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As at Friday, April 17

TOP GAINERS

Symbol	Price(N)	Gain
Total	149.97	+6.46
Chevron	94.81	+4.51
AP	80.54	+3.83

TOP LOSERS

Symbol	Price(N)	Loss
Oando	69.00	-1.00
PZ	15.80	-0.72
BCC	21.00	-0.66

Cap. N4, 492, 921, 418, 490.00

NAIRA EXCHANGE RATE

	Selling	Buying
EURO	212	210
POUND	245	243
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Source: Fririsa Bureau de Change, Lagos.

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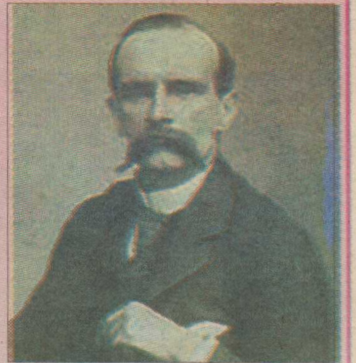
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Registration is in progress

Zungeru: A forgotten former capital

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Media Trust titles wear new look

Media Trust Limited, publishers of *Daily Trust*, *Weekly Trust*, *Sunday Trust* and *Aminiya* is pleased to announce to its readers that we are offering crisp new look newspapers as from the 22nd of April 2009. This follows months of intensive work designed to give our loyal readers better looking papers that will be more pleasing to the eye and with improved content. We hope to provide our readers with better pictures and graphics that will make reading real fun. Our readers will also find new specialized pages including a richer, fuller and more colourful sports reporting. Readers of *Weekly Trust*, our Saturday edition will be treated to a glossy magazine insert on style, fashion and the latest society events like weddings, turbanings and anniversaries. With all these changes and to continue to serve readers better in the face of the rising cost of doing business, *Daily Trust* will from the 22nd of April be sold at 150 Naira which is the price of most other daily newspapers. *Weekly Trust* and *Sunday Trust*

will both be at 200 Naira as from the weekend of 25th April 2009. As a reward to our loyal subscribers Media Trust is offering them the unprecedented package of continuing to enjoy the Trust newspapers at the old price. This means that any individual or company who subscribes to any of the titles for a minimum of 1 year will have it delivered to his address at no extra cost at the price of 100 Naira for *Daily Trust* and 150 Naira each for *Weekly Trust* and *Sunday Trust* respectively. At the start the offer is limited to residents of Abuja, Lagos, and Kaduna. Kano, Maiduguri, Port Harcourt and other cities will follow soon. Those interested in this fantastic offer in the 3 initial cities should text YES to the number provided against their respective cities.

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Debt trap persists: Nigeria pays \$1.5 billion in 2 years

By Idris Ahmed

Several years after this country was supposed to have exited from the international debt trap, the Federal Government spent \$1.486 billion to service the nation's foreign debt in 2007 and 2008, a document obtained from the Debt Management Office (DMO) at the weekend has shown.

The debt stock of Nigeria is currently put at \$3.7 billion. Minister of Finance Dr. Mansur Mukhtar has said that out of the total foreign debt stock, \$3.2 billion is owed to the World Bank. \$1.022 was spent in 2007 to service the debt, while \$464.63 million was used for the same purpose in 2008.

A breakdown of the payments

showed that in 2007, the World Bank Group was paid \$237.70 million, while the African Development Bank (AfDB) and African Development Fund (AfDF) got \$139.26 million and \$4.24 million respectively.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Development Fund (EDF) got \$3.87 million and \$7.70 million respectively. \$27 million was paid to Non-Paris Club, while the London Club got \$102.59 million.

Still in 2007, \$476.60 million and \$22.60 million were paid as promissory and commercial notes respectively for private creditors.

Cont. on Pg. 5



A worker putting finishing touches at the Eagles Square, Abuja, last night preparatory to the kick-off of the PDP special convention today.

Photo: Kennedy Egbonodje

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2days

NEWS

Kaduna kidnapping: Abductors demand N20 million—Police

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

The kidnapers who abducted a 45 year old Canadian, Mrs Julie Ann Mulligan, in Kaduna last Thursday have demanded for a ransom of N20 million before she is released but the police are still holding dialoguing with them, Kaduna State Police Commissioner, Alhaji Tambari Yabo Mohammed said yesterday.

Addressing a press conference at the police headquarters, the commissioner said the kidnapers initially asked for N100 million. He added that they were using the GSM telephone which they had earlier collected from Moses Kadeer, the person who was with Mrs Mulligan when she was kidnapped. According to him, Mrs Mulligan is a Rotarian who came to Kaduna on April 15 with four other Canadians on a group study exchange programme under the auspices of Rotary International Club. "The team had been to Kano and Katsina states before arriving Kaduna and were expected to proceed to Jos thereafter," the commissioner said.

Alhaji Tambari blamed the local chapter of Rotary club for not intimating the police about the coming of the Canadians. He said that whenever foreign nationals are coming, the police are usually informed and they make necessary security arrangements for them. He recalled that when Reihand Bonke, a renowned Christian preacher came to Kaduna the police provided his security throughout his stay in the state. The police chief berated the Rotarians for hosting the visiting Canadians in Kenfeli Hotel where there is no adequate security. "On a general note, we have a duty to provide security to all citizens, by providing patrols to all places", he said, adding that crimes are inevitable as they happen in every society. The police, he further said, have been working closely with the State Security Service who have rendered undercover information, since the kidnapping occurred. The command has also mounted surveillance at hotels, relaxation spots and uncompleted buildings, he also said, adding that the police has also mounted road blocks for all vehicles moving in and out of Kaduna. Alhaji Tambari called on the general public to be on the look out and render useful information to state police command on these GSM lines: 08037241645; 08037018210, 08036527850, 08023844401, 08035892182, 08023099401. He also dispelled the rumour that an Egyptian was also kidnapped yesterday, describing it as a wicked and malicious rumour.

Mixed reactions trail installation of CCTV in NASS

By Tashikalmah Hallah, Abdul-Rahaman Abubakar & Nasidi A. Yahaya

Senators and Members of the House of Representatives yesterday expressed their reservation over the installation of Close Circuit Cameras (CCTV) in their respective offices fearing that the cameras were a ploy to bug them. The CCTV were recently installed in offices of chairmen of committees in the Senate while each office in the new wing of the House of Representatives was furnished with security device with an intent to monitor the influx of visitors in their respective offices. Contract for the furnishing of MPs offices in the House of Representatives became controversial in November last year, when some MPs alleged that the contract was inflated. The controversy led to the suspension of an MP, Rep Independence Ogunewe in February this year. But some MPs who spoke to *Daily Trust* on the installation of the cameras expressed different opinions on the desirability or otherwise of the CCTV. While this was seen as a good gesture on the part of leadership of the National Assembly to further help secure the lives of the law makers some of them are not quite happy with the development. Chairman Senate committee on Services, Senator Humphrey Henshaw (PDP, Cross River

South) said, "if you notice very recently the National Assembly has become porous security wise, we have a situation whereby people just come in any how without having appointment to see Senators but they will just hang around the corridors and as soon as they see any Senator passing by they will block him and start to beg for money.



Two suspected thieves pleading after their arrest at Area 8, Garki, Abuja for allegedly robbing a woman at gun point. Pic: Kennedy Egbonodje.

FG cuts salaries of public officers by 20%

Ahead of the expected recommendation on salary reduction from the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC), the Federal Government has cut the monthly remuneration of all political and public office holders in the Executive Arm of government at the federal level by 20% effective from April 2009.

President Umar Yar'adua in February wrote to RMAFC to slash the salary of public office holders because of the dwindling revenue base of the government and the current global economic meltdown. But a source at RMAFC told *Daily Trust* yesterday that "the commission is still working on the pay cut."

An online intelligence publication, *Economic Confidential* said it got a presidency document at the weekend, where the 20 percent pay

By Jibrin Abubakar & Idris Ahmed

cut directive was given. "The new directive affects the salaries and allowances of ministers, Special Advisers, chief executives and chairmen and members of constitutional bodies mentioned in the Certain Political, Public and Judicial office Holders (salaries and Allowances, etc) Act 2008", the Magazine reported.

According to the *Economic Confidential*, the president made the directive to facilitate his early resolution on the need to reduce the remuneration of all public officers in view of the global economic meltdown.

The magazine said that the President's salary would drop from N3,514,705.00 to 2,811,764 while that of the Vice President would come down to N2,425,257.6 from

N3,031,572.50.

The Salary of Minister, Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Chairmen of statutory bodies, Head of Service, Chief of Staff and Principal Private Secretary to the President is reduced to N1,621,120 from N2,026,400.00 while Federal Commissioner/Member of constitutional bodies would now receive N1,566,064 from N1,957,580.00.

The Special Adviser to the President would receive N1,554,300 from N1,942,875.00 while Auditor General, Accountant General and Perm Secretary including Director General and Executive Secretary would each receive N1,540,692 from 1,925,865.00.

"The *Economic Confidential* further gathered that the amount to be saved from the deductions which is estimated at N2.5 billion per annum would be pooled into a

fund which is to purchase additional transportation for public sector workers in the FCT to ease the burden of transportation costs", the magazine said.

This new directive does not affect judicial officers and legislators as they are different arms.

The magazine said: "A very senior Presidency source who spoke to the *Economic Confidential* said that the President recognizes the imperatives of compliance with constitutional provisions with regards to remunerations of office holders and has emphasized the need for the two other arms of government to make voluntary decisions regarding sacrifices as suggested.

"While the National Assembly may likely consider such reduction in their remunerations, the judicial officers are reluctant."

The Chief Justice of the Federation, Justice Idris Kutigi had in March 2009 insisted that the directive of President Yar'adua for the downward review of remuneration packages does not extend to judicial officers because the security of tenure of all judicial officers in the Federation is guaranteed under Section 84 Subsection (1)-(4) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal republic of Nigeria, to the effect that salaries and allowances of judicial officers cannot be altered to their disadvantage.

The magazine said that the Presidency's short-cut for immediately implementation of the reduction of salaries and allowances of the political office holders was to hasten the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) to determine the salaries.

AP vs Dangote: Otedola testifies before EFCC

By Misbahu Bashir & Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

The conflict between this country's business titans Alhaji Aliko Dangote and Chief Femi Otedola had a new twist at the weekend when Otedola, who is Chairman of African Petroleum Plc (AP), appeared before agents of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in Abuja for several hours. He was asked to shed more light on the petition filed by AP's shareholders Dangote, who is the Vice-President of the Nigeria Stock Exchange, as well as Nova Finance and Securities Limited for losses incurred as a result of manipulation of the company's shares on the stock exchange.

When contacted yester-

day, EFCC's Head of Media and Publicity Femi Babafemi told *Daily Trust* that Otedola was at the Commission to give testimony regarding the petition he filed against Dangote. "He was not compelled, rather he came voluntarily to give his statement on the petition of AP against Dangote," Babafemi said. He however declined to give the details of Otedola's statement.

AP shareholders have accused Dangote and Nova Finance and Securities of unwholesome and unethical practices leading to the devaluing of the AP's shares.

They are seeking the payment of N117.18bn being losses incurred as a result of the manipulation of the share price between August 21, 2008 and March 26, 2009.

The management of AP had said, "Our investigation reveals that in the last 8 weeks, there has been a premeditated and orchestrated "crossing" of AP Plc shares amongst similar entities owned and controlled either by Alhaji Aliko Dangote or Nova Finance and Securities Ltd. This unethical practice of "crossing" is perpetrated by Nova Finance and Securities Ltd transferring or purportedly selling a minimum of 50,000 units of AP Plc shares which is the required minimum to drop the price on

a daily basis."

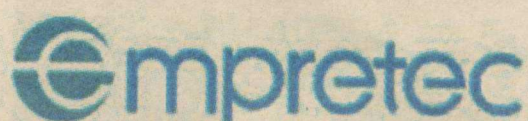
The Managing Director of AP, Mr. Femi Falasinu also told *Daily Trust* in Lagos yesterday that the visit of the company's chairman to EFCC was in connection with the earlier petition written by the company to the agency. Falasinu said all other parties involved in the case including him would soon appear at a specified date before EFCC over the issue.

"There is nothing unusual about this. AP is the complainant and our chairman was in EFCC based on the invitation by the commission. All the parties concerned including Alhaji Aliko Dangote, Nova Finance and Securities, NSE, SEC will be invited", he said.



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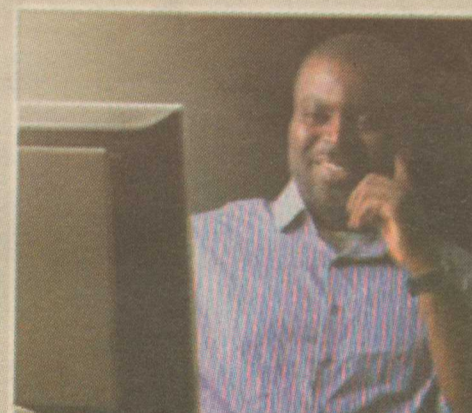
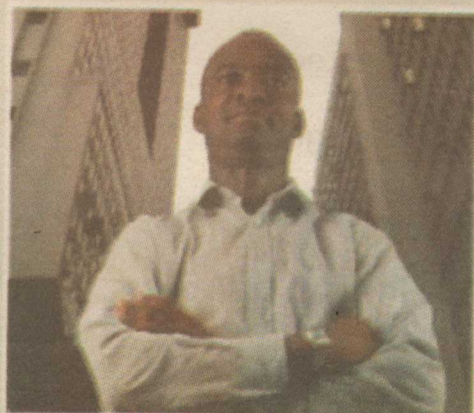
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NEWS

Nigeria pays \$1.5 billion in 2 years

Continued from Page 1

In 2008, \$380.63 million was used to service debt owed to multilateral agencies which include IBRD (\$204.36m), AfDB (\$126.86m) and IFAD (\$1.85m). AfDB, IDA and EDF got \$4.60 million, \$37.17 million and \$5.79 million respectively.

The London Club was paid \$41.72 million as oil warrant in 2008, while Non-Paris Club such as Exim Bank of China and Exim Bank of Korea were paid \$5.44 million and \$1.19 million respectively. The same year, debt owed to the Non-Paris Commercial was serviced to the tune of \$35.63 million.

Meanwhile, the Debt Management Office has prescribed a national borrowing limit for the three tiers of government in order to ensure overall debt sustainability. DMO's Director

General Dr. Abraham Nwankwo said debts owed by three tiers of government including foreign and domestic debts should not exceed 45 per cent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

He said the country's debt is presently less than 12 per cent of the annual GDP. He said this Friday in Abuja when he hosted the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Mr. Kamallesh Sharma. He put the country's domestic debt at N2.3 trillion and foreign debt at \$3.7 billion.

He also told the Commonwealth secretary that the 36 states of the federation account for 40 per cent of the current external debts while the Federal Government accounts for the remaining 60 per cent.

10 roasted to death in Kano ghastly accident

Ten people were burnt to death yesterday when a golf salon car traveling from Kaduna and a commuter Hiace bus bursted into flame after a collision in Tudun Bayero village, kilometer 18, along Kano-Kaduna expressway.

The accident occurred at about 1 pm. The golf salon car that was conveying jerry cans of fuel. The uncontrollable flames from both vehicles made rescue impossible as villagers watched the occupants roasting to death.

An eyewitness, Malam Abdullahi Tudun Bayero who is the chairman of the NURTW in the area, told

From Hassan A Karofi, Kano

Daily Trust that 'When the golf rammed into the bus that was waiting to load some passengers, they both went into flames and killed all the occupants except two who were already disembarking'.

He said the golf was filled with jerry cans of fuel. A survivor, Malama Hajara Shehu told our reporter shortly after the accident that she was disembarking from the bus when the golf lost control and rammed into them causing instant fire outbreak.

'I could only remember that I heard a deafening sound

as I disembarked from the bus and I saw fire sparking off instantly' she said. Malama Hajara said they were six in the bus and were traveling from Danhassan village before they stopped to drop her and carry more passengers.

The conductor of the bus who came out to load carrots basket belonging to one of the passengers, also survived with a fractured hand.

A patrol team of the Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC which came to rescue the victims could only packed the corpses who were roasted beyond recognition.

Confirming the accident commandant of the road

safety corps in Kano Alhaji Yusuf Garba however said they could only count seven dead from the available corpses they were able to collect.

He also confirmed that the accident was caused by an over speeding golf salon car that was carrying petrol. He said investigations are still to ascertain the identity of the victims for onward handing over to their families. 'So far I can only confirm seven bodies, but if you can wait for sometime when I receive complete report from the filed officers, I could be able to give you more details'

Delegates arrive Abuja for PDP convention

Delegates to the special PDP national convention yesterday began arriving the federal capital for the event scheduled to take place today at the Eagle Square, Abuja. Prof. Rufai Alkali, PDP National Publicity Secretary and Chairman of the convention's Publicity Subcommittee, said necessary arrangements had been made for a successful meeting of the delegates.

'Representatives of the INEC, observers, the media and other stakeholders in our democratic process have been invited to witness the special convention, which is meant to consolidate our party for the challenges ahead,' he said.

Delegates to the convention include members of the National Executive Committee meeting, Board of Trustees as well as governors produced by the party and their deputies. Others are members of the state executive committees of the party, federal lawmakers produced by the PDP as well as ward and local government representatives.

Alhaji Sha'aba Lafiagi, Chairman of the Convention Planning Committee, said the forum would deal with the review of the PDP constitution as demanded by most members of the party. The party had earlier set up a national reconciliation committee under former Vice-President Alex Ekwueme, which recommended, among others, an amendment to the constitution which would be acceptable to majority of members.

According to Lafiagi, delegates would vote on many constitutional issues, which have been grouped into three.

These include the composition of delegates to conven-

By Muyideen Olaniyi with agency report

tions and congresses, amendment on party funding and amendment to the composition of the party's BOT.

Alkali said the proposal would alter Article 17 (f) of the PDP constitution to reduce ward delegates to local government congresses to 10, three of whom must be women, against the current 25.

He added that one of the three delegates from local governments to state must be a woman. Alkali also said provisions relating to the BOT would be amended to include all serving and former presidents, vice-presidents, national chairmen, deputy national chairmen and secretaries of the party.

The amendment, he said, would include past and serving presidents of the senate and their deputies.

The new BOT would also include all founding members of the party, two women selected from each of the six geo-political zones, while the election of chairman and secretary of the board shall be done by members.

On the controversy over the role of former President Olusegun Obasanjo who is currently the Chairman of the BOT, Lafiagi said the issue was not part of the items for discussion at the convention. 'This is because he would retain his position till the expiration of the five-year term limit in 2011,' he said. Accreditation of delegates for the event is expected to commence at Eagle Square at about 8.00 a.m., while voting would commence at about 10 a.m.

Peace keeping: UN officials commend Nigeria

High ranking UN officials have lauded Nigeria's efforts on peace keeping operations around the world.

The UN correspondent of the Nigerian Tribune (NAN) reports that the commendations were made at the closed door meetings held last Thursday and Friday between Nigeria's top military brass and some se-

nior UN officials in New York. The meetings were attended by the Chief of Defence Staff, Air Chief Marshal Paul Dike and Chief of Army Staff, Lt-Gen Abdulrahman Danjuma, as well as other senior Nigerian military officers.

A source close to the meetings told NAN on Sunday in New York that the UN officials described Nigeria

as "a vital pillar of UN peace, security and stability initiatives." The source said the UN Under Secretary-General for Field Operations, Ms Susana Malcorra, said Nigeria has been "extremely" commensally to global peace-keeping missions.

"She also thanked Nigeria for sending some of its high calibre officers and men

to serve on UN peacekeeping operations in strife-torn regions," it said.

The UN officials said Nigeria has been a "very effective" partner in peace-keeping operations noting that, "Gen. Martin Agwai, the force commander of the UN Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) is doing an excellent work."

Famous Kannywood actress Jamila Haruna dies in accident

Renowned Kannywood star Jamila Haruna died yesterday in a ghastly motor accident along Kaduna-Abuja Road. The accident in which many others were injured occurred in Suleja.

The National Vice President of the Motion Pictures Association of Nigeria, Dr Ahmed Sarari confirmed to newsmen that the late actress died along with one other woman during the accident.

The deceased who recently led several famous film stars to join PDP in reaction to the seeming introduction of strict measures against film production in Kano state was said to be on way to Abuja for a political meeting when the accident occurred.

Dr. Sarari described her death as untimely and a loss to the entire film industry in Nigeria, adding that the film industry in general would

From Hassan A Karofi, Rukayya Yusuf, Kano

miss her enigmatic contribution to the development of the industry.

Jamila Haruna who died in her early forties was survived by four children comprising three females and one male. She is expected to be buried Tuesday at her parents residence in Yakasai quarters in Kano.

The Director General of the Kano State Censorship Board, Alhaji Rabo Abdulkareem has described her death as a great loss and prayed that Allah (SWT) would grant her soul perfect rest.

He said that the board will lead a delegation to the family of the deceased to pay their homage. Alhaji Baballe Hayatu an actor also described the death of Hajiya Jamila as shocking to the film industry, he however prayed that Allah (SWT) to forgive her sins and grant her Aljanah.

Yuguda's defection: No rift between Gov, Deputy - Kundak

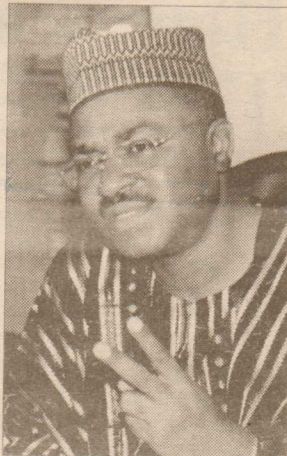
By Abbas Jimoh

There is no rift between the Governor of Bauchi State, Malam Isa Yuguda and his deputy, Alhaji Garba Muhammad Gadi, over the latter's defection to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) from the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), Special Adviser on Political Affairs of Yuguda, Hon. Kundak Abdulmumin, said yesterday in Abuja.

Governor Yuguda formally crossed back to the PPDP from the ANPP which he joined in 2007, at a brief ceremony at the party's headquarters along Maiduguri bypass, Bauchi last week Tuesday. The deputy governor, the Speaker of the state House of Assembly Alhaji Babayo Garba Gamawa, 21 of the 31 ANPP members of the State House of Assembly and the members of the National Assembly all stayed away from the event.

Abdulmumin said that Alhaji Gadi the rumoured rift between the governor and his deputy is baseless.

"The deputy governor is very much with the governor, I am in position to tell you the truth and he (deputy governor) is in position to say it as well; and there should be no interference, there should be no rumour mongering on



Governor Isa Yuguda

NEWS

AC faults 2011 campaign for Yar'adua

The Action Congress (AC) has picked holes in the advance campaign for a second term for President Umaru Musa Yar'adua by some eminent members of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

The Deputy National Chairman of the PDP, Dr. Bello Haliu

By Muideen Olaniyi

Mohammed; the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Senator Adamu Aliero and Governor Bukola Saraki of Kwara State were reported to have said President Yar'adua would contest the 2011 presidential election.

A statement issued yesterday by AC's National Publicity Secretary, Alhaji Lai Mohammed described what it called the increasingly bold assertion by the PDP that there is no vacancy in 2011 in the presidency and some states under its control as arrogant. The party said that such statements were not only anti-democratic but also presented a clear danger to democracy in the country.

The party said the assertion further suggested that the PDP "is either hoping to again rig the 2011 elections or is absolutely contemptuous of the opposition. Either way, this does not further the cause of

democracy in our country, whose constitution neither prescribes automatic nomination for offices nor bar the opposition from contesting for any office.

"In other words, if the PDP does not want to change its losing team at all levels of government by awarding automatic tickets to the incumbents come 2011, that does not prevent the opposition from fielding candidates against such mediocre incumbents and actually wresting power from them through the ballot box. To suggest otherwise, as some unscrupulous PDP officials have been doing in recent times, is to carry the party's

disdain for constitutional rule to a new height and put our fledgling democracy in danger," AC said.

It condemned the PDP for mounting a premature campaign for the 2011 general elections, when none of its office holders has availed himself/herself creditably since assuming office in 2007. "For example, almost two years into his tenure, President Umaru Yar'adua has yet to show Nigerians why he contested for that office at all, not to talk of justifying whatever votes he received - assuming he got any at all - during the 2007 presidential elections. Therefore, if he and his party are mounting an early cam-

campaign for 2011, on what basis will they be doing that? In view of the current pathetic state of the nation, does it not amount to outright obscenity for any member of the ruling party or the Yar'adua administration to even suggest another four-year term for the President? Counting from now, does it mean they want to subject Nigerians to another six years of penury?" AC queried.

The party said while it may be argued that the President himself has not said anything on the issue, his silence could rightly be construed as acquiescence, just like former President Olusegun Obasanjo did on the ill-fated third term issue.

Ibru, Babalakin commend Yar'adua on PPP

The Chairman of BICourtney Limited, Dr. Wale Babalakin (SAN) and the Managing Director of Oceanic Bank, Mrs. Cecilia Ibru have commended President Umaru Musa Yar'adua for involving the private sector in infrastructure development in the country.

Speaking at the 4th conference of the Section on Business Law of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA-SBL) held in Abuja, Dr. Babalakin (SAN), who spoke on "Public Private Partnership as a Catalyst for Sustainable Development", and Mrs. Ibru, who examined "Issues in PPP Funding", submitted that Yar'adua's insistence on due process and the rule of law would in no small measure transform the nation's economy.

According to Babalakin, the nation's "huge infrastructure deficit has greatly constrained economic growth and development, thus inhibiting our ability to improve the quality of life as envisaged in the government's Seven-Point Agenda."

The senior advocate, whose investment intervention led to the birth of the new Murtala Muhammed Airport Terminal Two, Lagos, explained that a nation's socio-economic development level is directly proportional to the level of its infrastructural development and the quality of the operation and maintenance.

He said, "The development of infrastructure is arguably the single most important factor for economic development.

"Infrastructure facilities are the wheel on which any economy runs and they pro-

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin

vide the enabling environment for sustained economic growth and wealth creation."

In his analysis, if the nation required US\$19 trillion to provide adequate infrastructure as recently announced by the president, then private intervention would be inevitable in the face of the nation's projection of US\$300 billion for 2009.

He however commended the president for his initiative and resolve to support PPP so as to better the lot of Nigerians. He also enjoined Nigerians, particularly the organised labour, not to see PPP as an attempt to deprive them of their jobs but rather as a means to more jobs and better welfare.

In her contribution, Mrs. Ibru noted that government deserved a pat on the back for the embrace of the PPP option.

"The fact remains that no PPP can ever succeed without political support. And you can only get this from the government and through the government. In fact, PPP starts with the government who provides the relevant legislation and support," she said.

She said banks as lenders and financiers would become weary in a state where necessary guarantees as required from the state and other stakeholders are lacking in a PPP relationship.

She therefore urged the government and parties in any PPP arrangement to ensure the sanctity of agreement which she said would not only encourage local investors but also attract foreign investments and foreign loans and grants.



Scene of the ghastly motor accident that claimed 10 lives in Kano yesterday.

Pic: Hassan A Karofi.

Arewa leaders meet to strategise on strengthening democracy

Worried by the unhealthy state of affairs in the country, the Sultan of Sokoto, Dr. Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar is leading all First Class Chiefs and Religious leaders from the 19 Northern States to a three-day retreat to fashion out ways

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin

of strengthening the nation's fledgling democracy.

President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, the Senate President, David Mark, governors of all the states in the northern part of the country, as well as other

political and religious leaders from the region are expected at the opening ceremony of the retreat slated to hold between April 27 and 30, 2009 in Kaduna.

The retreat which was organized by a non-governmental organization, the Ashcraft

Center for Democracy and Legislative Development (ACDLD), is designed to build capacities for good governance, human resources engineering and policy stimulation.

The Secretary, planning Committee of the retreat, Dr. Chiakor Alfred Orkuma told journalists in Abuja that: "The retreat was being planned with the view to building the capacities of our traditional royalties to enable them respond to operating challenges in a democratic dispensation, especially in the areas of advocacy, mobilisation, community development, conflict mediation and resolution".

The Emir of Kano, Dr. Ado Bayero, Emir of Kwara, Dr. Sulu G..., the Shehu of Borno, I..., Alhaji Umar El-Kanemi, Dr. Alfred Akawe

..., Esu..., Dr. Yanaya Abubakar, Emir of Fika, Dr. Abali Ibn Muhammadu Idrissa and the Emir of Katsina, Alhaji Abdulmumini Kabir Usman would be in attendance at the retreat.

How to achieve Vision 2020, by Shamsuddeen

The Minister of National Planning, Dr. Shamsuddeen Usman has said the Vision 2020 dream cannot be realised through mere propaganda but through hard work and dedication on the part of all stake holders.

Dr. Usman made the remark in Abuja at the weekend while inaugurating the Technical Working Group (TWGs) to fashion out an acceptable and achievable long time document for the realisation of Vision 20:2020.

By Yunus Abdulhamid with agency report

The Minister charged it to provide a document that would reposition the country to be among the world's 20 largest economies by 2020.

Usman said that the inauguration was coming at a time of global economic crisis when countries all over the world were putting greater emphasis on proper planning and execution of their economic programmes.

He said members of TWGs

were experts in diverse fields of economy and polity, adding that they were selected based on their individual merit and recognition to provide "achievable vision document that would guide Nigeria's development in the next 11 years."

"The Vision 20:2020 we are about to craft would not only be a viable national development plan but one that will have a clear and realistic path to the realisation of our vision.

"The Technical Working

Group is expected to be the engine room in the institutional arrangement for development of this vision," Usman said.

"The knowledge and expertise that you bring on board, would be highly instrumental in defining, among others, the scope, feasibility and technical quality of the document," he added.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) learnt that 29 thematic areas representing different sector of the economy were identified with each

group focusing on one area.

Accenture Nigeria, a global Management consulting firm was appointed to coordinate the 29 coordinators of "Thematic Areas" with total members of 785 from the 900 applications received by NPC.

The thematic areas include agriculture, business, environment, corporate governance and social responsibility, culture and tourism, education, employment, energy, environment and finance sector.

NEWS

NEMA warns states on flood, dam breakages

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has called on all State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMA) to engage local media and community leaders in sensitizing people on basic precautionary measures against floods and dam breakages, especially in vulnerable communities.

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

The agency, AVM Mohammed Audu-Bida (rtd) who gave the advice weekend said the warning became necessary to avoid repeat of past incidents where many communities were flooded resulting to loss of lives and properties due to

lack of public awareness. He said "we should not expect to act during disaster but provide the preventive measures against the occurrence through adequate

public education." The agency urged the emergency response agencies in the states to ensure they have emergency response plans in the event of

floods and dam breakages in the present rainy season. He further urged state to evacuate residences living around dams. According to him, "If there is an imminent

dam failure, SEMA should warn the people around the environment and provide evacuation route out of harm's way."

Hajj 2009: 'Obtain e-passport to avoid embarrassment'

-Old passports to expire by 2010

The Minister of Interior, Major General Godwin Abbe (rtd) has advised Nigerians intending to perform this year's hajj to apply for the e-passport on time in order to avoid embarrassment.

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

from the 2009 exercise only the new e-passport would be used by Nigerian pilgrims as the issuance of temporary travel documents for the hajj operation has been stopped.

He said with the new e-passport Nigerians traveling abroad have enhanced status in the international community since it would be difficult for impostors to access the travel document. He called on media establishments to publicize the need for all Nigerians to get the new e-passport before the expiration of the old one in year 2010.

The minister gave the advice while addressing official delegations from the Kano State Ministry of Information, Internal Affairs, Sports and Culture, led by the Commissioner, Barrister Haruna Isa Dederi, who visited his office in Abuja.

General Abbe explained that the Federal Government has decided that with effect



Commonwealth Secretary General Mr Kamallesh Sharma (left) with EFCC Chairman Mrs. Farida Waziri during the secretary general's courtesy visit to EFCC office, Abuja... recently

Pic: Kennedy Egbondije

NUPENG hails FG over LPR endorsement

The National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG) has commended the Federal Government for endorsing its newly introduced Loading Point Receipt (LPR), just as the Oil and Gas Suppliers of Nigeria (OGASON) has been changed to OGS-branch of NUPENG, following its absorption by NUPENG.

By Francis Okeke

Akpatason said the LPR was introduced by OGS-NUPENG as a means of authenticating the source of supplies of petroleum product.

"The real benefit of the LPR is that this is the supplier's proof that the

products they are giving are genuine. The logic is simple as authentic sources provide genuine products.

"All authorised loading points can certify the quality of their products, therefore with OGS-NUPENG personnel there to authenticate the source of supply, consumers and marketers can be at ease

knowing that their petroleum products are of authentic quality," the comrade said.

He commended the pilot national chairman of OGS-NUPENG, comrade Bennett Korie for the body's success within a short period of time, as he added that the body would wade to resolve disputes regarding adulteration.

Turaki flown to Singapore for treatment

The former governor of Jigawa State, Ibrahim Saminu Turaki has been flown to Singapore for treatment.

Ruby Rabi

to treat Senator Turaki, he chose to be flown abroad.

The senator who was involved in a ghastly motor accident was said to have three fractures on his arm, a gush on his head and some minor bruises on his ribs.

The senator left for Singapore in company of the personal physician to the Senate President Dr David Ukoha.

The Chief Medical Director of the National Hospital, Abuja, Dr. Segun Ajuwon who confirmed Senator Saminu Turaki's departure from the hospital, said he was very fit to travel when he left the hospital. Dr. Ajuwon said although the hospital has all the facilities

Briefing newsmen in Abuja, NUPENG president, Comrade Peter Akpatason, said the endorsement would go a long way in checking the diversion and adulteration of fuel.

FG to scrap Nigeria Railway Corporation

The Federal Government has begun moves to replace the Nigeria Railway Corporation (NRC) with a new body, the National Railway Authority with a view to improving railway services across the country, the Minister of Labour and Productivity, Prince Adetokunbo Kayode has said.

By Francis Okeke

He said the new system would work under the private public participation arrangement.

He said "the Federal Government has completed work on the drafting of a

new railway reforms bill which seeks to replace the Railway Corporation with Nigeria Railway Authority. In the past, the railway Corporation was wearing two caps; the cap of regulator of railway business and activities in Nigeria and the second cap of operator. That is an old, primitive and archaic way of doing business which is why the whole system collapsed because you are the operator and you are the regulator just like NITEL; that was why it collapsed."

"You see that immediately the government separated the regulator from the operator, it became either you stand or fall straightaway and the business continued. So the same thing with the railway system, government is now making the Railway Authority the regulator, then anybody can do railway business. The government will lay the tracks and if you have money and are interested and have money, you will start a company to buy your own train and operate like airplane companies in our airports", he added.

Imo guber race: We stand on April 14 elections -PDP chieftain

chieftain of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Imo State, Prince Pat Abii, has advised the state Governor, Chief Ikedi Ohakim, not to over celebrate his recent victory at the Court Appeal in Port Harcourt, in the 2007 election case instituted by Chief Ifeanyi Ararume of PDP, as such celebration may be short lived after all.

By Abbas Jimoh

The APGA candidate had gone to court, challenging the decision of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to cancel the result of the said election, while those of the 27 State House of Assembly seats were upheld. Both elections were conducted same

day in the state. Abii who was the National Publicity Secretary of the defunct Democratic Party of Nigeria (DPN), regretted that what happened in Imo state in the last elections may affect the psyche of the people in future elections if it is not properly addressed now.

Nigeria yet to fully benefit from Commonwealth-Envoy

Nigeria is yet to fully benefit from the Commonwealth because it had not been able to access the many development projects available in the organisation

By Aisha Umar with agency report

the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja.

"Though Nigeria has benefitted from few of the development projects, it has not been very active in accessing majority of these facilities that are available.

"Commonwealth is not just a talk shop, it provides financial assistance in funding certain projects in member states which include health, science and technology projects and youth development.

"I believe under the administration of the new Secretary General, Mr Kamale

Sharmas, President Umaru Yar'Adua and the determination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to provide citizen's diplomacy, the facilities would be accessed effectively," he said.

The envoy, who lauded the organisation on attaining 60 years, noted that it had provided peace and good

governance to member states.

"The Commonwealth has become a champion among similar organisations.

"It has deferred remarkably from the UN in the sense that all its member states, no matter how tiny, are important and they have a voice," he said.

Abii, a PDP National Ex-Officio from Imo State, who spoke over the weekend in Abuja, said the people of the state still believe the judiciary would do justice in the pending case between Governor Ohakim and the candidate of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), in the April 14, 2007 governorship election in the state, Chief Martins Agbaso.

NEWS

NTA receives FCC compliance certificate

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

The Federal Character Commission (FCC) has awarded a compliance certificate to the Nigeria Television Authority (NTA) for complying with the commission's laid down rules and regulations on recruitment of its personnel. The certificate was presented to the NTA Director General, Alhaji Usman Magawata, by the Executive Chairman of the commission, Professor Shuaibu Oba Abdulrahim at the commission's headquarters, Abuja Thursday. Speaking at the occasion, Prof. Abdulrahim recalled that NTA was the first government establishment to be presented with the compliance certificate since it was introduced. He urged other institutions to emulate NTA's good example, especially those establishments whom he described as compliance evaders, assuring that the commission will continue to work with other employers of labour to achieve good results. The NTA director general in his remark assured that his management would continue to abide by the commission's regulations to enhance the country's unity and progress.

Police, Zamfara students to clash over protest

By Tashikalmah Hallah & Nasidi A. Yahaya

The National Association of Zamfara State Students (NAZAMSS) and Zamfara state police command are heading for showdown over the planned peaceful protest organized by the former in conjunction with the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) against the state government. The students unions organized the protest scheduled tomorrow over the alleged nonpayment of their bursary allowances and interference by government officials in the activities of the union. In a statement by NANS National President, Comrade Bashir Mohammed Maru in Abuja at the weekend, the students said the protest which will attract students of higher institutions from within and outside the state with the students marching through the major streets of Gusau, the state capital. However, the state police command, in a letter to NAZAMSS and NANS advised the students against holding the protest, a directive the students union said it will not accept. Maru said the students rejected the payment of one month allowances as announced by the state government and demanded the immediate settlement of 13 and 8 months outstanding allowances to continuing and fresh students respectively and refund of registration fees paid by the students and immediate reversal of the cancellation of NAZAMSS election by the state government. He accused the state government of pursuing anti-students agenda and introduction of divide and rule tactics to divide the ranks of the students, and condemned the utterances of the officials of the state scholarship board, which he said were capable of inciting the students.

FOMWAN launches strategies to improve health indices today

Ruby Rabi

The Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria (FOMWAN) will today launch a list of strategies for community mobilization aimed at improving the decreasing health indices in the country. Speaking to newsmen at the weekend, the Amirah of FOMWAN, Hajia Maryam Othman said "the strategies are a collection of the methods used by the association to educate women especially in rural areas on the need to care for themselves and their families." The Amirah who was represented by Hajia Lara Saadatu said the strategies have yielded most benefits as women who were ignorant of their health have suddenly become advocates of reproductive health issue and polio vaccines. Earlier, the director regional field activities in COMPASS, Dr Lola Mabogunje pointed out that FOMWAN in collaboration with COMPASS, (Community Participation for Action in the Social Sector) tries to encourage women to be their neighbours keepers by adhering to the African traditions and cultures which preaches concern for one another.

Customs: FG launches reforms task force

By Yunus Abdulhamid

The Federal government has inaugurated a three-man task force to reform the Nigeria Customs Service. Members of the task force comprise former Comptroller General of Customs (CGC), Dr Bello Haliru Mohammed who is serving as chairman, former CGC, Mallam Ahmed Aliyu Mustafa and former Comptroller of Customs, Mr Dehinde Banjo. Inaugurating the committee at the weekend, the Minister of finance, Dr Mansur Muhtar said the "task force will carry out a comprehensive reform of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) with a view to reorganising and transforming it into a modern institution capable of enhancing revenue generation, facilitating trades, and curbing smuggling as well as checking the importation of illegal arms." According to him, the goals of the reform are critical to the implementation of the 7-point agenda and attainment of the vision 20: 2020, particularly "in achieving the objectives of economic development, identifying non-oil revenue base and ensuring national security." The task force has two years to carry out its assignment. For efficiency, the task force is empowered to constitute technical committees and work groups as they may deem necessary.

Gombe Central Mosque to gulp N600m

By Abbas Jimoh

The reconstruction of Gombe Central Mosque in Gombe state will gulp over N600million, the state governor, Alhaji Muhammad Danjuma Goje said in Abuja at the weekend.

Speaking during the dinner organised by the Gombe Central Mosque Project Management Committee, the governor said the state government has donated half of the project cost in order to encourage generous donation from individuals and corporate bodies that are interested in the upliftment Islam.

He said the reconstruction of the Central Mosque became desirable due to the weakened

structure and that the capacity of the mosque to accommodate more worshippers who troop to the mosque for five daily prayers and other activities is presently overstretched.

"The existing mosque's construction started in 1962 and was completed in 1970, but with the exigencies of the modern day, the state capital deserve a new modern central mosque for the Muslim Ummah to have a befitting place of worship," Goje said. To accomplish the reconstruction project, he said, Gombe state government constituted a 28-member project committee headed by the Di-

rector General of National Pension Commission, Alhaji Mohammed Kabir Ahmed.

The governor implored those in attendance to reach out to their friends and associate in and outside Gombe state to donate generously towards the building of the Mosque. "I am personally interested in this project and that is the reason why I signed the letter sent to each and every one of you to please contribute to the project. The minimum contribution expected is spelt out in the letter. For those of you who are yet to get your letter should please liaise with the sub-committee for finance and see how you could assist in reaching out to your

friends. The donation to this project is not restricted to the indigenes of Gombe state alone. The contribution is also irrespective of whatever economic meltdown we are experiencing because we are building for the upliftment of our religion", he stated.

Speaking earlier, the Project Management Committee Chairman, Alhaji M.K. Ahmed said that the project was initially estimated to cost N524million but due to escalating cost of building materials and furnishings, the estimate was upwardly reviewed to N600million. He said over N200million has been paid to the contractor in order to quicken the pace of their work.



From right: Minister of Education, Dr. Sam Egwu, Chairman, House Committee on Education Farouk Lawal and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education Saidu Ozigis during the extra-ordinary session of the National Council on Education in Abuja on Thursday.

Pic: Felix Onigbinde

Israel launches life saving programme for Nigerian children

By Aisha Umar

The Israeli Embassy in Nigeria has launched charity programme to assist children with cardiac diseases.

Speaking at the launching of the programme in Abuja at the weekend, the Israeli Ambassador to Nigeria, Moshe Ram, said Israel would partner with relevant agencies and stakeholders within the Nigeria health sector to handle few special cases of children cardiac diseases and contribute to the improvement of the health care delivery system in Nigeria.

He said, "The embassy of

Israel in Nigeria, in conjunction with the "Save a child's Heart Foundation" an Israel based NGO and Israel doctors visit to Nigeria, organized the exhibition and the planned international workshop to share experiences and skills in innovative medicine and to further use this event to open new window for more collaborations in medicine and related fields within Nigeria."

He said the programme was initiated as a result of a report in The Guardian newspaper of February 7, 2009,

which "contained a touching article on a dying, three years old Nigerian child, Mide Mamufha Midegbeyesho Aiyebelihin who was living with a hole in his heart right from birth."

"I contacted the child's family and established the required measures to get the child thoroughly treated in Israel through the support of Save a Child's Heart Foundation in Israel with Lufthansa offering to airlift both the child and his parents to Israel," he said.

He said that as part of the project, there shall be an in-

ternational workshop scheduled for April 21, 2009 at the auditorium of the National Hospital, Abuja. The one day workshop is to be facilitated by two Israeli Medical Experts in Cardiac and Paediatric cases respectively.

"I believe under the administration of the new Secretary General, Mr Kamale Sharmas, President Umaru Yar'Adua and the determination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to provide citizen's diplomacy, the facilities would be accessed effectively," he said.

Kano State endorses rebranding campaign

By Atika Balal

The Kano State Commissioner for Information, Barrister Haruna Dederi, has pledged his state's support for the ongoing campaign embarked upon by the Ministry of Information and Communication to rebrand Nigeria's national image.

During a visit to the Minister of Information and Communication, Professor Dora Akunyili, Dederi commended the Minister for the initiative and assured her of the support of the people of Kano State.

He also expressed the

state government's readiness to cooperate with the ministry to ensure the success of the programme.

Responding, Akunyili assured the Kano State government that the Ministry would work with stakeholders like the Kano State to ensure success of the Re-branding Nigeria

Project.

She said contrary to the general perception in certain quarters; the re-branding project is more than just choosing a new logo and slogan. She explained that the project is anchored on moral and cultural rebirth in the private and national lives of Nigerians.

NEWS

Senator assures on Kafin Zaki dam

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

The chairman, Senate Ad-hoc committee on the investigation of Nigerian food crisis and the agricultural sector, Senator Idris Abdullahi Umar has assured that his committee would give a positive report for the actualization of the Kafin Zaki Dam in Bauchi State.

Senator Abdullahi Umar gave the assurance recently when he paid an inspection visit to the dam site in Ganjuwa Local Government Area of Bauchi State. Also commenting, the Managing Director of Hadejia-Jama'are River Basin Development Authority, Engineer Sanusi Imran Abdullahi, said the Jama'are basin, which covers 125,000 hectares of irrigable land with the potential of producing 700,000 metric tonnes of grains such as rice and wheat, had grossly remained underutilized due to the non completion of the Kafin Zaki Dam. The Managing Director who spoke through the Executive Director (Services), Alhaji Muhammad Tayyu Ibrahim, said apart from grains, the dam when completed could produce 750,000 metric tonnes of vegetables annually as well as about 6,000 metric tonnes of fish annually while about 500,000 farm families would be provided employment in the area among others.

Namadi to form borehole users association

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

Worried by the poor maintenance of boreholes across the state, Kaduna State governor, Alhaji Mohammed Namadi Sambo has disclosed the intention of his administration to form users association for all the boreholes in villages.

To this effect, the governor has directed the state Ministry of Water resources and the office of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to immediately work out the modalities for the formation of the association. Speaking when he received the Senior

Special Assistant to the president on MDGs, Hajiya Amina Ibrahim in his office, he said the formation of the association would change the perception of the people of the state and make them see the boreholes as their own project and not government projects. "Every time we spend huge money on the rehabilitation of these boreholes but in a short time it would become bad again because of the poor

management by the users. So I think when we form this association this problem would be a thing of the past," he said. He said his administration since assumption office had so far rehabilitated a total of 469 boreholes and that a total of 546 new ones have been dug in 21 local government areas. Governor Sambo also said the rehabilitation and expansion of the Kaduna and Zaria water works was ongoing in an effort to meet the water needs of the

people of the state. He reiterated the commitment of his administration to accelerate the development of the state and enhance the standard of living of the people and solicited for their support and cooperation towards his administration.

The Senior Special Assistant to the President on MDGs, Hajiya Amina Ibrahim earlier in her address stressed the need for collaboration between all the three tiers in the country in order to meet the MDGs.

Police nab kidnappers in Kogi

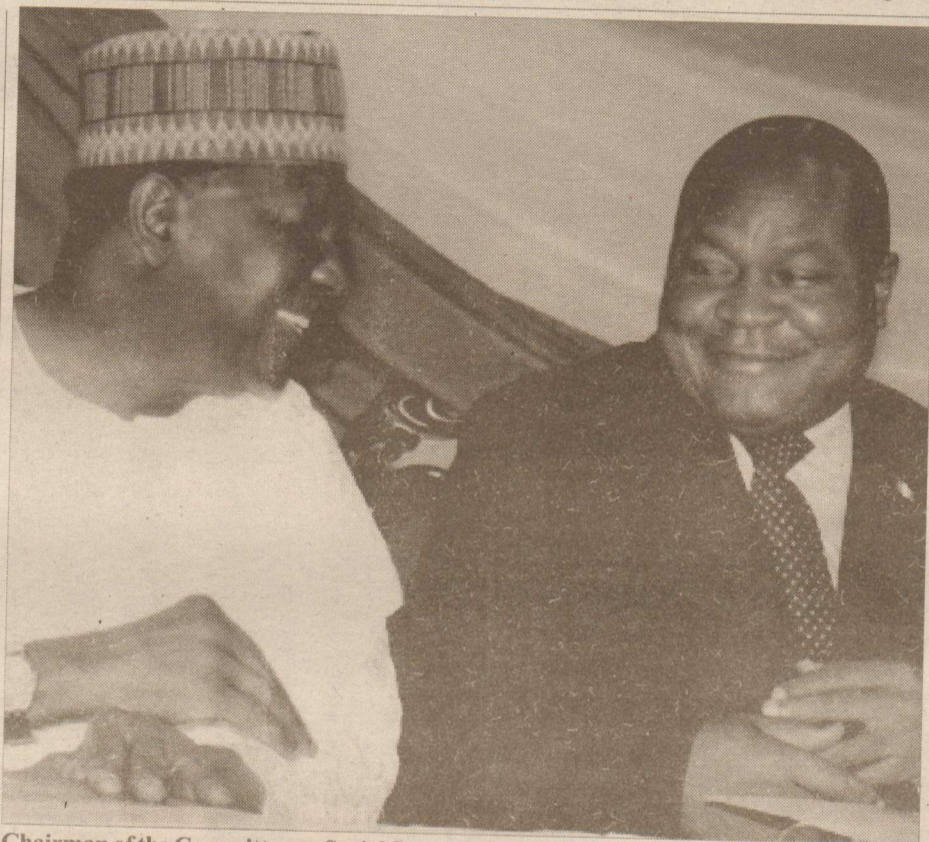
From Sam Egwu, Lokoja

The police in Kogi State yesterday smashed a five-man kidnap gang which seized a five-year-old boy from Ibadan last week.

They were picked up at a bank where they told their victim to deposit N300,000 for the release of the boy. Findings revealed that the Oyo Police command had informed their counterpart in Kogi of the incident. The state Police Public Relations Officer, Onum Inalegwu who confirmed the incident while briefing newsmen in Lokoja said the kidnappers were picked up following a tip-off.

According to Inalegwu, "we got a call from the Assistant Commissioner of Police, ACP Criminal Investigation Department, CID, from the Oyo State Police command that a boy was kidnapped and a ransom was sent in through a western union money transfer to be cashed in Lokoja". The principal suspect whose name Inalegwu gave as Funsho who said he was lured into the business by his friend, led police detectives to the hideouts of his partners in Ajaokuta where they were rounded up.

The Police spokesman advised the public to assist the police to serve the society better, noting that the police were able to rescue the boy unhurt through the cooperation of the public. While advising people to report suspicious movements around their neighborhood to the police, Inalegwu said the police could not be everywhere at the same time.



Chairman of the Committee on Social Security Policy for Nigeria, General Yakubu Gowon (left) with Minister of Labour and Productivity Prince Ademola, during the Social Security Trust Fund meeting in Abuja on Thursday. Pic: Kennedy Egbonodje.

e-passport: Zamfara pilgrims may be delayed

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

Pilgrims from Zamfara may not find it easy to perform this year's Hajj as the state command of Nigeria Immigration Service is yet to acquire e-passport processing machine, despite the fact that Saudi Arabian government has made it compulsory for this year's pilgrims to travel with e-passports.

The state Comptroller of Immigration Mohammed Karma who disclosed this said Zamfara was among the eight states that are yet to be supplied the machine in spite of several attempts made to secure it.

He said in the event the machine was not supplied, arrangements had been made with Katsina, Sokoto and Kaduna States to process the passports for Zamfara pilgrims. He said if such happens, Zamfara pilgrims would have to wait for the pilgrims of such states to be attended to, a situation that would cause delay of their airlift. Meanwhile, the executive secretary of the state pilgrims' board, Alhaji Abdullahi Gurbini Bore has called on the Federal Government to hasten the provision of the machine to the state Immigration command.

It would be recalled that in February this year, the Nigerian Immigration Service announced the phasing out of the old pilgrims' passport which would be replaced by electronic passports known as e-passports.

Some of the reasons given by the Immigration for phasing out the old passports include non electronic data where thumb prints and photographs of pilgrims are stored in computer, and that pilgrims' passports could be obtained by proxy which made it susceptible to forgery and identity theft.

Councillors honour six northern governors

By Ben Atonko

Six northern governors were on Saturday in Kano honoured by executives of the National Councillors Forum of Nigeria. Those honoured by the councillors include Ibrahim Shekarau of Kano, for

transparency in governance, Mahmuda Shinkafi of Zamfara, Sule Lamido of Jigawa for giving independence to the third tier of government, Aliyu

Wamakko of Sokoto, for aiding women development, Mohammed Namadi Sambo of Kaduna State, for maintenance of security in a volatile state, Saidu Dakingari of Kebbi, for rural development and Ibrahim

Shemq of Katsina State for proper implementation of the Universal Basic Education programme. Speaking at the occasion, Governor Shekarau said he felt greatly honoured because the award came

from the grassroots. He assured the councillors of his assistance, adding that through the award, the councillors have shown Nigerians that there were no considerations through party affiliation but hard work.



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NEWS

Anniversary: Lamido extols virtues of Mallam Aminu Kano

The late Mallam Aminu Kano has been described as one of the most reputable and committed politicians Nigeria has ever produced. Jigawa State Governor Alhaji Sule Lamido made the observation in Dutse while speaking at the 26th anniversary of the late Mallam Aminu Kano. The governor said, "Late Mallam Aminu Kano lived and died in the course of liberating the masses from injustice and suppression of the authorities during his lifetime". Governor Lamido noted that the motive behind the anniversary in commemoration of late Aminu Kano was to intimate the young generation about the struggles carried out by

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

the NEPU/PRP activists in salvaging the masses from suppression and injustice. "You will never be

impressed to copy from the ideologies of NEPU/PRP without knowing the ideologies of the two parties and the struggles its members did in the past. It was as a result of NEPU/

PR's struggle that today, the children of masses become leaders. They are in the police sector, they are doctors, they are governors, members of the National Assembly and so on," said

the governor.

He added that Nigeria would never be out of the present political predicament until politicians began to copy and implement the ideologies of NEPU/PRP,

saying until leaders lead by example, Nigeria would remain behind politically.

Alhaji Sule Lamido stated that although there were so many difficulties in running the state, he urged government officials to be committed to their responsibilities. He charged politicians in the country to always be honest and transparent in the discharge of their assignments, adding, "I will continue to serve the people of Jigawa with honesty and to the best of my ability; I am calling on my lieutenants to also follow the suit with all commitment".

Health Minister tasks govts. on Federal Medical Centers

Minister of State for Health, Dr Aliyu Idris Hong has appealed to the state governors to make budgetary support for Federal Medical Centres and other federal health facilities in their domain to ensure efficiency and

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

effective health care delivery. Speaking during a facility tour of the federal medical centre, Katsina, Dr Hong also urged local governments in the country to take full responsibility of

strengthening all primary health care facilities in their domain in the interest of people. He pointed out that while government was doing all in its capacity to bring in funds, support from the respective states and local governments would be significant to build a

sympiotic service relationship to cater for the citizenry.


The minister who raised doubts about the continued flow of resources to the federal facilities urged them to seek means of maintaining themselves from internally generated revenue (IGR).

Aliero to open accountants' confab Monday

The 4th conference of Northern districts of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) will on Monday April 27 2009 be declared open by FCT Minister, Senator Mohammed Adamu Aliero.

Abuja district chairman, Mr Fred Okonta said the conference which is slated for the International Conference Center, Abuja, and Transcorp Hilton also in Abuja would address salient features the global financial meltdown and its impact on the Nigerian economy. Okonta said CBN governor, Chukwuma Soludo and Managing Director, Interswitch Nigeria Limited, Mr. Mitchell Elegbe would address the forum. He said all the 19 Northern states governors had been invited to the conference which has the theme: Global Financial Meltdown and the Nigerian Economy: Issues and Challenges. Addressing newsmen in his office, Okonta said conference was aimed at acquainting participants on the emerging issues in accounting such as e-payment system and forensic accounting. He said it would also sharpen their skills in the intricacies of the Nigerian revenue base and system.

"To achieve these objectives, some relevant topics have been selected on which leading financial experts have been invited to present papers during the plenary sessions and workshops", he said, adding that attendance is compulsory for all ICAN members as it would attract credit hours.



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NEWS

Niger appoints hajj commission members

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

The Niger State government has appointed members of the newly created hajj commission in Minna. Performing the ceremony, Governor Muazu Babangida Aliyu charged the members to work with the fear of Allah in discharging their duties, adding that the board needs people with proven integrity. He urged the board to improve on the poor outing of the defunct pilgrims board. He stressed the need to put fresh pilgrims on the priority list of persons going to the Holy land, pointing out that the state government had made it a policy to ensure that those going to Mecca for the first time are dispatched before others. Dr Aliyu while reiterating his confidence in the leadership of the commission chairman, advised him to screen out those within the commission who solicit gratification from pilgrims. Speaking on behalf of the members, the chairman, Mamman Muhammad commended Dr Aliyu for establishing the commission with all the structures to ensure that the hajj operation is successful. Muhammad said the team would work hard to ensure that no stone was left unturned, adding that the commission would sustain the confidence reposed in it.

MDGs office engages 45,000 teachers for UBE scheme

The Office of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) says it has engaged the services of 45,000 teachers to aid the Universal Basic Education (UBE) scheme. Senior Special Assistant to the President on the MDGs, Hajia Amina Ibrahim, disclosed this to newsmen in Kaduna. She said the teachers would be deployed to the rural areas. Ibrahim said her office would pay the emoluments of the teachers in the first two years, after which the states would take over. She said there was a shortfall of some 400,000 teachers in the country because "nobody wants to be a teacher". "We need to attract them first because when they are posted to the rural areas where there is no water, no light and no house to stay in, it is only people who have it as a vocation that are interested and they are very few. We also have to think of how to retain them as the teacher must be put back as a fountain of knowledge and how do we prepare and make sure these 45,000 we are putting into the system are retained. Ibrahim also said her office was involved in the retraining of 145,000 primary school teachers annually at the National Teachers Institute (NTI), Kaduna, "as some of these teachers have not had in-service training for 20 years. We need to really focus on the teacher. How do we give pupils computers, when the teacher has never seen a computer?" She said the NTI training would focus on English language, Mathematics and Science. Ibrahim also said the Federal Colleges of Education had received N500 million for renovation of their facilities since 2006. (NAN)

Gov. Aliyu flags-off cropping season

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

The Niger State government has flagged-off the 2009 cropping season with the distribution of fertilizer worth N1.8bn in Biji in Bosso local government area. Performing the ceremony, Governor Muazu Aliyu said the state had planned several intervention measures to combat the global economic meltdown, adding that the extent to which the problem could be solved in the state would be determined by government's input into the agricultural sector. "This year is witnessing a global meltdown which is telling on all facets of human endeavour and ability of the government to meet the needs of the people. This notwithstanding, Niger state government is determined to provide all categories of our dear farmers with necessary inputs to facilitate farming which is the major preoccupation of our people", he said. Aliyu said out of the 23,000 metric tonnes of fertilizer which cost the state government about N1.8bn, 8,000 was reserved from last year's stock while 15,000 was the actual amount purchased this year.

Ekiti donates vehicles to security agencies

Acting Governor of Ekiti, Mr Tunji Odeyemi, yesterday presented 24 Hilux vans to security agencies in the state. While 21 of the vehicles were presented to the Police Command, the SSS, NSCDC and NDLEA got one each. Speaking at the presentation in Ado-Ekiti, Odeyemi promised that the state government would continue to partner with security agencies to reduce the crime rate in the state. He urged security agencies to redouble their efforts in making Ekiti one of the most peaceful states in the federation. The call, he said, became necessary in view of the influx of people into the state as a result of the prevailing peaceful atmosphere and the available business opportunities. Responding on behalf of beneficiaries, the State Police Commissioner, Mr. Chris Ola, commended the government, saying the vehicles would assist in tackling crime. (NAN)



Wife of the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Mrs. Babli Sharma (second right) with officials of National Centre for Women Development (NCWD) in Abuja on Thursday when she paid a visit. With her were Director-General, NCWD, Hajiya Fatima Hassan (second left), wife of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Uche Maduekwe (left) and the Gender Desk Officer, NCWD, Princess Jummai Idonije.

Pic: NAN

Akwa Ibom govt links opposition to kidnapping

By Abubakar Yakubu

The Akwa Ibom Commissioner for Science and Technology, Mr Samuel John Effanga says members of the opposition in the state may be behind the kidnapping in the state to discredit the present administration. Addressing members of the Akwa Ibom Democratic Voice (ADV) in Abuja yesterday, the commissioner said kidnapping was a strange phenomenon that was not in the character of the people of Akwa Ibom. "Indeed it will not

last and government has mapped out strategies aimed at totally eliminating the crime," he said. The commissioner expressed disappointment with certain persons that believe government had a hand in such crime, adding that no responsible government like Governor Akpabio's which had achieved so much for the people would engage in such act.

He alleged that the kidnap

cases might have been the handiwork of the opposition to undermine the good works of the administration. According to him, a security team put in place to check crime is 'Operation Thunder Storm', which consists of a combined team of security agents is working to prevent such acts. The commissioner who praised the governor for trying to make life meaningful for the ordinary people in the state, disclosed that the best strategy government could use to

intimidate the opposition was to deliver the dividends of democracy to the people by ensuring massive infrastructure development.

"The free education policy is targeted at the vulnerable poor whose parents cannot afford school fees and this kind of feat has never been achieved before by any government of the South-East or South-South, to the extent that Akwa Ibom government pays WAEC and NECO's fees for each of the student in the state," he said.

NAF command to take inventory of new fighter jets

From Hir Joseph, Makurdi

The Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Oluseyi Petinrin at the weekend disclosed that the Tactical Air Command (TAC) in Makurdi, Benue State would soon take inventory of the two Chinese versions of MIG 21 fighter jets.

Petinrin who was accompanied by the Air Officer Commanding (AOC) in charge of TAC, Air Vice Marshal Olusola Babalola, commanders of the various units under the command and the Command Public Relations Officer (CPRO), Wing Commander Makun Dayo, said the arrival of the two F7 jets would increase flying activities of the Air Force just as he thanked

President Umaru Yar'adua for the feat about to be recorded. The Air Force chief's visit was to inspect the facilities and the readiness of the command in taking and handling the expected fighter jets. He said the sourcing of equipments including air planes and associated ground support has been a serious challenge to the force, but expressed optimism that the package the president has for the Air Force will bring a lasting solution to them.

Petinrin declared the operational preparedness of the Air Force, saying it has

improved tremendously in the last two years, making it combat ready to efficiently defend the nation from external aggression.

He said that so much development had taken place in the NAF with a solid framework laid for the equipping of the TAC to improve its operational capacity. Petinrin said with improved operational facilities now on ground, the high command has resolved to always train her pilots for high level preparedness, adding that NAF will hold another Air Weapons Delivery exercise at the end of April to train pilots and sharpen their air weapons delivery efficiency.

"I am satisfied with the level that the Nigerian Air Force has reached in terms of operational preparedness. My satisfaction stems from the fact that we had several problems in the past which have been consciously addressed by the President and Commander-In-Chief. Though there is still room for development, we have made tremendous progress", he said.

On the condition of NAF Barracks, Petinrin said that the Federal Government has invested in making the barracks more habitable for officers and men of the NAF, adding that more efforts are still being directed at further improving the barracks.

NARTO, NUPENG welcome Railway's revitalisation

The Secretary, National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO), Mr Enoch Kanawa says the revitalisation of Nigerian Railways was necessary to jump-start the nation's economy. Kanawa told newsmen yesterday in Lagos that contrary to the thinking of some people, road transporters fully welcome Railway's revitalisation. "Nobody in his right senses will oppose the reactivation of the Railway; it can only create more cost-effective jobs for NARTO's 10,000 members. Truck owners can then engage their vehicles in

short distance haulage that will yield good returns, instead of the current time-wasting, accident-prone, long distance businesses that damage trucks easily. Besides, the multiplier effects of a vibrant rail system on all sectors of the national economy will be robust," he said.

According to Kanawa, truck and train services are complementary in the haulage business as rail lines cannot reach every town and village.

"If the trains are running, the roads will be less congested and it will be easier for trucks to deliver on

schedule at reduced cost", he added. In the same vein, the Secretary-General, National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), Mr Elijah Okougbo, stated that a revitalised railway system would be a blessing to his members. "A revitalised Railway will have no negative impact on our operations. In fact, it will boost our income", he added. He disclosed that NUPENG has a "position paper" on the reactivation of Nigerian Railway, which he described as a partner in progress. Okougbo, who noted that trains do not

offload in filling stations, said more Nigerian towns and villages, where petroleum products are used, are off the railway routes. He added that the rate of accidents involving some of the 15,000 articulated vehicles registered by NUPENG would be reduced if the Railway was functioning as the roads would be freer. The Managing Director of Nigeria Railways Corporation, Mazi Jetson Nwankwo, recently announced that it would take delivery of 25 new locomotives later this year to boost its operations. (NAN)

OPINION

Who then speaks for the industry?

Last Thursday, in Abuja, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) launched its Updated Report on Nigeria's Textile Industry. The report was as damning as it was in 2003; more factory closures, more job-losses (from some 60,000 in 2003 to 24,000 in 2008!) and indeed a complete slide towards de-industrialization. Alas, the Minister of Industry and Commerce, Chief Achike Udenwa was conspicuously absent at the UNIDO presentation. A week earlier, the Minister had assumed notoriety for his remark, according to which, in the age of globalization, Nigeria's industry needs no protection. Was that why he was absent at a function long dated and in which all stakeholders were long notified? If the industry according to him needs no protection (in a globalised world in which we see all leaders feverishly protecting their infant and adult industries), the industry also does not need to be heard?

Minister of State Mesueir Humphery Abah, in the same Ministry of Commerce and Industry was 'kind' enough to come over an hour late and notwithstanding, the sobering statistics pointing to imminent industry collapse, abruptly left without official response to or against the UNIDO report.

Who then speaks for Nigeria's industry in the wake of acknowledged massive illegal imports, counterfeiting, gross under-capacity utilization, collapse of industrial estates and mass job-losses? The Managing Director of Bank Of Industry (BOI), Ms Evelyn Obutu and Director General of Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON), Dr Akayan who have critical responsibilities for industry financing and protection (against counterfeiting!) respectively spent more time during Q and A sessions in self-denials, self praise than showcasing their work plan to reverse the de-industrialization process.

For one, the MD of BOI was cheeky enough to announce that she was not aware of any N70 billion intervention fund for the industry. Pray what is she aware of then? It is an open knowledge that 2003 UNIDO report recommends an intervention long term fund at single digit interest. The Federal government under President Olusegun Obasanjo accepted this



singular recommendation, announced N70 billion intervention fund with fanfare and even presented a dummy cheque to underscore some commitment. Two years after, if the BOI now challenged with the task of managing an intervention fund is NOT aware, pray who will? There is something inherently worrisome about service delivery of public officers under President Yar'adua. They arrogantly boycott critical stakeholders' fora and where they attend, they proudly come late and leave earlier. The official mindset is not for problem solving but problem deflection and problem aversion, in the process we are faced with problem entrenchment as in the case of the textile industry. Given President Yar'adua's commitment to wealth generation within the context of 7-point agenda, he (not by proxy!) should have personally received the UNIDO report. But even his Minister was not there while Minister of State left earlier even when he came so late. So much for wealth generation and Non-Oil sector/ diversification official rhetoric!

UNIDO report shows how various developed and developing countries have announced varying stimulus plans to reinvent industries. And these are countries without power failure and prohibitive interest rate regimes like Nigeria. Whence Nigeria's industrial recovery plan in the wake of global economic crisis?

Industrialization assumes a special importance in development given its importance in the transformation of the economy through production of goods and services, employment generation and poverty eradication.

Industrialization is at the heart of development discourse. Industrialization delineates between growth and development of nations. If goods produced are not broadly distributed, among the population, we can only talk of economic growth. However if the goods meet the basic human needs of a large

percentage of the population, industrial growth can then be said to be accompanied by development. The advantages of industrialization include lessening of dependency on imports, thus saving scarce foreign exchange.

Where the economy is diversified, industrialization serves as a source of foreign exchange. It also serves as a source of employment for greater number of the population and invariably reduces income poverty.

The dispersal of industry and the emergence of new industrial centres are the most remarkable features of globalization. In the past two decades, for instance, Japan has emerged after USA as a leading industrial power in the world. There had been dispersal of industry away from Europe and America to the newly industrializing countries of South East Asia. Africa and indeed Nigeria cannot be indifferent.

The centrality of the transformational role of industry was widely shared by post-colonial states which informed the aggressive campaign of the post-colonial government on industrialization.

Industrialization was part of the post-colonial development project. Colonialism had undermined the growth and development of domestic industry through a deliberate policy of import for a protected market and blatant indifference to local efforts to promote indigenous enterprises. The Commission for Africa (2005), notes that "Africa is poor, ultimately, because its economy has not grown" and therefore urges for unleashing of entrepreneurship of African peoples through massive investment that create jobs and eradicate poverty.

UNIDO (2004) shows that manufacturing industry in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) lags behind other developing regions in almost all

measures of economic development, namely income per head, industrialization and agricultural productivity. The distribution of manufacturing activity in SSA, measured by the dollar value of manufacturing value added (MVA), is highly skewed. Only ten out of 45 countries have an MVA of one billion dollars or more, while just one country, South Africa, accounts for 27.3 percent of the subcontinent's total MVA.

The top ten producers of manufactures (equivalent to 21 percent of the total number of countries) account for 45 percent of total MVA and the top 15 (equivalent to one-third of the total number of countries) are responsible for almost half.

With the exceptions of South Africa and Mauritius, MVA per head in the 15 most industrialized countries is very low. South Africa is the only country in which manufacturing plays a major role in both domestic output and exports, while Mauritius, an island with a population of only 1.2 million inhabitants, is best described as an export platform. Low levels of MVA per head reflect the underdevelopment of African manufacturing. Beyond the factors discussed UNIDO attributes the African low performance to small markets, and the failure, (with a few exceptions like Mauritius, South Africa and Lesotho), to break into export markets. The report reveals that top SSA countries ranked by share of manufacturing gross domestic product (GDP), as well as by MVA per capita, 40 out of the 48 countries (83 percent of SSA countries for which data are available) have an MVA per capita below \$250 (UNIDO 2005).

Vision 2010 had identified manufacturing and industrialization as one of the critical success factors that by year 2010 which "should contribute about 24 per cent to the GDP and should be a major employer of labour". What is the role of manufacturing in the much talked about Vision 2020? The painful truth is that Nigeria, a country of 140 million is fast becoming a non-value adding, container-economy, exporting scarce jobs, importing everything plus unemployment. Somebody must just stop this avoidable industrial suicide.

ISSA AREMU (issaaremu@yahoo.com)

Anticipating South Africa's next president

South Africa's presidential election is days away. The hook has been removed from the neck of one of the candidates and he is free to seek the mandate to rule South Africa. He is former Vice President Jacob Zuma. Days back the head of the national prosecuting authority saddled with the responsibility of bringing corrupt officials to book called a press conference and announced that he chose to the drop corruption charges against Zuma who is also the president of African National Congress (ANC), South Africa's ruling party. That was a neater arrangement than allowing the court to settle the matter considering that the election is around the corner. As it is, opposition parties in South Africa are angry. One opposition party leader criticized the manner the prosecuting authority went about releasing Zuma. The body made itself both the prosecutor and the judge in a case that was already in court, it was said. The concern of the opposition parties is understandable now that the entire race for the presidency has taken a different colouration.

The court process against Zuma over allegations of corrupt enrichment did not begin yesterday. It did about five years ago. That time, Zuma had found himself out of favour with his principal, Thabo Mbeki, the former president of South Africa. Mbeki had kicked Zuma out of office over some allegations part of which bordered on morality. A yoke of corruption charge was soon placed on Zuma's neck by South Africa's anti-corruption agency. In September 2008, the trial judge in the case accused Mbeki of exerting pressure on him to influence the outcome. The ANC hierarchy called on Mbeki to leave the State House. With about six months left on his second four year term, the president left. Having clinched the

By Tunji Ajibade

leadership of ANC from Mbeki way back December, 2007, Zuma was the party's presidential candidate in the election due at the end of April 2009. But the court case pending against him had put his candidacy on the line. Now he is free. With his freedom and the worry it had caused rival parties, can it be assumed that Zuma is the automatic winner of the coming election?

ANC has its critics. The performance of its leadership in government has raised questions, the administration of the out-gone President Mbeki more so. Yes, since the end of the apartheid era in South Africa, ANC government has scored some good grades. The first black presidency of Nelson Mandela was euphoric for South Africans. The novelty of a black man ruling that nation swept some other critical issues under the carpet. All Africans and their South African brothers simply loved and wanted to see the colourful shirts and sunny smile of the living legend. The performance of the ANC leadership in corridors of power did not become a serious matter until much later. Mbeki came on the scene after Mandela. He was much of a figure of the liberation struggle as Mandela was. That was until the grim reality of the harsh conditions that black citizens faced began to confront him. Mbeki had indeed scored big. He had a good economic team, for instance. His finance minister was a source of confidence to investors many of whom actually bypassed Abuja and flew to South Africa with their investment portfolios. The fact that South Africa was invited to the last G20 Summit in London while Nigeria was left out was a case in point. It was a fallout of the achievements of Mbeki's administration and a measure of the

confidence in South Africa.

But South Africa still holds the continent's record in term of daily rate of crime. Then about a year ago, its citizens gave the word xenophobia a new face. South Africans kicked and killed their fellow Africans. These were outcomes of what many considered the slow pace of an ANC government that is yet to concretely transform black majority rule to economic abundance for majority of black South Africans. Things got so bad mid-way into 2008 that South Africans experienced serious electricity outages the type never witnessed before even during the apartheid years. Of course the leadership got the blame for all of it.

As a former Vice President of the nation, Jacob Zuma had been a part of the leadership. In fact, Mbeki spent much of his last few years in office trying to nail Zuma and his accomplices within ANC party hierarchy who had been accused of corruption by The Scorpion, South Africa's anti-graft agency that the ANC party machinery had done everything possible to send under.

In spite of its lapses, ANC remains the party of the majority of many South Africans. It has been for generations and the party is an emotional issue for many blacks. ANC remains a truly national party, many of its rivals being limited in popularity to small corners of the country or selected groups. At things stand, when the votes are counted in a few days time, the ballot papers are most likely to show ANC, ANC, ANC and ANC. Those votes are for Zuma.

This is perhaps not the right season to enumerate the minus for Zuma as a person. But it is the right time to point out the significance of the fact that he made it to this point. This is significant for the continent as a whole. So far,

South Africa has demonstrated how possible it is to peacefully transit from one civilian administration to the other based on the will of the people. The political landscape of the country has had its fair share of political intrigues, of course. Rival politicians have bared their fangs and lashed out at one another as it is the case in every nation. But this has not been allowed to jeopardize both democracy and the rule of law in South Africa. The people's will was shown when Zuma emerged as ANC leader in December 2007 as well as the party's presidential candidate. The people's will shall be further displayed in a few days when the citizens go to the polls and peacefully elect their new set of leaders. That the system in South Africa gave Zuma the opportunity to be where he has found himself is a lesson to rulers on the continent many of whom want to rule forever to the detriment of the well-being of their people. The one man show that many rulers carry out makes their nations unattractive to more serious countries. One man in Algeria tampered with his country's constitution recently. He has secured another five year term for himself day back after spending ten years in power. For another man who sits tight in Egypt, his nation and its people are remembered essentially only when the likes of America need to use it to achieve strategic interest in the Middle East. The long time ruler in Cameroon has ensured that his nation is remembered only when transnational companies fell like taking away the resources of his people. The list is endless. For now Mr Zuma is welcome as the president of the wonderful people of South Africa. A telescopic assessment of his person and performance could wait for another day.

Ajibade, a consultant writer, is based in Abuja. tunjioa@yahoo.com

EDITORIAL

US alerts on Nigeria

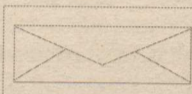
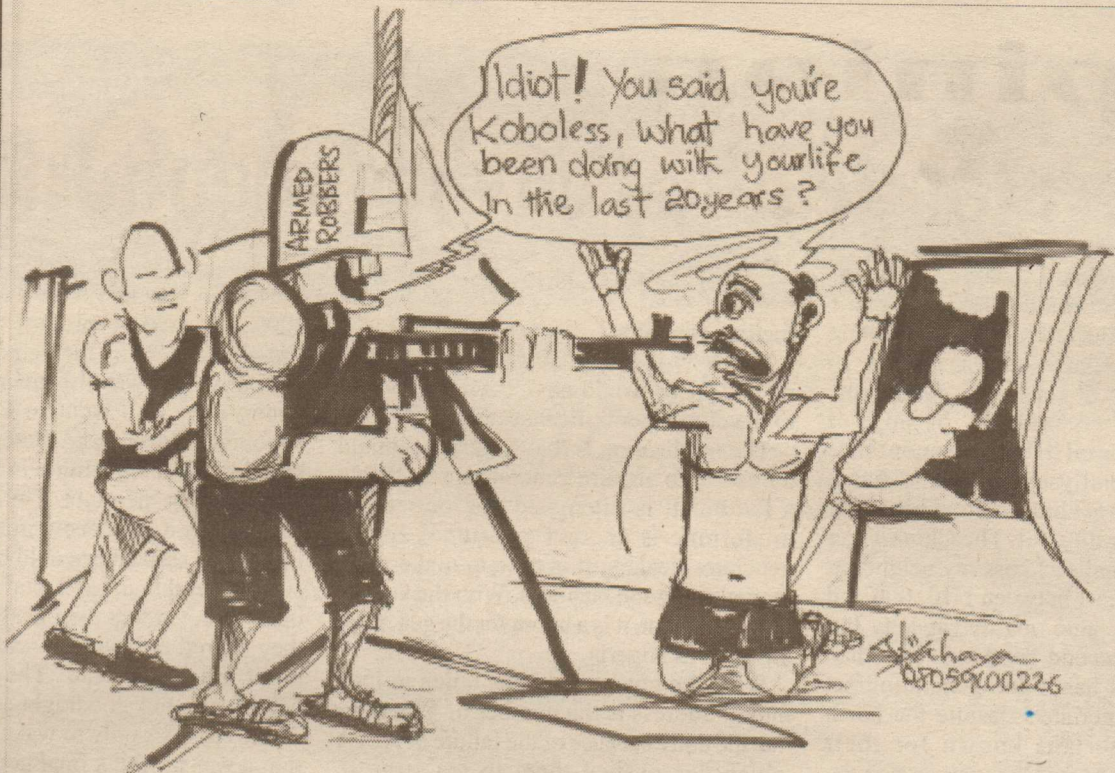
On the 5th of April 2009 the United States through its embassy issued an alert that some terrorists in Nigeria were about to attack embassies and diplomatic missions in Nigeria, which the Nigerian government swiftly debunked through the minister of information and communication, Dr Dora Akunyili who saw it as "an unfair assessment of the security situation in the country." It will not be out of place to conclude, particularly with the latest alert that the US embassy in Nigeria must be in possession of some crystal ball through which it sees only dark and ominous forebodings about Nigeria. It will be recalled that a few years ago a similar alert was announced with glee by the embassy that all prognoses point to a splintering of the Nigerian state.

To be sure, Nigeria is not the only country on which such unflattering reports are made by the US. Periodically the US tells its citizens to avoid certain countries because it does not think they will be safe there. Yet, there is something baffling about the periodic issuance of damaging alerts on Nigeria by the US embassy. For one, Nigeria cannot, by any stretch of imagination, be termed a "terrorist" country. It does not have the cadres of nihilists who use religion or socio-economic reasons to perpetrate horrendous violence as happens in many parts of the world. Nor does it have crazed and gun-totting high school students who kill their fellow students and teachers as is rampant in the US and many European countries. Moreover, as noted by Dr Dora Akunyili never has any embassy or diplomatic mission in Nigeria been subjected to attacks either by terrorists or some agitating groups; not even at periods of groundswell of opposition to imperialist actions at re-colonization such as in 1966 when the British tried to establish a military base in Nigeria.

It is therefore difficult not to read other meanings beyond the need to genuinely warn of impending danger into this predilection to always paint Nigeria in unsavory colours. Are the alerts a strategy to arm twist Nigeria's rulers to succumb to pressures for economic or some other concessions from some US quarters? If so then it callously fits into imperialist strategy of always seeking to further impoverish developing countries. At a period when Nigerian is in dire need of foreign investments to shore up its economy, these alerts certainly, helps to achieve the opposite. They serve the prospective investor notice that Nigeria is not safe therefore is far from being an investor haven.

Of course, we have no illusions about the daunting challenges of security in Nigeria. The violence and kidnappings in the Niger Delta have continued to undermine any claim of Nigeria to being a happy country, stable enough to attract investment. But it is a measure of Nigerians' acute sense of proportion that the crisis bad as it is, has not blown into an all out hostility and what is more, everything is being done to re-establish order in the region. Mention should also be made of the marauding armed bandits who rob people of their possessions which are also constantly receiving adequate attention through engagement by the law enforcement agencies. The reprisals against the armed robbers have led to loss of lives of many policemen. Do all this mean Nigeria is about to disintegrate? Certainly not; New York alone registers more crimes than the whole of Nigeria in one day, but that does not turn the US into some violence prone country to be shunned.

It is therefore about time the perpetual alerts on Nigeria stopped. They are doing more damage to Nigeria than can be imagined. If indeed the officials at the US embassy see certain untoward clandestine moves that could hurt and imperil both US and Nigeria's interest it should by all means reveal them. This should be done through the normal diplomatic channels which, as we understand are always opened. On their part the Nigerian authorities should always keep open their channels of communications with all sovereign nations in order to receive and assess information that may be critical for the country's security. *Daily Trust* notes that US-Nigeria relations have remained cordial; the result of many years of effort by the two countries and it is the duty of officials of US embassy to further reinforce the cordial relationship. Perennially carping at the security limitations of Nigeria publicly, when indeed genuine ones could be revealed through the appropriate channels would endanger the relationship to the detriment of the two countries.



Your Letters

FG's N200b agric scheme on to a faulty start

The Yar'adua Administration, pursuant to its 7-Point Agenda, is embarking on a programme of commercial agriculture. The programme will, according to news reports, gulp N200bn to be sourced from the local Bond Market. Undoubtedly, this is a laudable programme which all well-meaning Nigerians should support to ensure its success.

However, what is worrisome is that the programme may be flawed from the start, because of the dubious manner in which the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) is going about it. Information reaching us indicates that the programme seeks to explore the entire value-chain in agriculture, namely; production, storage, processing and marketing. This scheme will involve

crops, tubers, livestock, fishery, etc. No one or two banks in Nigeria can cover all these at the scale being envisaged.

Consequently, almost all Nigerian banks indicated interest to participate in the scheme, either at the level of underwriting/managing the funds to be raised or in terms of disbursement to the would-be commercial farmers. However, to the chagrin of most of us, the would-be borrowers, and even to the banks, an advert was carried on Friday, April 16, 2009, in many Nigerian dailies, stating that only First Bank of Nigeria (FBN) and United Bank for Africa (UBA) are the Participating Banks (PBs). The advert equally states that all loan applications under the scheme should be made to either of the two banks.

What is curious about this

arrangement is: The unsigned advertisement announcing the choice of the two banks was also silent about the role of other banks in the scheme. Also, the Agricultural Relationship Director of UBA (the contact person of UBA in this scheme), Mr. Reginald Ihebuzor, is rumoured to be the consultant to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources on the scheme. Similarly, UBA is not known to be in the forefront of agricultural financing in this country. Even by CBN records, Union Bank of Nigeria Plc and Unity Bank Plc (former Bank of the North), feature more prominently in agric financing than the two banks the CBN and its collaborators are trying to force on the farmers.

The implication of this awkward arrangement, therefore, is that all big-time

farmers who had no earlier banking relationship with the favoured two (FBN and UBA), are forced to go and start such relationships.

If the government is serious about the scheme, it must not only be transparent, it must be seen to be so.

Laudable as this scheme is, it is up to a false start. In this country today, agriculture remains essentially a Northern concern because of the massive arable land in the region. Farmers should be given the right to choose the banks to deal with. These selfish tendencies have been taken rather too far. Mr President may need to intervene in this before the chosen coordinators make nonsense of this programme.

Alhaji Sani Aminu,
Kubarachi Farms, Madobi
Local Government Area,
Kano State.

Text us on 08059100257

Fulfil your promise

President Umaru Yar'adua should fulfil his promise and concentrate his energy on the provision of constant electric power. Power is very central to the industrialisation quest of Nigeria and therefore should not be taken lightly. We also want to make use of our fans in this season.

Baffa A. Maliki, Dawakin Kudu, Kano.

ABUTH and Safiya Ahmad

The sacking of Safiya Ahmad because of the hijab she was wearing smacks of a deliberate attempt to harass the poor lady. It is apparent that no dress code was violated by Safiya. So ABUTH should tell us why the lady was sacked.

MB Umar, NNDC Ltd. Kaduna, 08024073436

Stop blaming government

Nigerians must stop the habit of blaming government alone for all our problems. Inasmuch as I agree that the government is not living up to expectations, we are also to blame in several instances. Now we are using the artificial fuel scarcity to exploit ourselves. How sad!

Fadimatu M. Y., 08098197408

On police postings

The Nigeria Police Force (NPF) should please put an end to the practice where officers pay bribe to be posted juicy stations like Port-Harcourt, Apapa etc. If allowed unchecked this is likely to create ill feelings among the rank and file of the force. The officers in charge, particularly in Kano, should take note.

Cpl John Awuya, Hotoro, Kano, 08060751036

Keep it up, Zango

I commend the efforts of the Managing Director of Sokoto River Basin Authority, Danlami Bala Zango for a job well done, especially the recent development in irrigation farming. Others should emulate him.

Yusuf Sani Yarsanta, Funtua, 08063150435

Letter to landlords

The federal government should intervene in the housing crisis in the country by building affordable houses for Nigerians. Private property owners/developers are not fair. They now charge exorbitant rates and demand for two year-rent payment in advance.

Yusuf Lawal Nadabo, 08062687722

SOS to Yobe governor

You deserve commendation for working to complete the projects started by late Mamman Ali. I hope your present commissioner of finance will compliment your efforts by jealously guarding the state resources.

Hassan Anchinai, Potiskum, 08033202456

Re: Mai aduwa LG boss

We the people of Kongolam know what chairman of Mai'aduwa local government, Engr. Abba Yusuf is doing. The flood situation bedevilling the area is now a thing of the past and awarded contract for the electrification of the area worth N12 million. CPL Ado Mamman may not know all these because he apparently has not been visiting the area.

Haruna Lawal Kongolam, 08065611774

Opinion

Generator death as environmental and health challenge

By Ben Ezima

In the past, group death or massacre was associated with motor accident, plane crash or war. But today, power generating set has joined cause of mass death in Nigeria. The use of generating set became popular in the 90s probably because of increase in social life and economic activities. Virtually every family has a generating set. Thanks to China for simplified generating set. The China Tiger 950 (popularly called I pass my neighbour or pure water) cost between N10, 000 and N14, 000. The same quality/capacity but fairly used or second hand cost less than N10, 000. This has made generating set possible for Nigerians. Despite the harsh economy, Nigerians known for their resilience, strife to fuel the generating sets.

The acquisition of generator became indispensable; it has become a major household property in all the enlightened and middle class families today; perhaps because of the failure of NEPA (now Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) to live up to its mandate. Indeed, NEPA has constantly led the example of failed government institution. Any business or organization that depends on NEPA will surely close business. Every Nigerian, even the ones in primary school, can write on the ignoble failure of NEPA.

Recently, the government came out with a budget of N2 billion naira to procure generators in Abuja. This move not only suggested the end of road for NEPA, it also a direct message to Nigerians not expect light any time soon. It is indeed a hope lost, a hope foreclosed, and to your tent 'Oh Israel.'

Shocking revelations were made recently by the Central Bank foreign exchange department that Nigeria spends \$8.2 million US dollars weekly and total sum of \$426.4 million US dollars yearly on importation of generator set into Nigeria.

Another revelation is that almost half of Nigerian population (about 60 million) own generator either for business or private use with estimated cost of \$13.35 billion dollars

fuelling annually.

If PHCN is functioning effectively, this money spent would have been channelled to develop other critical sectors.

The implication is that Nigerians should all go out to acquire generating sets. What a failure! It is often said that one man's misfortune is another's fortune. To the generator dealers, it is time to make more money and good business. With the verdict of government, it is a boom for the generator business in Nigeria.

What the government has failed to look into or address is the number of Nigerians that die daily because of the failure of NEPA which has pushed them to resorting to generating sets.

Many families and generations have been sent to early grave by generator. In fact, thousands of Nigerians have lost their lives through the use of generator. The generating set has turned to be another killer in Nigeria. There is no month that passes by without reported cases of generator related death. Many of the cases are also not formally reported, of course for obvious reasons. Most of this death occurs in the rural areas or less enlightened homes. No doubt that generator set in an added source of death today in Nigeria, and if nothing is done it will be a leading cause of the death even more than the dreaded HIV/AIDS, road accident etc; because it kills in group, in what could be referred as family cleansing.

Furthermore, the use of generating set has aided the criminals to attack their targets. There have been cases were criminals drew out their victims by putting off the generating set with the unsuspecting victim rushing out to fix the problems and consequently confronted by the waiting hoodlums.

Again it is an emerging public health concern. For instance, Abia State, in 2008 recorded the highest singular death resulting from generating set. In this case over 25 lives were lost. In Enugu State in

December 2008 a family who came home for Christmas also lost their lives. In January 2009 over nine people lost their lives in a singular generator incident in Imo State. Similarly there was also an incident of three young men who went to Lagos for visa appointment from Imo State and were also killed by generator fume in the room they were passing the night. The list is endless. Most of the deaths occur in the night when little or no assistance could be offered. The curious neighbours and relations only wake up to discover that their healthy loved ones they shared pleasantries with the previous night are stone dead. The relatives and neighbours bid goodnight to their friends and loved ones only to wake up and realize that it was indeed a final goodnight.

The quite killer, generator kills in circumstances where the victims neither scream nor make any noise for assistance. The killer generator passes its death verdict both on children and adult alike. The carbon monoxide emanating from the exhaust of the generator is toxic to human body. It neutralizes the oxygen in blood resulting to death. The people should understand that generator should be kept some distance away from the house. It should also be kept in a ventilated environment where the smoke can easily escape to the air. Most importantly generator should be positioned with the exhaust facing opposite the source of ventilation to the living house i.e. window, doors etc. Also the practice of keeping or putting on generator inside the living house could trigger off fire disaster. Anyone doing all these is inviting unannounced death. For once, flee from generator smoke; it is an instant silent killer. People go to market to buy generator with all the attached excitement not knowing they have acquired something that will send them to early grave when used wrongly. One peculiar aspect of generator death is that it kills in family group or generation. If an accurate data and statistics is kept on the number of death result from generator one will marvel or even ask for ban on generator despite its

importance. Many souls have perished courtesy of generator set fume.

Do we fold our arms watching our fellow brothers and sisters die? I think all the responsible government authorities should wake up, particularly the public health and environmental departments. In addition to the air and environmental pollution caused by generators the noise produced by generators has been linked to many auditory and hearing disabilities in Nigeria projected at over seven million.

The generator manufacturing company i.e. Sumec, Tiger, Simba, Yamaha, Honda etc are careless about the dangerous effects of their products to the people and environment. However time has come when the attention of these companies must be drawn to this fact of the problems created by their products. This is an agenda for our lawmakers, Civil Society Organisation (CSOs) and all the stakeholders on health and environmental protection. These companies must work out hazard reduction strategies and programmes to cushion the effects of their products to the people and the environment.

Now we must start public enlightenment on dangers of wrong use of generator sets (people should be educated on the need to keep the generating sets a distance away from the house, how to keep it etc). We might feel we know ourselves, but what of our brothers, sisters, parents with lesser awareness? The strong is meant to help the weak. With the recent revelation, generator use in Nigeria has come to stay, we must act fast to reduce its risk.

The media houses also should rise up to this challenge by carrying out aggressive enlightenment activities to prevent death arising from generators. All stakeholders in public health must wake up now to address these crises killing our people like flies everyday.

Ezima is the Programme Manager, Child Rights Network (CHIRN), a social worker & Human Rights Activist. benzinma@yahoo.com

Re: Politics of river basins authorities

By Paul Odenyi

I recently read an article by Ujudud Shariff on the politics of River Basins Authorities which in the main dwelt on the way to improve agricultural yield in the North using the various River basins schemes in the area. However, what I find ridiculous is the resort to name calling which the author employed to describe the Deputy Senate President. Senator Ike Ekweremadu and the bill seeking to create additional River Basin in the South East part of the country.

For Shariff, the bill like the agitation by people of the South east for additional states to even up the structure of federal arrangement in Nigeria is "unfortunate" and "ridiculous". But indeed, what the author has succeeded in doing is to show in one breath his sentiments which lacks proper reasoning but based on an old idea of superiority of some parts of the country over the others. That is changing and is doomed to die.

The issues are straightforward and can easily be stressed. The bill which has scaled through the first reading is sponsored jointly by thirteen Distinguished Senators including the DSP, Senator Uche Chukwumerije, Senator Bassey Ewa Henshaw, Senator Bala Mohammed, Senator Nicholas Yahaya Ugbane, Senator Kabiru Gaya, Senator Chris Anyanwu, Senator

Grace Folashade Bent, Senator Victor Ndoma Egba, Senator Sulaiman Mohammed Nazif, Senator Olorunmibe Mamora, Senator Gbemi Saraki and Senate Whip Senator Mahmud Kanti Bello.

Essentially the bill seeks to break up the Anambra Imo River basin authority to cover the south east zone better. The Anambra - Imo River was created when the South-East had only two states and with three more states what is wrong in asking for additional scheme. The proposal will create an Imo River Basin Authority to cover Abia and Imo states while the Anambra River Basin Authority will cater for the three states of Enugu, Anambra and Ebonyi. The consequence of the proposal is the realignment of the jurisdiction of the existing River Basin Development authorities along geo-political zone for ease of reference. The bill also seeks to redesignate the heads of these agencies as Managing Directors instead of current nomenclature of General managers.

Looking at the functions of River basins as stipulated by the Act, Cap R9, it is clear that the spread of these agencies is targeted at enhancing food security through all year round farming. The River basins are to: a) undertake comprehensive development of

both surface and underground water resources for multi purpose use with particular emphasis on the provision of irrigation infrastructure and the control of floods and erosion and for water shed management; b) construct, operate and maintain dams dykes, wells, boreholes, irrigation and drainages systems and handover all lands to be cultivated under the irrigation schemes to the farmers; c) supply water from the authority storage schemes to all users for a fee d) Construct operate and maintain roads and bridges linking project sites, and e) develop and keep up to date and comprehensive water resources master plan as well as water resources, water use, socio-economic and environmental data for the River basin concerned.

With the laws clearly spelt out, the creation of additional River basin Authority in the South East or even in other parts of the country can only function within the aforementioned laws setting it up. The only politics involved in this essential economic proposal is requirement that to create this agency, it must pass through the National Assembly.

It is instructive that Shariff inferred that these agricultural outposts are usually created to tap into the geographical endowment of an area. He should know that

the palm oil resources of the South east, the rice farms of Adani, Ugbawka, Izzi and most of Ebonyi State have continued to rely on local methods and strength. The fish business of Odekpe, Anam, Oguta are yet to be harnessed. The vast farmlands of Awgu, Aninri, Ivo, Eha-amufu, Ezea are yet to be cultivated simply the present Anambra-Imo River Basin Authority cannot cover all of the zone.

The proposed two river basins authorities would manage a large of body of tributaries flowing into the Atlantic Ocean from Ebonyi, Anambra, Adada, Du, Imo, Oguta and Eshi Rivers. Just like some states in the North, the Okpara government of the post independence era established several Agricultural Development Schemes scattered all over the zone. Many of these ADCs lie waste as a result of inadequate resources, lack of adequate supervision which the present proposal would address.

Finally, Senator Ekweremadu and the co-sponsors of the bill are not ready to withdraw the bill and indeed, would ensure that it passes through in a true spirit of spreading the measures of development and ensuring food security in the country.

Odenyi is Special Adviser (Media), Office of the Deputy President of the Senate.

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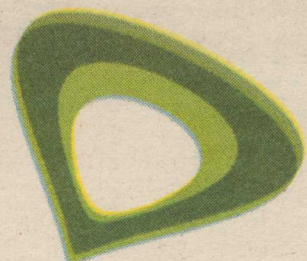


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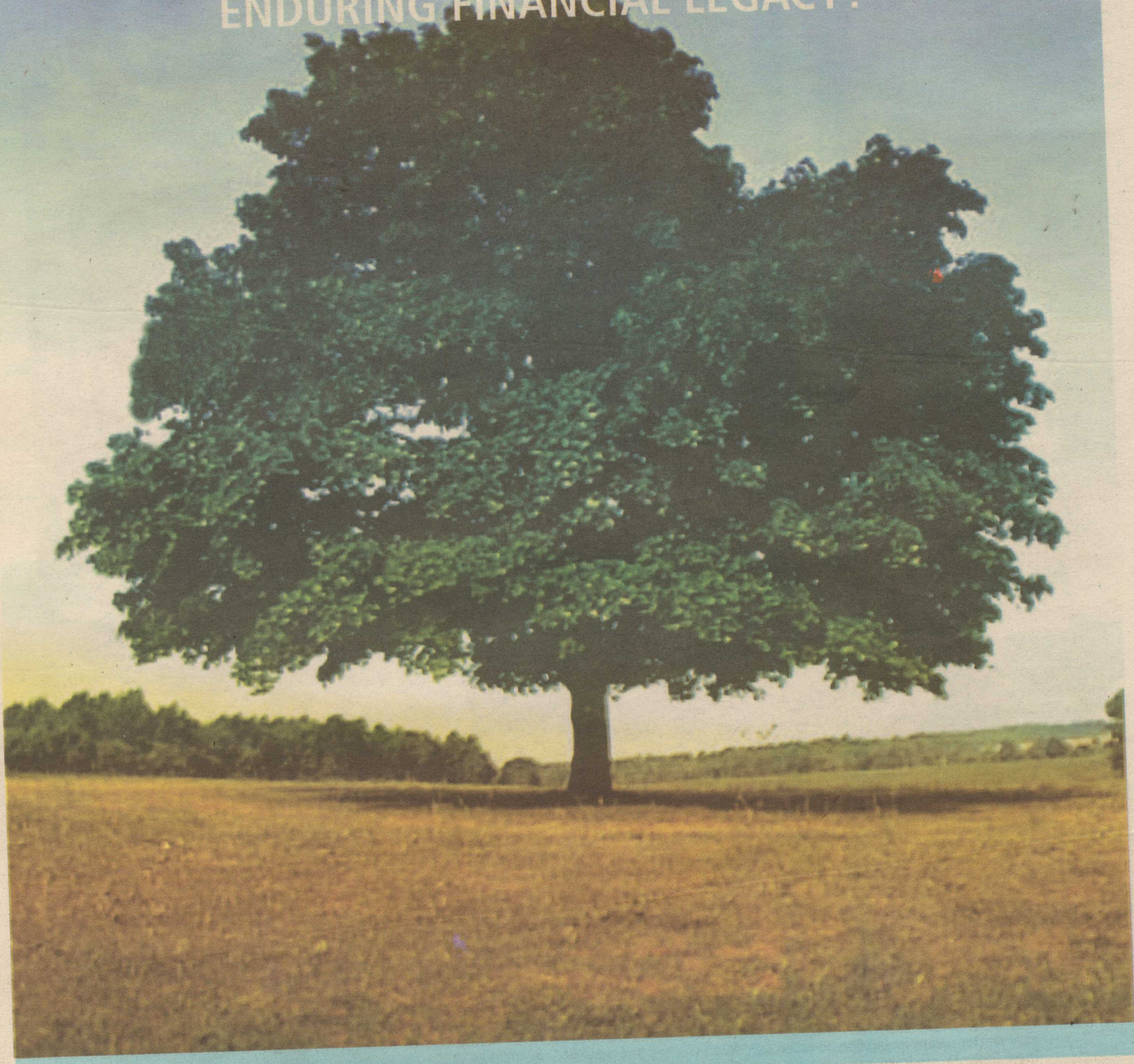
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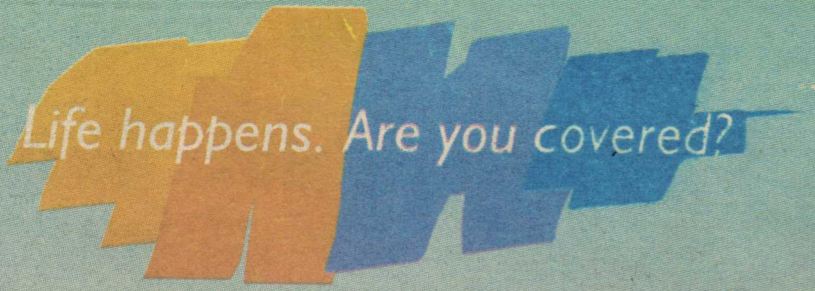
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MINISTRY OF POLICE AFFAIRS: NIGERIA POLICE FORCE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs) PROJECTS

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR NIGERIA POLICE FORCE PROJECTS

A. PREAMBLES:

The Ministry of Police Affairs/Nigeria Police Force invite interested and reputable contractors and suppliers with relevant experience and with good track records to pre-qualify for the Nigeria Police Force Millennium Development Goals Projects.

B. PROJECTS DESCRIPTION BY JOB CATEGORIES

**I. POLICE ACADEMY, WUDIL, KANO
 CATEGORY 1 - CONSTRUCTION WORKS**

- (1A) Construction of blockwall fence
- (1b) Completion of Residential Quarters

CATEGORY 2 - REHABILITATION WORKS

- (2a) Rehabilitation of Cadet dormitories.
- (2b) Rehabilitation of Auditorium and classroom blocks.
- (2c) Rehabilitation/Equipping of academy clinic and Computer Centre.
- (2d) Rehabilitation of Road network and drainage.
- (2e) Rehabilitation of Residential Quarters.

CATEGORY 3 - PROVISION OF:

- (3a) Recreational facilities.
- (3b) Teaching Aids.

**II. POLICE PRIMARY SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE
 CATEGORY 4 - REHABILITATION WORKS**

- (4a) Rehabilitation of main Classroom/Administrative

blocks at: (I) Calabar (ii) Port Harcourt (iii) Enugu (iv) Owerri (v) Ikeja (vi) Ibadan (vii) Jos (viii) Minna (ix) Kaduna (x) Katsina (xi) Bauchi (xii) Yola.

(4b) Rehabilitation of Recreational facilities at: (I) Calabar (ii) Ikeja (iii) Minna (iv) Yola (v) Bauchi (vi) Owerri (vii) Port Harcourt.

C. PRE-QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

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

- (I) Certificate of Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission;
- (ii) Evidence of Current Tax clearance for the last three (3) years, valid up to December 31st 2008;
- (iii) VAT Registration Certificate;
- (iv) Company Audited Account for the last three (3) years;
- (v) Verifiable evidence of experience in similar projects, stating the location of the projects, the contract sum, copies of letters of award and completion certificates;
- (vi) Company profile/Resume showing details of Key officers, equipment/Machines owned or hired (whichever applicable);
- (vii) Name and address of bankers, including reference from the bank;
- (viii) Bidders may submit single or multiple bids grouped as follows: 1 and 4 or 2 and 3 only; and
- (ix) Bidders should indicate the job category they intend

to be pre-qualified for, e.g. CATEGORY 2, (2d) Rehabilitation of Roads network and drainage.

D. VERIFICATION OF CLAIMS IN PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

The bid Solicitors reserve the right to verify the authenticity of claims made in the pre-qualification documents submitted.

E. SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

The pre-qualification documents should be enclosed in sealed envelopes marked "NIGERIA POLICE FORCE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs) PROJECTS", specifying the area of interest where a company is seeking pre-qualification. The envelopes should be dropped in the Tenders Box located at the Ground Floor Foyer "C" Department Wing, Force Headquarters, Abuja. The submission of pre-qualification documents commences on Tuesday, 21st April 2009 and should reach the Nigeria Police Force not later than 12.00pm on Monday, 4th May 2009.s

F. OPENING OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

The pre-qualification documents shall be opened at 13:00 hours of Monday, 4th May 2009 at the Ground Floor Foyer, "C" Department wing, Force Headquarters, Abuja. Bidders or their representatives are by this advertisement advised to attend the bid opening session.

Signed.
 Permanent Secretary

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA REPORT

Mandela calls for unity at final ANC poll rally



President of South Africa's ruling African National Congress (ANC) party Jacob Zuma addressing a rally at Ellis Rank stadium yesterday attended by former South African President Nelson Mandela (left). Photo: AFP

Former South African president Nelson Mandela reminded the ANC of its duty to eradicate poverty, urging unity in a surprise appearance yesterday at its final election rally. He set the tone for the theme of racial accord at the African National Congress gathering where chants of "Mandela! Mandela!" rang out from the crowd of more than 100,000 supporters at Ellis Park stadium in Johannesburg.

"As we strive to secure a decisive victory for our organisation in the upcoming elections, we must remember our primary task. It is to eradicate poverty and ensure a better life for all," Mandela said.

"The ANC has the historical responsibility to lead our nation and help build a united non-racial society," he added in a brief pre-recorded message played as he sat on the stage at the party's last rally before Wednesday's polls.

A deafening roar from the crowd echoed around the stadium as Mandela arrived accompanied by ANC leader and presidential favourite Jacob Zuma, who helped assist the frail 90-year-old to the stage. Zuma followed with a message that South Africa belongs to both blacks and whites, 15 years after the fall of white-minority apartheid. "We reaffirm that South Africa belongs to all of us, black and white," he said. "Working together we will ensure that no South African ever feels they are less valued than others because of their race, culture or religion."

His message came on the heels of several months of divisive politics and infighting within the ANC over his leadership, assuring supporters the party was as popular as ever. Former president Thabo Mbeki, forced to resign by the ANC after a power struggle with Zuma, was not at the rally.

The ANC, which led a long but successful struggle against

apartheid, is facing its toughest challenge ever at the ballot box from a breakaway opposition party, and it could lose its two-thirds majority. It is nevertheless expected to win with around 60 percent of the vote, and the mood at Sunday rally was celebratory in anticipation of the victory.

After 15 years of multi-racial democracy, the ANC is still the party of choice for the mainly black and poor majority who feel Zuma will address the challenges they face.

In the face of criticism over delivery of public services, Zuma outlined the ANC's priorities for education, health, unemployment, crime and land reform, and pledged not to alter the constitution if it keeps a two-thirds majority.

"We will invest in rural infrastructure and services, and strive to ensure that rural people have access to decent schools, roads, electricity, water and health care facilities," he said. Zuma danced and sang "Awuleth' Umshini wani" (Bring my Machine Gun) and chanted slogans under the scorching sun, as half a million people followed proceedings at venues around South Africa.

He assured supporters that Mandela had asked to attend the rally, after the party was accused of dragging the elderly statesman to a meeting in the Eastern Cape earlier in their campaign. "He came out of retirement at his age to boost the election effort," said Zuma. Zuma has recently escaped an eight-year case of corruption and fraud, as prosecutors decided there had been political interference in the charges against him. Many still fear his presidency bodes ill for the nation.

Zuma faced 16 counts of fraud, money laundering and racketeering, stemming from a multi-billion-dollar arms deal that has tainted South African politics for nearly a decade.

NATO ships, helicopters hunt down 7 pirates

NATO warships and helicopters pursued Somali pirates for seven hours after they attacked a Norwegian tanker, NATO spokesmen said yesterday, and the high-speed chase only ended when warning shots were fired at the pirates' skiff.

Seven pirates attempted to attack the Norwegian-flagged MV Front Ardenne late Saturday but fled after crew took evasive maneuvers and alerted warships in the area, said Portuguese Lt. Cmdr. Alexandre Santos Fernandes, aboard a warship in the Gulf of Aden, and Cmdr. Chris Davies, of NATO's maritime headquarters in England.

"How the attack was thwarted is unclear, it appears to have been the actions of the tanker," Davies said. Fernandes said no shots were fired at the tanker.

Davies said the pirates sailed into the path of the Canadian warship Winnipeg, which was escorting a World Food Program delivery ship through the Gulf of Aden. The American ship USS Halyburton was also in the area and joined the chase. "There was a lengthy pursuit, over seven hours," Davies said.

The pirates hurled weapons into the dark seas as the Canadian and U.S. warships closed

in. The ships are part of NATO's anti-piracy mission.

"The skiff abandoned the scene and tried to escape to Somali territory," Fernandes said. "It was heading toward Bossaso we managed to track them ... warning shots have been made after several attempts to stop the vessel."

Both ships deployed helicopters, and naval officers hailed the pirates over loudspeakers and finally fired warning shots to stop them, Fernandes said, but not before the pirates had dumped most of their weapons overboard. NATO forces boarded the skiff, where they found a rocket-propelled grenade, and interrogated, disarmed and released the pirates.

The pirates cannot be prosecuted under Canadian law because they did not attack Canadian citizens or interests and the crime was not committed on Canadian territory.

"When a ship is part of NATO, the detention of person is a matter for the national authorities," Fernandes said. "It stops being a NATO issue and starts being a national issue."

The pirates' release underscores the difficulties navies have in fighting rampant piracy off the coast of lawless Somalia.

Bouteflika vows to pursue reconciliation

Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika vowed yesterday to pursue national reconciliation, after being sworn in for a third five-year term.

In an address after taking his oath of office, Bouteflika hailed the reconciliation process as "allowing for the return of civilian peace and ... in the future, contributing to reaffirm social cohesion and guarantee national unity."

Declared winner of this month's election with more than 90 percent of the vote, 72-year-old Bouteflika began the reconciliation process at the start of his first term in 1999, to end an Islamist insurgency that killed more than 150,000 people.

Thousands of Islamists turned themselves in following two referendums on the issue, in 1999 and 2005.

During his election campaign, Bouteflika floated the possibility of another refer-

endum to extend an amnesty to armed Islamists who agree to put down their weapons for good.

At the same time, he vowed to step up the fight against hard-core extremists.

While Islamist attacks have diminished substantially, Al-Qaeda's North Africa branch remains active in certain parts of the North African country where oil wealth has yet to bring about widespread prosperity.

Malawi ex-president endorses rival for elections

Malawi's ex-president Bakili Muluzi has endorsed a political rival to be the main opposition presidential candidate in elections next month, a week after their parties formed an alliance.

Muluzi, leader of the United Democratic Front (UDF), decided to back Malawi Congress Party (MCP) Chief John Tembo against President Bingu wa Mutharika and five other candidates in the May 19 election.

"I want to assure you honorable Tembo that we

will support you as a presidential candidate. There is need to field one presidential candidate," he told Tembo before 5,000 people at a joint rally in Blantyre late Saturday.

While Muluzi agreed to back Tembo for the presidential race, he said the two parties will maintain their identities and party symbols and separately fight the parliamentary elections.

"We will vote for our candidates and the MCP will also vote for their own candidates... that is what politics is all about," Muluzi

added. The election commission last month rejected Muluzi's own bid to run for election for a third time.

The commission ruled that he had already hit a two-term limit after serving from 1994 to 2004, after toppling the notorious former dictator Kamuzu Banda. Corruption charges against Muluzi have overshadowed his bid to return to power.

He was charged in February by the Anti-Corruption Bureau with dozens of graft counts over the alleged theft of 12 million dollars in aid money.

Sudan bars opposition leader Turabi from travel

Sudanese authorities stopped Islamist opposition leader Hassan al-Turabi from travelling to Paris for medical tests yesterday, an aide told AFP.

Turabi, 77, had obtained permission to travel from the interior ministry but was stopped at Khartoum airport, his office manager Awad Abu Bakr said.

The Islamist head of the Popular Congress Party was released from jail in March, after more than two months behind bars for calling on President Omar al-Bashir to surrender to the International Criminal Court.

The ICC issued an arrest warrant for Bashir in March on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur, accusing him of orchestrating a campaign of murder, torture, rape and pillage.

"Turabi had obtained permission to

travel from the interior ministry and a boarding pass, but several security men came and took his passport... and returned to tell him that he was not permitted to leave," Abu Bakr said.

He did not say what Turabi's medical examinations would have involved.

Regarded as one of the driving forces behind the introduction of Islamic sharia law in Africa's largest country in 1983, Turabi was Bashir's one-time mentor.

In 1989, he rallied behind Bashir, then an obscure military man who had just been promoted to general, to overthrow the democratically elected government of his brother-in-law, Sadeq al-Mahdi.

But he lost a protracted power struggle with his protege and was stripped of all his posts a decade later and has since spent repeated spells in jail or under house arrest.



NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe Way, P.M.B. 159, Minna, Niger State.

THE NATIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION Into FEDERAL GOVERNMENT UNITY SENIOR SECONDARY COLLEGES Holding on Saturday, 18th July, 2009 GENERAL INFORMATION

The National Entrance Examination for Admission into Federal Government Unity Senior Secondary Colleges (NEEFUSSC) in September, 2009 will be held throughout the country on **SATURDAY, 18th July, 2009.**

(1) ELIGIBILITY

Pupils in their final year of the Junior Secondary (i.e. JS3 students/upper Basic 3) are eligible to sit for the examination. Private Candidates who have completed JS3 are also eligible to sit for the examination.

(2) ENTRY PROCEDURE:

(A) REGISTRATION FOR THE 2009 NATIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION IS ON-LINE.

(B) Heads of School Based Candidates will collect carbonized Entry Schedules from respective NECO Zonal/State Offices, for completion. The entry schedules are in triplicate.

(C) Private Candidates can obtain scratch cards from respective NECO Zonal/State offices for their registration.

(D) To register for the examination, a candidate must pay the sum of *N2,500 (two thousand five hundred naira)* only in Bank draft at the NECO office in the State he/she intends to sit for examination.

(E) SUBMISSION OF ENTRY SCHEDULE AND PURCHASE OF ON-LINE REGISTRATION CARDS BY SCHOOLS:

Two copies of Entry Schedules and appropriate fees will be submitted to respective NECO Zonal/State Office to collect on-line registration cards for the candidates.

(3) STRUCTURE OF THE EXAMINATION:

The papers for the examination will consist of the following:

PAPERS I: English Language
Mathematics
Integrated Science
Social Studies

PAPER II: Numerical Aptitude
Verbal Aptitude
Spatial Aptitude

(4) LIST OF FEDERAL UNITY COLLEGES

Below is the list of Federal Government Colleges, Federal Government Girls Colleges and Federal Science and Technical Colleges for Candidates to choose from.

STATE	CODE	COLLEGE	STATE	CODE	COLLEGE	STATE	CODE	COLLEGE
ABIA	01	FGGC UMUJAHIA (GIRLS ONLY) FGC OHAFIA (BOYS & GIRLS) FSTC OHANSO (BOYS & GIRLS)	KADUNA	14	FGC KADUNA (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC ZARIA (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC KAFANCHA (BOYS & GIRLS)	RIVER	27	FGC PORTHARCOURT (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC ABULOMA (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC BONNY (BOYS & GIRLS)
ADAMAWA	02	FGC GANYE (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC YOLA (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC MICHKA (BOYS & GIRLS)	KANO	15	FGC KANO (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC MIN-JIBIR (GIRLS ONLY)	SOKOTO	28	FGC SOKOTO (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC TAMBUNWAL (GIRLS ONLY)
AKWA-IBOM	03	FGC IKOT-EKPENE (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC IKOT-OBIO-OTONG (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC UYO (GIRLS ONLY)	KATSINA	16	FGC DAURA (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC BAKORI (GIRLS ONLY)	TARABA	29	FGC WUKARI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC JALINGO (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC JALINGO (BOYS & GIRLS)
ANAMBRA	04	FGC NISE (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC ONITSHA (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC AKWA (BOYS & GIRLS)	KEBBI	17	FGC BIRNIN-YAURI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC GWANDU (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC ZURU (BOYS & GIRLS)	YOBE	30	FGC BUNI-YADI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC POTISKUM (GIRLS ONLY)
BAUCHI	05	FGC AZARE (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC BAUCHI (GIRLS ONLY)	KOGI	18	FGC UGWOLAWO (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC KASSA (GIRLS ONLY)	FCT	31	FGC KWALI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC BWARI (GIRLS ONLY) FGGC ABAJI (GIRLS ONLY) FGC GARKI (BOYS ONLY) FGC RUBOCHI (BOYS & GIRLS) FSTC OROZO (BOYS & GIRLS)
BENUE	06	FGC VANDEIKYA (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC OBOKO (GIRLS ONLY) FGC OTOBI (BOYS & GIRLS) FSTC OTUKPO (BOYS & GIRLS)	KWARA	19	FGC ILORIN (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC OMI-ARAN (GIRLS ONLY)	BAYELSA	32	FGC ODI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC IMIRINGI (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC TUNGBO (BOYS & GIRLS)
BORNO	07	FGC MAIDUGURI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC MONGUNO (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC LASSA (BOYS & GIRLS)	LAGOS	20	KINGIS COLLEGE LAGOS (BOYS ONLY) FGC LAGOS (BOYS & GIRLS) QUEENSI COLLEGE LAGOS (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC YABA (BOYS & GIRLS)	EBONYI	33	FGC OKPOSI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC EZZAMGBO (GIRLS ONLY)
CROSS RIVER	08	FGC IKOM (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC CALABAR (GIRLS ONLY)	NIGER	21	FGC MINNA (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC BIDA (GIRLS ONLY) FGGC NEW-BUSSA (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC SHIRORO (BOYS & GIRLS)	EKITI	34	FGC IKOLE-EKITI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC EFON-ALAYE (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC USI-EKITI (BOYS & GIRLS)
DELTA	09	FGC WARRI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC IBUSA (GIRLS ONLY)	OGUN	22	FGC ODOGBOLU (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC SHAGAMU (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC IJESU MUSHIN (BOYS & GIRLS)	GOMBE	35	FGC BILLIRI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC BAJOGA (GIRLS ONLY)
EDO	10	FGC IBILLO (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC BENIN (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC UROMI (BOYS & GIRLS)	ONDO	23	FGC IDOANI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC AKURE (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC IKARE-AKOKO (BOYS & GIRLS)	NASARAWA	36	FGC KEFFI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC KEANA (GIRLS ONLY)
ENUGU	11	FGC ENUGU (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC LEJJA (GIRLS ONLY)	OSUN	24	FGC IKIRUN (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC IPETUMODU (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC ILESA (BOYS & GIRLS)	ZAMFARA	37	FGGC GUSAU (GIRLS ONLY) FGC ANKA (BOYS & GIRLS)
IMO	12	FGC OKIGWE (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC OWERRI (GIRLS ONLY)	OYO	25	FGC OGBOMOSO (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC OYO (GIRLS ONLY)			
JIGAWA	13	FGC KIYAWA (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC KAZAURE (GIRLS ONLY)	PLATEAU	26	FGC JOS (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC LANGTANG (GIRLS ONLY)			

(5) THE ISSUANCE OF REGISTRATION MATERIALS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE. THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS TO SENSITIZE THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES.

Signed: E. D. PHILIP
For Management

Trust International

MIDDLE EAST & ASIA

Ahmadinejad urges 'justice' for jailed US reporter

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called yesterday for fair treatment of US reporter Roxana Saberi, who was sentenced to eight years in jail as a US spy, the state news agency IRNA reported.

In a rare intervention in judicial proceedings, Ahmadinejad told the Tehran prosecutor to examine the cases against both Saberi and an Iranian-Canadian blogger who has been behind bars since November, IRNA said.

"At the president's insistence, you must do what is needed to secure justice ... in examining these people's charges," said a letter from Ahmadinejad's chief of staff Abdolreza Sheikholeslami to prosecutor Saeed Mortazavi. "Take care that the defendants have all the legal freedoms and rights to defend themselves against the charges," the letter said. Saberi, 31, a former US beauty queen, was convicted by an Iranian revolutionary court of spying for the United States during a closed-door trial and sentenced to eight years in jail, in a verdict unveiled on Saturday.

US President Barack Obama, who has called for dialogue with Iran since he took office in January, was "deeply disappointed" at the sentence, according to his spokesman.

The State Department branded the espionage charges as "baseless," while Saberi's father has said his daughter was "tricked" into confessing by being told she would be released. Saberi's lawyer has said he would appeal the verdict, which is the harshest sentence ever to a dual national on security charges in Iran.

She has been held since late January, when she was initially reported to have been arrested for buying alcohol, an illegal act in the Islamic republic.

Hossein Derakhshan, a prominent Iranian-Canadian blogger, has been detained since his arrival in Iran in November 2008 and is being investigated on charges of insulting Shiite

imams.

Ahmadinejad's move comes just a day before he is due to address a UN conference against racism and intolerance in Geneva on Monday in the absence of United States and Israel, which have boycotted the event.

The hardline president's vitriolic anti-Israel comments and description of the Holocaust as a "myth" have sparked fears that his speech could overshadow the primary aim of the conference.

After three decades of severed diplomatic ties, the Obama administration has called for dialogue with Tehran over its controversial nuclear drive, which Western powers fear could be a cover for efforts to build an atomic bomb.

US-born Saberi, who is also of Japanese descent, has reported for US-based National Public Radio (NPR), the BBC and Fox News, and had lived in Iran for six years.

In March, the Iranian foreign ministry said Saberi's press card was revoked in 2006 and that since then she had been working in Iran "illegally".

Earlier this month Tehran's deputy prosecutor Hassan Haddad said Saberi was carrying out "spying activities under the guise of being a reporter."

Last month, Saberi's parents appealed to Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei for her release, saying she was in a "dangerous" mental state.

In Iran's judicial system it is only the supreme leader who can pardon convicted offenders, except in the case of murder where retribution is considered a private right.

In what was regarded as a theatrical gesture, Ahmadinejad in 2007 freed 15 British naval personnel seized in the Gulf for allegedly trespassing into Iranian waters after about two weeks in captivity.



US-Iranian journalist Roxana Saberi, seen here in an image from the National Press Photographers Association in 2004, has been sentenced to eight years in jail on charges of spying for the United States, her lawyer said.

Pakistan: Suspected US missiles kill 3, wound 5

Suspected U.S. missiles leveled a Taliban compound in northwest Pakistan yesterday, officials said, killing three people despite militant threats of a wave of suicide bombings if the strikes don't end.

Meanwhile, a hardline cleric who mediated a deal that imposes Islamic law in a northwest valley in exchange for peace with the Taliban warned that the Pakistani government must enforce the law, not simply make announcements about it.

Pockets of Pakistan's northwest regions bordering Afghanistan are havens for al-Qaida and Taliban fighters. Many are believed involved in attacks on U.S. and NATO forces across the border, and American officials say the missile strikes are a key tool in taking them out.

Yesterday's suspected strike occurred in South Waziristan

tribal region, the main stronghold of Pakistani Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud, who is believed allied with the al-Qaida terrorist network.

Shahab Ali Shah, South Waziristan's top administrative official, said three people died and five were wounded in the Zari Noor village area. The identities of the dead and wounded were not immediately clear.

Haji Gul Zaman, who lives just outside Zari Noor village, said he heard two blasts and saw plumes of smoke rising from the area. Trucks carrying Taliban fighters raced toward the scene, Zaman said.

Since August, the U.S. has escalated its use of drone-fired missiles along Pakistan's lawless northwestern regions, launching about three dozen.

The U.S. rarely discusses or acknowledges the strikes, which are believed fired by unmanned drones operated by the CIA.

The pro-Western Pakistani government has demanded an end to the strikes, saying that although they have killed several militant leaders, they also fan anti-American sentiment and violate the country's sovereignty.

The latest strike came a day after a suicide car bomber killed 27 people — most of them security forces — at a checkpoint in the Hangu town area, another rough-and-tumble region in the northwest.

Responsibility for the bombing was claimed by Hakeemullah Mehsud, a Taliban commander who has vowed to carry out two suicide attacks a week to press for an end to the missile strikes.

Sri Lanka: 17 rebels dead in clashes to clear road

Sri Lankan soldiers killed 17 Tamil Tiger separatists in fighting to clear a road that would give the military access to remaining rebel territory where thousands of civilians are trapped, the Defense Ministry said yesterday.

More than 100 civilians were able to reach a safe zone on Saturday, a spokesman for the government's Udaya Nanayakkara said.

The rebels, who once controlled a de facto state in parts of the country's north

and east, have retreated to a tiny slice of land that the government had earlier declared a "no-fire zone" for civilians fleeing the fighting in the island's nation's civil war.

The United Nations estimates that more than 100,000 civilians are trapped in the area, which measures only 7.7 square miles (20 square kilometers), and expressed concern for their safety.

The Defense Ministry said 17 rebels were killed and 22 wounded in offensives Saturday aimed at clearing

new escape routes for the civilians and a road link for the military to enter the zone. It did not say if there were military casualties.

Human rights groups have accused the rebels of using the civilians as human shields and the government of indiscriminately shelling populated areas and disregarding civilians' safety. Both sides deny accusations.

The government suspended its offensive for two days last week to allow ci-

vilians to leave, but only a few hundred departed.

Authorities have since rejected widespread international calls for a longer cease-fire to allow humanitarian workers to move the civilians to safety.

The U.N. estimates that some 4,500 noncombatants have been killed in the last three months amid fierce fighting as government forces have closed in on the rebels, aiming to bring a final end to the 25-year civil war.

STUDY IN HUNGARY

UNIVERSITY DEGREE PROGRAMS IN ENGLISH

CHANGE OF DATE OF ENTRANCE EXAMINATION:
It will now hold on **Monday 8, June 2009 at 9am**
at the Hungarian Embassy, Abuja.

Applications from qualified candidates for admission into the various courses in Hungarian Universities and Colleges are still open until May 15, 2009.

Collect Application Forms and Brochures from
ALMERC SERVICES LIMITED

11, Calcutta Crescent, Apapa, Lagos.

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Trust International

WORLD REPORT

Chavez 'to restore US ambassador'

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez says he expects to send an ambassador back to Washington soon. Mr Chavez expelled the US envoy to Caracas in September in "solidarity" with Bolivia. The US reciprocated. In response, the US state department says it "will now work" toward returning its ambassador to Venezuela. The announcements came at a Summit of the Americas in Trinidad, where US President Barack Obama received a warm welcome from Latin American leaders.

Last September's diplomatic dispute arose over an alleged US plot against Bolivian President Evo Morales.

Mr Chavez was a fierce critic of the United States under former President George W Bush, accusing Washington of plotting to assassinate him. But in a sign of warming ties, Mr

Obama shook hands with President Chavez at the summit, and accepted a book from the Venezuelan leader.

Although they had already shaken hands when they met on Friday, Mr Chavez greeted him again on Saturday, this time pressing on him a book. In taking the gift, Mr Obama assumed it was a book by Mr Chavez himself, he said later. However, it was a Spanish-language copy of *The Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent*, a book by Eduardo Galeano chronicling exploitation in the region.

Asked about his first meeting with George W Bush's successor, Mr Chavez said: "I think it was a good moment... I think President Obama is an intelligent man, compared to the previous US president."

Joint operation thwarted new ETA attack - Spain

French and Spanish security forces thwarted a new ETA attack with the arrest of the military chief of the Basque separatist group and eight other suspected members, the Spanish government said yesterday.

Jordan Martitegi — considered the head of ETA's military operations — was captured on Saturday along with two other suspected ETA members at a village in southwestern France.

Interior Minister Alfredo

Perez Rubalcaba said police located Martitegi by following one of the two other suspects, Alexander Uriarte, who had gone to France to get "instructions" from Martitegi about a new attack being planned.

The minister gave no further details. A further six ETA suspects were arrested in Spain's northern Basque Country later Saturday as part of the same operation.

Socialist Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero hailed the arrests.

"I can assure you that we are going to be finished with this historical wound," he said. "We are going to be finished with terrorism, with ETA."

Rubalcaba told a news conference that the "brilliant operation" on Saturday was the culmination of a six-month period that had been "particularly profitable" in the fight against ETA.

Martitegi's presumed predecessor, Aitzol Iriondo, was arrested in France on December 8.



JOINT ADMISSIONS AND MATRICULATION BOARD NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, BWARI P.M.B. 189, GARKI, ABUJA

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION TO TENDER FOR 2009 CAPITAL ITEMS

- A. The Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board is desirous of commissioning competent contractors to execute the following:
- Supply and Installation of: (i) Optical Mark Readable (OMR) Scanners (ii) Office Equipment
- B. Pre-qualification documents which must contain the following are invited from interested companies:
- Evidence of Registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission
 - Evidence of Registration with the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board as contractor.
 - Company Audited Account for three years
 - Evidence of Tax Clearance Certificate for three years
 - Evidence of Financial capabilities and banking support
 - Experience/Technical qualification of key personnel
 - Verifiable evidences of similar and other jobs successfully executed with their locations
 - Technical capabilities of the Firm in terms of equipment, technology and staff strength including the profile of the key officers
 - Annual Turnover
 - VAT Registration and evidence of past remittances.

C. All pre-qualification documents should be appropriately prepared and sent in sealed envelope clearly marked "PREQUALIFICATION TO TENDER FOR THE (Please state the item).

NOTE: It should be noted that the pre-qualification bid is not an invitation to tender. Only the qualified contractors shall be invited to tender.

Six (6) copies of the pre-qualification documents are to be submitted to the address below not later than Thursday, 7th May, 2009 at 12noon.

**The Registrar/Chief Executive,
Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board,
National Headquarters,
Suleja Road, Bwari,
P.M.B. 189, Garki,
Abuja.**

The Pre-qualification submissions would be opened on Friday 8th May 2009 by 10 am at the Board Room, Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board, National Headquarters, Bwari, Abuja.

SIGNED:
Registrar/Chief Executive

Public Notice

POWER HOLDING COMPANY OF NIGERIA PLC, NEPA, SUPERANNUATION FUND

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to Power Holding Company of Nigeria PLC (PHCN) Pensioners across the Federation to provide the understated Bank Details to enable the Company pay their Benefits forthwith Directly into their Bank Accounts, in compliance with the Federal Government's Directive on E-Banking.

ACCOUNT NAME, BANK SORT CODE & ACCOUNT NUMBER

For the avoidance of Doubt the Sort Code is a 9 (Nine) Digit Number on the Cheque Book located immediately after the Cheque Serial Number and before the Account Number.

The information should be sent through the nearest Power Holding Company of Nigeria Zonal Offices for submission to Compensation & Benefits Department, Corporate Headquarter Liaison Office, 24/25 Marina Lagos on OR Before 30th April 2009.

ALL PENSIONERS SHOULD RESPOND TO THIS REQUEST IMMEDIATELY TO AVOID DELAY IN PAYMENT OF PENSIONS.

SIGNED MANAGEMENT



University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (Office of the Chief Medical Director) Bama Road, Pmb 1414, Maiduguri, Nigeria

UMTH/CON/222/VOL.1

20th /4/09

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TENDER FOR SUPPLIERS/INSTALLATION AND THE REHABILITATION/ CONSTRUCTIONS OF VARIOUS ITEMS LISTED BELOW:

(A) This is to inform the general public that the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital is desirous of commissioning competent contractors to undertake suppliers/installation and Rehabilitation/Construction of various items in the year 2009. In view of this, the Hospital is hereby inviting competent and interested contractors for pre-qualification and tender bids in respect of the works in accordance with Due Process.

LOT/PROJECT NO.	DESCRIPTION
Lot 01	supplier/installation of CT Scan
Lot 02	procurement of ultra-sound and fetal cardiopograph monitors
Lot 03	construction of phase virology laboratory
Lot 04	upgrade of water supply.

(B) **PRE-QUALIFICATION**
The following are the pre-qualification requirements, which should be submitted by interested companies:

- evidence of incorporation by Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)
- Tax clearance certificate for the last three (3) years
- Evidence of contributory Pension Scheme for staff.
- Company profile including names, qualifications and experience of company staff with copies of credentials attached.
- Evidence of financial capability to handle work/ Bank reference.
- Verification list of similar completed with names of clients and evidence of award/evidence of partial completion.
- Evidence of registration with the appropriate Federal Works Registration Board.
- Evidence of VAT registration Certificate.

The pre-qualification documents must be in a separate sealed envelop and clearly marked "Pre-qualification of Tender for Construction" and should be submitted within two (2) from the date of this publication to the address below. Full tendering procedure will apply only to bidders that have been Pre-qualified and found capable of executing the project.

**The Director of Administration,
University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital
P.M.B 1414, Maiduguri, Borno state.**

Tender documents shall be made available to interested companies on payment of non-refundable fees of 20,000 to the Finance Department who shall issue receipts to the company on summation. Tenderers should collect tender documents from the office of the Director of Administration.

SIGNED MANAGEMENT



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
SOKOTO RIMA RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

DAMALE KAITA HOUSE, KM10, GUSAU ROAD, P.M.B. 2223, SOKOTO
 SOKOTO STATE, NIGERIA

**INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TENDERING FOR EXECUTION
 OF VARIOUS PROJECTS WITH PROVISIONS IN THE 2009 APPROPRIATION.**

The Sokoto Rima River Basin Development Authority wishes to invite qualified and competent companies/firms to come forward and submit their documents for pre-qualification and purchase Tender Documents for the execution of various projects with provisions in the 2009 appropriation.

A PROJECTS FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

1. Reconstruction of Ingawa Dallaje Dam, Katsina State

2. Sprinkler Irrigation Scheme in Zamfara State:

Construction of access road and clearance of sites

Drilling of boreholes, supply of centre pivot sprinklers, pumps and farm implements

CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Construction supervision of Projects in Ingawa Dallaje Dam and Sprinkler Irrigation Scheme in Zamfara State.

SUBMISSION / OPENING OF DOCUMENTS

All pre-qualification documents must be submitted within **2 weeks** from the date of this publication.

Pre-qualification documents shall be opened at the end of the 2 week notice.

All envelopes must be sealed and clearly marked "PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENT 2009" at the top right hand corner of the envelope and be addressed to :-

The Managing Director/CE,
 Sokoto Rima River Basin Development Authority
 Damale Kaita House, P.M.B. 2223,
 Km 10, Gusau Road, Sokoto.

B. PROJECTS FOR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL BIDDING 2009 MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL (MDG) PROJECT (i.e. Projects Funded from Debts Relief Gains).

1. Construction of Batsari Medium Earth Dam:

2009 APPROPRIATION PROJECTS

1. Rehabilitation of Bakolori Irrigation Project:

Lot A Rehabilitation/Replacement of Electromechanical components

Lot B Rehabilitation of canals, drains, hydraulic structures, services and link roads

Lot C Rehabilitation of Dam headworks and establishment of soil and water laboratory.

2. Revitalization of RBDA's:

Lot A Establishment of Minor Irrigation Schemes in Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara States.

Lot B Establishment of orchards at Goronyo, Jibiya, Dutsinma, B/Kebbi and T.Mafara.

3. Small Scale Irrigation in Goronyo LGA, Sokoto State:

Provision of tube wells and supply of irrigation pumps to selected farmers in 5No Lots of Goronyo LGA for the establishment of minor irrigation schemes.

4. Rehabilitation of Maikujera Small Irrigation Project:

Lot A Land leveling and re-construction of water conveyance structures, drains and irrigation fields for 70Ha.

Lot B Supply of irrigation pumps and generators and construction of pump house.

5. Small Irrigation Scheme in Katsina:

Construction /Rehabilitation of 20-50Ha minor irrigation schemes at:

Lot A Rijiyar Tsamiya - Sandamu LGA

Lot B Mallamwa - Batsari LGA

Lot C Farakasa - Dandume LGA

Lot D Bakori - Bakori LGA

Lot E Tafashiya - Kankiya LGA

6. Gada Small Irrigation Project:

Provision of tube wells/wash bores and supply of irrigation pumps to selected farmers in 5No Lots of Gada LGA for the establishment of minor irrigation schemes.

7. Small Scale Minor Irrigation Schemes in 4 States:

Construction of tube wells and supply of irrigation pumps for Fadama farmers at:

Lot A Sabke - Katsina State

Lot B Argungu - Kebbi State

Lot C Rabah - Sokoto State

Lot D Bakura - Zamfara State

8. Operation and Maintenance of Large Dams:

Lot A Rehabilitation of Met stations and supply of 5 evaporation pans to Bakolori, Zobe, Goronyo and Jibiya Dams.

Lot B View point protection works at Goronyo Dam Project

Lot C Rehabilitation of eroded portions along the dam embankment and stilling basin and cutting of overgrown shrubs at Zobe irrigation project.

Lot D Rehabilitation of eroded portions and cutting of big trees, destruction of anthills and re-arrangement of displaced boulders along the dam embankment at Bakolori Dam.

Lot E Procurement of 5No GPS and Laptop computers with MET Soft wares.

9. Construction of Danmarke Earth Dam, Kankara LGA, Katsina State

10. Construction of Pandabuwa Earth Dam, Matazu LGA, Katsina State

CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Construction Supervision of Danmarke Earth Dam.

SUBMISSION / OPENING OF DOCUMENTS

All completed documents should be submitted in three (3) bound copies for each project sealed in an envelope clearly marked "FINANCIAL BID FOR....." and three (3) bound copies marked "TECHNICAL BID FOR.....(mention name of the intended project) at the top right hand corner. All envelopes shall bear name and address of the company/firm and also be addressed to:

The Managing Director/CE,
 Sokoto Rima River Basin Development Authority
 Damale Kaita House, P.M.B. 2223,
 Km 10, Gusau Road, Sokoto.

CLOSING DATE OF SUBMISSION OF BID

The closing date for the submission of completed bids shall be **twenty Eight (28) days** from the date of this publication at 12.00 noon.

OPENING OF BIDS

Bid opening exercise shall be conducted publically in the Board Room of the Sokoto Rima River Basin Authority on the closing date.

All Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are invited to witness the Bids Opening.

All Documents(Pre-Qualification and Bids) should be accompanied by: Full details of Company profile, which should include Name, Address, Corporate Registration Certificate, GSM (phone) number etc.

- List of construction equipment and their status where applicable.
- List of personnel: their qualifications (CV) and experience in similar works.
- Financial status of the company, which should include financial annual reports and tax clearance certificates for the last three (3) years
- VAT Certificate and FIRS PIN number.
- Bank reference letter.
- Full Accounts details including SORT code
- Evidence of registration with COREN (for Engineering consultants only)
- Original copies of CAC registration, Tax clearance certificate and VAT certificate would be required for sighting at Bid opening.

**Signed
 Management**



CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA

APPOINTMENT OF CUSTODIANS AS DEPOSITORY IN MONEY MARKET INSTRUMENTS

The Central Bank of Nigeria is commencing the process of appointing three (3) Custodians in Money Market and Other Fixed Income Instruments.

In view of this, interested Custodian who must be registered with the relevant regulatory authorities (i.e. Pension Commission, Securities and Exchange Commission e.t.c) are required to collect application forms from the office of the Director, Banking Operations Department, Central Bank of Nigeria, Abuja or Lagos. All Custodians that had earlier applied in 2007 are advised to re-apply.

All duly completed application forms should reach the Director, Banking Operations Department, Central Bank of Nigeria Abuja or Lagos not later than two weeks from the date of publication of this advert.

Signed
Director, Banking Operations Department.



Adhoc-Committee On Afro-Arab Parliamentary Committee

The Hon. Speaker, Federal House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Dimeji Bankole CFR, cordially invites the general public to the opening ceremony of the 12th Afro-Arab Parliamentary Conference on Tuesday, 21st April, 2009.

The conference, whose theme is: Strengthening Co-operation and Integration of the Afro-Arab Parliamentary Relations will be declared open by His Excellency, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'adua, GCFR, President and Commander-In-Chief, Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Venue: Africa Hall, International Conference Centre, Abuja

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Announcer

HON. BABA SHEHU AGAIE

Chairman, Planning Committee

12th Afro-Arab Parliamentary Conference



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

PROGRAMME FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE STATE OF THE NIGERIA CUSTOMS SERVICE AND THE POOR PERFORMANCE OF ITS STATUTORY DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS.

Pursuant to resolution HR, 50/2008 of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Customs and Excise will conduct a Public Hearing on the state of the Nigeria Customs Service and the Poor performance of its statutory duties and functions. The programme for the Public Hearing is as follows:

22nd. April 2009 - 4th. May 2009

Review of submitted documents/ memoranda

DAY 1 5th. May, 2009
 8.00 - 9.00 - Arrival of Guests
 9.00 - 9.30 - Arrival of the Hon. Minister of Finance, Comptroller of the Nigeria Customs service (NCS) and his management
 9.45 - 9.55 - Arrival of the Hon. Speaker and other Principal Officers of the House of Representatives
 10.00 - 10.15 - National Anthem
 10.15 - 10.30 - Introduction of special guests
 10.30 - 11.00 - Welcome Address by the Chairman, Committee on Customs & Excise
 11.00 - 11.30 - The Rt. Hon. Speaker delivers his speech and declares the public hearing open.
 11.30 - 11.45 - Vote of thanks, by the Deputy Chairman
 11.45 - End of opening ceremony
 Presentation by the Hon. Minister of Finance

lunch Break,
 Presentation by the Comptroller General of Nigeria Customs Service

Closing

DAY 2 **06/05/09**
 Continuation of Presentation by the Nigeria Customs Service
 lunch Break
 Presentation by the Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria
 Presentation by the Accountant General of the Federation
 Closing

DAY 3 **07/05/09**
 Presentation by the Auditor General of the Federation
 Presentation by the Chairman, Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC)
 Presentation by the Executive Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service
 lunch Break
 Presentation by the Chairman, National Automotive Council (NAC)
 Presentation by the Chairman, Nigeria Sugar Development Council
 Closing

DAY 4 **08/05/09**
 Presentation by the Nigeria Ports Authority
 Presentation by NIMASA
 Presentation by Nigeria Shippers Council
 Lunch Break
 Presentation by the following:
 (i) National Association of Licensed Customs Agents
 (ii) National Association of Government approved Freight Forwarders
 (iii) Terminal and Bonded ware house operators/Ports concessionaires
 (iv) National Association of Importers
 (v) National Association of Auctioneers

Closing

DAY 5 **11/05/09**
 Presentation by Private jetty operators
 Presentation by Shipping Lines
 (i) Maersk Line
 (ii) Panalpina World Service
 (iii) Mediterranean Shipping Company
 (iv) Grimaldi Shipping Agency
 (v) Comet Shipping Services
 (vi) CMA CGM DELMAS Nigeria Ltd.
 (vii) Brawal Shipping Lines

Lunch Break
 Presentation by Airline Operators and Cargo Handling Agencies

(i) KLM/Air France
 (ii) British Airways World Cargo Service
 (iii) Emirates Airline
 (iv) Ethiopian Airlines
 (v) Bellview Airlines
 (vi) Lufthansa German Airlines
 (vii) South African Airways
 Closing

DAY 6 **12/05/09**
 Presentation by the Group Managing Director, NNPC
 Presentation by the Oil Trade Group
 (i) Shell Petroleum Dev. Co.
 (ii) Mobil Producing Unlimited
 (iii) Chevron Nig. Ltd

(iv) Nig. Agip Oil Co.
 (v) Total/Fina/Elf
 (vi) Texaco Nig Ltd
 (vii) Addax Petroleum

Lunch Break

Presentation by other oil companies

(i) Conoco Energy Services and Conoco Phillips
 (ii) Oando Nig. Ltd
 (iii) Conoil Nig Ltd
 (iv) Zenon Oil Nig. Ltd

Presentation by oil servicing Companies

(i) Globestar Engineering
 (ii) Tidex Nig. Ltd
 (iii) Saipem Contracting
 (iv) Peak Petroleum
 (v) Edison Chouest Offshore
 (vi) Bourbon Interoil

Closing

DAY 7 **13/05/09**
 - Presentation by the Hon. Minister for Commerce and Industries
 - Presentation by the Nigeria Export Promotion Council
 - Presentation by the Nigeria Export Processing Zone Authority (NEPZA)
 - Presentation by the Oil and Gas Free Trade Zone, Onne
 - Presentation by Nigeria Investment Promotion Council (NIPC)
 - Presentation by the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG)

Lunch Break

Presentation by the following

(i) Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN)
 (ii) National Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA)
 (iii) National Association of Nigeria Traders (NANTS)

Closing

DAY 8 **14/05/09**
 Presentation by service providers
 (i) Cotecna
 (ii) SGS Scanning
 (iii) Global Scansystem
 (iv) Webb Fontaine Nig. Ltd
 lunch Break
 Presentation by Julius Berger PIC
 Presentation by Emmanuel C. Molokwu (Customs and Management Consultant)
 Closing

DAY 9 **15/05/09**
 Presentation by Donair Aviation Nig. AIEP Ltd.
 Presentation by Manyata Engineering Services Ltd.
 Presentation by Contractors handling marine projects of the NCS
 lunch Break
 Presentation by other contractors and consultants handling capital projects for the NCS

DAY 10 **18/05/09**
 Presentation by beneficiaries of government waivers from 2000 to 2008
 Presentation by Popular Foods Nig. Ltd
 Presentation by Rtd. Customs officers
 - DCG Bello Rtd.
 - ACG Ade Fadewusi Rtd.
 - ACG Sani Nuhu Abubakar
 - 2004 Retired Comptrollers of Customs led by Comptroller A. A. Nwadike Rtd.
 Lunch Break
 Presentation by the Chairman - ICPC
 Presentation by the Chairman - EFCC
 Closing

DAY 11 **19/05/09**
 Presentation by Mrs. Esther Usman Nenadi, Former Minister of Finance
Lunch Break
 Presentation by Former Comptrollers General, Nigeria Customs Service
 - Dr. Bello H. Mohammed
 - Major Gen. Ango Rtd.
 - Comptroller General A. A. Mustapha Rtd.
 - Comptroller General Gyang Buba Rtd.
 - Comptroller General H. B. Ahmed Rtd.

DAY 12 **20/05/09**
 shall be use for clarification of issues arising from presentations during the public hearing

DAY 13 **21/05/09 - WAY FORWARD**
 Federal Ministry of Finance
 NNPC
 NPA
 lunch Break
 The Nigeria Custom Service
 End

COALITION OF PLATEAU STATE CITIZENS FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA.

No.17/1 Bauchi Road, Jos Plateau State.

April 16, 2009

His Excellency,
Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'adua, GCFR,
President and commander in Chief,
Federal Republic of Nigeria,
Aso Rock Villa, Abuja

Your Excellency,

CALL GOVERNOR JONAH JANG TO ORDER

Pope Benedict the xvi, while delivering this year's Easter message to millions of Catholics the world over, captured the mood of the season, when he reiterated the relevance of peace and reconciliation as a panacea to healing the wounds of the world.

The pope in his "Urbi et Orbi" message to the world delivered at the St. Peter Square, identified reconciliation as a precondition for future overall security and peaceful coexistence in the world.

As the pope was delivering his message, world leaders including Your Excellency, who are sensitive to the mood of the time, also noted the same theme in their various messages to their people, as if taking a cue from the Pope.

Just before the Easter, there was an earth quake in Italy in which over 200 persons including women and children lost their lives. Here in Nigeria, on Palm Sunday, 18 persons travelling in a bus to an Easter programme in Benue state, also perished in a ghastly motor accident.

Both at home and abroad, the situation appeared grim and various leaders engaged themselves in seeking ways to soothe the pains of their people, by giving them hope and assuring them of peace.

We recall that Your Excellency in his Easter message, urged Nigerians to continue to live with one another and rekindle their faith in their ability to overcome obstacles in the way of Nigeria's journey to greatness.

Your Excellency also went ahead to stress that Nigerians should continue "to remain peaceful and law abiding" and eschew actions that may upset the condition of peace and stability which you said are necessary for the progress of the nation.

Senate President David Mark, in obvious appreciation of this fact also in his Easter message, charged religious leaders in the country to inculcate in their followers the virtues of peaceful coexistence, love and mutual cooperation to guarantee socio economic growth in the country.

Governor Timipre Sylva of Bayelsa state, speaking in the same vein, also captured the mood of the last Easter when he in his Easter message, called on the people of Bayelsa to imbibe the virtues of coexistence.

Said Sylva, "Peace for Jesus Christ; whom we serve and celebrate, was not a mere trademark or slogan, but a defining attitude. As we celebrate Him, we must learn to pursue after the virtues he lived for, we must imbibe the virtues of tolerance and accommodation without which our commemoration of His suffering on the cross and resurrection to glory this Easter period would be in vain."

While in Lagos, Babatunde Fashola, also called on his people to be more committed to religious tolerance saying it was the only way to ensure harmonious coexistence in the country.

His words: "That in His infinite wisdom, God has brought us together in one world and nation, irrespective of our diversity of faiths, cultures, tongues and tradition, is a testimony of the limitless greatness of the almighty who is the source of all existence." Without overstating the obvious; it seems the whole world, Africa and Nigeria in particular, found the solemn moment of the Easter

to tell themselves the home truth about the virtues of peaceful coexistence, tolerance and mutual respect for one another.

But as the concern of most leaders in the world seem to centre on this crucial aspect of human coexistence, the Plateau state governor, Jonah Jang, acted true to type by being the only discordant tune in the search for peace and harmony and even went a step further in his passion for aggression and altercation, when he chose the Easter period to incite certain unsuspecting members of the public in his state against their neighbours.

Addressing Christian faithful who had turned out to receive the message of hope and peace, the Plateau state governor used the opportunity given him as a leader to address the people, the same opportunity being used by other leaders of the world to foster peace and harmony, to stoke the embers of discord and bitterness by reinventing a fable that he carefully selected to touch on the sensibilities of the all Christian congregation.

He informed the congregation that a large cache of arms had been intercepted recently in Jos by security agents, and that the intention of those that smuggled the arms into Jos was to blow up strategic buildings in the town and unleash violence on the people of the state.

Even for the mere fact the message deviates from the essence of the occasion, and does exponential violence to the pervading spirit of the world order, the Jang Easter message is one that should be condemned by all well meaning and peace loving individuals, organisations, and governments for its propensity to undermine the collective resolve of people of different ethnic and religious backgrounds to coexist peacefully.

But most worrisome is the fact that Jos is just about recovering from the throes of a recent violence that engulfed the state which with the benefit of hindsight is now clear to all, was carefully schemed to happen by the state governor so as to achieve his hidden agenda of wiping out a certain group of people from the state.

It is unfortunate that as Your Excellency, and other security agencies in the country are working round the clock to check any form of crisis and ensure that such experiences do not reoccur, Jang by his comments on that Easter Sunday, has once again shown that not only has he benefited from the last schism that rocked Jos, but that he is interested and ready to cause and sponsor another round of violence in the state.

To him, the lives that were lost in the last round of violence does not matter as he is already seeing himself as the hero of the crisis who has appropriately vanquished every other voice of reason and caution.

His choice of leaving the statement hanging in the air as to who the culprit is, or how when and where they were apprehended, it is clear, is to allow the imaginations of the congregation fill in the missing gap, since Jang has made it clear that whenever he talks about "some people" in reference to the Jos crisis, then he is referring to no other group of persons than the Hausa Fulani Muslim population in Jos.

Had the statement being made in a political

gathering where there is bound to be a mix of faiths and beliefs, one would have considered the statement in another light, but the statement made in a church, with the constant pointing of fingers at "some people," cannot be mistaken for what it is not, as the allegation from the position it was made, seem to suggest that it excludes the church members and their ethnic and religious affiliations from the accusation since the accusing finger is pointing outside the congregation.

This is not the first time that Jang is making such a baseless and unsubstantiated claim just to incite the people of Plateau against one another. We recall that only recently, Governor Jang said he was the target of an assassination attempt and that it was the timely advice by security agencies in the state that made him abort the trip abroad where he was to be assassinated. We recall that on that occasion, all the security agencies said they were not aware of the attempt. Now again, the police has said it is not aware of the claim made by the governor about the seizure of the large cache of arms.

Where Jang always finds the latitude to do aggression to the integrity and collective will of a group of people simply because he had chosen not to like them for reasons best known to him, and always gets away with it beats the imagination.

We urge Your Excellency therefore; to call the man to order, as the agenda he seems to be pursuing as we have shown earlier in this piece, is directly opposed to that which your administration and most other governors in this country seem to be pursuing.

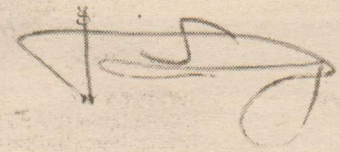
Your Excellency, this governor, whom one writer described as akin to having a bull-in-china-shop-attitude, should not be allowed for the sake of envy and the xenophobia that he has, plunge the state and the entire nation into another spectre of needless suspicion and distrust which result cannot be beneficial to the country to continue the way he is doing.

We wish to call on President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua and all well meaning Nigerians to call Governor Jonah Jang of Plateau state to order while urging the various investigative panels set up on the crisis in Plateau state to hasten their assignments so that the benefit of finding lasting peace in Jos and indeed Nigeria can be realised as soon as possible.

Aggression, vindictiveness and jingoism all are qualities which Jang possesses in good measure. Unfortunately, these qualities cannot make a good leader in the present Nigeria where we have all chosen to live, work play and worship together.

Please accept the assurances of our highest regard, esteem, and loyalty.

Signed:

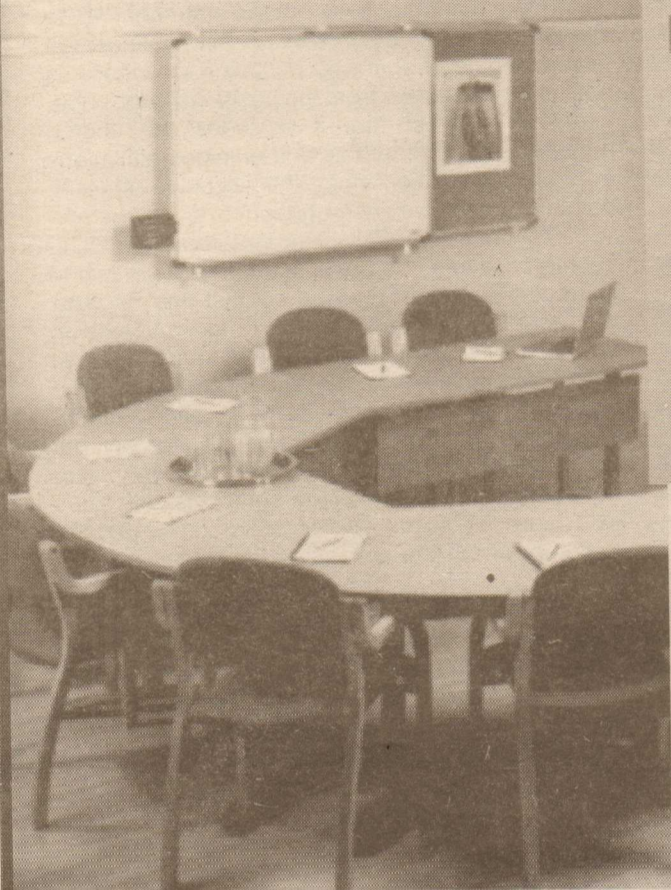


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S P O N S O R



BUSINESS TRUST

• **Unity Bank gets new EDs** —Page 35

• **FG sets up panel over N70 textile fund** —Page 30

• **Stock Market Report** —Page 35

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Flight Schedule

Chanchangi Airlines

Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 10.00, 13.10, 15.30, 16.45
Lagos-Kad: 10.00
Lagos-Owrr: 08.00, 10.00, 14.30
Kad-Abj-Lagos: 10.30, 11.45
Abj-Lagos: 08.10, 13.40, 15.00

IRS Airlines

Lagos-Abj: 09.45, 11.45, 12.45, (Mon-Fri) 09.30, 12.45(Sat & Sun)
Lagos-Kano: 06.15(Mon-Fri), 16.30(Sat & Sun)
Kano-Lagos: 07.30(Mon-Fri), 10.30(Sat & Sun)

Aero Contractors

Lagos-Abj: 06.50; 13.30; 16.30; 19.45(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 12.30 (Sun) 16:45 (Sat).
Abj-Lagos: 07.30; 13.30; 19.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30; 14.30; 19.30 (Sun) 18.30(Sat).
Lagos-Ben: 07:45 ; 11:00 ; 15.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun) 12.30; (Sun); 15.30 (Sat).
Ben-Lagos: 09.15; 12.30; 17.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 17.00 (Sat); 14.00 (Sun)
Lagos-Cala: 13.15; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 08.30; 19.00 (Sun)
Cala-Lagos: 14.45; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30 (Sun)
Lagos-Enu: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 15.00(Sun)
Enu-Lagos: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat) 16.45 (Sun)
Lagos-PHC: 07.30; 09.30; 15.00(Mon-Fri/ Sat/ Sun)
PHC-Lagos: 11.15; 17.30 (Mon-Fri/Sat) 18.00 (Fri)
Lagos-Warri: 07.45; 16.00 (Mon-Fri/sat) 09.15 (Sun)
Warri-Lagos: 09.15; 17.30 (Mon-Fri/Sat) 10.45(Sun)

Virgin Nigeria

Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 09.00, 11.30, 14.00, 15.50, 17.00, 18.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Abj-Lagos: 07.00, 09.30, 10.15, 11.15, 13.35, 16.15 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Lagos-PHC: 07.40, 09.30, 10.00, 12.20, 13.30, 14.00, 16.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
PHC-Lagos: 10.50, 11.20, 12.45, 15.30, 16.15, 17.15 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Abj-Kano: 18.00 (Mon-Fri)
Kano-Abj: 08.20 (Mon-Fri)

Bellview Airlines

Lagos-Abj: 06.50, 12.55, 17.00(Mon-Fri) 16.40(Sat) 17.00 (Sun)
Abj-Lagos: 07.40, 14.50, 18.25 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Lagos-Kano: 06.50(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Kano-Lagos: 10.10(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)

Arik Air

Lagos-Abj: 07.30, 10.20, 14.20, 16.45 17.45, 18.05(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Abj-Lagos: 09.20, 09.30, 10.30, 12.15, 16.20, 17.45, 20.05(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Abj-Cal: 10.25, 17.25(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Cal-Abj: 08.50, 15.50(Mon-Sat) 19.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Abj-Ben: 10.35(Mon-Fri)
Ben-Abj: 12.00(Tue-Fri)
Lagos-Ben: 08.00, 11.45, 15.30(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Ben-Lagos: 09.15, 13.35, 17.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Lagos-Cal: 07.00, 14.05(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Cal-Lagos: 12.00, 19.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Lagos-Enu: 07.30, 14.30, 16.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Enu-Lagos: 09.30, 18.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Lagos-Jos: 11.30, (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Jos-Lagos: 13.15(Mon-Fri)
Kano-Lagos: 15.30(Mon-Fri/Sun)
Lagos-PHC: 07.20, 07.50, 09.15, 11.30, 12.30, 15.10, 15.55, 16.45, 17.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
PHC-Lagos: 07.00, 08.30, 09.15, 11.10, 13.40, 14.30, 15.00, 17.05, 17.50(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)

FG pays petrol marketers N50bn subsidy arrears

**Fuel queues subside*

**Filling stations begin 24hrs service in FCT*

The federal government on Friday approved the payment of N50 billion to petroleum marketers out of the 126 billion owed them by the Petroleum Support Fund.

To that effect the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPRA) yesterday authorised the payment to the accounts of major petroleum marketers.

On Friday, newspapers reported that the marketers suspended fuel imports to protest non payment of the arrears by government.

The action took by the marketers to suspended fuel imports has created panic in most part of the country and some major marketers are have refused to sell their products.

This resulted in scarcity of petroleum products experienced in the country.

Speaking after meeting with officials of government

“We will do our best to resolve the problem as quickly as possible”

on Friday in Abuja, the Executive Secretary of the Major Marketers Association of Nigeria (MOMAM) Mr. Moses Olawore said the PPPRA had informed MOMAM members that it had credited their accounts with N50bn.

He confirmed that the payment was made via electronic payment, which is the new means of payment in government transactions.

Olawore said, “PPPRA claimed that they had paid us N50bn through e-payment. So it might take some time to hit our accounts.

The MOMAM official assured that with the remittance of the payment, marketers will resume importa-

By Hamisu Muhammad

tion of products immediately.

He added, “Within a short time, products will start coming in. Some products are already coming in at the moment.

On how to forestall a recurrence, Olawore coun-

within the FCT and beyond, NNPC and the owners of the following Petrol Stations will open to the public for 24hours beginning tonight.

“There will be full Police presence in and around the stations for maximum security.”

Ajuonuma listed the stations that will offer the 24-

the DPR wish to advise these marketers to desist from these sharp practices as any marketer caught will not only be sanctioned but will have its license withdrawn.

“NNPC wishes to assure the general public that the nation has adequate stock of petrol.

There is absolutely no need for panic buying.”

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Minister of Petroleum Rilwan Lukman

elled government to ensure that the payment of PSF was made as quickly as possible.

He said, “Payment should be prompt. Every month, they should pay us. Once they do that, we are ready to supply products.”

The PSF covers the difference between the landing cost of imported petrol and the pump price which currently stands at N65 per litre.

Meanwhile, the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation ordered major petrol stations in Abuja to render 24-hour service.

The statement which was signed by the Group General Manager, Public Affairs, Dr. Levi Ajuonuma said, “As part of measures to resolve the long fuel queues

hour service to include Total at Herbert Macaulay Street, opposite NNPC Towers, Conoil Herbert Macaulay Street, Opposite NNPC Towers and Total Area 11 near Police Headquarters.

Other stations that will be opened round the clock are: AP station in Area 11 near Police Headquarters, AP 1&2 along Aguiyi Ironsi Street by Transcorp Hilton Hotel and the NNPC Mega Station.

Earlier in the day, NNPC had claimed that the build up of queues in filling stations around Abuja and its environs was attributable to the disruption of products loading by the tanker drivers during the Easter break.

The statement read that, “NNPC Management and

Filling stations on 24hrs service in FCT

1. Total, at Herbert Macaulay Street, opposite NNPC Towers.
2. Conoil, Herbert Macaulay Street, Opposite NNPC Towers.
3. Total, Area 11 near Police Headquarters.
4. AP station in Area 11 near Police Headquarters.
5. AP 1&2 along Aguiyi Ironsi Street by Transcorp Hilton Hotel.
6. NNPC Mega Station.

AGRIC BUSINESS

FG unveils 3-point agenda for textile revival

*Raises panel over N70bn fund

The Federal Government has unveiled another three point agenda in its bid to revive the textile sector of the economy, Minister of Commerce and Industry Achike Ndenwa has said.

The minister said his ministry is focusing on three-point agenda to revive the sector. These he said, are to increase local production capacity, manufacturing of more goods locally and to increase non-oil exports.

"After reviewing situation both locally and internationally, the ministry is able to fashion out a new focus. Our focus is now to increase production capacity. To ensure that Nigerians

From Kayode Ekundayo,
Lagos

manufacture more goods locally. To increase non-oil exports as well as reduce the importation of consumables. Those things we can get local alternatives or those things we can do without. We should reduce their importation. If we are able to achieve the three goals, the sector will be doing well. The public cannot understand why cement is selling at the price it is selling", he said

This is coming as the

Federal government set up investigative panel to ascertain the genuineness of companies to benefit from the N70 billion textile funds.

The minister said the essence of the investigative panel is to ensure that the N70 billion funds do not go into wrong hands; rather the fund is used for the promotion and betterment of the textile industry.

"Our preliminary investigation has shown that some of the selected beneficiaries are no longer in business. They have sold their equip-

ment and these are highly respected people in the society who are crying for the fund. So, what we are doing now is to send people to investigate and find out the real beneficiaries of the fund. Parts of what we are interested are: Are they still in textile business? Do they still need the fund? If government gives out the money, to what extent will it assist them?"

Former President Olusegun Obasanjo led administration had approved N70 billion to revitalise textile industry and selected a number of companies as beneficiaries

"Nigerian must be patient with us. The exercise is still ongoing. Be rest assured that President Yar'adua is

still very much interested in the fund because it is a commitment made by the immediate past administration. He is very interested but one has to be cautioned. We must ensure that the money gets to the right people. We need to ascertain what impact it will make in the sector.", he said

He said government want to see how the nation could export agricultural products.

"We want to see how we can exports our agricultural products, not in raw forms. If we can process that added a lot of value to it we by doing so provide employment opportunities for our people. Government also has export expansion grant which we

give to exporters to assist them to more competitive. Although there have been some increases in some of the things we exports but not at the level we expected. We have also been driving for investment. If today we get the problem of power right, more investment will come to this country, despite the economy meltdown. This is even the best time to attract investment".

The minister who expressed worry over the high rate of importation of fake, sub standard products into the country said the federal government has signed agreements with two international agencies- TUV Rheinland group, Japan and Societe Generale de Surveillance, France adding that similar agreement would soon be signed with Chinese inspection agency in China.

He said the agencies would collaborate with the Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) to eliminate sub standard products in the country.

N200bn loan may go to fake farmers- Rice farmers

By Abubakar Ibrahim

National Chairman, Rice Farmers Association of Nigeria, Alhaji Abubakar Wodi has said that the massive loan of N200 billion being extended to large scale farmers may end up in wrong hands.

Reacting to the offer in an interview with *Daily Trust* during the ceremony for the disbursement of Nigerian Agricultural Cooperative and Rural Development Bank loan to rice farmers on Saturday, Wodi said various fake individuals and groups would collaborate to access the loan and may not meet the purpose intended.

Wodi who refused to

comment further said, "We are the right and genuine small scale farmers" adding that some of the beneficiaries may divert the money to wasteful ventures or see it as a largesse from the government.

Last week, the Central Bank of Nigeria in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources announced a N200 billion Commercial Agricultural Credit Scheme to finance the commercial cultivation of rice, cassava, cotton, oil palm, wheat, rubber, sugar cane, jatropha, fruits

and vegetables; livestock, fishery as well as "processing, storage and marketing of target commodities".

The fund, according to the Federal Government, would be administered by the United Bank for Africa and First Bank

Borrowers are expected to be integrated large scale commercial farm/ago enterprises with asset base of not less than N350 million and non-integrated type with asset base of not less than N200 million while state governments and the federal capital territory are to get 20 percent of the loan through specialised agencies.



Farmers using crude tools

'Jama'are basin underutilized'

The Jama'are basin which covers 125,000 hectares of irrigable land with the potentials of producing 700, 000 metric tons of grains such as rice and wheat has grossly remained underutilized due to the non completion of Kafin Zaki Dam, the Managing Director of Hadejia-Jama'are River Basin Development Authority, Engineer Sanusi Imran Abdullahi, has said.

Engineer Sanusi Imran was speaking when the chairman Senate Ad-hoc Committee on the Investigation of Nigerian Food Crisis and the Agricultural Sector, Senator Idris Abdullahi Umar, paid an inspection visit to the Dam site in Ganjuwa local government area of Bauchi state.

The Managing Director, who spoke through the Executive Director (Services), Alhaji Muhammad Tayyu Ibrahim, said apart from grains the Dam when completed can produce 750, 000 metric tons of vegetables annually as well as about 6,000 metric tons of fish annually while about 500,000 farm families will be provided all year round employment in the area among others.

In his remark, Senator Abdullahi Idris assured that

From Muhammad
Abubakar, Bauchi

his committee, which he said was set up by the Senate to investigate the lingering food crisis in the country despite the huge investment made by government in agriculture from 1999 to date, will give a positive report for the actualization of the Kafin Zaki Dam.

Also speaking during the visit the former secretary to the government of the federation, Alhaji Aminu Sale,

also extolled the numerous benefits to the country of constructing the Dam saying it will be another serious effort by government to fight against the lingering food crisis in Nigeria.

Despite the controversy the construction of the Dam, which is being supported by the Bauchi state government, has generated among some elite from states that it will affect, the Bauchi state Governor Isa Yuguda announced that President Yar'adua has already approved its construction.

Make agric a priority -OGUNCIMMA urges FG

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

Unless Nigeria gives priority to the development of agriculture and agro allied business, Vision 2020 will remain a mirage, President of Ogun Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture [OGUNCIMMA] Oba Moses Adelani Olabode has said.

The President who spoke in Lagos said agriculture is central to economic growth of the country, adding that government must expedite action on how the agriculture can be used to attain the vision 2020.

The President also tasked the Federal government to ensure that greater percentage of oil revenue is diverted to the development of agro-based industry and business.

He stressed that agriculture must remain and be made the backbone of the nation's socio-economic development.

Fake seed dealer in police net

The police in Kano have arrested a fake seed dealer at Abubakar Rimi market, for alleged sale of fake maize seed packaged in PANNAR UAC packaging material. The seed merchant, was arrested following report by the staff of the National Agricultural Seeds Council, Kano office.

He was said to have been arrested for selling maize seed that was packaged in a packaging material of a company that had ceased operation since 1997.

This was contained in a press release signed by Deputy Director, Seed Quality Control, National Agricultural Seeds Council, Mr Olonilua Femi Joshua, and made available to *Daily Trust* in Kano.

The release noted that UAC Seeds Ltd, Zaria which operated from 1991 to 1997 used to market PAANNAR UAC Seeds in the packaging material which is now being used by the fake seed dealer to packaged maize seed.

From Halima Musa, Kano

It stated that the council would not condone such behaviour and would ensure that anybody found selling fake seed to unsuspecting farmers were made to face the wrath of the law

According to the release the National Agricultural Seed Council was established to provide an enabling environment for improved quality seed development, "improved quality seed used by farmers has been estimated to contribute about 50% productivity gain in crop production by farmers. It is established that improved quality seed set the upper limit of all other agricultural inputs and practices, be it fertiliser, agro-chemicals and irrigation," it stated

It added, "For these reasons, the Federal government has created conducive environment for improved quality seed development, planning, monitoring and coordination of seed multiplication and production,

seed quality control and certification and seed industry development,"

The statement further noted that "the attainment of this objective involves huge financial, human and infrastructural commitments. The organised private sectors are increasingly investing in the seed sector by setting up seed production and marketing companies."

According to it "the National Agricultural Seed Council has been positioned to meet the challenges of a rapid developing seed industry in Nigeria to ensure regular availability, accessibility and affordable seed delivery to Nigerian farmers and the ECOWAS sub-region."

The statement therefore urged farmers to ensure that they buy seed from reputable registered seed companies and dealers who sales seeds packaged in bags with company label and the blue seed certification tag of the National Agricultural Seed Council.

BUSINESS TRUST

FAAC summons NNPC

GMD over N450bn

*March revenue drops by 12.3bn

*FG, States, LGAs shared N442bn

The Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has been summoned to appear before the Federal Allocation Account Committee (FAAC) next month.

Muhammed Barkindo is expected to explain to the Committee when the corporation is paying its debt put at about N450 billion to the Federation Account.

The Minister of State for Finance Remi Babalola said this over the weekend at the FAAC meeting where N441.963 billion was recommended to be shared by the three tiers of government for the month of March.

Stories by Idris Ahmed

He did not say how much the corporation is expected to remit into the account, but *Daily Trust* can report that the amount is about N450 billion.

Babalola said: "In view of the huge amounts involved it has become necessary now for the Management of the NNPC to furnish this Committee with a repayment plan for this indebtedness for our consideration.

"Consequently on the foregoing, it is appropriate that this Committee resolve at this meeting to invite the Group Managing Director of the NNPC to the next FAAC meeting in order to provide us with the details of the

Corporation's repayment plan."

The total revenue realized for the month of March was put at N203.584 billion, a shortfall of N12.286 billion or 6.03 percent from what was realized in February.

"The decrease was attributed to the reduction in OPEC production quota as well as the militants and pirates activities in the Niger Delta", the Accountant General of the Federation, Ibrahim Hassan Dankwambo has said.

To make up for the shortfall, N85.203 billion was withdrawn from the Excess Crude Account to augment the March revenue slide and N119.090 billion to augment budget shortfalls for January and February, respectively.

Soludo briefs press on the challenges

The Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Professor Ckukwuma Soludo will today brief the press on the achievements and challenges of central banking in Nigeria.

The media briefing is to flag off series of activities lined up to mark the 50 years anniversary of the CBN, the bank's head of Corporate Affairs, Festus Odoko has said.

CBN is planning to open a currency museum as one of the activities to mark the Golden Jubilee coming up next month, Odoko said.

CBN was established in 1959, with the mandate of formulating and implementing monetary policy, issuance of legal tender currency,

of CBN today

management of external reserves, promoting a sound financial system and acting as banker and financial adviser to the Federal Government.

Odoko said: "The Governor, Prof. Chukwuma C. Soludo will be flagging off the anniversary celebration with a media briefing on the achievements and challenges of central banking in Nigeria on Monday, April 20, 2009 at the GCC Room by 4.00 pm.

"Other activities lined up to celebrate the Golden Jubilee include a Church Service on Sunday, May 3, 2009 at the National Christian Centre, Abuja; a 3-day International

Conference with the theme "Central Banking, Financial System Stability and Growth" at the Congress Hall, Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja Monday, May 4-6, 2009.

"The unveiling of the CBN Currency Museum and commemorative book launch, Anniversary Dinner and presentation of prizes to the winners of Anniversary Essay Competition on Thursday, May 7, 2009."

As part of the celebration, there would be a Juma'at Service at the National Mosque Friday, May 8, 2009. The celebration will be rounded off with the CBN Senior Open Tennis Championship in Lagos on Saturday, May 9, 2009.

Kabo Air commences direct international flight

The Kabo Air Limited Saturday commenced direct international flight from Nigeria to other parts of the world.

The flight departed the Aminu Kano International Airport (MAKIA), Kano via Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport for Dubai at midnight, Sunday, April 18.

The Managing Director of Kabo Air, Captain Saidu Muhammed said the airline would for now operate in Dubai, Cairo and Jeddah and "we plan to move from other parts of the world like America, Asia and Europe later."

He said they have purchased the right aircraft for the operation. "We would do our best not to fail our people. We have purchased 767300 ER and we have also planned to buy more", he said.

Performing the inaugural ceremony, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Avia-

tion, Adamu Idris Kuta urged the management of the airline to prepare for stiff competition because "you are going to into area that is dominated by foreign airlines."

He said: "The competition is huge, domestic airlines should try and operate shoulder to shoulder with foreign airlines. Rebrand Nigeria so that other people in other countries should know that Nigeria has something to offer."

He said the Federal Government is putting in place measures to ensure aviation safety as well as installing decayed infrastructure in the sector.

The Permanent Secretary called on airline operators to give the best service to their customers so that they can more patronage.



SHIRORO HYDROELECTRIC PLC.
P. M. B. 125 MINNA, NIGER STATE.

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The Shiroro Hydroelectric plc. Shiroro, wishes to invite interested, competent and reputable contractors to apply for pre-qualification for consideration in the procurements at the Shiroro Hydroelectric plc Shiroro, for the 2009 Fiscal Year under any of the under listed heads:

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- i. Supply of Hydrology Boat with Out Board Engine and Accessories
- ii. Supply of Tellus T68 Bearing Oil.
- iii. Supply of Cooling Water Strainer Elements
- iv. Supply of Unit Sub-station Circuit Breaker

B. OTHER INFRASTRUCTURES

- i. Supply, Installation and Commissioning of an Auto Synchronizer.
- ii. Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Radio Communication System.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. A copy of Certificate of Incorporation/Business Registration
2. Current Tax Clearance Certificate for the last 3 years
3. Value Added Tax Registration Certificate (VAT).
4. Evidence of successful execution of similar project - verifiable with a contact person.
5. Details of equipment/plants owned or to be hired and key officers profile for B above.
6. Company's resume including details of key staff to be deployed for execution of contract, where applicable.

SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

All pre-qualification documents must be submitted in sealed envelopes indicating the category as contained in this advert marked "Pre-qualification for 2009 procurement" which must be submitted within two (2) weeks from the date of this publication and addressed to:

The Chief Executive Officer,
Shiroro Hydroelectric plc
Shiroro,
Niger State

NOTE:

1. Late submission will not be entertained.
2. The Bid will be opened by 12.00 noon on 4th May 2009.
3. This advert shall not be construed to be a commitment on the part of Shiroro Hydroelectric plc nor shall it entail the tenderer to make any claim(s) whatsoever and/or to seek any indemnity from Shiroro Hydroelectric plc by virtue of such tenderer having responded to this publication.
4. Only successfully pre-qualified contractors will be invited to bid for each procurement and Shiroro Hydroelectric Plc shall not enter into any correspondence with any unsuccessful applicants.

MANAGEMENT

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STAR FEATURE

Zungeru, a forgotten fo

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

Zungeru, the town that functioned for 10 years as Northern Nigeria's capital city has slumped into such oblivion and neglect over the years that its name and repute now sound as if the town never assumed the prominent role it played less than 100 years ago.

To many Nigerians who are not conversant with history, Zungeru is just a town located in the North Central state of Niger. Its significance as first capital of what is Nigeria today has become a strange tale told by the old to the young. Time and culture of neglect have eroded the town's perspective of the Nigerian history.

The former capital city did not just assume that position out of some idle consideration or powerful whim of a politician but a strategic military decision to check parts of the country not loyal to the imperial administration of the British Government.

Zungeru started out as a regional capital for what was called Northern Protectorate. At first, Lokoja seemed to be the most appealing choice of place to make the capital since it was where the Union Jack was hoisted to proclaim the protectorate that was created. But, strategically, it was not a good place to keep the military if the quest to subdue resistance from most of the emirs from the north and the Sokoto Sultanate was to be successful.

As the need to have a central administrative base continued to tug on the nerves of the imperialists, intensive search to get a more central place was conducted and the result pointed to the quiet town of Zungeru which was only a hamlet.

It was discovered that the town could function as a military, administrative and commercial base. Its location up north along River Niger permitted the shipment of goods for the purpose of trade. Therefore, work started in 1901 towards fashioning out the town into a capital city good enough for its kind in those days. Amongst the things that reflected the presence of a capacity was the first railway line ever in Nigeria. Then the railway was used for the movement of men and material from and to the town.

As the small hamlet continued to evolve into a mini city, adjoining towns started to move in as the development also touched people living within and around the place. Gradually hospitals, military and police barracks, hospitals, markets and schools were established to meet the increasing needs of the growing population.

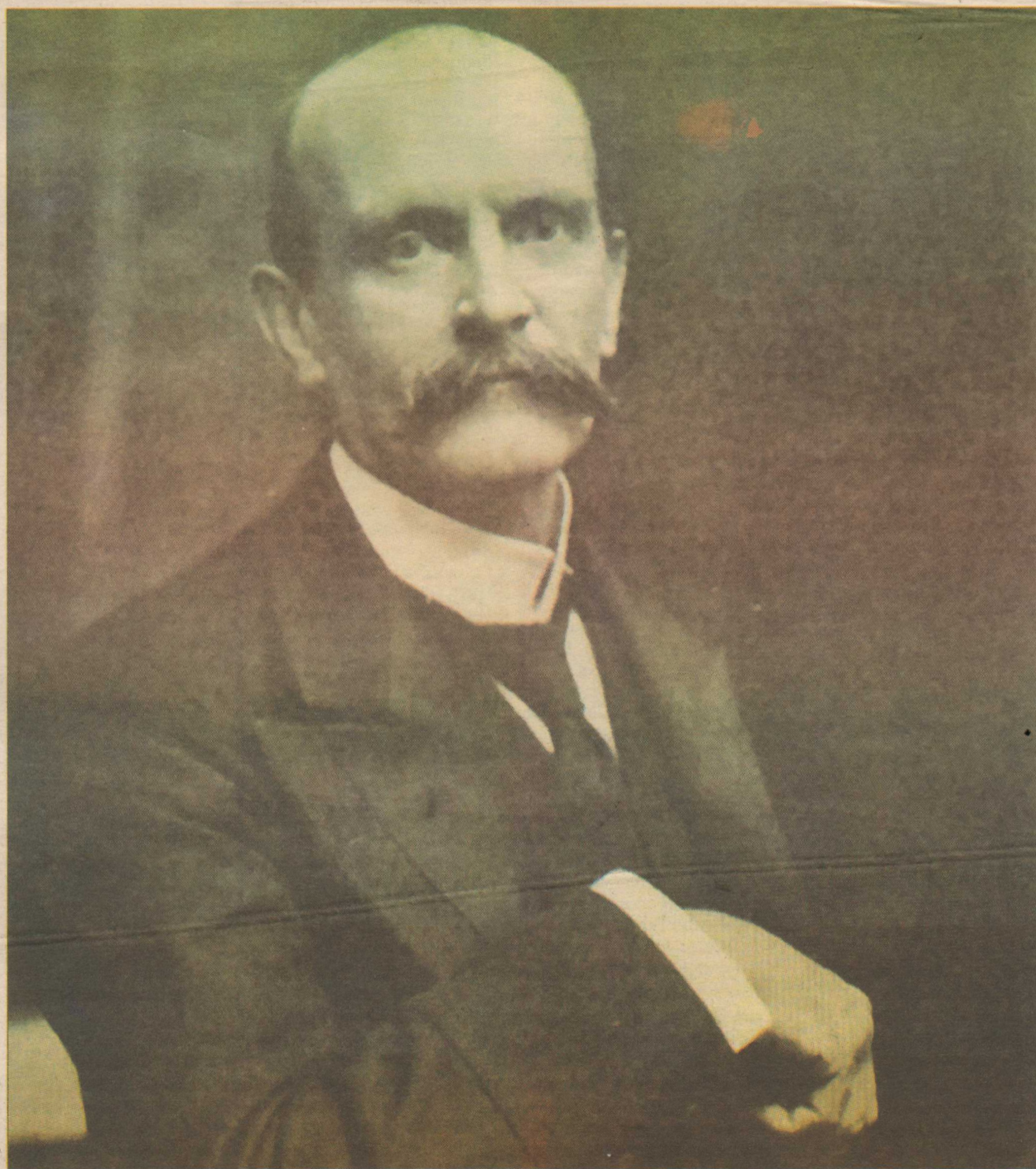
Zungeru remained the capital of the Northern Region from 1902 to 1912 when plans to move further North was concluded and the colonialists moved to Kaduna. Though the vision of Lugard in making Zungeru a permanent capital city was truncated by myriads of factors, the town had been fitted with nearly all that it would take to feed the whole country as it was connected to other parts of Nigeria by road and rail.

Zungeru as a capital city came crashing under many criticisms. Most of the colonial leaders complained that it had outlived its strategic purpose as a military and an administrative base.

The account of how the colonialists moved in and out of Zungeru is an intriguing one. The road started in 1900 when Lord Lugard became the High Commissioner of the Northern Protectorate. The confluence town, Lokoja, was the centre of British missionary work, trade and governance. So, Lugard first settled in Lokoja. He moved out two years later, that is 1902, and headed further North to Jebba. He remained in Jebba for only a few months before moving upstream still, towards the end of 1902, to Zungeru, with the intention this time to make it the permanent capital of the North.

Jebba reigned for 10 years as the capital before Lugard forced down his resolve to remain in Zungeru. This arose from the doubt that crept up between him and his officers that Zungeru could

Zungeru, once a bubbly capital, now a neglected, unassuming settlement with fading relics of a glorious past



Sir Frederick Lugard, D.S.O., First Governor of Northern Nigeria and Governor-General of Southern and Northern Nigeria

not best serve as centre of the vast Northern Region. They settled for Kaduna as a more central and accessible base than Zungeru.

Kaduna remained the regional capital of the North till 1914 when the northern and southern protectorates were amalgamated

to form Nigeria and the colonial officer, Frederick Lugard, became the governor-general and ruled the country from Kaduna.

When Kaduna became the new capital city of Nigeria, the throng of people who flocked to Zungeru in the quest for better life left Zungeru to the new preferred. In other words, Kaduna sucked life out of Zungeru which had begun to bustle in commerce and in social activities.

Lugard strived to keep constructing Zungeru as a major settlement, but his successor Richard Clifford dismissed the project, and to worsen a situation that was already bad, the town lost the privilege of having its own chief. It was forced to submit to the authority of the chief Wushishi, a different settlement altogether.

From a meteoric rise, Zungeru plunged into obscurity like the vanishing sparks of a falling comet, leaving in its trail only the charred remains of its past. The activities of the British rulers are left in obliterated forms except for only those that stand in defiance of nature and activities of man.

The place has fed to its fill the supper of history from i

“It was discovered that the town could function as a military, administrative and commercial base. Its location up north along River Niger permitted the shipment of goods for the purpose of trade. Therefore, work started in 1901 towards fashioning out the town into a capital city good enough for its kind in those days. Amongst the things that reflected the presence of a capacity was the first railway line ever in Nigeria. Then the railway was used for the movement of men and material from and to the town.”

Former capital territory



A church the missionaries used in Zungeru

opportune position of being Northern Nigeria's capital city for years and for cradling prominent Nigerians who will continue to make attendance in Nigeria's story.

Despite attempts by government to make the place live again, it simply wouldn't. The Nnamdi Azikiwe Conference Centre which should by now be in full operation is still lying comatose. Yet, the Centre is one of only a few structures in Zungeru to remind people that it once existed as a vital regional capital city.

Maybe Zungeru is ebbing as a historical town, maybe again the vanishing memories of the place still remain in their dotted fragments, one thing is sure: if the great town does not have any more relevance in the theatre of political activities in modern day Nigeria, it must be of huge potential for preservation for tourism as it will mirror a reflection of the past for sake of posterity.

One resident of the town who shares this idea is Mallam Chadu Ibrahim who expressed bitterness about the neglect of the place. He feels that it could serve as a tourist attraction and by extension a place that will add to the revenue base of the country.

He said if the place is selected for the purpose of tourism, then it would have worn a victory for itself as it would stay in its past glory with most of its attendant originality reflecting its splendour as one of the remaining cities which hosted the colonialists.

He lamented, "It is sad that even the relics of the former capital are fading off and the town itself is nose diving, making it reflect the worst image among former capitals of its kind. We are no longer asking for more than we can get, but all we expect is to relive the past days by preserving the colonial past for the present and future to see. At least that will bring smiles to our faces as the town will become famous once again."

Reflecting further on what make Zungeru a town worthy of remembrance, Malam Chnadu argued that it does not necessarily have to be restricted to the edifices planted on its soil but also the people that the place produced.

The little hut in which the Zik of Africa, Chief Nnamdi Azikiwe, was born stands in the shaggy form that it has been reduced to by time and lack of maintenance. Zik's birth to a father who worked in the Nigerian regiment in the colonial days coincided with a falling comet, hence he was given the name Ibrahim by the locals to suggest that he would fight the colonialists the way Emir Ibrahim of Kontagora did to Frederick Lugard. What a good complement it would have been if there were to be that little hut today to support the story.

Also born in the town is the Ikemba of Nnewi, Chief Odumegwu Ojukwu, who is famed for leading the first regional revolution in Nigeria to pave way for the birth of the failed Republic of Biafra.

Worthy of mention also is the burial place of the Austrian, Sir Henry James Speed, the founder of the Nigerian scout movement.

All these and many more realities place the town securely on the path of history. The apparent fact of the town being not in the consciousness of those in the right position to do what ought to be done is a mistake that must be corrected if posterity must not term it as fable only good for bed time stories rather than the understanding that the place actually exists in all the richness that a country should hold to its heart with pride.

"It is sad that even the relics of the former capital are fading off and the town itself is nose diving, making it reflect the worst image among former capitals of its kind. We are no longer asking for more than we can get, but all we expect is to relive the past days by preserving the colonial past for the present and future to see. At least that will bring smiles to our faces as the town will become famous once again."

FINANCE BUSINESS

Unity Bank gets new Executive Directors

The Board of Unity Bank Plc has approved the appointments of Adekunle Abdulrazaq Oyinloye and Rislanudeen Muhammad as Executive Directors.

While Rislanudeen takes charge as Executive Director, Retail and E-Banking, Adekunle is the Bank's Executive Director in charge of Corporate and Investment Banking, a statement from the bank's head of corporate affairs Ahmed I. Shekarau said.

It said Adekunle Oyinloye was born in Omu-Aran in Kwara State in 1964. He is a 1988 Graduate of Economics from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, and holds two Post Graduate Degrees in Banking and Finance, in 1997, and Economics, in 1999, from University of Ibadan and University of Lagos respectively.

Until his confirmation by the Board, Oyinloye has held the same position as Executive Director, Corporate Banking, in acting capacity.

His banking career, according to the statement

By Abubakar Buba

dates back to 1990 when he joined Societe-Generale Bank Nigeria Limited as Relationship Officer, and moved on to First Personal Trust Limited in 1993 as Head of Treasury. In 1996, he became a Senior Consultant at the Management Development and Policy Advisory Agency in Lagos.

Oyinloye joined Access Bank in year 2000 as Relationship Manager. He left 2002 as Senior Manager, Lagos Marketing Group to join Global Bank as Head, Network Credit Coordination in Corporate Banking Division. In January, 2003, he joined the then Pacific Bank as Group Head (Vice President) Commercial Banking. He became Divisional Head (General Manager), Credit and Marketing in 2004, before joining Unity Bank Plc as Head, Regions (North) in 2006.

He rose to become Group Head, Commercial Banking in 2008 and subsequently Acting Executive Director, Corporate Banking in Octo-



Rislanudeen Muhammad

ber of the same year, it said.

According to it, he is a Fellow of the Institute of Direct Marketing of Nigeria and a Member of the Chartered



Adekunle Oyinloye

Institute of Marketing of Nigeria. Oyinloye has attended several Proficiency Courses which include Project Management and Administration, Assets and Liabilities Management, Strategic and Treasury Management.

Rislanudeen Muhammad was born in Kano in 1964. Until his promotion, he was the bank's General Manager, Retail Banking.

He started his banking career at CentrePoint Merchant Bank in 1993 as Assistant Manager and left the bank in 1995 as Deputy Manager. He proceeded to the then Tropical Commercial Bank in 1995 as Senior Manager, Corporate Banking and was promoted Principal Manager, Corporate Banking in 1997. He rose to become General Manager, Credit and Operations, a position he held from 1999 to 2005.

It said with the commencement of the Nigerian banking consolidation exercise in 2005, resulting in the merger of Tropical Commercial Bank with eight other banks to form Unity Bank Plc, Rislanudeen became General Manager, Retail and Commercial Banking from 2006 to 2007, before his last appointment as General Manager, Retail Banking.

The statement said he graduated from Bayero University, Kano with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics in 1985 and subsequently obtained a Master of Science Degree in Economics from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria in 1990. He has attended various courses and seminars both in Nigeria and abroad, including the 34th Accelerated Development Program at the London Business School and the 14th General Man-

ager Program at Harvard Business School.

The statement said that both appointments have been confirmed by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

It said in a circular to Unity Bank with reference number BSD/GAB/GEN.UBP/VOL.6/016, dated April 7, 2009, and signed by A.F. Attang, on behalf of the Director of Banking Supervision, the Central Bank said: "We write to convey CBN approval of the appointments of Rislanudeen Muhammad and Adekunle Abdulrazaq Oyinloye as Executive Directors in Unity Bank Plc as specified in the CBN circular No.BSD/DO/CIR/VOL1/01/2001 of January 4, 2001".

The statement said further that the new executive directors have since assumed duties in their respective roles.

Oceanic Insurance pays N497m claims in 2½ years

Oceanic Insurance has paid out claims totalling N497 million since its inception in 2006. In 2008 alone, the company paid claims totalling N281.8 million on the underwriting firm's motor and non-motor policies across the nation.

According to Dr. (Mrs.) Cecilia Ibru, chairman, Oceanic Insurance, the claims paid reinforce the commitment of the firm to spearheading a new dawn of professionalism and customer-specific superior service delivery in the nation's insurance sector.

"The test of insurance companies is their ability to pay claims. We have in place a formidable claims administration process that facilitates hitch-free assessment of claims notices and subsequent prompt payment. This is our promise to our clients and we are always committed to keeping our word," Ibru explained.

Ibru said the underwriting firm has since its inception in 2006 demonstrated underwriting expertise that has made it a foremost insurance company in Nigeria. She added that Oceanic Insurance, backed by Oceanic Bank is using extensive bancassurance channels to take insurance products and services to all Nigerians, including those at the grassroots.

Oceanic Insurance Group's chairman, Dr. (Mrs.) Cecilia Ibru assured that the firm is committed to excellent

Yunus Abdulhamid

performance and superior service delivery in the sector. Ibru said the company would further enhance its earnings and service delivery profiles by leveraging on the bancassurance edge it enjoys through its relationship with Oceanic Bank International plc.

On boosting insurance awareness in Nigeria, Ibru said the Oceanic Insurance Group is pioneering a customer-focused campaign that will enhance insurance awareness and patronage in Nigeria. "For us to achieve our desire of emerging as one of the top 20 economies in the world by 2020, we will need a vibrant and resourceful insurance industry. Oceanic Insurance is already erecting structures that will facilitate continuing awareness campaigns and introduction of customer-specific insurance solutions that will create and preserve wealth for individuals, corporate organizations and the various tiers of government," she added.

The group's managing director, Prince Lafor Olateru-Olagbegi said as a market leader, Oceanic Insurance is committed to promoting best practices and professionalism in the sector through collaborative efforts with the regulatory authorities and trade bodies in the sector. Olagbegi said since insurance business remains the bedrock for

wealth creation and preservation, the industry needs to ensure that it gives premium attention to human capital development, insurance awareness/enlightenment campaigns, and development of products that would address critical insurance needs of the various sections of the insuring public.

"Oceanic Insurance Group has its sights set on a robust future for the insurance industry in Nigeria and Africa and continues to establish structures that will ensure it gives her existing and prospective clients a significant portion of that prosperous future," he added.

The Oceanic Insurance Group comprises Oceanic Insurance Company Limited, Oceanic Life Insurance Limited, and Oceanic Health Management Company Limited. Backed by the statutory of over N5 billion-capitalization requirement to carry on all classes of insurance business, the group has since established robust service delivery and product re-engineering structures to ensure its clients enjoy effective risk management services.

Oceanic Insurance Group has the vision of emerging as the leading financial risk manager in West Africa by 2011. The firm is also committed to providing peace of mind to its customers and their stakeholders and ensuring the pursuit of trademark values of its founders based on integrity, nobility and quality service delivery.

UBA, UN group train small entrepreneurs

United Bank for Africa Plc in partnership with Empretec Nigeria Foundation; a United Nations Commission for Trade and Development (UNCTAD) affiliate based in Nigeria, will run series of training and personal entrepreneurial skills development workshops for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) operators in Nigeria and other parts of Africa, a statement from the bank said.

The move, which is geared towards enhancing the economic viability of businesses operating in the SME sector, will be made possible through an initiative known as UBA Growing Businesses; a platform created by the bank for em-

powering SME's across the African continent, through access to finance, capacity and entrepreneurial skills development.

Speaking at the launch of the initiative in Lagos recently, the Deputy Managing Director, UBA Plc, Mr Phillips Oduoza said series of workshops facilitated by Empretec and UNCTAD personnel will be held for over 600 SME operators in Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt, Maiduguri and Kano in the

first phase.

Similar workshops, according to him will also be held for SME operators in select African countries such as Ghana, Cote D'Ivoire, Cameroon, Uganda and Burkina Faso as part of commitment by the bank to contribute to the development of small scale businesses noting that the bank has also recently launched a N50 billion (\$350 million) Agro support fund, to aid the development of the agricultural sector.

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FINANCE BUSINESS

Now is time to make money from stocks-APT boss

Mr. Kasimu Garba Kurfi is the Managing Director/CEO of APT Securities and Funds Limited. In this interview, he says this is time to make money and accumulate wealth because the stocks are cheaper than ever. He also expresses optimism that the stock market would bounce back.

The Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) All-Share-index (ASI) fell 37% this year, the steepest quarterly decline in more than a decade and the worst of 89 benchmark indexes tracked by Bloomberg. Why and what happened?

The decline of the ASI by 37% in the first quarter of the year is as a result of many things that happened in the previous years, among others, the price upsurge in years 2007 and part of 2008, the inflow of hedge funds investors (foreign investors), Margin facilities and upsurge of new comers who were eager to buy anything in the capital market as well as upsurge in private placements and primary markets that were withholding billions of naira without proper allotment and delays in refunding client's return monies.

Unlike in the US, in Nigeria, the stocks are down, while the companies are stable. Therefore, experts say there is nothing to worry about as investors will always get dividends. Are you comfortable with this line of thought?

The truth of the matter is that one should worry because of serious loss of value in the stocks and quite a number of our investors are short term players (traders), not long term investors. A good number of them used borrowed funds and not their own actual money. Therefore, time value of money and increasing interest works against their waiting period although those who invest own money do not need to worry because so long they do not sell, they lose nothing. Evidence exists that most of our manufacturing industries are showing good results better than ever before such as CCNN, Nahco, Nestle Foods, just to mention a few. However the story is not the same with financial services sector particularly the banking and insurance sub-sectors which constitute more than 60% of the market capitalization.

What is delaying the Market Makers or was it dead on arrival?

The major issue is provision of liquidity to the Market Makers. As a result of suspension of recapitalization of stockbroking companies, it is imperatively impossible for the stockbroking companies to provide adequate liquidity to enable players impact on the market and play their role. The alternative sources of liquidity (bankers) are not willing to do that as a result of their experience with margin facilities. Then who will provide the liquidity they will work with?

Can the stock market

By Jibrin Abubakar

problem affect the economy?

The stock market is the barometer of the economy. Its price upsurge and downward trend serves as an indicator of the economy. The market provides alternative source of funding not only to the Federal, State and Local Governments but also to quoted companies. In the last two years over N5.0trillion was sourced from the capital market but now most of the companies wanted to come to the market but the situation is not favourable, and without any alternative source of funding. This retards the growth of these companies and the economy in general.

There is a presidential committee on the revival of the stock market. As an operator, what has been the impact?

The first sitting of the committee came out with eight points agenda and most of them are long-term measures such as: (i) Share Buy-Back up to 20%. Although it is a good policy but it will take some time before execution since it would require the approval of shareholders. (ii) Market-Makers. This is a new development in the market but could not immediately take off due to liquidity constraints (as stated above). Although the outcome gives some confidence that did not last longer because of lack of action.

Recently the Government said it wants a single year end for banks. How would this affect the market?

It is an international practice that all financial institutions should have uniform accounting year end and their statement of accounts should be in accordance with International Financial Reporting System (IFRS). This will enable all banks financials be comparable with their overseas counterpart operating the same standard. It makes comparison easy. The uniform accounting year end together with IFRS will enable foreign investors to properly assess our financial institutions easily to guide them in their investment decisions. However, this reduces speculation and most retirees have to look elsewhere for getting dividends unless banks will be paying interim dividends.

Investors are still skeptical to invest their money in



Mr. Kasimu Garba Kurfi

stocks. Should they?

True investors have no reason to doubt our market or worry. The meltdown gives them an opportunity to invest and accumulate wealth. Evidence exists to prove beyond reasonable doubt that our fundamentals are still right especially the manufacturing sectors.

The AP has accused Dangote Group of manipulating its shares but this allegation is being investigated by SEC. Could this be part of the general problem of SEC?

Price manipulation is not a common practice in the market but where it exists necessary disciplinary action must be exact to forestall future occurrence in order to ensure such did not occur again. It only becomes a problem if the regulators fail to take appropriate disciplinary action and at the right time.

The capitalization has crashed from all time high of N12.6trillion to N4.5trillion. Can it ever recover?

In the history of the Capital Market there was never an up without down. All over the world the capita market rises and fall, then rises again. Although what we experienced has never happened before, notwithstanding, we are

hopeful it will regain its position or even surpass that level but that does not mean for all the stocks. Some may regain lost grounds, and some may not. Some may never rise again and even go into liquidation!

What is your take on the bailout suggestion? How should it look like?

If the other parts of the world look for the bail out of their economy and the capital market in particular why not ours? We know our market faces lack of liquidity which has led to confidence problem. Any bail out to the market without increasing liquidity will definitely fail to lift the market. There is a need for all the regulatory authorities, the government and all other stakeholders to join together and make positive statements on the market to boost confidence. Statements suggestive of threats or seems antagonistic to the investing public is highly offensive to those who bring out their hard earned money to invest in these companies. The authorities should not forget that without these people's money the companies cannot run, the banks will not operate and even the governments cannot raise funds from the market. So why the bullying statements

and directed against who? Government makes lots of money from these investors.

There is the value-added tax charged for every purchase or sales made in the capital market. The operators pay monthly charges for every transaction. Quoted companies pay corporation tax, while the profit they share with providers of capital by way of dividend is taxed at 10% rate deductible at source. If Government makes so much money from the capital market, what is wrong from this very important contributor to the government's purse ask for a meager portion of what they are contributing to be used to salvage their situation? Have you imagined the amount of taxation, multiple taxation for that, those investors in the capital market generates for the different levels of government? Dividend tax is paid to the state where the dividends are posted. As we talk so much of this bail out, people are myopic about it. I've heard some members in the legislative chambers saying that bail out is to enrich a few dishonest gamblers who want to make cheap money overnight. Such statements are unfortunate and smacks off absolute ignorance, especially coming from those who should know. It is necessary to understand the impact and depth of the capital market. The loans collateralised with the stocks are not just for margin trading. Infact, this arose only recently and forms a very small part of the loans taken from banks. Importers, home owners, different categories of businessmen access bank's facility easily with their CSCS Stock statement because of the ease in valuation and realization of value. Therefore loans collateralised with capital market instruments were used in commerce, agriculture, mortgages, foreign businesses, SMEs, and so on. It is not all about margin loans to trade in the stock market. Those making these shallow statements are only magnifying their ignorance, and the path of honour demands that people talk less of what they do not know.

Margin accounts should be restructured for at least the next three years or more while Banks should be relieved of toxic assets to improve their liquidity. The Bank of Japan did it, and the USA and U.K government are towing the

same line. So why not ours if indeed we are serious in becoming the first best twenty economies as popularly touted.

More and affordable credit facilities should be extended to the stockbroking companies to enable them get out of the situation.

Would you advocate for the resignation of the leadership of the capital market operators in the face of the deepening crisis? How soon would the market bounce back and what is your message to Nigerians, FG, stock brokers and regulators?

The meltdown of the Nigerian capital market has brought a lot of hardship to the individual investors, institutional and corporate and to the economy in general. Although the financial meltdown was as a result of lack of effective rules to checkmate the crisis but I do not think resignation of the regulatory leaders would salvage the situation. At least, not any part of the world adopts such a decision as a resolution to the melt down. Although the market crashed suddenly but its recovery will be gradual and depend on measures taken by the Federal Government to rebound the economy and for the regulators to ensure such lapses were properly guided by new rules to prevent reoccurrence. It is also pertinent to other financial regulatory to consider capital market crisis or problems. It should not be left with SEC alone but CBN should help by reducing the interest rates, CRR and Liquidity Ratio in order to boost the banks liquidity situation. As to stockbrokers, it is very clear to us that the prices of stocks should not rise without fundamentals and any attempt to influence the price of securities without the right fundamental is resisted.

We shall also exercise caution in our trading and pricing of stocks. Investors should be properly guided on their decision making.

Research departments should be compulsory for every dealing member to ensure their decision is well guided by experienced evidence/analysis.

Regulators should be more proactive and issue rule and procedures in advance so as to guide operators of the markets operating in a vacuum in the case of margin facilities.

Ensure compliance by all quoted companies in providing quarterly, half-yearly and annual results with full details and timely too.

Ensure corporate governance and proper disclosures of related party transactions. Take appropriate disciplinary action for non-compliance without favour.

FINANCE BUSINESS

THE NIGERIAN STOCK EXCHANGE

REPORT AS AT FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2009

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
ADSWITCH PLC	2	2.58	60,000	154,800.00
Sector Totals	2		60,000	154,800.00
AGRICULTURE				
AFPRINT NIGERIA PLC	3	0.86	10,000	8,775.00
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	31	1.00	655,562	671,254.36
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	6	1.10	278,622	306,484.20
PRESKO PLC	3	5.00	19,050	95,631.00
Sector Totals	43		963,234	1,082,144.56
AIR SERVICES				
NIGERIAN AVIATION HANDLING CO. PLC	70	7.12	172,279	1,244,980.29
Sector Totals	70		172,279	1,244,980.29
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DUNLOP NIGERIA PLC	6	0.50	136,000	68,000.00
R. T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	3	8.28	10,700	84,209.00
Sector Totals	9		146,700	152,209.00
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	163	4.80	12,922,419	61,043,766.85
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	35	5.15	130,582	671,413.72
DIAMOND BANK PLC	99	4.38	4,947,351	21,432,630.33
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	12	27.96	68,837	1,924,682.52
FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	64	5.10	2,646,806	13,337,143.86
FIDELITY BANK PLC	115	2.24	3,772,844	8,054,141.42
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	760	14.18	10,047,797	140,881,433.98
FIRST INLAND BANK PLC	18	2.12	5,108,060	11,734,585.02
GTBANK PLC	259	10.05	8,172,196	82,062,151.33
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	24	5.41	568,428	3,063,398.28
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC.	119	7.42	1,130,990	8,255,155.40
OCEANIC BANK INTERNATIONAL PLC	204	6.00	3,841,178	23,051,047.89
BANK PHB PLC	63	4.92	2,227,501	10,971,073.04
SKYE BANK PLC.	132	4.00	6,527,043	26,566,377.80
SPRING BANK PLC	2	5.59	4,125,578	23,061,981.02
STERLING BANK PLC	19	1.34	280,558	378,768.25
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC.	253	8.49	8,717,150	72,509,031.02
UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	173	10.51	1,624,354	17,120,128.79
UNITYBANK PLC	31	1.44	4,214,617	5,975,610.76
WEMA BANK PLC	19	2.71	129,556	351,096.76
ZENITH BANK PLC	246	13.79	5,510,450	75,731,921.40
Sector Totals	2,810		86,714,295	608,177,539.44
BREWERIES				
GUINNESS NIGERIA PLC	53	88.10	527,611	46,737,296.21
INTERNATIONAL BREWERIES PLC	22	3.00	252,855	731,625.74
JOS INTERNATIONAL BREWERIES PLC	1	4.82	2,000	9,160.00
NIGERIAN BREWERIES PLC	85	38.00	701,840	26,040,123.88
Sector Totals	161		1,484,306	73,518,205.83
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	45	8.50	181,314	1,531,715.12
BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC	22	21.00	1,116,584	24,157,236.89
CEMENT CO. OF NORTHERN NIGERIA PLC	22	8.00	281,050	2,195,076.80
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	51	17.80	1,711,801	29,845,167.71
Sector Totals	140		3,290,749	57,729,196.52
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC	3	6.31	5,025	30,150.00
CHEMICAL AND ALLIED PRODUCTS PLC	4	32.77	2,638	89,692.00
I. P. W. A. PLC	1	3.04	100	289.00
Sector Totals	8		7,763	120,131.00
COMMERCIAL SERVICES				
COURTVILLE INVESTMENTS PLC	4	2.85	90,000	256,500.00
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	1	1.90	100,000	190,000.00
Sector Totals	5		190,000	446,500.00
COMPUTER & OFFICE EQUIPMENT				
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	10	0.79	207,351	163,807.29
THOMAS WYATT PLC	3	2.11	50,000	105,500.00
TRIPPLE GEE AND COMPANY PLC	1	7.39	2,104	14,791.12
Sector Totals	14		259,455	284,098.41
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIGERIA) PLC	1	6.79	6,000	38,760.00
JOHN HOLT PLC	1	11.97	675	7,681.50
PZ CUSONS NIGERIA PLC	28	15.80	200,997	3,198,199.26
SCOA NIGERIA PLC	1	11.95	2,110	23,969.60
TRANSNATIONAL CORP. OF NIG. PLC	28	0.52	1,354,031	716,389.94
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	49	30.50	685,718	20,631,373.20
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	54	8.50	470,019	4,026,685.27
Sector Totals	162		2,719,550	28,643,058.77
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	25	4.51	206,046	957,239.85
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC	10	21.95	8,390	184,215.50
MULTIVERSE RESOURCES PLC	10	0.50	108,650	54,325.00
ROADS NIGERIA PLC	2	3.71	26,666	94,330.98
Sector Totals	47		349,752	1,290,111.33
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY				
CUTIX PLC	3	6.72	20,800	132,912.00
Sector Totals	3		20,800	132,912.00
FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	14	37.05	39,967	1,497,486.20
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	28	10.00	196,732	2,036,083.97
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	69	6.99	399,624	2,824,340.82
DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	77	15.45	627,343	9,477,920.54
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	34	16.14	971,973	15,675,451.00
NATIONAL SALT COMPANY NIGERIA PLC	27	3.70	508,500	1,913,186.49
NIGERIAN BOTTLING COMPANY PLC	11	23.00	12,485	286,149.50
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	50	150.50	151,403	22,485,983.32
TANTALIZERS PLC	8	0.89	458,404	407,979.56
UTC NIGERIA PLC	2	3.01	2,400	6,864.00
Sector Totals	320		3,368,831	56,611,445.40

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares
FOOTWEAR				
LENNARDS NIGERIA PLC.	1	4.48	11,084	47,217.84
Sector Totals	1		11,084	47,217.84
HEALTHCARE				
EKOCORP PLC	1	5.87	1,172	6,539.76
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	4	2.66	42,000	106,260.00
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	5	2.22	109,982	242,380.40
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG. PLC	13	16.50	15,235	245,860.00
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	12	4.07	41,501	160,608.87
NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARMA. PLC	1	1.68	1,000	1,600.00
PHARMA-DEKO PLC	1	10.09	1,022	9,800.98
UNION DIAGNOSTIC & CLINICAL SER. PLC	11	0.68	564,442	379,336.56
Sector Totals	48		776,354	1,152,386.57
HOTEL & TOURISM				
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	1	3.91	3,500	13,020.00
Sector Totals	1		3,500	13,020.00
INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS				
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	6	16.96	38,567	663,933.08
NIGERIAN ENAMELWARE PLC	1	58.97	200	11,206.00
VITAFIOM NIGERIA PLC	12	3.89	44,052	175,462.40
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	1	1.81	1,000,000	1,810,000.00
Sector Totals	20		1,082,819	2,660,601.48
INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION & TELECOMMUNICATION				
CHAMS NIGERIA PLC	39	1.19	41,292,250	47,116,102.00
STARCOMMS PLC	40	1.88	4,157,944	7,825,028.22
Sector Totals	79		45,450,194	54,941,130.22
INSURANCE				
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	33	1.00	348,359	347,752.61
CONTINENTAL REINSURANCE PLC	2	0.79	520,000	410,800.00
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE CO. PLC.	10	1.20	1,043,545	1,252,254.00
CUSTODIAN AND ALLIED INS. PLC	18	2.09	489,810	991,895.90
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	1	1.55	50,000	77,500.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	3	0.50	15,300	7,650.00
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	13	0.53	457,658	238,398.74
CONSOLIDATED HALLMARK INS. PLC	8	0.56	1,105,123	608,868.88
INVEST. AND ALLIED ASSURANCE PLC	8	0.50	6,963,275	3,481,637.50
INT'L ENERGY INSURANCE CO. PLC	37	0.90	1,793,773	1,582,308.86
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	12	0.76	499,800	379,848.00
LAW UNION AND ROCK INSURANCE PLC.	3	1.29	54,500	70,305.00
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	150,000	75,000.00
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSURANCE PLC	21	0.58	1,124,755	652,357.90
N.E.M. INSURANCE CO. (NIG) PLC.	27	0.56	1,193,500	644,860.00
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	16	1.54	67,510	103,025.00
OASIS INSURANCE PLC	1	4.44	2,298	9,697.56
REGENCY ALLIANCE INSURANCE CO. PLC	6	0.50	141,200	70,600.00
SOVEREIGN TRUST INSURANCE PLC	3	0.71	23,000	15,640.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	2	3.66	100,000	366,000.00
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC	21	0.64	1,287,933	777,264.39
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	15	0.70	213,124	140,882.36
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE COMPANY PLC	5	0.54	88,100	47,574.00
INTERCONTINENTAL WAPIC INS. PLC	14	2.15	408,400	867,183.90
Sector Totals	280		18,140,963	13,219,304.60
LEASING				
C&I LEASING PLC	1	5.74	21,000	114,660.00
Sector Totals	1		21,000	114,660.00
MARITIME				
JAPUL OIL & MARITIME SERVICES PLC	229	1.38	3,952,996	5,455,134.48
Sector Totals	229		3,952,996	5,455,134.48
MEDIA				
DAAR COMMUNICATIONS PLC	101	1.50	546,570	805,745.10
Sector Totals	101		546,570	805,745.10
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ASO SAVINGS AND LOAN PLC	17	0.90	562,750	513,090.60
UNION HOMES SAVINGS AND LOANS PLC	21	1.54	203,306	324,985.78
Sector Totals	38		766,056	838,076.38
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS				
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	2	2.17	1,000	2,070.00
Sector Totals	2		1,000	2,070.00
PACKAGING				
AVON CROWNCAPS & CONTAINERS PLC.	1	9.04	293	2,516.87
NIG BAG MANUFACTURING CO. PLC	353	1.35	630,025	847,025.00
Sector Totals	354		630,318	849,541.87
PETROLEUM(MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	63	80.54	85,845	6,685,906.39
CHEVRON OIL NIGERIA PLC	11	94.81	54,550	5,171,745.36
CONOIL PLC	2	67.23	3,000	191,610.00
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	8	26.68	103,372	2,757,964.96
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	4	96.61	8,243	836,169.92
OANDO PLC	33	69.00	95,850	6,620,403.97
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	14	149.97	83,426	11,989,850.05
Sector Totals	135		434,286	34,253,650.65
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	6	4.59	13,889	63,307.52
Sector Totals	6		13,889	63,307.52
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROPERTY DEV. CO. PLC	16	18.16	86,310	1,541,057.60
Sector Totals	16		86,310	1,541,057.60
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST				
SKYE SHELTER FUND	1	105.46	1,385	138,763.15
Sector Totals	1		1,385	138,763.15
ROAD TRANSPORTATION				
ASSOCIATED BUS COMPANY PLC	9	1.00	186,401	184,553.20
Sector Totals	9		186,401	184,553.20
THE FOREIGN LISTINGS				
ECOBANK TRANSNATIONAL INCORP.	31	8.57	836,285	7,475,946.25
Sector Totals	31		836,285	7,475,946.25
Overall Totals	5,146		172,689,124	953,343,499.46

DIGEST

Scientists 'a step closer to curing jet lag'

Scientists claim they are a step closer to curing jet lag after a new study reveals how the phenomenon confuses the body's internal clocks.

Researchers say that they will now be able to develop drugs which target specific parts of the brain knocked off balance by travelling long distances.

Jet lag is caused as the brain struggles to adjust to a new time zone.

Now researchers have found that the condition disrupts the body's two main sleep patterns in different ways.

While neuron cells in the brain which govern deep sleep can reset themselves in a matter of days, the body's rapid eye movement (REM) period of sleep can take up to one week to adjust.

The study was undertaken in rats exposed to different

amounts of light designed to simulate the effects of flying from Paris to New York.

"One of the problems is that you are doing things at times that your body isn't prepared to do them. One group of neurons tells your body it is Paris time and another says that it is New York time. You are internally desynchronized," said Horacio de la Iglesia, from the University of Washington, who led the study.

Understanding the cause of jet lag could help researchers cure the problems and aid the development of drug therapies, he believes.

"We can go back to the treatments that are believed to be effective and see where they might be acting in the circuitry of these neuron centres, then



Researchers have found that jet lag disrupts the body's two main sleep patterns in different ways.

Photo: GETTY

refine them to be more effective," he said.

Last year researchers claimed

that they were just three years from putting a jet lag drug on the market, which

could reset the body's natural rhythms.

The latest study was

published online in the journal Current Biology.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

Mothers of twins face twice the risk of baby blues

Mothers of twins and triplets are at double the risk of suffering post-natal depression than those of single children, a survey has shown.

They felt exhausted and isolated, and half of them spent less than one hour a day talking to another adult, it found.

Women having multiple births were also more likely to have developed complications in pregnancy - and had poor quality care - while getting less help after the babies were born.

The Twins and Multiple Births Association (Tamba) surveyed nearly 1,400 multiple-birth mothers and found that 17 per cent had suffered post-natal depression.

This is nearly double the rate of post-natal depression in all new mothers, based on figures from the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Without treatment, women can experience symptoms - such as feeling hopeless and even wanting to harm themselves or their babies - that can last for months or, in some cases, years.

In the Tamba survey of

1,300 mothers of twins and 68 mothers of triplets, a small number said they had walked out on their babies but then returned.

The research showed that those with post-natal depression were less likely to have attended parent education classes on multiple birth.

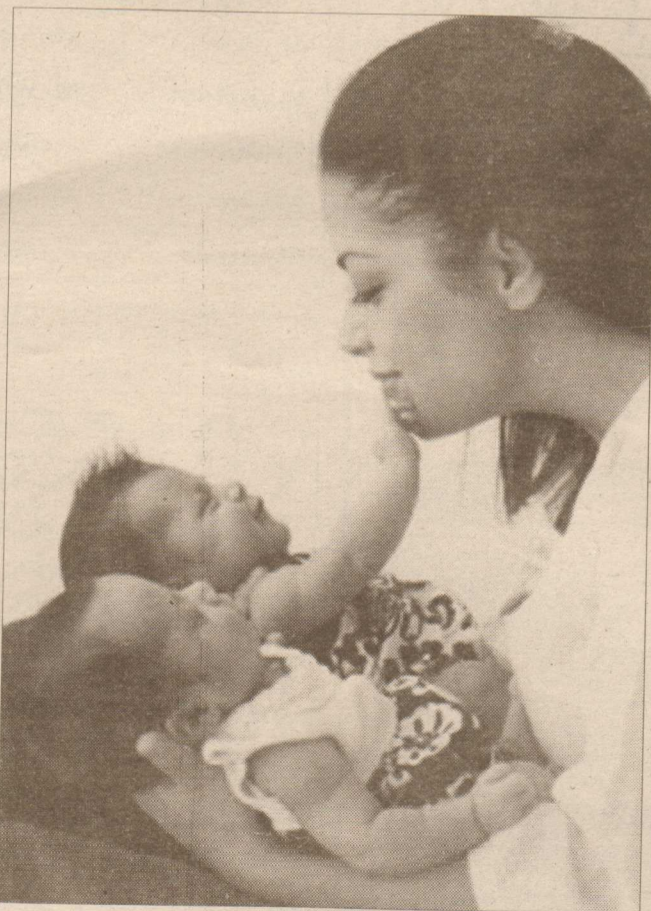
One in eight mothers had been separated from their babies while they were looked after in hospital special baby care units, causing trauma, pain and regret, says the survey.

Inspirational women of the year: I lost three babies but it helped me save thousands

Maggie Couston, a psychologist and mother of triplets, said: 'The months after my triplets' birth should have been a joyful experience but instead I felt exhausted and isolated.'

'My babies were the most precious thing in the world to me but I thought I wasn't good enough for them and frequently thought of ending things or walking away.'

Judi Linney, president of Tamba, said: 'Many families struggle because not all of the NHS is

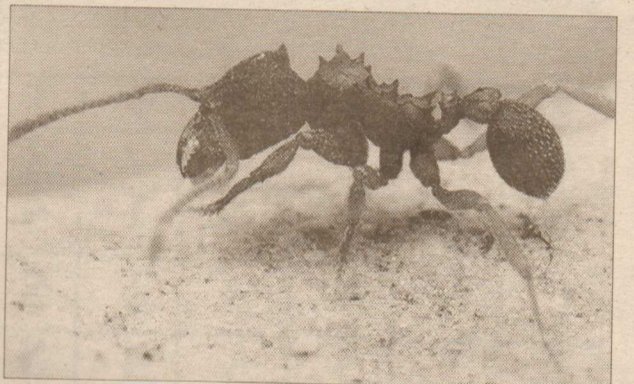


Mothers of twins or triplets are more likely to suffer from the baby blues

sufficiently informed and equipped to meet the challenges of multiple births and pregnancies. 'Simple steps like improving access to multiple-specific parent education and providing practical

support during the early days would do much to promote the health and well-being of mothers and their babies.'

Culled from dailymail.co.uk



Mycocepurus smithii ant is the first known to be a male-free species

Females get along fine without males - in the world of tropical ants

A type of tropical ant has dispensed with males altogether, according to scientists, and only the female of the species exists.

Experts have discovered a South American species that is exclusively female and reproduces asexually by cloning the queen. Reproduction without sex is fairly common in the ant world, but the Mycocepurus smithii is the first known to be a male-free species. The phenomenon takes the stress out of finding a mate and may help keep the peace in colonies, the scientists believe.

Researchers were first drawn to Mycocepurus smithii by its skill at cultivating various different fungal crops for food but closer inspection raised questions about the ants' sex life. Six separate tests on the ants failed to uncover any males, researchers led by Anna Himler at the University of Texas at Austin wrote in the British journal Proceedings of the Royal Society. The findings run counter to scientific theories that say asexuality is an evolutionary disadvantage because it eliminates mutations and generates genetic diversity more slowly than sexual reproduction.

The researchers carried out half a dozen tests, including field surveys of colonies from Panama to Argentina, examining the reproductive system of queen ants, and testing the genes of clones and their mothers.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

DIGEST

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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.

EASY

62.

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

SOLUTION TO SUDOKU PUZZLE No. 61

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

SIGN LANGUAGE



Don't go in with your kids, cannibals abound.
Photo location: Nuosagent's shop, Malaysia, by Colin Avis
Culled from the telegraph.co.uk

FIND & CIRCLE JUMBO

FIND & CIRCLE JUMBO puzzles are solved by finding all the hidden words in the diagram. The words are always in a straight line and may read up, down, forward, backward, or diagonally. Cross a word off your list once you have circled it. Many words will overlap.

51

Communication contributors

Bardeen	M A X W E L L G L I D D E N W		
Bell	R E I N I R D R U O F P W I F		
Braille	Y S R Q J E N K I N S S G A I		
Brattain	E G F G M E N D E L E E R T E		
Chapin	W M I S E N B A C H T N E T L		
Daguerre	E G T D Z N Q M O R S E B A D		
Dewey	D L R O I W T P I W E F N R J		
Farnsworth	N A O P O R O H O D R E E B Z		
Field	B O A H W F E R A E O L T R P		
Forest	M H S N S C T G T L F D U A T		
Four-drinier	C A F R Y H U H I K E E G I O		
Glidden	L I N N A E U S G L I R H L L		
Gutenberg	T M I N R E Q C F I A N V L E		
Jenkins	Mendelee	Morse	Sene-
Lightfoot	Mergen-	Pearson	felder
Linnaeus	thaler	Pliny	Shockley
Mann	Misen-	Ptolemy	Shole
Maxwell	bach	Scaliger	Zwortkin

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE No. 50



Federal Civil Service Commission

INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR APPOINTMENT AS A CONSULTANT IN RESPECT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ICT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ARCHIVING AND DIGITISATION OF FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION RECORDS

Background

The Federal Civil Service Commission has the responsibility for the employment of senior personnel for the Federal Civil Service in the Federation. It is also responsible for the maintenance of the basic records of these appointees in files located at both the Abuja Head office and Lagos Liaison office. Over the years these records have grown tremendously in volume and are aging, making the existing manual methods of organizing and preserving the records inadequate.

Consequently, the Commission is seeking a qualified and competent consultant to analyze and proffer solution to the Commission's archiving, digitization and records management needs. This needs analysis will focus primarily on developing new methods for archiving documents and implementation of an archiving, document software. Document sharing and collaboration needs will be a secondary focus.

The results of this business needs analysis along with recommendations and budget implications will be compiled into a Business Requirement Analysis Report which will be used as the basis for Request For Proposal (RFP).

2. Scope of Work.

The selected Consultant will be required to provide at the minimum the following services and deliverables.

Phase 1

- Review existing Commission's archiving process,
- Conduct a detailed business and user needs analysis.
- Develop new archiving processes and procedures for the Commission in line with best practices.

Phase 2

- Develop a document and records management software requirement report.
- Determine software implementation and integration services requirement.
- Specify system hardware and storage requirement.
- Provide a Business Requirements Analysis Report that includes business needs analysis results and recommendation along with technical requirements and cost estimates.

This report will be used as the basis for developing an RFP that will be furnished to prospective vendors. The selected consultant will also assist in the supervision of the project.

3. Selection Criteria and supporting documents.

The following represent the minimum criteria for the selection of a Consultant.

- Company profile giving details of current activities and management structure including evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission.
- Evidence of Tax Clearance Certificate for three (3) years.
- Consulting experience in manual and ICT-based archiving system.
- Key Staff of the Consultant, must be professionals with at least 10 years experience in software development and implementation, Document management implementation and Business Process Re-engineering and Process Documentation.
- Presence of certified professionals who have received professional training from qualified document management vendor, partner or reseller.
- Evidence of membership of the Society of Nigerian Archivists.
- A write-up on the understanding of the assignment.
- VAT Registration and evidence of past remittances.
- Evidence of similar projects executed within the last five years including cost, project structure and other pertinent details.
- Short CVs (two page maximum) of the personnel expected to be deployed in the assignment.
- Capability statement illustrating the skills and experience of the firm in providing the services required.
- Consulting experience in these areas for public agencies will be an obvious advantage.
- FCSC reserves the right to cancel or re-tender this consultancy procurement process if the necessity so arises.

4. SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS.

The pre-qualification envelopes clearly marked shall be deposited in the Tender Box located at the office of the Director (Planning, Research and Statistics) Room 345 at the above address not later than 12 noon on the 4th May, 2009. All pre-qualification documents will be publicly opened at 2.00 pm on the same day in the Commission's Committee Room, 3rd Floor, Room 326. All are invited to witness the opening event.

5. All pre-qualification documents must be made in sealed envelopes and clearly marked "INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR APPOINTMENT AS A CONSULTANT IN RESPECT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ICT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ARCHIVING AND DIGITISATION OF FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION RECORDS", and addressed to:

The Permanent Secretary,
Federal Civil Service Commission,
No.4, Abidjan Street,
Zone 3, Wuse, Abuja.

Signed Permanent Secretary.
16th April, 2009



Federal Civil Service Commission

INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR APPOINTMENT AS A CONSULTANT IN RESPECT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ICT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR TRACKING OF FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION FILES

Background

The Federal Civil Service Commission as the Agency responsible for the employment of senior personnel for the Federal Civil Service in the Federation is also responsible for the maintenance of the basic records of these appointments in files located at both the Abuja head office and Lagos Liaison office. Over the years these records have grown tremendously in volume and it has become a very difficult task manually tracking, locating and retrieving these files.

Consequently, the Commission is seeking a qualified and competent consultant to analyze and proffer solution to the Commission's file tracking needs. This needs analysis will focus primarily on identifying a world class ICT software and hardware infrastructure for tracking and securing files for implementation by the Commission.

2. Scope of Work

The selected Consultant will be required to provide at the minimum the following services and deliverables.

- Review existing filing system with particular emphasis on file movement and associated security implications.
- Conduct a detailed business and user needs analysis.
- Develop file tracking software and hardware requirement report.
- Determine software and hardware implementation and integration services requirements.
- Specify system hardware and database requirements.
- Provide a Business Requirements Analysis Report that includes business needs analysis results and recommendation along with technical requirements and cost estimates.

This report will be used as the basis for developing a Request For Proposal (RFP) that will be furnished to prospective vendors. The selected consultant will also assist the Commission in the supervision of the project.

3. Selection Criteria and supporting document

The following represent the minimum criteria for the selection of a Consultant.

- Company profile giving details of current activities and management structure including evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission.
- Evidence of Tax Clearance Certificate for three (3) years.
- Key Staff of the Consultant must be professionals with at least 10 years experience in software development and implementation, Document management implementation and Business Process Re-engineering and Process Documentation.
- Presence of certified professionals who have received professional training from qualified document management vendor, partner or reseller.
- A write-up on the understanding of the assignment.
- VAT Registration and evidence of past remittances.
- Evidence of similar project executed within the last five years including cost, project structure and other pertinent details.
- Short CVs (two page maximum) of the personnel expected to be deployed in the assignment.
- Capability statement illustrating the skills and experience of the firm in providing the services required.
- Consulting experience in these areas for public agencies will be an obvious advantage.
- FCSC reserves the right to cancel or re-tender this consultancy procurement process if the necessity so arises.

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The Permanent Secretary,
Federal Civil Service Commission,
No.4, Abidjan Street,
Zone 3,
Wuse, Abuja.

Signed
Permanent Secretary
16th April, 2009



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA



HADEJIA JAMA'ARE RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
PMB 3168, MAIDUGURI ROAD, HOTORO, KANO.

INVITATION FOR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL TENDER FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS IN 2009

A. INTRODUCTION

The Hadejia Jama'are River Basin Development Authority is one of the (12) twelve River Basin Development Authorities under the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources responsible for surface and underground water resources development in Kano and Jigawa States, two thirds of Bauchi State and Northern part of Yobe State.

In pursuance of the policy objectives of the present democratic Government, the Authority as part of its statutory mandate is undertaking various projects in the year 2009 within its area of operation. Therefore reputable and interested companies are invited to apply for participation in tender process for any of the following categories of works:

B. LIST OF PROJECTS

- 1A. **Challawa Gorge Dam Irish-ford Crossing Bridge**
The scope of works involves the construction of a 60m span pre-cast reinforced concrete bridge, earthworks and other ancillary works
- 1B. **200Ha.Challawa Karaye Irrigation scheme**
The scope of works involves land development, supply of pumps, construction of canals, drains, access road, control structures, etc
2. **100Ha. Galala Irrigation scheme**
The scope of works involves land development, construction of canals, drains, access road, control structures, etc
3. **Rehabilitation of Large Scale Irrigation Infrastructure**
The scope of work involves repair and desilting of canals/channels, drains, reservoirs and repair of irrigation structures, access and service roads at Kano River irrigation in Kano State and Hadejia Valley projects in Jigawa State
 - 3A. West Branch Canal from Garin Babba bridge to Agalawa regulator
 - 3B. Collector drains, canals and service road at Yuri sector, Tsambaki sector and Kosawa sector
 - 3C. Rehabilitation of distributary canals collector drain and service roads at the following sectors in Hadejia valley:- Adaha, Marina, Mado, Aguzo and Furawa
 - 3D. Rehabilitation of South Dyke of the Hadejia barrage
 - 3E. Desilting of part of North main canal between Furawa cross regulator and Gatafa cross regulator
4. **Plants and Machineries**
The scope of works involves the repairs of the followings:
 - 4A. 1 no. Steyr, 1 no. Massey ferguson and 3 no. Fiat tractors.
 - 4B. 1 no. Cat D6C, 1 no. Cat D4E, 1 no. Cat Excavator, 1 no. Mitsubishi Grader and 1 no. Payloader 72/3AA
5. **Hydromet Programme**
The scope of works involves:
 - 5A. Establishment of Hydrological stations at Katagum and Hardawa
 - 5B. Establishment of Meteorological stations at Wudil and Galala
 - 5c. Establishment of Hydrological station at Wudil
6. **Establishment of small irrigation scheme at Unguwan Kanawa ward in Bauchi State**
The scope of works involves land development and provision of tubewells / pumps and accessories for the irrigation of 10 hectares.

C. TENDER REQUIREMENTS: Interested firms should indicate area(s) of interest in writing, attaching the following documents

in addition to further instructions contained in the documents to be collected from the Authority:

- (1) Evidence of Company Registration (Certificate of Incorporation of Company)
- (2) Evidence of Tax Payments for the last Three Years(2006,2007,2008)
- (3) Copies of Auditors Report and financial statement of the Company for the last Three Years(2006,2007,2008)
- (4) Evidence of execution of similar jobs
- (5) Copies of VAT registration and evidence of past remittance for project completed plus FIRS Pin Number
- (6) Asworn affidavit certifying as follows:-
 - (a) That the documents submitted for the tender exercises are not only genuine but correct.
 - (b) That the Director(s) of the company seeking for tender has never been convicted by any court of law.
 - (c) That the company is not bankrupt.
 - (d) That none of the officers of the HJRBD A is a director/staff of the company.
- (7) For projects under Lots 1 and 2 contractors are to pay a non refundable tender processing fee of N150,000.00, for Lot-3A, N100,000.00 and for the rest N20,000.00 each

D. SUBMISSION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

- (a) The tender documents are to be submitted in three (03) copies, and neatly bound.
- (b) The document must be sealed in an envelope and the job reference number must be clearly written at the top left hand corner of the envelope.(the technical and financial envelopes clearly sealed separately and placed in a larger envelope)
- (c) Addressed to the Managing Director and clearly marked "Tender for the provision of goods and services to the HJRBD A".

E. CLOSING AND OPENING OF TENDER SUBMISSION

Submission of both the technical and financial documents shall close at exactly 12 Noon on 20th May 2009 while the technical submissions will be opened on the same day at 12.15 Pm in the HJRBD A Board Room in the presence of the contractors and the general public.

F. IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The HJRBD A reserves the right to verify the authenticity of any claims made on the tender documents submitted by companies.

- (a) Failure to comply with the above requirements would automatically results in disqualification
- (b) HJRBD A reserves the right to reject any or all tender documents.
- (c) Original documents listed must be produced for sighting on the day of opening.
- (d) Tender documents submitted late shall be rejected.
- (e) Only those contractors whose technical submissions are found satisfactory will have their financial submissions opened at a later date to be communicated to all technically qualified bidders and those found unsatisfactory will have their financial submissions returned un-opened.

Signed:
Management
HJRBD A



Ministry of Police Affairs

10th Floor, Federal Secretariat (Phase 3)
Shehu Shagari Way, Maitama, Abuja

INAUGURATION OF COMMITTEES

The Honourable Minister of Police Affairs, Dr Ibrahim Yakubu Lame Cordially invites all stakeholders and the general public to the Inauguration of the following committees:

1. Ministerial Implementation Committee on the Reform of the Nigeria Police Force.
2. Committee to advise Government on the Transformation of the Police Academy, Kano to a degree-awarding Institution.

Members are to note that accommodation has been booked for them at the hotel from Wednesday 22nd of April, 2009.

RSVP

Dr E.O. Oyemomi 08022230627
Permanent Secretary 08066848630
08078399665



NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE

CONFERMENT OF NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY ORDER OF MERIT (NPOM) AWARD

The Honourable Minister of Labour and Productivity, Prince Adetokunbo Kayode (SAN) announces the conferment of the National Productivity Order of Merit (NPOM) Award on the following individuals and organizations by the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, His Excellency Umaru Musa Yar'adua GCFR as follows:

Date: 12th May, 2009

Venue: Grand Ballroom, Nicon Luxury, Behind International Conference Centre, Abuja

Time: 9.00am prompt

All recipients and invited guests are expected to be seated by 8.30am please.

2003

- MALLAM ISAH UGURU
- ENGR. SHAMSIDEEN ELEGBA
- ENGR. MARKUS GUNDIRI
- ALHAJI ABDULKAREEM GURIN
- CHIEF (MRS) G.U. ESEONU
- GROUP CAPTAIN I.A. ODUNAYO
- MASTER WARRANT OFFICER OKOI UBANA
- MASTER WARRANT OFFICER PRECIOUS IDE
- WARRANT OFFICER EMMANUEL AGIENDE
- MR. AHMED SANI KURA

2004

- PROF. SAM ALE
- MR. PAUL UDOFE
- PROF. MATHEW AGU
- NAVY CAPTAIN ANDREW ALOKU
- MR. BABATUNDE OSHODI
- PROF. ABIODUN ILESANMI

2005

- PROF. OLUSEGUN OKE
- POLICE CONSTABLE SOLOMON DAUDA
- PROF. AYODELE MAKANJUOLA
- FRED ARCHIBONG
- MR. AIGBOJE AIG IMOUKHUEDE
- DR. CHRISTOPHER DAMACHI (POST HUMOUS)
- MAJOR. GEN. N.C. MADUEGBUNAM
- PROF. (MRS) GLADYS FALUSI
- ENGR. BUNU SHERIFF MUSA
- ALH. UMARU SHAGALINKU
- MAZI CLEMENT OWUNNA

ORGANIZATIONS

- RAW MATERIALS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (RMRDC), ABUJA
- DAAR COMMUNICATIONS PLC
- MR. BIGGS

- NATIONAL AGENCY FOR FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND CONTROL (NAFDAC), ABUJA.

2006

- MR. JAMES EDET
- DR. (MRS.) GLADYS MAKOJU

ORGANIZATIONS

- VEE TEK NIGERIA LTD, ABA, ABIA STATE
- TOFA GENERAL ENTERPRISES
- STUDENTS IN-FREE-ENTERPRISE (SIFE), OBAFEMI AWOLowo UNIVERSITY, ILE-IFE.

Hotel accommodation has been reserved for awardees from outside Abuja for two nights (11th and 12th May, 2009) at the 1st Forty Hotel, Plot 178, Aminu Crescent, Wuse II, Abuja.

For further inquiries, Please contact the following:
Bala -08023616980, Adeola - 08037162873,
Kashim - 08069767259

Paul M. Bdliya Ph.D
Director-General
National Productivity Centre
17th April, 2009

**IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT ABUJA
ON TUESDAY THE 7TH DAY OF APRIL, 2009
BEFORE HON. JUSTICE ABDULLAHI MUSTAPHA, CHIEF JUDGE**

SUIT NO. FCH/ABJ/CS/139/2009

BETWEEN:

ALL NIGERIA PEOPLES PARTY

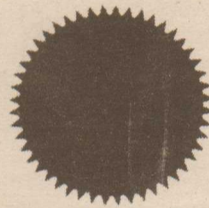
..... **PLAINTIFF**

AND

- | | | | |
|----|---|---|----------------|
| 1. | ALHAJI MAMUDA SHINKAFI
(GOVERNOR OF ZAMFARA STATE) |] | |
| | |] | |
| 2. | ALHAJI MUNTARI ANKA
(DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF ZAMFARA STATE) |] |]...DEFENDANTS |
| | |] | |
| 3 | INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL
COMMISSION |] | |
| | |] | |

In the exercise of the power conferred on me under Section 22(2) of the Federal High Court, Act, Cap. F12 LFN 2004, I, **HONOURABLE JUSTICE ABDULLAHI MUSTAPHA OFR**, Chief Judge of the Federal High Court of Nigeria, do hereby **ORDER THE TRANSFER OF THE** Suit mentioned in the subjoined Schedule from Federal High Court, Abuja Judicial Division to Federal High Court, Gusau Judicial Division.

1. That it is further ordered that the Suit is to be heard and determined by Hon. Justice Adamu Bello.
2. That the Suit is adjourned to 27th April, 2009 for mention before His Lordship.



GIVEN UNDER MY HAND and the Seal of
the Court this 7th day of April, 2009.

Abdullahi Mustapha OFR
ABDULLAHI MUSTAPHA OFR
(CHIEF JUDGE)

**PREQUALIFICATION FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES: KADUNA STATE
GOVERNMENT**

**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
OFFICE OF THE HON. COMMISSIONER, MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE**

**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE PREQUALIFICATION FOR
CONSULTANCY SERVICES ON THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
AGRICULTURE IN KADUNA STATE**

The Kaduna State Government invites for pre-qualification from experienced firms/companies as Consultants in the following fields:

1. Erection of Grain Silos
2. Rehabilitation of 5 existing Abattoirs
3. Construction of Rice and Cassava mills
4. Fertilizer Blending plant
5. Rehabilitation and Construction of Dams
6. Irrigation Construction and Rehabilitation
7. Poultry, beekeeping and fishery development
8. Hydro-electricity Dams
9. Construction of packing industry
10. Land-clearing equipments

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

All invited firms/companies who wish to apply should have the following requirements:

- a. Evidence of Incorporation with Corporate Affairs Commission
- b. Evidence of Registration with Kaduna State Tenders Board
- c. Evidence of three (3) years audited Accounts
- d. Evidence of Financial capability and Bank support with good turnover
- e. Equipments and other necessary technology capable of executing such projects
- f. Evidence of Technical Qualification and experienced personnel
- g. Evidence of Registration with recognized professional bodies
- h. Evidence of execution of similar projects elsewhere.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

All applications should be submitted in sealed envelopes and labeled 'Pre-qualification'. It is to be submitted to the Honourable Commissioner Ministry of Agriculture, Kaduna State, Independence Way, PMB 2103, Kaduna not later than two (2) weeks from the date of this publication. All submitted applications will be opened on the same day in the presence of all applicants or their respective representatives.

This invitation for pre-qualification from companies/firms is not an invitation for tender. Only companies/firms that have met the set-out pre-qualification requirements will be invited for further discussion. It should therefore be noted that making the pre-qualification alone does not guarantee securing the consultancy services.

The Kaduna State Government/Ministry of Agriculture shall not bear any cost in the course of preparation and submission of any document as related to this invitation. For further information and/or clarification contact the office of the Honourable Commissioner, Kaduna State.

Signed:
MUHAMMED SHAMSIDIN ABDULLAHI
Honourable Commissioner.



DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL AID CORPS

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ABUJA.

P.M.B. 102, Garki Main Post Office, Garki - Abuja, Nigeria.
Tel. No. 09-5230755/09-5231502, Fax No. 09-5232770,
Telegram: EXTERNAL Abuja.

Ref. No.: TAC/P/036
Date: 17th April, 2009

PRESS STATEMENT

The Directorate of Technical Aid Corps wishes to once more advise all returning volunteers who may have problem with full payment of their on-shore allowances to urgently come forward to the Directorate for verification and immediate payment of such outstanding allowances.

As indicated earlier, the problem mainly arose as a result of volunteers' incorrect or incomplete particulars of their personal bank accounts as evident by reports from the various banks concerned.

Signed
MANAGEMENT



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
NIGERIA - AFRICA STOCKPILES PROGRAMME
GRANT NO TF057048**

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

CONSULTANCY SERVICES (FIRMS & INDIVIDUALS)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR
THE PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES

ADDENDUM

EXTENSION FOR SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

This is to notify the general public and most importantly those that have shown interest as per Expression of Interest by Nigeria - African Stockpiles Programme which was published in *Daily Trust* of Thursday April 2nd 2009 and the *Guardian* newspaper of same date, the submission has now being extended from 3rd May - 18th May, 2009.

All other information as to the Expression still remain the same.

Correction Under Deliverables: The final report is December 2009 as against 2010 as earlier advertised.

Signed
Project Coordinator (ASP)
Project Management Unit
No 5, Negro Crescent
Maitama, Abuja



FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, ZARIA

(Established 1962)

DIRECTORATE FOR PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN
EDUCATION (DPDE)

Announces the commencement of PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION (PDE):

a Gateway to Teaching Profession

The programme is designed to provide professional training in teaching for

- ✓ academically qualified persons who are interested in qualifying as professional teachers,
- ✓ Teachers on the job but do not have the registrable and qualifying certificate
- ✓ Qualified teachers who wish to improve their professional and teaching skills

Duration:

The Programme operates both *Part-Time* and *Full-Time* and lasts for **ONE (1) ACADEMIC SESSION**

Entry Requirements:

- Holders of
- National Diploma (ND)
 - Higher National Diploma (HND)
 - Bachelor's Degrees (BA, BSc, etc)
 - Master's Degrees (MA, MSc) and
 - Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Teachers who want to improve their teaching skills can also apply.

Mode of Application: Interested persons should purchase an electronic pin card at the rate of three thousand (₦3,000.00) naira only from any of UBA, Zaria, Unity Bank, Samaru road, S/Gari and Nakowa Microfinance, Gyellesu, Zaria. Then visit the College Website at www.fcezarionline.net for the completion of an online application form.

Registration Fee: Thirty thousand (₦30,000.00) naira only.

Tutors: Professionally acknowledged tutors will handle courses.

❖ *Professional Diploma in Education (PDE) is a programme designed by Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN).*

ANNOUNCER: MANAGEMENT

Students will be registered with TRCN at the end of the Programme without taking the Professional Qualifying Examination (POE)

Sales of the Scratch Card start on 1st April 2009!



World Health Organization

OFFICE OF THE WHO REPRESENTATIVE FOR NIGERIA

UN HOUSE, PLOT 617/618, CENTRAL AREA DISTRICT, P. M. B. 2851, GARKI, FCT, ABUJA

VACANCY NOTICE

POST TITLE: NPO DPC
GRADE: NOC
DETY STATION: ABUJA
ORGANIZATIONAL: WHO REPRESENTATIVE'S OFFICE
UNIT: NIGERIA

This vacancy is open to applicants of EITHER SEX Applications from WOMEN are encouraged

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the programme is to contribute to the integrated prevention and control of diseases, particularly those posing serious public health problems in the country and hence considered as priority by the national authorities and WHO. To improve and build capacities to implement evidence-based prevention, control and care interventions, including the strengthening of health systems.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the direct supervision of the WHO Country Representative the Disease Prevention and Control Officer (DPC) will perform the following:-

1. Serves as the Coordinator of the Disease Prevention and Control Cluster and is responsible for planning, implementing and evaluating the programme of the specific area of work within the country office;
2. Provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Health in policy development, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme on integrated disease control with emphasis on those posing serious public health problems and priority disease eradication programmes;
3. Facilitates and coordinates the work of different components of the cluster, ensuring cohesion and coherence of approach in order to improve efficiency in the delivery of disease control programmes such as:-
 - Malaria
 - HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases
 - Tuberculosis
 - Vaccine preventable diseases
 - Other communicable diseases
 - Essential drugs and medicines
 - Tobacco and NCDs
4. Promotes a multi-disciplinary approach, encourages cross-cluster cooperation and participates in building and enhancing partnership with the donor community, NGOs and other institutions;
5. Contributes to resource mobilization for WHO technical support to countries using existing mechanisms at country level;
6. Organizes training of health personnel in the epidemiology of communicable diseases and NCDs, provides technical support for the development of training material and guidelines for disease prevention and control at district and local level;
7. Promotes operational research on disease prevention and

control and assists national officials in the development and implementation of these projects;

8. Performs any other duties as may be assigned by the WR.

QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE

Functional Skills and Knowledge:

- Excellent knowledge of strategies for disease prevention and control;
- Strong managerial, leadership and negotiation skills, ability to coordinate teamwork, establish and maintain effective working relationships in a multicultural environment;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills;
- University degree in medicine. Postgraduate degree in Public Health, Epidemiology or internal medicine
- Training in communicable disease prevention and control
- Some years of practical experience in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating disease prevention and control activities
- Some years of experience in public health and disease control programmes at national level.
- Experience in working with bilateral or multilateral organizations in the country
- Excellent knowledge of English. Fluency in other WHO official language (French or Portuguese) is an asset.
- Excellent computer skills (Word, Excel, Power Point, and database processing, knowledge of health data management packages like EPI INFO, etc)
- Ability to establish and maintain good relations with people at various levels and of different nationalities.

ADDITIONAL DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

- Resource mobilization skills are highly desirable
- Experience in working with bilateral or multilateral Organizations in the country.

ONLY CANDIDATES UNDER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION WILL BE CONTACTED FOR INTERVIEW AND TEST

Applications should be marked "NPO/DPC" and addressed to:
THE WHO REPRESENTATIVE
UN House, Plot 617/618, Central Area district,
P. M. B. 2851, Garki, FCT, Abuja

DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY, 29 MAY 2009.

WHO HAS A SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENT



WAMASON



WASTES MANAGEMENT SOCIETY OF NIGERIA

WASTE-Summit 2009: Abuja

Theme: NIGERIAN VISION 20-2020: the Waste Management Challenges.

Objectives: The Summit is to create a positive platform for the development and re-alignment of Nigerian Waste Management Industry for global participation.

Target Participants: the Summit aims to engage those involved in all aspects of the Waste Management Industry: *Students* *Researchers* *Investors* *Operators* *Policy Makers* *Regulators* *Plant Manufacturers* *Engineering Procurement Experts* *Advocates.

Keynote Address to be delivered by the:
Minister of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
JOHN ODEY

Lead paper presenters include:
Professor P. Agamuthu, University of Malaysia
Mr. Greg Vogt, International Solid Waste Association; Austria

Workshop Facilitators:
Derek Greedy,
Warwickshire County Council (UK) & Chair of ISWA Working Group on Landfill

Swarupa Ganguli,
LMOP U.S. Environmental Protection Agency USA)

Prof. Dr. Günay Kocasoy,
Inst. of Environmental Sciences Bogazici University (Turkey)

Deji Fawole, SCS Engineers (USA)

Greg Vogt,
General Manager of ISWA (Austria)

1. **International Landfill Technology Workshop 21-22 April 2009**
The Workshop is being organized by the International Solid Waste Association (Vienna) and shall be addressing the following aspects of Landfill Technology:

- Up-grading and closure of Dumpsites
- Development & operation of Landfill Facility
- Landfill Gas utilization & Climate Change

2. **Conference 23-25 April 2009:** Conference sub-themes include:

- Waste Management and Economic Growth
- Financing Waste Management in a Developing Economy
- Professionalism in Waste Management

3. **Business Forum 24-25 April 2009:** The Business Forum is aimed at:

- Exposing Nigerian waste management market and encouraging partnership
- Exposing investors, financiers and manufacturers to potential business vehicles

4. **Participation Fees Work Shop:** N20,000.00 (Members);
N30,000.00 (Non-Members)

Conference: N30,000.00 (Members); N35,000.00 (Non-Members)

Dinner: N10,000.00

Venue: Merit House, Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama - ABUJA

Date: 21st 25th April, 2009

Contact: www.WASTE-Summit2009.org
08030871440, 08033013378, 08033403544, 08037729316
08033157989, 08023118449, 08037051250, 08023249572
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ABUJA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD

Plot 776 Cadastral A. O. Central Business District
P.M.B. 152 Garki Abuja

INVITATION FOR THE PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TENDER FOR THE FENCING OF GUDU CEMETERY IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL CITY (FCC)

Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), through the Abuja Environmental Protection Board is inviting competent and interested companies to submit Technical and Financial Bids for the fencing of Gudu Cemetery.

SCOPE OF WORK

The project involves the construction of block work fence with metal grill rendered and painted.

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Interested companies must forward copies of the following documents and the originals to be made available for sighting during the Tender opening:

- i. Evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and Articles of Memorandum of Association
- ii. Interested companies should have up to date returns with the CAC and be informed that due diligence could be conducted.
- iii. Evidence of Audited Account and Tax Clearance for the last three years.
- iv. Company's bank statement for the last 12 months.
- v. List of Key Personnel/Officers to be attached to the project stating their roles, designation, qualification and experience. Enclose photocopies of professional certificates where applicable.
- vi. List of verifiable documentary evidences of similar jobs successfully executed within the last three years.
- vii. List of equipment to be used for the project and their locations. state whether the equipment are on lease or owned.

COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

Interested companies should collect tender documents from the Office of the Director, Abuja Environmental Protection Board, Plot 776 Cadastral A. O., Off Zakari Maimalari Street, Central Business District, Abuja, upon the presentation of an evidence of payment of N50,000.00 (fifty thousand naira) non refundable Tender fee in certified bank draft.

SUBMISSION

The Pre-qualification and Tender documents should each be sealed and labeled (Technical and Financial bids as appropriate) separately, and the two envelope be put in another envelope that should be sealed and labeled as: "TENDER FOR THE FENCING OF GUDU CEMETERY". The Tender documents (financing bid) should be submitted in three (3) copies (one original and two other copies) and all pages duly endorsed by the bidder. The document is to be dropped in: The Tender Box at the office of the Secretary, FCT Tender Board, Room 07, FCT Tender Board Secretariat, Engineering Block Annex, Area 11, Garki, Abuja, on or before 12:00 noon, six (6) weeks from the date of publication of this invitation (Date). The representatives of the bidding companies are invited to witness the opening of the tenders on the someday in the Conference Room of the Director (AEPB) by 1:00 pm.

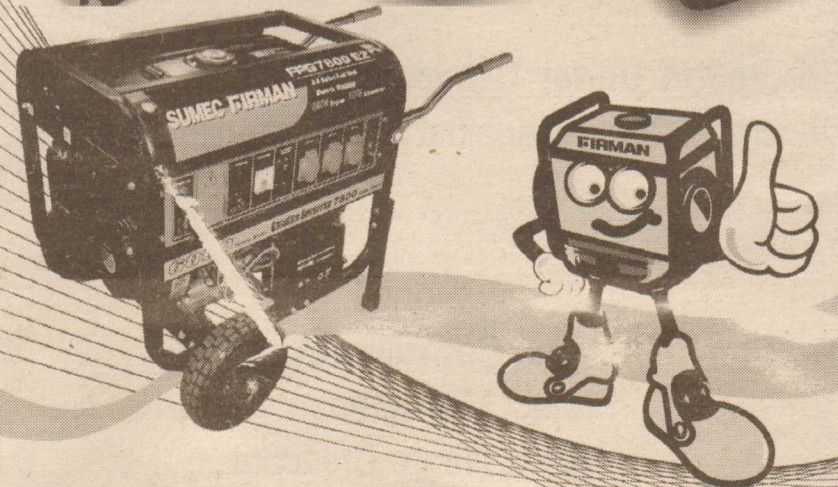
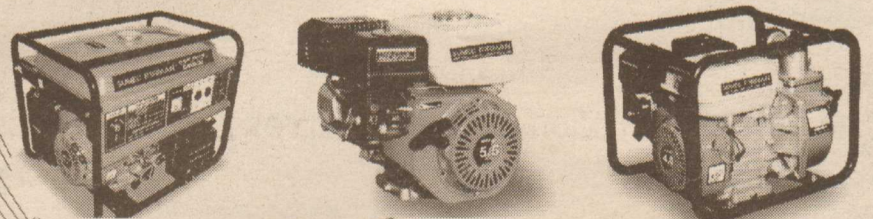
Please note that the Companies that participated in the December 2008 exercise are invited to Tender fresh bids but are exempted from paying tender fees.

SIGNED:
MANAGEMENT
For further information, please contact:
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IT WORLD

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Motorola may spin-off cell phone division

Motorola could yet spin off the mobile phones division of its business-sooner than expected, according to analyst speculation. Skip related content

Ittai Kidron, an analyst with Oppenheimer specialising in wireless technology, wrote a research note yesterday predicting that management could revisit the planning process for the mobile device spin-off in the near future.

He added that the firm is likely to meet its first quarter financials, which could encourage it further to re-ignite plans to sell off the poorly performing division.

Speculation that Motorola will sell off its mobile phones business has been rife for some time now. Last October, the firm said it was delaying the planned spin-off in order to focus on restructuring. In the fourth quarter of 2008 it was forced to cut 3000 jobs. "While our strategic intent to separate the company remains intact, we are no longer targeting the third quarter of 2009, primarily due to the macro-economic environment, stresses in the financial markets and the changes underway in mobile devices," co-chief executive Sanjay Jha said at the time.

Motorola has been hoping that a commitment to Android and Windows Mobile as its operating systems of choice will help it to regain market share, but the handset maker is currently languishing in fourth place behind Nokia, Samsung and LG.

However, shares in the company rose as much as ten per cent yesterday after the research note from Kidron was published, according to Reuters. Its shares closed up 46 cents to \$5.56 after Kidron raised his price target on the stock to \$7 from \$5, the news service said.

Apple tops customer satisfaction survey

A survey released by analyst house Forrester has shown customers are happier with Apple computers than any other brand. Skip related content

The company surveyed over 4,500 consumers in November last year about their feelings and experience towards different brands. Apple scored highest among computer manufacturers, with Dell scoring the lowest levels of satisfaction.

Buyers were asked three key questions - How effective was the company at meeting your needs? How easy was it to work with this firm? And how enjoyable were the interactions?

Of the responses Apple scored highest, ahead of Gateway, Hewlett-Packard, Compaq and Dell. Apple gained most ground on the ease of use question.

Dell scored particularly badly in the survey. You know, they pushed the envelope on supply chain efficiencies and they lost track of their customer along the way. I see them trying to attack their service interactions and take care of their quality problems, Bruce Temkin, vice president at Forrester, told the New York Times.

The results were bad news for Microsoft, which has been pushing itself in a new advertising campaign to beat Apple's user support base.

This is a wake-up call to Microsoft, Temkin said. They have to do a much better job of working with retailers and orchestrating the experiences that all their partners have. They need to do a better job of merchandising with Wal-Mart and Best Buy and invest heavily in retail touch points.

Economic meltdown hits ICT sector - Omatek boss

The Group Managing Director of Omatek Ventures Plc, Mrs. Florence Seriki has called on government to check exchange rate fluctuations to enable the ICT sector withstand the current global economic meltdown.

She said this at the 4th convocation lecture delivered at the Lagos State Polytechnic, Ikorodu, Lagos, saying government should do something urgent to correct the anomaly in the market in order to prevent manufacturers from closing shops.

According to Mrs Seriki, the current economic meltdown affects

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

manufacturers and factories in Asia considerably because they mass-produce for Europe, UK and USA.

However, she said we have only just started to produce in Africa and as such, we should not feel the same impact. As a result of the economic meltdown, these factories are now experiencing cut down in orders from Europe and USA.

To this end, she said 'prices can actually drop if the volume is there; we

have the population and this is the first time the Asians are thinking of doing business in Africa'. As a result of this, she said 'we can seize the opportunity of the economic meltdown to sustain quality production by maintaining the minimum order quantity requirements of the first class manufactures in Asia which can only be achieved by pushing high volume orders'.

She said that the exchange rate fluctuation will be a great impediment to meeting up with the minimum order requirements from the first

class manufacturers of CKD components, as the minimum requirements for a 20 foot container of one of the components alone run into thousands of dollars.

The Omatek boss also called for the support of Banks in financing long term projects for the Manufacturing and SME sectors by reducing interest rate in order to take advantage of the current situation to attract Asians to Africa. She noted that Banks in Asia are about now reducing interest rates to attract and encourage local production. She therefore called on government to put in place policies to encourage patronage of local brands

..as Global IT job losses exceed 160,000

More than 160,000 jobs in the global technology sector have now been cut in the past six months.

The latest redundancies have come from Toshiba, losing 3,900 temporary jobs by March 2010 after forecasting an annual loss of 350bn yen (£2.4bn), and Sony Ericsson, which is shedding 2,000 people after reporting a loss of £316m in the first quarter of the year.

The cuts bring the total figure, based on those reported by Computing since the collapse of Lehman Brothers bank widely viewed as the turning point for the global recession to more than 162,000.

The true number is likely to be significantly higher through jobs lost but not announced to the press.

Even the biggest suppliers have not been immune, with Microsoft making its first ever redundancies. HP has tried to avoid extra cuts above the 25,000 removed as a result of its acquisition of EDS by introducing mandatory pay cuts a move that has been heavily criticised by affected

By Hamisu Muhammad with agency report

staff. And the figures below do not take into account the thousands of IT professionals working for user organisations, especially in the financial services sector, who have lost their jobs as part of cost-cutting exercises. A true figure for user IT

professionals out of work is hard to come by as many companies simply refer to "back office" cuts, which often include an unspecified number of IT staff.

The full list of announced job cuts from technology companies to date, in alphabetical order, are: Adobe 600 AMD 1,100 AT&T 12,000 Autodesk 750 BT 10,000 Cisco 2,000 Dell 1,900 EMC 2,400

Ericsson 5,000 Google 2,000 HP/EDS 25,000 Lenovo 2,950 Microsoft 5,000 Motorola 4,000 NEC 20,000 Nokia 1,700 Nortel 5,000 Nvidia 360 Panasonic 1,000 Philips 6,000 SAP 3,000 Seagate 800 Sony 8,000 Sony Ericsson 2,000 Sprint-Nextel 8,000 Sun Microsystems 6,000 Toshiba 3,900 Unisys 1,300 Viacom 850 Virgin Media 2,200 Vodafone 500 Xerox 3,000 Yahoo 1,500. vnunet.com



L-R: Omatek Directors, Mr. Akin Opeodu, Mr. John Bede-Anthonio, Chief John Akinleye, AGM, Marketing, Mr Kayode Yeku, Chairman, Omatek Ventures Plc, Dr. Tim Farinre and the Group Managing Director, Mrs. Florence Seriki receiving the Nigerian Global ICT Company of the year award from Orits Wiilki at the just concluded National ICT Merit Awards held in Lagos recently.

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Spot Admission Interviews & Presentations

Meet Professor Alex Russell, Professor Joe Akunna, Dr Labaran Lawal and Ms Lesley Balfour from the University of Abertay Dundee will be conducting presentations and spot admission interviews for September 2009 entry.

Lagos - 17 April 2009, 10.00-15.00 British Council, Lagos
18 April 2009, 10.00-15.00 Krypton Educational Services
Abuja - 20 April 2009, 10.00-15.00 British Council, Abuja
21 April 2009, 10.00-15.00 Krypton Educational Services.

Spot admission are available for taught postgraduate courses including MBA, MBA (Energy Petroleum), Finance, Oil & Gas Accounting, Management Accounting, International Business (Energy & Petroleum), Environmental Management, Water Pollution Control, Biotechnology, IT and Software Engineering, Sexual/Reproductive Health as well as a wide range of undergraduate courses.

University tuition fees are excellent value for money (£8,150-£10,000). Dundee is Scotland's 4th largest City with a picturesque setting and low cost of living. The post Study Work (Fresh Talent) Scheme allows students to remain in the UK for two years for employment

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IT WORLD

Glo credits subscribers with N2000 free air time

Glo Mobile has started crediting hundreds of subscribers who won in its on-going Easter Interactive Voice Response (IVR) Promo with N2,000 free airtime.

The company's Director Marketing, Jagat Jit Singh, said already, 320 subscribers who won from April 8th when the promo started till April 15th, have been credited with the N2000 free airtime. He said hundreds of other subscribers stood the chance of winning the free airtime in the promo which ends on April 22.

"In the Easter give-away promo, we are giving out N2000 Glo to Glo free airtime to 40 winners daily. To enter for the promo, the customer

By Hamisu Muhammad
only needs to call 32001 and answer 3 questions out of 5 correctly. The 40 daily winners are then drawn from the pool of correct entries", said Jagat who explained that calls are charged at N10 per min.

He said the promo is open to new and existing Glo pre-paid subscribers, adding that the Easter IVR Promo is part of efforts by the telecoms giant to encourage its customers get used to automated telephony lifestyle.

One of the winners in the draws held on Tuesday, Mr. Ikechukwu Ogbonna, an unemployed HND graduate who resides at Ijeshatedo area of Lagos, thanked Glo

for the opportunity. "For me, it means much more considering that one does not have a job and needs to make employment contacts regularly," Mr. Ogbonna said.

Another customer from Aba, Abia State, who won in the Wednesday draw, Mrs. Victoria Sam, expressed delight after her line was credited with the N2000 free air-time. "Initially, I saw it as a gamble that would not hurt me if I didn't win. But, as luck would have it, Globacom sent me free credit, stating that I was one of the lucky winners in the draw held yesterday. I will continue to participate in the promo until it ends," Mrs. Sam said.

Glo subscribers are already enjoying numerous

value-added services largely pioneered by the proudly Nigerian company including per second billing (PSB), 3G Plus, Blackberry Solutions, massive coverage within and outside Nigerian shores, Pre-Paid Roaming, M-Banking, Multi-Media Messaging Service (MMS), Voice Short Messaging Service and caller tunes which keep endearing the network to an increasing number of patrons.

"We are an innovative brand and we cherish our subscribers' support a lot, hence the continuous splash of gifts and free air-time on them. It is our own way of nurturing the relationship between us and Africans," said Jagat.

Server attacks resurface, experts warn

Security researchers are warning administrators to secure their servers in the wake of new Secure Shell (SSH) attacks.

Researchers at security firm SANS warned that so-called 'brute force' attacks were occurring on a "daily" basis. The attacks attempt to guess usernames and passwords in an attempt to compromise the server.

To help guard against the attacks, SANS researcher

Daniel Weseman recommended that administrators help guard against the attacks by making both usernames and passwords more difficult for attackers to guess.

"If you are running any SSH server open to the Internet, and your usernames and passwords aren't at least 8 characters or so, your box is either owned by now, or about to be," explained Wesemann.

"It doesn't matter one bit

what sort of device it is - those who run these scans have proven to be equally apt at taking over a Cisco router as they are at subverting an iMac."

In addition to complicating usernames and passwords, Weseman also suggested that administrators use other simple measures such as moving SSH off of port 22 and monitor logs for suspicious activity. While the measures will not prevent an attack, Weseman said that they

would at least make compromising a machine far more difficult.

"Yes we know that picking complicated usernames and moving SSH off port 22 are 'security by obscurity' and not real security," Weseman admitted.

"But fact is that they both help to thwart the rampant brute force attacks. Bulletproof is nice, but if it can't be had, good camouflage sure beats being a plum target!"



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MORTGATOR: M.A. & USMAN ABBA

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2. A LANDED PROPERTY SITUATED IN THE NEW GRA GOMBE IMPROVED BY A RESIDENTIAL DUPLEX, A 3-BEDROOM BUNGALOW AND A SERVANTS' QUARTERS. BOTH HAVING AMPLE LAND AREA.

C OF O NO: BA/556 AND GM/556, RESPECTIVELY
DATE: FRIDAY 24TH APRIL, 2009
TIME: 10:00AM AND 12 NOON RESPECTIVELY

INTERESTED BUYER/PARTIES CONTACT

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Bauchi
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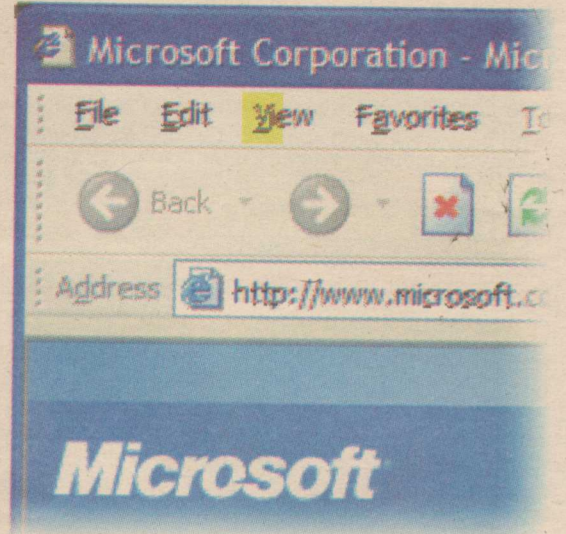
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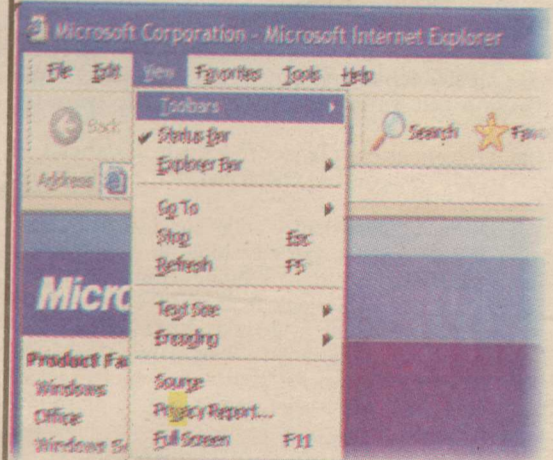
Continued from last week

To control menus using your keyboard

1. With your program open, press the ALT key. Notice that one letter on each menu name is now underlined. To open the menu, press the underlined key. For example, in Internet Explorer, the View menu name shows the V underlined after you press the ALT key. To open the View menu, press the ALT key, and then press V.



2. Now, each menu item will show one letter underlined. To access or activate the menu item you want, simply press the underlined key. For example, in Internet Explorer, after you open the View menu, the Privacy Report menu item shows the V underlined. Instead of clicking Privacy Report with your mouse, you can just press the V key.



3. You can also choose menu commands by pressing key sequences quickly, without waiting for the menus to open. For example, to quickly view a Web page's privacy report in Internet Explorer, press ALT, V, V. Similarly, to save a Web page in Internet Explorer, you would normally click the File menu, and then click Save As. To choose the same commands using your keyboard, press ALT, F, A.

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To be concluded

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Surveyors brainstorm on seven point agenda

Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

Surveyors nationwide will convene in Umuahia, Abia state, to strategise on best ways to approach President Umaru Musa Yar adua's seven point agenda as they affect surveying. The Registrar of the Surveyors Council of Nigeria (SURCON), Witson Ayeni, who dropped this hint in Abuja, said the theme of the conference, will be 'Surveying and Mapping Towards the Successful Implementation of the 7-Point Agenda'.

He said: "surveyors are making efforts to strategise on how to contribute to Mr President's 7-Point Agenda. We have decided that during our 44th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and conference taking place in Umuahia next week" will focus on this.

The Registrar called on stakeholders to attend and make qualitative inputs that will make surveyors in Nigeria give their best for the actualisation of this administration's agenda, saying surveying is the bedrock of most developmental programmes.

He indicated that for each of the agenda to be actualised effectively, surveyors' inputs cannot be overlooked, adding that the conference will see to the realisation of the country's development plans.

Lagos to mandate contractors on road maintenance

Lagos State Government is to introduce a "Performance-based Contract (PC)" for contractors handling its road projects. Under the agreement, contractors are required to maintain the roads they construct for between five and 15 years. Dr. Dayo Mobereola, Managing Director of Lagos State Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA), said this recently to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Lagos. He said the policy will ensure a longer life span for the roads and also save the government the embarrassment of repairing failed sections of newly-built roads.

"We are thinking of introducing a performance-based contract to ensure that contractors maintain the roads they construct for between five and 15 years.

"This will also ensure a longer life span for the roads," the LAMATA boss said.

Mobereola said that the contractors in conjunction with the agency's professionals had always ensured that quality materials are used in road construction.

"The contractors build according to our specifications and standard. "The government has corrected the mistakes of the past by putting in place strategies for regular maintenance thereafter," he assured.

The LAMATA Chief Executive Officer said that the agency currently maintains 640 kilometre of roads across Lagos metropolis. Mobereola said LAMATA is also working in partnership with the state Ministry of Works and Infrastructure for strategic maintenance of state and federal roads. "We have a projection of when the roads will need repairs and appropriately vote money for their repairs," he stressed.

LG earmarks N100m for hospital

The Birnin-Kebbi Local Government of Kebbi State has set aside N100million to build an hospital at Gawasu village, chairman of the local government, Musa Dan-Illelah, says.

The chairman who announced this on Monday while addressing youths in the area, said providing an hospital was part of efforts to improve healthcare delivery in the area.

He promised that efforts will be intensified to provide amenities to rural communities as the state government has released funds to the local government.

"We will ensure equity to all communities," he promised, adding that efforts are being made to secure funds to construct roads that will link Birnin-Kebbi to Gwangwaji, Birnin-Kebbi to Gulumbe and Zaura to Zagga.



A commercial building at Abuja's Central Business District

Demolition of illegal structures begins at national stadium

The demolition of illegal structures at the national stadium, Surulere, Lagos, has begun in an effort to pave way for the proposed concession of the edifice to the private sector.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the demolition started last week after a follow-up visit to the stadium by officials of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE).

BPE officials were seen taking inventories of the

stadium's facilities of the stadium last week.

NAN reports that Chairman/Sports Minister, National Sports Commission (NSC), Sani Ndanusa, told journalists in Lagos that it was looking into the possibility of concessioning the management of the stadium under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement. Ndanusa had noted that the facilities were not only under-utilised but were also deteriorating.

He said the NSC is

holding talks with the BPE on the proposal to concession the stadium built more than 30 years ago, to host the second All Africa Games in Lagos, in 1973.

NAN reports that many facilities in the stadium are in bad shape. For more than 10 years, there had been no water in the swimming pool which could have been a money spinner.

The indoor sports hall recently renovated has gone bad again, as there are

cracks on the floor because it has not been used strictly for sports.

There are no lights in the table tennis hall while the roof is leaking and the tartan tracks in the main bowl of the stadium are unusable.

Stadium Manager, Ahmed Jumare, told NAN that only shops selling sports goods and permanent structures approved by the NSC would be spared from demolition.

FG embarks on infrastructure development

In its determined efforts to ensure that the country ranks among the best 20 economies in the world by 2020, the Federal Government says it has embarked on infrastructure development to provide an enabling environment for the private sector to thrive.

The president who disclosed this at the 20th Enugu International Trade Fair, said that the Federal Government has released N323.15 billion to the Committee on National Integrated Power Project (NIPP) as part of efforts to provide constant electricity supply and to meet the target of 6,000 megawatts of electricity supply by the end of this year.

Apart from this, the president said that the Federal Government will soon commence the rehabilitation of the existing railway and road networks across the country.

"We recognise the fact that these infrastructure challenges must be met for the private sector activities to blossom. This is why we are unwavering in our

promise to generate and distribute 6,000 megawatts of electricity by the end of this year," the president had stated, announcing that the Federal Government recently released the sum of N323.15 billion to the Committee on National Integrated Power Project (NIPP) constituted by the National Economic Council (NEC) to ensure that the target is realised.

He reiterated the determination of government to encourage programmes geared to reduce or completely eliminate bottle necks and other encumbrances to trade through harmonisation of trade procedures and processes which will increase capacity and competition in local industries.

The President who spoke through the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Chief Achike Udenwa, expressed belief that an increase in the capacity and competitiveness of local industries will result in employment generation and improve the economy.

He said that his

administration will soon evolve strategies and reforms that will lead to increase production and also promote intra-African and international trade.

The president noted that the sustained development of the country can best be attained through the resourcefulness and ingenuity of the people, calling on the private sector to drive the system while government will provide the favourable climate, guidance and adequate incentives to enable the private sector fast-track the pace of development.

In his address read by the Assistant Director, Trade Promotions in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Mr. O. C. Akpa, Chief Udenwa explained that the ministry's vision to boost production, increase exports and reduce imports is aimed at creating wealth for the people. This vision, he said, can only be achieved with the co-operation and support of the private sector.

He said that the challenge before Nigerians is how to attain the goals

that the country has set for itself, stressing that an international trade fair of that nature should serve as a veritable platform to drive the country's industrialisation dreams.

He was optimistic that the successes recorded at the fair can help take decisions that would aid investment policies and programmes to serve the overall interest of the nation.

President of the Enugu Chamber of Commerce, Pastor Olisaemeka Jideonwo, said the theme of this year's fair, "Vision 2020 and the Challenges of Private Sector Development," was chosen to critically appraise the prospects and challenges facing the realization of the vision; the development of the national economy and to appraise the role of the private sector, which according to him, remains the engine that can propel economic growth and development.

The 20th Enugu International Trade Fair started on Friday, March 27 and ended on Monday, April 6.

ENVIRONMENT

Adamawa disaster victims get donations from NEMA

Success and respite have come the way of flood victims in Adamawa State as the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), North East zone, has donated relief materials worth millions of naira to them.

The communities that benefited from the NEMA largesse included flood-prone areas like Numan, Michika, Madagali, Song and Guyuk local government areas of the state.

While presenting the items on behalf of retired Air Vice Marshall Mohammed Audu Bida, Director General of NEMA, the agency's Zonal Coordinator, Fatima Usman, advised that the materials be evenly distributed to the affected communities.

She stated that the relief items were in response to the earlier assessment conducted by the North East office of the agency after the 2008 rainy season that devastated the aforementioned areas.

According to her, the outcome of that assessment informed the need for assistance to communities in Numan, Song, Michika, Madagali and Guyuk council areas of the state.

Receiving the relief

materials on behalf of the state government, Governor Murtala Nyako, who was represented by the Deputy Governor, Bala Ngillari, thanked NEMA for the gesture.

The deputy governor, who also doubles as the Commissioner for Special Duties, said the state government was resolute in responding swiftly to disaster victims as a way of giving them hope in a seemingly hopeless situation.

Ngillari who also was represented by the Commissioner for Environment, Usman Wuro Chekke, however, appealed to wealthy individuals, corporate organisations and NGOs to complement government's efforts by donating to disaster victims in the state.

The relief items donated by NEMA include 500 plastic buckets, 300 bundles of roofing sheets, 500 pieces of rubber mats, 50 packets of nails, 1000 pieces of 2x4x12 planks, 600 bags of 50 kg cement and 1000 pieces of 2x3x12 planks. Others include 200 bags of beans, 500 pieces of wax prints, 300 bags of rice and other assorted grains and cereals; 500 pieces of blankets, 50 cartons of detergent and 50 cartons of toilet soaps.



Trees give a beautiful landscape

Lagos mega city project: Keke-NAPEP, okada operators raise alarm

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

Commercial tricycles and motorcycle operators have cautioned the Lagos State Government on the systematic phase-out from Lagos roads of Keke-NAPEP and okada ahead of its mega city project, saying the move may cause more harm to the state than good. Ahead of its mega city project, the Lagos State government had purchased thousands of air-conditioned tri-cars to be sold to interested members of the public to be used as commercial vehicles to replace okadas and Keke Napep on its roads.

Daily Trust investigations reveal that the government is selling the tri-cars for between N400,000 and N600,000 depending on the time and interested buyer is expected to pay a down payment of N100,000

and pay the balance within a year.

Though the state government, through its agency in charge of public transportation, the Lagos Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LAMATA), had repeatedly denied ever making moves to phase out okadas, Keke-NAPEP, danfos and molues from the roads, speculations are rife that the operators of these type of commercial vehicles may be thrown out of jobs soon.

But speaking to Daily Trust separately yesterday, the chairman of Tricycles Trans-shuttle Services, Abule-Egba, Lagos, chapter, Comrade Ojo Bamidele and the Lagos State chairman of the Motorcycles Operators

of Lagos State (MOALS), Comrade Tijjani Pekins, they said the state government should exercise patience on the planned phase out of Okadas and Keke NAPEP as this may add to the already high rate of unemployment in the state.

According to Comrade Bamidele, most of the operators of Keke NAPEP cannot afford "the Fashola tri-cars because it is too expensive for us. So, it will be difficult for us to buy in order to abandon the ones we are using now."

He said what the Fashola led government should do is give out these tri-cars without any down payment and ask the operators to pay piecemeal.

The tricycles operators chairman argued that Keke NAPEP operators should be left to continue their

operations in the state, even after the launch of the tri-cars because Lagos is highly underserved in terms of public transportation.

On his part, Comrade Pekins said commercial motorcycle operation should not be phased-out as it has its own advantages in a place like Lagos where traffic jams is a permanent problem.

He said the government should rather restrict its operation to some parts of the roads instead of a complete phase out.

However, denying plans to phase-out molues from Lagos roads, the Managing Director of LAMATA, Dr. Dayo Mobereola, at a news conference at the weekend, said the government has not embarked on any systematic phase out of commercial vehicles operating in the state now.

Are microwave ovens good for the environment?

Q: I've been eating at home more often than going out. Now I'm wondering how I should be preparing that home cooking. What's the greener choice for heating up my meals — the microwave or the oven?

As a general rule, microwaves are more eco-friendly than conventional ovens. However, that doesn't mean you should consign yourself to a life of gummy casseroles and dry chicken just to save the planet.

According to the Department of Energy, cooking accounts for a little

less than 3 percent of an average home's energy use (PDF). So any changes you make aren't going to add up to much—you'll have a much bigger impact by looking to your light fixtures or your thermostat. On the other hand, it is fairly easy to cut energy consumption in the kitchen, so why wouldn't you?

As a general rule, any oven powered by electricity—whether or not it's a microwave—is going to cook food more efficiently than a gas-powered appliance. About 12 percent to 14 percent of the energy drawn by a standard electric

oven goes toward cooking your food. With a gas-powered oven, that number drops to a little less than 6 percent. (Microwaves handily beat both, directing about 60 percent of their energy toward cooking.) Still, when compared with conventional electric ovens, gas-powered ovens are usually considered more efficient overall, since there are significant energy losses associated with generating electricity and then transmitting it to your home. So if you have a gas oven, use it.

That's not an option for

the majority of American households, though. About 60 percent of our conventional ovens are powered by electricity, not gas—and they're less efficient than standard microwaves. In the first place, conventional ovens operate at a higher wattage—about 3,000, compared with something between 600 and 1,650 for a microwave. They also cost us energy by cooking food more slowly. One University of Bristol study found that a chicken cooked in a convection microwave resulted in energy savings of 30 percent over a

conventional electric oven.

You'll see the greatest energy savings when cooking up small portions. One Swedish study, for example, found that cooking a single portion of baked potatoes in an oven took 9.5 times as much energy as it did in a microwave. When that was increased to four portions, however, the oven used only 2.5 times as much energy per serving (PDF). When the meals get big enough—a pot roast plus vegetables, for example—you're better off skipping the microwave altogether.

Microwaves do have a few other environmental

advantages. For one thing, they produce a lot less indoor air pollution than other cooking methods. Plus, they don't heat up your house the way an oven can, which means lower energy costs associated with both your A/C and your refrigerator. Heating up a meal on the plate you intend to eat off of also means fewer dishes to wash—although regular use of your microwave might encourage higher consumption of ready-to-eat convenience meals and all their extra packaging. —Slate

NEXT LEVEL

Appointments And Promotions

e-mail:nextlevel@dailytrust.com

Prof. Elegba elected FNRBA chairman

The Director-General of Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority, NNRA, Professor Shamsideen B. Elegba, has

By Hamisu Muhammad

been elected Chairperson of the Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa

(FNRBA).

FNRBA was established to strengthen and harmonise radiation protection practice as well as nuclear safety and

security regulatory framework in Africa. It also serves as an internationally recognised Forum for the exchange of regulatory information, expertise and experience especially among nuclear regulatory bodies in the continent.

The Forum is therefore a platform for African regional cooperation in radiological protection and nuclear safety in which regional initiatives can be coordinated to the mutual benefit of all countries in Africa.

Professor Elegba's election was at the official launch of the Forum recently in Pretoria, South Africa, attended by 24 nuclear regulatory bodies in Africa and four other bodies, including the United Nations nuclear regulatory body - the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA - the United States' nuclear regulatory body, USNRC, and regulatory bodies from Europe - the European ALARA Network of Regulators and ASN.

Nuclear sources emitting ionizing radiation have wide applications in healthcare, petroleum industry, manufacturing, electricity generation, agriculture and water resources, mining, education and research. The FNRBA is therefore seen as a Forum for fostering regional cooperation in all these areas. By this election, Prof. Shamsideen Elegba becomes the first chairperson of FNRBA.



Tom A. O. Imokhai, Managing Director of SA Insurance Plc

SA Insurance elevates 45, appoints new AGM

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

Eight months after not less than 17 staff were promoted to management positions, SA Insurance Plc has again elevated 45 more staff to positions of responsibility.

The company describes this as being in line with its policy of regularly rewarding hardworking staff.

A release signed by the Head of Corporate Communications, Mr. Nelson Egboboh, says Mrs. Taibat Ibrinke Ali (Ilorin Office), Messrs. Emmanuel Oluwadare Olaniyi and Kadiri Ijeremhe (both of the Finance and Investments Department) who had been Deputy Managers are now full Managers.

Mr. Emeka Obi has been elevated from his earlier assistant manager's position to deputy manager, Administration. Atoyebi Olawale (Risk Management Group), Femi Ojetayo (Information Technology Group), Chioma Akunna (Ikeja Office), Dafetta Efe (Warri Office), Iranloye Samson Lanre (Ibadan Office) and Ogbogbo

Michael of Port Harcourt Office, among others, have been promoted to assistant manager's position.

In a related development, the company has appointed a new top level staff, Mr. Sunday Oguntola Ojo, as assistant general manager to head its Finance and Investments section.

Mr. Ojo, a Fellow of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, Associate Member, Chartered Institute of Taxation, and member, Nigerian Institute of Management, holds Yaba College of Technology's 1983 HND in Accountancy.

He joined SA Insurance Plc from Cornerstone Insurance Plc where he was group head, Finance and Asset Management. He has also worked at different times with Union Bank of Nigeria Plc, UAC Plc, Power Holding Company of Nigeria, Sina Babatunde & Co. (Chartered Accountants), Toki Dabur Productions Ltd; Scib Nigeria & Co; NEM Insurance Plc, and IGI.



Professor Shamsideen B. Elegba

Royal Exchange appoints Ademosu CEO

The Board of Directors of Royal Exchange Prudential Life Assurance Company Plc has announced the appointment of Mr. Larry Olugbenga Ademosu as its new Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

The new (CEO) is a graduate of University of Lagos where he obtained his first and second degrees in Insurance and Marketing respectively.

He is an Associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute of Nigeria, an Alumnus of the Lagos Business School and a member of the International Insurance Society.

Larry started his insurance career as a management trainee with Perpetual Assurance Company Limited and worked in various capacities there for 8 years before joining Custodian and Allied Insurance Plc in 2001 as the marketing manager and later as the divisional head, Marketing & Product Development.

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

He left Custodian and Allied Insurance Plc in 2004 to join Phoenix of Nigeria Assurance Plc as the general manager (Operations), a position he held until the recent merger with Royal Exchange Plc when he was redeployed as the Group Head, Marketing and Sales, a position he held until his new appointment.

Royal Exchange which has a pioneering history that started from London and dating back close to four centuries commenced operations in Nigeria in 1918 when it was represented by Barclays Bank DCO. It converted in 1921 to a full branch of its then parent company, Royal Exchange Assurance, London.

Available records have it that Royal Exchange Assurance London was originally established in 1720 and was one of the first two insurance companies in Britain to receive legal status via Royal Charter

The establishment of its branch in Nigeria was the result of an overseas expansion drive by Royal Exchange Assurance, London, in the early 20th century.

Royal Exchange was reconstituted and incorporated in December 1969 as a Private Limited Liability Company. The company went public on 18 July 1989, and was duly listed on the Nigerian Stock Exchange on 3 December 1990.

In 2007, Royal Exchange entered into a merger with African Prudential Insurance Company Limited and Phoenix of Nigeria Assurance Company Plc. Previously registered in compliance with the provisions of the Insurance Act 2003, as a composite insurer of life, general and special risks, Royal Exchange substantially re-organized itself into a group holding company in 2007, to properly position itself as a broad based, financial services provider.

The general and special

risks insurance business was demerged into a wholly owned subsidiary, Royal Exchange General Insurance Company Limited, whilst the life assurance business was transferred to another wholly owned subsidiary, Royal Prudential Life Assurance Company Plc. Two additional, wholly owned subsidiaries, Royal Exchange Finance Limited and Royal Exchange Healthcare Limited were also established to form the Royal Exchange group brand as part of the group's diversification strategy.



Mr. Larry Olugbenga Ademosu

JG Vision: Benchmarking Human Dignity in Public Transportation

By Umar Kyari

It is debateable if this is the kind of manufacturing that will put Jigawa or in fact, Nigeria on the global map of progress but even then one implication already stands out of the many obvious implications of the coming JG, a unique Tricycle facility. It is the fact that never again would any government, including this one, offer anything less than the specially designed Tricycle by way of public transport. They can only improve upon it, not less. Otherwise, forever and ever and throughout the state, no one, no matter how poor, will be climbing any dehumanizing mode of transport such as motorcycle, (Okada). No one would ever see a pregnant woman in the throes of delivery, for example, being carried on Okada from a distant rural spot to a hospital. Or see a woman with a child at the back and her load, all sitting dangerously on Okada from one point to another. Henceforth, movement of persons in the entire state will flow on a Tricycle which has been assembled to the cultural, religious taste of the people in the overall defence of their human dignity.

In this defence of human dignity, there had to be departure from the routine in order to offer something more elevated and dignifying. Something more elevated and elevating than Okada. The motorcycle business is creating a whole generation of Nigerians who are hoisting on Nigeria an Okada culture, a street culture which fits their own level. Okada culture is emerging the most manifest indicator of our slide backwards into a zoo of human civilisation. This is why this Tricycle is a serious advance of the programme of benchmarking popular facility in a way that halts the debasement and degradation of people.



Although it is a private-public partnership arrangement, involving Chinese enterprise expertise and the Jigawa State Government, it is still state interventionism propelled by the idea of defining the minimum in public transportation from the point of view of the down trodden. The Jigawa Tricycle is, thus, a carefully conceptualised programme of poverty alleviation responding to the public transport problems of the *talakawa* and its stakeholders. Thus, unlike other Tricycles, no one in the Jigawa Tricycle will be beaten by rains because it is built like a full fledged car, sheltered from the threats of elements like rains and the winds.

Its safety on the road is guaranteed. At a gross weight of a half a ton, it is not wind blowable. Above all, it is economically viable. One gallon of petrol will take it 100 Kilometers. With a capacity of ten litres or 2 gallons, full tank takes you from one extreme of the state to the other. Beyond the maximum of four passengers excluding the driver, it can also carry a maximum of 350 Kilograms of weight and yet maintain a maximum speed of 75 kilometres per hour.

On the mechanical side, the Tricycle is a four stroke engine with one cylinder and a battery the size of 30 amps, meaning it is capable of providing lights for all the electrical components of the Tricycle such as the trafficators, the horn, the ignition, etc. It has a flexible shock absorber, a water instead of air cool and a 12 rim tyre which can withstand pressure as well as get by on sandy or tarred roads. Water cool means that the Tricycle has a radiator which is another major mechanical advantage. Above all, it is easily serviceable.

The socio-economic chain reactions are self evident. Right now, the Tricycle Assembly plant is recruiting and training staff on the assembling of the product. Later, it will move on to the recruitment and training of mechanics so that maintainance will not be a problem in future. Drivers will join the league, followed by hire purchase dealers and spare-part dealers. The economics of it is that there would be no need to go to Kano or Lagos or Onitsha to buy spare parts.

By the current plan, individuals, civil servants, associations, market women and Okada operators will constitute the initial market, after which it will be widened to the Nigerian and the West African markets. In fact, the Okada operators may be considered for loan to facilitate their purchase of the Tricycle. In that way, the phenomenon of Okada will be submerged by the emergent 'industry' and wither away without any fascistic laws or ban pronouncement.



Beyond Okada operators, a group of youths can join hands, contribute money and purchase the Tricycle on some subsidy. Already, provisional market survey shows that many individuals plan to buy it for school runs for their children or for their wives because it is mechanically simple and costs next to nothing to maintain.

The commencement of a Tricycle Assembly plant in Jigawa is, therefore, a change of gear in terms of hooking social welfarism to a productive economy as the guarantee for the movement of any society from poverty to plenty. But it is not a shift in paradigm because the paradigm is still Democratic Humanism. It is a mere change of gear. The poorest of the poor will still remain at the centre of governance in the context of the Lamido administration.

The social security programme of the state for physically challenged persons in terms of a 7000 naira monthly survival stipend remains firmly in place. The Talakawa Summit has also afforded the poor opportunity to make their intervention in democratic participation and government programmes are being designed to respond to their concerns.

But at mid-term, the Lamido administration has to make a definitive statement on the possibility of a productive economy. An economy that is defined essentially by the capacity of the state to add value to its natural resources. Or to use relevant and appropriate technology to the service of the popular masses. Hence the strategic importance of the huge Tricycle Assembly plant located at the Maigatari Export Processing Zone which the Lamido administration re-conceptualised, expanded and built up into a huge commercial window on the world.



It opens vast opportunities for acquisition of varied skills and subsequent specialisation for teeming, unemployed young men and women of the state and beyond, addresses the problems of income and savings, thereby firmly putting the possibility of autonomous expansion on the table. The multiplier effect should quadruple when the factory moves from mere assembling to actual manufacturing.

The manufacturing approach to social transformation is an approach that governments in Africa have been compelled to abandon. Instead, they have been forced to produce raw materials which have neither the access to western markets nor are bought at sellers' price. The Jigawa Tricycle Assembly is, therefore, additionally a return to a strategy which worked before, reservations about import substitution manufacturing notwithstanding. If there could be a replacement of the imported components such as the metal sheets and the plastic cushion upholstery materials within a space of few years as for the manufacturing phase to commence sooner than later, Jigawa would have made a statement on the current crisis of a productive economy, not only in the North but also in the entire Nigeria. The Jigawa Tricycle Assembly plant is, because of its immediate and long term potentials, therefore, a project to watch.

Kyari is Special Assistant on Media Affairs to Gov Lamido

City news

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Under-aged girl confesses to witchcraft at Nyanya

By Abubakar Yakubu

People who turned up for a public prayer session behind Police Quarters, Area C Nyanya were on Thursday morning stunned when a 10-year-old girl (names withheld) confessed to witchcraft, saying she has killed 10 persons through motor accidents and tied five others waiting for execution.

The girl, who was brought into the venue by her aunt, spoke logically like a matured person and was coherent in her speech.

She also told the congregation that she had five children and is two months pregnant in the other world.

Trouble started for the girl when the leader of the prayer team, Sister Paulina asked the congregation to pray and when she passed through the midst of the girl, she stopped and requested to know from her why she was making the congregation weak to pray.

"Start confessing," the prayer leader instructed the

girl and immediately she began to twist her body, telling a crowd that had formed to watch the scene that she turns into either a rat, lizard, dog to confuse motorists whenever she wants to cause accidents.

The girl warned pregnant women not to abuse children, adding that whenever such women abuse her, she injects them spiritually in order to terminate their pregnancy.

"If I want to poison people, I use my invisible rings and use my four eyes and I cannot marry anybody because I am satisfied with my husband in the other kingdom," the girl stated.

She told the prayer leader that she tried to kill her aunt's husband through an accident, but he escaped narrowly, adding that her aunty present sick state was caused by her.

The prayer leader then ordered her to untie the sick woman, which she did by turning her hands round and round continuously for 20 minutes, until she told her that the lady was freed.

Speaking with our reporter Saturday, Sister Paulina said that the girl's witchcraft powers were completely destroyed at the prayer session that day, while her aunt's husband was encouraged to let her stay with him.

"She cannot do anything now and I have advised the entire family to be prayerful as well as encourage the girl to build a new life," she added.

Vehicle crushes two at Omoko

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

Two unidentified persons including a motor mechanic were last Thursday crushed to death by a motorist at Omoko village, along the Abuja-Lokoja highway.

An eye witness, whose vehicle the mechanic was repairing said the incident, happened at 11 pm.

"I was conveying tomatoes from Zaria to Port Harcourt when my truck suddenly broke down at the centre of the road and I invited a mechanic to repair the vehicle," he stated.

He said as the mechanic

was squatting to repair the truck, a J5 Peugeot bus coming on top speed crushed him and another person, killing them both on the spot.

Confirming the accident, the Abaji Unit Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Mr. Joseph Ojerinde, said the command received a distress call and mobilised its officials to the scene to evacuate the two corpses to the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital's Morgue.

He blamed the J5 bus

driver for over-speeding and reckless driving, adding that the driver escaped immediately after the incident, while his bus is at Chikara Police Station.

At the Chikara Police station, a police officer told our reporter that the matter is being investigated.

Similarly, two persons also lost their lives in another accident that occurred at the same village.

The unit commander, while speaking on the accident, said it involved another J5 Peugeot bus with registration number AE 291 MDB and a broken

down Daf truck with registration number XA 566FKY that was loaded with cement.

He said the accident was caused by the broken down truck that was at the centre of the road without caution signs.

He said the J5 bus crashed into the truck from behind, killing two persons on the spot.

The commander said the two corpses have been deposited at the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital's Morgue, while the truck taken to Chikara Police Station after offloading the cement.



The accident that claimed two lives at Omoko village, along Abuja-Lokoja highway last Thursday. Pic: Abubakar Sadiq Isah.

NUJ calls for urgent solution to fuel crisis

By Abubakar Yakubu

The National Union of Journalists, Abuja Council, Saturday called on the federal government to urgently tackle the fuel problem currently affecting the federal capital and other parts of the country.

The union also wondered why the country's refineries are abandoned and called on government to reveal the problem to Nigerians.

The journalist expressed their concern after an emergency meeting of the council at Utako, Abuja.

They said the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency has outlived its usefulness and called on government to dissolve the body immediately.

The body also suspended four of its former officials and mandated the present exco to lodge formal petitions on them to various anti-fraud organisations in the country.

DRTS, police nab 'one chance' operators

By Abubakar Yakubu

Officials of the Directorate of Road Traffic Services (DRTS) and police have arrested robbers that operate inside unpainted taxis, popularly called 'one chance' in two separate incidents.

On April 9, DRTS officials arrested two suspects, Eki Okoi and Chidiebere Nwogwu, who stated that they trap their victims by hypnotizing them.

"The unsuspecting victims are usually hypnotized by being told stories and once the passenger communicates with them, they fall

victims," the DRTS stated in a press statement.

The directorate's spokesperson, Vivian Uttah disclosed that the suspects have been handed over to the police for further investigations.

In another incident that happened on Friday at Area 8, Garki, Abuja, a lady inside a car with four men screamed out that she was being robbed at gun point.

Her scream attracted some motorists, who blocked the vehicle the lady was in and

two of her abductors escaped while the other two were apprehended and beaten by a mob, before a police team arrived to take them off.

The lady told the crowd that the robbers held a gun and wanted to rob her of N50,000 that was in her bag.

However, in a press statement yesterday, the DRTS Director, Retired Major Adamu S. Argungu stated that the directorate would not relent in its effort to get rid of unpainted cabs in the FCT.

Spokesperson of the di-

rectorate also warned operators of such vehicles to get their vehicles painted into FCT commercial colours of green-white-green as well as register such vehicles to commercial categories.

"About 500 impounded vehicles have so far been painted within the premises of the DRTS and released to the owners after obtaining security numbers," she disclosed.

She advised commercial motorists already painting their vehicles to come to the premises of DRTS in order to obtain coded security num-

bers, adding that such numbers are being given to allow for easy identification by commuters as well as law enforcement agents.

"Members of the public are advised to watch out for these security numbers before boarding commercial vehicles as this would help them recover forgotten items in cabs or provide easy identification in the event of crime," the spokesperson added.

She warned commuters against entering unpainted taxis, adding that they are usually linked to crime.

City news

Stains of blood cause stir at council's secretariat

Stains of blood at the entrance of the office of Kwali Council's chairman Wednesday caused a stir at the council's secretariat at Kwali.

Our reporter learnt from council's staff that the acting chairman had passed through the stain with his aides into his office before his attention was drawn to the blood stains by his police orderly.

Speaking to journalists after the discovery, the Acting Chairman, Mr. Danlami Saleh

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

Yebu, said it was his police orderly that discovered the blood stains at about 10 am

and alerted him inside his office.

The chairman said he walked into his office that morning accompanied by his

police orderly and protocol officer, adding that his orderly alerted him of the blood stains later and he rushed out to see it himself.

He said immediately he saw the blood stains, he invited all the council's staff to see for themselves and they prayed immediately on the spot.

"The council's State Security Service (SSS) boss and other security operatives were invited to carry out a thorough investigation as the blood stain is a sign of security threat to this council," he said.



Kwali council staff looking at the blood stains in front of the chairman's office ... Wednesday.

Gwagwalada council legislature recalls suspended speaker

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

The legislative wing of Gwagwalada Area council Thursday lifted the suspension on the council's Speaker, Zakari G. Auta.

Speaking on behalf of his colleagues after a legislative sitting at the council's chamber, the Chief Whip of the house, Mr. Abdullawahab Tanko Yahaya said the 'ethics and privileges committee' that was mandated to investigate the allegations against the speaker, exonerated him from the allegations after a thorough and unbiased investigation.

"The legislative members after its seating, unanimously resolved to lift the suspension placed on the Speaker, Mr. Zakari G. Auta," he disclosed.

In his remark, he recalled the speaker commended the members of the house for the matured manner in which the issue was handled.

He promised a harmonious relationship with his colleagues for the progress and development of the council.

It will be recall that the council speaker was suspended by the house last month due to allegations of incompetence, lack of proper communication on the chamber's activities.

Man charged for calling woman prostitute

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A man, Lawrence Ekire was on Thursday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly intimidating one Princess Abang and calling her a prostitute.

Prosecutor Mustapha Mohammed told the court that on April 5, 2009, one Princess Abang of No 70, Yaunde Street, Wuse Zone 6, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused intimidated her and vowed to deal with her.

He said the accused went ahead to defame the complainant by calling her a prostitute, which she is not.

According to the prosecutor, during police investigations, the accused confessed that he actually defamed the complainant by calling her a prostitute and

committed offences committed punishable under Sections 79 and 243 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charges were read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty, saying he neither intimidated the complainant nor defamed her.

After his plea, the prosecutor requested for a hearing date to commence the case.

Magistrate Josephine Obanor granted the accused bail in the sum of N100,000 with a surety that must be a civil servant and reside within the court's jurisdiction as well as swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned

to April 21, for hearing.

In another case, a 26-year-old man and a 22-year-old woman were on Thursday arraigned for allegedly assaulting one Bosh Jismooth of Wuse Zone 2, Abuja.

The accused persons, Monday Bawa of Mararaba, Nassarawa State and Miss. Uche of Wuse Zone 2, Abuja were reported to have hit the complainant's head with an object on April 13, 2009.

Prosecutor Monday Akor informed the court that on April 13, 2009, one Bosh Jismooth of Wuse Zone 2, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused persons hit his head with an object after a mere argument between the three of them.

He said the complainant sustained serious injury on the head and was immediately rushed to Maitama

General Hospital for treatment.

According to the prosecutor, the cost of treating the complainant has not been calculated as the treatment has not been completed, adding that the offences committed by the accused persons are punishable under Sections 79 and 243 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charges were read to the accused persons, they all pleaded not guilty and requested for bail.

Magistrate Josephine Obanor granted each of them bail in the sum of N40,000 with a surety in like sum that 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 May 5 for hearing.

Economist urges rural traders to embrace MFB loans

By Hussein Yahaya

An economist, Mr. Toyin Ajayi Peter, has advised local traders to use loans secured from micro-finance banks to expand and develop their businesses.

He gave the advice over the weekend at Bwari during a chat with our reporter.

According to him, 'a situation where such loans are diverted for social activities such as marriages and to acquire fashions other than the real purpose, might in the long run, rubbish the purpose of setting up micro-finance banks in the country'.

He said the federal government muted the idea of micro-finance banks to strengthen the micro economic sub-sectors, adding that if this good intention is not judiciously guided by the concerned stakeholders, the purpose will be defeated.

Peter called on the managers of such banks to always enlighten their customers on the status of the loans given to them and the need to use them to develop their businesses.

Our reporter observed that rural traders in Bwari have continued to embrace the activities of micro-finance banks operating in the area.

Out of 32 petty traders spoke to on the activities of such banks, 26 of them said they are registered with the banks.

Mrs Ngozi Osariemeh attributed the bank's massive acceptance to the flexibility of their loans and operations.

"You see, their staff visit our shop and we do not undergo any form of stress to collect their loans," she said.

City Photospeak



Hawking groundnuts at Utako, Abuja.

Pic: Felix Onigbinde.



A child pushing a truck at Ado, in Nasarawa State.

Pic Felix Onigbinde.



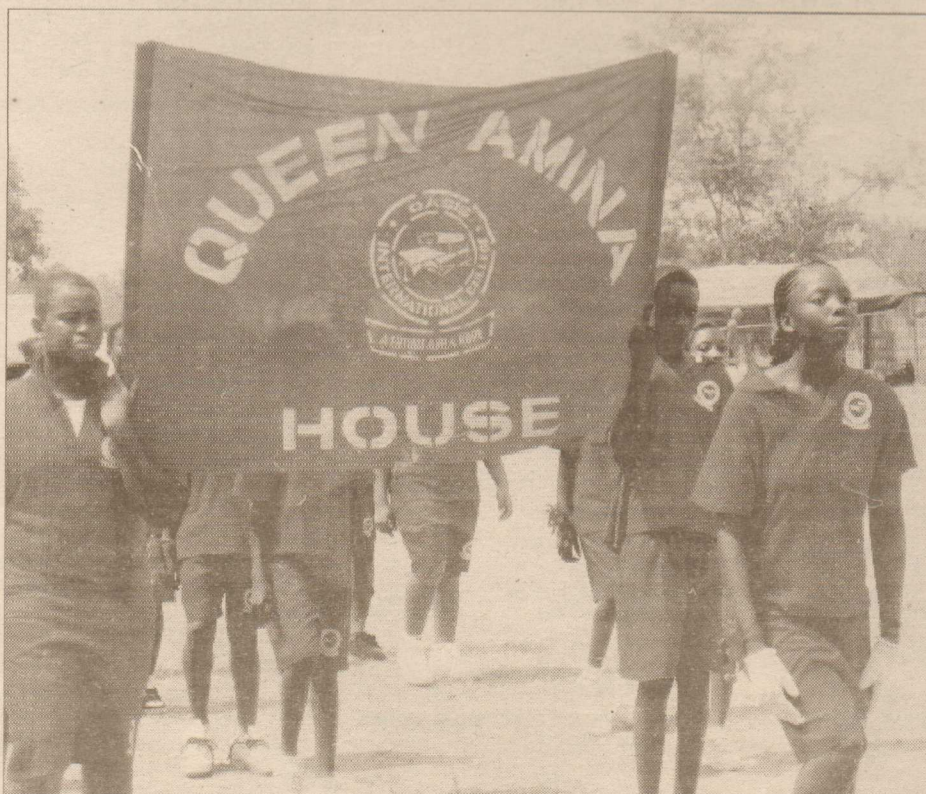
Roasting goat at Mararaba abattoir.

Pic: Felix Onigbinde.



Members of the African Traditional Gospel Choir from Benin-City, Edo State at a wedding ceremony in Abuja Saturday.

Pic: Kennedy Egbonodje.



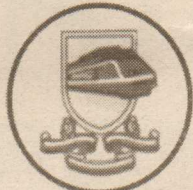
Students of Oasis International College, Lugbe.

Pic: Abubakar Yakubu.



A fight at Mararaba, Nasarawa State recently.

Pic: Felix Onigbinde.



NIGERIAN RAILWAY CORPORATION PUBLIC NOTICE

RESULT OF THE PRE-QUALIFICATION EXERCISE ON THE SELECTION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE EXECUTION OF 2009 CAPITAL PROJECTS.

The Nigerian Railway Corporation wishes to inform the various contractors who submitted pre-qualification documents in respect of the above-mentioned that the results of the exercise are as listed below:

BRIDGES AND CULVERTS WORKS

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- 3 AGON CONTINENTAL LIMITED
- 4 AGROTECH FAIR DEALS
- 5 ALBRYTE GLOBAL LINKS
- 6 ALHERI MECHANICALS
- 7 ALLIED VYTECH
- 8 ALMOND BUSINESS SYSTEM
- 9 AMRO CONSTRUCTION LTD
- 10 ANIBOL NIG LTD
- 11 ANSALDO STS
- 12 BENCHIZ NIG LTD
- 13 BENCHMARK INTERNATIONAL
- 14 BILL QUANTY
- 15 BOSPALINK VENTURE
- 16 BUSSDOR COY LTD
- 17 CATAN INT.
- 18 COCEC
- 19 CHIDIMMA VENTURES
- 20 CHUOZYDEAN NIG LIMITED
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- 22 CONCEPT COMMODITIES NIG LTD
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- 40 FIRST OMOGBEMI VENTURES
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- 43 FR. RESOURCES
- 44 FREDMICHAN
- 45 GASEOUS TECHNOLOGIES
- 46 GEO RESTING LIMITED
- 47 GOD'S POWER INVESTMENT LTD
- 48 GRAMET INVESTMENT LTD
- 49 GRAND COM LTD
- 50 GRATIOM NIGERIA LIMITED
- 51 GREENBELT INT. LTD
- 52 GREAMA NIG LTD
- 53 HANOI INT. LTD
- 54 HAND FREE NIGERIA LIMITED
- 55 HAWK TRADING & CONTRACTING LIMITED
- 56 HERODES UNIVERSAL PROJECTS LTD
- 57 HOMANI ENG. COY LTD
- 58 ILY INTERNATIONAL
- 59 INTEGRATED SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGIES
- 60 JOGREM VENTURES
- 61 JUCCAZAR NIG LIMITED
- 62 KAMBILI FARMS
- 63 KAMOLA NIG LTD
- 64 KASSABALI LTD
- 65 KATAKA GLOBAL INVESTMENT
- 66 KEMAN NIG ENT.
- 67 KENBOUGH NIG LTD
- 68 KUNEP NIG LTD
- 69 LIKECHI NIG LTD
- 70 LIZZAYEM
- 71 LONAC INT.
- 72 M & S LTD
- 73 M.O. OLADEDE BLORS
- 74 MACGREG NIG LTD
- 75 MADALLA & MARBLE
- 76 MANILLA VENTURES
- 77 MANOBI
- 78 MASCO
- 79 MCFREDRICKS
- 80 MEKSRANDO GLOBAL RESOURCES
- 81 METRO TECHNICALS
- 82 MODERN MORGY & SONS LTD
- 83 NELSON BENJAMIN LTD
- 84 NEWSEED COMMUNICATION LTD
- 85 NOSTRO VENTURES
- 86 OCTAGE ARCH. & BUILDERS
- 87 ODENIGBO GENERAL WORKS
- 88 ODUTULAR NIG LTD
- 89 OKWOCHI NIG LTD
- 90 OSATECK SERVICES AGENCY
- 91 PATHLANE
- 92 PAYNA NIG LTD
- 93 PELPANDO ENGRNG & CONSTR. CO. LTD
- 94 PENHICO NIGERIA LIMITED
- 95 PETROSOGA HAGAI
- 96 PRIME TELECOMMUNICATIONS
- 97 PSE CONSULTANTS
- 98 PYRAMIDS PLC
- 99 RATISCO NIG LTD
- 100 ROBAM NIG LTD
- 101 ROBOCAR NIG LTD
- 102 RURAL NETWORK
- 103 SAM DICKS INT. LTD
- 104 SAMARI ENGRS
- 105 SAMSON ONYEMUCHE & SONS
- 106 SEA-MOUNTAIN COY
- 107 SEDA NIG LTD
- 108 SELAB FETOS
- 109 SERENGETI ENGINEERING
- 110 SHOWLAD
- 111 SIM STELLY NIG LTD
- 112 SPACE HARMONIZER
- 113 STRATEGIC RESEARCH CONSTR. LTD
- 114 SUNJU SUNNI LIMITED
- 115 SYBSTECH NIG LTD
- 116 TA. CARRIMOORE
- 117 TEK ENG. COY NIG
- 118 TEMCO ENG. LTD
- 119 TIKSHOOD ENG. LTD
- 120 TONI RICHARDSON
- 121 TUGBO ENT.
- 122 UPTOWN NIG LTD
- 123 VANKE ENTERPRISES
- 124 VAPOUR ENG. COY
- 125 VECTRA ENERGY SERVICES LTD
- 126 VENUS CONSTRUCTION COY LTD
- 127 VINEHOMES LTD
- 128 ZEF ENGINEERING

TRACK WORKS

- 1 AGON CONTINENTAL LIMITED
- 2 AGROTECH FAIRDEALS
- 3 ALHERI MECHANICALS
- 4 AMTSS NIG LTD
- 5 ANSALDO STS
- 6 CARAT ALUMINIUM LTD
- 7 COCEC
- 8 CHUOZYDEAN NIG LIMITED
- 9 DAMAS CONSTRUCTION
- 10 EAGLE LIFELINE LIMITED
- 11 EBONY X INTERNATIONAL
- 12 ECHESMCO NIG LTD
- 13 ENAKUDOS
- 14 ENFOUR GLOBAL
- 15 FAO & SONS
- 16 FEMOS
- 17 FREDMICHAN
- 18 G.O. OLADELE BROS. NIG ENT.
- 19 GACOUN
- 20 GASEOUS TECHNOLOGY
- 21 GOD'S POWER INVEST
- 22 GRAMMET
- 23 GRATIOM NIGERIA LIMITED
- 24 GREAMA NIG LTD
- 25 HAKURI CONSTRUCTION COY
- 26 HANDFREE NIGERIA LIMITED
- 27 HAWK TRADING & CONTRACTING LIMITED
- 28 HUANICS NIG
- 29 I. JOSE RESOURCES LTD
- 30 INTEGRATED SYSTEM & TECHNOLOGY
- 31 JUCCAZAR NIG LIMITED
- 32 KASABALI LTD
- 33 KATAKA GLOBAL INVEST
- 34 KEYSTONE ZONE CONSTRUCTION LTD
- 35 LANE NIG LTD
- 36 M & S LTD
- 37 MANARI
- 38 MANILLA VENTURES
- 39 MASCO
- 40 MC FREDRICKS
- 41 MEKSRANDO GLOBAL RESOURCES
- 42 METRO TECHNICALS LTD
- 43 NEWSEED COMMUNICATION LTD
- 44 ODUTULAR NIG LTD
- 45 OSATECK SERVICES AGENCY
- 46 OSCAR ASSO. LTD
- 47 OSDEZ
- 48 PATHLANE
- 49 PELPANDO ENGRNG & CONSTR. CO. LTD
- 50 PENHICO NIGERIA LIMITED
- 51 SEDA NIG LTD
- 52 SELAB FETOS
- 53 SHAMMAAH NIG LTD
- 54 SHOWLAD
- 55 SOVCHI MARBLES & FLOORS CO.
- 56 TAROWEI CONSTR. NIG LTD
- 57 TUGBO
- 58 VANKE ENTERPRISES
- 59 VECTRA ENERGY SERVICES LTD
- 60 VENUS CONSTRUCTION COY LTD
- 61 VIP PROFILE LTD
- 62 WUJIL LTD
- 63 YVANKE ENTERPRISES

PROCUREMENT OF TRACK MAINTENANCE MATERIALS

- 1 A TO Z BUILDING MATERIALS
- 2 A.N. MAY (NIG) ENTERPRISES
- 3 AGROTECH FAIRDEALS
- 4 AIMS NIG LTD
- 5 ALBRYTE GLOBAL LINKS
- 6 ALCONSERVE NIG LTD
- 7 ALHERI MECHANICAL SERVICES
- 8 AMSPEC INTEGRATED
- 9 ANU NIG COY
- 10 APPLE GALLERY NIG LTD
- 11 BANDY TECHNICAL NIG LTD
- 12 BEENAT INT. COY LTD
- 13 BENCHMARK
- 14 BODYGUARD
- 15 BOSPALINK VENTURES
- 16 C.H. MACSON ENT. NIG
- 17 C.J. & B
- 18 CARAT ALUMINIUM
- 19 COCEC
- 20 CLAIRE MICHAEL LTD
- 21 COACH INTEGRATED SERVICES
- 22 CROSS SKY INTL LTD
- 23 CYRAX INV. LTD
- 24 DAMAS CONSTRUCTION
- 25 DEACOTEZ
- 26 DEE INVESTMENT LTD
- 27 DEOKEN LTD
- 28 DESIGN COMPANY NIG LTD
- 29 DEXSO NIG LTD
- 30 DIAMATRIX
- 31 EBONY X INT LTD
- 32 ETECH
- 33 ELBRE - N NIG LTD
- 34 ELDA NIG LTD
- 35 EL-SABBATI NIG LTD
- 36 EMTAG NIG LTD
- 37 ENAKUDOS
- 38 ENFOUR GLOBAL
- 39 EQUINOX NIG LTD
- 40 EXENIA INT. LTD
- 41 F.O. BUNGBEE ENT.
- 42 FABIK TREASURE NIKE
- 43 FADSHA MULTIPLE TRANSACTIONS LTD
- 44 FAMOB NIG LTD
- 45 FELICIA ADORNEZ
- 46 FEMMA (NIG) LTD
- 47 FIBRE CAFE NIG. LIMITED
- 48 FIRST OMOGBEMI VENT
- 49 FIVE O NIG LTD
- 50 FIVE TEES NIG LTD
- 51 FOUNDRY METALLURGICAL SERVICES
- 52 FOUNTAIN CONTRACTS LTD
- 53 FRHAM GLOBAL VENT
- 54 FREDMICHAN INVEST LTD
- 55 G.O. OLADELE BROS NIG ENT.
- 56 GAMOFAAJ NIG
- 57 GBASO VENTURES
- 58 GEO RESTING LIMITED
- 59 GRACE FIELD ENG. SERVICES LTD
- 60 GRAMET INVESTMENT LTD
- 61 GRAND COM LTD
- 62 HAFYAK ENT. LTD
- 63 HASSAN JONATHAN & SONS
- 64 HAWK TRADING & CONTRACTING LIMITED
- 65 HEDGE INVEST
- 66 HUSO LTD
- 67 INDUSTRIAL SPARES LTD
- 68 INTEGRATED CONTRACTORS
- 69 JESMART
- 70 JOGREM VENTURES

- 71 JOMABI VENTURES
- 72 JUAN INDUSTRIES NIG LTD
- 73 JUSTY PETERS
- 74 JUTEX INTERBIZ
- 75 KAMBILI FARMS
- 76 KAMOLA NIG LTD
- 77 KARENCE NIG LTD
- 78 KASSABALI LTD
- 79 KEHTSDAS ENT.
- 80 KELA DESIGN (NIG) LTD
- 81 KLARTEK NIG LTD
- 82 LABAYAKI
- 83 LANE NIG LTD
- 84 LEADON
- 85 LEAQE
- 86 LICRON NIG LTD
- 87 LIMITLESS JLEX PPTIES LTD
- 88 LIZZAYEM
- 89 LONAC INT. LTD
- 90 LOOP INVESTMENT & RESOURCES LTD
- 91 M. CHARLES & COY LTD
- 92 MAANG NIG LTD
- 93 MAC - AL - BARKA SUPPLY COY
- 94 MAC-SYLVA NIG ENT.
- 95 MADALLA & MARBLE
- 96 MAGAL NIG LTD
- 97 MAKEN NIG LTD
- 98 MANARI
- 99 MANILLA VENT
- 100 MEKSRANDO GLOBAL VENTURES
- 101 METRO TECH
- 102 MIKEY-OLA BUILDING MATERIALS STORE
- 103 MIKKY - TAI
- 104 MINDLINK INTL LTD
- 105 MINETU VENTURES
- 106 MUHSIN INVESTMENT LTD
- 107 MULTIGATE INVEST LTD
- 108 MULTIGRADE INT. NIG
- 109 NDUKWE ENT. LTD
- 110 NECRO ENERGY SERVICES LTD
- 111 NEXT GENERATION RESOURCES LTD
- 112 NIGER CROWN NIG LTD
- 113 NYLU-ODE INT. LTD
- 114 OCTAGE ARCHITECTS & BLDRS
- 115 ODENIGBO GEN WORKS
- 116 ODUTULAR NIG LTD
- 117 OFADU
- 118 OLA-ABUDU COMMERCIAL ENT
- 119 OSATECK SERVICES AGENCY
- 120 OSDEZ NIG LTD
- 121 OWOLABI ISHOLA & CO.
- 122 PANWAY LTD
- 123 PATHLANE
- 124 PHLAMP NIG
- 125 PRECISE RESOURCES NIG LTD
- 126 PRIME TELECOM
- 127 PRISCOM ENTERPRISES
- 128 PSE CONSULTANTS LTD
- 129 RAMI RAI & CO
- 130 RAPHAEL EDWOLE & SONS
- 131 RATISCO NIG LTD
- 132 RICH & ROSE INVEST COY LTD
- 133 ROBAM NIG LTD
- 134 ROWIN NIG LTD
- 135 RONOSCAR NIG LTD
- 136 RURAL NETWORK ENG. SERVICES
- 137 SAKANDY NIG ENT.
- 138 SAMARI ENGRS
- 139 SAMSON ONYEMUCHE
- 140 SAN-MELA VENTURES
- 141 SANGWAD NIG LTD
- 142 SAVIC COY LTD
- 143 SEA-MOUNTAIN
- 144 SEDA NIG LTD
- 145 SELAB FETOS SERVICES
- 146 SEMOTAD SERVICES LTD
- 147 SHOWLAD
- 148 SINCO
- 149 SLEEVAVES INT. LTD
- 150 SOMMER & RUNGE LTD
- 151 SOVCHI MARBLE & FLOORING COY LTD
- 152 SUJUU SUNNI LIMITED
- 153 TA. CARRIMOORE
- 154 TIMSWAY INT. LTD
- 155 TINGOZ NIG ENT.
- 156 TINN & ZAYTOUN
- 157 TOPRIN NIG LTD
- 158 TRIBER CONTRACTING LTD
- 159 UBARO MARKETING COY LTD
- 160 UNIVERSAL RICHFIELD
- 161 USMANYIA NIG LTD
- 162 VANKE ENTERPRISES
- 163 VAPOUR ENG. COY
- 164 VENUS CONSTRUCTION COY LTD
- 165 VINEHOMES NIG LTD
- 166 VITSHA NIG COY LTD
- 167 WALKY NIG COY
- 168 WUJIL NIG LTD
- 169 YUSAN ENT.
- 170 YVANKE ENTERPRISES

RAILWAY STATION BUILDINGS

- 1 ABHAL VENT LTD
- 2 AFRICAN DEV. COY
- 3 AGON CONTINENTAL LIMITED
- 4 AGROTECH FAIR DEALS
- 5 AIMS NIG LTD
- 6 ALBRYTE GLOBAL LINKS
- 7 ALDA NIG LTD
- 8 ALHERI
- 9 AMRO CONTINENTAL
- 10 AMSPEC INTEGRATED SERVICES
- 11 ANCHOR MARIC
- 12 ANU NIG COY
- 13 ARCHITECTO NIS LTD
- 14 ASAKA
- 15 BAM MERCHANTS NIG LTD
- 16 BAMBRO NIG LIMITED
- 17 BENCHMARK
- 18 BOLTRADE NIG LTD
- 19 BOSPALINK VENTURES
- 20 C & G TROPICANA
- 21 CARRAT ALUMINIUM LTD
- 22 CATAN INT. LTD
- 23 COCEC
- 24 CEETOP GLOBAL SERVICES LTD
- 25 CHIDIMMA VENTURES
- 26 CHUMAX AGENCY LTD
- 27 CHUOZYDEAN NIG LIMITED
- 28 CLINARC ASSO.
- 29 COACH INTEGRATED SERVICES
- 30 COSTAIN WEST AFRICA
- 31 CROSS SKY INTL LTD
- 32 DAMAS CONSTRUCTION
- 33 DAKJUGAS INVEST LTD
- 34 DECENT BUILDERS

- 35 DESIGN COY NIG LTD
- 36 DRAGAGES
- 37 EAGLE LIFELINE LIMITED
- 38 EBONY X INTERNATIONAL
- 39 ECHESMCO NIG LTD
- 40 ELL SERVICES LTD
- 41 EMTAG NIG LTD
- 42 ENAKUDOS NIG LTD
- 43 ENFOUR GLOBAL
- 44 EREPHIL OIL SERVICES NIG LTD
- 45 EXCAVATOR INT. LTD
- 46 FABIK TREASURE NIKE NIG LTD
- 47 FADSHA MULTIPLE TRANSACTIONS LTD
- 48 FAMOB NIG LTD
- 49 FATSON NIG LTD
- 50 FEAB NIG LTD
- 51 FELICIA ADORNEZ ENT.
- 52 FIBRE CAFE NIG. LIMITED
- 53 FINGERS NIG LTD
- 54 FIRST AVENUE BOREPO NIG LTD
- 55 FIRST OMOGBEMI VENTURES
- 56 FIVE TEES
- 57 FOUNDRY & METALLURGICAL
- 58 FOUNTAIN CONTRACTS LTD
- 59 FOYAK NIG LTD
- 60 FR RESOURCES
- 61 FRHAM NIG LTD
- 62 G.O. OLADELE BROS NIG ENT.
- 63 GAMOFAAJ NIG LTD
- 64 GASEOUS TECHNOLOGY
- 65 GEO RESTING LIMITED
- 66 GOD'S POWER INVEST LTD
- 67 GOLD COIN NIG LTD
- 68 GRAMET
- 69 GRAND COM LTD
- 70 GRATIOM NIGERIA LIMITED
- 71 GREAMA NIG LTD
- 72 HANDFREE NIGERIA LIMITED
- 73 HAWK TRADING & CONTRACTING LTD
- 74 HYMAC ENG. & COSTR. NIG LTD
- 75 IDB DEVELOPMENT JOINT VEN. LTD
- 76 INTEGRATED CONTRACTORS
- 77 INTEGRATED SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGIES
- 78 JC TERESE LTD
- 79 JEMALDO ENT. NIG
- 80 JOMABI VENTURES
- 81 JUCCAZAR NIG LIMITED
- 82 JUSTYPETERS
- 83 JUTEX INTERBIZ
- 84 KADSY GLOBAL SERVICES LTD
- 85 KARENCE NIG LTD
- 86 KASSABALI LTD
- 87 KEHTSDAS ENT.
- 88 KENBOUGH NIG LTD
- 89 KING O INTERNATIONAL
- 90 KROSS HARBOR
- 91 KUDMO OYSTER COY
- 92 LABAYAKI NIG LTD
- 93 LIMITLESS JLEX PPTIES LTD
- 94 LIZZAYEM
- 95 LONAC INT. LTD
- 96 M.O. OLADEDE BLDRS
- 97 MAC-AL-BARKA SUPPLY COMPANY
- 98 MACGREG NIG LTD
- 99 MAGOL NIG LTD
- 100 MANARI ENT.
- 101 MANILLA VENTURES
- 102 MASCO ASSO. LTD
- 103 MCFREDRICKS
- 104 METRO TECHNICAL
- 105 MINDLINK INT LTD
- 106 MODERN MORGY & SONS LTD
- 107 MUHSIN NIG LTD
- 108 NAFIYA - RHASAM NIG LTD
- 109 NELSON BENJAMIN LTD
- 110 NERUSKEVIN CONSTRUCTION CO.
- 111 NEWSEED COMMUNICATION LTD
- 112 NEWWORLD CORP. BUSINESS VENTURES LTD
- 113 NIGER CROWN NIG LTD
- 114 NOORANS INT. VENT
- 115 NYLU-ODE INT. LTD
- 116 O.G.FORTUNES
- 117 ODENIGBO GEN. WORKS
- 118 ODUTULAR NIG LTD
- 119 OLA-ABUDU COY ENT
- 120 OMOLEWOMU NIG LTD
- 121 ONYETECH VENT & SONS
- 122 OSATECK SERVICES AGENCY
- 123 OSDEZ NIG LTD
- 124 PANWAY LTD
- 125 PARTHENON ACROPOLIS
- 126 PATHLANE
- 127 PAYNA NIG LTD
- 128 PELPANDO ENGRNG & CONSTR. CO. LTD
- 129 PENHICO NIGERIA LIMITED
- 130 PETROCHEM OIL & GAS SUPPORTS
- 131 PETROSOGA - HAGGAI LTD
- 132 POCHEE IND. SERVICES
- 133 PRECISE RESOURCES
- 134 PRO DEVELOPMENT LTD
- 135 PSE CONSULTANTS
- 136 RAPHAEL EDWOLE & SONS
- 137 RASJA NIG LTD
- 138 RATISCO NIG LTD
- 139 RENO STRUCTURES
- 140 RESEARCH CONTRACTS TRADING COY
- 141 ROBAM NIG LTD
- 142 RURAL NETWORK ENG. SERVICES
- 143 SAMARI ENGRS
- 144 SAMSON ONYEMUCHE
- 145 SANGWAD NIG LTD
- 146 SEACROSS AGENCY
- 147 SEA-MOUNTAIN COY NIG LTD
- 148 SELAB FETOS SERVICES
- 149 SHOWLAD
- 150 SOVCHI MARBLE & FLOORING COY LTD
- 151 SPACE HARMONIZER
- 152 SPECPHARM LTD
- 153 STACIA GLOBAL LTD
- 154 STE ROBERTS LTD
- 155 STEEL INTEGRATED VENT.
- 156 SUDGERDS RESOURCES
- 157 SUNEX
- 158 SUNJU SUNNI LIMITED
- 159 SYBSTECH NIG LTD
- 160 TA. CARRIMOORE & CO NIG
- 161 TAOLIBE CONCEPT NIG
- 162 TEMCO NIG LTD
- 163 THEROCK CONSTR. LTD
- 164 TIKSHOOD ENG. LTD
- 165 TINGOZ NIG ENT.
- 166 TODARS VENTURES & COY
- 167 TONI RICHARDSON
- 168 TOP GOLDEN NIG LTD
- 169 TRANSACTOR SYSTEM NIG LTD
- 170 TRUMPS INV. LTD
- 171 TUGBO ENT.
- 172 USMANYIA
- 173 VANKE ENT.
- 174 VAPOUR ENG. COY

SIGNAL AND COMMUNICATION

- 1 A.A.C CONSULTING
- 2 AFFONYX COMPUTERS ENGRS. & COY LTD
- 3 AGROTECH FAIRDEALS
- 4 ALPHA - SOLAR NIG LTD
- 5 ANSALDO STS GROUP
- 6 APPLE GALLERY NIG LTD
- 7 AUDADAT ENTERPRISES
- 8 BAM INTRO TECH
- 9 BENCHIZ NIG LTD
- 10 BENCHMARK INT. LTD
- 11 BLUECAM NIG LTD
- 12 BOASIS COMPANY LTD
- 13 BRIDGER SOLUTION & NWORK LTD
- 14 CARAT ALUMINIUM LTD
- 15 CASMAG ENERGY LTD
- 16 COCEC
- 17 COACH INTEGRATED SERVICES
- 18 COBI COMPUTERS SERVICES LTD
- 19 CONCEPT COMMODITIES NIG LTD
- 20 CONTINENTAL FOUNDRY NIG LTD
- 21 CORBE NIG LTD
- 22 DIALOGUE AND QUORUM NIG LTD
- 23 DIAMOND RICH
- 24 DIZZENGOFF
- 25 EBONY X INT LTD
- 26 ENAKUDOS NIG LTD
- 27 EQUINOX NIG. LTD
- 28 EXENIA INT. LTD
- 29 FABIK TREASURE AND NIKE NIG LTD
- 30 FATSON NIG LTD
- 31 FELICIA ADORNEZ
- 32 FINGERS NIG LTD
- 33 FIRST OMOGBEMI VENTURES NIG LTD
- 34 FIVE O NIG LTD
- 35 FIVE TEES NIG LTD
- 36 FRHAM NIG LTD
- 37 GACOUN NWEZEH ENTERPRISES
- 38 GASEOUS TECHNOLOGIES LTD
- 39 GBASO VENTURES
- 40 GRACEFIELD ENGINEERING SERVICES LTD
- 41 GRAMET INVESTMENT LTD
- 42 GRAND COMMUNICATIONS
- 43 GREEN POWER OVER SEAS LTD
- 44 HADAB'S VENTURES LTD
- 45 HALL RESOURCES LTD
- 46 HANDBASH TECH TRANSFER LIMITED
- 47 HARDENSOFT (NIG) LTD
- 48 HUANICIS NIG LTD
- 49 I.M.R. INFORMATION MGT. RESOURCES NIG LTD
- 50 ILY INTERNATIONAL
- 51 INTERLINKED TECHNOLOGIES PLC
- 52 JOGREM VENTURES
- 53 JUAN IND. NIG LTD
- 54 JUSTY PETER
- 55 KANFE OLUWANISOLA
- 56 KLARTEK NIG LTD
- 57 KROSS HARBOR
- 58 KUNEP NIG LTD
- 59 LICRON NIG LTD
- 60 LIKECHI NIG LTD
- 61 LUBOJ ENTERPRISES
- 62 MAC-AL-BARKA SUPPLY COMPANY
- 63 MANARI ENTERPRISES
- 64 MARVOKOR INVESTMENT LTD
- 65 MEDIATRONICS
- 66 METRO TECHNICALS LTD
- 67 MINETU VENTURES
- 68 MOBIK CONSULT
- 69 MULTIGATE INVEST LTD
- 70 N.D.S. TECHNOLOGY LTD
- 71 NECRO ENERGY SERVICES LTD
- 72 NEFA
- 73 NEWSBREAK INT. COMMUNICATIONS LTD
- 74 NIGER CROWN NIG LTD
- 75 OAKLEY INT. AGENCY LTD
- 76 ODENIGBO NIG LTD
- 77 OFADU VENTURES
- 78 OKWOCHI NIG LTD
- 79 ONOHI COMMUNICATIONS LTD
- 80 OSDEZ NIG LTD
- 81 P.S.E CONSULTANTS LTD
- 82 PAN-WAY LTD
- 83 PA-PET GLOBAL VENTURES LTD
- 84 PATHLANE ENGINEERING SERVICES LTD
- 85 PELPANDO ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION CO LTD
- 86 PYRICH GLOBAL
- 87 QUAY ENGINEERING NIG LTD
- 88 RAPHAEL EDWOLE & SONS
- 89 RASJA NIG LTD
- 90 RICH AND ROSE INVESTMENT COY LTD
- 91 ROMINT NIG LTD
- 92 RURAL NETWORK ENGINEERING SERVICES LTD
- 93 SAKANDY NIG ENTERPRISES
- 94 SAMARI ENGINEERS
- 95 SAMSON ONYEMUCHE & SONS
- 96 SAN-MELA VENTURES LTD
- 97 SEGADE ENGINEERING SERVICES
- 98 SELAB FETOS SERVICES
- 99 SEMOTAD SERVICES LTD
- 100 SISTA MYKE NIG LTD
- 101 SOVCHI MARBLE AND FLOORING COY LTD
- 102 SPECTRUM COMMUNICATION SERVICES LTD
- 103 STAREX NIG LTD
- 104 SUDGERDS NIG LTD
- 105 TELNET NIG LTD
- 106 TELVENT TRANSGLOBAL LTD
- 107 TEMPLE COMMUNICATION
- 108 TINGOZ NIG LTD
- 109 TRIBER CONTRACTING LTD
- 110 UNIVERSAL GLOBAL CONCEPTS & PROJECT LTD
- 111 VANKE ENTERPRISES
- 112 VAPOUR ENGINEERING COMPANY
- 113 VEDEOCENTRIC NIG LTD
- 114 YUSAN ENTERPRISES
- 115 Z-GATES INTEGRATED CONCEPTS LTD
- 116 ZIMAK TECH NIG LTD

MECHANICAL / ELECTRICAL WORKS

- 1 A.I. AND ASSOCIATES
- 2 ABHAL VENTURES LTD
- 3 AFRICAN DEV. COY
- 4 AGROTECH FAIR DEAL
- 5 AIMS NIG LTD
- 6 AL-BARKA CONST. COY
- 7 ALFA BUSINESS NIG LTD

- 8 ALHERI MECHANICAL SERVICES
- 9 ALPHA - SOLAR (NIG) LTD
- 10 AMPHIBIOUS INFRASTRUCT LTD
- 11 ANIBOL NIG LTD
- 12 ANSALDO STS
- 13 ANU NIG COY
- 14 AROWHILL TELE
- 15 AYYG & SONS NIG LTD
- 16 BAKABSF NIG LTD
- 17 BAKR VENTURES
- 18 BAM INTRO TECH
- 19 BANDY TECHNICAL NIG LTD
- 20 BEENAT INT. COY LTD
- 21 BENCHIZ NIG LTD
- 22 BENCHMARK INT
- 23 BEVERLY HILLS VENTURES
- 24 BISTAS & GATE LTD
- 25 BOASIS NIG LTD
- 26 BOKUM RESOURCES
- 27 BOSPALINK VENTURES
- 28 BROWN BRIDGE LTD
- 29 BUKOLA CONCEPTS
- 30 BUSSDOR & CO LTD
- 31 CARAT ALUMINIUM LTD
- 32 CASTLAT NIG LTD
- 33 CATAN NIG LTD
- 34 CHIDIMMA VENTURES
- 35 CHUBUYCHEK NIG LTD
- 36 CONCEPT COMMODITIES NIG
- 37 CONTINENTAL FOUNDRY LTD
- 38 CORBE NIG LTD
- 39 DEKORKEM LTD
- 40 DEL-AZEEZ ENT.
- 41 DELKO HOLDINGS NIG LTD
- 42 DEKEIN NIG LTD
- 43 DEWEP ENTERPRISES NIG
- 44 DIAMOND RICH CONSORTIUM
- 45 DIMAPS GLOBAL
- 46 DURABLE INV. COY LTD
- 47 DUTY & ASSOCIATES ENERGY LTD
- 48 EBONY X INTL LTD
- 49 ECHESMCO NIG LTD
- 50 ELBRE - N & CO.
- 51 ELDA NIG LTD
- 52 ENAKUDOS NIG LTD
- 53 ENFOUR GLOBAL INV. LTD
- 54 EQUINOX NIG LTD
- 55 EREPHIL OIL SERVICES NIG LTD
- 56 EXENIA INT. LTD
- 57 F.THECLA VENTURES LTD
- 58 FABIK TREASURE
- 59 FAMOB NIG LTD
- 60 FATSON
- 61 FELICIA ADORNEZ ENT.
- 62 FIBRE CAFE NIG. LIMITED
- 63 FINGERS NIG LTD
- 64 FIRST OMOGBEMI VENTURES
- 65 FIVE O NIG LTD
- 66 FIVE TEES NIG LTD
- 67 FORTRAM NIG LTD
- 68 FOUNDRY & METALLURGICAL SERVICES
- 69 FREDMICHAN INV. LTD
- 70 GAMOFAAJ NIG LTD
- 71 GASEOUS TECHNOLOGY
- 72 GAUCHI LTD
- 73 GAUCHI LTD
- 74 GRASO VENTURES
- 75 GBED VENTURES
- 76 GEO RESTING LIMITED
- 77 GEZHL LTD
- 78 GODSPOWER INV. LTD
- 79 GRAMOT INV. LTD
- 80 GRAND COMBAS LTD
- 81 GREENPOWER OVERSEAS LTD
- 82 HADAB'S VENTURES LTD
- 83 HAFYAK ENT.
- 84 HALL RESOURCES LTD
- 85 HOLDTRADE
- 86 ILY INTERNATIONAL
- 87 INTEGRATED CONTRACTORS
- 88 JOGREM VETURES LTD
- 89 JOHN FRANK TECH. SERVICES
- 90 JOHN WINSTON INT. LTD
- 91 JOMABI VENTURES NIG LTD
- 92 JUAN IND. NIG LTD
- 93 JUSTY PETERS NIG LTD
- 94 JUTEX INTERBIZ
- 95 K.C. SERVICES LTD
- 96 KAMB & FARMS LTD
- 97 KEHTSDAS ENT.
- 98 KEYSTONE ZONE CONTRACTORS INTL LTD
- 99 KIYAD NIG LTD
- 100 KUDMO CONST. COY LTD
- 101 LABAYAKI NIG LTD
- 102 LAGANT LTD
- 103 LANE LIMITED
- 104 LANE NIG LTD
- 105 LEAQE VENTURES
- 106 LIKECHI NIG LTD
- 107 LIKECHI NIG LTD
- 108 LUBA ENTERPRISES
- 109 LUBOJ ENTERPRISES
- 110 MAC-SYLVA NIG LTD
- 111 MAKEN NIG LTD
- 112 MARITAY NIG LTD
- 113 MCFREDRICK
- 114 MEKSRANDO GLOBAL RESOURCES
- 115 MER ENGRG LTD
- 116 METRO TECHNICALS LTD
- 117 MIKEY - OLA BUILDING
- 118 MINDLINK INT. LTD
- 119 MOLEF ENGINEERING
- 120 NECHMARK NIG LTD
- 121 NIGERIAN MACHINE TOOL
- 122 OCTAGE ARCH & BUILDING
- 123 ODENIGBO GEN WORKS
- 124 OFADU VENTURES
- 125 OKWOCHI NIG LTD
- 126 ONYETECH VENTURES & SALES
- 127 PANWAY LTD
- 128 PA-PET GLOBAL VENT. LTD
- 129 PATHLANE
- 130 PETRO SOGA HAGGAI LTD
- 131 PINE OIL & GAS LTD
- 132 POLAMP NIG
- 133 PRIME TELECOMMUNICATIONS
- 134 PRISCOM ENTERPRISES
- 135 PSE CONSULTANTS LTD
- 136 RAMOS SERVICES
- 137 R.I. MBAH & CO
- 138

- 190 SAKANDY NIG LTD
151 SALEMOT INT. COY
152 SAMARI ENGINEERING
153 SAMSON ONYEMUCHE
154 SANGUINE OIL AND GAS LTD
155 SAN-MELA VENTURES
156 SEGAGE ENG. SERVICES
157 SELAB FESTOS
158 SERENGETI ENGINEERING
159 SERVICE MASTER LTD
160 SESEDA NIG LTD
161 SIMSOLOMON
162 SIMTECH CONST. MERCH NIG LTD
163 SINDY-OLLAR LTD
164 SOMMER & RUNGE LTD
165 SONATOLA LTD
166 SOVCH MARBLE & FLOORING CO LTD
167 SPEEDY CARRIERS LTD
168 STAR SIGHT PROTECTION
169 STAREX NIG LTD
170 STE ROBERTS
171 STEL INTEGRATED
172 STEVONE ENGINEERING
173 SUDGERDS RESOURCES LTD
174 SUNJU SUNNI LIMITED
175 TA. CARRIMOORE & CO. NIG
176 TAOLBE CONCEPT NIG LTD
177 TASSAT VENTURES
178 TECHPLAN NIG LTD
179 TKSHOOD ENGINEERING
180 TINN & ZAYTUN
181 TINOLA GLOBAL
182 TOBRING NIG LTD
183 TOP GOLDEN NIG. LTD.
184 TRIBER ASSOCIATE
185 UBABRO MARKETING CO
186 UNIVERSAL RICHFIELD LTD
187 VALLY TECH NIG LTD
188 VANKE INT. LTD
189 VAPOUR ENGINEERING COY
190 VECTRA
191 VISTA & GATES
192 WEMAK CONCEPTS LTD
193 WESTMARK LTD
194 WHITE CIRCLE
195 WUJIL NIG LTD
196 YGD & SONS NIG LTD
197 YUSAN ENT
198 YUSUF DAUDA NIG. LTD

TRACK WORKS

- 1 AGON CONTINENTAL LIMITED
2 AGROTECH FAIR DEALS
3 ALHERI MECHANICALS
4 AMTSS NIG LTD
5 ANSALDO STS
6 CARAT ALUMINIUM LTD
7 CCECC
8 CHUOZYDEAN NIG LIMITED
9 DAMAS CONSTRUCTION
10 EAGLE LIFELINE LIMITED
11 EBONY X INTERNATIONAL
12 ECHEMSCO NIG LTD
13 ENAKUDOS
14 ENFOUR GLOBAL
15 F&O & SONS
16 FEMOS
17 FREDMICHAN
18 G.O. GLADELLE BROS. NIG. ENT.
19 GADDUN
20 GASEOUS TECHNOLOGY
21 GOD'S POWER INVEST
22 GRAMMET
23 GRATICO NIGERIA LIMITED
24 GREAMA NIG LTD
25 HAKURI CONSTRUCTION COY
26 HANDFREE NIGERIA LIMITED
27 HAWK TRADING & CONTRACTING LIMITED
28 HUANCIS NIG
29 J. JOSE RESOURCES LTD
30 INTEGRATED SYSTEM & TECHNOLOGY
31 JUCAZZAR NIG LIMITED
32 KASABALI LTD
33 KATANKA GLOBAL INVEST
34 KEYSTONE ZONE CONSTRUCTION LTD
35 LANE NIG LTD
36 M & S LTD
37 MANARI
38 MANILLA VENTURES
39 MASCOOT
40 MC FREDRICKS
41 MEKSRANDO GLOBAL RESOURCES
42 METRO TECHNICALS LTD
43 NEWSPEED COMMUNICATION LTD
44 ODUTILAR NIG LTD
45 OSATECH SERVICES AGENCY
46 OSCAR ASSO. LTD
47 OSDEZ
48 PATHLANE
49 PELPANDO ENGRNG & CONSTR. CO. LTD
50 PENHICO NIGERIA LIMITED
51 SEDA NIG LTD
52 SELAB FESTOS
53 SHAMMAAH NIG LTD
54 SHOWLAD
55 SOVCHI MARBLES & FLOORS CO.
56 TARIKHWI CONSTR. NIG LTD
57 TUGBO
58 VANKE ENTERPRISES
59 VECTRA ENERGY SERVICES LTD
60 VENUS CONSTRUCTION COY LTD
61 VIP PROFILE LTD
62 WUJIL LTD
63 YVANKE ENTERPRISES

BRIDGES AND CULVERTS WORKS

- 1 A.N. MAY NIG. ENT.
2 AFRICAN DEV. COY
3 AGON CONTINENTAL LIMITED
4 AGROTECH FAIR DEALS
5 ALBRYTE GLOBAL LINKS
6 ALHERI MECHANICALS
7 ALLIED VYTEX
8 ALMOND BUSINESS SYSTEM
9 AMRO CONTINENTAL LTD
10 ANIBOL NIG LTD
11 ANSALDO STS
12 BENCHMCH INTERNATIONAL
13 BENCHMARK INTERNATIONAL
14 BILL QUANTY
15 BOSPALINK VENTURE
16 BUSSDOR COY LTD
17 CARAT ALUMINIUM LTD
18 CATAN INT.
19 CCECC
20 CHIDIMMA VENTURES
21 CHUOZYDEAN NIG LIMITED
22 COACH INTEGRATED SERVICES
23 CONCEPT COMMODITIES NIG LTD
24 CONSEL INT. LTD
25 CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS NIG LTD
26 DAMAS CONSTRUCTION
27 DLU GROUP LTD
28 DULUMAC
29 EAGLE LIFELINE LIMITED
30 EBONY X INTERNATIONAL
31 EHECH
32 ENAKUDOS NIG LTD
33 ENFOUR GLOBAL
34 EXCAVATOR INT. LTD
35 F&O & SONS
36 FABIK TREASURE NIKE
37 FEBAB NIG LTD
38 FELICIAADORNEZ ENTERPRISES
39 FIBRE CAFE NIG LIMITED
40 FIRST AVENUE BOREPO NIG LTD
41 FIRST OMOGBEMI VENTURES
42 FIVE TEES NIG LTD
43 FOUNTAIN CONTRACTS
44 FR. RESOURCES
45 FREDMICHAN
46 GASEOUS TECHNOLOGIES
47 GEO RESTING LIMITED
48 GOD'S POWER INVESTMENT LTD
49 GRAND COM. LTD
50 GRATICO NIGERIA LIMITED
51 GREAMA NIG LTD
52 GREENBELL INT. LTD
53 HAND FREE NIGERIA LIMITED
54 HAWK TRADING & CONTRACTING LIMITED
55 HEROES UNIVERSAL PROJECTS LTD
56 HOMAN ENG. COY LTD
57 ILY INTERNATIONAL
58 INTEGRATED SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGIES
59 JOGREM VENTURES
60 JUCAZZAR NIG LIMITED
61 KAMBILI FARMS
62 KAMOLA NIG LTD
63 KASSABALI LTD
64 KATANKA GLOBAL INVESTMENT
65 KEMAN NIG ENT
66 KENBOUGH NIG LTD
67 KUNEPI NIG LTD
68 LIKECHI NIG LTD
69 LIZZAYEM
70 LONAC INT.
71 M & S LTD
72 M.O. GLADEINDE BLDRS
73 M.O. GLADEINDE BLDRS
74 MACGREG NIG LTD
75 MADALLA & MARUZ
76 MANILLA VENTURES
77 MANOBI
78 MASCOOT
79 MCFREDRICKS
80 MEKSRANDO GLOBAL RESOURCES
81 METRO TECHNICALS
82 MODERN MORGY & SONS LTD
83 NELSON BENJAMIN LTD
84 NEWSPEED COMMUNICATION LTD
85 NOSTRO VENTURES
86 OCTAGE ARCH. & BUILDERS
87 ODENKBO GENERAL WORKS
88 ODUTILAR NIG LTD
89 OKWOCHI NIG LTD
90 OSATECH SERVICES AGENCY
91 PATHLANE
92 PELPANDO ENGRNG & CONSTR. CO. LTD
93 PENHICO NIGERIA LIMITED
94 PETRO-SOGA HAGAI
95 PRIME TELECOMMUNICATIONS
96 PSE CONSULTANTS
97 PYRAMIDS PLC

PROCUREMENT OF TRACK MAINTENANCE MATERIALS

- 1 A TO Z BUILDING MATERIALS
2 A.N. MAY INT. ENTERPRISES
3 AGROTECH FAIR DEALS
4 AIMS NIG LTD
5 ALBRYTE GLOBAL LINKS
6 ALCOMSERVE NIG LTD
7 ALHERI MECHANICAL SERVICES
8 AMTSS INTEGRATED
9 ANJLI NIG COY
10 APPLE GALLERY NIG LTD
11 BANDY TECHNICAL NIG LTD
12 BEENAT INT. COY LTD
13 BENCHMCH
14 BUDYGUARD
15 BOBRIKASH VENTURES
16 C.H. MAMSON ENT. NIG
17 C.J. & B.
18 CARAT ALUMINIUM
19 CCECC
20 CLAUDE MICHAEL LTD
21 COACH INTEGRATED SERVICES
22 CROSS SKY INTL LTD
23 CYRAX INT. LTD
24 DAMAS CONSTRUCTION
25 DEADOTEL
26 DEE INVESTMENT LTD
27 DECKEIN LTD
28 DESIGN COMPANY NIG LTD
29 DEBO NIG LTD
30 DIAMATRIX
31 EBONY X INTL LTD
32 EHECH
33 ELBRE - N NIG LTD
34 ELDA NIG LTD
35 EL-SABATTI NIG LTD
36 EMTAG NIG LTD
37 ENAKUDOS
38 ENFOUR GLOBAL
39 EQUINOX NIG LTD
40 EXENIA NIG LTD
41 F.O. SURGERS ENT
42 FABIK TREASURE NIKE
43 FADSHAM MULTIPLE TRANSACTIONS LTD
44 FAMOB NIG LTD
45 FELICIAADORNEZ
46 FENMA NIG LTD
47 FIBRE CAFE NIG LIMITED
48 FIRST OMOGBEM VENT
49 FIVE D NIG LTD
50 FIVE TEES NIG LTD
51 FOUNDRY & METALLURGICAL SERVICES
52 FOUNTAIN CONTRACTS LTD
53 FRHAM LIFELINE

RAILWAY STATION BUILDINGS

- 1 ABHAL VENT LTD
2 AFRICAN DEV. COY
3 AGON CONTINENTAL LIMITED
4 AGROTECH FAIR DEALS
5 AIMS NIG LTD
6 ALBRYTE GLOBAL LINKS
7 ALDA NIG LTD
8 ALHERI
9 AMRO CONTINENTAL
10 ANSPICE INTEGRATED SERVICES
11 ANCHOR MARC
12 ANU NIG COY
13 ARCHITECTURE NIG LTD
14 ASAKA
15 BAM MERCHANTS NIG LTD
16 BAMBO NIG LIMITED
17 BENCHMCH
18 BOLTRAD NIG LTD
19 BOSPALINK VENTURES
20 C & G TROPICANA
21 CARAT ALUMINIUM LTD
22 CATAN INT. LTD
23 CCECC
24 CEETOP GLOBAL SERVICES LTD
25 CHIDIMMA VENTURES
26 CHUMAX AGENCY LTD
27 CHUOZYDEAN NIG LIMITED
28 CLAVIC ASSO
29 COACH INTEGRATED SERVICES
30 COSTAIN WEST AFRICA
31 CROSS SKY INTL LTD
32 DAMAS CONSTRUCTION
33 DANJUGAS INVEST LTD
34 DECENT BUILDERS
35 DESIGN COY NIG LTD
36 DRAGAGES
37 EAGLE LIFELINE LIMITED
38 EBONY X INTERNATIONAL

SIGNAL AND COMMUNICATION

- 1 A.A.C CONSULTING
2 AFFONYX COMPUTERS ENGRS. & COY LTD
3 AGROTECH FAIR DEALS
4 ALPHA - SOLAR NIG LTD
5 ANSALDO STS GROUP
6 APPLE GALLERY NIG LTD
7 AUDAAT ENTERPRISES
8 BAM INTRO TECH
9 BENCHMCH NIG LTD
10 BENCHMCH INT. LTD
11 BLUECAM NIG LTD
12 BOASIS COMPANY LTD
13 BRIDGEER SOLUTION & NETWORK LTD
14 CARAT ALUMINIUM NIG LTD
15 CASMAG ENERGY LTD
16 CCECC
17 COACH INTEGRATED SERVICES
18 COBI COMPUTERS SERVICES LTD
19 CONCEPT COMMODITIES NIG LTD
20 CONTINENTAL FOUNDRY NIG LTD
21 CORBE NIG LTD
22 DIALOGUE AND QUORUM NIG LTD
23 DIAMOND RICH
24 DIZZENOFF LTD
25 EBONY X INT LTD
26 ENAKUDOS NIG LTD
27 EQUINOX NIG. LTD.
28 EXENIA INT LTD
29 FABIK TREASURE AND NIKE NIG LTD
30 FATSONS NIG LTD
31 FELICIAADORNEZ
32 FINGERS NIG LTD
33 FIRST OMOGBEMI VENTURES NIG LTD
34 FIVE O NIG LTD
35 FIVE TEES NIG LTD
36 FRHAM NIG LTD
37 GACOUN NYEZEH ENTERPRISES
38 GASEOUS TECHNOLOGIES LTD
39 GBASE VENTURES
40 GRACEFIELD ENGINEERING SERVICES LTD
41 GRAMMET INVESTMENT LTD
42 GRAND COMMUNICATIONS
43 GREEN POWER OVER SEAS LTD
44 HADAB VENTURES LTD
45 HALL RESOURCES LTD
46 HANDBASH TECH TRANSFER LIMITED
47 HARDENSOFT NIG LTD
48 HUANCIS NIG LTD
49 I.M.R. INFORMATION MGT. RESOURCES NIG LTD
50 ILY INTERNATIONAL
51 INTERLINK TECHNOLOGIES PLC
52 JOGREM VENTURES
53 JUAN IND. NIG LTD
54 JUSTY PETER
55 KANFE OLUWANISOLA
56 KLARTEK NIG LTD
57 KROSS HARBOUR
58 KUNEPI NIG LTD
59 LICRON NIG LTD
60 LIKECHI NIG LTD
61 LUBOU ENTERPRISES
62 MAC-AL-BARIKA SUPPLY COMPANY
63 MARAMET ENTERPRISES
64 MARYKOR INVESTMENT LTD
65 MEDIATRONICS
66 METRO TECHNICALS LTD
67 MINUTE VENTURES
68 NICHK CONSULT
69 NESTOR INVEST LTD
70 N.D.S. TECHNOLOGY LTD
71 NERO ENERGY SERVICES LTD
72 NERA
73 NEWSBREAK INT. COMMUNICATIONS LTD
74 NIGER CROWN NIG LTD
75 OAKLEY INT. AGENCY LTD
76 ODENKBO NIG LTD
77 OFADU VENTURES
78 ONCHI COMMUNICATIONS LTD
79 OSOZ NIG LTD
80 OSOZ NIG LTD
81 PSE CONSULTANTS LTD
82 PAN-WAY LTD
83 PA-PET GLOBAL VENTURES LTD
84 PATHLANE ENGINEERING SERVICES LTD
85 PELPANDO ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION CO LTD
86 PYRICH GLOBAL
87 QUAY ENGINEERING NIG LTD
88 RAPHAEL EDAWOLE & SONS
89 RASJA NIG LTD
90 RICH AND ROSE INVESTMENT COY LTD
91 ROBINET NIG LTD
92 RURAL NETWORK ENGINEERING SERVICES LTD
93 SAKANDY NIG ENTERPRISES
94 SAMARI ENGINEERS
95 SAMSON OYEMUCHE & SONS
96 SAN-MELA VENTURES LTD
97 SEGAGE ENGINEERING SERVICES
98 SELAB FESTOS SERVICES
99 SEMOTAD SERVICES LTD
100 SHADED NIG LTD
101 SISTA NYKE NIG LTD
102 SOVCHI MARBLE & FLOORING COY LTD
103 SPECTRUM COMMUNICATION SERVICES LTD
104 STAREX NIG LTD
105 SUDGERDS NIG LTD
106 TELNET NIG LTD
107 TEMPLE COMMUNICATION LTD
108 TEMPLE COMMUNICATION
109 TINGOZ NIG LTD
110 TRIBER CONTRACTING LTD
111 UNIVERSAL GLOBAL CONCEPTS & PROJECT LTD
112 VANKE ENTERPRISES
113 VAPOUR ENGINEERING COMPANY
114 VEDECENTRIC NIG LTD
115 YUSAN ENTERPRISES
116 Z-GATES INTEGRATED CONCEPTS LTD
117 ZMAK TECH NIG LTD

MECHANICAL / ELECTRICAL WORKS

- 1 A.I. AND ASSOCIATES
2 ABHAL VENTURES LTD
3 AFRICAN DEV. COY
4 AGROTECH FAIR DEAL
5 AIMS NIG LTD
6 AL-SARKA CONST. COY
7 ALFA BUSINESS NIG LTD
8 ALHERI MECHANICAL SERVICES
9 ALPH - SOLAR NIG LTD
10 AMPHIBIOUS INFRASTRUCT. LTD
11 ANBOL INT. LTD
12 ANSALDO STS
13 ANU NIG COY
14 AROWHILL TELE
15 AYYG & SONS NIG LTD
16 BAKARS NIG LTD
17 BAKR VENTURES
18 BAM INTRO TECH
19 BANDY TECHNICAL NIG LTD
20 BEENAT INT. COY LTD
21 BENCHMCH INT.
22 BEVERLY HILLS VENTURES
23 BISTAS & GATE LTD
24 BOASIS NIG LTD
25 BOKUM RESOURCES
26 BOSPALINK VENTURES
27 BROWN BRIDGE LTD
28 BUKOLA CONCEPT LTD
29 BUSSDOR & CO LTD
30 CARAT ALUMINIUM LTD

- 32 CASTLAT NIG LTD
33 CATAN NIG LTD
34 CHIDIMMA VENTURES
35 CHUBYCHEK NIG LTD
36 CONCEPT COMMODITIES NIG
37 CONTINENTAL FOUNDRY LTD
38 CORBE NIG LTD
39 DEKORILEM LTD
40 DEL AZEEZ ENT.
41 DELKO HOLDINGS NIG LTD
42 DECKEIN NIG LTD
43 DEPEP ENTERPRISES NIG
44 DIAMOND RICH CONSORTIUM
45 DIMAPS GLOBAL
46 DURABLE INV. COY LTD
47 DUTY & ASSOCIATES ENERGY LTD
48 EBONY X INTL LTD
49 ECHEMSCO NIG LTD
50 ELBRE - N A. CO.
51 ELDA NIG LTD
52 ENAKUDOS NIG LTD
53 ENFOUR GLOBAL INV. LTD
54 EQUINOX NIG LTD
55 EXEPHIL OIL SERVICES NIG LTD
56 EXENIA INTL LTD
57 F.THECLA VENTURES LTD
58 FABIK TREASURE
59 FAMOB NIG LTD
60 FATSON
61 FELICIAADORNEZ ENT.
62 FIBRE CAFE NIG LIMITED
63 FINGERS NIG LTD
64 FIRST OMOGBEMI VENTURES
65 FIVE O NIG LTD
66 FIVE TEES NIG LTD
67 FORTRAN NIG LTD
68 FOUNDRY & METALLURGICAL SERVICES
69 GAMOFAAL NIG LTD
70 GASOUL TECHNOLOGY
71 GAUCHI LTD
72 GBASE VENTURES
73 GASEOUS TECHNOLOGY
74 GAUCHI LTD
75 GBASE VENTURES
76 GRED VENTURES
77 GEO RESTING LIMITED
78 GEZHL LTD
79 GOODPOWER INV. LTD
80 GRAMOT INV. LTD
81 GRAND COMMS. LTD
82 GREENPOWER OVERSEAS LTD
83 HADAB VENTURES LTD
84 HAFYAK ENT. LTD
85 HALL RESOURCES LTD
86 HOLDTRADE
87 ILY INTERNATIONAL
88 INTEGRATED CONTRACTORS
89 JOGREM VENTURES LTD
90 JOHN FRANK TECH SERVICES
91 JOHN WINSTON INT. LTD
92 JOMABI VENTURES NIG LTD
93 JUAN IND. NIG LTD
94 JUSTY PETERS NIG LTD
95 JUTEX NIG LTD
96 K.C. SERVICES LTD
97 KAMB & FARMS LTD
98 KEHTSDAS ENT
99 KEYSTONE ZONE CONTRACTORS INTL LTD
100 KYAD NIG LTD
101 KUDMO CONST. COY LTD
102 LABAYAKI NIG LTD
103 LAGA INT. LTD
104 LANE LIMITED
105 LEADON NIG LTD
106 LEAGUE VENTURES
107 LIKECHI NIG LTD
108 LIBA ENTERPRISES
109 LIBOU ENTERPRISES
110 MAC-SILVA NIG LTD
111 MAKEN NIG LTD
112 MANOBI NIG LTD
113 MARIATY NIG LTD
114 MCFREDRICK
115 MEKSRANDO GLOBAL RESOURCES
116 MER ENGRG LTD
117 METRO TECHNICALS LTD
118 MIKEY - OLA BUILDING
119 MINILINK INT. LTD
120 MOLEF ENGINEERING
121 NECHMARK NIG LTD
122 NEWSBREAK INTL COY LTD
123 NIGERIAN MACHINE TOOL
124 OCTAGE ARCH & BUILDING
125 ODENKBO GEN. WORKS
126 OFADU VENTURES
127 OKWOCHI NIG LTD
128 ONYETECH VENTURES & SALES
129 PANWAY LTD
130 PA-PET GLOBAL VENT LTD
131 PATHLANE
132 PETRO SOGA HAGAI LTD
133 PRINE OIL & GAS LTD
134 POLAMIP NIG
135 PRIME TELECOMMUNICATIONS
136 PRISCOM ENTERPRISES
137 PSE CONSULTANTS LTD
138 R.C. AND INV. LTD
139 R.I. MBASH & CO
140 RAMOS SERVICES
141 RAPHAEL EDAWOLE & SONS
142 RATISCO NIG LTD
143 RICH AND ROSE INVEST. COY LTD
144 ROBOMICHAEL
145 ROMANT NIG LTD
146 RURAL NETWORK
147 S.K. INV. LTD
148 SAKANDY INT. COY
149 SAFETY CORP LTD
150 SAKANDY NIG LTD
151 SALEMOT INT. COY LTD
152 SAMARI ENGINEERING
153 SAMSON ONYEMUCHE
154 SANGUINE OIL AND GAS LTD
155 SAN-MELA VENTURES
156 SAN-MELA VENTURES
157 SELAB FESTOS
158 SERENGETI ENGINEERING
159 SERVICE MASTER LTD
160 SESEDA NIG LTD
161 SIMSOLOMON
162 SIMTECH CONST. MERCH NIG LTD
163 SINDY-OLLAR LTD
164 SOMMER & RUNGE LTD
165 SONATOLA LTD
166 SOVCHI MARBLE & FLOORING CO LTD
167 SPEEDY CARRIERS LTD
168 STAR SIGHT PROTECTION
169 STAREX NIG LTD
170 STE ROBERTS
171 STEL INTEGRATED
172 STEVONE ENGINEERING
173 SUDGERDS RESOURCES LTD
174 SUNJU SUNNI LIMITED
175 TA. CARRIMOORE & CO. NIG
176 TAOLBE CONCEPT NIG LTD
177 TASSAT VENTURES
178 TECHPLAN NIG LTD
179 TKSHOOD ENGINEERING
180 TINN & ZAYTUN
181 TINOLA GLOBAL
182 TOBRING NIG LTD
183 TOP GOLDEN NIG. LTD.
184 TRIBER ASSOCIATE
185 UBABRO MARKETING CO.
186 UNIVERSAL RICHFIELD LTD
187 VALLY TECH NIG LTD
188 VANKE ENT. LTD
189 VAPOUR ENGINEERING COY
190 VECTRA
191 VISTA & GATES
192 WEMAK CONCEPTS LTD
193 WESTMARK LTD
194 WHITE CIRCLE
195 WUJIL NIG LTD
196 YGD & SONS NIG LTD
197 YUSAN ENT
198 YUSUF DAUDA NIG. LTD

All pre-qualified contractors are requested to indicate/identify their area of interest and collect letters of invitation to tender, from the address below. Enquires in relation to the pre-qualification result and tendering process should be directed to:

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
Public Procurement Unit (Capital)
Nigerian Railway Corporation
Ebute-Metta, Lagos.

PLEASE NOTE: (a). Letters of invitation to tender must be collected within one week from date of this publication
(b). This publication does not guarantee award of contract to any contractor listed above.
(c). All contractors invited to tender are required to pay a non-refundable tender fee as appropriate to each area of work selected.

SIGNED
MANAGEMENT

Nigerian Prisons cont'd

CODE NO.	PROJECT TITLE	PROCESSING FEE
NPS/ITP/4QT/C/33/09	Procurement of 3 Nos. 60 70Kg Industrial Washing Machine, 3 Nos. 20Kg Industrial Dryer Machine for Kuje Industrial Prison Complex	N5,000.00
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES		
NPS/HWS/2QT/C/1/09	Procurement of 6,700 Nos. Prisoners Aluminium Feeding Pans and 4,300 Nos. Prisoners Aluminium Drinking Cups With Prison Logo and 49 Nos. Iron Cooking Pots (Size 50 Shaki Type) at Abuja (Lot A)	N5,000.00
NPS/HWS/3QT/C/2/09	Procurement of 6,700 Nos. Prisoners Aluminium Feeding Pans and 4,300 Nos. Prisoners Aluminium Drinking Cups With Prison Logo and 50 Nos. Iron Cooking Pots (Size 50 Shaki Type) at Abuja (Lot B)	N5,000.00
NPS/HWS/4QT/C/3/09	Procurement of 6,700 Nos. Prisoners Aluminium Feeding Pans and 4,300 Nos. Prisoners Aluminium Drinking Cups With Prison Logo and 63 Nos. Iron Cooking Pots (Size 40 Shaki Type) at Abuja (Lot C)	N5,000.00
PROCUREMENT UNIT		
CODE NO.	PROJECT TITLE	PROCESSING FEE
NPS/PU/3QT/C/8/09	Supply and Installation of 3 Nos. Sharp Multifunction Full Colour Copier/Printer Max 35/35 Copies In Colour and Mono With Facility to Staple and Sort and Bind at PHQ Abuja	N5,000.00

4. Vendors are required to submit documents stated hereunder:-
- Full Details of Company Profile
 - Name, e-mail address and telephone number of contact person for the project.
 - Evidence to show company's registration in Nigerian (Certificate of Incorporation with CAC)
 - Bidders to provide copies of tax clearance certificate for the immediate past three (3) years (2006, 2007 & 2008)
 - Copies of VAT Registration/Evidence of Past Remittance for Projects completed
 - Company financial details and certified audited accounts for the last three (3) years (2006, 2007 & 2008)
 - Organizational Structure, available manpower with a list of technical staff with their resumes, CVs of Principal Officers and their experiences
 - Detailed evidence of the company's ability to perform the identified services, including: Facilities Software, Hardware, Visualization facility, equipment and personnel available to support the services where necessary.
 - Evidence of relevant experience in similar service and list of similar contracts executed in the last five (5) years with verifiable evidence.
 - Satisfactory performance documents or letter of commendation for previous works if any (from at least one or two clients)
 - Availability of support services for engineering workshop.
 - Any additional information that will enhance the potential of the company
 - A Sworn affidavit certifying that none of the Prison Procurement Staff is a present Director or staff of the company.

5. DOCUMENT

Bid documents should be obtained from Procurement Department and be submitted at the same address within four weeks of this publication.

Please Note

Interested Applicants must indicate their company's name on the sealed envelop clearly marked Prisons Job with Code No.

On the account that bid documents are submitted in any other location other than the address given hereunder makes the submission invalid.

Notwithstanding the submission of the tender, Nigerian Prisons Service is neither committed nor obliged to include your company on any bidders list or to award any form of contract to your company and/or associated companies, subcontractors or agents.

Prisons will deal only with authorized officers of the tendering companies and NOT through individuals or agents.

Nigerian Prisons may decide to cancel any procurement at any stage.

7. Tender submissions for works should be in sealed two (2) separate envelopes for Technical and Financial capabilities (six copies each) while bids for supply jobs should only be for financial capability which should be addressed to Head of Procurement, Nigerian Prisons Service, Prisons Headquarters, Block F, New Extension, Area 1 Old Secretariat, P. M. B. 16 Garki-Abuja.

8. The Code No. of the project bidding for should be written at the top right hand corner of the envelope.

9. Tender opens from the date of this publication and closes at the expiration of four (4) weeks at 12.00 noon. Tender Box opening follows immediately.

Bid Opening follows immediately:

This advertisement of Invitation for Tender shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of Ministry of Interior/Nigerian Prisons Service, nor shall it entitle bidders to make any claim(s) whatsoever and/or seek any indemnity from Interior Ministry/Prisons and/or any of their partners by virtue of such bidders having responded to this advertisement. Neither will the Ministry nor Nigerian Prisons Service incur any liability in an event that the procurement is cancelled.

NOTE:

Photocopies of the processing fee receipt and acknowledge receipt obtained on submission of Tender must be kept and be presented before collection of award letters by successful bidders.

SIGNED
CONTROLLER GENERAL OF PRISONS
For: Honourable Minister of Interior



OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR-GENERAL OF FEDERATION
Federal Ministry of Works, Housing and Urban Development
No 8 Yawuri Street, Off Jere Street Garki II, Abuja

PRE-QUALIFICATION NOTICE AND INVITATION TO TENDER

1. The Office of the Surveyor-General of the Federation, wishes to pre-qualify reputable and competent companies who may wish to apply for pre-qualification and submit tenders for the underlisted projects.

2. SCOPE OF WORK**(A) Production of Street Guide**

**** Lot 1- Street of Ibadan Capital of Oyo State**

**** Lot 2 - Street Guide of Kano Municipal- capital of Kano State**

(B) African Geodetic Reference frame (AFREF)

**** Lot 3- Procurement and Installation of one (1) No. GNSS/CORS equipment (Trimble Net 8) and accessories (IGS standard) with three (3) years guarantee/maintenance period with power surge for Gembu (Taraba State)**

**** Lot 4-Procurement and installation of one (1) GNSS/CORS equipment (Trimble Net 8) and accessories (IGS standard) with three (3) years guarantee/maintenance period with power surge for Kebbi (Kebbi State)**

3. ELIGIBILITY FOR THE PRE-QUALIFICATION

To qualify for consideration, interested companies are required to supply underlisted documents

- Certificate of Incorporation with Corporate Affairs Commission
- Tax Clearance Certificate
- Details of company profile including personnel
- Evidence of technical competence and previous experience in similar projects/jobs
- For survey jobs, evidence of registration with the Surveyors Council of Nigeria (SURCON)
- Payment of non-refundable pre-qualification of N10, 000 per lot
- Evidence of attendance of AFREF Stakeholders Forum within our outside Nigeria will be of added advantage
- Any other relevant information that may enhance the chances of the company

4. SUBMISSION OF TENDERS

The pre-qualification documents must be returned in sealed envelop, marked at the top left hand corner "**Pre-Qualification document**" stating the job the company is applying for while the corresponding financial bid should also be another envelop, marked "financial bid". The two submissions i.e "Pre-qualification documents" and "financial bid" should all be enclosed in a larger envelop which must be sealed and addressed to **The Secretary, Ministerial Tenders Board, OSGOF**. The sealed envelope is to be dropped by hand into Tenders Box of the OSGOF on or before **12 noon Monday, 18th Mar, 2009**. Opening of only pre-qualification documents shall commence at 1:00pm on same day in the conference room of the OSGOF. On the next day, **19th May, 2009** at 1:00pm, the names of pre-qualified contractors will be announced and their financial bids will be opened. The financial bids submitted earlier by those that were pre-qualified will be returned to them unopened. Contractors or their representatives, NIS, NGOs and the general public are encouraged to attend, please.

5. Tender Documents are available at the Deputy-Director (Geo-Information)'s office.

Secretary,
Ministerial Tenders Board
Office of the Surveyor General of the Federation

ADVERTORIAL**NO PLAN TO IMPEACH GOVERNOR YUGUDA – BAHA**

The attention of the Bauchi State House of Assembly, has been drawn to a story published by some sections of the press captioned, “Impeachment looms in Bauchi: ANPP moves against Yuguda”, credited to the National Secretariat of the party, where it alleged launching a political offensive against the Governor, on the pretext that the party was going to use the 21 ANPP members of the House of Assembly to perfect its plan. The House regret to inform the National Secretariat of the ANPP that, political maneuver as portrayed by the concocted story had never been the best solutions to political challenges in the past and do not hope for one now or in the future.

The House wishes to categorically dissociate itself from the story and restate again that the Honourable House of Assembly is an independent entity that cannot be stampeded to achieve unpopular demand. It is also regrettable to note that the credibility and status of the once highly regarded party had abysmally been drawn into infamy by the deliberate falsification of information to the extent that it claimed to have at one time intervened to save the Governor against impeachment by the House of Assembly over allegations of corruption and money laundering as alleged in the story.

The Assembly had never mooted any plan anywhere in the country to remove the Governor. In fact, the contrary was the case as the House had recently passed a vote of confidence on the Governor, having been satisfied with the style of his administration, its prudence and accountability in the management of public funds. What makes the whole issue very unfortunate was the way the National Publicity Secretary of the party, Mr. Emma Eneukwu, dabbled into legislative issue to deliberately cause confusion which is beyond the confine of his office or that of the party.

The House wishes to restate categorically that there has never been a time a meeting to brainstorm or move to impeach the Governor was held anywhere. For the avoidance of doubt, members of the Honourable House have in the past weeks been preoccupied with special committee assignments involving a tour of all the 21 local government areas of the state. Therefore, to say that the members had relocated to Abuja to perfect an impeachment plan as alleged in the story was a misnomer.

To put the records straight, the House had never instituted any probe of the Governor on some road projects allegedly awarded without design as contained in the publication. This clearly shows the hatred of the party against Malam Isa Yuguda because no deliberation had ever been made on the floor of the House or anywhere on the issue.

On allegations of money laundering, illegal withdrawal of public funds without legislative approval, indiscriminate award of contracts and other impeachable offences, the House wishes to assure the people of Bauchi State that there is no single impeachable offence against Governor Yuguda as he has not committed any offence to warrant impeachment. Consequently, the House cannot be dragged into unnecessary controversy with the executive arm since the duo had excellent mutual working relationship.

Thus, the move by the ANPP leadership is self serving to say the least. It is unfortunate that the ANPP national headquarters has resorted to dissemination of false information to the press to demean the image of Bauchi State. It is noteworthy to state that the national leadership of the ANPP has no constitutional power to influence the House into taking unpopular decision against Governor Isa Yuguda on the flimsy excuse of defecting to a party of his choice. It is unfortunate that the House seems only relevant to the ANPP leadership whenever there is crisis as members of the House had only two meetings with its leadership since inauguration on June 13, 2007. The first was after the impeachment of the former Speaker and the second after the removal of the state chairman of the party, Malam Sani Shehu. This is despite the fact that the members had individually and collectively made enormous sacrifice for the development of the party.

Furthermore, the House will never waiver in its commitment to work harmoniously with the Executive Arm to facilitate the speedy delivery of democracy dividends to the good people of Bauchi State.

While the House respects the constitutional right of freedom of expression by the citizenry, it will not fold its arms to watch selfish politicians undermine the credibility of the media and the legislature through the sponsorship of unsubstantiated allegations capable of causing disaffection, ill-will and political instability for obvious selfish reasons. Similarly, the House will do everything possible to ensure unfettered access to information provided such is done within the confines of the law and the ethics of the journalism profession which requires balancing, fairness, objectivity and factuality.

Finally, those planning to use the House and the media to destabilize the state should have a re-think as the House will not betray the confidence of the teeming electorate of Bauchi State..

SIGNED

LAMARAABDU CHINADE
DIRECTOR INFORMATION
BAUCHI STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

INSIDE POLITICS

Ondo PDP legislators deny defection allegation

From Leye Adewumi, Akure

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) lawmakers in the Ondo State House of Assembly have dismissed the speculations that they were planning to defect en masse to the Labour Party (LP). Speaking with *Daily Trust* in Akure, a PDP lawmaker from Ilaje II, Mr. Oyebo Aladetan said the PDP legislators have no intention of dumping the party that brought them to the house. He said it would amount to ingratitude on the part of the lawmakers to dump a party that brought them into limelight. "It is only people who cannot think properly that will dump PDP at this crucial time. We lawmakers in the Ondo State House of Assembly who are PDP members cannot afford to leave our great party. "It is just a rumour being peddled by some people to discredit us. For me, I will remain in PDP because it is a party of the people. I cannot dump a party that helped me to be in the state house of assembly. I am a man of principle," he said. He condemned the increase in the number of ministries in the state from 13 to 21 by Governor Olusegun Mimiko as unnecessary. Aladetan said also that the plan to create more councils by the governor will create more problems. "This is the only state in Nigeria where we have 21 ministries. Even Lagos cannot boast of 20 ministries. This is totally wrong at a time when there is economic recession," he said.

Alkali declares for Jigawa guber race

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

One time senator from Jigawa State, Alhaji Muhammad Alkali, has declared his intention to contest for the 2011 governorship election against the incumbent, Governor Sule Lamido. Alkali, now a commissioner representing Jigawa in the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC), said in Kano at the weekend that his declaration followed series of calls from groups and individuals from within and outside the state. He said the calls on him to stand for governor might not be unconnected with the dissatisfaction of the Jigawa people with the Lamido administration. He said if voted to power, he would accord priority to social and economic development and well being of the people of the state. Alkali said he was yet to decide on which party platform to contest, though he was once a governorship aspirant of the PDP.

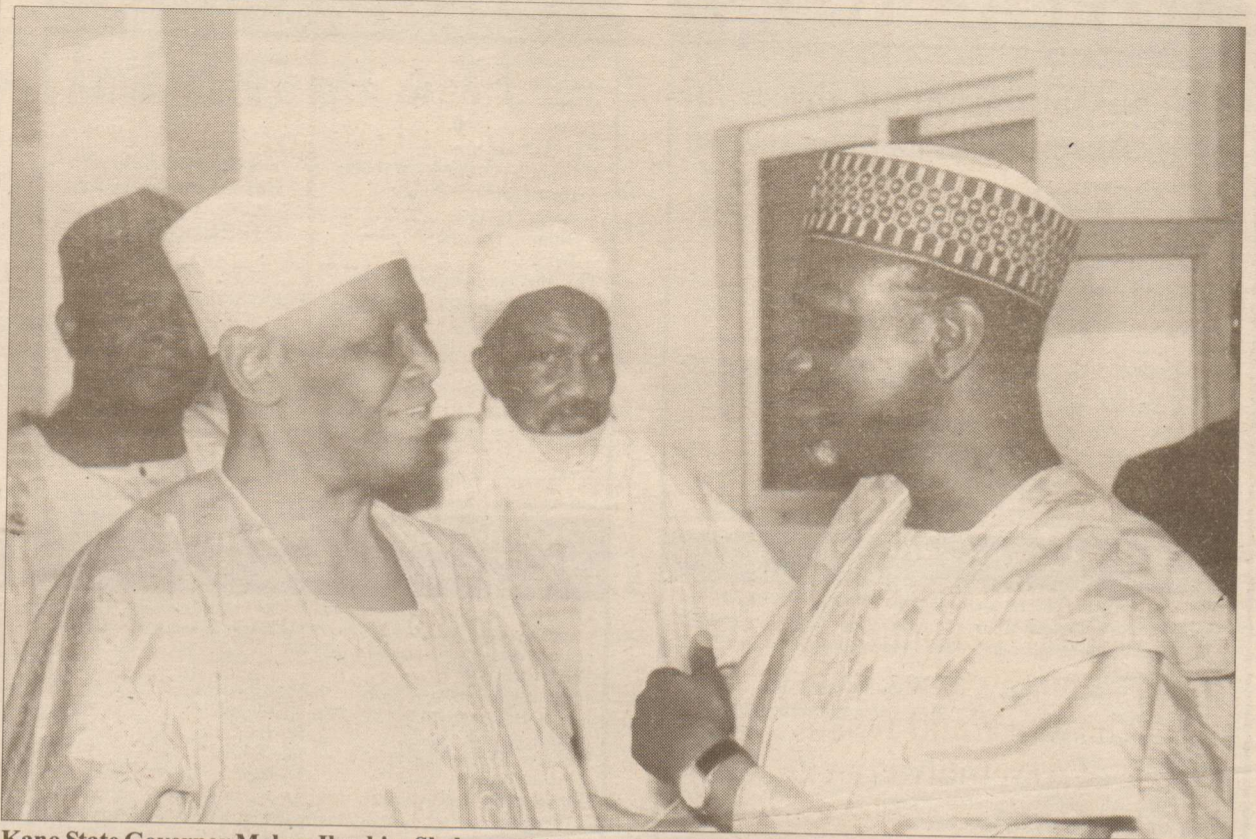
Ekiti rerun: NYSC DG to supervise corps members

The NYSC Director General, Brig.-Gen. Maharazu Tsiga, would supervise the 806 corps members deployed to Ekiti State for the April 25 re-run election. The Court of Appeal in Ilorin had nullified the election of the former governor, Segun Oni of the PDP, following the petition filed by the AC candidate, Dr Kayode Fayemi. It also ordered a re-run in 10 of the local government councils in the state. INEC had recruited 806 NYSC members to serve as poll clerks in the 64 wards. The Public Relations Officer of Ekiti Directorate of NYSC, Mrs Funso Olusoji, disclosed Tsiga's role in the poll while speaking yesterday. She said in Ado-Ekiti that the DG would be in the state to motivate and allay the fears expressed by the corps members over their participation in the election. "The NYSC boss will be here to allay the minds of the participating corps members about the alleged insecurity in the state. "He will arrive in Ado-Ekiti on April 23 and depart on April 25. He is to be accompanied by three Supervising Directors from the Headquarters in Abuja and other senior members of the scheme. "Already, some of the corps members are jittery over reports of insecurity in places like Oye-Ekiti, Ikole-Ekiti, Ise/Orun and Ilawe-Ekiti," she said. Olusoji, who said the DG would hold dialogue with the corps members, added that he would also monitor their conduct during the exercise to ensure their safety. (NAN)

Ogun senator plans N100m water project

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

Senator Lekan Mustapha, representing Ogun East, is to spend about N100m for the provision of motorised boreholes to boost water supply in his senatorial district. The Senator's Project Coordinator, Bola Badejo, said in Ijebu Ode at the weekend, that the project was part of the lawmaker's constituency projects. He said the water project will cover the entire nine local government areas of the senatorial district and will be completed before the end of Mustapha's tenure in 2011. Badejo said "the motorized boreholes will go a long way to alleviate the water problem being faced by the people of the senatorial district." He added that decision of the senator to embark on the project was to fulfill his campaign promises. "Without good water we know the dangers involved, so the senator is planning a massive water project, which we hope would be completed before 2011," Badejo said.



Kano State Governor Malam Ibrahim Shekarau (right) with the Chairman, Northern Union Dr. Abubakar Olusola Saraki, during a courtesy visit at Government House, Kano, recently. Middle is Madawakin Gwandu Alhaji Idris Koko.

Defection: We can't remove Yuguda, Speaker tells ANPP

Alhaji Babayo Gamawa, Speaker of the Bauchi State House of Assembly, says the ANPP National Leadership has no power to compel the House to impeach Governor Isa Yuguda for defecting to the PDP.

Gamawa said in Bauchi that the move by the party leadership to put pressure on the House to embark on "unnecessary controversy over the defection of the governor would be resisted." "Yuguda has not committed any offence to warrant impeachment, so, we will not allow anybody to infiltrate the House from outside for any selfish intention.

"I want to assure the people of the state that Yuguda has not committed any offence as this is not the first time that a serving governor is defecting to another party," Gamawa said.

He said two-third majority was needed to impeach the governor and that the 21 ANPP members of the House could not achieve the objective as "the presiding officer cannot vote."

The speaker described the call for Yuguda's impeachment as "selfish", saying that it was unfortunate that the national headquarters of the ANPP had resorted to disseminating false information to the press.

"I cannot remember any time when the 21 ANPP members of the House held a meeting to discuss the purported impeachment as the ANPP leadership wants the public to believe," he said.

Gamawa said the relationship between the House and the state government was excellent and that no amount of external influence could change "our collective resolve to work harmoniously with the executive arm for the betterment of the state."

He advised the media not to allowed itself to be used by "selfish politicians always ready to undermine the credibility of the media to achieve their interest". (NAN)

Niger 2011: 25 LG bosses endorse Gov Aliyu

By Muideen Olaniyi

Twenty five local government chairmen in Niger State have endorsed the candidature of Niger State Governor Muazu Babangida Aliyu for reelection in 2011.

Chairman of Edati Local Government Area Isah Liman Kantigi told newsmen yesterday in Abuja that all the chairmen in the state were in support of Aliyu for reelection because of his handling of the state especially the financial independence he upheld for the council areas.

"Since the creation of this state, I cannot talk of people respecting people's mandate. I think the development has not taken place in the local area like we have today.

"Let us take my local government as a case study where people have been surprised because of grassroots development projects. Because in a village local government area like mine, one million naira is money and it can make a lot of changes in the society.

"So, if you go there, you will see that changes we have made on the people are much more marvelous. So, in the process people now started agitating that four years is too small for a person that has the zeal to complete an assignment," he said.

Asked if all the 25 local government chairmen attended the rally held recently to show support for the governor, Kantigi said, "All the 25 local government chairmen were present at the rally. It was unknown to the governor. In fact, we were there up to about 3:30 pm before he came because they have to start looking for him that these are the people that have come because they want him to continue."

AC sure of victory in Ekiti rerun election—Fashola

Lagos State Governor Babatunde Fashola on Saturday said the Action Congress (AC) was sure of victory in the April 25 re-run governorship election in Ekiti State.

Fashola made the remarks while speaking with newsmen at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport (MMA), Lagos shortly on arrival from Ekiti.

He said AC was the only political party on ground in Ekiti State and that there was

no way the party would not win the re-run election.

"The prospect of our party in Saturday's election is obvious. We are the party on ground in Ekiti.

"We won overwhelmingly in 2007 and that was why the Court of Appeal said our votes were manipulated and that we should go and do it again.

But this time around, we are going to win hands down and protect the votes," he said.

Fashola said that with the party's strategy, it was bound to win the re-run election, adding that the electorate "know what they want and will not allow anybody to steal their votes."

"We are a very strategic people and we will leave our very strong ideology and philosophy to speak for us on Saturday.

"They know what they want. I'm just from there. You can feel victory in the air.

They can't wait for the election to happen," he added.

The court of Appeal sitting in Ilorin, Kwara State, had on Feb. 17 ordered the re-run of the governorship election in 10 local government areas of the state.

The AC governorship candidate in the state, Dr Kayode Fayemi, had filed a suit against the declaration of Mr Segun Oni as the state governor by INEC in 2007. (NAN)

TRUST CLASSIFIED

ASSOCIATION FOR NONVIOLENCE AND PEACE EDUCATORS

The general public is hereby notified that the above association with the Head Office at No. 200 Niger Street Port Harcourt Rivers State has applied for registration under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, laws of the Federation 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:-

1. Franklin George
2. Seigha Victor Glasgow
3. Inemo Joe Ekere
4. Madam Olivet Bipialaka
5. Namapele Enna

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To teach the nonviolence way of resolving community crisis, capacity and peace building through development initiatives.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5 Abuja within 26 days of this publication.

Signed:
I.B. GEORGE ESQ.
Tamunokuro Chambers
No. 5 Harold Wilson Drive
Port Harcourt

THE HOLY SALVATION ZION CHURCH OF GOD

This is to notify the general public that the above named Church has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for Registration under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matter Act 1990.

The Trustee are:

- 1). Bishop Dr. Moses Falola
- 2). Rev. Mother Esther Falola
- 3). Elder Michael Saula
- 4). Lady Captain Elizabeth Saula
- 5). Elder Erijuwon Falola

Aims & Objectives:

1. To preach the Gospel of Lord Jesus Christ
 2. To build individuals as Ministers of God
 3. To win souls into the Kingdom of God
 4. To mould people's lives in a decent and Godly manner
 5. To show people the light i.e word of God
 6. To proclaim the gospel of God as contained in the Holy Bible
 7. To propagate the Gospel of Jesus Christ through indoor and
- Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) P.M.B 198, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
ELDER MICHAEL SAULA
07028060674, 08033003669.

GREEN HEARTS CHARITY INITIATIVE

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Initiative has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. CHINYERE IKOH
2. JOSEPH OFIAH
3. ENYINNA NWIGWE

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE:

1. To promote charity work in the society
2. To provide scholarship to the indigent student
3. To assist the less privilege in the society
4. To cater for the welfare of the members

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, P.M.B 198 Garki, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

Signed:
BARR. STEPHANIE ADELEYE

INITIATIVE FOR BREAKING BARRIERS IN WOMEN & YOUTH DEV. IN NIG.

This is to notify the general public that the above named Organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap 59, 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. QUEENETH TAWO
2. MUSA ISHOLA SALAMI
3. OKORIE MOHAMMAD OKWUDIRI
4. KENYE H.J. GAGER
5. GLADYS MENSAH

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To promote the empowerment of individuals, communities and institutions through capacity building for effective programs management.
 2. Strengthen capacity of communities, public and private institutions and CSOs/CBOs to mainstream reproductive health and HIV and AIDS to minimize stigma and discrimination for vulnerable and most at risk groups.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B. 198 Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
C.A.N. NWACHUKWU
(SOLICITOR)

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of Original Certificate of Occupancy No. 19381, allocated to me in 1991 by the Kaduna State Government. The Plot is situated in Igabi Local Government Area which is marked on the Ground by property Beacons No. ZR7716, ZR7666, ZR7667 and ZR7715. All efforts to trace the documents proved abortive. And as such we are hereby applying to ministry of Land, Survey and Country Planning, Kaduna for the re-issuance of certified true copy of the said documents.

Signed:
AMB (Dr) Yusuff Maitama Sule CFR
(Dan Masanin Kano)

HEPHZIBAH MISSIONS AND NETWORK FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby informed that the above named association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja for Registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Omoniyi Oladipupo Agboola
2. Isaac Oyediran Afolabi
3. Timothy Olusoji Akintola
4. Peter Oluseun Adediran
5. Elder Caleb Adeyinka Adekunle
6. Elder Ezekiel Gbenga Bakre

The Aims and Objectives are:

1. To spread the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ through dynamic methods.
2. To care for the less privileged, the sick, orphans and physically challenged.

Any objections to this Registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission Wuse Zone 5 Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: Iromuanya, O.O. Esq.
No.1, Engineering Close Victoria Island Lagos

WORLD OVERCOMING FAITH GOSPEL MINISTRY

This is to inform the general public that the above named ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja, for registration under the part C of the companies allied matters act of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Rev. Emmanuel Bayo Afolabi - President/Founder
2. Pst. (Mrs.) Mercy Afolabi - Vice President
3. Brother Nsikak Akpabio - Secretary
4. Rev. Christine Laraba Maxwell - Member
5. Pst. Adebayo Oyebamiji - Member

Our aims and objectives are:

1. To preach the gospel to every creature in obedience to our Lord's command.
2. To establish Bible believing churches wherever the Lord leads.
3. To build a vibrant and victorious church (the believers) on the solid foundation of God's word.

Any objection thereof should be addressed to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
REV. EMMANUEL BAYO AFOLABI
Fadama Quarters, Tunga-Goro
Chanchaga, Minna.

VULNERABLE CHILD SUPPORT INITIATIVE

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja for registration under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, No. 1 of 1990 As Amended), Cap C20 LFN 2004.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Alhaji Wada Muhammad Aliyu (CON) Chairman
2. Alhaji Rabin Zakariya Member
3. Alhaji Sale Aliyu Hadejia Member
4. Honourable Mariya Sunusi Mahdi Member
5. Alhaji M.D. Yusuf Member
6. Engr. Danladi Muhammad Secretary

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- a. To help meet the basic needs of vulnerable orphans, children and widows which will expand their opportunities to reach their full potential;
- b. To promote and support the socio-economic empowerment of orphans, the needy, less privileged and disadvantaged children as well as young people in the society;
- c. To impact and inculcate into children and young people the virtue of selfless, voluntary and community service through proper guidance and counseling activities;
- d. To render humanitarian services to refugees and internally displaced persons;
- e. To support and promote health services;
- f. To promote, support and protect the rights of children.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, off Michael Opera Street, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: Secretary, Engr. Danladi Muhammad

NEGEV HILLS FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

This is to notify the general public that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap 59, 1990.

TRUSTEES

1. Mrs. Jimaimmah Ogbu - Chairman
2. Mrs. Geraldine Chukwu - Secretary
3. Mrs. Christiana Nonye Iionwa - Member
4. Mrs. Rose Dogara Silas Gyar - Member
5. Mrs. Zita Chika Igboanua - Member
6. Mrs. Margret Nwobodo - Member
7. Hajia Huawa Mustafa - Member

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To promote the socio-economic lives of women and youth
2. Promote the rights of women and youth
3. Facilitate and strengthen the participation of women and youth in policy making process.
4. To support effort in combating the HIV/AIDS scourge among women and youth.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B. 198 Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Barr. Ndueme Chinyelu

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the OFFER OF STATUTORY RIGHT OF OCCUPANCY belonging to DOMINIC NKWOPARA with plot No. 3115, size 580.27sqm, Cadastral Zone F01 of Kubwa, Abuja, FCT with new file No. IM 21983, old file No. IM 4114 issued on 23rd May, 2006 is missing. All efforts made to trace the said document proved abortive, if found please contact the nearest Police Station, AGIS or call- 08036279600.

Signed:
ONI GEORGE EROMOSELE

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as ABDUBACAR BAKA now wish to be called ABUBAKAR BAKO YUNUSA. All former documents remain valid. Ahmadu Bello University and general public to note.

I, formerly known as MISS MARYAM SALAHUDEEN MUHAMMAD now wish to be addressed as MRS MARYAM MUMINI BELLO. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I, SULEIMAN YAHAYA ABDULLAHI, now wish to be known as ALHASSAN YAHAYA ABDULLAHI. University of Maiduguri, Gombe Media Corporation and the general public to take note.

Formerly MISS AFINIKI D. ISHAYA, now MRS AFINIKI OLADIMEJI MOSES OLUFAYUNYE. Ministry of Works and Transport, Kaduna State and general public take note.

I, formerly CATHERINE NEJOM OJONG, now wish to be called CATHERINE PAUL EBAYE (MRS). All other documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS AWEH, RUTH OYIZA BOLA, now wish to be known as MRS BALOGUN RUTH OYIZA BOLA. All former documents remains valid and general public should take note.

I, AJAYI KEHINDE AYOBAMI, now wish to be called MRS OLADIMEJI, KEHINDE AYOBAMI. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known, called and addressed as TESSY N. OKOLIE, wish to be known and addressed as MRS TESSY NKEMDIRIM NWATU. All other- documents remain valid. Urban Shelter take note.

I, formerly known as MISS MARY JAMES JAMO, now wish to be addressed as MRS MARY ADAMU ELISHA GAJI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS HARUNA AJARAH, now wish to be called MRS. HARUNA AJARAH. General public to note.

I, formerly MISS ADEJOH JOY, now to be called MRS. AGADA JOY. Former documents remain valid. Nigeria Police and public to take note.

LOSS OF PASSPORT

George F. Habis

Loss of passport No. 1046299

At Birnin kebbi. Please if found return to No.3 Post Office Road, Canteen Daji, Gusau, Zangare State or Call 08086338466, 08051649922.

NATIVITY ROMA CANCER SUPPORT CENTRE

This is to notify the general public that the above named Organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap 59, 1990.

Trustees are:

1. REV. SR THERESA NEZAN
2. REV. SR CHRISTIANA OBE
3. MR. DAMIAN DODO (SAN)
4. MR. MIKE OSUMAN (SAN)
5. AMBASSADOR RAPH UWUECHUE
6. MRS. BERNADETTE GEORGE

Aims and Objectives:

1. To promote the dignity of the human person
2. To provide the enabling environment for holistic and comprehensive approach in dealing with the problem and management of cancer.
3. To provide pastoral care and psychosocial support for cancer survivors, patients and their families.
4. To engage in advocacy and networking with cancer care organizations, National Food and Drug Administration, government and oncologists.
5. To fundraise for cancer care programmes.
6. To create awareness on cancer as a major health problem
7. To promote nutritional therapy and complementary therapies such as aromatherapy, reflexology, music and art therapy.
8. To provide accurate and up-to-date information on cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B. 198 Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Nwabufike Ike Esq
Suite 102 The Dunes Center, Maitama, Abuja
08067601889, 08029777624

THE ENCOURAGERS MINISTRY

This is to notify the general public that the above named Ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap 59, 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Dr. Andrew A. Omotoso
2. Mrs. Caroline B. Omotoso

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. Establishment and administration of Christian schools aimed at producing men and women committed to making Godly impact on their society and to the great commission
2. Training and education of ministers, evangelists and missionaries.
3. Organizing retreats, seminars, workshops and conferences to encourage the establishment of Christian homes

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B. 198 Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed
Secretary

SPORTS

We are satisfied with Pillars' performance

Kano Pillars continental committee Chairman, Alhaji Ibrahim Galadima yesterday expressed satisfaction with the performance of the team in last Saturday's home draw against visiting Al Ahly of Egypt in the ongoing 2009 CAF Champions League.

Galadima also said Pillars have not given up in their determination to advance to the next stage of the continental

By Ismaila Lere & Orkula Shaagee

soccer championship, saying it's possible they could win during the second leg in Cairo.

Galadima, who made this known in a telephone interview with Trustsports from Kano, also said though the scoreless result left the Kano side CAF Champions League title ambition in a precarious situation, he was satisfied that Pillars will emerge a strong force in future competitions.

According to the former NFA Chairman, Pillars players who outplayed their visitors during the Kaduna encounter have shown that if kept to-

gether they would soon become a team to reckon with on the continent.

He assured that the team will be repositioned to post better results in the national Challenge Cup and the remaining part of the 2008/2009 Nigeria Premier League.

"We wanted to win outrightly but that is football, the players gave a good account of themselves during the match and we are quite satisfied. They outplayed Al Ahly and it is quite promising that the fu-

ture is bright.

"The 1-1 draw in Kaduna has put us in a more difficult position but we can not write off the possibility of winning in Cairo", Galadima stated.

Galadima, who commended the centre referee for his excellent handling of the game, however said Confederation of Africa Football (CAF) owes the public a lot of explanation on the confusion that ensue in the appointment of match officials for the Kaduna duel.

Kano Pillars managed a 1-1

draw against defending champions Al Ahly at the Ahmadu Bello Stadium in Kaduna on Saturday.

The Nigerian champions were rewarded with a headed goal by Victor Namu after a fine performance and should have scored at least one more goal but failed to find any finish from promising positions.

They were made to pay as Ahly found a way back into the game in the second half, winning an equaliser through substitute Hani Al Egezi, who headed home Gilberto's cross for the Egyptians' all important away goal with just over ten minutes of play left.

Golf has great potentials, says Orim

By Orkula Shaagee

The winner of the Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida (IBB) Golf and Country Club Abuja Captain's Cup 2009, Emmanuel Orim has urged the National Sports Commission (NSC) to take advantage of the ongoing re-engineering in the commission to make golf one of Nigeria's leading sports.

Orim, playing handicap 9 clinched top prize by returning 77 gross and 68 nett at the one-day golf fiesta organized to mark the end of a one year tenure of the Paul Erokoru-led club executives.

Orim, who spoke to Trustsports shortly after he was presented with the trophy at a colorful ceremony at the IBB Golf Club, noted that there are abundant talents in the country that can be nurtured into world beaters in no distance time.

He noted that if a comprehensive programme is put in place on how to train those discovered at the tender age, Nigeria will be able to produce the likes of Tiger Woods in five years time.

"I have a strong believe that Nigeria can produce world class professional golfers in about five years period if there is a comprehensive programme to train young golfers discovered in the country", Orim noted.

Speaking on his victory at the golf fiesta, Orim who picked world number one golfer Tiger Woods as his idol, said it came to him as a surprise that he emerged the winner of the golf fiesta that paraded some of Nigeria's best amateur golfers; and pledged to work hard to retain the trophy in the 2010 edition.

His Excellency Governor Olagunsoye Oyinlola of Osun State emerged the winner in the men's gross with 83 gross, followed by Keith Knight with 75 gross.

Mrs R Danjuma returned 88 gross to emerge the winner in the ladies' gross category, while J Obiyan playing handicap 27 returned 100 gross and 73 nett to top in the veterans' category, followed by IBM Haruna and Vins Osawe.

AMAC FC lifts FCT FA Cup

By David Ngobua & Ibraheem A. Fatai

The Abuja Municipal Area Council, AMAC Football Club yesterday at the Abuja Old parade ground sports emerged winners of this year's FCT FA cup by beating Police Machines 5-4 in a pulsating penalty shoot out.

At the end of the full ninety minutes there was no score from either side and the two teams went straight into the penalty shoot out with the more ambitious AMAC FC boys converting all their kicks.

The match which was watched by a capacity crowd that included the Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Mike Okiro, the AMAC Vice-Chairman, Chief Anthonia Okoli and representatives of both Ministers of the FCT saw the eventual winners missing several scoring chances.

The two finalists would represent the FCT in this year's F.A cup, otherwise called the national challenge cup competition.

Speaking on his team's victory, the Chief Coach of AMAC FC, Mr. Peter Emetole dedicated the victory to God and determination on the side of his players.

He said that his boys squandered the scoring chances that came their way because they had never appeared on such a big stage before.

Coach Emetole expressed confidence that if given the necessary support, his boys would be the giant killers in this year's national challenge cup.



Muhammed Alhaji of Kano Pillars, left, heads the ball ahead of onrushing Ahmed Sayed of Al Ahly during their CAF Champions League match at Ahmadu Bello Stadium in Kaduna on Saturday.

Pic: NAN.

Referee was fair - Al Ahly coach

Manuel Jose, Coach of Al Ahly FC of Egypt has commended the South African referee Ebrahim Abdul Basit who officiated the CAF Champions League match between the African champions and Kano Pillars at the Ahmadu Bello Stadium in Kaduna on Saturday.

The referee has been roundly criticised for his poor standard of officiating during the encounter that ended in a 1-1 draw.

Speaking to newsmen after the match, Jose commended the referee for "the fair officiating of the match".

He said his boys scored the

equaliser as a result of the pressure they mounted on the Pillars.

He also commended Pillars for being "a good side with good ball-control and for being able to get back on the ball as soon as they are disposed".

He, however, assured that his boys would do better in Egypt, because "many things would work in their favour including fans and the weather".

The South African official provided the talking point of the match in the 78th minute when he denied Pillars a spot kick after Al Ahly defender, Ahmed Sayed Mohammed's handled the ball inside the 18 yard box.

Sports associations zonal elections hold today

Against the backdrop of arm-twisting and imposition of candidates by some top officials of National Sports Commission (NSC), the zonal congress to elect officials for the national sports federations elections on April 28 begins today in the six geo-political zones.

Delegates attending the zonal congress have been urged to vote for credible persons.

The elected zonal representatives will converge in Abuja for the April 28 polls for the national elections into the various federations, which were dissolved on March 5. Spokesman of the Lagos State Sports Council, Jide Atansuyi, noted that the election of credible persons would accelerate sports development in the country.

Atansuyi urged the delegates to ensure they elect persons they consider would contribute immensely to Nigeria's sports.

"If credible people are elected to offices it will affect the growth of that association and its management. This is because if the top officials are bad, definitely the whole structure will not work," the sports council spokesman said.

Quote of the Day

"If I had to choose one Masters Series before the start of the season to win, Monte Carlo would be in the first position. The city, the atmosphere, everything is special."

—Tennis star Rafael Nadal, after winning his fifth successive Masters title at Monte Carlo against Novak Djokovic.

Sports

Drogba vs Adebayor: One clear winner

at Wembley

By Greg Ptolomey,
Goal.com

Didier Drogba and Emmanuel Adebayor have both emerged strongly in recent weeks as the season reaches its climax. Just look at the Champions League quarter-finals: both scored a crucial goal in each leg of Chelsea's win over Liverpool and Arsenal's elimination of Villarreal respectively.

Drogba's renaissance has occurred on a bumpy road. In November, he shook off his knee problems to return against Burnley in the League Cup and, although he scored, he threw a coin into the opposition supporters and was subsequently suspended. What followed was messy: further injury niggles, the sparkling form of Nicolas Anelka and the sacking of Luiz Felipe Scolari, all conspiring to leave his future

tions. This build-up led us nicely to Wembley and Saturday's FA Cup semi-final between the London rivals. Both came into the match with form and renewed fitness. The theory? That Adebayor – aided by superior service from the similarly resurgent Cesc Fabregas – was finally ready to usurp the Ivorian and start firing Arsenal towards silverware.

They gave each other a special hug before the game: two of Africa's great superstars and, sometimes at least,

off the line.

Still, it was first blood to the lumbering Ade on 18 minutes. He held up well on the left, played in the now advanced Gibbs at exactly the right moment and, following the youngster's fine cross, Theo Walcott finished with his left foot. 1-0 Arsenal, 1-0 Ade.

For the duration of the half, neither was particularly influential. Drogba's audacious effort following more uncertainty in the Arsenal defence didn't land. The Blues did find a leveller, through the much-improved Florent Malouda, and Drogba was in danger of being completely overshadowed

Silvestre and forcing him into an unseen handball.

He even reminded everyone of his intentions by sticking the ball past Lukasz Fabianski emphatically, even though play had been stopped.

With the end of regulation time drawing near, and Arsene Wenger and Guus Hiddink looking for the winner, the big decisions were made. Salomon Kalou came on for Anelka, leaving Drogba as go-to guy. Ade wasn't so lucky, trudging off to be replaced by the much-maligned Nicklas Bendtner. 1-1.

Little more than a minute later, Drogba was peeling away from Silvestre, taking a sure touch past the onrushing Fabianski, and guiding a bobbling ball coolly into the net. 2-1 Chelsea, 2-1 Drogba. Seven minutes and stop-

of Premier League wins, also lifting the FA Cup – scoring the winner against Manchester United in 2007 – and the League Cup twice, including the 'Snarling Cup final' in the same year when he bagged a brace to down the Gunners before Ade was sent off amongst others in one of the most dubious cup final finales in history.

There is still time for Adebayor. Jose Mourinho didn't introduce Drogba to English football until he was a near-peak 26-years-old, whereas the Togolese pretender is still only 25. Furthermore, Chelsea were assembled to be winners, while the Emirates troops have been grown together and, in theory, should start winning together soon. One begins to wonder when, though, if they can't do it this season, with several key players back from injury and no additional pressure on them to win the league title.

Arsenal will have at least one more chance to poop

Spurs send Newcastle closer to the drop

Tottenham Hotspur maintained their late-season drive for European soccer and pushed Newcastle United further towards relegation when they won a one-sided Premier League match 1-0 at White Hart Lane on Sunday.

Darren Bent scored the only goal after 24 minutes as Spurs, beaten once in their last nine league matches, moved to within one point of West Ham United and seventh place which should guarantee a place in the Europa League next season.

The defeat left Newcastle, still waiting for their revival to start under caretaker manager Alan Shearer, in 19th place, four points from safety with five matches to play. Shearer's three matches in charge have produced one draw and two defeats.

Luka Modric's final pass to Robbie Keane was intercepted by defender Sebastien Bassong but the ball rolled to Darren Bent whose first shot was parried by goalkeeper Steve Harper before the striker slammed in the rebound from an acute angle.

Substitute Obafemi Martins had a good chance to equalise two minutes from time for Newcastle, who are without a league win in eight matches.

Kanu leaves Pompey on brink of safety

Portsmouth moved to the brink of Premier League safety after a dramatic 1-0 win over Bolton at Fratton Park on Saturday.

A match that looked to be headed for a goalless stalemate was settled after Pompey had suffered the loss of key midfielder Niko Kranjcar, who was stretchered off 15 minutes from time with what looked like a serious injury.

The loss of the Croatian international will hit Portsmouth hard over what remains of the season but it was his replacement, Nadir Belhadj, who ensured that one more win should be enough to keep the south coast club in the top flight.

With his first touch of the ball, Belhadj delivered a wickedly inswinging corner that veteran Nigerian playmaker Nwankwo Kanu glanced over the line.

It was no more than Pompey deserved after dominating the match and Bolton would have been behind much earlier but for an inspired performance by Jussi Jaaskelainen.



Drogba renaissance has occurred on a bumpy road

hanging in the balance. Then Guus Hiddink took the helm and ushered him back to prominence: before Saturday, he'd scored eight since the Dutchman took the Stamford Bridge reigns in early February.

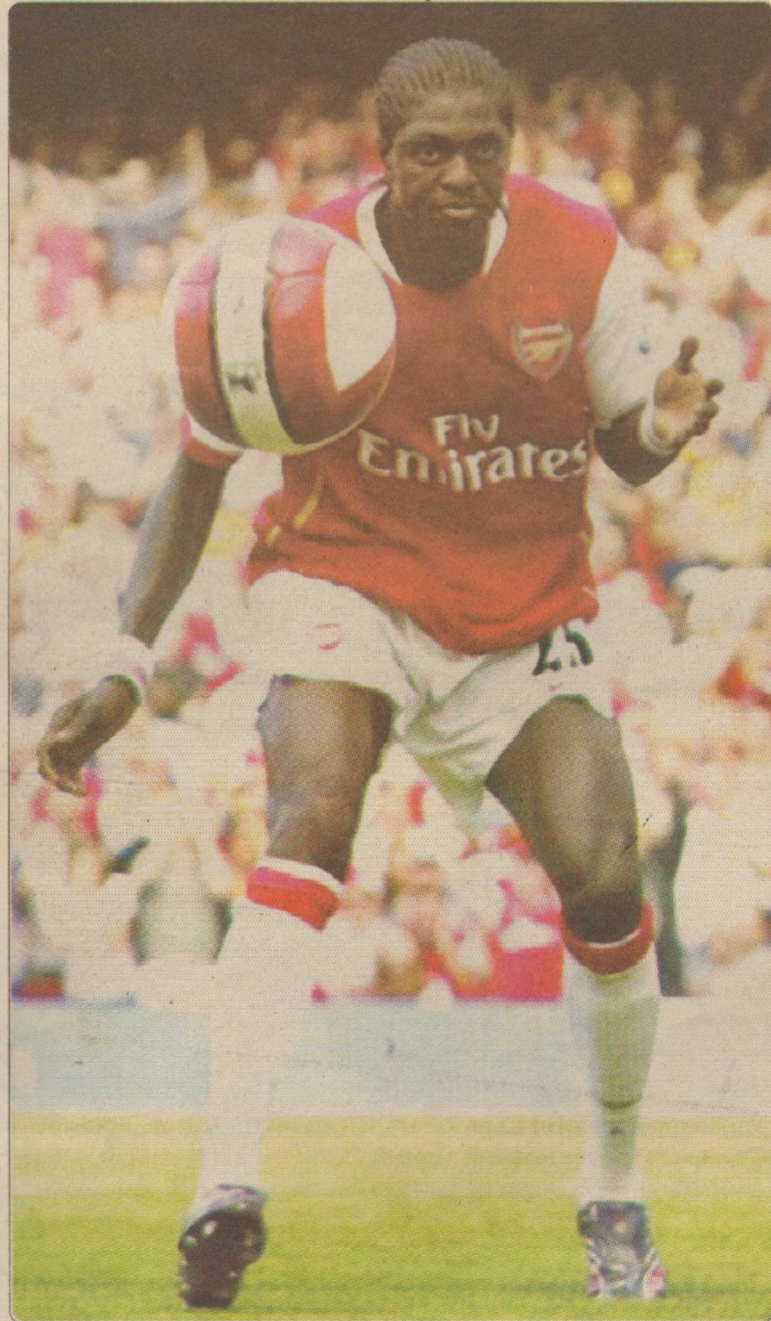
Similarly, since returning from a two-month injury lay-off – a hamstring problem – Adebayor's impact has been even more dramatic and instantaneous. He'd already bagged four this month since his comeback on April 4, taking his total to 16 for the season in all competi-

two of London's. However, there would only be one winner at Wembley. It wasn't the greatest game – it wasn't the greatest pitch – and there wasn't much to choose between them during the first half.

Off the ball, Adebayor perhaps wasn't putting the necessary pressure on a Chelsea defence which had shipped four in midweek. In contrast, Drogba was muscling between two defenders and heading beyond the wayward Lukasz Fabianski, only for Kieran Gibbs to clear

owed when Nicolas Anelka hit the post.

After the break, both men dropped a little deeper initially, in order to become more involved in the play. Emmanuel blasted an ambitious half-volley high and wide and was later unlucky to see Alex clear when he was poised to pounce at the back post. Didier, though, was really starting to grow into the game: winning his aerial battles, producing an excellent cut-back which Frank Lampard fired wide, overpowering Mikael



Adebayor didn't put the necessary pressure on Chelsea's defence

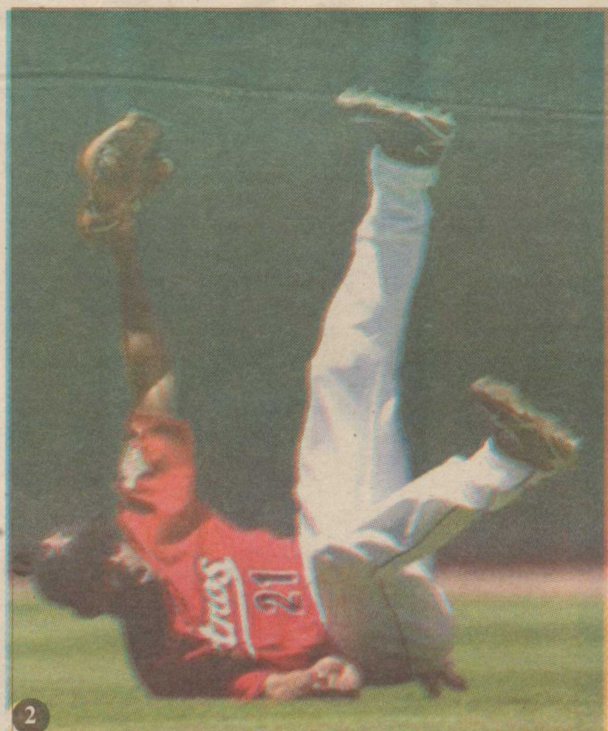
page time later, he was shirtless, jubilant and spraying the Pensioners staff with champagne. As he swanned around, it was hard to imagine that his Chelsea career had appeared to be over just a few short months before.

This is what Drogba does, of course. He's a big game player, and few are going to name either a rival to the 31-year-old's royal throne or even a successor like Adebayor until someone else starts scoring the big goals. The 'Top Drog' has been instrumental in a couple

Chelsea's party this term. They meet again on May 10 in the league, by which point the Blues could still be vying for the Premier League crown. Little over two weeks later, they could also contest the Champions League final in Rome.

Based on what we witnessed on Saturday, I doubt there's many who'd bet against Drogba having the last laugh over Adebayor and anyone else who might want to knock him off his pedestal.

Sports Illustrated



CAPTION

1. Yoann Gourcuff, left, of Girondins Bordeaux challenges Jean Makoun (R) of Olympique Lyon during their French Ligue 1 soccer match at the Chaban Delmas stadium in

Bordeaux, southwestern France

2. Houston Astros center fielder Michael Bourn tumbles after diving to make a catch on a fly ball hit by Cincinnati Reds' Willy Taveras

during the third inning of a baseball game. Bourn made the catch.

3. Boca Juniors' Martin Palermo is challenged by River Plate's Cristian Fabbiani during their Argentina's

Championship First Division soccer match in Buenos Aires.

4. AC Milan's Filippo Inzaghi, right, heads the ball to score past Torino goalkeeper Matteo Sereni, during their

Italian Serie A soccer match at the San Siro stadium in Milan.

5. Everton players celebrate after beating Manchester United in a penalty shoot-out in the FA Cup semi-final at Wembley

Stadium in London.

6. Deccan Chargers Rohit Sharma hits the ball during a game against the Kolkata Knight Riders at the Indian Premier League Twenty20 cricket match in Cape Town, South Africa.

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DAILY TRUST

SPORTS Bits

AZ Alkmaar land second Dutch title

AZ Alkmaar clinched their second Dutch championship after Ajax Amsterdam failed to beat PSV Eindhoven on Sunday. AZ lifted the title for the first time since 1981 despite losing 2-1 at home to Vitesse Arnhem on Saturday.

They are 11 points clear of Twente Enschede with three matches and a maximum nine points left to play for and have secured a place in next season's Champions League group stage.

It is the sixth league title for coach Louis van Gaal after he steered Ajax To success in 1994, 1995 and 1996 and led Barcelona to Primera Liga glory in 1998 and 1999.

The Dutchman was also technical director when Ajax won the league in 2004.

AZ's triumph makes up for their near miss two years ago when they lost the title of the season.

They were top of the difference going fixture but a 3-2 Excelsior allowed PSV the trophy.

"This title doesn't take away the



bad taste of 2007 because we should have won the double that year," Van Gaal told the Dutch weekly Voetbal International.

Nadal seals fifth Monte Carlo win

Rafael Nadal continued his magnificent run in Monte Carlo with a fifth successive title as he beat Novak Djokovic 6-3 2-6 6-1 in Sunday's final. The world number one was pushed hard as Djokovic dominated the second set and had break points early in the third, before Nadal battled back to win.

At just 22, Nadal has now equalled Roger Federer's mark of 14 tournament wins in the elite Masters 1000 Series.

Only Andre Agassi has won more, with 17 Masters titles.

Nadal becomes the first man to win Monte Carlo five times in a row, but he faced one of his toughest examinations

on a clay court in recent years.

With only four wins in 15 previous matches against Nadal - and none in six clay-court encounters - Djokovic was under relatively little pressure for such a big final.

Everton wreck Man Utd's quintuple dreams

Everton won a penalty shoot-out at Wembley to wreck Manchester United's hopes of an historic haul of five trophies and seal an FA Cup final date with Chelsea. The Toffees reached the showpiece for the first time in 14 years - but Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson will be left fuming at referee Mike Riley.

Riley refused what appeared to be a clear-cut penalty when defender Phil Jagielka brought down Danny Welbeck in the second half, and United's disappointment will be felt more acutely after they cracked under pressure of the spot-kick shoot-out.

Tim Cahill missed Everton's first penalty, but keeper Tim Howard saved United's first two efforts from Dimitar Berbatov and Rio Ferdinand.

Leighton Baines, Phil Neville and James Vaughan were then on target for Everton, with Nemanja Vidic and Anderson responding for United.

And with Everton's fans providing a deafening backdrop of expectation, Jagielka calmly slotted home the decisive penalty to send one half of Wembley wild.



President Yar'adua and electricity debacle

By Kasim Buba Mohammed

The initiative by the government of President Umaru Yar'adua to focus on electricity is laudable. But I would like to point-out that the Action Plan, on Methods of Improving Power Supply, recently rolled-out by the Federal Ministry of Power would not lead to reliable power supply in the country. Few can take much comfort from the National Integrated Power Projects (NIPP) committee's proposals, especially when it says it will continue to implement into the last government's power projects and raise the generating capacity to 6000MW by December 2009.

The people of this country have suffered lack of reliable electricity supply for too long and are anxious for the government to take bold step to solve the electricity debacle, within a reasonable time-frame. Of course there is no reason why the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) cannot provide reliable electricity within a very short-time of say 4 to 6 months; viewed from professional point, if the right approach is made; given its present resource capability.

The following information will provide clue as to why the electricity crisis in Nigeria persists and the need to urgently adopt a new approach to tackle the problem, without further waste of time, if ever this country is to enjoy reliable electricity it deserves, during this dispensation. The PHCN has nine power stations (3 hydro and 6 thermal) in the country; with a combined total installed generating capacity of about 5906MW and a customer base of about 36% of Nigeria's total population, that is, about 51 million consumers currently connected to the national grid, and with a national electricity peak demand of about 2470MW thus the existing generating capacity in the PHCN is more than double our actual national electricity peak demand. Ideally with the right management there hardly would be any problem in generating and supplying reliable electricity to the economy. But there are problems.

Firstly, there is the wrong assumption that the present erratic or incessant electricity supply in the country is because of inadequate generating capacity, that is, the generating capacity in the PHCN is not enough to meet our nation's current electricity requirement; which is not true. As a result of this, government has unduly focused attention on attempting to raise the generating capacity in the PHCN through constructing more generation power stations, without understanding what this means, its parameters, its limitations or that it is a powerful tool that needs powerful engineers and managers to use it as a sensible aid to good management and not to create enormous white elephants.

Secondly, contrary to popular belief not the entire Nigeria's total population of about 140 million people are connected to the national grid, that is, to the PHCN system. For obvious economic reasons, only 36%, that is, about 51 million consumers who could afford the connection charges, etc are presently connected to the national grid: from the inception of the organization to date. These customers currently connected to the national grid are categorised into three market segments by the PHCN, namely domestic, commercial and industrial consumers, based upon their consumption rate. The bulk of the electric energy generated by the PHCN is consumed by the industrial customers.

But, since most of our heavy industries have closed down, the large electric energy consumption has fallen. In other words, the peak demand (2470MW), which was recorded during the days when all our heavy industries such as the refineries, petrochemical, textiles, cement factories, etc were very much alive and operational; in the oil boom era of the national economy. The current actual peak demand is much less than that.

Certainly, the installed generating capacity in the PHCN is more than adequate to meet our country's immediate and foreseeable future electricity demand, for sometime to come, without the recourse to any additional generating capacity being added to the PHCN system at present.

Thus going by our country's current level of development; the national economic growth rate and the national electricity demand rate which is partly dependent on the national economy, it will take nothing less than ten years (unless some unexpected surge or boom in the economy happens) for the country to begin to expand beyond the existing generating capacity (5906MW).

It will be wrong to build-up huge additional generating capacity for the country for now, when the country has already spare generating capacity about 3,436MW; which will lie dormant for a long time, without being utilized. This is particularly regrettable in the force of ever-increasing

GUEST COLUMNIST

unemployment in the country to which most of these resources could be easily channelled. Furthermore some of the money could be used to provide good salary, welfare scheme and other incentives and training for the personnel of the PHCN to powerfully motivate performance.

However, for the purpose of good planning, in anticipation of a big boom in the national economy, which may bring unexpected large surge in the national electricity demand rate, than the current level, it will be a good idea that the government should make a provision of small additional generating capacity to take care of this. The provision of say a small additional generating capacity of 2000MW, with its associated transmission and distribution network, within the next five to ten years, will be beneficial to the national economy and the country. Anything beyond this will be extremely difficult for the PHCN to handle; because there is right now acute shortage of skilled manpower in the organization.

The problem of electricity supply in Nigeria is basically the inability of the PHCN to establish and maintain a reliable supply of electricity even though the installed generating capacity (5906MW), as earlier mentioned, is a multiple of that needed to serve actual peak demand (2470MW) and a spare generating capacity of about 3,436MW. In other words, the power plants (3 hydro and 6 thermal) have a theoretical design capacity that exceeds the national peak demand and need only to be operated efficiently at maximum capacity utilization.

This is evident, during the rainy seasons, when all the three hydro power plants in the country namely Kainji, Jebba and Shiroro which contribute to the national grid approximately a total of 1700MW which represent only 29% of the total generating capacity in the country and is also about 69% of the national peak demand.

When all the three hydro plants operate at full capacity, due to sufficient water in their reservoirs, the country experiences tremendous improvement in power supply, nationwide for upwards of eighteen to twenty hours of electricity supply a day. But this drops to a very low level of generating capacity as soon as the dry season sets in.

Clearly, this put to rest the claim that the PHCN presently generates 3000MW into the national grid, a generating capacity well in excess to the national peak demand and or to what the three hydro power stations contribute, when they were working at full capacity, with noticeable improvement in power supply nationwide, as earlier noted. But today electricity is nothing to write home about. The truth of the matter is that the PHCN today is generating less than 1000MW. The reason for this is not far fetched. There is lack of proper management.

Furthermore, unbundling the PHCN into 17 companies, without the necessary preparatory work putting these companies in proper shapes have compounded the already bad situation in the generation and supply of electricity - they work cross - purpose.

There is a need for change of attitude towards a number of key practices in the PHCN, if Nigeria is to achieve reliable electricity it requires:

- Skilled and experienced personnel: the lack of such personnel will impose a restraint on effective running of the industry.

- Coordination of the various activities within the companies such as materials management, sales, distribution, transmission, and generation: Planning in the PHCN tends to be based on sales and finance and does not integrate materials requirement planning and long term development of generation and supply facilities.

The NIPP scheme of the last government which provides ten additional new power stations (under construction) in the country; locating them at random, without assessing what their overall contribution is to the existing country's generation and supply systems, have failed to address the serious problem of heavy power losses in the country. This will continue to hinder the supply of reliable electricity. In a well thought-out plan the locations of the new power plants, their sizes and fuel options must be determined as contributing positively to the existing generation and supply systems. Otherwise, there is no way the country will overcome its power supply problem.

With vision 20-2020 and the seven point agenda now virtually upon us, not to talk of the 2011 general elections approaching, the need for a serious rethink about your strategy to provide a steady power supply seems to me to be a matter of utmost importance and urgency

Dr. Mohammed, a member of the defunct Independent Policy Group, writes from 20 Shettima Ali Mongono Street, Old G.R. Maiduguri. nas007moh@yahoo.co.uk