflect on the entire state economy and set example for other states to emulate for the general good of the entire country."

Speaking earlier, the commissioner for youth affairs and strategies Mr Timothy Jiya said the training programme for the first batch will last for six months and then pave way for another group of 1,500. He added that they will be provided with stipends and equipment for the various skills to be undertaken.

"This initial stage will accommodate only 1,500 participants drawn from the 274 wards in the 25 local government areas of the state. The ministry is working closely with the ministry of local government to accommodate more numbers subsequently," he said.

Professor Gerry Gana, former minister of information in his goodwill message at the occasion stressed that there was need for government at all levels to engage youths meaningfully, noting that it amounts to injustice not to give youths the chance to contribute to the nation's economy.

He urged Niger state youths to utilise the opportunities provided by the scheme, asking them to shun acts of hooliganism and other social vices that will affect the society negatively.



MINISTER of Labour Adetokunbo Kayode and acting DG of NDE Abdullahi Gunda Abubakar during the opening ceremony of NDE's retreat in Abuja on Tuesday

Sack in banks: Stakeholders looking for solution, says minister

By Francis Okeke

MINISTER of Labour and Productivity Prince Adetokunbo Kayode has said that stakeholders in the banking industry are working closely to find a lasting solution to the sack of almost 5000 bank workers late last year.

Kayode told journalists in Abuja that his ministry is closely monitoring the situation to ensure that no Nigerian is unjustly

thrown into the labour market and also ensure that the case of those that have been sacked without regards to due process are revisited.

He said that bank managements and labour unions are still deliberating on the best way to ensure an amicable resolution of the sore points in the sack of bank workers in order to avert a crisis in the nation's banking sector.

According to him, "from the information that we have, only

one bank really seemed not to have complied with due process and they have started talking with the union and I believe they will review the issue."

"All the other banks, like Oceanic Bank for instance, the union agreed that they were consulted and there was an agreement signed as to the number of people that can be laid off."

However, he said that banks should do all that is necessary to ensure that no worker is sacked.

"To me, complying with due process is only part of the problem; if I have my way, I do not want anybody sacked but if people would be sacked at all, then it should be by due process and this is being done."

"For instance, there is a lot of discussion going on with Union Bank on an issue which was a very sore point but people are talking and that is the important thing and the unions will agree with the banks as to how to move forward" he said.

COEASU cautions FG on agreement

By Abdullahi Yahaya Bello

COLLEGES of Education Academic Staff Union (COEASU) yesterday in Abuja cautioned the Federal Government over the renegotiated agreement which began in 2007.

In a communique issued at the end of an Emergency National Delegate Conference (ENDC) and signed by Comrade

Muhammed Awwal Ibrahim and Asagha N. Emmanuel, the Union observed that the decisions of government as indicated in the draft agreement, is evident that government has not adequately addressed some of its demands on conditions of service of academic staff of Colleges of Education.

"The decisions of government on the critical areas bordering on

the emoluments and remuneration accruable to the academic staff, as seen in the salary table and draft agreement which were presented to the Union's renegotiation team fall far short of what the Union believes is imperative to effectively check the prevalent brain drain.

"It also failed to address and distinguish the peculiar academic responsibilities, in form of academic allowances as universally

practiced"

The Union call on the Federal government to adequately address these issues in subsequent negotiations.

Meanwhile, COEASU also call on its members in Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, Oyo state, to be calm while the court determines the case of its union leaders sacked by the state government.

ENVIRONMENT

property@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

Top 10 deadliest earthquakes (I)

A 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit the capital of Haiti Jan. 12, and thousands are presumed dead. Here's a look at some of the most unforgiving earthquakes in history

1556: Shaanxi, China (1)

The deadliest quake of all time might be one of the least

talked about, considering it occurred nearly 450 years ago. Centered in China's central Shaanxi province, the 1556 quake claimed the lives of some 830,000 people. Why the massive death toll? Blame the quake's strength (8.0 on the Richter scale, or more than 30 times more powerful

than the recent quake in Haiti) as well as timing and location.

The pre-modern structures were utterly unable to withstand a quake of such force, and massive landslides contributed to the casualties.

All told, an area some 500 miles wide was wiped out.



Imo govt bans streets hawking

From Johnkennedy Uzoma, Owerri

DETERMINED to ensure clean environment, Imo State Government has banned use of wheelbarrow for hawking in the streets of Owerri Capital City.

The Special Adviser to the Governor on Sanitation and Environment, Barr. Willie Amadi, stated this in a release issued today in Owerri said that the ban takes effect from Monday 18th January 2010.

He said that any body caught hawking outside the designated

markets such as Eke Ukwu Main Market, Relief Market, Nworie Lane among others would be dealt with according to law.

Amadi who is the Acting General Manager Environmental Transformation Committee (ENTRACO) said that this measure is aimed at keeping the environs clean for healthy living of the people.

He said that hawking of the items has contributed to the littering of the environment noting that government would not condone this situation any longer.

Barr. Amadi had on told Daily Trust that the ban on sale of pure water in the municipality has being in existence as he warned people to desist from disobeying the law of the land.

He said that if the environment is kept clean it will be for the good interest of the people.

The Special Adviser warns parents to resist their children or discourage their children from hawking or selling pure water in the streets in the municipality to avoid being caught by the law.



GOV Ikedi Ohakim

FCT sanitation exercise holds Jan 30

THE Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) on Tuesday announced that the monthly environmental sanitation exercise would hold on Jan. 30:

A statement issued in Abuja by Mr Samuel Musa, AEBP Public Relations Officer, said movement would be restricted between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m., except for those on essential duties.

"Owners of structures and undeveloped plots in the FCT are to henceforth cut and clear the overgrown grasses and bushes within their premises," he said.

He advised residents to participate in the exercise, warning that mobile courts would be sitting to try all defaulters in accordance with the AEPB Act No 10 of 1997.(NAN)

Cross River records 100 fire incidents in 2009

THE Cross River Fire Service says it recorded a total of 100 fire incidents in the state in 2009. The figure represents a 9.9 percent drop from the 111 incidents recorded in 2008.

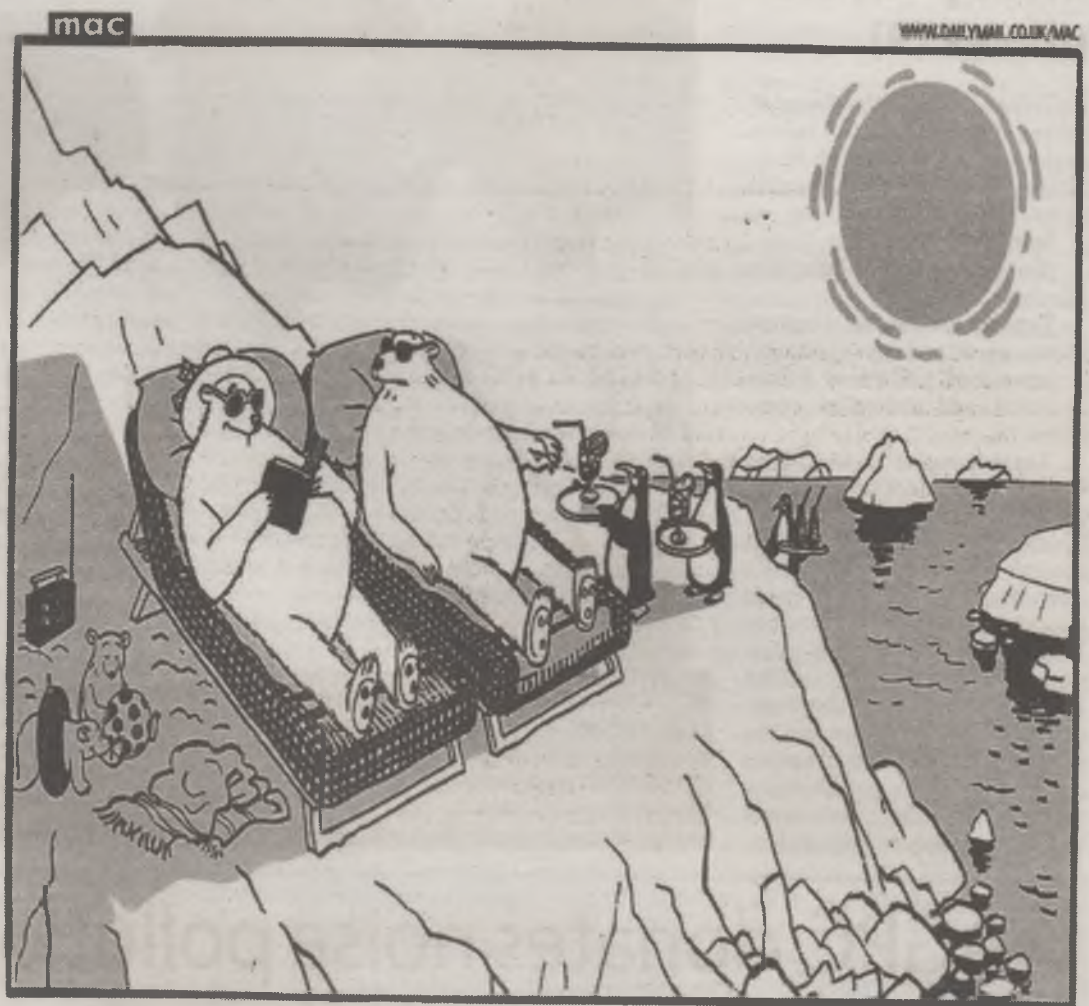
The records, made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Calabar on Monday, showed that two lives were lost in 2009 as against none in 2008.

The records also showed that property estimated at N327.27 million were lost during the period as against N2.3 billion in 2008. Speaking on the development, the state's

Acting Director of Fire Service, Mr Linus Odey, commended the fire fighters for their dedication to duty.

He, however, expressed regrets that the 392 firemen in the service were working under poor conditions. Odey said the state with nine fire stations had only four fire-fighting equipment, the newest of which was procured 19 years ago.

"We are only 392 firemen in the state and the last recruitment into the service was carried out in 1995," he added.



'Be honest. What do you think? Is global warming mere speculation?'

FG to scale up sensitisation effort on wildlife

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE Federal Government has asked the Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species (CITES) to lift the suspension placed on Nigeria by the international body.

Minister of Environment, John Odey, made the call in Abuja when he received the Secretary-General of CITES, Willem Wijnstekers and the Chief Enforcement Officer for CITES, John Siler recently.

The Minister noted that since the ban was placed on Nigeria by CITES following some lapses in the implementation of CITES in the country, significant steps had been taken to ensure stronger and more effective enforcement of the convention's regulations in the area of conservation and preser-

vation of endangered species.

He identified the measures taken to protect endangered wildlife and plant in the country to include, "the setting up of the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency, NESREA and the admission of the agency at the ports to enforce necessary environmental regulations relating to cross border trade including CITES".

The Director-General of NESREA, Dr. (Mrs) Ngeri Benebo who facilitated the visit said Nigeria has the political will to ensure full and effective implementation of CITES and is ready to correct all mistakes which were made in the past in relation to CITES implementation that led to the suspension.

In her words, "there is a

rebranding project going on in Nigeria, and it would affect all areas of the country including environment."

She revealed that NESREA was already collaborating with the Nigeria Police Force and the Nigerian Customs Service to strengthen the enforcement of all environmental laws including CITES.

While commending the steps taken so far by Nigeria in addressing the gaps in the enforcement of CITES in the country, the Secretary General of CITES, Willem Wijnstekers said the CITES secretariat was willing to help Nigeria by assisting in capacity building workshops and seminars for environmental and security officers involved in implementation of the convention.

ENVIRONMENT

300 farmers lose crops to insects

NO fewer than 300 farmers lost their crops to invasion of insects in four villages in Mai'adua Local Government Area of Katsina state during the last rainy season.

The affected villages are

Madaddaga, Tsohon Birni, Tsauri and Kakirana.

Alhaji Usman Ahmadu, the council's Director of Agriculture, made this known on Tuesday in Katsina at the presentation of 250 bags of assorted

grains donated by the council.

He said the grains would be distributed to the affected farmers and victims of a recent fire disaster in the area.

Ahmadu said the farmers suffered serious crops failure as

a result of the invasion.

The council Chairman, Alhaji Abba Yusuf, had earlier announced a donation of 100 bags of maize to the farmers and 150 bags to the victims of the fire disaster, adding that the

gesture was to ameliorate their losses.

He reiterated the commitment of the council to provide social amenities to the people, and urged them to support his administration.

The world's most polluted places (9)

FROM lead in the soil to toxins in the water and radioactive fallout in the air, The Blacksmith Institute has created a list of the world's worst ecological disaster areas

Sumgayit, Azerbaijan

Number of people potentially affected: 275,000

Type of pollutant: Organic chemicals, oil and heavy metals

Source of pollution: Petrochemical and industrial complexes.

Another legacy of the Soviet Union's utter disregard for the environment — Stalin once boasted that he could correct nature's mistakes — Sumgayit's many factories, while they were operational, released as much as 120,000 tons of harmful emissions, including mercury, into the air every year. Most of the factories have been shut down, but the pollutants remain — and no one is stepping up to take responsibility for them. "It's a huge, abandoned industrial wasteland," says Fuller.



LAGOS State Commissioner for Information & Strategy, Mr. Opeyemi Bamidele (centre), addressing the press during the joint briefing on medical treatment for the staffers of Lagos State Transport Management Authority (LASTMA) and Lagos State Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) who may sustain injuries on official duties and free towing of LAWMA / PSP trucks. With him are Commissioner of Health, Dr. Jide Idris (left), and Special Adviser to the Governor on Transportation Mr. Kayode Opeifa (right) in Lagos, recently

Gov Chime set to tackle urban waste

THE Enugu State Government is more poised than ever before to tackle waste disposal, for which necessary machinery had been set in motion for effective management.

Towards this end, the government is making arrangements with the management of the Enugu State Waste Management Agency (ESWAMA), for sustainable refuse disposal and urban waste management in the state.

This was announced by the State Commissioner for Information and Culture, Mr. Chuks Ugwoke, while briefing the press at the end of the first meeting of the State Executive Council this year chaired by Governor Sullivan Chime.

He reiterated government's determination and commitment to maintain a healthy and clean environment and ensure that the issue of waste disposal and management was taken care of and put to rest.

WAGPC donates noise pollution equip to LASG

IN its efforts at curbing neighbourhood noise pollution, the Lagos State Government through the Ministry of the Environment received a boost when West African Gas Pipeline Company (WAGPC) donated noise measuring meter and other equipment to it.

The equipment, which will help the Ministry to measure the level of noise generated from industrial and residential areas, will assist in reducing noise pollution to the barest minimum in

order to safeguard the health of the citizenry.

WAGPC Corporate Affairs Manager, Mrs. Harriet Werekobobby, who led the delegation to the ministry, said the donation was a way of appreciating government's effort at attaining sustainable environment devoid of pollution and degradation.

"The items will help the Ministry measure the level of noise at any time," she said.

Stressing that noise level at any point in time, should not be more

than 85 decibels, she noted that anything above that was capable of negatively affecting the health of the people.

She lauded the Ministry on its beautification, drainage, sanitation and landscaping projects, noting that, those projects would go a long way in combating the menace of climate change which she noted is at present the problem confronting the whole World.

Dr. Titilayo Anibaba, the Permanent Secretary in Ministry of the Environment who received

the equipment thanked the company for its concerns for the environment and healthy living of the citizens.

She also disclosed that the Ministry has received several complaints from the public against noise pollution from the religious groups, merry makers, musical and video centres as well as household generators.

While appealing to members of the public to support government's effort at reducing pollution to the barest minimum, Anibaba

revealed that experts have found out that noise pollution is the major cause of sleeplessness leading to high blood pressure, hypertension and a times stroke.

She, however, assured that the state government would deploy the equipment for the purpose they were donated and also do everything possible to protect the lives and well-being of the citizens through the implementation of sustainable programmes that will promote healthy and sustainable environment.

Copenhagen accord and adaptation to climate change

By Ngodoo Akuto

FOLLOWING the Copenhagen Accord, it has become clear that Nigeria must put adaptation activities at the top of its climate change priorities. This has never been more urgent as we continue to experience the devastating effects of climate change at a rapid pace in several parts of the country.

Nigeria has lost a considerable portion of land mass to the ever encroaching Sahara desert, many villages in the eastern part of the

country have been lost to gully erosion and sea level rise continuously threatens investments and livelihood in the coastal areas. Most importantly, the implications of several international policy measures threaten the very existence of our oil dependent economy.

Nigeria had high expectations for the talks in Copenhagen. Her demand and campaign revolved around deep emission cuts on the part of the developed countries, establishment of large and easily



NGODOO Akuto

accessible fund for adaptation in

developing countries, enhancing the capacity of Nigerians to adapt to the impact of climate change and transferring relevant technologies to aid adaptation and mitigation efforts.

The Accord is a far cry from our expectations and from those of most developing countries. The commitments made by developed countries on emission cuts and the funding pledged for adaptation and mitigation in developing countries are neither adequate nor legally-binding — a

key to the success of any international agreement. Perhaps most importantly, the Accord does not outline how the world's developed and developing countries will keep the global temperature from exceeding 2degrees Celsius. What it does, however, is recognize the urgency to facilitate adaptation activities of the most vulnerable groups of the world via international support.

Ngodoo Akuto is with the International Centre for Energy, Environment & Development

CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513
email: citynews@dailytrust.com
News about your capital city

Family in court over late father's property

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A Fulani family has brought themselves before an Abuja Upper area court following the death of their father who they claimed left some herds of cattle and goats behind.

The petitioner, Aisha Alhaji Maikasuwa told the court that their father left two hundred cows and some she-goats behind which her brother who is trusted with the animals refused to share them

according to Islamic injunctions.

While explaining in court, Aisha said though their late father gave them some cows before he died, however, those ones she said, were gifts from their father since a person can not share his property when still alive.

Aisha then urged the court to share the cows for them in accordance with Islamic principles so that they can forget about the property and make do with

whatever is given to each of them.

The defendant, Muhammed Sanni, while responding, said what her sister said is true but that the cows left by their father are only eleven after sharing some of the cows among them. He also added that five out of the ones left were sold to cover their father medical expenses before he died.

"When our father gave us those cows, we asked him what they were meant for and he said

they were gifts from him. He also warned us not to quarrel in case anything happened to him and we all agreed. I am now surprised at my sister's behaviour because the number of cows left is not up to what my sister is claiming," Sanni said.

Witnesses presented by the defendant all told the court that their father actually shared some cows among them and that Sanni was the only one who stayed with their father till his death

and before the man died, the few cows left which were five were sold to pay for his medical treatment and burial.

When the court asked Aisha for her witness she said the only witness she has is late. According to her "my only witness is my late mother".

Having listened to all parties and address by their lawyers, Judge Hamza Yahaya Gashua adjourned the case to February 24, 2010 for ruling.

Husband rejects pregnancy over wife's 'dirty attitude'

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A young man has been brought before an Abuja upper area court by his girl friend's father for refusing to take care of the girl's pregnancy.

The girl's father, Mr. Sunday Audu, while addressing the court; said the man who impregnated his daughter did it without asking for her hand in marriage and after impregnating her, has refused to take care of the girl.

The girl's father who was lamenting the predicament, said he wants the court to assist him and order the man to pay damages of N300,000 for putting his daughter in the family way and also order him to take responsibility for pregnancy.

"My daughter has a few

time left to deliver and Fatayi has not done anything as the father of the unborn child and that is why I want him to pay damages for refusing to live up to his responsibility," he said

Although the defendant, Abdul Fatayi who allegedly impregnated the girl, said he decided to stay off the lady because he discovered that the girl is too dirty and that she has refused to change her ways. According to Fatayi, "I can cope with her because I did not know that she is dirty in habit while we were courting."

Presiding judge, Issa Alhaji Yahaya, urged both parties to go and settle the case amicably and advised them not to involve the court but asked them to come back if they are unable to resolve the matter.



WHEEL barrow pushers waiting for customers at Wuse Zone 6 bus stop yesterday.

National Assembly staff in court over stolen property

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

THE police yesterday arraigned a 40-year-old civil servant before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly receiving stolen property.

The accused, Zubairu Musa of the National Assembly, Abuja, was reported to have received a stolen computer set.

Police prosecutor Adoche Isenyo, told the court that on December 31, 2009, the accused dishonestly received the stolen items from one Nurudeen Usman

of the National Assembly, Abuja.

"On December 31, 2009, you dishonestly received from one Nurudeen Usman, a stolen HP computer set, thereby committing an offence punishable under section 317 of the Penal Code," the prosecutor added.

He also stated that the accused paid N70,000 to Nurudeen Usman and Umaru Yahaya, who are currently at large, for the stolen computer set.

When the charge was read to the accused, he denied the allegation and requested for bail, which was vehemently opposed by the

prosecutor on the grounds that he might jump bail or interfere with investigations.

In her ruling, Magistrate Njideka Duru, granted the accused bail in the sum of N50,000 with a reliable surety in like sum who must reside within the court's jurisdiction.

She also ruled that the surety must be a federal government civil servant not below Grade Level 07 and must produce his or her last letter of promotion before the court.

The case was adjourned to February 2, for hearing.

Sales representative denies stealing N3.7m

By Usman A. Bello & Foluke Ojumo

A 23 year old sales representative, Ikena Ibimamadu, yesterday denied before an Abuja magistrate converting N3.7 million belonging to his master to his own use and was granted bail.

Prosecutor Adamu Abdullahi had told the court that the accused committed the offences on January 16 at art and craft village and that the two count charges are punishable under section 312 and 322 of the penal code.

He said the accused who work as sales representative to one Okeke Ikechukwu at shop no 2B art and craft village was entrusted with seven pieces of

Wory, 20 ebony wood and some fibre glasses valued N3.7 million, adding that he sold the items and converted the money to his own use.

After listening to charges, the accused pleaded not guilty and requested for bail which was not objected to by the prosecutor who asked for a date for hearing.

Magistrate Zainab Bashir granted him bail in the sum of N1 million with two sureties in like sum. The magistrate ordered that one of the sureties must be a civil servant of not below grade level 12 and reside in the court's jurisdiction with a fixed address.

The case was adjourned to February 1 for hearing.

Four jailed for stealing iron rods

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

AN Abuja magistrate court yesterday sentenced four men to 60 days imprisonment for jointly stealing iron rods belonging to Trademore estate, Lugbe, Abuja.

Benedict Kalat, 36, Simon Kuris, 26, Dogara Galadima, 45, and Isaac Thomas, all of Trademore estate, Lugbe, Abuja, were reported to have jointly stolen the

said items on January 17, 2010.

Police prosecutor, Yilkudi Dungji had earlier told the court that on January 17, 2010, one Emmanuel Odili of Trademore estate, Lugbe, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused persons were caught stealing 10mm iron rods from the estate.

"You jointly went to the estate and stole 20 iron rods valued N35,000 and were caught red

handed," the prosecutor stated.

He stated further that during police investigations, the accused persons confessed to have stolen the iron rods which were later recovered from them, adding that the offences are punishable under sections 79 and 288 of the Penal Code.

When the charge was read to the accused persons, they pleaded guilty and begged the court for

leniency, promising not to steal henceforth.

Based on their plea, the prosecutor asked the court to try each of the accused persons summarily under section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

In her ruling, Magistrate Hadiza Dodo convicted the accused persons and sentenced each of them to 60 days imprisonment or to pay N2,000 fine.

Man accused of issuing dud cheque

By Usman A. Bello & Romoke W. Ahmad

THE police have charged a 37 year old businessman, Eva Chinedu Odekaseime, before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly issuing dud cheque.

The prosecutor, Adamu Abdullahi, informed the court that one Esther Olarinoye reporter to the police that on September 11, 2009 the accused issued an oceanic bank's cheque of N600,000 in the name of Charles Ajayi Associate, adding that the said cheque turned out to be a dud cheque on presenting it to the bank's official.

The prosecutor stated further that during investigations, it was discovered that the accused issued the cheque knowing that there was no money in that account.

When the content of the First Information Report (FIR) was read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail which was not objected to by the prosecutor who rather asked for a date for hearing to enable him present witnesses in court.

Senior magistrate Zainab Bashir granted him bail in the sum of N200,000 with two sureties who must be a civil servant of not below grade level 08 and adjourned the case to February 2, 2010 for hearing.

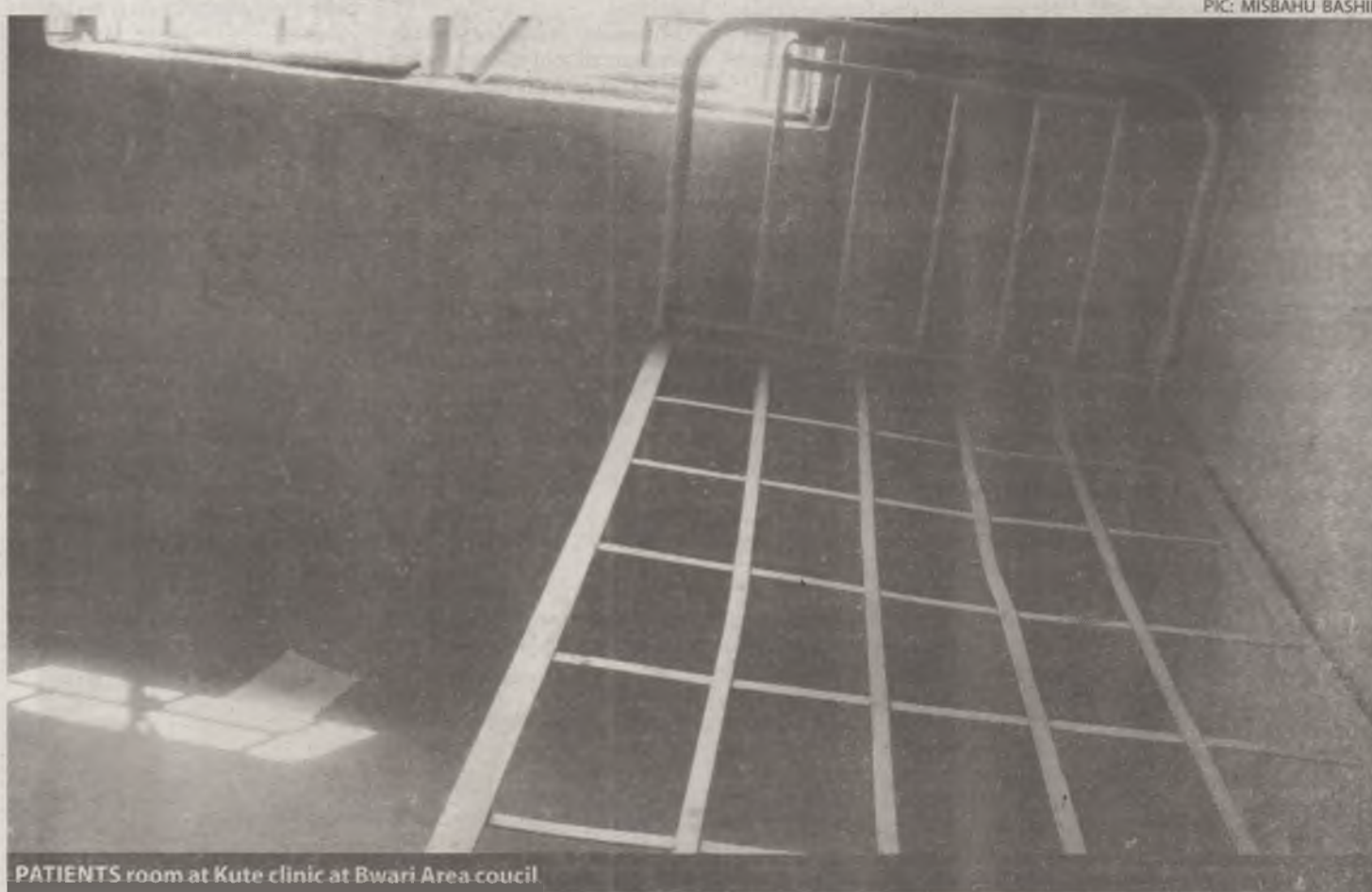
In another case, a 35 year old man was also arraigned for allegedly attempting to commit offence contrary to section 95 of the penal code law.

According to the prosecutor, the accused Ijoma Okechukwu Johnson who resides at No 30 Colorado close, Maitama, Abuja entered oceanic bank at Wuse zone 4 to deposit N5,000.

He explained, the accused wrote N50,000 on the deposit slip in the name of Mezer James Olimi but handed over N5,000 to the teller for stamp, adding that he did it with the intention to defraud the bank and was arrested.

The accused denied the charges and magistrate Zainab bashir granted him bail in the sum of N30,000 with two sureties who must reside in Abuja.

The case was adjourned to January 25 for hearing.



PATIENTS room at Kute clinic at Bwari Area council

Man remanded for reckless driving

By Chioma Anozie and Foluke Ojomu

A 33 year old driver, John Yunana, has been remanded in prison custody by an Abuja Upper Area court for allegedly damaging a house.

The prosecutor, Haruna Dalam, had earlier informed the

court that on December 25, 2009, at about 6 pm, one Major Amrobo of Romeo and Juliet Guest House, Zuba, reported to the police that the accused drove his Iveco truck with registration number XA 630 in a dangerous manner along zuba road and destroyed his house valued N750,000.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail which was objected by the prosecutor on the grounds that the driver lives in Kaduna.

The prosecutor told the court that the offence committed by the accused is punishable under

section 28 of the Road Traffic Act and asked for a date for hearing.

Based on the prosecutor's plea, Magistrate Babangida Hassan remanded the accused in prison custody and adjourned the case to February 3, for hearing.

Driver charged with breach of trust

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 25-year-old commercial taxi driver yesterday appeared before an Abuja magistrate court for alleged breach of trust and cheating.

The accused, Terrah Gilbert of Asokoro, Abuja, was said to have ran away to Adamawa State

with the car belonging to one Mr. Ishaya Livinus of Block 14, Flat 2, Wuse, Zone 6, Abuja.

Police prosecutor, Ahmed Mohammed told the court that on January 14, 2010, the complainant reported to the police that he entrusted his Nissan Sunny car with registration number XR884ABC to the accused for commercial

purposes sometimes in August 2009.

"There was an agreement that you would be remitting N72,000 monthly to the complainant; but instead, you ran away with the car to Adamawa State, thereby committing offences punishable under sections 312 and 322 of the Penal Code," the prosecutor stated.

He said since December 2009, the accused whereabouts was not known, adding that his guarantor had to go to Adamawa State to arrest and bring him to Abuja.

When the charges were read to the accused, he denied the allegations and requested for bail, which was not objected by the prosecutor.

In her ruling, Magistrate Rosemary Kanyip granted the accused bail in the sum of N50,000 with a reasonable surety in like sum who must reside within the court's jurisdiction and swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to February 18, for hearing.



WORLD BANK JOB VACANCIES

The World Bank, Nigeria Country Office, requires the services of highly organized and energized professionals, capable of operating effectively and discreetly in a very demanding, fast-paced and culturally diverse environment, to fill the vacant position of Social Protection Specialist – Youth Employment.

Job Title: Social Protection Specialist – Youth Employment.
Location: Abuja Country Office
Duration: One Year Extended Term Consultant Appointment

Job Context

Youth Unemployment is a growing phenomenon in the Africa region. In Nigeria, youth unemployment is estimated at about 20 – 25% of the population. It is also increasing, especially given the current state of economic challenges. The Federal Government recently created a Ministry of Youth Development and the Ministry along with other stakeholders developed a Youth Development Strategy with an Action Plan. (2009 – 2015). A Youth Development Fund has also been created. The Ministry along with Ministry of Labor and Productivity, Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Niger Delta and the National Planning Commission are currently fashioning interventions on youth employment and job creation. Several State Governments, Local Governments and Non Government Organizations are also executing pilot youth employment and empowerment schemes across the Country.

The World Bank is geared to assist the Federal and State Government of Nigeria in addressing the challenges of youth unemployment. The Country Partnership Strategy (2010- 2013) identifies Youth Employment interventions as one of the initiatives of Government that the World Bank will support in the contribution to improve human capital in the Country and ultimately promoting growth and development. Within the Region, the Social Protection (SP) Unit of the World Bank (AFTSP) provides policy and technical advice as well as financial support to initiatives of Government on provision and protection basic services for the extreme poor. In Nigeria the Unit is currently focused on Community-based social services delivery, Safety Nets, Labor and Youth employment.

AFTSP is recruiting a local Social Protection Specialist on extended term consultancy basis for two years, based in Abuja, Nigeria. The SP specialist will help strengthen the current SP team to identify youth-related priority areas for support, and work with local counterparts to help formulate specific interventions, accelerate results on the ground especially on the youth employment program.

Duties and Accountability.

The Social Protection Specialist will work closely with the World Bank country teams, to provide technical and policy advice and operational guidance to government teams, at both federal and state levels, and consultants on social protection interventions, especially the youth employment initiatives. The SPS will work under the management of the AFTSP Sector Manager and guidance of the AFCW2 Country Director. He/she would report to the SP Task Team Leader.

Key responsibilities include:

- Help in compiling knowledge of operational activities on the ground, their impact and scalability.
- Providing technical inputs into all aspects of youth employment initiatives and operations of the Unit, including developing concept notes, terms of reference for consultancy, project appraisal documents, monitoring and evaluation frameworks systems and other documents to be prepared by the Unit.
- Supervising and providing guidance for the implementation of consultancy undertaking to produce documentations, framework and system designs for youth employment and other social protection initiatives.
- Supporting capacity building of Federal and State teams and institutions for effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the National Youth Development Action Plan and Strategy.
- Working with other development partners and civil society in the Country to develop effective youth employment mechanism in specific and social protection strategy in general.

Selection Criteria

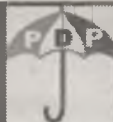
The successful candidate will have:

- An advanced degree in social sciences, or related subject area, and at least five years of relevant experience in development work, including design and implementation of targeted poverty reduction interventions. Youth-development work related experience will be an asset.
- Relevant experience in Development Agencies operations, including provision of technical, or operational support for projects or country assistance strategies, in the area of human capital development
- Superior organizational and logistical skills; capacity to work simultaneously and effectively on a variety of tasks;
- Excellent writing, oral and presentation skills.
- Behavioral competencies that facilitate dialogue with country partners and country teams, including listening skills, effective teamwork, knowledge sharing, training and capacity development skills, and ability to adapt advice to the local institutional realities.

Electronic Applications:

For the full position description and complete selection criteria, qualified candidates are requested to visit and submit the electronic application at www.worldbank.org/careers. Once on the site, candidates should follow link to access **job number 100073** and submit their application online. **Paper applications will not be considered.** The closing date for receipt of your electronic application is close of business on **February 02, 2010**. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

Qualified male and female candidates of diverse background (gender, religious, ethnic) are encouraged to apply.



YAR'ADUA/SHEMA POLITICAL MOVEMENT Re-PDP Govs Meet to Pick New VP

Our attention has been drawn to a lead article of Tuesday 12th January 2010 of the Leadership Newspaper with above caption which purportedly listed Governor Ibrahim Shema of Katsina state among others listed in the alleged race for Vice Presidency.

As a Katsina based political movement with objective of enlightening the citizenry on the good works of both our grand father Umaru Musa Yar'adua and our father, Ibrahim Shehu Shema, we cannot hold brief for the Governors but we felt the Newspaper would have been fair enough to provide details of the meeting and where it held to convince Nigerians that its neither a sponsored or empty speculation as it stand at the moment.

This is so because Nigerians are only aware of the 36 state Governors meeting held on the date so referred and not PDP governors meeting as inconceivably put, who by their intellectual disposition could not contemplate even discussing a position that was not in any way vacant.

While Governor Ibrahim Shema and his colleagues like all other right thinking Nigerians may choose to dismiss the article as a simple mischief, baseless and concocted article meant to satisfy the wish of its sponsors and therefore do not require any attention, response or further discussion we shall at the risk of offending them both here pinpoint the danger of the media getting involve in publishing a sided sensational garbage as dangerous to the quest of democracy and good governance especially when the article has by every standard fall short of a balanced, objective and ethical reporting.

For the record, Governor Ibrahim Shema has not left anyone in doubt that, he is contended with the present important position he occupied, and unlike others we know he does not have that blind craze for power and position but allow God took charge of all his endeavours and remain grateful for Allah's grace and bounties for him in life so far.

He equally resolve not never to be deterred by agents of destruction or evil forces bent at creating a seed of discord between him and his father "Baba Matawalle" and build from the legacies he left behind by doing all in his time to run Katsina most transparently and improve on the well being of his people, these he left not even the first visitor of Katsina in doubt about.

Nigerians and Katsina people in particular have remain confident of Governor Shema's loyalty and commitment to the entire Yar'adua political family and despite all sponsored mischief and evil political machinations by fifth columnist against his personality and government of the state. We have seen his resolution to remain focused and committed to better the lives of Katsina people as the job he was set out to complete within the stipulated constitutional framework.

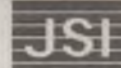
Governor Ibrahim Shema has in all occasion condemned recent politicization of Yar'adua's ill health and urges Nigerians to as he does, always pray for the speedy recovery of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua and subsequent return to Nigeria to continue with the good works he started for Nigerians and even more.

We, therefore, want use this opportunity to appeal to Governor Shema to disregard all those evil forces bent at brewing the seed of discord between him and his father, for they will surely fail since God is not asleep and is surely behind him.

The versatility, intellect and political acumen of both gentlemen has gone beyond that of a narrow minded and self centred clique's coordinated campaigns of calumny.

You have imprinted your legacies after completing all those started by your father, and Katsina people are not unaware of your unambitious disposition and faith in Allah to determine the next step for you, may He be of help to all your endeavours. Ameen!!

Signed,
Abdu Halliru Kafin Soli
Chairman,
Yar'adua/Shema Political Movement.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JSI RESEARCH & TRAINING INSTITUTE, INC./NIGERIA Senior Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist

The Targeted States High Impact Project (TSHIP) is a five-year program focused on the improvement of health systems and the management of health systems in Nigeria. TSHIP is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc. (JSI).

The TSHIP Senior M&E Specialist will oversee the daily management of the M&E activities. This position is based in Bauchi, Nigeria and will report to the Chief of Party (COP).

Responsibilities Include (but are not limited to):

- Maintaining the comprehensive plan for M&E implementation;
- Planning and implementing project data collection, management, and analysis;
- Supporting M&E-related capacity-building activities for TSHIP partners;
- Monitor the quality and completeness of TSHIP data for documenting project performance and ensuring data use for evidence-based decision making and solve data problems;
- Compile and analyze data from each of the project technical areas and support the technical team in presenting recommendations to the COP for improvements in implementation on a quarterly basis;
- Oversee development and maintenance of Project database(s) and ensure timely data entry;
- Supervise the day-to-day work of the M&E staff;
- Lead TSHIP staff to disseminate data on project progress and results to JSI, the international community (e.g., through reports, presentations, etc.), and stakeholders;
- Plan and draft the baseline, midline, and final evaluation reports for the Project.

Qualifications:

- Masters degree in public health, development, statistics or related field and at least 8 years work experience in international public health programs;
- Familiarity with the principles and current approaches to M&E in health and/or development programs and experience in the design, conduct and analysis of research studies (quantitative and qualitative);
- Prior management, supervision, and capacity building experience;
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision as well as to work as part of a team;
- Excellent writing and communications skills in English required;
- Computer literacy with demonstrated use of word processing, database and presentation software (Word, Excel, Power Point, Access). Experience with mapping (e.g., Arc-GIS, Health Mapper), and statistical analysis software (e.g., SPSS, EPI-INFO, STATA) a plus.

To apply for this position, please send your resume and letter of interest via email to nigeriatship2010@yahoo.com. Please include job title in the subject. All Applications must be submitted by January 29, 2010.



CONSIGNMENT of waste bins at the Abuja Environmental Protection Board.

Security guards charged with negligence

By Korie Catherine Chineye & Chioma Anoze

FOUR security guards have appeared before an Abuja magistrate court for abandoning their duty post

The accused persons, Emmanuel Orgbideye, Dangtin Sunday, Joseph Maggaji and Jacob Yusuf were said to have abandoned their duty post and pave way for hoodlums to steal items

at a shop in Wues market.

Prosecutor David informed the court one Adamu Akun reported to the police on December 23, 2009, he locked his two shops at the market and went for Christmas holiday, adding that coming back, he met his shops broken.

He said the late Security detailed to guard the market negligently allowed hoodlums to broke into his shop and made away with Ovaltine, milo and

milk valued N53,800 and a cash of N659,300.

When the charges were read to the accused persons they pleaded not guilty and requested for bail while the prosecutor asked for a date for hearing to enable him present witness in court.

Based on the accused denial, magistrate Folashade Oyekan granted him bail and adjourned the case to February 3, for hearing.

Coy holds youths enrichment programme for Uni-Abuja

By Usman A. Bello & Lami Sadiq

A telecommunication company, MTN Nigeria limited on Tuesday held youths enrichment seminar for the student of the University of Abuja at the Gwagwalada mini campus.

The manager, youth segment of the company, Kelvin Orifa, said they organized the seminar to acquaint them with the right information and knowledge, adding that if one has the right information they will be able to act out rightly and become great in future.

According to him they focus on the youths because they constitute over 50 percent of the entire population and that their character can easily be moulded, adding that if the country must realize vision 2020, they need to focus on the youths and that the earlier they acquaint them with the right information the better for the nation.

"It is our company's social responsibility to the people and that was the extent of MTN ground in Nigeria and we will

continue to explore opportunities, avenue and platform that we know can only enrich the youths and our company," he said

He added "we are out to also let them know the unique product and services we offer like blackberry, SMS chart as well as bringing information to their door step so that they will be able to access them and act promptly.

He said their priority is to enrich the life of the community they operate, adding that the seminar will also be held in other universities so that many youths can benefit from the programme.

Meanwhile, a resource person at the seminar, Less Brown of the united state urged the youths to develop strategic mind and explore God given gift that will lead them to achieve the desired goal.

"Make total commitment in your field of endeavour and always share idea with people who can help you to achieve your goal. Getting the right information is the key to success in life," he said.

Felicitations

as PAN NIGERIA MADE GIANT STRIDES

* New 307 Sedan Industrial Launch (Mon. 23rd Nov. 2009)

* Commissioned Pan Nigeria House Abuja (Mon. 18th Jan. 2010)



PAN Nigeria House Abuja

The M.D/CEO, Management and Staff of
Itamat Ventures Nigeria Limited
rejoices with the Chairman Board of Directors;
Alh. (Dr) Sani Dauda (MON) Garkuwar Zazzau Babba
Management and Staff of **PAN LIMITED NIGERIA**
for these loudable achievements made.
PAN Manufacturers of Peugeot. The most durable car on
Nigeria Roads.

We are proud to be associated with you.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Signed:

Mr. Isaac I. Amaechi
MD/CEO

ITAMAT VENTURES NIGERIA LIMITED

Construction, Investment/Exterior Decoration and general Supplies
KADUNA OFFICE: Road P5, Block 8A, Shagari Estate Barnawa Kaduna.
Tel: 08050249652, 08028405994 E-mail: itamatventures@yahoo.com

Inside Politics

Anambra poll: Can a woman make it?



MRS. Uche Ekwunife, PPA candidate

From Beatrice Onuchukwu, Awka

ALL is set for the February 6th governorship election in Anambra State. In less than three weeks, the election will take place. Out of the twenty five candidates cleared by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INCE), many of them have been seriously campaigning in all the 326 wards and 177 communities in the state.

The campaign is evidenced by posters of different colours and sizes, bill boards, fleet of buses, long convoys of vehicles heading for rallies as well as a number of radio and television announcements. Virtually all the candidates used the last Christmas period to take their campaign to various communities and also participate in launching and other activities. It is important to note that out of the twenty five candidates cleared, two are women; they are Hon. Mrs. Uche Ekwunife of Peoples Progressive Alliance (PPA) and Hon. Mrs. Njideka Ugochi Anyadike of Nigerian Advance Party (NAP).

Mrs. Njideka Anyadike seems familiar with the terrain having contested for governorship election in the state in

2007 under the umbrella of the African Democracy Congress (ADC). Then she had a lot of supporters who were ready to ensure she won the election which never took place. Therefore, her current campaign is expected to be a little bit easier. Currently she is contesting under NAP. She said the burden she has for the state and Nigeria in general informed her desire to put up for the election once again. Mrs. Anyadike has been into advocacy and civil society work.

She said her vision is to transform Anambra State through people oriented government that will empower the people and take stress off their shoulders. She also hopes to "make the state the light of the Nation" by setting an enviable standard in governance, working with a team of equals.

Mrs. Anyadike has also been an advocate of transparent election as she believes that an election that is ridden with corrupt practices will never produce responsible leaders that will ensure good governance. She believes a credible election will benefit everyone, adding that it is the only way to success.

Like Anyadike, Rep Uche Ekwunife is one of the serious contenders for the Anambra governorship seat. Her seriousness is evidenced in her campaign which has so far taken her to all nooks and cranny of the state. Apart from posters, bill boards that adorn the entire state, she has fleet of

vehicles in her convoy like her male counterparts.

Her show of strength in the ongoing campaign is not a surprise to many observers. Her victory during the party's primaries held in Awka is a clear indication of her readiness to give other candidates a good run for their money.

Although, there are some challenges which she may face as a woman, Ekwunife looks set to pull some surprises. Many in Nigeria held the belief that governance is and should be exclusive business of the men. However, it is obvious that such assumptions exist only in the minds of those living in the past. With great women leaders like Mrs. Indira Gandhi of India, Margaret Thatcher of Great Britain and currently Mrs. Helen Johnson of Liberia etc, it has become common knowledge that women could do extremely well when given the chance.

Local examples also abound in Nigeria. In Anambra State, Dame Virgie Etiaba was once the Governor of Anambra State and it has been widely argued that her brief sojourn in the Government House made tremen-

dous difference. It is also on record that female senators and members of the House of Representatives constitute some of the best legislators we have in the country. From three senators elected in 1999, the number of female senators have increased to nine in the 2007 elections. Observers say the number is likely to even increase in 2011.

Though no woman has so far been elected as President or governor in the country, many of them are known to have put up spirited fight in previous election. At the presidency, Mrs. Sarha Jibril is known to have given a tough time to her male counterparts in the PDP in 1999 and 2007 respectively, though she fell short of securing the ticket.

Similarly, Senator Joy Emodi once contested for the governorship position of Anambra State in 1997 under the defunct Congress for National Consensus (CNC). Although the election was not conclusive due to the death of the then military Head of State, General Sani Abacha, she was known to have pulled some good support.

In view of the progression witnessed over the years in terms of women's capacity on the political space, many observers have indeed concluded that Ekwunife might have no cultural or political hindrance along the way. Already, some analysts have placed her well above some of the male candidates contesting with her.

She has been appealing to the womenfolk and our correspondent gathered that she has so far attracting some good level of their support. One local woman who spoke to Daily Trust recently said all Ekwunife needs is to ensure that she protects her votes. "We will give her the votes," the woman said.

"The change we need" is Ekwunife's campaign slogan. She believes it is time for a woman to win election as governor in Anambra. In a speech shortly after her inauguration, the lawmaker said she was not running the office of the governor to enrich herself, rather she said it would be a chance for her to ensure justice and fairness as well as provide equal opportunity for all.

The PPA candidate promised to enhance workers' welfare package and ensure prompt payment of salaries. She also promised to improve the educational system in the state as well as revamp existing health infrastructure. Also on her agenda is the revitalization of community health centres in order to actualize the Millennium Development Goals.

Chairman of her campaign organization Bar. Chuks Chinwuba said in view of the vigorous campaign mounted by the candidate, PPA is certainly headed for victory at the polls. He said PPA's good programmes had been accepted by the people of the state.

On some aggrieved party members who left the PPA for other parties, Chinwuba said their departure was good because they were moles within.

Jigawa PDP vows to deal with electoral body if...

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

THE Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Jigawa State yesterday warned that the party would not take it lightly if the state Independent Electoral Commission (JSIEC) fails to conduct credible local government election on February 13.

The party sounded the warning at its state secretariat in Dutse while presenting flags to the 27 local government chairmanship candidates. All the candidates except that of Hadejia local government received the lags.

Speaking at the occasion, Governor Sule Lamido charged electorate to eschew their grievances and vote for PDP, saying, "you should not bother about the personality of a candidate but the party. You have witnessed various achievements under the PDP; hence, you should vote no other party than the PDP."

Speaking also at the occasion, former state governor of the state, Alhaji Ali Sa'adu Birnin-Kudu warned that PDP

would not take it lightly with the state electoral body if it fails to conduct credible election.

"The chairman of the commission, Dr. Alili Galadima should remember that he swore with holy Qur'an that he will be just and fair to all political parties and will conduct credible election, hence, we will not let him go scot free if he fails to conduct credible and fair election February, 13," Birnin Kudu said.

The former governor also called for the adequate security saying, "anybody found causing trouble during the election should be arrested and dealt with accordingly."

Thousands of PDP faithful from all the 27 local governments stormed the state capital for the occasion. Yesterday's event was the launching of the grand campaign ahead of the local government poll.

All Zonal offices of the party were directed to launch their campaign at their respective zones with the state executives expected to attend all the zonal campaigns.

2011: Kwara PDP stresses embargo on political campaign

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

KWARA State Chairman of the People's Democratic Party, Alhaji Yusuf Aiyedun, has reaffirmed that the party has not endorsed any candidate to succeed incumbent governor, Abubakar Bukola Saraki, in 2011.

In a two-page statement signed by Aiyedun and seven other executive members, the party also observed that the embargo placed on political activities across the state is being violated by some erring members of the party.

The statement warned party members to desist from any form of political activities at all levels, stressing that failure to adhere to the directives would attract sanctions.

The party said it is too early to flag off any political activities because doing so would distract the government's determination to give good service to the people. Alhaji Aiyedun said that the administration under the leadership of Governor Bukola Saraki was determined to ensure that on-going projects are completed and put to use before he leaves office in 2011.

Inside Politics

Sen Ekaette says Yar'adua's impeachment is uncalled for

SENATOR Umeh Ekaette has said that the alleged impeachment plot against President Umaru Yar'adua by some of her colleagues, is totally uncalled for.

Ekaette, who spoke in Abuja yesterday, was reacting to media reports that some federal lawmakers were planning to initiate an impeachment proceeding based on Section 143 of the Constitution.

"I think it is a bit too hasty, we have to first get our facts right before taking any further action," Ekaette said.

The senator stated that though Yar'adua had yet to transmit a letter to the Senate as enshrined in section 145 of the Constitution, it amounted to an undue haste to start invoking the provisions to plot his removal.

She said: "So, I don't think we



PRESIDENT Yar'adua

should invoke section 143 yet. "We still have to get more information because if we decide the matter on a wrong premise, such decision might be too hasty for the country to comprehend.

"I am happy that the Senate President was able to steer the

ship very well during the debate on the matter on the floor; we must work on good information; what information are we to base our decision on?" he asked rhetorically.

She said that the need for more information precipitated the Senate's decision to invite the Secretary to the Government of the Federation to the Senate on today.

Ekaette, maintained that contrary to the media reports, the Senate remained one indivisible entity. "We may all have our different opinions on issues because of our orientation and background and we are at liberty to think differently, but we do have respect for the Constitution.

"On President Yar'adua's matter, we are not in any way divided at all," she stressed. (NAN)

Gombe guber aspirant commends security agencies over Soyinka's rally

By Abbas Jimoh

PEOPLES Democratic Party (PDP) gubernatorial aspirant in Gombe State, Alhaji Abubakar Mu'azu Hassan, has commended security agencies, including the Nigeria Police and the State Security Service (SSS) over the civilised manner they handled the recent opposition rally led by Nobel laureate, Prof. Wole Soyinka against President Umaru Musa Yar'adua's absence from the country.

Soyinka had led other eminent Nigerians to the national assembly to protest the continuous absence of Yar'adua who has been receiving medical treatment in Saudi Arabia and to call for the immediate swearing in of his vice, Dr Goodluck Jonathan, as acting president. He also called for the implementation of the Justice Lawal Uwais led Electoral Reform Committee (ERC) report.

"The performance of the nation's security was unprecedented and historic," Mu'azu, who was one time Youth Leader of the PDP in Gombe State, said.

"None of the peaceful protesters was molested in any way by the police as it used to be. It was as if nothing took place. The conduct of the police shows that we are moving forward at the national level, but what remains is for state commissioners of police to follow suit," he said.

He called on the Inspector General of Police to ensure that the culture of such civility is impacted in all his CPs "so that they don't harass, intimidate and brutalise members of the opposition in any state where they want to do something peacefully."

"By so doing, the police have great respect for the freedom of expression. They also know that the public order act has no place in a free environment where people know their rights," Muazu said.



NATIONAL POPULATION COMMISSION

OBITUARY



PROF. BASHIR AHMAD IKARA FNIM, FICA
Hon. Federal Commissioner
National Population Commission, Kaduna State

The Chairman, members and entire staff of National Population Commission regret to announce the passing away of Professor Bashir Ahmad Ikara, erstwhile Federal Commissioner, Kaduna State, which sad event happened on 31st December 2009 after a protracted illness.

The Commission will forever remember his invaluable contributions to the successful planning and execution of the activities of the Commission particularly the 2006 Population and Housing Census.

Prof. Ikara was an erudite scholar, an administrator of distinction and a patriot who believed that nothing but the best is good for Nigeria. He brought his wealth of experience to bear in the discharge of his duties as the Federal Commissioner for Kaduna and Edo State.

He has since been buried in his hometown, Ikara, Ikara LGA of Kaduna State, according to Islamic rites.

May God grant his soul eternal rest.

Dr. Callix Udofia
Director, Public Affairs

SPORT

Mali Eagles, Africa's perennial under achievers?

Page 55



Eagles crush Mambas

By Ibraheem A. Fatai

AGAINST all odds, the Super Eagles yesterday inspired by Osaze Odemwingie brace thrashed Mambas of Mozambique 3-0 to book their place in the quarter finals at the ongoing Africa Cup of Nations in Angola.

Although, the Eagles enjoyed better ball possession in the first 25 minutes, they could not translate the domination to goals.

What would have been an opener for the Eagles came in the 9th minutes when Obasi Ogbuke's ferocious shot from the left was brilliantly punched away by the Mambas goalkeeper.

In the 18th minutes, the deadlock would have been broken by the Mambas when winger Genito misdirected his shot well wide of Enyeama's goal. Two minutes later, the same Genito dribbled past Nigerian defence and fired a shot, which was handled with ease by well positioned Enyeama.

Just as the first half was going to an end, Osaze picked up the ball from the left corner and after spotting that the Mamba's goalkeeper Rafael, was slightly away from the near post, he released a powerful low drive into the net.

The second half was even better for the Eagles who were more determined to redeem their sagging image. Two minutes after the commencement of the second half, Sani Kaita sent a free pass to Yakubu Aiyegbeni who sprinted down before releasing a delicious low ball that evaded the Mambas defenders, Khan and Lobo, before finding Osaze who wasted no time to squeeze the ball pass the keeper for the



SUPER Eagles forward Obafemi Martins, right, reacts with teammate Obinna Nsofor after scoring Nigeria's third goal against Mozambique at the Tundavala stadium in Lubango, Angola yesterday

second goal.

In the hour mark, the match became a little bit scrappy, prompting Amodu to introduce his 'weapon of mass destruction' Obafemi Martins, to replace the skipper, Aiyegbeni Yakubu.

Minutes after his introduction, Monteiro was allowed by

the Eagles defenders to take a free header, which forced Enyeama to quickly make a stupendous save. Not satisfied with the midfield, Ayila was brought in in the 72nd minutes to replace Etuhu and Nsofor for Osaze in the 83rd minutes.

Three minutes later, Nigeria

corner kick was headed away, but while Campira was still battling with what to do with the ball, Mikel collected it from him and released a thunderous shot that was saved by the goalkeeper. But the keeper's effort only postponed the evil day as the rebound fell to the boot of Martins who

buried the ball in the net from the 8 yards.

With the victory against Mozambique, Eagles now have six points and have secured the second position in the group behind Egypt who thrashed Benin 2-0 to top the group with nine maximum points.

Eagles must avoid back passes - Kpakor

By David Ngobua

EVEN as Super Eagles picked one of the quarterfinal tickets yesterday with a convincing 3-0 victory over the Mambas of Mozambique, former international, Moses Kpakor has urged the team to do away with too many back passes as they are to be too dangerous for comfort.

Speaking to Trustsports moments after yesterday's match, the former Eagles midfielder said the team is getting better as it was able

to show more offensive play but must resist the temptation to play backward even when the going is tough.

Kpakor explained that even if they have to play back passes, Eagles must learn to do so within their opponents own half because it is risky to indulge in such actions in their own half.

"I am really happy that Eagles won convincingly. They played better than what they did in their previous matches. Today (yesterday) I saw offensive play and that kept their opponents away from

their goal area. Even before now, I knew that the team will get better as the competition progresses," he said.

Kpakor also hailed the introduction of Obafemi Martins whom he said changed the team's attack the moment he stepped on the field.

He noted that there was a telepathic understanding between the Wolfsburg of Germany attacker and Osaze Odemwingie which freed the midfielders as they had more space to distribute the balls.

Kpakor further said that Aiy-

engbeni had no business being on the field when Martins was sitting on the bench.

The former BCC Lions gem said he appreciates Yakubu's contributions but he has not been able to demonstrate enough sharpness expected of a striker of his status.

"My suggestion is that in subsequent matches, Martins should be paired with Osaze. For once, Aiyegbeni should give way for these two strikers to start and let's see what they can do. I have no iota of doubt in my mind that Osaze-Martins partnership will yield the

necessary result," he observed.

Kpakor furthermore called on Nigerians to be patient with the team as he said Eagles will continue to improve on their performance.

"I want Nigerians to give the Eagles a chance. Too many criticisms will not take the team anywhere. For me, today's (yesterday's) victory did not come as a surprise because right from the beginning, I knew they will improve with time. Just one defeat is not enough for us to write off the team," he said.

Do-or-die clash for former champions

FORMER champions Cameroon and Tunisia will meet for a do-or-die Africa Cup of Nations Group D match at the Estadio Alto da Chela in Lubango today, with one of the heavyweights set to make an early exit from the tournament.

The equation is very sim-

ple for Tunisia: victory will see them through to the quarterfinals; anything less and the 2004 champions will be on an early flight back home.

For four-times champions Cameroon things are a bit more complicated. A win over Tunisia will see them safely through to the next round but they could

conceivably qualify even if they draw but it then depends on the result between Gabon and Zambia in the concurrent game played in Benguela.

It is possible that we could end up with a three-way tie at the top of Group D between Gabon, Cameroon and Zambia. All would have four points and

the head-to-head tie-breaking situation would fall away because each side would have won and lost to another in the trio.

In that case, goal difference would be the next deciding factor and there is little to choose between the sides at present.

A possible decision based on

disciplinary records or even the drawing of lots is not a long shot in this group...

However, no side will be keen to let their fate in the tournament leave their own hands, and Cameroon will want to move up a gear after what has been an uninspired showing in Angola thus far.

Zambia seek qualification with win

ZAMBIA and Gabon moved out of the Southern Angolan City of Lubango earlier this week and made their way to the coastal retreat of Benguela for their final 2010 Africa Cup of Nations Group D encounter today.

En route the Zambians must have been pondering how it is that after two games, a 1-1 draw with Tunisia and a 3-2 loss to Cameroon, they have just a single point to show, as they could possibly have had six points in the bag.

The discussion amongst the Gabonese would have been

The fact that Zambia find themselves on the verge of elimination is all their own doing

around how they would seek out a draw against Zambia and get the point they need to move to the knock-out stages of the tournament.

The last time Gabon managed to make it to the knock phase was back in 1996. Azingo Nationale, as the Gabonese are otherwise known, failed to progress beyond the group stages at the 1994 and 2000 Nations Cups, the other occasions that they have qualified for Africa's premier competition.

The fact that Zambia find themselves on the verge of elimination is all their own doing.

During their opening game, the 'Copper Bullets' were all over Tunisia and should have easily won the game by a two or three-goal margin.

Instead they did not make their chances count and the Tunisian managed to ride their luck and level matters.

Panasonic
ideas for life



BEHOLD YOUR JOY IN
CRISP BRIGHT COLOURS.

VIERA

LCD and Plasma TVs

"Introducing Viera Image Viewer"

With VIERA special SD facility, you can share clips of memorable moments with fan and friends, a large screen show of vivid pictures from your digital camera / cam corder movies.



S series



X series



C series



A series

12 MONTHS WARRANTY
on all Viera LCD/Plasma TV's





Panaserv Nigeria Limited

VI CENTRE: 247B, Muri Okunola Street, Victoria Island, Lagos. Tel: 01-4630129, 4630130, 4630131, 08059777923, 07029078156.
 IKEJA CENTRE: 49, Allen Avenue, Ikeja - Lagos. Tel: 01-4602441, 4602442, 4602443, 07030719089, 07029078157.
 ABUJA CENTRE: Suite A-11, Al-Mahlia Commercial Complex, (Opp. KIA Motors), Garin Area 11, Abuja.
 Tel: 09-7800455, 08054722547, 07058721632, 07029078158, 08191117899.
 KANO CENTRE: 48, Bompai Road, Kano. Tel: 08063284539, 08098450790, 07029078166, 07029276069.

& DEPARTMENT STORES NATIONWIDE

Panasonic ideas for life

www.panasonic.com



2010 AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS

Mali Eagles, Africa's perennial under achievers?



EUROPEAN champions, Spain, were once dubbed under achievers.

This was because in spite of the strength of the country's league and the galaxy of players at their disposal, they always failed to deliver when much was expected of them at major tournaments.

It all changed when they won the European title in 2008 and their eventual ascendancy to the number one spot in FIFA ranking.

Mali's Eagles, parading an array of players from the French and Spanish leagues, share this



MALI'S Mamadou Bayayoko celebrates his goal against Malawi in Cabinda. The Mali Eagles have been dubbed as Africa's perennial under achievers.

The West Africans had been expected to build on the great comeback against Angola

similarity with Spain. But while the Spaniards have shed the stigma of under achievers, Mali have yet to do that. With the abundant talent in their squad, the Malians were expected to be one of the serious contenders for the African title at the ongoing Nations Cup in Angola.

Hosts Angola put a question mark on that expectation on the match day on Jan. 10 when they raced on to a four-goal lead before the Malians rallied for a 4-4 draw.

The West Africans had been expected to build on the great

comeback against Angola but they again faltered 1-0 against World Cup-bound Algeria in their second match of the tournament.

That loss to Algeria proved too costly. Their 3-1 win over Malawi in their last group game could not save them as they were ousted by the competition's head-to-head rule.

Although Mali finished four points apiece with Algeria and

even enjoyed a superior goal difference over the North Africans, they were sent packing from the competition by the competition's Article 72.

The Algerians clinched Group A's second slot behind hosts Angola because of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) Article 72 (1) governing the ongoing competition.

It states that in case of a tie

in points, the winner will be decided by: "Greater number of points obtained in the matches between the teams in question".

Algeria went through because of three points they got in the lone goal win over the Malians.

The Malians had just two players from the country's league, while the rest were from clubs in Spain, France and Italy.

Mali has qualified for the final of the 57-year-old biennial championship once. This was in 1972 and they lost 2-3 to Congo Brazzaville.

They finished fourth in 2002 and 2004, losing the third place games to Nigeria 1-0 and 2-1 respectively.

With players like Mohammed Diarra of Real Madrid, Frederic Kanoute of Sevilla, Seydou Keita of Barcelona, Mamadou Bakayoko of Nice, Mohammed Sisoko of Juventus, Mali had been tipped to excel in Angola.

Mali's fate has also befallen other teams loaded with foreign-based players in Angola.

Former Nigerian international, Felix Owolabi said the problem was a challenge for Africa, which CAF should tackle head-on.

Owolabi said CAF should not be contented with just organising competitions but should strive towards true professionalism on the continent.

He said in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that CAF should provide help for the growth of the leagues in the various countries in Africa.

He stressed the need for the development of the game in all ramifications in Africa

by improving players' welfare, facilities and coaching to reduce the number of players seeking greener pastures outside the continent.

Owolabi cited Egypt as example, noting that the Egyptians were doing well because a greater number of their players were based at home.

He said what was happening in Angola to some of the teams, especially those whose players were from Europe, was a great lesson for Africa.

Mulenga: I'd love to move to bigger club

ZAMBIA forward Jacob Mulenga said he intends to move from FC Utrecht to a bigger club and would love to play for Liverpool.

Mulenga, who can play up front or on either wing, has scored two goals for Zambia ahead of its final group match Thursday at the African Cup of Nations in Angola.

Zambia is last in Group D but will advance to the quarterfinals if it beats leader Gabon.

"I am a big fan of Liverpool," Mulenga told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "If I have to play against Liverpool, I would have to forget the admiration I have for them and play to win."

Mulenga turns 26 next month and has scored five goals in 17 appearances in the Dutch league. He says he is happy at Utrecht, where he normally plays on the left wing, but intends to move in the near future.

"FC Utrecht is a great club," he said. "They are helping me a lot but I cannot sit back and say I don't dream of playing for a bigger club."

Utrecht drew 0-0 with Dutch leader FC Twente last week, and coach Ton du Chatinier is looking forward to Mulenga returning.

"Jacob is a player who is always dangerous," Du Chatinier said. "For us, it is a pity that he is playing in Angola. I hope he will be back soon because we need him."

Mulenga scored 32 goals in 38

matches at Zambian club Afrisport FC before moving to La Berrichonne de Chateauroux in the French second division, where he had 27 in 109 games. A deeply religious man, Mulenga moved to Utrecht at the start of this season.

"For a couple of years, I had a lot of people who thought I couldn't score goals," Mulenga said. "But with prayers and hard work, anything is possible."

Mulenga has drawn comparisons with Zambian great Kalusha

Bwalya for his eye for goal and ability to trouble defenders with his pace.

"Jacob is a skillful player," Zambia coach Herve Renard said. "He has all the qualities. He is intelligent, open-minded and well-educated. Congratulations to his parents."

"Technically, he still needs to improve but he will become even better. He is the kind of player any coach wants to have in the team."

THE THURSDAY COLUMN

Is'haq Modibbo Kawu

kawumodibbo@dailytrust.com 08059100368 (SMS only)

Welcome to Ojuelegba...But policeman no dey for centre!

During the heady days of military dictatorship/oil boom in the 1970s, the Ojuelegba roundabout became a byword for road use chaos and confusion in Lagos. In the sweltering heat and humidity of a Lagos afternoon, loads of vehicles will be caught up in a jam. It was road rage at its height: everybody honking; each one cursing under his breath in traffic that was completely lost to the utter confusion. Africa's most politically-conscious artist, Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, who lived not too far from the chaos, used it as a metaphor for Nigeria's confusion. "For Ojuelegba", he sang, "motor dey come from west...east...north...south and policeman no dey for centre; NA CONFUSION BE DAT O!" Great artists are great precisely because of the eternal relevance of their work. In a song about the confusion of the 1970s, four decades down the line, Fela speaks even more poignantly to our country's sorry state.

Frankly speaking, I almost didn't write this week's piece, because as I watch the bizarre scenario which has entrapped Nigeria and the utterly irresponsible attitude of the nation's political elite, I wondered what to say that we have not, on this page before: is it the venal content of the politics, primed against the best interest of the people? Or could it be the farce of an incapacitated president whose cronies continue to feed off his infirmity as the nation resembles a listing ship in a sharks-infested sea? Might it be the deepening despair in the land as governance fails the nation while groups of political vampires lock in cut-throat rivalry? It is clear that we have anticipated a lot of what is unfolding before us, yet they have not lost the power of surprise nevertheless. Nigeria is getting closer to the morgue by the day and its political elite have become its undertakers.

The week opened with the story that Obasanjo attempted manoeuvres to hide behind constitutionalism in the BOT of the PDP which were defeated. It was clear that the former president is very close to the actualization of his effort to regain power from the back door, through Jonathan Goodluck. This, in fact, for a lot of people, is the worrisome aspect of the transfer of power to the vice president; the fact that Obasanjo will once again become a central actor in the seat of power. Those who went along with Obasanjo as he crafted the presidency of a very sick Yar'adua cannot now pretend they love Nigeria. They lost the opportunity to do the right thing, by opposing the emergence of a very sick man as president in the first place. In their opportunism, they lost sight of the fact that a future date of controversy as we are inside now, will eventually arrive. It is here and they are lost in even deeper forms of intrigue.

It is equally clear that the National Assembly has been complicit in the elaborate charade which continues to diminish our country; especially the leadership. It was from within the haloed precincts of the Senate that we first heard that Yar'adua could stay away from Nigeria even for a year! And up to the end of last week, Senate President David Mark continued to assure that Yar'adua has not committed any crime against the constitution. In plain-speak, Mark is saying to Nigerians, please keep your cool, the "servant-leader" can be out there for as long as it takes; Jonathan can be a lame duck and the country might be careering to a crash; there is nothing to worry about. And why should the leading officials of state worry? The FEC still announces awards of contracts in Yar'adua's absence while monies due to legislators continue to be released. The belated legisla-

tive stirring in the past two weeks is therefore a token of delusion because not much will come out of it; except that a few Reps will get the opportunity to shop in Jeddah, if they eventually visit Yar'adua as they threatened to do. Our Legislators have completely lost touch with reality; they have made too much money "representing us", they live in a land of endangering delusion!

In the meantime, problems are piling up in politics and in the economy. At home and abroad, Nigeria is entrapped in crises of Ojuelegba proportions: just as the roundabout didn't use to have a policeman to untangle the gridlock, so has Nigeria become a nation without a head; we have an absentee president who did not constitutionally handover to his equally colourless/clueless vice. The party leader, in the midst of all of the confusion, beats his chest that the opposition will not set agenda for the ruling party, but he forgets to unfold his own agenda. These gentlemen, through a combination of incompetence, incurable greed, arrogance and lack of respect for the Nigerian people, have managed to dig the Nigerian state into a hole. Whatever wriggle they attempt, sinks the country deeper into a rot.

Fela's music continues to have an incredible resonance in the context of the palaver of the moment.

Saraki: Difficult political times ahead for the father, the son and daughter

I spent the last weekend in Ilorin and became eye witness to the unfolding political situation in my home town. Last Friday, Dr Saraki, the father, arrive Ilorin to attend a funeral ceremony. Later in the evening, Gbemisola, the Senator, also arrived and a huge crowd was mobilized to welcome her. What people had been whispering was brought out in the open: Gbemisola Saraki is LIKELY to run for Governor in 2011! Her posters were everywhere. Meanwhile,

the brother, governor Bukola, is said to oppose the ambition of the sister (which has the father's tacit support), for reasons of justice and decency. On Saturday, father and daughter were at the ceremony but son was absent. Nevertheless, opposing groups of supporters (and thugs!) were shouting the names of son and daughter. It almost became messy, before the father sued for peace. While it must be acknowledged that Gbemisola spoke eloquently against Obasanjo's Third Term Agenda, in her years in the National Assembly, nobody from Ilorin could name any project which she influenced into the community; she knows neither the culture of Ilorin nor its nuances! Yet some also say that Bukola is part of an elaborate family game of political deception, despite the outward appearances of opposition! Kwara State, they say, is becoming a fiefdom to be handed from father to son to daughter. There are difficult political days ahead for Saraki: the father, the son and the daughter!

Jos: The return to madness

Tragic killings returned to Jos this week. The reasons given are as ever, contradictory. Pity that these vicious killings have continued to be constructed around issues of identity: ethnicity and religion. The wanton destruction reflects a complete breakdown of inter-communal relationship, exploitation of identity and irresponsible leadership. We are reaping the politics which has pauperized the people sufficiently for the victim to easily turn against each other, while the elite on both sides have been unable to construct the bridges of understanding to extirpate these tragic killings. My heart goes out to all the people of Plateau; please build bridges of tolerances!



It was from within the haloed precincts of the Senate that we first heard that Yar'adua could stay away from Nigeria even for a year! And up to the end of last week, Senate President David Mark continued to assure that Yar'adua has not committed any crime

SPORTS REPORT



JOSEPH Yobo

Yobo: My injury doesn't look good

Nigeria captain Joseph Yobo fears he could miss the rest of the African Nations Cup after suffering a hamstring injury in their victory over Benin.

Yobo travelled to Luanda for a scan on the injury, which forced him to leave the field during the 1-0 win in Group C in Benguela on Saturday.

"It doesn't look good," he told Reu-

ters as he prepared to depart Luanda airport on Wednesday for Lubango, where Nigeria play their final group game against Mozambique.

"I've had the scan and now we await the results but I don't know if I can play again here," he said.

Nigeria only need a draw in Wednesday's match against Mozambique to qualify for the quarter-finals.



ANDY Roddick

Roddick berates umpire, then tweets apology

Andy Roddick acknowledged he wasn't "100 percent right" for berating a chair umpire with a stream of expletives at the Australian Open.

Roddick won his second-round match against Brazil's Thomaz Bellucci 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 on Wednesday but left in a huff — without shaking the umpire's hand. It was his second confrontation with officials in as many matches.

The call in question denied the seventh-seeded Roddick the victory on his first match point. The ball was initially ruled out, leading Roddick to believe he had won—but it was then challenged by Bellucci.

The Hawkeye system used to challenge linesmen's calls showed the ball had bounced in, just barely, and Irish chair umpire Fergus Murphy awarded the point to Bellucci.

Roddick waited until after the match to angrily tell the umpire that he would have gone for the ball if he had known it was in.