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Yar'adua returns to work next week

By Suleiman Bissalla

— Associates

THE on-going scramble for positions in a soon to be reconstituted Federal cabinet could shortly hit a brick wall because President Umaru Yar'adua intends to resume duties in his office next week, a top source close to the ailing president told *Daily Trust* yesterday. However, another family source separately told *Daily Trust* that Yar'adua will be fit to resume work by the end of next

month.

According to the top sources, Yar'adua intends to make a national radio and television broadcast to signal his resumption of work as early as Monday or Wednesday next week. They said Yar'adua may not write a letter to the National Assem-

bly intimating it of his return because he did not transmit a letter before he proceeded on medical vacation, even though his spokesman later said Yar'adua recognised Dr. Goodluck Jonathan as the Acting President.

Both sources said Yar'adua has made

much progress physically since his return to the country late last month, and that his remaining medical problem now is speech-related. The sources said the ailing president now walks around the house and also around the garden, where there are many birds and animals.

They said Yar'adua brought a speech therapist with him from the Saudi Arabian hospital and the doctor has been working since

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Who will wake up a Millionaire?
Turn to page 3!

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20 ex-ministers to bounce back

By Suleiman M. Bisalla

TWENTY members of the dissolved Federal Executive Council (FEC) have been renominated by the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan and their names have already been sent to the State Security Service (SSS) for screening, *Daily Trust* learnt in Abuja yesterday. The sources said the presidency awaits nominations from state governors to fill in the remaining min-

isterial slots. The governors have been asked to turn in three names for the Acting President to choose from.

Most of the renominated former ministers belong to the "pro-Jonathan" camp, while those excluded from it belong to the "pro-Yar'adua" group of former ministers. Among those our sources said "are not on the list" sent for security screening include former FCT Minister Mohamed Adamu Aliero,

Most of the renominated former ministers belong to the "pro-Jonathan" camp, while those excluded from it belong to the "pro-Yar'adua" group

former Agriculture Minister Abba Sayyadi Ruma, former Works Minister Dr. Mohamed Hassan Lawal, former Minister of State for Communications Ikira Aliyu Bilbis, former Minister of Niger Delta Chief

Ufot Ekaette and former Minister of State for Education, Aishatu Jibril Dukku. All these men were known Yar'adua loyalists, while Mrs. Dukku was very close to Hajia Turai Yar'adua.

Among the big names

said to have been nominated as new ministers include former Speaker of the House of Representatives Aminu Bello Masari from Katsina State and Adamu Maina Waziri from Yobe State. However, *Daily Trust* learnt in Katsina that Governor Ibrahim Shema has nominated his close confidants, the Commissioner for Works Architect Musa Sada, Ali Hussaini Dutsinma, former Group Managing Director of the

NNPC Abubakar Lawal Yar'adua and Kabir Saidu Daura. Daura is said to be a close ally of the National Security Adviser, Gen. Aliyu Gusau.

In Bauchi State, Governor Isa Yuguda is said to be playing his cards close to his chest, but our reporter learnt that Senator Bala Mohammed Duguri is being considered because he was a front liner in the elevation of Jonathan to

Continued on page 5

Two kidnapped NNPC staff found dead

By Hamisu Muhammad

THE bodies of the two kidnapped workers of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Abubakar A. Malabu and Bashir Danjuma were recovered in the bush in Delta State on Saturday.

Malabu and Danjuma were staff of the Nigeria Petroleum Development Company (NPDC), a subsidiary of the NNPC in Benin, Edo State. They were kidnapped March 13, 2010, by an unknown gang on their way to Delta State University, Abraka, for lectures where they were studying for a Masters Degree in Petroleum Economics.

Initially, when the news of their abduction broke out, NNPC officials declined comments.

A text message however revealed the shocking news yesterday.

The message, composed by one of their colleague Mr F.O. Johnson, read: "Messrs Bashir Danjuma and Malabu A. Ahmad of the NPDC who were declared missing since 13th of March, have been found dead inside a bush in Delta State."

He described the incident as 'unfortunate and shocking' adding that the bodies were found on Saturday Morning.

Phone calls put through to

NNPC's spokesperson Dr Levi Ajuonuma were not answered and a text message was not replied.

Malabu's brother-in-law, Alhaji Adamu Modibbo, however confirmed the story to Daily Trust on phone. He did not give details.

The two murdered staff hailed from the northern part of the country, which raised fresh security concern in the oil producing part of the country. Militants in the Niger Delta were known mainly for kidnapping of foreign oil workers and demanding for ransom.

Some staff of oil companies resident in Niger Delta who spoke to Daily Trust on the condition of

anonymity said they were shocked when they heard what happened to their colleagues.

They said they are worried over their security in the Niger Delta region and urged government to fish out and bring the perpetrators to book. "It was really complicated, something must be done", said one of the NNPC staff working in the Niger Delta.

Daily Trust learnt that Danjuma who hailed from Yobe State was employed by NNPC in 2000 while Malabu was employed in 2003 as a geologist from Adamawa State.

In 2006 Malabu was loaned to Chevron Nigeria Limited by the NPDC where he attended two



LATE Abubakar Malabu

year course in United States of America between 2006 and 2008. Malabu survived by his wife and two children.



EFCC Chairman Mrs. Farida Waziri briefing journalists in Abuja on the attack on EFCC operatives by hired assassins along Mhano/Okigwe road, Owerri, Imo State.

PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

Farida: Some politicians plotting my sack

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

CHAIRMAN of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Mrs. Farida Waziri yesterday alleged that some politicians are planning to ensure that she gets removed from her position before the 2011 general election.

The anti-graft boss said neither she nor the staff of the commission will cower by such blackmail or threat to their lives to disrupt the commission's efforts to fight corruption in the country.

"I have seen the signs from some of these politicians who do not have any other business other than politics. As election approaches, they want to remove me from this position and put their own so that they can do as they wish," she told BBC Hausa Service.

She also said that she has been reliably informed that some politicians meet at night purposely to ensure that she gets removed.

Also last week, Senator Joseph Waku accused some politicians of plotting Farida's removal.

Buhari: Only trustworthy people will run in CPC

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

TWO time presidential candidate of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) General Muhammadu Buhari has said that only people with proven integrity will be given the chance to contest election on the platform of the newly registered Congress for Progressive Change (CPC).

Buhari who formally announced his membership of the CPC recently said the National Working Committee (NWC) of the CPC will ensure the emergence of credible candidates that will not disappoint the electorate.

Speaking on a BBC Hausa Service programme at the weekend, Buhari said: "Whoever has any case to answer before the court, we will advise him not to contest

in our party because we won't like a situation whereby after his election, somebody will come out and say that he is not qualified to contest because of mismanagement of public resources."

On his presidential ambition, the retired general said if CPC gives him such opportunity, he will contest and seek the votes of Nigerians.

When asked about the fate of the Mega Summit Movement (MSM), Buhari said "people like Atiku, Bafarawa, Tinubu, Utomi, Falae are representing particular political parties. I was the only person who did not have a party when I left ANPP. But now I will be representing CPC in the movement and we will come up with better solution for the country."

What Nigeria should have done about Gaddafi – Prof Abdulkadir

From Auwalu Umar, Kano

NIGERIA'S former Ambassador to Libya Professor Dandatti Abdulkadir yesterday said there are processes that should have been taken before the recall last week of Nigeria's Ambassador to Libya Alhaji Isa Mohammed.

Mohammed was recalled following comments by Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi on the need to split Nigeria as a solution to the country's frequent religious cries.

Speaking with Daily Trust in Kano on the seeming diplomatic misunder-

standing between the two countries over Gaddafi's remarks last week on the recent Jos crisis, Professor Abdulkadir however said the action taken by Nigeria did mean that the country erred in handling such dicey diplomatic issue.

"We have not yet reached that stage, even though the recall as further explained by Ambassador Onovo, on behalf of Nigeria's foreign affairs ministry is not a complete breaking of diplomatic relationship," he said.

The former vice chancellor of Bayero University Kano said he was yet to confirm if really the Libyan leader had

indeed made such remarks, saying if it was true he made such statement, then it was unfortunate.

Prof Abdulkadir said if, for instance, a friendly nation like Libya does something which Nigeria does not believe strongly, the Nigerian government should first call the Libyan ambassador to its foreign office to find out what was really the problem.

If the country was not satisfied with explanation by the Libyan envoy, then a protest letter should be dispatched to the "brotherly or sisterly" country, he said.

Senate to get ministerial list this week

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THERE are indications that Acting President Goodluck Jonathan will send a list of ministerial nominees to the Senate for screening and possible confirmation this week.

Speaking to Daily Trust yesterday, Chairman Senate Committee on Infor-

mation and Media Senator Ayogu Eze (PDP, Enugu North) said the Senate is postponing its scheduled Easter break by one week to enable it screen the nominees when the list gets to it anytime within the week.

He said "The issue of screening ministerial nominees may be one reason for the postponement, but we are also

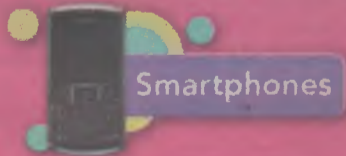
trying to pass the 2010 budget as well as consider the report of the Senate Committee on Review of the Constitution (SCRC) before embarking on the recess."

Eze said Senate expects the ministerial list "as soon as possible" to enable it complete screening before going on recess April 1.



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Gov Suswan counsels media on factual reporting

GOVERNOR Gabriel Suswan of Benue State at the weekend advised media houses to always cross check their facts before going to the press.

"Journalist of nowadays are too lazy to find facts and report exact things, rather they went about looking for who to malign," Suswan said.

The governor spoke while receiving a team of Media Trust management led by Managing Director, Chief Operating Officer, Alhaji Isiaq Ajibola who paid him a visit in his office in Markurdi.

"I think you media executives should employ good

reporters, not those you pick on the streets. Look for those that are professionals, who know the ethics of the profession," he said.

He said *Daily Trust* is the first newspaper he reads in the morning, adding that his day is never complete without reading the paper.

Suswan said he was never disturbed by the various negative reports published by some media houses about his person, stressing that the recent publication that he was arrested in London for illegal possession of about £120,000 was not true. He described the publication as

a rumour orchestrated by his detractors.

He said information dissemination is not to mislead the general public but to inform the public about the right doings, putting the realities across to the people.

The governor said the state government has almost completed a water treatment plant of over 1,500 gallons of water per day, which is the largest treatment plant in the country.

The plant, which would be completed before the end of the year, was contracted at the sum of N5 billion naira.

Observers to monitor deportation flights

INDEPENDENT observers will monitor when Switzerland forcibly deports rejected asylum seekers who refuse to leave the country.

Authorities say the change in procedure has nothing to do with the death of a Nigerian man at Zurich airport last week, but is based on a European Union directive.

The man and 15 others had been due to take a special flight out of the country on Wednesday.

"An independent observer will likely be present during forcible

returns in the future," Jonas Montani, spokesman for the Federal Migration Office, told the Swiss News Agency on Sunday.

The EU directive requires monitoring during deportations. It should come into practice early 2011 but the details of how deportations will be monitored has not been determined.

Swiss authorities have stopped the deportation flights until further notice. Some 43 flights departing 360 people left Switzerland last year, most toward the Balkans and Africa.



GOVERNOR Gabriel Suswan of Benue State (left), receiving a souvenir from Managing Director, Media Trust Limited, Alhaji Isiaq Ajibola during his visit to the governor in Markurdi over the weekend

Small-scale miners receive \$120m grant

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

ARTISANAL and small-scale miners have been provided with \$120m out of the \$200m grant the ministry of Mines and Steel Development received from the World Bank.

Permanent Secretary of the ministry Sheikh Goni made this known when he received the mantle of leadership from former minister Mrs. Diezani Alison-Madueke in Abuja.

He said out of the money collected from the World Bank, more than half of it goes for the development of Nigerian mining activity from the grass root.

"\$120m goes for the Artisanal and Small-Scale

Miners, while \$80m to promote medium scale mining activities," he said.

For the development of the sector, he said, in the last three years the ministry has granted 11,600 licenses to the investors in the sector.

Goni also said the ministry has pending applications for licence.

While handing-over the former minister said "We have established new laboratories for the effective monitoring for mines environmental compliance in the six geo-graphical zones of the country, initiated a gemstone certification process and established a mining Cadastre System to further promote investment in the mining industry".

2011: PDP NEC meets Thursday

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) holds on Thursday possibly to release the party's guidelines for the 2011 general elections, *Daily Trust* learnt yesterday.

A reliable source told *Daily Trust* that the release of the guidelines would give aspirants an opportunity to obtain the nomination forms.

This NEC meeting will be attended by Goodluck Jonathan for the first time as acting president.

The meeting is also expected to be attended by PDP's Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, 28 PDP governors and all state party chairmen among others.

Others issues to be touched include the pronouncement of PDP National Chairman Prince Vincent Ogbulafor on the party's willingness to continue with its zoning arrange-

ment, and the dissolution of the federal cabinet last week.

Ogbulafor had announced after a meeting with all PDP governors that the North will still produce the presidential candidate in 2011 to complete its second term of four years, an announcement which some party members considered as 'hasty'.

Ogbulafor had earlier summoned an expanded National Caucus meeting two weeks ago held at Presidential Villa where it was learnt that there was a consensus on the need to allow all zones in the North to contest for the party's presidential ticket.

Daily Trust learnt that there are moves by pro-Yar'adua and pro-Jonathan ministers to ensure their return into the cabinet through intensive lobby of governors and party officials.

Plans for the forthcoming national bi-annual conference of the party, also known as the mid-term convention, would also be discussed.

Unity Forum wants national dialogue on Jos

By Muideen Olaniyi

A pressure group known as Unity Forum has advocated for a national dialogue to discuss the unending ethno-religious crisis in Jos and other parts of Plateau State.

The group's Chairman Musa Maigida Abdu said the issues can be resolved through an honest and well-conducted national dialogue, involving all stakeholders.

The proposed which the group noted that it could take any form, should also attract experts in constitutional law,

anthropology, demography, sociology, history, the clergy and other relevant fields.

Maigida said the experts should look into the relevant provisions of the constitution in respect of citizenship and how the indigene/settler dimension can be addressed.

Other issues the forum wants to be discussed include Nigerian citizenship, residency and political rights, the ethnic, religious and geopolitical dimension to citizenship, the internationalization of citizenship, the quota representa-

tion and the issues of balanced federalism, the conventions, domestic refugees, land ownership issues and the imperative of making common core values a foundation of our national cohesion and identity.

The forum said the proposed dialogue will put the issues of rights and privileges of a Nigerian and even foreigners wherever they may reside within the federation to rest.

The group expressed concern over the way governments and their agents had so far handled the crisis since it started in September 2001.

PHOTO: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

2011: INEC plans 'Diaspora voting' in 4 countries

AHEAD 2011 general elections, INEC is set to conduct pilot "Diaspora voting" in four countries to enable Nigerians living abroad to have the opportunity of participating in Nigeria's electoral process.

The INEC Chairman, Prof. Maurice Iwu, disclosed this in Abuja at the weekend while addressing stakeholders in the electoral process.

He said that the commission had concluded plans to conduct elections in four English-speaking countries, including Britain and the US.

"On Diaspora voting, all we need to do is to amend Section 77(2) of the constitution just to remove one clause that says only Nigerians resident in Nigeria can register for an election, not even vote. If we do that, that would be okay.

"We chose Britain and others for the pilot project because these are countries where we have many Nigerians and there would be no language problems," Iwu said.

Responding to the move, Chairman of House of Representatives' Committee on Diaspora Affairs Rep. Abike Dabiri-Erewa said the decision was apt because of the contributions of Nigerians living abroad to the country's development.

Dabiri-Erewa said that with an annual remittance of 11 billion US dollars, Nigerians in the Diaspora were capable of mobilising substantial investments and development capital for Nigeria. (NAN)



MEMBERS of Catholic Women Organisation (CWO), of St. Kizito's Parish, in a joyful mood at the thanksgiving service during the celebration of Mother's Day in Abuja yesterday.

Yar'adua returns to work next week

Continued from page 1

then to improve his speech. Both sources said he has made progress in his speech. One of the sources told *Daily Trust* that Yar'adua's return to the country last month was "premature," and that he was brought back before he finished his therapy "for political reasons."

In the last two weeks, *Daily Trust* learnt that Yar'adua received several visiting family members, close friends, some political associates, some state governors and also some personal staff, even though he has not yet met

with Acting President Goodluck Jonathan. Jonathan and his wife, Dame Patience, however visited the residence and they met with Hajia Turai Yar'adua.

The sources said Yar'adua's seclusion since his return to the country was ordered by the Saudi doctors because he suffered a severe infection while at the Saudi hospital when he received some visitors.

The people who have been able to meet with him after his return, the sources said, were made to go through some disinfecting chambers before they were

ushered into his presence. Those procedures have ended now, the sources said.

According to our sources, Yar'adua is not happy with the Acting President for sacking his aides, instituting a probe of his regime's contract awards and dissolving his council of ministers. It is therefore likely that his resumption of work would severely upstage the on-going selection of new ministers by the Acting President.

Yar'adua first left the country for medical treatment in Saudi Arabia on November 21, last year

and returned to the country after 93 days. While he was away, the National Assembly adopted a unanimous resolution in early February to recognise the Vice President as Acting President, despite Yar'adua's failure to transmit a letter of medical vacation in line with Section 145 of the 1999 Constitution.

Since Yar'adua's return to the country, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan has continued to run the country and has carried out many far-reaching political measures, including dissolving the Federal cabinet last Wednesday.

20 ex-ministers to bounce back

Continued from page 1

Acting President. Former Police Affairs Minister Ibrahim Yakubu Lane, who was nominated to Yar'adua's cabinet by the Northern Union, is said to be still in contention, even though Secretary to the Government of the Federation Mahmud Yayale Ahmed is also believed to nominate others.

In Plateau State, *Daily Trust* learnt that Governor Jonah Jang may have nominated Bulus Kewa, his long time associate. Kewa hails from Mangu Local Government, home of former Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Bagudu Hirse.

Also being touted is Barrister Maina from the comes from, even though Jang is preparing to appoint Maina as Director General of his 2011 election campaign.

From Adamawa State, although former Minister of State for Health Aliyu Idi Hong is said to be on the list already sent to the SSS, other nominees such as Abdulrahman Adamu, Ambassador Hassan Tukur as well as Umaru Aliyu Sarkin Yamma are said to be in contention. Aliyu is a close associate of Governor Murtala Nyako.

From Yobe State, *Daily Trust* learnt that former Army Chief General Alwali Kazir, believed to be backed by Gen. T.Y. Danjuma, and former Minister of State for Agriculture Adamu Maina Waziri is on the list of nominees. Waziri is a member of the Ken Nnamani-led Good Governance Group (G3) that has fronted for the transfer of power from Yar'adua to Jonathan.

The nominees from Kano State, according to *Daily Trust's*

findings include Ibrahim Yakubu Waziri, Magaji Mu'azu and El-Nafaty, while those that make the list from neighbouring Jigawa State are Ambassador to Turkey Abdulhamid Ahmed Malam Madori, former governor Ali Sa'ad Birnin Kudu, who is an Obasanjo man, and Hassan Alhaji Haruna, a former minister.

In Borno State, some of the names being peddled are Ambassador Saidu Pindar, Senator Abba Aji, Nicolas Mshelia, former Minister of National Planning Sanusi Daggash and Waziri Bulama.

The list from Kaduna State is said to include Dr. Dogara Mato, who is said to be from the camp of the former governor, Senator Ahmed Makarfi. The one time Chairman of Local Government is said to be nominated to demonstrate that the reconcilia-

tion between Governor Namadi Sambo and his predecessor Makarfi is real.

In Zamfara State, Kabiru Marafa, political godson of the NSA General Aliyu Gusau has made the list. Marafa recently retired from Governor Mamuda Aliyu Shinkafi's cabinet when he was moved from the Ministry of Education to another ministry.

For Taraba State, *Daily Trust* learnt that Alhassan Zaku, former Minister in the dissolved cabinet may be returned.

However, there are strong indications that Jonah Kataba, member of Governor Suntai's kitchen cabinet, may have been nominated.

Indications in Lagos were that former Minister of State for Agriculture Ademola Seriki may be re-appointed. Also, the High Commissioner to Ghana and

former PDP gubernatorial candidate Musiliu Obanikoro may be considered.

In Oyo state, Remi Babalola, the former minister of state for Finance may be returned. From Ondo state, it is almost certain that the former Minister of Justice and Attorney General Mr Adetokunbo Kayode will stage a comeback. He was very close to the Acting President and his role in the confirmation saga was quite noticeable.

Meanwhile, there were indications emerged last night that the planned choice of Ogun State Commissioner for Water Resources Mr. Kola Onadipe for a ministerial position met with strong resistance.

The protest from Yewa division adduced injustice and lack of fairness to the division if the nomination sails through.

Kogi Assembly denies plot to impeach Gov Idris

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE Kogi State House of Assembly yesterday said it had no plans to impeach Governor Ibrahim Idris.

Speaking with our correspondent in Lokoja, the House Deputy Chief Whip and Chairman, House Committee on Government House, Ibrahim Yunusa, representing Bassa Constituency,

dismissed rumours that the members went to Kaduna last week to perfect an impeachment plan against the governor.

"We went to Kaduna for security reasons. We felt that if we remained in Lokoja, those who masterminded the attack on our colleague could attack us as well. Impeachment cannot be contemplated because it is of no basis. Our member, Yakubu Yunusa,

was desecrated at the Government House and the government has not taken action against those involved. The right we are protecting is private to us. Our dignity is what we are fighting for", he said.

The lawmaker also denied that the House alerted the National Security Adviser on the purported insecurity in the state.

"We did not write to the

National Security Adviser. We passed our resolution which was sent to the governor only. Anyway, whatever the Assembly does is in the public domain. Although the state security agencies were informed of our agitation, we don't know what they have done with the information. We will reconcile with the governor if those behind the desecration of our member are appropriately sanc-

tioned", he said.

He maintained that the postponement of the commissioning of the Lokoja international market and other projects had nothing to do with the lawmakers' tussle with the governor, adding that the development might not be unconnected to the recent dissolution of the Federal cabinet by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan.



SPEAKER, House of Representatives Dimeji Bankole (left) with the Emir of Kano, Alhaji Ado Bayero, during the speaker's assessment visit to the burnt Kanti Kwari market in Kano recently.

Dust envelops Nasarawa, Benue

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

DUSTY weather is also being experienced in Nasarawa and Benue States. The cause of the weather is still unknown, but some residents of the area who spoke to our correspondent said the dust may not be unconnected with the rainfall of about a few days ago.

Our correspondent observed that the new weather seems to have reduced the heat of the past two months in the area.

"The dust settles on surfaces and we don't know where it is coming from. It is totally strange", says a resident of Lafia.

Some people are also complaining of fever which they claim is due to the weather change. "In a house of 10 persons, more than half of the occupants are complaining of headache and fever", Joy, a resident of Makurdi in Benue State said.

It would be recalled that due to the anticipated climate change, the Federal Government recently asked states to establish climate change clubs in schools and engage in community mobilization campaigns on climate issues.

Jos crisis: Plateau Deputy Speaker cautions religious leaders

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

DEPUTY Speaker of the Plateau State House of Assembly Ibrahim Baba Hassan has cautioned religious leaders in Plateau to be careful with the kind of messages they preach so that peace could return to the state. Hassan in a statement in Jos at the weekend condemned the recent crises in the state, saying religious leaders had a very important role to play in ensuring that peace returned to the state by refraining from incisive and provocative statements in their sermons. He said this was important as there could be no development in an atmosphere of violence and rancour and urged the people in

the state to see themselves as one family.

"We can no longer pretend that all is well when we wake up almost every morning to hear of violence and bloodshed. What is happening in Plateau today is highly condemnable. It is also wicked, barbaric demeaning and ungodly," he said.

Baba Hassan said those who perpetrate such acts of violence should hide themselves in shame as the consequences of their actions had not only been devastating to human lives, but also projected Plateau and Nigeria negatively.

"We should not give up and resign ourselves to animal

instincts on the assumption that since all efforts in the past have failed then we cannot succeed in our task of finding lasting peace. I believe that this is a trial period in our history and like most challenges that precede development, the task may seem daunting, but does not in any way suggest that it cannot be attained," he said.

He appealed to people to forgive one another so that the state could forge ahead.

"While I condemn the despicable violence that led to the recent killings, especially of women and children on the Plateau, my passionate appeal is for us to put the past behind us and forgive. I know this would be

hard for those who have lost their loved ones and property, but we must realise that further killings, maiming, and acts of arson cannot comfort or compensate us, but would not only add to our misery and sorrow as a people," he added.

He said if in the past, people of diverse ethnic and religious affiliations lived together peacefully, it means that they could still do that now.

"Let us resolve first and foremost to appreciate the fact that it is God that created us to be of diverse ethnic and religious groups. If the Almighty had wanted all of us to be of a common identity, he would have made it so from the beginning," he said.

Jigawa residents use masks to battle dust

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

RESIDENTS of Dutse, the Jigawa State capital now use masks to tackle the dust storm which they have been experiencing for the

past three days, just as motorists turn on their head lights all day to enable them see through the dust. A motorist, Alhaji Ibrahim Ahmad, told our correspondent in Dutse yesterday that, "If your

head lights are not on, no one will see your vehicle coming and this can easily cause accident. In order to avoid it, I have resolved to be leaving my head lights on all day".

He added that some motorists, particularly women had stopped driving for fear of accidents. He maintained that business was now slow because of the weather.

Media Trust's manager loses brother

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

A Research Officer at the National Horticultural Research Institute, Miko Yusuf Dakata, died in Ibadan Friday at the age of 41.

Dakata, the immediate younger brother to Media Trust's Human Resources Manager, Malam Alhassan Yusuf, died after a brief illness. He is survived by a wife, six children and many relations. He was buried in Kano on Saturday according to Islamic rites.

The 3rd day prayer for the repose of the soul of the deceased takes place today in the family house while the seventh day prayer would be held on Friday.

Traders seek insurance cover for businesses

By Sunday Williams

THE National Association of Nigerian Traders (NANTS) has advocated for a supportive state insurance policy cover for businesses.

The association said the recent fire outbreak in Kano textile market, known as Kantin Kwari, makes the introduction of the policy very important.

NANTS Head of Corporate Commercial Ishmeal Ariwa said that when steps are taken to mitigate the risk through appropriate

insurance cover, the fear of the unknown is taken care of, allowing businesses and traders to conduct their operations in relative confidence and assurance.

He said: "Most businesses are reluctant to procure insurance policies mainly because insurance firms in this clime seldom meet their obligations."

On the construction of markets, NANTS finds it unacceptable that markets are built and continued to be built in this millennium without adequate

and proper planning and provision for emergency situations.

"In the case of this particular incidence, reports strongly suggested that the fire would have been put out had there been access to water supply. Building plans, including those of markets across the country hardly have provision for water hydrants and when such provisions are provided for in the plans, they are rarely actually constructed," the association said.

Bafarawa denies renting crowd to thwart arrest

By Misbahu Bashir

FORMER Governor of Sokoto State Attahiru Bafarawa yesterday said dismissed claims that the people who prevented his arrest by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) were not indigenes of Sokoto but people brought from elsewhere.

Magajin Garin Sokoto Alhaji Hassan Ahmadu

Danbaba had earlier told the Daily Trust that the people who caused the row at the court premises and prevented Bafarawa's arrest were not true indigenes of Sokoto State, saying the people of Sokoto are law abiding and have respect for constituted authority.

Spokesman of the former governor, Yusuf Dingyadi, said "Elderly people protested the arrest

of Bafarawa because it was politically motivated and the people were against injustice in whatever form. Those who protested were indigenes of the state."

He said the traditional title holder was expected to be fair in his utterances and judgement especially to his subjects.

He urged traditional rulers in the state to refrain from partisan politics.

Egypt Air increases flights on Nigeria route

By Aisha Umar

THE new Regional Manager of Egypt Air in Abuja Mr. Muharam Abdulrahman said his company will have to increase the number of flights from Abuja to Cairo from two flights a day to four because of high demand on the route.

Egypt Air commenced its Abuja-Cairo leg route

operation in June last year with two flights per week, but the airline will increase the flights between Abuja and Cairo to four a week on April 2, 2010, to allow Egypt Air meet the intensive air travel movement to Cairo and beyond.

"This development is to cope with the expansion of Egyptian-Nigerian bilateral relations because a lot of Nigerians go to Cairo

for education, medication, business, tourism and transit, and there are more than 20 thousands Nigerians in Egypt," he said.

Speaking at a press briefing at Egypt ambassador's residence, the regional manager commended the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority for its due cooperation and all the facilities offered in a reciprocal manner.

AC faults Senate on appointment of INEC Chair

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE Action Congress (AC) yesterday asked Nigerians to mobilize against the Senate's rejection of the Uwais recommendation on the appointment of the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

Uwais report had recommended that the appointment of the INEC Chairman should be done through the National Judicial Council to ensure

transparency and accountability.

Based on this development, AC National Publicity Secretary Alhaji Lai Mohammed had also called on Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to take the decision of the Senate as a challenge that he must tackle if he is to usher in a new era of electoral sanity. Mohammed reminded the Acting President that he has little or no time to act on this issue that may well define his tenure.

"The Acting Presi-

dent must also use all the available political tools and muster all the authority provided by his high office to push through an electoral reform that must include a non-partisan means of appointing the nation's electoral chief," he further stated.

The party however challenged the Senators to call for an opinion poll on the issue, if they doubted that it is of utmost importance to Nigerians as far as electoral reform is concerned.

EFCC personnel to receive arms training

By Boco Edet

ECONOMIC and Financial Crimes Commission is to contract the services of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) and State Security Services (SSS) to train its personnel in arms handling in view of the recent attack on some operatives in Imo State.

Chairman of EFCC Mrs. Farida Waziri said yesterday in Abuja the Commission would also review its operational tactics to meet challenges ahead of the general elections.

She described the recent killing of one of its operatives in Owerri, Imo state as a ploy to scuttle "the current reinvigorated fight against corruption in the country."

Some staff of the Commission were attacked and shot at by suspected hired assassins along Mbano/Okigwe road on their way from the Federal High Court in Imo. One of the opera-

tives, Eze Adaga, a mobile policeman, was killed in the attack.

Mrs. Waziri said while the practice had been to frustrate prosecution of cases in the courts, the latest dimension was the use of brute and violence. "Only three days ago, I alerted the nation of a grand plan by some unscrupulous and unpatriotic elements to embarrass the Commission and its leadership through false publications, campaigns of calumny, rumours, etc. These plans are rooted in several ongoing investigations and or prosecutions conducted by the Commission particularly those involving highly placed Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs)," she said. She said "For those that have chosen to stay outside the country to continue to wage war against Nigeria's anti-graft war, the EFCC or myself, they have to realize that whatever image they create for their country abroad will rub off on them because they remain Nigerians."

Ministries, agencies to get gender offices

By Akor Ojoma

THE Federal Government has approved the setting up of Gender Desk Offices in all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) with officers not below the rank of Assistant Directors on Grade level 15 to head the units that are expected to be established with immediate effect.

Outgoing Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development Mrs.

Salamatu Hussaini Suleiman announced this while handing over to the Permanent Secretary Alhaji Idris Adamu Kuta at a brief ceremony held at the ministry.

Mrs. Suleiman said she was leaving office satisfied because her memo to the Federal Executive Council for the establishment of gender desk offices in all MDAs received overwhelming support and approval of the council shortly before the disso-

lution of the cabinet on Wednesday.

Mrs. Suleiman said the gender desk will help streamline gender issues into the programmes and projects of all MDAs in order to address the various challenges facing women from a sectoral angle.

The permanent secretary commended the achievements recorded during the fifteen month tenure of the minister.

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Meningitis: Yobe records 6 deaths, 88 cases

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

SIX persons have died from Cerebrospinal Meningitis (CMS) while 88 cases have been recorded in Yobe State, the Commissioner

for Health Alhaji Idrissa Bukar Machinama said at the weekend.

Machinama said health officials were on alert in all the 17 local government areas of the state, adding that government had

provided enough vaccines for the disease.

He said the Federal Government also donated drugs to the state which according to him had helped in reducing the number of

casualties this year.

He advised people to sleep in well ventilated rooms and also go to hospital as soon as they notice any of the symptoms of the disease.

PIC: NAN



FIRE fighters at the scene of a fire accident that occurred at Zone 2 Area, Command Office of the Nigerian Police, Onikan, Lagos, on Friday.

Pro-Jonathan group defends cabinet dissolution

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

A group known as the Jonathan Goodluck Youth Concern has defended the dissolution of the Federal cabinet, saying Acting President Jonathan had the right to choose those he wants to work with. Speaking with our correspondent in Kano, the Financial Secretary of the group, Musa Umar Sanda, said the cabinet sack was a step in the right direction.

"We believe this will inject fresh blood into the system and we hope they will give a new lease of life to the administration," he said.

He dismissed speculations that there was a political undertone in the sack, saying the action was not aimed at removing ministers perceived to be loyal to President Umaru Yar'adua.

"Northerners and Southerners have nothing to worry about because every state in the federation will be represented," he said.

The group also sympathised with the victims of Kantin Kwari market fire.

Bafarawa donates to Kano market fire victims

From Halima Musa, Kano

FORMER Governor of Sokoto State Attahiru Bafarawa has donated N5 million to victims of the Kano fire.

Announcing the donation while being conducted round the burnt section of the market in Kano yesterday, Bafarawa urged all affected traders to see the incident as an act of God and that He alone could compensate them adequately.

He said the fire did not only affect Kano, but the entire country. The governor, who was accompanied to the market by the former Secretary to the Sokoto State Government Alhaji Maigari Dingiyadi, urged the traders and government to ascertain the remote cause of the fire with a view to taking adequate measures to forestall a repeat.

"Our own is to sympathize with you over this unfortunate fire and pray to God to compensate all those who lost their wares. It is only God who can compensate adequately," he said.

President of the National Harmonized Traders Union of Nigeria Alhaji Bature Abdulaziz thanked the governor for his concern and pledged to utilize the donation judiciously.

Ex-minister says he's going back to farm

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

A member of the recently sacked cabinet, former Minister of Interior Dr Shettima Mustapha says he would be returning to his farm.

Mustapha, who spoke with our correspondent on phone at the weekend said after serving as Minister of Agriculture

some years back and under the Yar'adua administration, he couldn't ask for more.

"In life there is time for enter and a time to leave. I was nominated, I accepted and joined and now is the time to go.

I think the Acting President feels that he needs a new set of people and we wish him well. I thank God Almighty for giving

me the opportunity to serve.

I have headed three key ministries, Agriculture, Defence and Interior what else can I ask for, except to be grateful to God.

I thank our President Yar'adua and the Acting President for giving me the opportunity to serve this country once again and now that it is over, I think as a professional, I will go

back to my profession (Agriculture).

Once you are holding a political appointment whether you are minister or commissioner or adviser, you know that one day you will go, I think if anyone holding such a position expects it to last forever then that person does not know the nature of politics", he said.

Sheriff gives condition for emirate creation

From Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

GOVERNOR Ali Modu Sheriff of Borno State has given conditions for the creation of new emirates in the state. According to the governor, whenever a proposal for the creation of emirate is tendered by any community, the economic viability, historical antecedents and the social acceptability will be looked into before such requests could be granted. The governor

said this at the weekend when the new Emir of Dikwa Alhaji Abba Tor Shehu Masta 11 paid him a visit at the Government House, Maiduguri.

"There are parameters for the creation of emirates in any state. You do not just create an emirate just for the sake of creation, you have to look at historical antecedents, economic viability, the thinking of the people. If you look at it, Dikwa as of today deserves to

have a Shehu because the title of Shehu of Dikwa has been in existence for long", he said.

The new emir while fielding questions from newsmen sought the cooperation of the people to ensure the development of the area.

The new emir will be turbaned on Wednesday. It would be recalled that the Borno State House of Assembly some weeks ago granted the request by Gov-

ernor Ali Modu Sheriff to split the Dikwa emirate into two.

"You do not just create an emirate just for the sake of creation"

Gaddafi's statement violates UN protocol - Monguno

From Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

ELDER statesman Dr. Shettima Ali Monguno has said that the recent statement by Libyan President Muamar Gaddafi suggesting that Nigeria should be split into two nations is an outright viola-

tion of the United Nations' principle on international relations.

Dr. Monguno said this yesterday while speaking with our correspondent in Maiduguri. "God, our creator could have, if he had wished, divided us, his subjects and servants into groups: Chris-

tians, Muslims, infidels and perhaps those who do not believe in anything. But in his infinite mercies, God didn't do that. He created us and put us together, asking us to live together in peace.

Therefore, Gaddafi's unwarranted interference in the internal

affairs of another nation is against the United Nations principle", he said.

While advising Gaddafi to concentrate on ruling his country, Dr. Monguno added, "What would he (Gaddafi) have done if he had become the leader of the

United Africa which he has been advocating? Would he have asked Muslims to go up north and join them in the Maghreb and non Muslims to go down South?" Monguno added that recalling Nigeria's Ambassador to Libya would be appropriate in the circumstance.

Cameroon sacks 200,000 Nigerians from Bakassi

From Leye Adewumi, Akure

THE Cameroonian Gendarmes have chased out about 200,000 Nigerians who are still residing in the Bakassi Peninsula. The leader of the inspection committee on Bakassi, Mrs. Moremi Soyinka-Onijala, disclosed this at the weekend in Akure while briefing Ondo State Deputy Governor Ali Olanusi on the activities of her committee set up in January 2010 by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan.

The Green Tree Agreement signed by Nigeria and Cameroon in 2008, and witnessed by the United Nations, United States, France, Germany, United Kingdom and the Ireland allows Nigerians who are residing in the Peninsula to stay till 2013. The alleged harassment of the Cameroonian gendarmes has however forced many Nigerians in the area to flee back to the country. She said the committee was investigating allegations of harassment against Nigerians in the Bakassi by the gendarmes to see whether they had breached the Green Tree Agreement and make appropriate recommendations to the Federal Government.

According to her, most of the people residing there are indigenes of Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Rivers, Cross-River, Delta, Abia, Imo and Ondo States and that they were now scattered in four camps in Cross River State. "My committee had been to the camps of the returnees and many of them said they were driven away by the Cameroonian gendarmes who they alleged did not allow them to take their belongings. The returnees do not want to return to Cameroon. They are ready to settle in their states of origin, but they need assistance in terms of funds. Some of them can't even trace their respective towns in Nigeria so they need government's intervention" She added.

She said the Federal Government was ready to partner with various state governments whose indigenes were affected to rehabilitate and empower them.

The deputy governor said indigenes of Ondo State who were living in Bakassi were brought to a camp in the Ilaje Local Government Area after the World Court judgment, but that they ran away because the state government then, did not take good care of them.

2011 polls: Police commence special training

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Nigeria Police Force has commenced special training to prepare men of the force for a free and fair elections in 2011. The Kwara State Police Commissioner Mukhtari Ibrahim disclosed this in Ilorin yesterday while presenting the Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG) in-charge of Zone 8, comprising of Kwara, Kogi and Ekiti States Emmanuel Anuniru's message on activities of the zone.

He said the police would build on the achievement recorded during the last election in Anambra State and ensured that the forthcoming general polls is hitch free to protect the nation nascent democracy. Anuniru who advised politicians not to encourage violence during campaigns also urged them to support the police in ensuring hitch free elections.

NEMA warns against false alarm

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, Lagos

THE National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has appealed to major stakeholders in the Aviation and Maritime industries to stop raising false alarm.

The appeal was made at the end of a meeting organised by NEMA in Lagos with key players in the nations Aviation and Maritime Emergency Search and Rescue (SAR) operations.

In a chat with our correspondent, Navy Commodore Hamza Ibrahim who heads the Nigeria Mission Control Center (MCC) noted that sometimes the false alerts were raised by accident during maintenance which leads to the activation of the beacon.

He said that anyone who wished to test the beacon should first inform the MCC.

"Nothing is wrong in activating your beacon, but let us (NEMA) know so that we will disregard it when we pick up the signals", he said.



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INTRODUCTION

The Federal Fire Service hereby invites experienced reputable and registered contractors to bid for the following projects:

- Construction of Internal Roads Network
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2.0 PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

- Evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)
- Evidence of up to date registration with relevant professional bodies
- Evidence of Tax Clearance for the last three(3) years in Nigeria
- Company Audited Account for the past three(3) years
- Evidence of financial capability and banking support
- Evidence of similar jobs done within the past three(3) years
- Experiences/Technical qualification and experience of key personnel.
- Similar projects executed and evidence of knowledge of industry as applicable
- VAT registration and evidence of past remittances in the past three(3) years
- Evidence of payment of N15,000.00 (fifteen thousand naira) only, as tender fee

3.0 SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

The pre-qualification and tender documents should be separately packaged, addressed and forwarded in sealed envelopes to reach the address below not later than 12.00 noon, two weeks from the date of this publication.

The Secretary
Service Tender's Board
Federal Fire Service
Area 10, Garki, Abuja

4.0 OPENING OF BIDS

Bids will be opened immediately after closing on Tuesday 6th of April, 2010 at 12.00 noon
Venue of opening of bids is the Lecture Hall, Federal Fire Service, Area 10, Garki-Abuja.
Only qualified short-listed contractors shall be invited for consideration.

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Management

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Joy Oluwaemunor
Course Co-ordinator
AEMS, Suite 5, Jabi Plaza
92 Obafemi Awolowo Way
Jabi, Abuja.

Plateau Poly fracas: 36 suspects arrested

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THIRTY six suspects have been arrested in connection with Friday's fracas at the Plateau State Polytechnic (Jos campus) where the students attempted to lynch a man over an allegation that he was carrying explosives. The 36 suspects, all students were arrested by the Special Task Force set up by the Federal Government to restore peace to the state. Coordinator of Media for the task force Brigadier General Donald Oji in a statement said 36 persons had been arrested over the disturbance which spread to the Abattoir area of Jos.

Oji said the incident involved a suspected mentally unstable man, who the students suspected to be carrying bombs. He maintained that the man would have been lynched, but for the timely intervention of the task force.

He said the man was identified as Sunday Ebo, who lives at Gada Biyu and hails from Umuahia Local Government Area of Abia State. He added that the items found on him include 13 FM radio sets, 6 stale loaves of bread, Garri and N11,300 in various denominations.

The statement confirmed that seven persons were injured while tear gas and warning shots were fired to disperse the students when they became violent and insisted that the man be handed over to them for lynching, adding that one of the wounded persons later died in a hospital.

Meanwhile, the management of the Plateau State Polytechnic has temporarily suspended academic activities at the Jos campus. This was contained in a statement by the Assistant Public Relations Officer of the institution Mr Titus Alams

...NANS condemns student's killing

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

THE National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) has condemned last Friday's killing of a student and entry of military men into the Jos campus of the Plateau State Polytechnic.

The association in a briefing by its Zone C coordinator, Sebastian Pyoclam, at the weekend said the invasion of the campus by military men which resulted in the death of one student is unacceptable and demanded an unreserved apology from the military to the student body, the school management and the family of the deceased.

Members of the Special Task Force maintaining security in Plateau State had gone into the Jos campus of the polytechnic last Friday and fired shots when the students apprehended someone whose presence on the campus they alleged was suspicious.

The students said the action of the military was unfortunate as they had looked up to them for protection.

"Given the fragile peace in the state, the leadership of the students strongly condemns the decision of the security agencies to storm our campus. The task force should urgently send a delegation to the family of the deceased and explain to them the circumstances that led to the death of their child," NANS said.

The students said the military men had no reason to fire gun shots as they handed over the suspect to them. They urged the government to beef up security on all campuses of higher learning in the state. NANS also called on the state government and management of the school to reopen the school, saying its closure would adversely affect the students.

Rural dwellers to get community health insurance

From Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

PEOPLE in the rural areas will soon start benefitting from the Community Social Health Insurance Scheme, the zonal Coordinator of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) in the North-East Alhaji Abdulsalam Bala has said.

He said this in a statement signed by Hassan Salisu of the Public Relations Unit of NHIS. According to the statement, three states in the zone which include Bauchi, Gombe and Yobe had so far been selected for the community social health programme under the NHIS/MDG initiative.

Bala said the programme is also designed to provide qualitative health care for children less than five years of age and pregnant women in the rural areas free of charge.



SYMPATHISERS pushing off a car which rammed into an articulated vehicle near the Wuse market in Abuja on Friday.

Jos: Hausa community demands fair treatment

From Ahmed Mohammed & Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Hausa community in Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State has demanded for fair treatment from the United States of America and other developed countries.

Spokesman of the community, Alhaji Sani Mudi, made the demand yesterday while reacting to the recent comment by the United

States Secretary of State Mrs Hillary Clinton on the recent killings in Jos

Mudi said, "After the January crisis, many Hausa Fulani communities were massacred in Jos, Kuru Karama and Kuru Babba. Some of them were slaughtered and stuffed in wells and soak ways but the United States did not condemn the act like it did the recent attack".

He said the reaction by advanced countries like the US should be in

the interest of all parties, adding that Plateau conflicts were socio-political and economic in nature and the US as a developed country could help in finding a solution to the problems.

Mudi advised that the Solomon Lar led committee set up by the Federal Government should not be distracted from carrying out its assignment of finding a solution to crises on the Plateau.

Police conclude investigation into Jos killings

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE Nigerian police says it has concluded investigation into the killings which occurred on March 7 in Dogo Nahawa, Rasat and Jeji villages in Jos South Local Government Area of Plateau State. According to a statement signed by the Force Public Relations Officer ACP Emmanuel C.S. Ojukwu in Abuja, 164 persons were arrested, detained and interrogated on their involvement in the

crisis.

The statement added that their case files had been forwarded to the Attorney General of the Federation for prosecution in the Federal High Court. 41 of the suspects are to be charged with terrorism and culpable homicide while 121 are to be charged with multiple offences of unlawful possession of firearms, rioting and mischief. Two of the suspects are to be used as prosecution witnesses.

Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of state Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) Mr Femi Oyeleye who spoke with newsmen in Jos at the weekend said majority of the suspects had confessed to the crime. "Very soon, they will be taken to court. We don't want a situation where people commit crime and go scot free. They will be prosecuted preferably here on the Plateau in order to send the right message to the people," he added.

It's wrong for police to take sides -AIG

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG) in charge of zone 4 comprising of Benue, Plateau and Nasarawa States, who is currently in Plateau Mr Donald Iroham at the weekend said it is wrong for police men to take sides while carrying out official

duties. Mr Iroham said this while fielding questions from newsmen over the polarization of police officers in Jos. He said, "If that is what is obtainable here, then it is a sad development, because we are officers under oath to protect the lives and property of all Nigerians without discrimination".

He said his mission in Plateau was

to restore the people's confidence in the police.

"We will do justice to all. We want to show to the people that we are transparent, we want to ensure that people get justice and we want journalists and other people on the Plateau to join hands with us so that we can succeed," he added.

NAFDAC shuts 13 bakeries in Lokoja

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE National Agency for Food, Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) the Kogi State Inspectorate office shut 13 bakeries in Lokoja, the state capital on Friday.

Speaking to our correspondent yesterday, the state's regulatory officer of the agency, Pharmacist Kigbu James, said the action was to enforce strict compliance to the ban on impure potassium bromate which according to him is banned worldwide because of its strong links to cancer, kidney and other terminal diseases.

He said the owner of one of the bakeries shut down for using the banned substance, Mr. Kamal Opeyemi, had been arrested and that he was aiding the agency in its investigations.

"Compliance is quite high, but we need to fish out the bad eggs. The said banned substance is relatively cheap and that makes it tempting," he said.

He added that other affected bakeries were sanctioned to pay administrative charges for various other unhygienic practices including using untreated water from the River Niger.

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



Gaddafi's gaffe: Nigeria recalls envoy from Libya

IT is my personal opinion that recalling our envoy is not a matured step to take. The leader of Libya has every right to comment on international issues. It is the hearer's choice either to accept or reject suggestions. By the way, we have had occurrences like these for too long a time in one part of the country. Let anyone with the right solution bring it to the table. Qaddafi has given his!

Okechukwu Egbuniwe
mmehie2004@yahoo.com

It is quiet unfortunate that we have to recall our ambassador from Libya. The truth remains that the Nigerian government does not want to do anything regarding the killings in Jos and elsewhere in Nigeria. No one had been charged to court for inciting ethnic or religious killings in Nigeria, so why won't such statements be made by people? Such utterances will only cease when we find a solution and prosecute offenders. Recalling the ambassador in my opinion is meaningless after all in what area of life do Libyans need Nigeria? They are better off under their president.

Chukwudozie
chidoduru@yahoo.com

People should forget about Muammar Qaddafi because I always see



LIBYAN Leader Muammar Gaddafi

him as a mad leader.

Tex
ashleybon1@yahoo.com

The senate is confused. You should have done the same for the Nigerian ambassador to Saudi Arabia when the Saudi government was not cooperating regarding the whereabouts of Yar'adua. Please Goodluck it's high time you recall all our ambassadors out there and replace them with young and vibrant Nigerians who have the knowledge of diplomacy.

Nanklink
vadamu4@aol.com

My country has been very docile in terms of international politics. Currently, Nigeria is said to have been contributing more than 25% of the funds used to run AU, yet Nigeria cannot be seen dictating or having her citizens at the centre stage of controlling the continent. However, the swift reaction by our government might prove to be an awakening aimed at restoring Nigeria's image abroad. As for Gaddafi, how could a proponent of One Africa as a nation call for the dissection of Nigeria?

Engr. Baba Shehu
ibnabubakar@gmail.com

The Libyan leader should be ignored because he does not know about the composition and complexity of Nigeria in terms religion and tribes. He(Gaddafi) is not a Nigerian and does not live in Nigeria. So Nigerians have right and freedom of choice on how to run the affairs on the country. In my opinion the Nigeria government should focus on fighting corruption, peaceful co-existence, nation building and the welfare on Nigerians

Idris H.
idrisharon4real@yahoo.com

Yes, Gaddafi was right... just as

Mrs. Clinton was.

Garba Umar
gumar808@yahoo.com

The point raised by the House of Reps members to investigate the possible relationship of the Jos crises with Qaddafi's statement is the most serious effort in establishing those behind the crises. One just hopes, however, that this intent will not be abandoned as are several efforts in the past in establishing roots of problems in the nation. Please it should not be wished away.

Adamu Garba
dan_anita2008@yahoo.com

Muammar Gaddafi expressed what he thinks is the solution to religious crises in Nigeria.

Abdulrahman
muresindhouse@yahoo.com

Demands for break up are as old as Nigeria. Many people are tired of Nigeria. Those who want to stay can stay please

Aku Ebilisi
staedy@yahoo.com

Even I, a Nigerian, wants this nation to be divided so that we can live in peace.

Didam
didams4eal@gmail.com



PROFESSOR Charles Soludo

Senate: Soludo fooled Nigerians on global meltdown

WONDER shall never end. I don't actually know what the matter is with PDP. The same Soludo that the Senate president is confirming as a deceitful person is the same man that the PDP (of which the Senate president is a leader) forcefully put forward to contest the Gubernatorial elections of Anambra State. PDP, your day of reckoning is near.

Soyele
a.soyele@yahoo.com

Now that the eyes of the law makers has fully opened, let Soludo face the full wrath of the law for deceiving 150 million Nigerians and destroying our economy.

Attahir ABubakar
ahkyauta@gmail.com

Almajirci and the burden of guilt (I)

THE problem of Almajirci will not be solved by "reformation", committees or lectures: the only solution is scrapping. It is a violation of a child's right to deny him/her a stable life with his own family in the name of religious education. Itinerant Koranic education is inappropriate in the 20th century. It can be obtained close to home and this practice is widespread in the South Western states. It is doubtful if the children of the elite who gathered in Kaduna on March 15 are Almajirai. What the Northern states need is a programme of free and compulsory western education up to age 16.

Biodun Sonowo
biodunsonowo@yahoo.com

Electoral reform: Senate panel wants President to appoint INEC boss

I beg to disagree with the members of the Senate in this regard. We want the electoral body to be autonomous, period! Why are they suggesting financial autonomy of the electoral body and refusing autonomy for the head? We want nothing short of the "unaudited/edited Uwais report" and by Uwais report we stand.

Musa
musagarbati@yahoo.com

Big guns jostle for cabinet posts

MR. Acting President, we hope you are not going to pour old wines into new bottles. Nigerians are watching!

El-Khalid Uthman
elkhalid2k3@yahoo.com

The Acting President should ensure that only credible candidates are nominated to serve as ministers. It should be based on merit. Any person to be nominated should have a proven track record of integrity and willing to serve the people. Any selection not based on merit will be an exercise in futility and waste of government resources.

Abubakar Yahya Gumel
gumelson1984@yahoo.com

I support the dissolution of cabinet because of the following reasons: This nation is in a difficult situation and we need credible people who can help in bringing the nation back to the normal. Secondly, most of the serving officers do not care about the people they should be serving. My prayer is that may Allah (S.W.T.) give his Excellency, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan the ability to pick credible and honest people that will help him to move this country forward.

Abubakar Chika Maru
abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com

I hope Mr. Acting President considers those who are touching there people in all endeavors. He should consider credibility as a basis for the nomination of any candidate. It is time for change. Let's have good Samaritans and Ambassadors who will re-brand the name of Nigeria for good. He should also shun nepotism and be realistic.

Zanna Baruwa Gashua
bukar.zanna@yahoo.com

Jonathan should be careful to select people that will help him to conduct a credible election next year or later in the year according to INEC programme. If he does this he would have written his name in the annals of this country with gold. He will become one of the greatest leaders of our time. Mr. Acting President, time beckons on you to rise to this challenge. Who knows, it might be for times like this that the Lord God made you to sit on the hot seat.

Great Nchuma
greatnchuma@yahoo.com

Fellow Nigerians, the 99% of failures in Nigeria come from top government officials.

Abdullahi A. Kabomo
talkkabomo@yahoo.com

Barkindo turbaned new Lamido of Adamawa

ALHAMDULILLAH! Perhaps the best choice. May Allah grant him the wisdom to lead and have mercy on his subjects and bring forth hasty developments in the Kingdom and beyond.

The Sardauna and Sarkin Dawaki have shown brotherly affection by stepping aside for their elder brother, the new Lamido. I think the Sandas should also pay homage to the new Lamido like did the Tounegos as a mark of solidarity and unity of the kingdom under the



NEW Lamido of Adamawa Alhaji Muhammadu Barkindo Aliyu

new leadership.

Bashir Hamman Gabdo
bhgabdo2007@yahoo.com

I wish to congratulate the new Lamido of Adamawa Dr. Barkindo. May Allah grant you peace of mind, guide you and bless the people of Adamawa state. May Allah help you as you take the mantle of leadership. Alhammu lillah. You deserved all the best.

Kabir Ibrahim GUsau
ahlulzikri@yahoo.com

I am compelled to write & express my hearty appreciation, felicitation & esteem to the new Lamido of Adamawa Dr. Muhammad Barkindo Aliyu Mustapha. Sir your selection by the king makers is no doubt a right one due to your absolute leadership quality. I pray, may Allah (SWT) enrich you with zeal, courage, foresight & intelligence to rule & maintain the good legacies established by your father. Ameen.

Salisu Idris
salisuidris58@yahoo.com



By Nkemjika

Jonathan may be acting president; Yar'adua remains Commander-in-Chief

The burning issue of the deployment of troops to the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, on the day of arrival of President Umaru Yar'adua to Nigeria from Saudi Arabia has elicited a lingering controversy. All manner of calls have been urging that the Commander of the Brigade of Guards and the Chief of Army Staff be removed from office and punished for deploying troops for the protection of Yar'adua without being directed to do so by Vice-President Goodluck Jonathan. In urging these calls, those involved appear to lose sight of the fact that there can only be one commander-in-chief in any country at any point in time, and whom the loyalty and allegiance of the military authorities and their men is paramount.

The pertinent question here remains; who, between President Yar'adua and "Acting President" Jonathan was the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces on the night Yar'adua and his close family members arrived Nigeria from Saudi Arabia? If we go by the provisions of section 130(2) of the constitution, President Yar'adua (and not the Vice-President or "Acting President") was the Head of State and Commander-in-Chief on the night in question. Section 130(2) of the constitu-

“The truth of the matter is that President Yar'adua is still the Head of State and Commander-in-Chief even now that he is ill

tion insists, "The President shall be the Head of State, the Chief Executive of the Federation and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation". In fact, section 218 of the constitution surmises that "The powers of the President as the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation shall include power to determine the operational use of the armed forces of the Federation".

The problem with those who assume that a Vice-President or even the non-existing position of "Acting President" can become the "Commander-in-Chief" stems from the woolly thinking that "Commander-in-Chief" is not a position but one of the functions of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The truth, however, is that "Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces" is a position which only the President of Nigeria can occupy. The Vice-President can discharge the functions of a "Commander-in-Chief" which includes the determination of the operational use of the armed forces of the Federation only when the President transmits a written declaration (not BBC interview) indicating his leave of absence from duty (not removal from office) to the leadership of the National assembly as demanded by section 145 of the constitution. What this means is that until the President transmits a written declaration (not BBC interview) to the leadership of the national legislature, the

Vice-President of Nigeria cannot legally and constitutionally carry out the presidential functions of the President, which includes the operational command of the armed forces. Therefore, until Goodluck Jonathan begins to perform the presidential duties of President Yar'adua as Acting President, after the receipt of a written declaration (not BBC interview) by the National Assembly, he (Jonathan) is not in a position to operationally command the armed forces of the Federation.

The Guards Brigade, for instance, was established in 1962 as a special unit of the armed forces tasked with providing security for the President. The Guards Brigade takes its command directly from the Head of State and Commander-in-Chief, and not from the Vice-President or the non-existing position of "Acting President". This is a well established defence tradition in many countries of the world. It is this same defence tradition that holds in Nigeria.

The Director of Defence Information, Colonel Y. Yerima stated the fact the way it is when he said that "The Commander of the Brigade of Guards is responsible for the protection of the President who appointed him in the first instance. He is under the President and any action carried out by him to protect the President remains his prerogative". The truth of the matter is that President Yar'adua is still the Head of State and Commander-in-Chief even now that he is ill, and whom the military must be answerable to because the Vice-President or the non-existing position of "Acting President" is not the chief executive of Nigeria. Dr Goodluck Jonathan can only perform the presidential functions of determining the operational command of the military when the dictates of section 145 of the constitution are realized.

The apparent confusion in the polity as to who is the commander-in-chief at this time - Yar'adua or Jonathan - stems from the illegal duplication of the office of Head of State and Commander-in-Chief by the National Assembly resolution of February 9, 2010 purporting to have elevated Goodluck Jonathan to the non-existing position of "Acting President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation". Of course, the situation we find ourselves today has created a crisis of allegiance to a number of officers of the Nigerian Army, particularly those of the Brigade of Guards. Should their loyalty be to President Yar'adua as sections 130(2) and 218 of the constitution demand or to "Acting President" Jonathan as the illegal and unconstitutional resolution of the National Assembly pretends exists? Since a resolution or law made by the National assembly is not superior to provisions of the constitution, the loyalty of the military must be to President Yar'adua. Section 1 (3) of the constitution says, "if any other law is inconsistent with the provisions of this constitution, this constitution shall prevail, and that other law shall to the extent of the inconsistency be void".

Nkemjika, a research writer with Global Media, co-authored the book, "Oil Exploration in Northern Nigeria: Problems and Prospects"



By Ebere Amagu

Iwu: Guilty as charged?

Since 1959, every election in Nigeria has been challenged, disputed or contested with the electoral umpire most often becoming the whipping boy. But at no time in Nigeria's chequered political history has an electoral commission and its chairman been made objects of sustained vitriolic attacks by the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) and its Chairman Professor Maurice Iwu and the commission itself has suffered in the recent past on the account of perceived inelegant conduct of elections from 2005 when he came onboard.

2011, another election year is around the corner. And another wave of anti-Iwu/INEC blitz is already in the offing: The save Nigeria Group (SNG), Action Congress, AC, Conference of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) among other groups and individuals are already crusading against Iwu. They do not want him to supervise the 2011 polls. Reason: In their estimation, Iwu is partisan on the side of the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) hence if allowed to superintend the polls, the PDP will record "moon-slide" victory. In fact the CNPP has categorically labelled Iwu "PDP's axe-man, partial umpire and partisan"

I am not given to a dance on the gal-

“Where then lays the much trumpeted Iwu culpability in Nigeria's electoral fiasco?”

lery to impress, to be seen or heard hence this piece is not intended to achieve such objective, especially as the subject matter, Iwu is not related to me neither have I had personal encounter with him. But as a broad and fair-minded Nigerian, I owe it a duty to my father land to analyze and put into proper perspective, issues bordering on her socio-political and economic well being.

Agreed: Iwu's critics have the constitutional right to free speech but their speeches, as regards their crusade for Iwu's ouster from INEC; in my view do not edify the polity nor represent facts. For example if Iwu is partial on the side of PDP as claimed by the CNPP, how come the All Nigerian People's Party (ANPP) dislodged the PDP in Bauchi State in 2007 and won election there? Take the recent Anambra gubernatorial contest. As PDP's alleged axe-man, why did Iwu not "fix" victory for Soludo, the PDP candidate in the election?

The fact which Iwu traducers have either deliberately ignored or inadvertently failed to confront is that Nigeria's electoral woes clearly transcend the removal of an individual as an INEC chairman, in this case Iwu. On this score, I dare submit that such critics are mistaking the bus stop for the destination. I challenge Iwu's traducers to come out

with one single electoral fraud Iwu has committed since he became INEC chairman in 2005. In all elections he has so far supervised, Iwu neither snatched nor stuffed ballot boxes, politicians did. He neither armed thugs nor induced voters with money, politicians did. He never imposed unpopular candidates on the electorate; political parties did via the absence of internal democracy in their fold. Where then lays the much trumpeted Iwu culpability in Nigeria's electoral fiasco?

The truth of the matter is that what is needed is attitudinal change amongst the political class. That is where the anti-Iwu tigers should redirect their energies. This is because the bane of Nigeria's electoral system is the politician. They are chameleonic in nature. Once an election turns out in their favour, Iwu becomes an instant hero, a superb umpire but when reverse is the case he becomes a villain. No wonder the likes of Victor Umeh, APGA's National Chairman, Governor Obi of Anambra State and APGA's National Leader Dim Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu, now have Iwu praises as a refrain in their lips. Ditto Governors Adams Oshiomhole and Segun Mimiko of Edo and Ondo respectively, in whose states recent bye elections ended in their Parties' favour.

The case of Governor Obi is particularly interesting. Before the February 6th 2010 election which returned him to power, he had vociferously canvassed for the importation of Ghana's electoral commission chairman, Kwadwo Afari-Djan to conduct the election. This was in relation to Afari-Djan's handling of the 2008 Ghana election. But the Governor no longer holds such views today.

In any case, Afari-Djan's success in Ghana was not done with a one-step movement. Those who are calling for Iwu's head after just five years in the saddle as INEC chairman do not perhaps know that Afari-Djan has been Ghana's election commission chair for 18 years, a period during which there were trials and errors, resulting in the near-perfect electoral exercise in 2008. During those period Ghanaians did not storm the streets of Accra calling for his head.

If Iwu goes and a fresh hand is hired to conduct the 2011 polls, what is the guarantee that such person will perform better than Iwu? Under such short time, how will the new man learn the ropes, master the terrain and usher in a credible election in January or April 2011 - just less than one year?

Virtually all the political parties kicking against Iwu's continued chairmanship of INEC are coming to equity with soiled hands. They have not made any strong case for Iwu's.

AC which is today at the vanguard of the anti-Iwu campaign is itself run like cult organization. In 2007 all the party's governorship aspirants in Lagos were shut out of and a godfather singlehandedly anointed a candidate. The same scenario also played out during the local government election in the state in 2008.

It is quite uncharitable to be blind to Iwu's transformation of INEC.

Amagu wrote from Lagos (chidye2003@yahoo.com)



Your Letters

Making FRCN the best in Africa

I write with reference to the Director General of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria's interview on the above. I wish to plead that DG should please ensure that internet access to the FRCN programmes is enhanced. I have been in Ghana since January, and until December 2010, for a post graduate degree programme. Ever since my arrival, my major sources of news from and about Nigeria have been the Hausa Services of VOA

and BBC as well as the online editions of some Nigerian newspapers. I am therefore feeling the vacuum of FRCN's absence in my life here. The station's reach and wider coverage has made it a unique station in its own right. The FRCN should, therefore, be able to modernize and strengthen their created internet portal for access by subscribers any time and at the listeners' convenience. As it is now and considering the one hour difference between Nigeria and Ghana, any time I missed the news, especially my favourite 7am News, there is no way I can have it again as I currently do with BBC and VOA, simply because FRCN

did not make provision for internet access of any particular programme at any time.

The DG may also note that as a Kaduna-born and -brought up; my day is not complete without listening to Radio Nigeria Kaduna, including its FM Stations. Unfortunately, while I could get the National Stations of Lagos, Ibadan and Abuja and their FM stations live on the internet, Kaduna is conspicuously missing!

Abdulrahman Mohammed Alfa, Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration Greenhill, P.O. Box AH 50, Achimota-Accra, Ghana.

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Forget Gaddafi

WHY is the populace obsessed with Gaddafi's advice? This shows that we are easily distracted. We as a nation need to focus on the matters of urgency.

Y.D Muhammed, Garki II, Abuja, 08034157269.

He's no fool

MUAMAR Gaddafi may be a fool to the Nigerian ruling class; people like me see him to be a wise man. We know our problems; let us resolve our differences.

AKIKA Andrew, Nasarawa State, 08036824368.

Well done, Jonathan

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan you have done well by withdrawing our ambassador from Libya. But why not drag him before the ICJ for his statement is suspicious as that of the sponsors. **08038140974.**

Kwara 2011

KUNLE Adebayo (2011: *Dismantling gender apartheid in Kwara*, *Daily Trust*, March 18) should try to get to know the real Islam from authentic sources, so that he should stop mixing up the truth with falsehood. The write-up greatly displayed either the writer's ignorance of Islam, or a deliberate mischief. Our religion accord great respect, various rights and responsibilities to women, but never allows them to hold leadership positions as men. **MUAWIYA Abucker, Zaria, 08067814149.**

Insensitive leaders

WHY are Nigerian leaders not sensitive in what they say in public? Imagine minister of power telling Nigerians not to expect steady supply, why? So the I.G. saying that the police cannot stop robbery. Then, who will stop them? Please our leaders should

have second thoughts.

U. U. Goronyo, Sokoto, 08032878569.

Mass exam failures

THESE massive failures in WAEC/NECO examinations will continue, so long as there is under-budgetary provision to education sector.

F. A. Kuta, 07032738427.

Minority view?

DAILY Trust newspaper is a disgrace to the Nigerian press. From your news to your editorials and your online reactions, readers' opinion and feature articles all point to one thing and that is: *Daily Trust* is anti-Christians and pro-Muslims and also a defender of the Hausa/Fulani. There is no media outlet in Nigeria that is so one-sided on national issues like the Trust group of newspapers. **MAGWEN Tsenyen, Kafanchan, Kaduna State, 08037440108.**



By Kuwata Goni

Yobe celebrates victory in style

Tuesday, February 23, was set aside by the people of Yobe State to celebrate Governor Ibrahim Gaidam's Supreme Court victory confirming him as Executive Governor of Yobe State. That day's landmark judgment brought together citizens of Yobe State from all walks of life, including the opposition, to join Gaidam in his effort to move the state forward.

The Damaturu Stadium venue of the victory rally was filled to capacity, and the streets were bright with Gaidam's posters. Speaking at the rally, the former Governor and now Senator Bukar Abba Ibrahim admitted that he had never seen such a huge crowd of supporters. Senator Bukar then called on party members to unite towards the unified course of papering off the cracks on the party walls.

Also speaking at the occasion, Governor Ibrahim Gaidam ascribed his being Governor as well as the victory at the apex court to the Will of God. The Governor told the crowd that their doors were wide open to all those with genuine intention to help move the state forward, but warned that anyone who dare provoke chaos or plan mischief will unhesitatingly face the wrath of the law.

He explained that the verdict of our victory, having been delivered on the virtuous day of Friday goes to explain the multitude of blessings, noting that even scholars agreed that the divine Day of Judgment would be delivered on a Friday. The occasion also witnessed mass influx of members of the opposition parties into the ANPP, the most remarkable being that of the Action Congress gubernatorial flag bearer in the state, Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Tumsa, who told the gathering that Governor Gaidam's personal attributes inspired him to dump the AC for the ANPP.

He added that Gaidam who is known to be a strong-willed personality, was a great asset to the people of Yobe State. Many party chieftains who were hitherto loyal to Alhaji Usman Albishir, the man who lost the bid to unseat Governor Gaidam were also among those who came to embrace Gaidam.

Also speaking at the occasion, the Deputy Governor Engineer Abubakar A. Aliyu addressed Governor Gaidam as his elder brother who has earned the admiration of everybody due to his all-embracing policy. He explained that Governor Gaidam was a gift not only to the people of Yobe but the country at large.

Among those who showered encomium on the Governor was also the State Chairman of ANPP Alhaji Sani Inuwa Nguru. He assured the crowd of the party's success at the next coming election while calling on the people of Yobe to rally round the Governor.

Amid shouts of the Governor's slogan; *BRAH-BRAH 2011!* and *BRAH - BRAH 2015!!*, the occasion was followed by a procession round major streets of the State capital Damaturu, covered by the media to help build more exposure and added momentum that would produce a positive spin for the Governor.

Since Governor Gaidam assumed office as the Executive Governor of Yobe State, the spate of carpet-crossing or defection from the rival parties to the ruling ANPP has been upward swing, recognition of the widespread acceptance of the policies of the Governor.

Additionally, the rank of the rival PDP in the State has also suffered depletion as a consequence, as many of the party's chieftains had jumped ship into the ruling ANPP, having particularly been convinced by the Governor's non-discriminatory leadership policies.

Of course in democracy, there is absolutely nothing wrong with changing parties as long as one has reason to justify the action. It occurs everywhere in the world. In British parliamentary terms, carpet-crossing, defection or decamping is called crossing the Floor of the House. Everybody has the right to call it quits, especially when one believes that the party that one belongs to is no longer doing what is right or when one concedes that the policies of the host party are more appealing and in the overall interest of the people.

The season of carpet-crossing may linger much longer than a while, as the race towards 2011 gathers momentum in Yobe State. Given the leadership style of the Governor and his decisive final victory at the apex court, many more opposition members may be priming themselves to join the unstoppable Gaidam train to enable them become part of the great success story that is still being written.

Goni is of Tahir Guest Palace, Kano.

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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Recent cuts in taxes

Former Finance Minister, Dr. Mansur Mukhtar, before the recent dissolution of the Federal Executive Council, announced government's new tax policies geared towards plugging loopholes that allow tax evasion to take place, and encouraging voluntary compliance. The proposals, he said, had already been submitted to the National Assembly for consideration. Highlight of the new tax regime include the reduction of Company Income Tax from 30 to 20 percent, and the lowering of Personal Income Tax from 25 to 17.5 percent. Value Added Tax (VAT) would remain at 5 percent, despite expectations of impending increase.

Slashing taxes and taking other measures to make the system simpler and more citizen-friendly is commendable as these are likely to improve compliance and raise government revenue, which could lead to increased provision of necessary public services and infrastructure. With oil revenue unpredictable and other taxes, fees and levies dwindling in real terms, the need to redouble all efforts to enable adequate revenue for effective governance and long-term development programmes becomes imperative.

However, it will be helpful for the government to look into other areas that are open to abuse and subject to the whims and caprices of top officials. One of them is the habit of granting waivers to importers and service providers which has resulted in this country losing hundreds of billions in unpaid taxes. We are supposed to be a nation governed by laws, and that being the case, new, and unambiguous legislation should be enacted to spell out who can give waivers, why, for what policy objective and up to what amount. A situation where even the National Communications Commission can give GSM companies waivers getting to hundreds of billions is clearly unacceptable. Public officials, including ministers and even the President must be above board and avoid the impression that they are giving waivers for material gains.

Double, in some cases multiple, taxation is another area requiring renewed attention. So also is the multiplicity of taxes that arise when states and local governments introduce new and unnecessary charges on even those who have paid such taxes elsewhere, or in another form. It is very common to see unkempt ruffians blocking federal and state highways with spiked logs, boulders and drums harassing motorists in the name of tax collection.

Only recently, foodstuff dealers in Lagos and elsewhere in the federation went on strike protesting these kinds of multiple and whimsical taxes which not only disrupt their business but also make prices unnecessarily higher. These issues must be looked into.

In addition, government must ensure tax regimes are not only consistent but last for some reasonable time. Tariffs and excise duties once enacted have other implications which are not unexpected. Entrepreneurs could see opportunities in the banning or high import duties introduced and could borrow to start manufacturing the product locally, only for another regime to open up the market for everyone to import freely, leaving these aspiring manufacturers stuck with unfinished projects and unplayable bank loans.

Corruption and black market activities are not easily captured in any tax regime, thus putting most of our politicians and government officials outside the purview of tax officials. There should be other ways to determine the source and amount of individual wealth and to tax these. Ultimately, it is the perception of the citizens regarding what is done with the taxes they pay that would ensure voluntary mass compliance. When people rely on their own power generating sets, on boreholes they drill to get water, and even on their own security personnel it would be difficult to convince them to pay more tax. People pay tax to the state because they are expecting certain things from it. Unless this social compact is more clearly defined and therefore easier to enforce, it would be difficult to move forward.

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Ghaddafi: The making of a false hero

With his last week's unprovoked verbal aggression against Nigeria, Libya's Muammar Gaddafi has run a full cycle. From a self acclaimed champion of African unity (with his added insult to Nkrumah's genuine vision; United States of Africa) Ghaddafi is a false living hero of the continent belatedly recommending balkanization of Nigeria and indeed Africa (because without 150 million Nigerians Africa is nominal). The infamous Berlin Conference held 125 years ago. In 1885 the European marauding nations, namely Germany, Britain, Italy, Belgium, France, Spain and Portugal crudely partitioned the continent without regards to affinity, bond ship, history and cultures of the peoples. Libya was partitioned to the Italians and only got independence in 1951. It is a scandal that Ghaddafi, the immediate past chairman of Africa Union (AU) who until recently was parroting instant pan African United of African States would recommend a silly imperial "religious" carving of Nigeria. It is in the nature of false heroes to transform into direct opposites of what they project outwardly. The Libyan leader reportedly advocated "the dismemberment of the Nigerian federation into two new countries. The boundaries of the new entities, he proposed, would be along the geographical lines of the north and south. This, he believes, is the antidote to the kind of crisis that has seized Plateau State in recent times, occasioning the mindless waste of hundreds of lives".

As a precedent, Gaddafi reportedly cited the creation of Pakistan, which was excised from India in 1947. Pakistan is predominantly Muslim, while India is majorly Hindu, and rampant religious strife had resulted in frequent bloodletting. The Libyan leader described the Plateau violence as "a deep conflict of religious nature" caused by the nature of the Nigerian federation, "which was made and imposed by the British, in spite of the people's resistance to it". Assessing Ghaddafi's provocative thoughtlessness on Nigeria is as thoughtless if the assessment is not put in perspective of his age long false unheroic deeds even to his country and to his continent, Africa. The author of the Green Book came to power without firing a shot in 1969. The then 27 year old captain had deposed King Idris who was absent on a visit to Turkey. Not a few had held Ghaddafi and his notorious second-in-dictatorship, one Major Jaloud-(where is he anyway?) in some orgasmic adoration. The junta had created for decades a myth of some triumphant revolutionaries. It is in the nature of false heroes to put up make-ups. Ghaddafi has many women with make ups as bodyguards!

The make ups saw Gaddafi transformed into commander-in-chief of the armed forces and chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council since governs

Issa Aremu, mni
issaaremu@yahoo.com

Libya. From 1979 he proclaimed self as Leader of the Revolution. Today the man who overthrew a monarch and decried party and class system in his Green book is proudly parading a feudal medieval medal as the *King of Kings*. Libya has entrenched official nepotism with clear cut signals that Ghaddafi would be replaced by his son just like his partners in false heroism, namely Hussein Mubarak of Egypt and George Bush snr of United States of America did.

Gaddafi projects the image of a philosopher King. The various roots of his political philosophy include - Islam, Arab nationalism, and socialism. But pray what manner of Muslim would dare to exclude Christians in his kingdom for dubious political calculation? Ghaddafi is the only Arab nationalist who expelled Palestinians (who are also Arabs and Muslims) from his kingdom even as he rhe-

in Plateau State. Nonsense! There was no "religious" divide in Liberia and Sierra Leone before Ghaddafi fuelled anarchy in those countries. The regional anarchy tasked Nigeria and ECOWAS resources to halt. Gaddafi's latest verbal missile is part of his heritage of cheap and unearned heroism. The Libyan leader had not visited the UN since he took power in 1969. He however made a disastrous outing last year. Ghaddafi was as conscious of the impact assessment of his rhetoric after a long absence "and clearly wanted to make up for it by giving his views on the past four decades of history". But witness Obama's clear and audible few words and compare to Libyan leader's lorry (or is it camel?) load nonsense which tasked listening capacity and certainly proved uncountable. He reportedly talked through some hand written pages which in turn reportedly exhausted an Arabic translator who had to be relieved by a colleague. His empty styles (witness his symbolic tearing of the UN charter) went down as the lowest moment in UN his-

It is in the nature of false heroes to transform into direct opposites of what they project outwardly.

torically decries Israel's Zionism which daily oppresses the Palestinians. Never judge a philosopher by the cover of his book. So much for a socialist who prides self as King of Kings!

Gaddafi pretends to be an expert on how Nigeria should be governed. His "knowledge" of Nigeria as "North" and "South" lagers is reminiscent of colonizers' erroneous belief that Africa was a "dark continent" just because they did not know about it. Interestingly Ghaddafi shares a lot in common with American (CNN's) perspective of Nigeria as "Muslim North" and "Christian South". It is in the nature of false heroes that they are the real agents of forces they falsely decry. In 2005 an America's dubious intelligence report predicted a collapsed Nigeria state in 15 years time. It is a paradox that it takes a Ghaddafi to legitimize a CIA's desire. The profile of Muammar Ghaddafi as a CIA agent will be exciting to read. He ironically shares a lot in common with the late President Ronald Reagan who nearly criminally bombed him out of existence in 1986 on the ground that he was sponsoring terrorism. As a Hollywood actor, President Reagan throughout his tenure spoke from film scripts which explained why he once jokingly claimed to be bombing former USSR on a telephone line. Ghaddafi is driven by megalomania which could explain how audaciously he could verbally dismember a nation so casually. He claimed to be reacting to the crisis

tory.

The Senate President David Mark has rightly described the Libyan leader as a "madman". But if a madman removes your cloth while you are swimming in a river, you need a superior wisdom to get out and get your cloth back otherwise the difference would be in the degree of exhibited madness. Gaddafi's rascality is a rude reminder that Nigeria must wake up to the challenge of good governance. In 1976 the late Murtala Muhammed was assassinated by coup plotters. Nobody ever imputed motives to the death of Murtala as a Head of State while the nation moved with Obasanjo as his successor. On the contrary Murtala was celebrated as a national patriot nationwide while the coup plotters were summarily treated for what they were: criminals.

That was a developmentalist Nigeria which we must bring back. It is sad that today Plateau state crisis is given a wrong religious interpretation when indeed it is purely a crisis of governance. It is this diversionary interpretation by Nigeria media in particular and the Western media in general that capture the false imagination of the false heroes like Ghaddafi. The burden is actually on us not on Ghaddafi who in any case emerged out of crisis and muddles through crisis anywhere. Let us rid ourselves of crisis of governance and get Ghaddafi out of business.



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Invitation to Pre-Qualify for Provision of Services to be Delivered Under the 1-GOV.net Program

Preamble

Galaxy Backbone PLC, a public enterprise of the Federal Government of Nigeria, provides the 1-GOV.net - a common connectivity and ICT infrastructure services platform for secure and reliable connectivity and access to transversal services Government-wide.

The Company now wishes to invite interested eligible parties to pre-qualify for the delivery of services to the company:

Requirements

Section	1-GOV.net Capacity Requirements	Details
I	Campus Area Network Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of Campus-wide Local Area Network services
II	Technical Manpower/Support Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of technical support for data centre services Provision of technical support manpower for LAN administration and management services, enterprise and Line of Business applications support Provision of technical support manpower for VSAT installations Provision of technical support manpower for earthing and other related services
III	Training and Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and facilitation of enlightenment and awareness programs for 1- GOV.net services delivery Training and Capacity building on 1-GOV.net framework for various levels : (Executive/Policy Formulation; Functional IT Directors; IT Support and Functional Users) Design, Integration and delivery of relevant training content and curricula (i.e technical network infrastructure)
IV	Consulting and Other Professional Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information risk management - information risk assessment, audits, security policy development, penetration testing, design and development of security mechanisms and architectures. Development of ICT blueprint (Business process analysis/re-engineering, Needs Articulation and Development of ICT Strategic Plan, etc)
V	Data Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension of existing storage services based on data centre consolidation and virtualization Provision and integration of server hardware for hosted enterprise applications Provision of back-up data centre facilities and infrastructure as well as development of disaster recovery and business continuity procedures and operations Provision of Information Security Management System Compliance and Assessment Tools based on ISO 27001 standard Provision of Network Performance and Capacity Management System Provision of Access Control and Management systems
VI	Enterprise Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of Document Management System Provision of Human Resource and Payroll System Provision of Operations Support/Billing System Support for Telecoms and Managed Services Provision of an Asset Management System Provision of Performance Management System Provision of Budget and Control System

Instructions

- Interested eligible parties may request for pre-qualification documents for any or all sections following the payment of a non-refundable fee of ₦10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira) PER SECTION as listed above
- Simply pay into any of the accounts listed below and email the Company name, Telephone number, Teller Number, Bank Branch, Date, Amount and LOT number to pqq.2009@galaxybackbone.com. Details on how to download the Pre-qualification Documents will be sent to you via email as soon as payment is confirmed. If you don't hear from us within 48 hours after making payments or for further enquiries, you may call the Secretary, Procurement Planning Committee on 08077102558
- Prequalification will be conducted following the criteria contained in the prequalification documents and is open to all eligible national and international contractors or their joint ventures.
- All pre-qualification applications must be received in line with instructions contained in the pre-qualification packages latest 1500 hrs, April 6, 2010.
- All expenses incurred and associated with the preparation of pre-qualification responses shall be borne solely by the prospecting party.
- Notwithstanding the submission of any pre-qualification information, Galaxy Backbone is neither committed nor obliged to include any party in its shortlist for this process nor to appoint any firm on the basis of such submissions. Galaxy Backbone reserves the right to reject any or all pre-qualification submissions and will also not enter into correspondence with any party to explain why parties were pre-qualified or not.
- This advertorial is not an invitation to tender and shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of Galaxy Backbone nor shall it entitle any prospecting party to make any claims whatsoever and/or seek indemnity from Galaxy Backbone by virtue of having responded to the advert.

Bank	Address	Account Number	Account Name
Access Bank Plc	Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse 2, Abuja	0090010013273	Galaxy Backbone Plc

(Signed)
Secretary
Procurement Planning Committee
Galaxy Backbone Plc
The Presidency



KADUNA POLYTECHNIC

P.M.B 2021 Kaduna, Nigeria

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS FOR EDUCATION TRUST FUND (E.T.F) SPECIAL INTERVENTION PROJECTS.

In compliance with the requirements of the Public Procurement Act of the Federal Government of Nigeria, the Kaduna Polytechnic hereby invites interested and reputable contractors/suppliers with relevant experience and good track record for pre-qualification for execution of Education Trust Fund Special Intervention Projects as follows:

LOT F. PROCUREMENT OF WORKSHOP AND LABORATORY EQUIPMENTS.

1. Procurement of Workshop Equipment and Machineries for Mechanical Engineering Department.
2. Procurement of Laboratory/Workshop Equipment for Mechanical Engineering Department.
3. Procurement of Soil Laboratory Equipment for Civil Engineering Department.
4. Procurement of Water Resources Engineering Laboratory Equipment for Civil Engineering Department.
5. Procurement of Transportation Laboratory Equipment for Civil Engineering Department.
6. Procurement of Material Structure Laboratory Equipment for Civil Engineering Department.
7. Procurement of Survey Equipment for Civil Engineering Department.
8. Procurement of Laboratory and Workshop Equipment for Electrical and Computer Engineering Departments.
9. Procurement of High Voltage Laboratory Equipment for Electrical and Computer Departments.
10. Procurement of Laboratory Equipment for Electrical and Computer Engineering Departments.
11. Procurement of Laboratory Equipment for Chemical Engineering Department.
12. Procurement of Workshop Equipment for Mineral Resources Engineering Department.

2. PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

Interested contractors/suppliers are to forward their pre-qualification documents stating the project they intend to handle. Such documents should include;

- i. Evidence of Incorporation/Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission.
- ii. Evidence of Tax clearance certificate in the last three (3) years (2007-2009).
- iii. Evidence of VAT Registration and remittance in the last three years (2007-2009).
- iv. Company profile which should include names, qualification and experience of key personnel, list of similar projects previously executed with photographs, contract values, locations and names of clients to include GSM number(s) and e-mail addresses of the firm if available.
- vii. Evidence of valid subsisting registration with FME/FMH/FMWT.
- viii. Evidence of similar projects handled by the firm including cost (Practical Completion Certificate).
- ix. Evidence of valid subsisting registration with Kaduna Polytechnic in the relevant category.
- x. Evidence of financial capability to handle the chosen project.
- xi. Original documents should be available for sighting on demand during or after opening of pre-qualification documents.

3. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS.

Applications for pre-qualification should be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked "APPLICATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AS CONTRACTOR/SUPPLIER" to include the title of the chosen project and addressed to:

The Registrar, Kaduna Polytechnic, P.M.B.2021, Kaduna, on or before 12:00 noon on Monday, 12th May, 2010. The submitted Documents will be opened at 2:00 p.m. the same day in the Council Chambers at the Central Administration building, Kaduna Polytechnic, Polytechnic Road, Tudun Wada, Main Campus, Kaduna.

NOTE:

The Institution shall not bear the cost of preparation and submission of application for pre-qualification. The Institution is neither committed nor obliged to undertake the work described in the advertisement.

Signed:

Alhaji Mamoon A. Abubakar
Registrar and Secretary to Council.



DFID Department for International Development

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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

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

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

DNFIs are enjoined to make use of the website in discharging their responsibilities under the ML(P)A 2004, TO AVOID SANCTIONS FOR NON-COMPLIANCE.

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

Francis Oniwon - 07028181745 -
info@scuml.org

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



2ND NATIONAL WATER AND SANITATION CONFERENCE

Holding at the National Water
Resources Institute, Kaduna
On 25th – 27th May, 2010

Theme: "Water and Sanitation Sector Reform: Empowering the LGAs in Achieving National Development Objectives and MDGs Targets".

International agreements such as the Millennium Development Goals and the declaration from the World Summit on Sustainable Development contain actions to provide and manage water and sanitation services especially for the low income groups. In Nigeria, governments at various levels, NGOs and external support agencies, have been implementing programmes and projects towards achieving these goals. To determine and track levels of targets achievements, practitioners, policy makers, researchers and civil societies organizations who are involved in water and sanitation projects and programmes are invited to attend this national Conference.

Authors from the academia, agencies (government, non-governmental, external support), consultants and practitioners are invited to submit reports and papers for presentation at the Conference. The papers, that will be peer reviewed, should cover any of the various aspects of infrastructure and service provision that contribute to building healthy, sustainable communities; from policy to operation, from research to practical case studies, from long-term planning to emergency responses, from global policy development to small scale community action. The reports should be submitted on or before April 9, 2010 and papers are expected to address any of the following six (6) sub-theme:

- a. Investments in Water and Sanitation Infrastructure (mechanism for Cooperative Governance);
- b. Service Sustainability (Capacity Building, Climate Change, Operation & Maintenance, Innovative technologies);
- c. Sector Performance Tracking
- d. Scaling up Sanitation
- e. Prioritizing WASH in Multi-Sectoral Development Framework; and
- f. Equity and inclusion (Gender, Youth Empowerment, Vulnerable Groups).

It is expected that 400 to 500 delegates would attend the 3-day conference activities that include:

1. Opening and closing ceremonies;
2. Plenary sessions;
3. Six (6) parallel technical sessions;
4. Poster presentations;
5. Exhibitions by stakeholder organizations; and
6. Side meetings and workshops.

Be part of this great event as a delegate, paper presenter and/or exhibitor.

CONTACT:

Engr. A.K. Ndahi
National Water Resources Institute, Mando Road, P.M.B
2309, Kaduna, Nigeria.

Tel: 07038294678; 08033110265

E-mail: kuriwandahi@yahoo.com; dogara.nwri@gmail.com

Signed:
Management

INTERNATIONAL



EGYPTIAN Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit (R), Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu (C) and the Sudanese presidential aide Mini Minawi (L) at a one-day aid conference in Cairo yesterday.

Darfur aid conference eyes \$2 billion target

INTERNATIONAL donors were urged yesterday to dig deep into their pockets at a conference in Cairo which aims to raise two billion dollars for the reconstruction of war-ravaged Darfur.

The one-day conference, which was organised by the 57-strong Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and co-chaired by Egypt and Turkey, was also attended by representatives from the Britain, China, France and the United States among others.

"The Darfur issue is mainly an issue of development," Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit said as he urged donors to make significant pledges to Darfur, which has been devastated by a seven-year-war.

"We are convinced that the key is to improve development and raise the standard of living for the Darfur citizen," he told the opening session.

Recent agreements signed between the government of

Sudan and rebel groups were "important and need to be implemented," he said. Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu also highlighted the importance of the agreements, but said a solution to the Darfur conflict was not just political.

Peace in Darfur "will not only be achieved through political agreements but also through humanitarian and development assistance," Davutoglu said.

Sudan is represented by former Darfur rebel and now presidential adviser Minni Minawi, as well as ministers and senior officials. Western countries refrained from making pledges citing security concerns.

"In the absence of proper conditions on the ground, our focus remains on humanitarian assistance," the representative from Norway said, echoing the view of several Western diplomats in attendance.

"Our presence here constitutes a political message," one Western diplomat told AFP, adding that his country would

not contribute pledges because of "the uncertainty of how the money will be used or channelled."

"We cannot make pledges at this conference.

We have donated money in the past through the World Bank, but there are still some difficulties in the country," another said. Even host Egypt did not announce a pledge, though some participants said that its role in Sudan goes "deeper than this conference."

"Egypt does a lot for Sudan, through many channels. It is not a big surprise that it does not make a contribution at this conference.

The political significance of the conference is due to Egypt, let's not forget that," an African participant told AFP.

The two billion dollars which the conference aims to raise is to finance in cooperation with Khartoum a long list of development projects in agriculture, water supply, health and education.

Aid to Darfur has so far concentrated on humanitarian and relief efforts.

But organisers are trying to shift gear by working on a more long-term vision for Darfur through development and reconstruction projects.

The conference also hopes to "provide an incentive to all Darfur movements to join the peace process" which has been taking place in Doha, the host said.

The Sudanese government recently signed two agreements with the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM), hailed by the international community as a key step toward bringing peace to Darfur.

The Cairo conference comes three weeks before Sudan holds its first multi-party elections since 1986, in which veteran leader Omar al-Bashir, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court for alleged war crimes in Darfur, is seeking re-election as president.

S/Africa remembers massacre, call for end to violence

SOUTH African deputy president Kgalema Motlanthe yesterday called for an end to violent public protests as the country remembered the Sharpeville massacre in which 69 people were killed 50 years ago.

"The people of Langa and Sharpeville in 1960 did not voice protest by burning libraries and looting public facilities," Motlanthe told hundreds of people gathered at a sports stadium in Sharpeville, 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of Johannesburg. "On the contrary, they left their passes at home and marched peacefully to the police stations to hand themselves over for arrest."

Since the beginning of the year some parts of South Africa have been gripped by violent clashes between police and communities demanding services such as clean water, housing and electricity.

"In a democratic era I urge you to hold government accountable by using the democratic institutions available to us to voice our grievances and demands," Motlanthe said. On March 21, 1960 apartheid era police gunned down unarmed people demonstrating against laws which required black people to carry identity documents wherever they went.

Sixty nine people were killed and at least 180 were injured, many shot in the back as they tried to flee the scene, an event which was seen as a turning point in the nation's liberation struggle.

Thousands protest against re-election of Togo president

THOUSANDS of opposition supporters took to the streets of Togo's capital at the weekend to protest against the re-election of President Faure Gnassingbe, with his opponent claiming the vote was stolen.

His main rival in the March 4 poll, Jean-Pierre Fabre, led the peaceful protest along with other officials from the opposition Union of Forces for Change (UFC). Fabre has rejected the results showing Gnassingbe, whose father General Gnassingbe Eyadema ruled the west African nation with an iron fist for 38 years until his death in 2005, won with 61 percent of the vote. Fabre claims to have won between 55 and 60 percent.

"We will not leave the those in power to do what they like. That is finished... Today we call for national resistance to reclaim our victory. With you, we are sure to reclaim it," he told his supporters. Placards carried by protesters read "Enough is enough," "Let us save democracy" and "Togo people, free yourselves".

International

UN chief urges Israel to lift Gaza blockade

UN chief Ban Ki-moon slammed Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip during a tour of the war-battered coastal territory yesterday, saying it was causing "unacceptable suffering."

The visit came as part of a two-day regional tour aimed at reviving Israeli-Palestinian peace talks that last collapsed during Israel's war on the territory's Hamas rulers in December 2008 and January 2009. "I have repeatedly made it quite clear to Israel's leaders that the Israeli policy of closure is not sustainable and that it's wrong," Ban told reporters in the southern Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis.

"It causes unacceptable suffering," he said, adding that he was saddened to see that teenagers and children were the worst affected. "This policy is also counter-productive. It prevents legitimate commerce and encourages smuggling. It undercuts moderates and empowers extremists."

It was the UN chief's second visit to Gaza since the war in which some 1,400 Palestinians were killed and thousands of houses were severely damaged or destroyed by Israeli forces. Thirteen Israelis were killed in the fighting.

Ban toured some of the hardest-hit areas of Gaza

before announcing projects to build 150 homes, a flour mill and a sewage treatment plant, for which Israel has given rare approval for the import of construction materials. The housing project on the site of a former Israeli settlement near the southern town of Khan Yunis is seen as a way of proving to Israel that the United Nations can bring building materials into the territory without them being hijacked by Hamas or other militant groups.


Munir Manneh, the head of construction projects for the UN refugee agency UNRWA, said all the materials would be carefully documented. "We will give an excellent example and prove that we will control the process 100 percent," he said after presenting the project details to Ban.

Ban hailed the projects but said the sight of houses that remain in ruins more than a year after the war ended was "quite distressing" and that more reconstruction was needed, calling the projects a "drop in the bucket."


The Israeli offensive in Gaza largely succeeded in its aim to halt years of near-daily rocket attacks from the territory that were rarely lethal but left residents living near the border in a constant state of fear.




UN chief Ban Ki-moon has slammed Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip during a tour of the war-battered coastal territory, saying it was causing 'unacceptable suffering'.



TOWER ROOFING



No Hook Bolts Visible



REGISTERED TRADE MARK

AVAILABLE AT

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 PGN LIMITED Abu 08035823230 Uyo 08037901903 QUEENSWAY ALUMINIUM Kaduna 08033146976 Suleja 08033785220
 TOWER GALVANISED PRODUCTS Kano 08035350002 YOLA ALUMINIUM Yola 08036596789
 TOWER BUILDING PRODUCTS Ika-Lagos 2700926, 2700928 Laki 08033201086

ADMISSION INTO

NIGERIAN – EGYPTIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

GWARINPA

A DAY & CO-EDUCATIONAL NURSERY / PRIMARY & JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

Interested Parents/Guardians and the general public are hereby informed that there will be Placement Test into Nursery/Primary Sections and JS 1 & 2 Entrance Examinations into the school scheduled as follows:

FIRST ENTRANCE DATE: Saturday 10th April 2010
 SECOND ENTRANCE DATE: Saturday 1st May 2010
 TIME: 10 A.M.
 VENUE: SCHOOL PREMISES - GWARINPA
 GALADIMA GATE BEFORE CHARLY BOY'S HOUSE
 ALONG 69 [A] 32 ROAD, GWARINPA II ESTATE, F.C.T. ABUJA

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

PLEASE CALL ADAM ON 070 90 50 3871 OR
 ADAEZE ON 070 40 45 6011

Forms can be obtained at the School premises on or before the date of the examinations.

VACANCIES:

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Teachers in all subjects. Apply to: neisabuja@yahoo.com

NIGERIAN – EGYPTIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

.....Creativity and Determination!!!
 [Cradle of learning]





**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS
ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (NESREA)**



ACCREDITATION AND REGISTRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

The National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (Establishment) Act of 2007 confers on the Agency the responsibility of:

- enforcing compliance with laws, guidelines, policies and standards on environmental matters;
- coordinating and liaising with stakeholders within and outside Nigeria, on matters of environmental standards, regulations and enforcement;
- enforcing compliance with the provisions of international agreements protocols, conventions and treaties on the environment, including climate change, biodiversity conservation, desertification, forestry, oil and gas, chemicals, hazardous wastes, ozone depletion, marine and wild life, pollution, sanitation and such other environmental agreements as may from time to time come into force.

2. Consequently, all Environmental Consultancy companies/ organizations that are duly registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission, Nigeria and have relevant expertise and proven competence in a broad spectrum of Environmental Issues are hereby requested to apply for Registration and Accreditation as Environmental Consultants with the Agency.

3. Each application shall be accompanied by a non-refundable application fee of Twenty Five Thousand Naira (N25, 000.00) in bank draft in favour of the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency. Other information/documents to be submitted with the application letter are as follows:

- i. Registration Certificate of the Company/Organisation with the Corporate Affairs Commission
- ii. Article of Memorandum and Association
- iii. Particulars of Directors of the Company
- iv. Areas of specialization/expertise such as:
 - Environmental Audit,
 - Environmental Management Systems,
 - Environmental Studies and technology relating to compliance, monitoring and enforcement issues,
 - Environmental Laboratory Services, etc.
- v. Evidence of competence in Environmental Consultancy
- vi. Evidence of previous jobs successfully completed
- vii. Evidence of registration with other relevant regulatory bodies
- viii. E-mail address/Phone contact

4. Applicants should collect a receipt on submission of their applications. Successful applicants will be contacted by E-mail for interview at the Agency's Office in Abuja. Successful applicants at the interview shall be accredited and registered as NESREA Environmental Consultants and can be requested to carry out Environmental Consultancy Jobs anywhere in the country.

5. All applications shall be submitted on or before Thursday, April 1, 2010, with the envelope marked "Application as Environmental Consultant" and forwarded to:

**Director General/CEO
National Environmental Standards and
Regulations Enforcement Agency
#4 Oro Ago Street, Garki II, Abuja**

**Director Administration and Finance
For: Director General/CEO**

International



A Pakistani policeman inspects a bomb blast site in Quetta

Officials: Air strikes kill 15 Taliban in Pakistan

AIR strikes killed 15 Taliban in restive Pakistani northwestern tribal areas yesterday as militants beheaded three tribesmen accusing them of spying for the United States.

Five militants were killed in a strike on a village in Orakzai tribal district, where militants fleeing a military operation in South Waziristan tribal district have taken refuge.

"Two jet fighters carried out air strikes at a militant hideout at Ghiljo. Five militants were killed," a senior paramilitary official told AFP.

In a second air strike in Kurram, another tribal district, 10 militants were killed, the official and local administration chief Fazal Qadir said.

The death toll could not be verified by independent sources as the area is under military operations.

In North Waziristan, another tribal district and known as a Taliban hotbed, militants Sunday beheaded three tribesmen they accused of spying for US forces stationed across the border in Afghanistan.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR REHABILITATION AND DRAINING OF IRRIGATION CANALS

USAID funded program is prequalifying interested firms in anticipation of irrigation drainage rehabilitation activities in Zamfara state.

Please contact

prequalification@nigeriamarkets.org

For more information and complete pre-qualification package.

**Due date for all applications is
MONDAY, 29 March, 2010.**

NATIONAL JUDICIAL INSTITUTE, ABUJA

2010 INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR TENDER

The NJI, Abuja wishes to pre-qualify competent Contractors and Service providers who may wish to tender for jobs as specified below, and accordingly invites those that are competent, experienced and reputable to apply.

These services are required in our office at the National Judicial Institute Complex, Abuja.

(A) AREAS OF SERVICES REQUIRED:

- LOT 1: Sewage Collection
- LOT 2: Information & Communication
- LOT 3: VSAT Annual Subscription & Maintenance
- LOT 4: Office Materials and Supplies
- LOT 5: Library Books & Periodicals
- LOT 6: Computer Materials & Supplies
- LOT 7: Printing of Non-Security Documents
- LOT 8: Drugs & Medical Supplies
- LOT 9: Uniforms & Other Clothing
- LOT 10: Maintenance of Motor Vehicle
- LOT 11: Maintenance of Office Equipment
- LOT 12: Maintenance of Building – Office
- LOT 13: Maintenance of Generators & Plants
- LOT 14: Maintenance of Computers & IT Equipment
- LOT 15: Training
- LOT 16: Catering Services
- LOT 17: Security Services
- LOT 18: Cleaning & fumigation Services
- LOT 19: Information Technology Consulting
- LOT 20: Legal Services
- LOT 21: Engineering Services
- LOT 22: Insurance
- LOT 23: Road Motor Vehicle
- LOT 24: Office Furniture & Equipment
- LOT 25: Residential Furniture and Equipment
- LOT 26: Computer Equipment/Computerization of NJI
- LOT 27: Communication Equipment
- LOT 28: Training Equipment
- LOT 29: Medical Equipment
- LOT 30: Production of NJI Publications
- LOT 32: Rehabilitation of Office
- LOT 33: Rehabilitation of Quarters

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Prospective Contractors shall be required to possess the following pre-qualification Documents:

- (a) Valid Certificate of Registration/Incorporation
- (b) Current Tax Clearance Certificate for the last (3) years, Valid up to December 31st 2009. Tax Identification Number
- (c) Valued Added Tax Registration Certificate
- (d) Evidence of registration as a contractor with the National Judicial Institute, Abuja or renewal thereof
- (e) Company's resume including details of key staff strength to be deployed for execution of the contract.
- (f) Details of equipment and plants, including

machineries owned or to be hired

- (g) Name and address of banker(s) including a letter of reference/guarantee from the bank.
- (h) Evidence of involvement and experience in similar contracts stating contract sums and showing evidence of award and timely completion.

B1 SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Pre-qualification documents should be enclosed in a sealed envelope marked at the top centre "LOT No." and at the bottom left "PRE-QUALIFICATION 2010" to the National Judicial Institute, Airport Road, Abuja, within 2 weeks from the date of this publication.

**The Institute Secretary,
National Judicial Institute,
P.M.B 5020,
Airport Road,
Abuja.**

Opening of the bids will take place at the NJI Foyer, National Judicial Institute, Airport Road, Abuja.

PLEASE NOTE:

- (a) All Submission would be verified from the relevant agencies like the Federal Inland Revenue Services, Corporate Affairs Commission, etc.
- (b) This advertisement for "Pre-qualification to tender" shall not be construed to be a commitment on the part of the National Judicial Institute, Abuja nor shall it entitle the submitting Tenderer to make any claims whatsoever and or seek any indemnity from the National Judicial Institute by virtue of such Tenderer having responded to this advert.
- (c) Pre-qualification bid should be very clear about the bidders areas and proven competence and interest.
- (d) Proposal for different Procurement/Lot should be submitted in different envelopes.
- (e) Subsequent to this pre-qualification exercise tender for contracts and jobs will be accepted only from pre-qualified contractors, and the National Judicial Institute, Abuja shall not enter into any correspondence with unsuccessful applicants
- (f) Only regular stockers of goods are advised to apply as minimum period would be allowed between the date of award and final delivery.
- (g) Late submissions will be rejected.

**SIGNED:
SECRETARY, TENDERS BOARD**

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE MOVEMENTS ON THE CREATION OF MORE STATES IN NIGERIA

The National Association of State Movements (NASM) is an organization of like-minded Nigerians, who have come together under one umbrella, to ensure that more states are created in the country to help spread development evenly across the land.

The Associations are working towards ensuring that the appropriate government organs will create new States in the United Nigeria for the various requests that have met the constitutional requirements and all those in the process of doing so. A majority of the state requests were approved for Referendum in 1983 in accordance with the Provisions of the Nigerian constitution, together with many other States that have since been created.

Though the various movements may differ in their interests and reasons for their demands, their coming together under one umbrella has so far created an enabling atmosphere for understanding and appreciating the values of individual Movements. We have come to realize that despite our divergent interests, we can work together to achieve each other's goals in accordance with set down criteria for the creation of states under the Constitution of Nigeria.

In a nutshell, our Aims and Objectives include but are not limited to;

1. Ensuring the creation of additional States in Nigeria through peaceful and constitutional means.
2. Ensuring harmonious co-existence of the different peoples of the Country
3. Ensuring Justice, Equity and Fairplay in our National life
4. Ensuring even development of all parts of our Country

Our beliefs is that the creation of these additional States will go a long way towards reducing tension in the Nigerian political landscape, as has always been the case each time new states are created. It happened in 1964, 1967, 1987 and in 1991.

Time has come once again for the country to revisit the Issue and create more states. May we draw the attention of our Political Leaders to the Hansard of 16th June 1983 (Vol. 3 No 24) which stated 30 States had complied with Section 8(1)(a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Senate then directed that Referenda be conducted in each of the then proposed State. Since then, 16 out of the 30 states, have been created by the various Military Governments. Some of our members are among the 14, that are yet to be created.

We want to use this opportunity to appeal to the conscience of this great Nation, especially, the National Assembly and the respective State Assemblies, that our nascent Democracy will be strengthened if they should include state creation on the priority list of things they must do before the end of their current term. History will not forget them if they should conclude this exercise which begun almost thirty years ago, by their worthy Predecessors of the 1979-83 Assemblies.

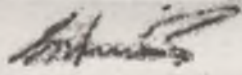
It is noteworthy that Section 8(1)(a) of the 1979 Constitution is the same as Section 8(1)(a) of the present 1999 Constitution.

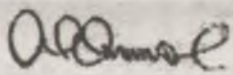
1. The Association believes that States are veritable instrument of Development in Nigeria.

This is evidenced by the fact that each of the existing states of the federation has transformed, at least its Capital city into development Centres in consequences, there are at least 36 development Centres in the country today, it therefore follows that the creation of more states will introduce more development centres across the Country.



2. Creation of more states will spread development across the land and help bring the much touted dividends of democracy to the door steps of the average Nigerian. More states means more development which in turn will lead to even development.
3. New States will further unite Nigeria. This is because new States will reduce tension in the land; assuage the wrongs of the past and engender hope in the future. They will calm frayed nerves, restore hope in the hopeless and reassure those who had hitherto lost faith in the Nigerian enterprise.
4. The creation of more states will create new jobs. Every new State brings with it new Public Service together with new parastatals and departments of government that employ people. With each new State come new roads, new housing projects, new water schemes, electricity projects, new hospitals, new schools, new colleges and universities. Each new project will no doubt, be an employer of labour; so will every new institution established by new State Government. Every new institution will mean a new employer. So jobs are bound to go round. There is a well known adage that says: when wealth goes round, animosities go away.
5. New States will mean more internally generated revenue. There is no doubt that every new State will strive to expand its revenue base, not necessarily by introducing new taxes, but by enforcing existing tax laws. More people will be willing to pay taxes to the new State of their aspiration knowing fully, that this, is now their own State and they will now have fuller control on how the funds are spent.
6. Besides, every new state is sure to attract its own measure of external support arising first, from its citizens living in other parts of Nigeria who are sure to come home to invest and second in the Diaspora who together with friends and Associates in the lands of their sojourn, will be very willing to come over to help the new State in its developmental efforts.
7. Every new state means new opportunities for development not only for the individual citizens but also for the communities that will make up the new state. A new state is bound to engineer a new spirit of enterprise and competing among citizens and communities alike.
8. The National Association believes that since government is a continuum, the present National Assembly should as a matter of grave urgency order a referendum on each Request for the Creation of new states approved for referendum by the National Assembly in June 1983 which has not yet become a state. While it continues to process those requests that have come in, since that exercise almost three decades ago. The National Association of State movement is patiently awaiting action on the part of the National Assembly in this regard.



Signed:


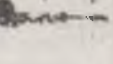

Elder (Dr.) Emmanuel O. Adaelu MFR
National Chairman




Prince Gbenga Omiwole
National Secretary




Chief G. I. Akara
National Director of Publicity



Aba State Movement
1. HRH Eze Love A. Wogu 
2. HRH Eze Danny Ogbalabo 

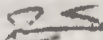
Oduduwa State Movement
1. Pharmacist Jide Elugbaju 
2. Sayo Omifisayo 


Gurara State Movement
1. Engr. Bawa Magaji 
2. Hon. (Chief) James K. Mako 

Tiga State Movement
1. Comrade Baffa Sani Gaya 
2. Kamal A. Mustapha 

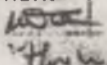
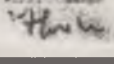
Okura State Movement
1. Dr. Yakubu Ugwolawo 
2. Hon. J. J. Idachaba 



Kainji State Movement
1. Umar S. Abdullahi 
2. Sheu Musa Tanko 


Oil Rivers State Movement
1. Engr. (Chief) O. O. Oruye JP 

Borgu State Movement
1. Senator A. M. Gani 

Njaba State Movement
1. Prof. N. F. Ukaigwe 

Ogoja State Movement
1. Akpak Cletus 
2. Igoh Ene Jonas 

Ghari State Movement
1. Alh. Habibu M. Gwarzo 
2. Alh. Muhammed Sanni Gadanya 

Ijebu State Movement
1. Engr. E. S. A. Oluyemi 



**PRESIDENCY
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS PRICING REGULATORY AGENCY**

Plot 1012 Cadastral Zone A00, Central Business District, Abuja. P.M.B 609 Garki, Abuja.

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE INTERNAL PARTITIONING, FURNISHING AND PROVISION OF KITCHEN EQUIPMENTS OF THE PETROLEUM PRODUCTS PRICING REGULATORY AGENCY (PPPRA) HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX, CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, ABUJA

1. INTRODUCTION

Reputable firms with records of proven capability and successful execution of substantial and complex internal partitioning, furnishing and provision of kitchen equipments are hereby invited to submit tenders for the furnishing of the new PPPRA Headquarters complex, Central Business District, Abuja.

2.1. DESCRIPTION/SCOPE OF WORK

The extent of works includes:

Lot 1

The supply and installation of the office partitioning works:

- High Quality 18mm thick imported Melamine-Faced-Chipboard (MFC) double faced partition, glue laminated at 180 degrees to approved specifications, with 2mm thick PVC lipping of approved colour and texture (see detailed drawings)
- Single and double leaf solid core flush doors (MCB) complete with frames architraves and iron monger (see detailed drawings).

LOT 2

The supply and installation of high quality office furniture:

- Conference room chairs
- Oval conference tables
- Office desk with
- Executive desk with round edge
- U-shaped executive desk
- Dining room table
- Reception desk
- Beds and bed side tables
- Bookshelf/cupboards (Types A, B, C and D)
- Executive swivel chairs
- Board room chairs
- 1-seater / 2-seater settee
- 5-seater L shaped settee
- 2-seater and 3-seater sofa
- Side and centre tables with glass top
- Visitors chairs
- 2 in 1 connecting chairs for guest (waiting)

LOT 3

The supply and installation of the following kitchen equipments all in stainless steel (see detailed drawings and bill of quantities).

- Cold storage equipments
- Food preparation equipments
- Kitchen equipments
- Servery equipments

2.2 In the light of the above, firms that have not executed single project costing at least Five Hundred Million Naira (N500,000,000.00) need not apply as they may not have adequate managerial capability, expertise and logistics to surmount enormous problems inherent in a project on a scale as massive as the new PPPRA Headquarters complex.

3.0 PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS

Tendering firms are to collect tender documents from the office of the Head of Finance and Administration on payment of a non-refundable fee of **Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira only (N250, 000.00)** in bank draft payable to PPPRA.

3.1. Each bid shall be completed in two (2) packages. Technical and Financial proposals. However, only firms with technical Proposals which are adjudged successful shall have their Financial Proposal opened and assessed. Success in the exercise shall be based on the aggregate scores recorded in the Technical and Financial proposals.

3.2. TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

Firms are advised to ensure that their tenders demonstrate requisite logistics, adequate resources in terms of skilled manpower and plan to achieve the target set out in the scope of works.

3.3 Other requirements to be addressed in the Technical Proposal include the following:

- (i) Evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission, a copy of Memorandum and Articles of Association. (Original documents to be cited).
- (ii) Tax clearance certificate for the last three (3) years.
- (iii) Evidence of registration with the PPPRA
- (iv) Photocopy of Value Added Tax Certificate and evidence of VAT remittance.
- (v) List of professional Technical staff with qualifications and experience.

- (vi) Evidence of technology as well as equipments owned by the firm that will be available for the project, including list, description and specification.
- (vii) Company's audited account for the past three (3) years and letter of reference from a reputable bank confirming capacity to execute the project.
- viii) Comprehensive company profile, including ownership structure of the firm.
- (ix) Demonstration of experience by way of a comprehensive list of verifiable past projects of similar nature and complexity successfully executed in the past five years as well as those being currently carried out, including cost.
- (x) Evidence of payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira only (N250, 000.00) to PPPRA.

FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

The following documents shall be issued to the tendering firms as the basis for the Financial Proposal.

(a) A set of drawings as well as schedules of furniture giving the specifications and quantities of the various items for pricing.

3.5. Firms are advised to ensure that their tenders take into consideration, the need to achieve the highest level of workmanship, craftsmanship and indicate details and that they visit the site prior to completing their bid in order to familiarize themselves with the site and agree on logistics for completing the project in addition to the pricing of the schedule of work. A responsive bid must be inclusive of the following:

- i) Completion period for the supply and installation of the items/works from the time the contract is awarded.
- ii) Validity period of the proposals from the date of submission must be clearly indicated.
- iii) An electronic copy and five (5) sets of hard copies of back-up submissions containing detailed descriptions/specifications as well as graphic illustrations/pictures of all furniture to be provided by them for various categories of items listed in the schedules, if they are eventually successful as decisions will be predicated on cost vis-à-vis quality of the materials produced.
- iv) Cost of transportation to and installation on site as well as all other taxes and duties.
- v) Proposals should take cognizance of hierarchy of users of the spaces which is clearly discernible from the annotations on the drawings.

3.6. Strict adherence to specifications by the bidders is required. Wherever they are in doubt, bidding firms are advised to seek confirmation from the consultants.

4.0 SUBMISSION OF TENDERS

Five (5) copies of the Technical Proposal duly shall be placed in a sealed envelope clearly marked **"TECHNICAL PROPOSAL"**. Similarly 5 copies of the Financial proposal shall be signed, sealed and placed in a separate envelope clearly marked 'Financial Proposal' and with a warning **"DO NOT OPEN WITH THE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL"**.

4.1. The envelopes containing the Technical and Financial Proposal shall be placed into an outer sealed envelope marked **PROPOSAL FOR THE INTERNAL PARTITIONING, FURNISHING AND PROVISION OF KITCHEN EQUIPMENT FOR THE NEW PPPRA HEADQUARTERS** at the top right corner and delivered within two (2) weeks from the date of this publication/advertisement to the Head, Finance and Administration Department, Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency, Plot 1012 Cadastral Zone A00, behind Central Mosque, Central Business District, Abuja FCT.

5.0 OPENING OF TENDERS

Tenders will be opened at 1.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 7th April, 2010 in the conference Hall of the new PPPRA Headquarters behind the Central Mosque, Central Business District, Abuja. Bidders are required to be physically present.

6.0 DISCLAIMER

This "Invitation for pre-qualification to enter into supply contract" shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA) nor shall it entitle your company to make claim whatsoever and or seek any indemnity from the PPPRA by virtue of such companies having responded to this invitation.

All expenses incurred in preparing for the exercise and all expenses otherwise associated with the exercise shall be borne solely by your company.

NOTE: this advertisement supercedes an earlier published version.

Signed,
Head
Finance and Administration
For: Executive Secretary



TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF NIGERIA PUBLIC NOTICE

PROVISION OF CIVIL WORKS AND ELECTRO-MECHANICAL SERVICES FOR TEMPORARY LOCATION OF 2NO. 60 MVA MOBILE SUBSTATIONS, AT ALAGBON 132 kV TRANSMISSION SWITCHYARD, IKOYI, LAGOS.

Tender No: NCB/TCN/PMU/01

INTRODUCTION

In preparation for the rehabilitation of the 132/33kV Transmission Switchyard at Alagbon, Ikoyi, Lagos, Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), has ordered for 2 No. Mobile Substations to serve as relief for the transformers at the Transmission Switchyard, during its rehabilitation. The 60 MVA Mobile Substations are on low bed trucks measuring about 4m x 25m, on six (6) axles, each axle load weighing about 22tons. PHCN intends to move these Mobile Substations to the Alagbon Switchyard.

Hence, the Power Holding Company of Nigeria Plc (PHCN)/Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), hereby invite sealed tenders from eligible tenderers, for the provision of civil works and electro-mechanical services, for temporary location of 2No. 60MVA Mobile Substations, at the Alagbon 132kV Transmission Switchyard, Ikoyi, Lagos, as well as carry out the following works to position the equipment at the switchyard.

WORK SCOPE

- i. Access road to Switchyard: widening of road, expansion of horizontal curves and filling and compaction of road pavement (length of Access road: 550m).
- ii. Widening and strengthening of culverts on the access road to the 132 kV Switchyard.
- iii. Sandfilling (by hydraulic sand pumping or tipping by trucks) with sharp sand and compaction of the same in designated waterlogged areas of the site (measuring about 6,000m²), for the reinforced concrete platform (measuring 25m x 50m), to be used for the temporary location of the 2no. Mobile Substations and also to allow the maneuvering of the Mobile Substations Low Bed Trucks to the concrete platform.
- iv. Construction of a reinforced concrete slab platform (measuring 25m x 50m) on a portion of the sandfilled water logged area, where the Mobile Substations will be stationed.
- v. Construction of busbar gantries and concrete support bases for the switchgears in specified positions around the reinforced concrete slab platform for the connection of the Mobile Substations to the 132 kV Transmission Line and the 33/11 kV Distribution Switchyard.

The time for completion is *two (2) months*.

PRE-QUALIFICATION

Interested companies are required to provide the following:

- (1) Copy of Certificate of Incorporation in Nigeria (Forms C02 and CO7 must be attached) or overseas.
- (2) Company profile must include:
Populated organizational structure and key professional staff with relevant experience. Availability of requisite and appropriate skills among key staff and persons to be engaged in the project. Record of quality assurance/quality management system to be implemented.
- (3) Evidence of having successfully carried out one (1) similar project within the past 3 years and/or details of ongoing project. Final Taking Over Certificates/Certificate of Performance from clients, including names, evidence of payment for such projects, address, e-mails and phone numbers of contact persons on each of the projects must be attached.
- (4) When a company is in Joint Venture (JV) Partnership or Consortium Agreement, the role of each partner must be clearly defined in the JV agreement. Additionally, the Memorandum of understanding

(MoU), must specify the lead partner. Evidence of such a relationship must be signed by the Chief Executives/Partners. A copy of the firm legal relationship must be attached.

- (5) Audited Account of the company along with the corresponding 3years Tax Clearance Certificate, which shall be verified and the original sighted on demand.
- (6) Tenderers should submit evidence(s) of compliance with the provisions of the Pension Reform Act, 2004

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. Any contractor not in business for at least two years will not be considered.
2. Contractors engaged in PHCN/TCN projects, whose performance is unsatisfactory will not be pre-qualified.

NOTE

1. Tendering documents may be purchased for a non-refundable fee of **NGN 25,000.00**. Prospective tenderers should pick the bid/tender documents from the office of the ED (TSP), 3rd floor, PHCN Headquarters, Maitama, Abuja.
2. Tenders shall be submitted with Tender Security in the amount of **NGN 1,365,850.00**, either in the form of a bank draft or pay order or in the form of an irrevocable bank guarantee (Form W-3), issued by a commercial bank in Nigeria.
3. Interested eligible tenderers may inspect the Tender Documents from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on week days Nigeria time, starting from **22nd March, 2010**.
4. Tenderers are required to visit the proposed project sites for physical inspection and identification of scope of work to enable the submission of responsive tenders.
5. Tendering will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB), as specified in the Public Procurement Regulations for Goods and Works and is open to all tenderers whether enlisted or not with the employer, provided they otherwise qualify.

SUBMISSION OF TENDER

Tenders shall be delivered to the address below on or before **12:00 noon on Monday, 12th of April, 2010**, to the:

**Assistant General Manager (Procurement),
Room 228, 2nd Floor, Power Holding Company
of Nigeria Plc. (PHCN), Corporate Headquarters,
Plot 441, Zambezi Crescent, Maitama, Abuja.**

Tenders shall be valid for a period of *sixty days* after tender submission. Late tenders will be rejected. Tenders will be opened in the presence of the tenderers or/and their representatives on **Monday, 12th April, 2010 by 12.30 pm**, at the address below:

**Executive Director (TSP)
Transmission Company of Nigeria Plc, 3rd floor,
PHCN Headquarters, Plot 441, Zambezi Crescent,
Maitama, Abuja.**

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

1. Atonack@yahoo.com
2. Solaakinniranye@yahoo.com

Signed:

MANAGEMENT

TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF NIGERIA



TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF NIGERIA PUBLIC NOTICE

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS

INTRODUCTION

The Federal Government of Nigeria, through the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), intends to develop a pool of tested and competent contractors for the implementation of Civil engineering works.

Pursuant to this, eligible contractors are hereby invited to apply for pre-qualification under any or all of the following work categories:

- (A) Highly Technical Civil Works: special erosion control works for 330kV & 132kV transmission line towers involving piling/sheet piling; rigid and flexible - type access roads in substations, drainage & flood control, substation earthworks, tower relocation, and subsoil investigation.
- (B) Medium Technical Civil Works: erosion control works for 330kV & 132kV transmission line towers involving retaining walls, boulder fill, slope protection; operators quarters, office blocks, control buildings, concrete roofs, and borehole for water supply.
- (C) General Civil Works: security block wall fencing for transmission stations, gateman's shelters, switchyard gravelling, renovation/rehabilitation of existing buildings, maintenance and minor access roadworks.

PRE-QUALIFICATION PRE-REQUISITES:

Interested companies are to provide the following:

- (1) Copy of Certificate of Incorporation in Nigeria (Forms CO2 and CO7 must be attached) or overseas
- (2) Company profile must include
 - Populated organisational structure and key professional staff with relevant experience on power-related civil works.
 - Availability of requisite and appropriate skills among key staff and persons to be engaged in the project.
 - Record of quality assurance/quality management system to be implemented.
 - List of specialized equipment and machinery, indicating whether owned or leased, and their locations.
 - List of Company Directors, their individual addresses, phone nos. and curriculum vitae.
- (3) Evidence of having successfully carried out at least three (3) similar works within the past five years and/or details of on-going projects. Evidence of Final Taking Over Certificates/Certificates of Performance from clients must be attached. E-mail addresses and/or phone nos. of the clients must be provided.
- (4) When a company is in Joint Venture (JV) Partnership or Consortium Agreement, the role of each partner must be clearly defined in the JV Agreement. Additionally, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) must specify the lead partner. Evidence of such relationship must be signed by the Chief Executives / Partners. A copy of the firm legal relationship must be attached.

- (5) For the purpose of the same job/lot, a firm can only be partner in ONE JV or consortium. Submissions for the same job/lot by JVs or Bid documents having the same firm(s) as partner(s) shall be rejected.
- (6) The applicant MUST submit an Audited Account of the company along with corresponding 3 years Tax Clearance Certificate(s), which shall be verified and the original sighted on demand.
- (7) Submit evidence(s) of compliance with the provisions of the Pension Reform Act, 2004

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

1. Only pre-qualified contractors will be invited to tender for projects.
2. TCN reserves the right to classify applicants under the categories of work listed A, B & C on the basis of their submissions.
3. Any contractor not in business for at least 2 years will not be considered.
4. Contractors engaged in PHCN/TCN projects whose performance is unsatisfactory will not be pre-qualified.
5. Pre-qualification is free.

SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

Interested applicants should submit their documents as requested above, delivered by hand or registered mail, to reach the following address not later than 12.00 noon, on Monday, 19th April, 2010, to the:

The Assistant General Manager (Procurement) TCN,
2nd Floor, Room 228,
Corporate Headquarters,
Power Holding Company of Nigeria Plc.,
Plot 441, Zambezi Crescent,
Maitama, Abuja.

Tel: +2348055027497.

One hard copy and a soft copy of proposal are to be submitted for each category of applicant's choice.

The name and mailing address of the applicant's Company shall be clearly marked on the envelope(s). All the information requested for pre-qualification shall be provided in English Language by all applicants.

Failure to provide information/supporting document that is essential for the evaluation of the applicant's qualifications, or to provide timely clarification or substantiation of the information supplied, may result in disqualification of the applicant.

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

1. solaakinniranye@yahoo.com
2. oyelekanga@yahoo.com
3. atonack@yahoo.co.uk

Signed:
Management
Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN)



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

Plot 1370 Ukpo Close, Off Oro Ago Crescent
Off Muhammad Buhari Way, (by Old CBN),
Garki II District, P.M.S. 252, Garki - Abuja.
Tel/Fax: 09-6706861
e-mail: info@ncac.gov.ng www.ncac.gov.ng

**PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR
SELECTED PROJECTS TO BE DONE BY THE NATIONAL
COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURE IN YEAR 2010**

The National Council for Arts and Culture, Abuja is desirous of undertaking its 2010 capital budget. In view of the above, the office is inviting competent and reputable companies/contractors/suppliers to tender for the pre-qualification for the following jobs.

- LOT 1 National Research Centre on Textile Traditions at Osogbo, Osun State
- LOT 2 National Research Centre on Boat Regatta in Uyo, Akwa-Ibom State
- LOT 3 Development of Crafts Centres (3a) Awka, (3b)Ikwere, (3c) Kano (3d) Sokoto
- LOT 4 Purchase of Office Furniture and Equipment for Five (5) out of Ten (10) Zonal Offices
- LOT 5 Maintenance/Improvement of Herbal Garden of Indigenous Medicinal Plant Species in Abina, Ebony; State
- LOT 6 Equipment for the Promotion of Traditional and Herbal
- LOT 7 Project Maintenance/Improvement of the Durbar Gallery in Kaduna
- LOT 8 Maintenance/Improvement of Lagos Craft Centre
- LOT 9 Herbal Garden of Indigenous Plant Species Project in Taraba State
- LOT 10 Purchase of Audio-Visual and Library Equipment for Specialized Cultural Libraries.

2. Pre-Qualification Requirements

Interested contractors are required to submit the following pre-qualification documents:

- Evidence of company registration with Corporate Affairs Commission
- Company Audited Account for three (3) years
- Evidence of Tax Clearance Certificate for three (3) years
- Evidence of Financial Capabilities and Banking Support
- Experience/Technical qualification of key personnel
- List of similar project executed and evidence of knowledge of the industry
- VAT registration and Evidence of past VAT remittances
- Equipment deployment and equipment/technology capacity.

3. Submission of Pre-Qualification Documents

The Pre-Qualification Documents should be neatly bound and submitted separately in a sealed envelope and marked at the top left hand corner "The Lot number/project name" to the Executive Director; National Council for Arts and Culture, Plot 1370, Ukpo Close, Garki II, P.M.B. 252, Garki - Abuja on or before two (2) weeks from the date of advertisement on 22nd March, 2010. Opening by 2pm on the closing date i.e. 8th April, 2010.

4. Additional Information:-

- i. Tender information and instruction shall be given only to contractors that have been screened and found suitable to provide the services.
- ii. The Advertisement shall not be considered as commitment on the part of the National Council for Arts and Culture nor shall it entitle potential companies to make any claim whatsoever and/or seek any indemnity from the National Council for Arts and Culture by virtue of such company having responded to the advertisement.
- iii. Late submission of pre-qualification documents will be rejected.
- iv. Only pre-qualified contractors will be allowed to participate in the competitive tender.
- v. The National Council for Arts and Culture reserves the right to reject any application.

SIGNED
Executive Director/CEO
NCAC -Abuja.



**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION POST-BASIC
(STEP-B) PROJECT**

(WORLD BANK ASSISTED)

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

CREDIT NO. 4304 UNI

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION POST BASIC PROJECT

SUPPLY OF FURNITURE FOR STEP-B OFFICE AND ICT CENTRE, SUPPLY OF COMPUTERS ACCESSORIES, V-SAT EQUIPMENT/ACCESSORIES & INSTALLATION, PAYMENT OF BANDWIDTH SUBSCRIPTION, E-LEARNING EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS, 40KVA GENERATOR/ACCESSORIES & INSTALLATION, CHEMISTRY LAB EQUIPMENT, CHEMICAL AND REAGENTS

(IFB No. STEP-B/FCE (T) B/GDS/01/2010)

Bid Issuance Date Monday 22nd March, 2010

1. This invitation for Bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Development 'Business', issues No. 591 of 2nd July, 2007.
2. The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a credit from International Development Association toward the cost of Science and Technology Education Post Basic Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payment under the contract for the supply of furniture for step-b office and ICT centre, supply of computer/accessories, v-sat equipment/accessories & installation, payment of bandwidth subscription, E-learning equipment/materials, 40kva generator/accessories & installation, chemistry lab equipment, chemicals and regents at the Federal Collage of Education (Technical) Bichi, Kano State.
3. The F.C.E. (T) Bichi, participating in the implementation of the Science and Technology Education Post Basic Project now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for procurement of the following:

Lot	Items No.	Descriptions of Items	Quantity	Bid Security	Delivery Period	Location
1.	1.	Furniture & Office Equipment.	108	2.5%	60 days	FCE (T) Bichi, Kano State
2.	1.	Computer/Accessories.	80	2.5%	60 days	FCE (T) Bichi, Kano State
	2.	V-Sat Equipment and Bandwidth.	1 SET			
	3.	E-learning Materials.	12			
	4.	40KVA Generator	1			
3.	1.	Reagents/Chemicals	362	2.5%	60 days	FCE (T) Bichi, Kano State
	2.	Laboratory Equipment	48			

Evaluation shall be conducted on a lot-by-lot basis and discounts for one or more lots will be considered during evaluation.

4. Bidding will be conducted through **National Competitive Bidding (NCB)** a procedure specified in the World Bank Guideline procurement under IBRD loan and IDA credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as define in the guidelines.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Science and Technology Education Post Basic Project F.C.E. (T), BICHI at the address below and inspect the Bidding Documents from 8:00am to 4:00pm Monday to Friday.
6. **Qualification Requirement include:-**
* Evidence of previous supply (sale) or similar Equipment proposed for the last 5 years.
* Audited Financial Statement for the last 3 years to demonstrate the financial capability of the Bidder in term of profitability and adequate working capital.
A margin of preference for eligible national contractor shall **not be applied** : Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
7. A complete set of Bidding Document in **English** may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee N10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira) only. The method of payment will be Bank Draft in favour of Science and Technology Education Post Basic Project, F.C.E. (T) Bichi. The Bidding Documents will be collected by the representative of the Bidder or by courier services on request.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 12:00noon on 19th April, 2010. Electronic bidding will not be permitted **Late bids will be rejected**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives, who choose to attend in person at the address below at 12:00Noon on 19th April, 2010. All bids must accompanied by a Bid Security of 2.5% or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.
9. The address referred to above is:

The Project Manager
Science and Technology Education Post Basic Project,
Federal Collage of Education (Technical) Bichi
P.M.B. 3473, Kano, Kano State, Nigeria
e-mail: stepbfcetbichi@yahoo.com.
Tel: 08023576939, 08039280200

Signed
Project Manager



FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
TRANSPORTATION SECRETARIAT
NO.1 KAPITAL STREET, AREA II, GARKI
P.M. B. 24 GARK-NIGERIA.TEL: +234-9-672-4360

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION EXERCISE FOR THE UP-GRADING OF EXISTING TRAFFIC LIGHT INSTALLATIONS AT SEVENTY-FOUR INTERSECTIONS TO LIGHT EMITTING DIODE (LED) AND SOLAR POWERED IN FEDERAL CAPITAL CITY, ABUJA.

Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), through the Transportation Secretariat is inviting competent and interested companies to submit prequalification documents for the first phase of the upgrading project (28 Nos) to Light Emitting Diodes (LED) and solar powered in Federal Capital City, Abuja.

2. THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT INCLUDES:

- (i) Supply and installation of LED signal heads and countdown timers;
- (ii) Provision of solar panels, the associated battery bank and control cubicle;
- (iii) Programming and Testing.
- (iv) Traffic Engineering Design.

3. PRE-QUALIFICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA

The criteria for pre-qualification include the following:-

- (I) Evidence of Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).
- (ii) Evidence of Tax clearance for the last three (3) years.
- (iii) Company Audited Account for three (3) years
- (iv) Evidence of Financial Capability and Banking support (original)
- (v) List of key personnel officers to be attached to the project stating their roles, designation, qualifications and experience. Enclose photocopies of their professional certificates where applicable, please.
- (vi) List of verifiable documentary evidence of similar jobs successfully executed. Similar jobs are design, installation and / or maintenance of traffic light system. Please note that veritable evidence includes letters of award of contract and / or completion

Certificates.

- (vii) List of equipments to be used for the project and their locations..State whether the equipments are on lease, hired, or owned.
- (viii) VAT Registration and evidence of past VAT remittances.

Please, note that the absence of any of criteria (i)-(iii) above would be considered NON-RESPONSIVE and that automatically disqualifies any applicant for pre-qualification. Also, the original documents for criteria (i) and (ii) above must be produced for sighting during the opening session.

4. SUBMISSION OF THE PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

The prequalification documents should be arranged in the order of the stated criteria, spiral-bound and submitted in triplicate enclosed in an envelope clearly marked "Prequalification for the up-grading of existing traffic light installations at seventy-four intersections to light emitting diode (LED) and solar powered in Federal Capital City, Abuja". The prequalification documents should be submitted in triplicate. The document is to be dropped in the Tender Box at the Office of the Secretary, FCT Tender Board Secretariat, Room G9, Archive Building, besides AGIS, Area II, Garki, Abuja not later than 2weeks from date of publication. The representatives of the bidding companies are invited to witness the opening of the tenders on the same day at the Archives & Historical Bureau Building, Beside AGIS, Area II, Abuja by 2.00pm.

N.B: This is not an invitation to bid. Full bidding will be applied only to bidders that have been pre-qualified and found capable of executing the project subject to approved budgetary provision.

S i g n e d

Olusegun Awolowo Esq.

Secretary Transportation, FCTA

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536

Law to check unethical practices in banks under way

By Turaki A. Hassan

THE National Assembly will soon enact a law that will check cases of unethical practices in the nation's banking sector so as to avoid the recent experience of the near collapse of some big banks in the country, Rep. Hussein Namadi, vice chairman, House committee on Banking and Currency has said.

Speaking to newsmen at the weekend in Abuja, Namadi said his committee has concluded plans to hold a public hearing aimed at coming out with strategic legislations to ensure best practices and check unethical practices in banks.

The lawmaker disclosed that the National Assembly is so far satisfied with the ongoing reforms embarked upon by the Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Malam Sanusi Lamido Sanusi.

'Taking an overview of the performance of the economy in the recent time, the aggressive policy drive by the CBN since the inception of the current management has started reflecting in steady improvement in the overall economy and the strength of the nation's currency,' he said.

Namadi however, argued that lack of regulation by the former management of the CBN led to the near collapse of some of the nation's banks, saying, "The former management at the apex bank, one can say, did a lot of harm to the economy. The management then convinced Nigerians that the economy was doing well. They assured that our economy was immune from the adverse effect of the global problem. But the reverse was the case. At that time, many of the banks had debts running into billion of naira. The real situation was covered and we were told that things were alright." He said the nation's economy would have collapsed if the current management of the CBN did not take proactive measures to expose the rot in the banking industry and took steps to correct the trend.

Namadi who assured that the nation would continue to witness an uninterrupted improvement in the nation's economy, said the National Assembly has strengthened its oversight machinery to ensure best practices in the sector in line with the policy direction of the current administration.



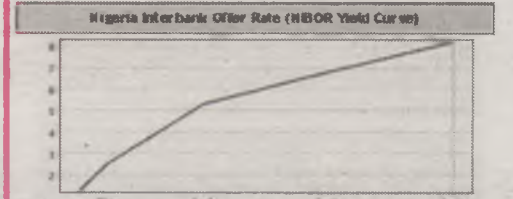
SPEAKER of the House of Reps Sabur Dimeji Bankole

The lawmaker said the National Assembly is expediting action on the passage of the bill to establish the Asset Management Company which he said will take care of toxic loans and protect Nigerian depositors and investors from the adverse effect of bad loans on banks.

On the collapse of some micro finance

banks in the country, Namadi said it was as result of poor supervision of the sector by the past CBN leadership but assured that the National Assembly was working with the current CBN management to come out with comprehensive guidelines for micro finance banking to ensure best practices in the system.

Tenor	Swap	Forward Pricing	Date
Spot		149.8000 / 149.9000	19 Mar, 2010
30 Day	0.6322 / 0.6327	150.4322 / 150.5327	19 Mar, 2010
60 Day	1.6385 / 1.6396	151.4385 / 151.5396	19 Mar, 2010
90 Day	2.9596 / 2.9616	152.7596 / 152.8616	19 Mar, 2010
180 Day	6.7629 / 6.7674	156.5629 / 156.6674	19 Mar, 2010



Tenor	Rate	Change	Date
Call	1.1917	-0.02	19 Mar, 2010
7 Day	2.4917	-0.13	19 Mar, 2010
30 Day	5.3067	-0.04	19 Mar, 2010
60 Day	6.8183	0.06	19 Mar, 2010
90 Day	8.1812	-0.15	19 Mar, 2010

Tenor	Rate	Change	Date
1 Month	1.4818	0.08	19 Mar, 2010
2 Months	1.5021	0.10	19 Mar, 2010
3 Months	1.5185	0.03	19 Mar, 2010
6 Months	2.0068	0.24	19 Mar, 2010
9 Months	2.0704	0.15	19 Mar, 2010
12 Months	2.2450	0.23	19 Mar, 2010

Source: FMDA

Stock Market Index

Date:	Friday, March 19, 2010
Index:	24,517.88
Deals:	7,483
Volume:	459,444,496
Value:	N 4,149,106,927.03
Cap.:	N 5,924,911,321,396.35

Trust Index

Inflation	→ 12.3%
GDP	→ 6.90%
Budget	→ N3.1tr
External Reserves Acct	→ \$41.5bn
Excess Crude Acct	→ \$3.2bn
Poverty Ratio	→ 54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	→ 6%
Banks	→ 24
Oil Price	→ \$80 a barrel
Power Supply	→ 2,500MW
Oil output per day	→ 2.5mbd
Broad Money Supply	→ N10,796,734.5m
Credit to Private Sector	→ N10,018,035.3m
Inter-Bank Rate	→ 1.1600%
Treasury Bills	→ 2.02%
Deposit Rate	→ 12.28%
Prime Lending Rate	→ 18.38%

	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.29	0.3	0.31
DANISH KRONER	26.8195	26.9105	27.0015
EURO	199.6533	200.3306	201.0078
POUNDS STERLING	223.1489	223.9059	224.6628
RIYAL	39.3067	39.44	39.5733
SDR	225.2714	226.0356	226.7997
SWISS FRANC	138.991	139.4625	139.934
US DOLLAR	147.4	147.9	148.4
WAUA	225.6026	226.3679	227.1331
YEN	1.6246	1.6301	1.6356

BUYING	
DOLLARN150
EURON205
POUNDSN231
SELLING	
DOLLARN152
EURON208
POUNDSN233

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

Business

Beyond 24 banks

By Jibrin Abubakar

IN 18 months time, Nigeria will witness a surge in banks' number as the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has announced that it is embarking on categorisation of banks, while also reforming the concept of universal banking.

At a conference in Lagos last month the CBN Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi said that the N25 billion mandatory capitalisation introduced by his predecessor may not be central to the stability of the country's ailing banks. He also announced the forthcoming midstream banks that will, according to him, bolster the money market, preparatory to growing the real sector of the economy.

There are many big ticket items on the CBN's table. But the one that seems to have generated concerns among Nigerians is its upcoming second phase reform which will focus on banks' categorisation.

The CBN Governor had said that searchlight will also be beamed on the current universal banking model which he regarded as an obsession with rapid growth without the right frameworks for risks management. The CBN will also carry out reforms on the use of depositors' funds for margin trading in a bid to protect the funds and avoid a recurrence of the crisis that nearly brought the industry to its knees.

"Should banks use depositors' funds for their own proprietary trading, should they risk depositors' funds for private equity, should they use depositor's funds for venture capital or should they risk their own funds?" Sanusi had said.

On banks' categorisation, the Governor said: "The question we are asking ourselves is: Must every bank compete in the same space? Must every bank be an international bank? Can we not have regional banks? Can we not have specialised banks? What we are doing now is categorizing banks and we will come out with different capital requirements for the banks."

Sanusi bemoaned: "The mad rush' by banks to become mega banks, while the CBN under Mr. Soludo looked the other way, assuring that all was well."

"There was a lack of political will to enforce sanctions in the banking sector, there was the belief that the sector was sound, even the IMF supported the lies that the sector was sound. For almost three years, the Financial Services Regulation Coordinating Committee (FSRCC) did not meet to facilitate information sharing and harmonization of regulation," Sanusi added.

FSRCC members are: Securities and Exchange Commission, National Pension Commission, National Insurance Commission, Nigerian Stock Exchange, federal ministry of finance and the CBN.

The new policy of banks' categorisation will see the population of banks in Nigeria swelling. The country currently has 24 banks with N25 billion capital base each. Nigeria had 89 banks prior to banks' recapitalisation. It also has 815 smaller banks—the Micro Finance Banks. The new system may see Nigeria surpassing South

billion capital base. I think there is a market and Nigeria needs a variety of players, some large and some small, and the key issue is adequate regulation and impartial supervision. With the new measure, we will be able to accommodate a wide variety of institutions, all of which will be able to contribute to the growth and devel-

S/N	Country	Banks	Branch offices	Staff
1	Nigeria	24.0	5,407.0	85,591.0
2	India	1,895.0	82,408.0	838,769.0
3	China	5,634.0	193,000.0	7,000,945.0
4	Turkey	45.0	8,790.0	171,598.0
5	Russia	1,058.0	3,370.0	N/A
6	South Africa	35.0	N/A	N/A
7	Brazil	1,773.0	19,248.0	N/A
8	Poland	649.0	14,698.0	181,295.0
9	Croatia	33.0	1,252.0	21,576.0
10	Czech Republic	37.0	1,994.0	39,003.0
11	South Korea	37.0	4,164.0	N/A
12	Greece	66.0	4,097.0	66,165.0
13	Finland	336.0	1,672.0	25,699.0
14	Belgium	105.0	4,316.0	65,246.0
15	Austria	867.0	4,251.0	68,950.0
16	Cyprus	163.0	922.0	12,461.0
17	Ireland	82.0	1,205.0	41,000.0
18	Luxembourg	152.0	229.0	27,208.0
19	United States	8,195.0	100,000.0	2,030,000.0
20	Portugal	43.0	6,260.0	59,029.0
21	Italy	799.0	34,146.0	338,589.0
22	Sweden	118.0	1,987.0	40,929.0
23	Spain	362.0	46,065.0	278,301.0
24	Australia	198.0	6,638.0	70,284.0
25	Singapore	119.0	N/A	N/A
26	Norway	145.0	1,330.0	20,281.0
27	Germany	2,169.0	39,565.0	675,000.0
28	EU	7,162.0	221,759.0	2,952,302.0
29	France	394.0	27,875.0	371,800.0
30	Netherlands	99.0	2,947.0	103.0
31	United Kingdom	336.0	10,300.0	440,105.0
32	Denmark	154.0	1,879.0	46,844.0
33	Switzerland	327.0	3,488.0	110,143.0

SOURCE: BGL

Africa which has 35 banks.

Since the CBN announced, last week, that the licence for the take off of the midstream banks may begin in 18 months, experts have expressed divergent views.

CBN through its director of banking supervision, Samuel Oni had said banks would be made to concentrate on banking activities under the new setting as separate licenses would be issued to commercial banks, microfinance bank, mortgage bank and investment bank.

"Any bank that wants to go international or national would also have a separate license. There would also be separate license for banks that would want to concentrate on small and medium enterprises or funding of agriculture. The new policy is to create room for financial activities to have a model where banks would not divert their capitals and deposits into speculative activities or high risk venture", he said.

Mr. Hakeem Bello-Osagie, a former Chairman of United Bank for Africa (UBA) said: "I do think that it's a very positive development that the CBN has now decided that they will rethink the one-size-fits-all policy of N25

opment of Nigeria," he told the News Agency of Nigeria.

The managing director of CRC Credit Bureau Mr. Tunde Popoola welcomes the new policy but was of the opinion that the CBN would have to cope with the problem of skill manpower both from within the regulators and the industry.

Mr. Opeyemi Agbaje, an economist, told Daily Trust he was not convinced that the CBN has fully thought through the proposed bank policy.

"I am not convinced that the CBN has fully thought through the proposed bank categorisation scheme. I fear that we may be rushing into a policy of this huge significance and risks. I would have wanted the CBN to release, for discussion purposes, a draft of the proposed framework so that stakeholders can fully examine the merits or otherwise of the proposal. One is unable to agree or disagree with the proposal given the scanty details on the policy content", he said.

Agbaje said the global financial crisis brought to the fore the dangers in banks engaging in highly speculative investment banking transactions with retail



SANUSI Lamido Sanusi CBN Governor

depositors' funds with the result that the government and regulators are forced to save them when they fail to protect depositors

An economist and former deputy governor (Economic Policy) of CBN Dr. Obadiah Mailafa said if the new policy was to effectively regulate the sector, it is a welcome one. He however said that Universal banking is what is in vogue in most parts of the world.

Daily Trust checks with banks' population around the world reveals that even though universal banking is not yet unfashionable, most countries, like the US and Britain, still retain regional, midstream and specialised banks. These have swollen the number of banks they have.

For instance, while Nigeria has 24 banks, 5,407 branches, 85,591 staff, the United States has 8,195 banks and a 100 thousand branch offices, 2.3 million staff. Britain, in the same vein has a total of 336 banks, 10,300 branches and 440,105 staff.

But experts are also concern about banks regulation by the apex bank in case the country witnesses a surge in the population of banks.

The ability of regulators to properly supervise the existing

banks has been the biggest challenge of the country's money market sector.

This, according to experts is to a large extent responsible for the overexposure of the banks to the capital market.

According to a recent report by the BGL Financial service and research based group, despite its huge potential, the Nigeria's banking statistics are still low, compare to other countries.

Out of the over 140 million people in Nigeria, banks have only 35 million depositors including multiple account holders. This implies that less than 25 per cent of Nigerians are banked.

BGL says compare to other countries, Nigeria's banks' assets (\$108 billion) are only bigger than Croatia's (\$75 billion). Its population per bank is the highest at 6.17m while population per bank branch at 27,372 is second only to Russia's 40,922 signifying a large unbanked and underbanked population.

While the CBN work out the modalities for the take off of the new specialised banks, the Nigerian banking sector will arguably be better off or worst off depending on the regulatory ability of the apex bank.

Nigeria Banking Statistics, September 2009

Parameters	Figures as at September 2009
Banks' Total Assets (Nbillion)	14,932.00
Number of Bank Branches	5,407
Number of Shareholders	10,033,625
Number of Bank Depositors	34,553,000
Total Bank Deposits (Nbillion)	8,693.00
Total Bank Employees	85,591
Credit to Industrial Sector (Nbillion)	3,760.84
Credit to Agric Sector (Nbillion)	114.30
Credit to Communication Sector (Nbillion)	1,107.38
Banking Density	1:27,000

SOURCE: CBN



SUBSIDY SPEND
2006-2009
N2.5 trillion
2010 Projection
N600 billion

OUR ROYAL FATHERS AND CHIEFS,

SAVE OUR SOUL ON THE HUGE COST OF FUEL SUBSIDY

Nigerians have entrusted in you, their confidence as the custodians of their culture and well-being.

Unfortunately, the Federal Government, who has the statutory task of providing basic social amenities to the benefit of all has squandered our collective national wealth on illegal fuel subsidy.

As royal fathers, Nigerians call on you to guide our elected leaders right with your words of wisdom to put a stop to this illegal subsidy.

The time for change is now.

Stand up and be counted.

It is time to deregulate.



**MOVEMENT
FOR
ECONOMIC
EMANCIPATION**

Star Feature

Nigeria's shocking digital kids

There are tremendous changes in the way children of the present generation act and behave, when compared with kids in the past 20-30 years. Technology is at the heart of these changes, as it moulds and shapes their attitudes, by assuming parental roles, even becoming teacher and companion.

By Lami Sadiq

MRS Vivian Kanu taught for 6 years in a Government primary school in Lokoja, after her graduation from the Federal College Of Education Okene, before her family moved to Kaduna State. While settling in a new town, she secured another teaching job, but this time, in a prestigious private primary school for kids of the upper class. She loves children and enjoyed teaching and shaping their lives, until the day she nearly got fired for punishing one of her students' who answered a call in class. According to Kanu, her 10 year old primary 5 pupil had answered a call from her mobile set during spelling sessions, despite the teacher's warning to her to desist from bringing the phone to school. The teacher claimed she had gone ahead to seize the phone from the student, and asked the pupil to kneel down in front of the class for

about 7 minutes. A move which did not go well with the student's parents, when she finally told them that day. The pupil's parents had stormed the school the very next day, demanding for the phone and an immediate dismissal of the teacher who they claimed punished their daughter for close to an hour. It took a lot of begging and an apology to get Kanu off the hook. "After that incident in 2007, I resigned from the school a few months later, because I couldn't be part of an institution where children called the shots", said Kanu.

A child is a child they say, as long as he or she is below 18 years of age, but children today are more advanced and mature, than children in the eighties. They are smarter but lazier, adorable but disrespectful, self-centered but at the same time, one may easily say, parents of these digital age kids are more smitten with their children, than those of the past generations.

In the 60's, 70's and even 80's, children didn't get any favors from



VIDEO game centres are becoming dwelling places for children v

parents, they got flogged in school for coming late, or not getting a suit right, and never dared report the matter to their parents. As a matter of fact, they got another spanking for mistakenly bringing up the issue home. But these days, kids have tantrums over something silly, and the parents give in just to make the child happy. The past days when children got chastised by a neighbor for being disrespectful or doing something wrong is gone, as they now lie easily to parents, who go as far as confronting a neighbor for daring to lay a hand on their child.

Mrs Aisha Yusuf recalls a shocking experience in 2009 when she went to pick her 8 year old daughter from school one afternoon. "I usually park my car outside the school gate where my daughter can see me" but instead of concentrating on making sure her daughter got into the car, Mrs Yusuf had her gaze set on another girl, who was screaming and shouting at a supposed driver sent to get her home from school. "Could you believe this girl was shouting at the driver for coming to pick her up in a car that wasn't her choice? She refused to enter the car and had the audacity to bring out a mobile phone from her school bag, which she used to call her mother" she explained that when she asked her daughter if she knew the girl, she told her she was her class mate. Astonished! Mrs Yusuf claimed she watched as the girl's mother arrived the scene and suddenly attacked the driver for not using the newest car they had bought, to pick her daughter from school while the girl looked on. "Since then, I warned my daughter that if she ever tried such, I would make sure she walked to school with me by her side."

She blamed parents for their kids unruly behaviors and disrespectful attitudes in this present generation, saying "When you teach your child that someone is beneath him due to his status as a cleaner or driver, the child that may turn out to be your worst nightmare, after all most of us walked to school as kids and never imagined owning a phone" said Mrs Yusuf.

A 16 year old boy in Kaduna recently slapped his father for daring



VIDEO games are now replacing interactive outdoor games such as this.

“Interactive outdoor games now replaced by violent video games are making children more aggressive since the good guys always beat the bad guys or trophy.



who cannot afford to own personal video games

question the kind of friends he was keeping. The boy was already in the process of pulling off his shirt to fight his aged father, when neighbors intervened, and some of the youth in the area gave him the beating of his life.

Another 13 year old girl by the name Hajara was suspended from a government junior secondary school in Jos for fighting with her class room teacher. A neighbor had reported to Hajara's parents that the teenager was seen in her school uniform chatting with some young men during school hours. The neighbor told the parents that the teenage girl had snubbed her when she confronted her, so she felt obliged to report the matter to them. With a lot of pressure, Hajara had confessed that she had been suspended from school for fighting with her teacher. When the parents visited the school, the principal explained to them that the 13 year old had stolen another student's phone and when the teacher punished her she got into a fight with him.

The Nigerian telecommunication boom in 2001 created a certain craze for mobile phones. Even though the spread took a gradual process, it eventually consumed almost every home and everyone, including children. Handsets have become so common in the hands of children, that some schools now have strict rules against their use by students within the school premises, as it encourages stealing and widens the gap between the rich and poor pupils.

You often hear a parent say, "I'll ask my son or daughter" when he or she runs into difficulty with a computer or phone or other technological gadgets. It will interest you to know that the child may be as young as 11 or 12 years old, but very comfortable with the technology. Why not, children born into the digital age and are now regularly seen with iPods, phones, laptops etc. due to the speed and ease of communication.

The changes in the way children act and behave now, is attributed to technological advancement, which has made it possible for them to spend less time interacting with friends, and learning about people's feeling and how to share. Technological evolution in Nigeria is exposing children to other kind of things like pornography. Before the days of Internet, children didn't typically have access to pornography, but today, they live in a culture where hard-core pornography flourishes, because finding pornography on the Internet is as easy as googling 'sex'.

"I have a 6 year old son and have started teaching him how to operate a computer system" says Mr Emeka Nwobodu, a computer scientist "no parent will neglect impacting his or her child with computer knowledge, because the better he gets in Information Technology, the greater his chances in getting a secured job and living a better life in future"

The technological gap between parents and children now makes it possible for habits and preference of the child to supersede those of their parents. Technology has become a major source of shaping a child's life, as fashion, morals and habits are picked from satellites and the Internet, rather than from parents, teachers and interaction with friends. Interactive outdoor games now seem unpopular among children, as violent video games are making them think it's ok to fight in schools, since the good guys always beat up the bad ones or win the best girl or trophy.

"Children now have more advantages than we did due to technological advancement" Kanu said "Technology has its advantages but its major disadvantage is in reshaping our children's views into an immoral, undisciplined and idealistic one, they see whatever it is that kids are doing in foreign countries and imbibe that culture. It is sad and dangerous" she warned.

Fashionably, children now dress in a more reckless manner than they used to, you see a bunch of teenage boys dragging their feet and bouncing, while their jean trousers is barely hanging below the waist. Just when you start wondering if it's alright to tell them their underwear is all over the place, they put their two hands to draw it up a bit, letting you know that they know exactly what they're doing. 'sagging' they call it, is a practice popularized by American hip-hop artists, and one of the things that irked Nigerian parents about their teenage boys. Parents no longer understand the kind of cloth their children wear, yet they do the buying.

"My teenage brother wears his trousers below the waist, an ear-

piece to block his ears and sits on the couch watching movies or playing a video game" says Marian Badu. "My parents have tried hard but all to no avail, most of the time he is listening to music and doesn't get to do anything around the house except eat." Marian added that her brother's group of friends, equally sag their trousers while bouncing along the way. "He says it's the latest thing in vogue" she lamented.

Another baffling change between children of this present generation with those in the past is that physical maturity now comes faster than it did. It seems even nature has joined in the race as "puberty is occurring at an increasing earlier age in children, than it did in previous generations" says Dr Iannelli. Precocious puberty in children is no longer considered abnormal, although it may be upsetting to parents and harmful to the child, who matures physically at a time where they are immature, mentally. Even though the world's youngest mother, 5 year old Lina Medina gave birth in 1939, the rate and consistency of very young children getting pregnant and having their own children, dramatically shows that the new age and time comes with certain negative physical as well as emotional development for children. For instance, in 2001, 9 year old Wanwisa Janmuk gave birth in Thailand, by 2004 another 9 year old Singaporean had given birth to a baby boy. In 2005, a Rwandan 9 year old girl gave birth to a baby boy and in 2006 an 8 year old girl gave birth to a baby boy in Lima hospital. And to begin this year, another 9 year old girl from China gave birth to a healthy baby on 27 January 2010. All these are not to mention the numerous unrecorded cases of such instances, that could be found in Nigeria and other African countries.

And what about drugs? How many parents can confidently say they knew anyone associated with drugs during their teens? But these days, drug are the most common problems parents have to face or fight against as it basically affects most teens. Drugs are getting more and more cheaper, easier to use and harder to trace. They have become as easily accessible to teenagers as soft drinks, which can be bought at a corner shop.

The doctors, a medical TV talk show recently revealed a shocking form of drug now popular with American teenagers, known as 'flaming drink danger,' where kids now burn the inside of their throat with a light match after taking the drink. As scary as it seems, they use such drugs to alleviate pain or escape from problems or simply feel invincible. "Once you see three or four teenagers hanging out in a corner, there is a 9 out of 10 chances that they may be doing drugs to ensure they have a good time" says Mrs Yusuf "May be all these are the result of lack of quality time spent between parents and kids as more and more parent are leaving the raising of their children to maids and house helps, in their search for carriers."

Children of today are a lot different from those of the past generation, and so parenting today is more different and challenging. With society constantly evolving, children are now daring their parents and swapping positions

"Just walk into an average man's home in Nigeria and you will notice even a child as young as 8 years looking at satellite channels, so what more rights do kids of this generation need? If you ask me, I think they have been given too much already, they are now the parents and we are the kids, we are doomed if we let this carry on" says Kanu.

seem unpopular among children, as they think it's ok to fight in schools, or to sag their trousers, or to wear their trousers up the bad ones or win the best girl

Business

Leadership crisis rocks BPE

By Yunus Abdulhamid

THE leadership vacuum created by the retirement of Acting Director General of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) Ms. Bolanle Onagoruwa is threatening to cause a set back to the privatisation agency, *Daily Trust* learnt yesterday.

Dr. Christopher Anyanwu was suspended as the DG of the BPE by the federal government following controversies over the sale of NITEL and the Skyway Aviation Handling Company



CHRIS Anyanwu

(SAHCOL) on March 8.

As the most senior director at BPE, Onagoruwa took over from him but she was due to retire last Thursday, March 18, having spent eight years as a director in the civil service. The revised public service rules states that a director irrespective of age must retire upon attaining eight years in the service.

Daily Trust learnt that she was still holding the forte as the Acting Director General while the federal government was yet to issue a directive for her replacement.

BPE's head of Public Communications, Mr Chukwuma Nwoko said in a telephone interview: "We have not gotten any directive to that effect. She (Bolanle Onagoruwa) is still the DG. Until the government communicate to us to the contrary, she is still the DG."

Daily Trust could not confirm the next director in line of seniority to Onagoruwa between Mr. Reuben Omotowa and Ben Diken. Ben was brought into BPE by the then DG, Dr. Julius Bala (2003-2005).

Our source said there were legal implications to the continued stay of Ms Onagoruwa

as Acting Director General but concluded "Luckily we are not doing anything with a third party now otherwise we would have had problem dealing with them. Legally, the situation could have some implications especially if she were going to sign any contract on behalf of BPE or any official engagement."

Daily Trust sources said there had been no official communications to the effect that Onagoruwa should act as DG but that it was just that: "The suspended DG was only directed to hand over to the most senior director who she happened to be then. It is not as if an Acting Director General has been appointed."

Our sources said the Deputy Directors in BPE protested and petitioned the federal government over what they considered as not following laid down rules. "He (Anyanwu) made the appointments on his own and didn't come to the management committee who will now recommend to the NCP who should be appointed," our source said.

In the appointments, former head of Public communications, Mr. Chigbo Anichebe was upgraded as the acting Director in charge of power.



Ms Bolanle Onagoruwa

Cooking gas marketers lose N83m daily

FROM Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

MARKETERS of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), otherwise known as cooking gas are currently losing about N83 million daily due to leadership crisis rocking the Petroleum Tanker Drivers, an arm of the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas (NUPENG). Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Association of LPG marketers (NALPAM), Omotunde Adesoye, who disclosed this to our correspondent weekend said the development has also affected supply and price of the product to the market in recent time. According to him, for two weeks running stakeholders in the industry had been having hectic time trying to broker peace amongst the parties in the dispute to ensuring availability of the product in the country. He said presently LPG tanker drivers hardly lift products due to fear for their lives, stressing that this has made the prices for different categories of the product to go up. "End users pay as much as N5,000 to N7,000 to refill their cylinders while those desirous of acquiring a new cylinder filled with gas pay as much N18,000 to N20,000 for one. Before the current crisis we used to load 30 to 40 trucks per day at the Apapa loading bay but now we hardly do so," he said.

NNPC holds gas conference today

FROM Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has concluded arrangements to convene stakeholders' forum for all the key players in the gas and power sector of the economy. The Forum which is billed for Lagos is expected to have in attendance such stakeholders as the Nigerian Gas Company, Power Holding Company of Nigeria, Nigeria Electricity Regulations Commission, Nigeria Independent Power Project, National Petroleum Investment Management services, NAPIMS, Gas and Power Division of NNPC, Exploration and Production Division, NNPC, Shell, Exxon Mobil, Chevron, Agip, Total and Addax. A statement by the corporation's Group General Manager, Group Public Affairs, Dr Levi Ajuonuma, said the meeting which is scheduled for today and tomorrow is designed to bring stakeholders in the gas and power industry together to brainstorm on the challenge facing the sector with a view to proffering proactive solutions to it. He said, "The NNPC had in the past few months adopted a number of measures aimed at finding a lasting solution to the gas to power challenge amongst which was the evacuation of condensate from Shell Petroleum Development Company facility by the Warri Refinery and Petrochemical Company a subsidiary of the NNPC. Though the measures introduced by the NNPC have begun to yield positive results, it has become very clear that if all the stakeholders in the sector do not work together the problem would still linger. Considering the strategic position of power to the nation's economy, all hands must be on deck to resolve the national challenge."

'China invested \$7.24b in Nigeria in 2009'

THE Chinese Government invested 7.24 billion dollars in different sectors of the Nigerian economy in 2009, Mr Rong Yansong, Commercial Counsellor, Chinese Embassy, said in Enugu.

In a goodwill message at the 21st Enugu International Trade Fair on Friday, Rong listed the sectors to include the free trade zone, energy, agriculture, manufacturing, mining and infrastructure.

He said Chinese investors were still looking for opportunities to get more involved in the Nigerian economy, especially in the area of local content.

** According to our statistics,

Chinese companies are employing more than 30,000 Nigerians, which contributes a lot to poverty alleviation in Nigeria," he said.

The counsellor announced that the Standards Organisation of Nigeria and China had signed an agreement on Industrial Products Inspection to ensure that all products exported to Nigeria were thoroughly checked.

He said the Chinese Government would partner with the Enugu State Government on the use of coal deposits for power generation to support local industries.

Rong invited genuine Nigerian businessmen to the world's largest trade fair, Canton Trade Fair,

to be attended by more than two million people all over the world.

He promised that the Chinese Government would sponsor Nigerian professionals and officials to different training courses in agriculture, manufacturing, commerce and administration in China.

The envoy said 200 Nigerians had benefited from similar training programmes in the past, while 300 persons would be sponsored this year.

He also announced that the first-ever Chinese Industrial Fair would hold in Abuja from November 22 to 26 in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry. (NAN).

Kano to rehabilitate trade fair complex

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

KANO State government will collaborate with a private investor to construct an ultramodern shopping mall within the premises of the trade fair complex in the state.

This was disclosed by the State Governor Malam Ibrahim Shekarau while he received the senate delegation which was in the state to

commiserate with the state over the recent fire incidence at the textiles market, Kantin kwari.

Shekarau said the project has been estimated to gulp N10 billion and planned to commence in three months to come. He said the aim of the project was to make available a modern and conducive atmosphere for business and other commercial activities.

He also said the state is currently carrying out an ultramodern market along the eastern by-pass to ease the congestion and further boost economic activities in the state.

The Governor attributed the congestion and disorganization of most markets in the state to the influx of people into the state on daily basis. He also said the state's ICT Park will soon take off.

Business

British Airways strike hits Nigerian travelers

NIGERIAN air travelers to Europe and other parts of the world have been making alternative arrangements with other airlines as British Airways cabin crew began a three-day strike to press for more pay.

The strike, the third in recent times, is capable of shaking the reputation of the carrier which has been finding it difficult to make profit in the past three years.

In Lagos, Nigeria's commercial hub, many of the airline's passengers are making frantic efforts to get alternative arrangement for their trip.

Tunji Seymour, a top official of the airline, told reporters in Lagos on Saturday that the airline's operations would be

affected Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. He said the airline would begin normal operations to Nigeria after the strike.

"Yes, it is true that BA crew have decided to go on a strike," he said, noting that passengers have been told to seek alternate arrangements for their trip.

British Airways (BA) cabin crew started strike on Saturday morning that will cause severe disruptions to flights for the next three days.

The talks between BA and the Unite Union, which represents the cabin crew, collapsed on Friday. A further four days of strike are set to begin on March 27. The Cabin crew is striking over pay and working conditions. (Xinhua).

Oceanic Bank: Junior workers opt for voluntary exit

By Yusuf Abdulhamid

DRIVERS, dispatch riders, and messengers have opted for voluntary exit from Oceanic Bank after requesting that they be paid their entitlements for their years of service to the Bank, a statement from the bank claimed.

After much persuasion by Management, including talks mediated by representatives of the local and national chapters of the National Union of Banks Insurance and Financial Institutions Employees (NUBIFIE), the Bank's management finally

acceded to their demand to be separated from the Bank, it said.

It said: "Their entitlements in accordance with the signed agreement and existing labour laws have been duly paid."

The statement added that: "The management expresses its appreciation to them for their years of service to the Bank and wishes them well in their future endeavours. Oceanic Bank restates its commitment to issues bordering on staff welfare and has been commended on several occasions by NUBIFIE for working closely with its local and national officers in this regard."

FinBank takes convenience banking to Enugu fair

By Sunday Williams

FINBANK Plc said it is offering 'unique' banking services at the Enugu International Trade Fair in line with its renewed business focus.

A statement from the bank said the Bank is showcasing a bouquet of convenient electronic products such as FlashMeCash, FlashWallet, SpeedPay and other personalized banking services at the Fair.

It said that as a technocentric Bank, it has deepened its e-payment platform by strengthening the capacity and security to enhance the convenience it provides for customers to boost their confidence in using the platform.

"As a result, the bank's flagship electronic product, FlashMecash, has continued to do well in the market. It offers convenience to customers in the purchase of airtime, sending of recharge pins to third parties, bulk SMS purchases and multiple payments to third parties

such as payment of salaries, vendors and suppliers as well as payment of bills by individuals and corporate entities," it said.

The product is unique to FinBank and any GSM subscriber is a potential customer of FinBank. Once you are flashed money and payment is received on your phone an account is opened for you automatically on the FlashMeCash platform.

A statement from the Bank said that in line with the Bank's new strategic focus on its areas of competence and comparative advantage, it has taken the product one step further by developing a hybrid called FlashWallet.

FlashWallet is an electronic purse that allows holders to access their funds across all ATM points with the additional capacity of transferring funds to any person of their choice by phone.

FinBank is the only Bank offering this type of convenience banking product in the market today.

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 "BEST NEW ECONOMY CAR" - APAC, "VIEWERS CHOICE AWARD" - OVERNITE, "DESIGN AWARD" - OVERNITE,
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Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Friday, March 19, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	10	0.52	308,041	156,226.50
Sector Totals	10		308,041	156,226.50
AGRICULTURE				
FTN COCOA PROC. PLC	20	0.87	1,301,561	1,155,072.90
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	8	0.70	123,584	86,508.80
OKITIPUPA OIL PALM PLC	6	6.21	6,500	38,350.00
OKOMU OIL PALM COY PLC	3	21.62	14,541	298,672.14
PRESKO PLC	5	5.06	12,040	59,208.00
Sector Totals	42		1,458,226	1,617,811.84
AIR SERVICES				
AIRLINE SERV. & LOG. PLC	25	2.77	31,650	83,556.00
NIG. AV. HAND. COY PLC	173	9.00	674,210	6,074,985.37
Sector Totals	198		705,860	6,158,541.37
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	10	0.50	148,444	74,222.00
R. T. BRISCOE (NIG.) PLC	21	5.48	215,491	1,188,333.24
Sector Totals	31		363,935	1,262,555.24
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	195	9.99	17,104,963	169,718,599.28
AFRIBANK NIG. PLC	78	2.70	8,608,484	22,423,012.10
DIAMOND BANK PLC	124	9.39	37,577,190	349,684,378.30
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	111	7.00	1,965,069	13,247,125.41
F/CITY MON. BANK PLC	65	9.06	6,278,607	55,572,216.50
FIDELITY BANK PLC	292	3.10	16,273,179	48,906,017.37
FIRST BANK OF NIG. PLC	806	15.87	26,081,036	408,906,185.87
FINBANK PLC	85	0.69	8,562,052	5,970,513.52
GTBANK PLC	441	19.50	20,779,108	402,483,109.16
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	87	10.00	2,055,005	20,287,296.90
INTERC. BANK PLC.	108	2.07	4,093,819	8,265,244.45
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	137	2.14	4,013,346	8,278,478.04
BANK PHB PLC	68	1.91	4,187,660	7,949,861.80
SKYE BANK PLC.	310	7.87	14,606,737	112,379,241.44
SPRING BANK PLC	15	1.03	988,799	1,001,043.18
STERLING BANK PLC	84	2.02	30,559,791	63,144,147.89
UNT. BANK FOR AFR. PLC.	242	14.45	17,501,345	253,293,710.51
UNION BANK OF NIG. PLC	190	5.85	3,990,612	23,581,732.85
UNITYBANK PLC	51	1.09	2,814,200	2,969,345.66
WEMA BANK PLC	71	1.13	4,040,584	4,544,416.35
ZENITH BANK PLC	372	17.69	19,942,480	345,205,705.75
Sector Totals	3,932		252,824,056	2,327,811,382.33
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	131	17.58	4,706,800	84,023,207.36
BENUCE CEM. COY PLC	27	61.38	539,282	33,105,679.16
CEM. CO. OF N/NIG. PLC	51	18.01	1,286,610	23,165,390.64
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	54	33.18	3,226,086	106,454,489.82
Sector Totals	263		9,758,778	246,748,766.98
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS NIG. PLC	5	4.47	56,400	252,028.00
CHEM. & ALL. PROD. PLC	3	29.67	1,521	43,541.46
DN MEYER PLC	4	3.24	8,010	26,801.84
Sector Totals	12		65,931	322,371.30
COMP. & OFFICE EQUIP.				
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC.	4	8.13	33,926	262,247.98
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	16	0.50	1,712,881	857,150.50
TRIPLE ONE & COY PLC	1	8.87	19,256	80,104.96
Sector Totals	21		1,766,063	1,199,503.44
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC	10	3.00	29,508	88,632.30
CHELLARAMS PLC	1	14.13	20,220	271,554.60
JOHN HOLEY PLC	3	9.28	6,403	56,474.88
PZ CUSSONS NIG. PLC	40	28.52	287,504	8,191,993.76
SCOA NIGERIA PLC	1	8.71	250	2,070.00
TRANS. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	40	0.52	5,054,381	2,645,179.81
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	77	46.00	516,058	23,856,900.51
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	74	25.60	1,352,658	34,612,623.82
Sector Totals	246		7,266,982	69,725,429.26
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	34	5.10	3,555,354	18,057,061.93
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC	56	28.90	757,934	20,832,852.83
WILLBROS RESOURCES PLC	5	0.50	217,500	108,750.00
Sector Totals	96		4,530,788	38,998,664.76
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY				
CUTIX PLC	2	2.83	10,500	31,115.00
NIG. WIRE AND CABLE PLC.	1	0.65	10,000	6,500.00
Sector Totals	3		20,500	37,615.00
FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOBAC.				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	12	30.60	65,901	2,117,399.13
BIG TREAT PLC	6	0.81	84,480	69,569.20
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	96	18.98	1,403,927	81,626,899.58
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	461	16.40	10,236,818	164,659,616.50
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	74	17.71	5,374,855	94,146,094.47
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	128	51.39	7,008,109	342,522,725.01
HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	47	9.00	928,800	8,377,803.00
NATIONAL SALT COY NIG. PLC	37	6.55	693,917	4,555,222.85
NIGERIAN BOTTLING COY PLC	25	26.50	31,411	833,556.58
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	57	270.00	78,728	21,277,693.79

N/NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC	5	26.61	62,601	1,665,812.61
TANTALIZERS PLC	31	1.02	2,448,676	2,451,991.00
UTC NIGERIA PLC	7	0.72	11,320	7,842.60
Sector Totals	986		30,429,543	705,312,166.32
FOOTWEAR				
LENNARDS NIGERIA PLC.	1	3.85	5,000	18,300.00
Sector Totals	1		5,000	18,300.00
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	6	1.07	39,761	41,860.58
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	34	2.73	347,165	943,132.93
GLAXOS. CONSUMER NIG. PLC	20	29.50	345,828	10,227,501.60
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	18	5.00	416,921	2,074,679.71
MORISON INDUSTRIES PLC.	4	11.67	6,180	68,536.20
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	12	1.37	258,093	354,043.56
UNION DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	9	0.62	665,000	414,250.00
Sector Totals	103		2,078,948	14,124,004.58
HOTEL & TOURISM				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	11	3.19	806,485	2,599,090.75
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	5	1.57	70,800	111,156.00
Sector Totals	16		877,285	2,710,246.75
INDUST./DOM. PRODUCTS				
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	2	10.37	20,000	197,200.00
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIGERIA PLC	1	0.52	156	78.00
VITAFIAMS NIGERIA PLC	30	5.34	817,084	4,396,104.39
Sector Totals	33		837,240	4,593,382.39
INF. & COMM. TECHNOLOGY				
CHAMS PLC	16	0.64	1,717,490	1,114,763.60
IHS NIGERIA PLC	1	4.23	400	1,608.00
STARCOMMS PLC	40	2.15	4,724,585	10,249,345.75
Sector Totals	57		6,442,475	11,365,717.35
INSURANCE				
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	71	1.05	3,033,215	3,199,556.35
CONTINENTAL REINSUR. PLC	10	0.95	3,863,579	3,670,400.05
CORNERSTONE INS. CO. PLC.	5	0.52	1,582,300	822,796.00
CUST. AND ALLIED INSUR. PLC	52	3.79	21,455,375	80,606,011.95
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	3	0.50	16,300	8,150.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	9	0.57	6,215,000	3,542,550.00
GUARANTY TRUST ASSUR. PLC	74	2.75	25,796,139	71,441,671.70
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	3	0.50	7,700	3,850.00
CONS. HALLMARK INSUR. PLC	2	0.50	170,000	85,000.00
INTERN. ENERGY INS. COY PLC	52	0.52	6,960,324	3,580,349.82
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	16	0.50	1,766,900	888,012.00
LAW UNION & ROCK INS. PLC.	22	0.51	688,081	358,993.91
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	3	0.50	621,000	310,500.00
MUTUAL BEN. ASSUR. PLC	5	0.64	1,247,000	798,080.00
N.E.M. INSUR. CO. (NIG.) PLC.	26	0.52	1,727,903	897,879.84
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	5	0.69	61,316	42,509.92
OASIS INSURANCE PLC	1	1.07	209,000	223,630.00
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	8	2.83	105,100	308,574.18
REG. ALLIANCE INS. COY PLC	1	0.50	5,000	2,500.00
SOVEREIGN TRUST INS. PLC	1	0.50	2,400	1,200.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	1	0.58	50,000	29,000.00
STANDARD ALLIANCE INS. PLC	15	0.50	2,282,950	1,141,475.00
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	12	0.70	7,947,363	5,577,604.10
UNITY KAPITAL ASSU. PLC	4	0.67	374,000	250,580.00
UNIVERSAL INS.COMPANY PLC	5	0.50	152,700	76,350.00
INTERC. WAPIC INSUR. PLC	13	0.88	1,976,592	1,690,500.94
Sector Totals	443		79,557,725.76	
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ABBAY BUILDING SOCIETY PLC	2	1.61	3,900	5,967.00
ASO SAVINGS & LOAN PLC	9	0.62	1,440,700	895,610.37
RESORT SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	6	0.50	22,510,000	11,255,000.00
U/HOMES SAV. & LOANS PLC	29	0.87	1,194,744	1,049,369.55
Sector Totals	46		25,149,344	13,205,946.92
OTHER FINANCIAL INST.				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC.	9	1.00	1,000,000	971,921.55
D/CAPITAL MAN. & TRUST PLC	3	2.02	51,000	103,020.00
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	15	0.59	595,658	346,420.96
Sector Totals	27		1,646,658	1,421,362.51
PETROLEUM(MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	32	45.40	67,177	2,897,344.01
BECO PETR. PRODUCT PLC	11	2.07	276,193	545,539.51
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	9	69.79	49,374	3,456,220.00
CONOIL PLC	31	40.00	25,457	1,024,970.00
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	59	7.25	888,692	6,374,719.85
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	24	107.64	21,286	2,215,514.06
OANDO PLC	203	80.51	4,570,940	368,575,602.44
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	14	149.61	7,152	1,097,652.05
Sector Totals	383		5,906,271	386,187,561.92
REAL ESTATE INV. TRUST				
SKYE SHELTER FUND	1	100.00	2,000	200,000.00
Sector Totals	1		2,000	200,000.00
THE FOREIGN LISTINGS				
ECOBANK TRANS. INCORP.	43	17.00	2,107,380	35,648,065.40
Sector Totals	43		2,107,380	35,648,065.40
Overall Totals	7,483		459,444,496	4,149,106,927.03

What is Best-Efforts underwriting

A type of underwriting where the investment firm acts as an agent. The firm agrees to use its best efforts to sell the new issue of securities, but does not guarantee the issuing company that the securities to be issued will be sold.

GAINERS

FLOURMILL	1.39
NNFM	1.26
ZENITHBANK	0.84
DANGSUGAR	0.83

LOSERS

BCC	3.23
UAC-PROP	0.97
ASHAKACEM	0.92
UACN	0.79

Business/Agric



NIGERIAN farmers are to get free cassava stems.

Farmers to get free improved cassava materials

By Tina A. Hassan

FARMERS in Nigeria are to benefit from free improved Cassava varieties from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

In a project funded by the body, seven states would get the free varieties which is to be distributed by the International Institute for tropical Agriculture (IITA) as

part of activities lined up by researchers of the institute to support its 'unleashing the Power of Cassava in Africa' program.

The program, according to IITA is taking place in seven African countries and they are: Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Tanzania, Malawi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Mozambique.

Deputy project Manager of the program Richardson

Okechukwu said: "The aim of the project in Nigeria is to empower 75,000 farms with improved varieties by the end of 2010. We also expect cassava yield in these areas to increase by 30 per cent.

"The project will thereafter ensure food security for Nigerians and neighbouring countries in north like Niger and Chad, and will also provide more roots for the large-scale cassava industries."

Kwara vaccinates local chicken

From Mustafa abubakar, Ilorin

THE Kwara State ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources has begun its annual mass vaccination of local chickens in selected communities in the state.

Flagging off the exercise, the State Commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Professor Mohammed Gana

Yisa, explained that the Bio-security Improvement Scheme was put in place by the Avian Influenza Control Project in 2008 as an intervention strategy in twelve pilot communities spread across six local government areas of the State.

Professor Yissa said the primary objective of the scheme was the improvement of the Bio-security situation in the rural family poultry especially through mass vaccination

of local chickens against the dreaded seasonal New Castle disease.

The Commissioner said in realization of the fact that poultry played a major role in food security and sustainable livelihood of the rural poor, Governor Bukola Saraki supported the scheme by providing almost two million Naira to start the scheme in 2008.

...Gets World Bank's N90m for irrigation

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilori

THE World Bank has released 90 million to the Kwara State Government to execute the Fadama III Project in the State.

The National Co-ordinator of the Project, Dr. Herbert Ben, disclosed this in Ilorin during a visit to the State Commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Professor Mohammed Gana Yisa.

Dr. Ben said the grant was in response to the payment of forty million

naira counterpart fund by the State Government.

The coordinator said the team was in the State to assess the level of preparedness of the State to implement the Fadama III Project and commended Governor Bukola Saraki for the positive transformation of the agricultural sector in the state.

Dr. Ben also commended the level of participation of rural farmers in the Fadama Project and advised the State Technical Team on the project

to work according World Bank guidelines.

Introducing the project, the state coordinator, Malam Muhammad Akanbi who affirmed their readiness to implement the project thanked the federal government and the state government and the state governor, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki for their trust in them

Meanwhile, the state government has approved the sum of N600 million for the purchase of fertilizer for the year 2010.

“The coordinator said the team was in the State to assess the level of preparedness of the State to implement the Fadama III Project and commended Governor Bukola Saraki for the positive transformation of the agricultural sector in the state.

VACANCY!!!

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

A reputable and fast growing Microfinance Bank located in southern Kaduna require the services of an intelligent, honest and diligent personnel for employment in the following position.

INTERNAL AUDITOR

All prospective application must have a minimum of diploma in accounting and auditing with at least 5 years banking experience(s) relevant training backgrounds. Interested applicants should apply with requisite credentials and CVs to the Chairman, Chat Microfinance Bank, 27 Kaura Road, Manchok, P.M.B 1007, Kafanchan within two weeks of this advertisement.

Signed:

MANAGEMENT

VACANCY

Our client a reputable MICROFINANCE BANK in one of the major cities in Nigeria requires the services of competent persons to fill the following vacancies.

- 1. MANAGING DIRECTOR:** He/She must possess BSC/HND in Accounting, Economics, Banking & Finance, or Business Admin from a reputable University or Polytechnic. M.B.A would be an added advantage. The person must have at least 10 years sound banking experience.
- 2. HEAD OF OPERATIONS:** He/She must possess BSC/HND in Accounting, Economics, Banking & Finance, or Business Admin from a reputable University or Polytechnic. The person must have at least 7 years sound banking experience. Possession of M.B.A is an added advantage.

CLOSING DATE: Two (2) weeks from the date of this publication.

Application must be accompanied by a CV addressed to the Interviewer and sent to "new2010@yahoo.com".

Signed:
Management



WMO DAY 2010



NIMET celebrates with the rest of the world

Every year, on March 23, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the international meteorological community including Nigeria, celebrate the World Meteorological Day. WMO Day is celebrated to commemorate the coming into force of the World Meteorological Organization Convention on March 23, 1950.

This year, the global community marks the 60th year anniversary of WMO as an organization as captured in its theme "The World Meteorological Organisation - 60 years of service for your safety and well-being".

The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET), a member of WMO will commemorate this day as follows:

DATE: March 23, 2010

TIME: 10.00 a.m.

VENUE: NIMET Conference Hall Oshodi-Lagos

ALL STAKEHOLDERS ARE INVITED!

Signed: NIMET Management.



*NIMET...Providing Weather,
Climate & Water Information for
Sustainable Development & Safety*





AIR FORCE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

NIGERIAN AIR FORCE BASE PMB 2104 KADUNA

Tel: 07029306014 E-mail: afitregistrar@yahoo.com

Website: www.afitnigerianairforce.gov.ng or www.airforcetech.net

in affiliation with

CRANFIELD UNIVERSITY UK

ADMISSION INTO PROGRAMMES FOR 2010/2011 ACADEMIC SESSION

1. The Air Force Institute of Technology is a higher education institution engaged in imparting knowledge, skills and learning to students using specialised facilities and multi-disciplinary approach; a centre of excellence for serious innovative research and development for the aerospace, aeronautical, aviation and allied industries/disciplines.

2. Admission into programmes offered in the Institute is now open to the general public. Consequently, applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for admission into the following programmes in the 2010/2011 academic session:

- a. Pre-National Diploma (ND) Programmes.
 - (i) Aircraft Engineering Technology.
 - (ii) Mechanical Engineering Technology.
 - (iii) Electrical/Electronic Engineering Technology.
- b. National Diploma (ND) Programmes.
 - (i) Aircraft Engineering Technology.
 - (ii) Mechanical Engineering Technology.
 - (iii) Electrical/Electronic Engineering Technology.
 - (iv) Business Studies.
- c. Pre-Higher National Diploma (Pre-HND) Programmes
 - (i) Aircraft Engineering Technology (Airframe/Power Plant Option).
 - (ii) Aircraft Engineering Technology (Avionics Option).
- d. Higher National Diploma (HND) Programmes.
 - (i) Aircraft Engineering Technology (Airframe/Power Plant Option).
 - (ii) Aircraft Engineering Technology (Avionics Option).
 - (iii) Electronics/Telecommunications.
 - (iv) Purchasing and Supply.
- e. Post Graduate Diploma (PGD) Aerospace Engineering Programmes.
 - (i) Aero mechanical Engineering.
 - (ii) Avionics Engineering.
 - (iii) Supply Management.

3. The Pre-HND in Aircraft Engineering Technology Programme is a one-year orientation course specifically designed for civilians with ND in engineering fields other than aircraft engineering. The programme is meant to introduce students to aircraft engineering and also provide a good foundation for such students to further their studies in aviation related programmes.

4. The PGD in Aerospace Engineering at AFIT is a one-year programme that is specially designed to prepare candidates for a one-year MSc in aerospace engineering programme at Cranfield University, United Kingdom (UK). Candidates who on completion of the PGD programme wish to enrol for the Masters' programme at Cranfield University, UK can choose to specialise in one of the following fields:

- a. MSc Aerospace Vehicle Design (Airframe and Airframe Systems option).
- b. MSc Aerospace Vehicle Design (Avionics Systems Design option).
- c. MSc Thermal Power (Aerospace Propulsion option).

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

5. Candidates seeking admission into AFIT Pre-National Diploma (Pre-ND) and National Diploma (ND) programmes are to write entrance examination. Those intending to pursue Pre-Higher National Diploma (Pre-HND), Higher National Diploma (HND) and Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) programmes would be offered direct entry admission if they meet the entry requirements. The entry qualifications for programmes offered in AFIT are detailed below:

- a. Pre-National Diploma (Pre-ND) Programmes - Aircraft Engineering Technology, Mechanical Engineering Technology & Electrical/Electronic Engineering Technology.
 - (i) Pass in entrance examination and;
 - (ii) Minimum of WASC/GCE/SSCE/NECO/NTC with at least a pass in English Language and credit passes in 3 subjects in not more than 2 sittings. The subjects must include mathematics, physics or chemistry and one other subject from additional mathematics, statistics, technical drawing, woodwork and metalwork.
- b. National Diploma (ND) Programmes - Aircraft Engineering Technology, Mechanical Engineering Technology & Electrical/Electronic Engineering Technology.

(i) Pass in entrance examination and;

(ii) Minimum of WASC/GCE/SSCE/NECO/NTC with at least a pass in English Language and credit passes in 5 subjects in not more than 2 sittings. The subjects must include mathematics, physics, chemistry and 2 other subjects from additional mathematics, biology, geography, statistics, technical drawing, auto-mechanics and metal work or,

(iii) Five credit passes in an NBTE recognized Pre-ND course. The credit passes must include mathematics, physics, chemistry and any 2 of the other science subjects listed in Paragraph 5b (2) above. Candidates must in addition obtain at least a pass in English Language.

c. National Diploma (ND) - Business Studies.

(i) Candidates should possess a minimum of WASC/SSCE/NECO/GCE with 5 credit passes in English Language, mathematics and 3 other subjects from economics/commerce, business methods, principles of accounts, statistics, geography, agricultural science, government and biology or,

(ii) Credit passes in an NBTE recognized Pre-ND examination in English Language and mathematics and 3 other relevant subjects listed in Paragraph 5c(1) above.

d. Pre-Higher National Diploma (Pre-HND) - Aircraft Engineering Technology.

(i) ND with a minimum of lower credit pass (CGPA of 2.50) in Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Electrical/Electronic Engineering, Metallurgical Engineering or Material Science Engineering and;

(ii) A minimum of one year post-ND cognate work experience.

(iii) In exceptional cases, the diplomate with ND at pass level (CGPA of 2.0 - 2.49) who has 2 or more years of post-ND cognate work experience may be considered for admission into the Pre-HND programme.

e. Higher National Diploma (HND) Programmes.

(i) ND with a minimum of lower credit pass (CGPA of 2.50 and above) in Aircraft Engineering Technology, Electrical/Electronic Engineering Technology or Business Studies and;

(ii) A minimum of one year post-ND cognate work experience.

(iii) In exceptional cases, the diplomate with ND at pass level (CGPA of 2.0 - 2.49) who has 2 or more years of post-ND cognate work experience may be considered for admission into the HND programme.

f. Post Graduate Diploma (PGD) Programmes. A minimum grade of second class honours in engineering, material sciences or physics.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

6. The entrance examination is scheduled to hold on Saturday, 15 May 2010 by 10.00am. Candidates are to choose their examination centers from the list of centers provided in the application forms. Candidates are advised to arrive the venue for all necessary screening and identification by 08.00am. Please note that latecomers will not be allowed into the examination hall.

MODE OF APPLICATION

7. Interested candidates are to download the application forms from AFIT website: www.afitnigerianairforce.gov.ng or www.airforcetech.net. Duly completed forms by civilians are to be accompanied by certified bank drafts of N3,500.00 (for the Pre-ND, ND and Pre-HND programmes) and N5,000.00 (for HND and PGD programmes) drawn in favour of AFIT Kaduna. Completed forms and certified bank drafts are to be submitted by hand or through FedEx Express courier service not later than Thursday, 15 April 2010 to the following address:

The Registrar
Air Force Institute of Technology
PMB 2104
Nigerian Air Force Base
Kaduna

NOTE

The Nigerian Air Force does not guarantee employment to any civilian who successfully completes his course in AFIT.

Signed

DELE ALONGE
Group Captain
for Chief of the Air Staff

THE ILLEGAL DISSOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION BY "ACTING" PRESIDENT JONATHAN GOODLUCK.

TEXT OF A PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED BY S A TANKO YAKASAI ON 18TH THURSDAY MARCH 2010.

The dissolution of the Executive Council of Federation by "Acting" President Good Luck Jonathan neither was without recourse to any known provision of the constitution nor was it backed by any subsisting pronouncement of a court of Law. It was an arbitrary and unlawful action taken on the basis of a pertinently illegal resolution passed by the two Chambers of the National Assembly that confirmed on him the title of "Acting President in the first place.

I have drawn attention to this obvious unconstitutional and illegal situation in previous press statements and interviews. This matter is also before a court of competent jurisdiction for adjudication. It is thus clear that "Acting " President Jonathan acted with impunity, and in utter disregard of the system of relationship that defines Nigerian Presidential system where the action of the Vice-President must derive from the power delegated to him by his Principal. He did not constitute the Executive Council of the Federation in the first place, and is thus not in the position to dissolve it. It is a trite saying in law that you cannot give that which you don't possess. By the way and manner he acted, "Acting" President Jonathan has taken away that which he does not own or lawfully possess.

It is now precisely clear that this illegal action is but a first in the series of desperate measures being slated by those who are intent in demeaning the constitution and grabbing total power in an unlawful way. President Umaru Yar'adua remains in office. He has neither resigned nor has he been removed from power. Yet, these desperate individuals are acting as if Nigeria has no constitution or an Executive President in office. Their second power manoeuvre will be the change of the command Leadership of the nation's armed forces, and possibly too, the security and intelligence establishment, as a pre-condition for the final attainment of total but illegal power. I would like to appeal to the "Acting" President to avoid doing anything that will politicize the armed forces of our country.

Nigerians are watching this unfolding situation

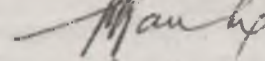
with distress and a sense of foreboding. They are alarmed that their constitution and extent laws are being trampled upon, desecrated and violated. I caution that the present course of action embarked upon by "Acting" President Jonathan will portend grievous danger to the stability of the nation. It should be reversed without delay to allow the constitution and the operation of the rule of law to take their normal course

May I also add here that It has become obvious that "Acting" President Jonathan is pursuing a narrow, sectional agenda that conflicts with the necessity of broad consultation in a diverse society such as ours. The neo – cabal around him are steadily propelling him along the path of being a sectional champion in utter negation of the interests and aspirations of all Nigerians.

It is also pertinent to ask the purpose the dissolution of the Executive Council of the Federation will serve at this point in time when the nation is at the middle of the budget process. The 2010 budget was drawn up with key inputs from the ministers who defended their various ministries' estimates. Yet, he expects new ministers who are unfamiliar with the current budgetary estimates and provisions to master same and implement them assiduously and efficiently within the short time left for the present administration to function. It therefore suggests that the real reason or reasons behind the illegal dissolution of the Executive Council of the Federation are yet to be declared.

Finally, I also wish to caution against the antics of the neo – cabal around Dr. Jonathan in their plot to cause a change of leadership of the National Working Committee of the PDP in order to pave way for him to contest the 2011 Presidential election, against the party's express resolution that the position is zoned to the North. Borrowing a leaf from former president Obasanjo, this neo – cabal want to re – zone the position of the National Chairman of the party outside the Party's established rules and without a National Convention to the North to ensure that Dr. Jonathan is well positioned to pick the party's Presidential ticket. I urge all PDP members to resist this manoeuvre that seeks to flout its rules in zoning, established convention, and faith in the rotation of top offices as a means of guaranteeing national cohesion and political inclusiveness.

S A Tanko Yakasai



Abuja

18th March, 2010.

DIGEST

Texting teen faces surgery on both wrists after sending 100 messages a day

A schoolgirl is facing surgery on both wrists after sending more than 100 text messages a day from her mobile phone.

Annie Levitz, 16, who has lost the feeling in her hands and is unable to pick up some objects, has to wear braces on both wrists and also needs pain-killing injections.

Doctors say she is suffering from carpal tunnel syndrome, whereby nerves in the wrist become trapped. The condition is usually associated with frequent computer keyboard use.

Annie, from Chicago in the U.S., insisted she has cut down on her texting habit - but only to 50 a day. 'I know it's not good enough, but I am trying,' she said. 'It's not even good texts.'

It's things like, "Hey, hey, what's up?"

She says she now hopes to trade her mobile in for an iPhone - as its touchscreen should make it easier to type out texts.

Annie said that she got scared after she began to develop pain.

'I started losing feeling in my hands and they'd go numb,' she explained. 'I'd go to pick up dishes and things and they'd just fall out of my hands.'

Doctors then diagnosed Annie, a pupil at Adlai Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, Illinois, about 35 miles north of Chicago, and fitted braces on her wrists.

She has also had cortisone injections to deal with the pain. But Annie will still have to go under the knife in a bid to relieve her discomfort.

Her mother, Carrie Levitz, said she couldn't take the phone away from Annie because it was her 'whole social life.'



ANNIE Levitz, 16, lost the feeling in her hands because she was spending so much time texting



ANNIE has also received cortisone injections to deal with the pain of the condition

'Sure, I've thought about it. But if you have teens you know that doesn't work,' she said.

'When we found out that it was carpal tunnel syndrome, I was just angry.'

However, the condition hasn't deterred Annie from texting - and the teenager still manages to send out up to 2,000 messages a month.

Dr Sofia Aksentijevich, the

rheumatologist who diagnosed Annie, said: 'It's unusual among younger patients, but not unique.'

Symptoms of carpal tunnel include not being able to grasp things or losing your grip, fre-

quent burning, tingling or itching numbness in the palm of the hand and the fingers.

'I still prefer texting,' Annie added, 'but I've learned that some communication is not worth it.'

Married people 'twice as likely to be fat'



SINGLE people were more likely to exercise in order to find themselves a partner, the researchers found

MARRIED people are twice as likely to become obese than their single counterparts, scientists claim.

Greek researchers found that married couples were more likely to become fat due to their significantly changed lifestyle as they "let themselves go".

Married men are three times as likely to suffer obesity while married women are twice as likely to have weight problems, it found. The research, based on the study of more than 17,000 couples aged between 20 and 70, found that married couples exercised less frequently, had less sex, had poor nutrition and were "comfortable" in their lives.

Married couples spend more time eating together, sit in front of the TV more and often order takeaway ready meals while exercising less.

Scientists from Salonica and Ioannina Universities, who presented their research

on Friday to the Panhellenic Medical Conference, in Athens, concluded that "abdominal obesity, or belly fat" was the worst problem among married people.

Prof Dimitris Kiortsis, one of the study's co-authors, said that obesity was found to be directly related to a change in lifestyle.

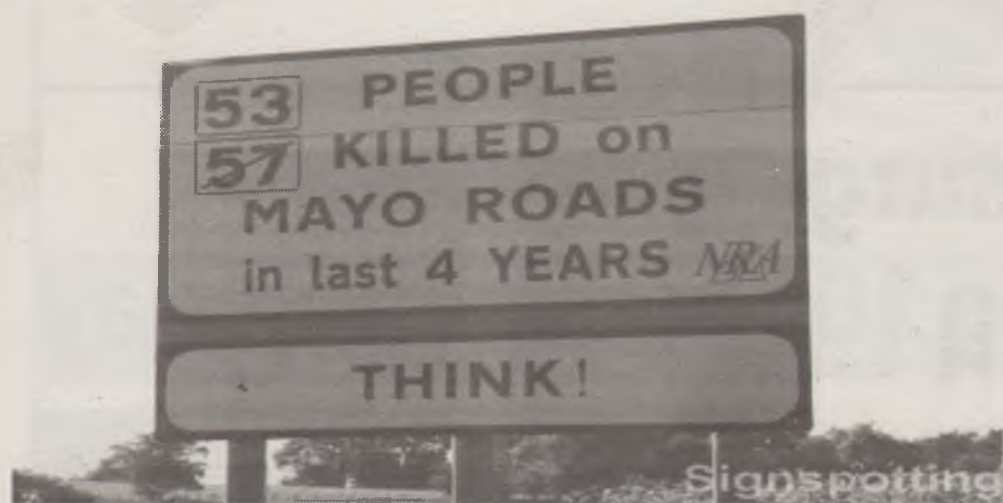
Prof Kiortsis, from Ioannina University who is also president of the Hellenic Medical Association for Obesity, said most married couples also have less sex, which is considered intense exercise that burns calories.

He said that unmarried individuals originally spend a lot of time keeping fit and making themselves attractive in order to find a partner "but once they get married they let themselves go".

"The need to hunt for a partner is reduced," he said.

"Stress and anxiety is reduced in a good marriage, there is less smoking, and therefore one's appetite increases."

Sign Language



So did the four people came back to life?
Photo location: County Mayo, Ireland, by Ben Lake
Culled from www.signspotting.com

EASY CROSSWORDS

15

ACROSS

- Scrap souvenir
- Poets of old
- Causes of some clashes
- Places
- Briefing aid
- Whittle (down)
- Seam extracts
- He assesses
- Crisp side
- Dry as dust
- Repudiations
- Bantu language
- Stockade resident
- Administered
- Stayed inactive
- Excite
- Most recherché
- Provided more hands to
- Manual topic
- In reserve
- Dictator Amin
- Police officer, in Paris
- Hearth shelf
- Felled
- German direction
- Steel-plow inventor
- Midge kin
- Wife of Osiris
- Title for Ramses
- Herpetology specimen
- Panegyric review
- Compensate
- Tulip or onion

DOWN

- Schedule opening
- Essence
- Served superlatively
- Funny
- Eliminate
- Seeks after
- Word with "meal"
- Antecedent
- Kwass cousins
- Customers
- Mrs. Maxwell
- Seas, in Strasbourg
- Mum relation
- British gun
- Scatter
- Greek fifth
- Festive
- Campus grilling
- Does bargello
- On the — with
- An Ephron
- Apothecaries' stock
- Portrait prop
- Bout setting
- Astral butter
- Act together
- Pesach feast
- Roman official
- Chantey chanter
- Hebrew letter
- Stifles
- Ramble
- Paquin of TV
- Mine entrance
- Shelters
- Long Philippic
- Main line?
- Singer Leo
- Soho stroller
- Robust
- Maintain
- Swingy air
- Additional
- Host Seacrest
- Quick stroke

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14												
17												
20												
26	27	28										
35												
39												
43												
49												
57	58	59										
64												
68												
71												

Solution to Easy Crosswords

14

CLUE	SCAMP	CROW
RENO	POWER	HELA
AVIS	ORATE	ADIT
NEO	TREY	PARROT
ERNESTS	MATTE	
LAY	TORE	SAD
RADAR	LINE	ESNE
EMIT	PARED	LENA
DIRE	OBEY	PEDAL
SEE	AMOS	ARC
CEDAR	BLATHER	
LATEEN	BABY	ALA
ANIL	DOUSE	AVER
OTOE	EYRIR	NEVE
SEND	RELET	ONER

SUDOKU

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

111

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

Solution to Sudoku 110

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

News Extra

Sharpeville 50 years on: 'At some stage all hell will break loose'

Half a century after massacre that shifted course of South African history, township is still bristling with anger



THE day that changed the course of South African history: on 21 March 1960, police opened fire on thousands of unarmed protesters, killing 69 people. The massacre sparked decades of armed struggle and forced the world to confront apartheid.

“People were shot. We went there and found people lying all over the ground. But something amazing happened. There was a black cloud. For 15 minutes it rained heavily after the shooting. It washed all the blood...”

Ikabot Makiti's voice trails off into quiet sobs. The former student activist cannot forget the strewn corpses of men, women and children, or the mass burials in £15 coffins that followed. Half a century has passed but memories run deep.

Yesterday marked the 50th anniversary of the day that changed the course of South African history. When police opened fire on thousands of unarmed protesters, killing 69 and injuring about 180, they inadvertently provided a catalyst for decades of armed struggle and forced the rest of the world to confront the iniquity of apartheid. White minority rule finally collapsed in 1994. Two years later it was in Sharpeville that the country's first black president, Nelson Mandela, signed a new constitution.

Named after the Glaswegian immigrant John Lillie Sharp, Sharpeville is a township about 30 miles south of Johannesburg. Black people were forcibly relocated here and in 1960 it had only



NELSON Mandela

two tarred roads with electric lighting.

On 21 March that year the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), a breakaway organisation from the African National Congress, mobilised black people across the country to demonstrate against laws that controlled their movement.

Thousands gathered outside the local police station in Sharpeville, challenging the police to arrest them for being without the pass books, or *dompas*, they were meant to produce on demand.

Makiti, who at the time was

a 17-year-old PAC member, recalled that the demonstrators were in high spirits, holding umbrellas and throwing their hats in the air.

“There was jubilation around, not anything that suggested people were angry or wanting to fight,” said the grandfather, who later spent five years imprisoned on Robben Island. “They were waiting for the answer and the answer came with the bullet. I think the police just panicked because of the mob.”

Without warning the police opened fire on the crowd. Most of



PRESIDENT Jacob Zuma

those who died were shot in the back as they fled. Piet Tshabalala, 86, recalled: “Something hit me on the leg and I saw blood. The pregnant woman next to me lay in a pool of blood after being shot in the stomach.”

The bullets hit another pregnant girl, 16-year-old Ziphora Mameho, but she survived. She said: “The people were demanding a response and the police started shooting. I ran for a few metres but was shot in the leg. The person I was running with died.”

“The other guys commanded me to stay down because other-

wise I'd be shot. I said I'd rather die because I didn't have a leg to use. I remember an Afrikaner [white] policeman stopping and saying: ‘Now you've received the Africa you were fighting for.’”

Mameho, now 76, rolls down a sock to show uneven bones beneath her scarred skin. She spent 18 months in hospital, where doctors inserted her short rib in her leg, and she gave birth to a son, Samwell, without complications.

The anniversary is celebrated every year as Human Rights Day across South Africa. This year Kgalema Motlanthe, the deputy president, will address a commemorative rally in Sharpeville.

But political freedom has not delivered economic freedom for its residents. The roads are potholed and some still lack tarmac, rubbish is strewn on wasteland and the stadium where Mandela signed the constitution is run down. Unemployment is rife and two schools recently closed.

“Apartheid made us despair. Even though today our kids have better lives, we struggle,” said Mameho. “We suffer because of the hardships and we don't have money for medical attention.”

Last month people took to the streets, burning tyres in protest at poor service delivery, and once again the crack of police gunfire was heard in Sharpeville.

Hofni Mosesi, an executive of the Concerned Residents of Sharpeville, said: “It blurs the difference between the apartheid government and our government. We don't talk about it if it happens today, if it's done by the government we voted into power.”

He said that while the ANC remembers Sharpeville on the anniversary, it is neglected for the other 364 days of the year. “This township is just good as far as 21 March is concerned; otherwise, nothing else, forget about it.”

Asked if he felt the sacrifices of 1960 had been in vain, Mosesi said: “To us it was worth it. It could be that it's not worth it to our present authorities, because it if was worth something our township wouldn't be in the state it's in at the moment. The government has betrayed that legacy.”

“At some stage all hell will break loose. We don't know when. There will come a point when we say we have done everything in our power.”

Culled from guardian.co.uk

News Extra

'Day of Wrath' brings Russians on to the streets against Vladimir Putin

Nationwide protests sparked by falling living standards and demanding the prime minister's resignation have taken Kremlin by surprise

Thousands of people across Russia took to the streets at the weekend demanding the resignation of Vladimir Putin, in the largest show of discontent since he came to power more than a decade ago.

Opposition movements called the nationwide "Day of Wrath" to express growing discontent at falling living standards following years of oil-fuelled growth. The protests followed weeks of sustained demonstrations across Russia that have riled a leadership that does not forgive displays of unrest.

Cries of "Freedom" and "Putin resign" filled the main square in Kaliningrad, where up to 5,000 people gathered in pouring rain. The Baltic territory, which is nestled between Poland and Lithuania and separated from the Russian mainland, has been the site of some of the largest protests to date.

"We want the government to start treating us like people, not like slaves," said Kirill, a 22-year-old student. Protesters called for free elections and complained about widespread corruption, high unemployment and rising prices.

Russia's first major anti-Putin demonstration was held in Kaliningrad on 30 January, drawing 12,000 people and shocking local leaders and the Kremlin. "It

"Russia's first major anti-Putin demonstration was held in Kaliningrad on 30 January, drawing 12,000 people and shocking local leaders and the Kremlin



Russian police arrest political opposition leader Sergei Udaltsov in Moscow at the weekend during the 'Day of Wrath' rally.

really surprised us," said Konstantin Polyakov, deputy head of the regional parliament, or Duma, and member of the ruling United Russia party. "We didn't think so many people would turn out, to be honest." The Kremlin was obviously shaken, dispatching a high-level delegation to the Baltic exclave and firing its Kaliningrad adviser, Oleg Matveichev.

Saturday's protest had been banned, and opposition leaders withdrew calls for an organised

demonstration, fearing violence. Yet several thousand showed up anyway, organising through the internet and word of mouth.

"The general public in the regions is beginning to recognise that it is Putin who is actually to blame for various troubles they have – increased cost of living, communal tariffs, taxes and no growth in real wages," said Vladimir Milov, a co-leader of Solidarity, an umbrella opposition movement.

Regional and local elections held on 14 March appear to support that theory. United Russia, the party created with the purpose of supporting Putin's rule – he is currently prime minister – garnered unprecedentedly low results, losing its majority in four of eight regions and giving up the mayorship of Irkutsk, Siberia's largest city, to a Communist candidate who took 62% of the vote.

In Kaliningrad, protesters wore badges criticising United Russia and held aloft mandarins, the fruit that has come to symbolise the region's unpopular governor, Georgy Boos, a Muscovite appointed by Putin.

Few, even those in opposition, believe the Putin government will fall. "It will take time," Milov said. "But just two years ago it would have been impossible to imagine mass demonstrations making political demands like the resignation of Putin's government."

A poll this month by Russia's Public Opinion Foundation

"More than 1,000 people turned out on Saturday in the port of Vladivostok, where discontent has steadily grown

found that 29% of Russians were ready to take no notice of Putin from 21% in February.

More than 1,000 people turned out on Saturday in the port of Vladivostok, where discontent has steadily grown since the government imposed a tax on imported cars. About 500 people rallied in Irkutsk and St Petersburg. Riot police broke up an unsanctioned rally in Moscow violently and arrested 50 activists. Authorities also shut down a website set up for the "Day of Wrath", www.20marta.ru, and in the northern city of Arkhangelsk an opposition leader was arrested and charged with theft.

In Kaliningrad, on the border with the European Union and far from the seat of power, the police presence was minimal, although agents in plain clothes roamed through the crowd.

"Our population is different

from Russia," said Polyakov, sitting in his office adorned with photos of Putin and President Dmitry Medvedev, in what is, technically, Russia. "Our people, especially the youth, travel more to Europe than to Russia. There's no reason to go there."

In an implicit criticism of Moscow politics, he added: "We're more European – more relaxed, less eastern. And we're more democratic." Despite the protesters' rhetoric, Polyakov argued that Putin's popularity in the region remains high. His wife, Lyudmila, was born here and visits regularly.

But local authorities, acting in concert with Moscow, reacted in concert with Moscow, reacted in concert with Moscow to Kaliningrad's wave of protests. They banned a rally in the city centre, saying protesters could gather in a stadium on the outskirts instead.

In an ironic twist, the government has been forced to give in to opponents of liberal market reforms. Following the Kaliningrad protest, it has promised to slow the post-Soviet desubsidisation of utilities like heat and water. That will only widen a budget deficit expected to exceed 6% of GDP this year.

"The leadership is scared," said Solomon Ginzburg, an independent deputy in the regional Duma. "I have been saying the Kaliningrad region is an indicator – in nine months, it will be all over Russia."

Culled from theobserver.co.uk



PRIME Minister Vladimir Putin

Out, as usual, this week

For these incisive stories, among others,



■ A State of Flux

The indifference and incompetence of Nigeria's ruling class make predictions of a possible breakup of the country assume frightening reality by the day

■ Who Will Save Nigeria?

Concerned about Nigeria's drift towards a failed-state status, Nigerians from all walks of life call for urgent reforms of the constitution and the electoral system

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Inadequate power supply cripples socio-economic life of Nigerians, forcing many to seek alternative sources of power even as government continues to dance around the problem

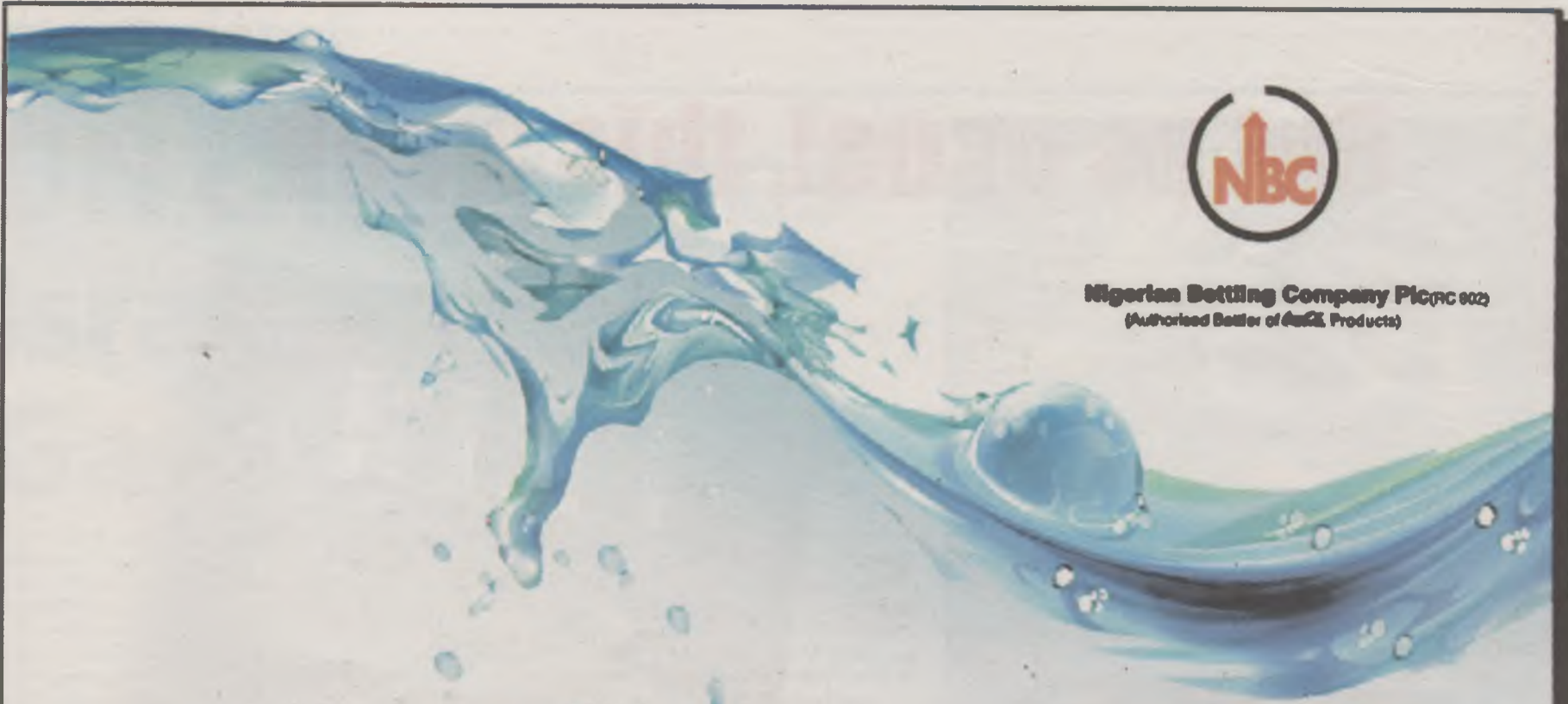
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WATER TIPS



Stop waste:
Do not leave taps running without use.



Waste disposal:
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Burst Pipes:
Report burst pipes in your neighbourhood to local authorities.



Chemicals:
Clean up spills from chemicals carefully without rinsing onto the street.



Regular cleaning of drainages:
Mobilize your community to ensure periodical cleaning of drains.



Watershed/waterside clean ups:
Remove litter and trash from areas surrounding rivers, lakes and streams.



Landscaping:
Use plants that require minimal fertilization and watering.



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IT WORLD

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Telecoms operators exploit us, subscribers allege

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

SUBSCRIBER after subscriber, last week in Lagos complained to the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) of being exploited by the telecoms operators through their promotions.

The subscribers, who stormed the Eko FM Hall, venue of the 55th edition of Telecoms Consumers Parliament (TCP) in droves, told of how they lost hundreds of naira through promotions run by the operators.

The subscribers wondered how the operators claimed they embark on promos to reward their subscribers while in actual fact they 'reaped big' from them by urging them on to participate in the promos with unsolicited text messages which are "deceitful."

Meanwhile, the NCC has said the telecoms operators should ensure that they differentiate between reward loyalty scheme and promos.

Speaking at event TCP tagged:

"Problems and Prospects of ICT Promotions in Nigeria," the Executive Vice Chairman of the NCC, Engr. Ernest Ndukwe said the consumers would always feel cheated if the operators did not differentiate between reward loyalty scheme and promos.

According to Ndukwe, telling a subscriber to pay certain amount of money before he could be rewarded looks like exploitation.

He said the complaints against the promos were rife as the com-

mission received them almost on a daily basis from the consumers.

"Promotions have always been an issue to NCC. Many subscribers complained against it; they said the operators exploit them. It is our view at the NCC that you should differentiate between promos and reward loyalty scheme and should endeavour to tell your consumers that this is this and that is that. Don't tell consumers you are rewarding them when in actual fact you are taking their money," he said.

But the representatives of the telecoms operators present at the event all said they charged subscribers higher amount (N100) than normal (N10 or N15) for the SMSs consumers sent during the promos because they were also being billed by wireless operating companies which were hired to send the codes in the SMSs.

They said they run the SMS for the promos on what they called "premium platform" and that was why it attracted higher cost than the normal SMS.

Africa needs stimulus package for ICT – Ndukwe

By Yunus Abdulhamid

OUTGOING Chief Executive of the Nigeria Communications Commission (NCC), Engr. Ernest Ndukwe has called on African governments to consider stimulus packages for the development of ICT in the continent.

He said the future of the continent's development must be linked with the development of its broadband infrastructure.

Ndukwe who was speaking at the ECOWAS and NEPAD's two-day workshop on broadband infrastructure development in Abuja noted that even advanced economies like the US and the UK were investing huge resources in stimulus packages to the expansion of broadband.

With the advent of mobile telecommunications, most part of Africa covered by 2G GSM and while internet connectivity remain very low. In Nigeria, the 3G is said to be in urban areas, excluding the rural.

He charged local scientist especially the youths to brace up for the next phase of telecommunications in Nigeria and Africa to develop local contents that would be used to interact with the rest of the world.

We are eagerly waiting for the landing of Glo 1 and Main One Cable to help reduce the cost of bandwidth with 10 percent, Ndukwe said.

Most communications in Africa to the rest of the world are done through satellite system where the cost of bandwidth is especially high.

The NCC boss said it was high time countries in the continent started to "open up to link up" as cross borders market barriers placed by nations had made it impossible for the region to develop.

He said this static development could only be reversed through the deployment of fibre optics across the nations in the country which is less expensive and more reliable in the transmission of data.

Ndukwe strongly advocated for the dismantling of regulatory barriers to allow companies with regional ambitions to expand with hindrances.

Fibre optics is known to be more reliable in data transmission than the satellite system and less expensive to maintain as well as having better capacity to transmit heavy data.

The future for Africa for last mile access for broadband is wireless technology which is near non-existent in Nigeria, he noted.

E-learning has a viable future in Nigeria-Zinox

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

THE large number of Nigerians who daily visit the site of e-Books Library Limited shows that there is a viable future for the e-books platform in the country, the Chief

Operating Officer of Zinox Computers, Mr. Sunday Mukoro has said.

Speaking in Lagos, Mr. Mukoro said less than six months after launch the Zinox e-learning platform is experiencing impressive traffic thus predicting a viable future for the e-books platform

in the country.

According to Mr. Mukoro, traffic grew virtually from nothing in October 2009 to 1,000 visitors a month with 50% of them coming back frequently.

He revealed that visitors viewed an average of 9.7 pages per session which is 30% higher than the world's largest web site.

CIPMN, Dragnet partner on e-recruitment solutions

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

THE Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria (CIPMN) and Dragnet Solutions Limited, a software developer, has entered into an arrangement that would see all recruitments by CIPMN and its members done online.

Based on the agreement, Dragnet has developed an e-recruitment portal for CIPN which members of the Institute and the general public can subscribe to for their recruitment solutions.

The CIPMN Registrar Mallam Musa Rabi, said at the MOU signing agreement that the e-recruitment portal "takes over the clerical aspects of the recruitment activities such as advertising of vacancies, registration of applicants, collection of resumes, posting of job vacancies, generating a shortlist based on set parameters, email and sms notifications, reports generation and raking application according to points scoring regime.

He said Dragnet solutions are delivered in a modular fashion that allows the user Human Resources departments determine the functionality businesses require.

According to him, the essence of the collaboration is to combine the technological savvy of Dragnet with the HR expertise of CIPMN to provide solutions to HR practice especially in the area of recruitment and selection.

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Police officer shoots lover to death

By Orkula Shaagee & Usman A. Bello

AN Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) with the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Police Command last Wednesday allegedly shot to death his lover, a 27-year-old divorcee and mother of three children.

Residents said the officer was infuriated when he found out that his lover, Deborah Kaase had a relationship with another man.

Late Deborah's relation, Tu Real, said the relationship between the police officer and Deborah began after she left her husband last year.

He said the police officer was the station officer when Deborah and her former husband had a misunderstanding, adding that the officer took a likeness for her.

The relation said after Deborah's divorce scaled through, she rented an apartment at Dutsen-Makaranta and police officer Ibrahim became a regular visitor to the place.

"He became furious with Deborah that she was going out with one particular man and last Wednesday night, he accused her of infidelity as well as called her a prostitute, before she responded by saying that he has also slept with a prostitute," Tu Real said.

He said the response angered the police officer, who asked her to shut-up but she hissed and the officer allegedly shot her at the back.

"The sound from the gun caused pandemonium, before a police van took the woman to Wuse General Hospital, where she was certified dead.

Late Deborah's friend, Favour, who corroborated Tu Real's narration, described the deceased as a hard working woman.

She said Deborah was initially taken to the Dutsen-Makaranta's Police Station in the morning of the fateful Wednesday by one Mrs Oseni and it was the same police officer that settled them.

"I was surprise when I heard this morning that she was killed by the same police officer," Mrs Favour said.

Deborah's father, Kaase Alumo, who came from the village to ascertain what happened to his daughter, said Deborah was the bread winner of his home.

"I want justice to prevail in this gruesome murder of my daughter as well as adequate compensation to be paid to my family because she left three children behind for me," he said.

The Chief of Tiv Community in



LATE Deborah Kaase

Dutsen-Makaranta, Chief Stephen Utim said the woman's corpse has been deposited in a morgue, as arrangements are been made to convey the body for burial at her home town in Gaav, Konshisha Local Government of Benue State.

Reacting, FCT Police Spokesman, Jimoh Moshood, said the suspect is in police custody and that the death was as a result of accidental discharge.

He said the suspect went to rescue the victim, who was in trouble when the incident happened, add-

ing that investigations to unravel the circumstances surrounding the killing is on-going and that the police are trying to locate the deceased person's family.

Moshood said that the commissioner of police regretted the incident and has promised to investigate the matter fully to ensure that justice is done.

Meanwhile our reporter learnt that the case has been transferred from Kubwa Police Station to FCT Criminal Investigation Department.

Gborgbodo residents complain over borehole closure

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

RESIDENTS of Gborgbodo community in Abaji Area Council have expressed their displeasure over the continued closure of a bore-hole that supplies water to an over-head tank, which is meant to supply the water to villagers.

Our reporter learnt that the bore-hole which was constructed by the incumbent chairman of the council has been under lock and key since April 2009, following a disagreement between certain persons in the community, on who will keep the bore-hole's key.

Residents who spoke to City News said the problem is between the Gbagyi and Bassa youths, adding that they are yet to agree on the rightful group to keep the key, which prompted council officials to lock up the place.

The residents disclosed that they only enjoyed water from the bore-hole for three weeks after the place was constructed and have been getting their potable water from the stream.

A Bassa elder in the community blamed the crisis on the project engineers, who he accused of handing over the key to the bore-hole to a Gbagyi boy called Sunday.

"The Bassa ethnic group became unhappy with the attitude of the Gbagyi boy, who opened the bore-hole whenever he pleases and a complaint was made to the council chairman," the elder stated.

He said the chairman assured them that two keys will be made, so that one is giving to the Bassa leader and the other to the Gbagyi leader.

"Since April last year till date, we have not seen any key and the place have been locked," he added.

One of the chiefs of the community, Mr. Thomas Darwana, lamented that his subjects have suffered for over one year due to water scarcity.

He attributed the bore-hole's closure to a chieftaincy tussle between another Bassa man and himself, of which the council boss allegedly installed the other candidate as chief. "After I was installed as village head of Gborgbodo by the Chief of Pandagi on November 29, 2009, Alhaji Usman Sokodeke, who is from the home town of the chairman installed another Bassa man as a chief in that village, which means there are two chiefs in a community," he said.

The chief stated that the Ona of Abaji, Alhaji Adamu Baba Yunusa, is aware of the problem and is handling it.

Reacting, Press Secretary to Abaji council, Umar Salihu Kambo, said the council did not lock the bore-hole.

"Just yesterday, the council chairman was at Yaba community to take down their pressing needs and this is what has been going on in various communities within the council, where interactive sessions are held so that people state their needs for prompt attention," he stated.

Catholic women decry poverty among women

By Abubakar Yakubu

THE Catholic Women Organisation (CWO) branch of the SS Peter and Paul Parish yesterday lamented that 40 percent of their female members have no jobs and are incapacitated financially.

This was disclosed by the branch's President, Mrs Victoria Acholo during the parish 'Mothers' Day celebration at Nyanya.

Mrs Acholo, while highlighting on the problems facing the branch said some of those without jobs are widows that need the support of wealth individuals and corporate organisations.

She disclosed that some of their members died, while their official bus which was filled with members somersaulted during a trip to the south west last year and all the occupants escaped without serious injuries recorded.

According to her, a lot of money was spent to put the bus back on the road and the branch also constructed a grotto of the 'Holy Mary' which will be commissioned by the Bishop on May 2.

She urged everybody to always remember their mothers and thanked the reverend fathers, sisters and all parishioners for their assistance.



REVEREND Father Michael Gokum (right) and female parishioners during the Mothers' Day celebration at SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church Nyanya yesterday.



NOTICE

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE 'C' DEPARTMENT, THE NIGERIA POLICE, FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ABUJA

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR NIGERIA POLICE FORCE IN THE 2010 APPROPRIATION

A. PREAMBLE:

Further to the earlier advertisement of March 8 2010, in both PUNCH, THISDAY Newspapers and FEDERAL TENDERS JOURNAL, the Nigeria Police Force invites competent contractors to pre-qualify for consideration in tendering for the undermentioned procurement activities for goods and services.

B. THE SCOPE OF PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

LOT 6 BUDGET

6a. Procurement of Office Equipment for distribution to police formations nationwide.

LOT 7 MEDICAL

7a. Purchase of Medical Equipment, Surgical Equipment, Diagnostic Equipment and Laboratory Equipment.

7b. Purchase of Medical/Dental/Pharmaceutical Journals

LOT 8 VETERINARY SERVICES

8a. Establishment of Veterinary Clinics

8b. Procurement of Veterinary Equipment and Electrical appliances.

LOT 9 COMPUTER SECTION

9a. Procurement of Computer Hardware and Software development to all Police unit.

9b. General Computer Training for Officers and Men of the Nigeria Police.

9c. Procurement of Servers

9d. Procurement of HP Laptops and Desktops Computers.

LOT 10 QUARTERMASTER

10a. Supply of Clothing and Accoutrement to the Nigeria Police Force.

LOT 11 FORCE PUBLIC RELATION OFFICE (F.P.R.O) EQUIPMENT

11a. Procurement of Office and Audio Visual Equipment for the Force Public Relation department.

11b. Supply of Assorted Digital Cameras, DVD recorder, Sets of Public Address equipment, Projectors, Tripod Stand for Video Cameras.

11c. Supply of Photo Printer, Gestetner Photocopy Machine, Digital Tape Recorder and Moveable Podium with Speakers.

11d. Supply of HP Laptop Computers, HP Desk Top Computers, TV Sets, Printers, Split Unit Air-conditioner and Video Editing machine.

LOT 12 AIRWING

12a. Construction of Helipads in 5 locations.

C. PRE-QUALIFICATION FEES

Contractors are free to pre-qualify for one OR more services above on payment of a non-refundable pre-qualification fee =N=10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira Only) per lot.

D. PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Submission of Company Profile containing the following:

1. Company Organogram
2. List of key personnel (Technical and Administrative) including photocopies of staff qualifications and current pay slip.
3. List of Plant and Equipments owned or to be hired with proof of ownership if owned.
4. Previous works successfully completed with letters of award and completion certificates attached.
5. On-going works and their details including locations.
6. Financial statements and bankers
7. Tax Clearance Certificate (for past three(3) years) to be strictly verified by FIRS Headquarters
8. Evidence of company Registration with Cooperate Affairs Commission (C.A.C)
9. Evidence of PENCOM Registration.
10. VAT Certificate.

E. SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

The pre-qualification documents should be neatly packaged in a sealed envelope and marked at the top left hand corner "Confidential Pre-qualification Documents" stating the LOT and addressed to 'The Secretary, Nigeria Police Procurement Committee, 'C' Department, FHQ, Nigeria Police Force, Louis Edet House.

The submission should be accompanied with original copy of Government Treasury Receipt (per lot) paid in the sum stated above and obtainable from Works Drawing Office on the ground floor 'C' Wing, Force Headquarters Nigeria Police Force, Louis Edet House, Abuja.

The sealed envelope should be deposited in the tender box provided for this purpose at the Ground Floor, Room 0C-047, 'C' Wing, Force Headquarters Abuja, not later than 1200hrs on Tuesday 13th April, 2010.

F. PLEASE NOTE

This is NOT an invitation to tender. Notwithstanding the submission of Pre-qualification information, the Nigeria Police is neither committed nor obligated to include any company's name in any bid list or to award any contract to any Company on the bid list.

There shall be no mobilization fees as any payment shall strictly be based on evaluation of work already done on site.

Force Headquarters Purchasing and Tender Board reserves the right to reject any or all pre-qualification packages. This notice of 'Invitation to Pre-qualify' shall not be construed as commitment on the part of the FHP and TB, nor shall it entitle any company to make claims whatsoever or seek any indemnity from the Nigeria Police.

SIGNED
Inspector-General of Police,
'C' Department
Force Headquarters, Abuja.

Ashara freed from Gwamna's murder case

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin & Usman A. Bello

THE suspended Vice-Chairman of Kwali Area Council, Alhaji Adamu Sheidu Ashara, has been set free from a murder trial over the death of his boss Mr. Samuel Garba Gwanma.

The police, who had preferred a murder charge against the vice-chairman and one Adamu Iyapai at an Abuja High Court, were told by the judge that

they have not been able to establish a criminal case against the vice-chairman.

Justice Abubakar Talba in his ruling on the no case submission by the accused counsel, held that the prosecution failed woefully to link the vice-chairman with the killing of his boss.

The court held that none of the 10 witnesses called by the prosecution provided essential and ingredient evidences that could even suggest that the accused person had a

hand in the murder of the deceased, sometimes in 2008.

Justice Talba hinged the discharge of the accused person on the ground that he was charged to court on mere allegations that he had misunderstanding with his former boss, when he was removed as supervisor for education.

The court held that such an allegation no matter how strong cannot take the place of legal proof and dismissed it in totality.

Court jails barber for impersonation

By Usman A. Bello

AN Abuja chief magistrate court Friday sentenced a 33-year-old barber, Yusuf Hassaini to six months imprisonment without an option of fine for impersonation.

Prosecutor Patrick Obeta had earlier told the court that the accused was arrested by

one Staff Sgt. Hamza Ahmed of the Nigerian Army Headquarters for dressing in an army uniform with the rank of a corporal on it.

When the charges were read to the accused, he pleaded and Chief Magistrate Ademuyiwa Oyeyipo sentenced him to prison.



AfriHub students taking their matriculation oath in Abuja Saturday.

AfriHub matriculates students

By Usman A. Bello

ABOUT 131 students of AfriHub Institute were on Saturday matriculated in the school's temporary premises at Wuse II, Abuja.

Speaking at the event, the school's Rector, Prof. Manny C. Aniebonam, disclosed that the students were carefully selected for two major programs offered in the institute.

He said out of over 1,200 applicants in 2009, only 64 were admitted into the program, while for the 2010 academic session, the institute received a list of 2,550 applicants of which only 75 were admitted.

"Each of the students was admitted into a National Diploma Programme duly accredited by the National Board for Technical Education under the National Innovative Diploma Scheme," the rector stated.

He said students are trained to specialise in computer software Engineering or networking and systems security, assuring that at the end of their courses they will

get jobs as discussions are presently being held between captain of industries and the school's management to that effect.

Prof Aniebonam revealed that arrangements are on to see that the institute moves to its permanent site within the next few years as a sprawling piece of land has been gotten in Abuja.

Speaking earlier, Engr Sule Yakubu Bassi, director-general of Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa (DTCA), praised Prof Aniebonam for coming back to Nigeria to invest after many years abroad.

Dr Bassi praised the rector for exhibiting exceptional commitment to the development of information and communication technology in Nigeria in Particular and Africa in general.

He noted that AfriHub was one of DTCA's effort in changing the brain drain phenomenon to brain gain and brain circulation for the rapid development of the African continent, bearing in mind the fact that no-one will develop Africa better than Africans.

PROPERTY

property@dailytrust.com
HOTLINE: 07041632079

'Nigeria has 16m housing units deficit'

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

NIGERIA currently has a housing deficit of about 16 million units for its citizens, President-General of the Trade Union Congress [TUC], Peter Esele has said.

He disclosed this in his welcome address at the TUC 8TH Triennial National Delegate Conference which held in Benin City, Edo State at the weekend.

He said an investment in the provision of mass houses

will create over a million direct and indirect jobs, thereby stimulating the economy.

According to him, in the year 2050 the population of Nigeria at the current growth rate will be 300 million people, but regretted that there is no policy in place to address the looming challenges that will arise.

He therefore advised the government to partner with the private sector with a view to solving housing and unemployment problem in the country.

"The time to act is now. This administration must put in place a more attractive business environment for the organized private sector to partner in the provision and expansion of infrastructure at all levels to enable it rise to occasion and drive the process of employment generation."

Esele, who spoke on improved wage packages for the Nigerian worker, said that the existing remuneration packages cannot guarantee basic needs associated with the social status of most Nigerian workers and their dependents.

LASG urges compliance on land title documents

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

LAGOS state government has asked allottees in the state government controlled housing estates to ensure due registration and perfection of their title documents of sub-leases within a time frame spanning three months.

Governor Babatunde Raji Fashola made the appeal at the second stakeholders' meeting on documentation and registration of sub-leases held on Thursday at the State Secretariat, Alausa. He said the registration exercise would commence from April 15 and end on July 15 adding that the planned registration and documentation of sub-leases of the state's Housing Estates was introduced to add value to allottees' ordinary allocation letters.

He explained that the exercise would allottees in the low-income housing estates a sum of N10, 000 without extra charges, N15, 000 for those in the medium-income housing estates and N20, 000 for those in the high income estates.

He however urged the property owners "against falling victims of fake officials that might approach them to surrender their original allocation letters. The original letter you have is your property. Do not allow anybody to collect it. You may only display it for any official to see but not to be taken away." "Owners of low income housing estate have not satisfied any registration exercise with government agency would end up paying N10,000; those in medium income housing estates to pay N15, 000 while the high income estates' owners are to pay N20, 000 respectively.

40 traffic offenders convicted in Ilorin

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

ABOUT forty traffic offenders were yesterday convicted in Ilorin, the Kwara State capital by the mobile court sitting at the MTD, "A" Division Police station, Ilorin for various traffic offences.

The offenders were convicted by Chief Magistrate Olu Ibitoye after been tried for various traffic offences, which include seat belts, non possession of valid vehicle papers, driving license and faulty lightings among others.

Ibitoye however said the offences were summarily tried as they were strictly state liability offences.

He said those brought before him were first offenders and were fined between five hundred naira to two thousand Naira. He however said that the offences were punitive enough to serve as a deterrent to others.



THE corporate headquarters of the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Maitama, Abuja

'FG land reform will reduce cost of housing delivery'

AN estate developer, Akande Omoniyi, said on Sunday that the Federal Government land reform programme would reduce cost of housing delivery in the country.

Omoniyi, who is also the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of C2Q Properties and Investment Company Limited, made this known in an interview in Abuja.

The CEO had at the occasion laid the foundation for 110 housing units in Lugbe, Abuja.

He said that the reform programme would impact positively on the cost of housing delivery in the country because it was not just land reform alone, it involved mortgage creation, lending rate and other things.

"If the process of transferring land titles is less cumbersome, and the cost of getting the title is nearly zero it will have positive impact on the people and I think the reform will be the right step in the right direction," he said.

According to Omoniyi, there are some factors, which make up the cost of rent in Abuja, if you look at them critically, the cost of land makes up about 40 per cent of the cost of a building in Abuja,

"In a city where the cost of a plot is not less than two or three million naira, and by the time you put a three bedroom bungalow for about N10 million all together you will be spending about N13 million.

"And you also have to pay the necessary fees to FCTA, if you aggregate all this as you know the investor must reap his investment over a period of time. I think this must have contributed to the high cost of rent in Abuja," he added.

Omoniyi said that what informed the company's decision to put up the estate was the need to deliver low income houses to the ever increasing population of Abuja and to close the gap between the rich and poor in the territory,

He said that estate comprised of 110 housing units made up of 30 duplexes and 80 bungalows as well as other social amenities.

The social amenities include shops, a recreation centre, good road network, dedicated transformers and two industrial boreholes with 33,000-litre tanks to serve the residents. (NAN)

Agency, Trust Fund partner on water management

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

THE Nigerian Hydrological Service Agency (NIHSA) and the Hadejia-Jama'are-Kumadugu-Yobe Basin Trust Fund (HJKYB) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) which will help in exchanging data for optimum utilisation of water resources including agriculture and dam management along the basin.

The MOU was signed in Damaturu where Engineer Bashir Umar Magashi signed on behalf of NIHSA and Dr. Hassan

Bidliya signed on behalf of HJKYB.

The HJKYB is the creation of six states including Plateau, Bauchi, Jigawa, Kano, Yobe and Borno and is charged with the responsibility of improving the condition of millions of people living around the basin which covers about 184 thousand square kilometres.

Dr. Bidliya who is the Administrative Secretary of the Trust Fund said effective management of water resources requires collaboration with agencies like NIHSA because they are the custodians of hydro-

logical data.

He said the Kumadugu Basin had suffered several distortions many years back when water projects were carried out without fully assessing the negative impacts of such projects on the people living along the basin.

Dr. Bidliya said by exchanging data with NIHSA, the HJKYB hopes to address many challenges including degradation trends because "we would always know the quantity of water we have and the people that want to use it at any given time".

He said available data obtained through scientific methods will also bring about equitable distribution of water for various purposes including farming, irrigation and fishing among others.

On his part, Engineer Magashi who represented Mr John Chabo, the Executive Director of NIHSA said the MOU will help a lot in improving water management.

He said NIHSA was mandated by the federal government to collect hydrological data and disseminate same for national planning.

Property



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'120m Nigerians face housing problems'

By Tina A. Hassan

MANAGING Director (MD) of Aso Savings and Loans Nigeria Limited Usman Hassan said more than 120 million Nigerians are faced with the problem of housing making many homeless.

Hassan made the statement at the groundbreaking ceremony of the Millard Fuller Foundation Center for Housing in Partnership with Aso Savings and Loans Ltd which took place in Luvu-Madaki Village, Masaka in Nasarawa State at the weekend.

He said the initiative is aimed at providing homes for poor Nigerians especially those who cannot afford homes in expensive parts of the city where only well to do individuals live but the new project would enable many people access to own a home while they pay back in installments over a given period of time.

According to him, the growing housing need in the country is one that demands prompt action by all stakeholders and one that should be given the required attention due to the importance of housing.

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ARCH Terver Gemade, MD/CEO FHA at the ground breaking ceremony of Luvu-Madaki housing scheme in Masaka, Nasarawa State, last Thursday.

FG satisfied with state of Otta-Abeokuta express road

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

THREE years after Otta Abeokuta express way was completed, the road is still good enough Mrs. Moronada Adedeji, Assistant Director Budget Office, the Federal Ministry of Finance has said.

She made the observation at an inspection tour of the road last week accompanied by the federal Ministry of Works and Housing officials and the contractor's representative. The 60 kilometre road stretches from PHCN Bus stop Otta, in Ogun state passing through four local governments (Abeokuta, Ewekoro, Ifo and Adeodo-Otta) and stops at Brewery Bus stop Abeokuta.

Payment details from the budget office also show that about N14 billion has been paid to Julius Berger Nigeria while the sum of about N2 billion is still outstanding.

Two lanes were constructed and part of the old lane was rehabilitated in addition to 13 bridges and culverts constructed on the road as part of the contract terms says the contractor's representative who wouldn't want his name mentioned.

Our correspondent who was part of the road inspection also reports that the road was still without failures and the 13 bridges still standing except for a dwarf median barrier, some huge vegetation around the road median barrier and the shoulder carriage way which is wearing off.

FCTA converts green park into residential plots

By Nasir Imam

THE Department of Development Control of the Abuja Metropolitan Management Council, whose responsibility includes overseeing of parks and recreation avenues, is alleged to be re-designation and allocation of some portions of the areas hitherto marked as green areas.

Owners of some of these green areas whose allocations have purportedly been taken back by the Development Control Department were recently served quit notices.

One of such green areas that operate a garden, that was served a quit notice, is the Queensfield Fountain Gardens on Imo crescent, Area 1, Section 1, Garki. The park, No. 1484B AO1, was leased to the proprietress since 2001.

Available documents showed that

the proprietress of the garden, Mrs. Chinyere Kalu Okore was on August 4, 2009, served a quit notice by the Development Control Department, as two separate plots of land, marked plots 2114 and 2115 respectively, have been carved out of the garden.

The letter conveying this development signed by one Isa M. Shuaibu, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, dated November 25, 2008, reads in part; "Part of Park 1484 AO1 was re-designated by AGIS to accommodate eight residential plots, while the rest of the park was retained as green and is presently concessioned to De-Os Garden, Queens Field and Charles Oriaku by Parks and Recreation Department. The plot under reference [plot 2115] is one of the carved out plots and is outside of Queensfield park boundary."

Earlier on July 24, 2007, the management of the Abuja Metropolitan Management Agency [AMMA] in a letter signed by Mr. Luka Bulus Achi, Director, Parks and Recreation, had conveyed the management's approval to the Proprietress of Greensfield Fountain Garden for the leasing of the said plot 1484B, AO1 measuring 0.65 hectare.

The proprietress had in her several petitions maintained that the park, popularly known as Bagudu sewage, was a marshy dump with mighty sewer lines that are currently serving the whole of Garki residence, before turned it to a beautiful garden.

Efforts to reach the FCT Director, Parks and Recreation, Mal. Isa Shuaibu, proved abortive as he didn't answer several phone calls made to him.

AMMC gets anti-corruption, transparency c'ttee

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE Co-ordinator, Abuja Metropolitan Management Council, Prof Sani Mashi has inaugurated a nine member anti-corruption committee in line with the directive from the Federal Capital Territory Administration that all its secretariats and agencies should establish anti-corruption units.

Prof Mashi urged the committee to be dedicated and liaise with the anti-corruption agencies like EFCC and ICPC in order eradicate corrupt practice in the council.

The committee terms of reference include cooperating with other anti-graft agencies in the area of information sharing, reporting any acts of corruption in the council and

Submit reports that will guide the anti graft agencies in investigating corrupt practices.

Others are to examine the procedure of the council to identify unhealthy activities that can lead to corrupt acts, make necessary recommendation to facilitate proper record keeping; educate council officials on the dangers associated with corrupt practices and prepare/submit end of the year report to the anti-graft agencies to help project the good image of the council.

FERMA raises scope of work on two Nasarawa roads

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

TWO federal roads in Nasarawa State - Akwanga-Wamba-Fadalkarshi Road and Nasarawa Toto-Keffi-Kaduna border Road currently undergoing repairs have attracted further concerns from the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) which rose with additional funds to raise the scope of repair.

The two roads are being handled by SDY Engineering Limited at N211 million

and Wewox Limited at N182 million, respectively. The specification of the two respective projects entail patching of potholes, crack sealing and asphalt overlay.

But the additional funds, according to FERMA's Chief Maintenance Engineer in the state, Engr. Musa Useni, will raise the scope work to cover other critical areas including drainage construction which was not taken care of in the initial contracts.

Engr. Useni said the Managing Director

of the agency, Engr. Kabir Abdullahi has long approved the increase, adding that the two contractors have so far begun work on the additional scope.

The scope increase takes the contract rate up with SDY's contract jumping from N211 million to N311 million while Wewox's job rises from N182 million to N482 million.

A management team of the agency was in the state, a week ago on an inspection tour, during which it visited the two

projects sites. The team was led by two Executive Directors, namely Engr. Bola Aganaba, the Executive Director (East) and Mr. Wakil Adamu, the Executive Director, Administration and Human Resources. The team had expressed satisfaction with the quality of work, but frowned at the speed, urging the two contractors to increase the tempo with particular reference to Wewox whose cut-out potholes were left unsealed longer than the expected time.

LIST OF PROPERTIES FOR SALE

S/NO.	LOCATION	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	RESERVED PRICE
KANO STATE			
1	NO. 2 ZARIA ROAD (AHMADU BELLO HOUSE-KANO)	Eighteen (18) Storey office complex and Former Bank of The North Corporate Head Office. Development comprises of the Main Building and other Ancillary Structures	3,566,666,666.67
2	72B, MURTALA MOHAMMED WAY KANO	A Three (3) Storey building Office complex	620,000,000.00
3	30, SABO BAKIN ZUWO ROAD, KANO	4 Bedroom Bungalow with 2nos Chalets with BQ	216,666,666.67
4	458 HOTORO QUARTERS, KANO	A detached Four (4) bedroom guest house with 2No. BQ.	25,000,000.00
5	7 JIGAWA ROAD, NASSARAWA GRA KANO	A purposed built 4 bedroom bungalow with 2 room B/Q, having the following	126,666,666.67
6	MAIDUGURI ROAD HOTORO QUARTERS KANO	A 2 storey maisonette and a detached Guest block.	120,000,000.00
7	14A DORAWA ROAD, NASSARAWA GRA KANO	4 Blocks Of Three (3) Bedroom Flat with B/Q	120,000,000.00
8	149A CLUB ROAD KANO	2 No. Three Bedroom Duplex with 2 Room B/Q	95,000,000.00
9	NO. 360 AIRPORT ROAD, BRIGADE AREA KANO	Commercial building standing on 2 floors	26,666,666.67
10	9 CIVIC CENTER ROAD KANO	Purpose Built Training School and Other Ancillary Building	568,333,333.33
11	NO. 15 RACE COURSE ROAD, NASSARAWA GRA, KANO	2No. detached buildings	200,000,000.00
ZAMFARA STATE			
12	NO 1 GRA ROAD, GUSAU	A fenced 3 bedroom bungalow with 2 room B/Q, having the following:	21,666,666.67
NASARAWA STATE			
13	HASSAN DANLADI STREET, (Govt. College Rd.) OFF LAFIA- AKWANGA ROAD KEFFI	1No. detached 4 bedroom bungalow with 2 room B/Q.	28,000,000.00
14	PLOT AT LOWCOST HOUSING ESTATE, LAFIA-SHANDAM ROAD LAFIA	A vacant plot ready for development	8,666,666.67
KWARA STATE			
15	NO. 21 ABDULRAZAK ROAD GRA ILLORIN	Fenced 3 bedroom bungalow with 2 room B/Q	25,333,333.33
NIGER STATE			
16	PLOT ALONG BIDA-ZUNGERU ROAD, OPPOSITE ST LOUIS NURSERY & PRIMARY SCHOOL, BIDA	A fenced commercial plot ready for development.	6,166,666.67
17	PLOT AT BIDA OPPOSITE JERRY GANA HOUSE, BIDA	Vacant Plot	2,200,000.00
18	PLOT AT ZUNGERU	Vacant Plot	2,500,000.00
19	PROPOSED ICB HEAD OFFICE, PAIKO MINNA	Banking Premises With Offices, Strong Room & Other Ancillary Structures	31,866,666.67
20	NO. 39 EBITU UKRWE ROAD, MINNA	Managers House:	30,000,000.00
FCT-ABUJA			
21	FHA ESTATE PHASE 1 OFF ROAD 31 & 313 KUBWA	Prototype 10 No. units of semi-detached 2 bedroom flats. Having the following:	58,333,333.33
22	KARU 1 FHA ESTATE KARU, FCT ABUJA	Karu I, 2No. detached blocks of 2 bedroom flats + 2 No. 1 bedroom flat Karu II, 2 No. detached blocks of 2 B/R flat + 1No. detached storey bldg. of 2No. 2B/R & a detached block of 2 bedroom flat. Having the following	41,666,667
23	KARU II, FHA ESTATE, KARU FCT	Blocks Of 2No. Bedroom flats With A storey Building of 2No. Bedroom & a Block of 2 Bedroom	48,333,333.33
24	OFF SANI ABACHA ROAD BEHIND DANTATA QUARTERS MARARABA	6No. detached 2 bedroom flats, having the following:	83,333,333.33
25	FHA ESTATE PHASE 1 LUGBE HOUSING ESTATE OFF 43 ROAD PHASE 413 CRESENT LUGBE	8No. 2 bedroom terrace flats arranged in 2No. blocks of 4 flats. Having the following:	51,000,000.00
26	SECRETARIAL ROAD BY SHARIA COURT OF APPEAL GWAGWALADA	A undeveloped plot of land, having:	30,000,000.00
27	34, MEDIARA STREET MAITAMA ABUJA	4 Bedroom Duplex, 3 Sitting Room & B/Q	198,333,333.33
28	NO. 2 DAKALA STREET, OFF PARAKUO CRESCENT WUSE II ABUJA	Commercial Property and other Appurtenances	276,666,666.67
OYO STATE			
29	NO. 21A & B OBA ADESIDA ROAD, IYAGANKU QUARTERS, GRA IBADAN	A fenced 4 bedroom detached duplex with B/Q, having the following:	42,333,333.33
30	JIMOH ODUTOLA STREET ADJACENT REGIONAL OFFICE, IBADAN	2 Storey Commercial Building	110,000,000.00
GOMBE STATE			
31	PLOT LOCATED OFF BAUCHI ROAD, OLD GRA GOMBE	An undeveloped plot land, having:	11,666,666.67
BAUCHI STATE			
32	KATAGUN SARKI ROAD, AZARE OPPOSITE GOVERNORS GUEST HOUSE GRA AZARE	4 bedroom bungalow with B/Q	9,666,666.67
33	NO. 26 OLD JOS ROAD BAUCHI GRA	A fenced 4 bedroom bungalow & 2 room B/Q, having the following:	25,000,000.00
BORNO STATE			
34	LAKE CHARD RD. MADUGURI	Blocks Of Offices	15,666,666.67
PLATEAU STATE			
35	DAKWA CLINIC ROAD, SPECIAL SITE AREA, PANKSHIN JOS	A 4 bedroom bungalow with 2 room B/Q	11,000,000.00
36	AZI NYAKO RD, ANGIO JOS INDUSTRIAL LAYOUT BY JOS STEEL ROLLING MILL JOS	An undeveloped fenced with wire meshing parcel of land, firm, self-drain but undulating, having,	27,666,666.67
37	NO. 18 NASSARAWA ROAD GRA, TUDUN WADA AREA JOS	A 4 bedroom detached house with 4 room B/Q, having the following:	51,000,000.00
KOGI STATE			
38	BUNGALOW AT ANKPA	Property at Ankpa	12,333,333.33
39	ENEOKPOLI ROAD, OPPOSITE LGA SECRETARIAL BY ANKPA AREA COURT ANKPA	A fairly leveled, self drain and slightly sloppy fenced plot.	6,833,333.33
JIGAWA STATE			
40	NO LA9, LIMAWA ESTATE, GRA DUTSE	A detached 3 bedroom bungalow, having the following:	14,333,333.33
41	CLOSE TO DEPUTY GOVERNOR'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE GRA, DUTSE	3No. undeveloped land, having the following	8,000,000
LAGOS STATE			
42	Plot No 1 at Apogon	PROPERTY AT APOGNBON	77,000,000.00
43	NO. 14A APAPA LANE DOLPHINE ESTATE (SCHEME) IKOYI, LAGOS	Semi-detached 4 bedroom duplex.	48,333,333.33
44	NO. 14B APAPA LANE DOLPHINE (SCHEME) ESTATE IKOYI LAGOS	Semi-detached 4 bedroom duplex.	46,666,666.67
45	12A APAPA LANE DOLPHINE (SCHEME) ESTATE IKOYI	Semi-detached 4 bedroom duplex.	50,000,000.00
46	12B APAPA LANE DOLPHINE (SCHEME) ESTATE IKOYI LAGOS	Semi-detached 4 bedroom duplex.	46,666,666.67
47	NO 1 AJISAFE STREET OFF ISAAC JOHN STREET GRA IKEJA LAGOS	6No. 3 bedroom flats standing on 3 floors + B/Q.	450,166,666.67
48	160 A SINARI DARANJO STREET, (OPPOSITE LEKKI FREE TRADE ZONE OFFICE) VIILAGOS	2No. 3 bedroom flat, with B/Q.	250,000,000.00
49	NO 8B ETIM INYANG CRESCENT VICTORIA ISLAND LAGOS	4 Bedroom Residential Duplex With 2 room B/Q	293,333,333.33
50	NO. 1230 AHMADU BELLO WAY VI LAGOS	2No. Office Complex & Branch	726,666,666.67
51	PLOT 1683, SANUSI FAFUNWA STREET, BY OLASHORE STREET (Societe Bancaire H/Q) V.I., Lagos	Office Complex On 4 Floors	426,666,666.67
KEBBI STATE			
52	DWARF FENCED PLOT, BEHIND MINISTRY OF HEALTH BIRNIN-KEBBI	A dwarf fenced plot	9,000,000.00
53	FENCED PLOT BEHIND UNITY BANK PLC. AHMADU BELLO WAY-BIRNIN KEBBI	A fenced plot ready for development. Dwarf Fenced Plot	10,666,666.67
EDO STATE			
54	BENIN TRAINING SCHOOL, OPPOSITE NNPC DEPOT, AGBOR ROAD, BENIN-CITY	Commercial Property and other Appurtenances	31,666,666.67
BENUE STATE			
55	2NO. PLOT ALONG APER AKU GRA ROAD AND ATOM KPERA ROAD GRA GBOKO	2No. vacant plots ready for development.	22,000,000.00
56	35, BANK ROAD MAKURDI	A commercial building with block of offices	126,666,666.67

INSTRUCTIONS

- Tenants are also free to submit offers if interested.
- Prospective buyers are to inspect the properties between the hours of 10AM - 5PM, Mondays to Fridays.
- Buyers must pay 10% deposit in certified Bank Draft in favour of any of the approved agents.
- The balance of the 90% of the purchase price must be paid latest by 28th April, 2010.
- All sales would be subject to approval of the relevant approving bodies.
- Offer application can be obtained from any of the listed Agents' Offices or websites at the cost of N10,000.00
- Prospective buyers can buy as many properties they so wish, but separate offer must be made for each property.
- Submission of offers closes at 12 noon on Thursday, 8th April, 2010.
- Current tenant are expected to give maximum cooperation to prospective buyers during

FOR ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

Muhammad & Co.
Estate Surveyors & Valuers
CB, 24 Wafi Rd, P. O. Box 3770, Kaduna
0803-4828-896, 0803-3144-838, 0803-3111-900
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Independence Avenue, Central Area, Abuja
08065658875, 08033114824
e-mail: muhammadandco@yahoo.com
Website: www.muhammadandco.com

Hexalix Properties Ltd
No. 6 Mediterranean Street, Imani Estate,
Maitama, Abuja
Call: Usman A. Ahijo - 08069755000
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Jide Taiwo & Co
Block 1 Plot 516 Suite 6, Mambolo Street,
Off Sultan Abubakar Way, Wuse District TMQ
Zone II - Abuja

DIYA FATIMILEHIN & CO.
Plot 237B Muri Okunola Street
Victoria Island, Lagos
ABUJA OFFICE:
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E-mail: rollsonline@yahoo.com



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF POWER

PROVISION OF SYNTHETIC NATURAL GAS TO EGBIN POWER PLANT
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

BACKGROUND

The federal Government of Nigeria through the Federal Ministry of Power in its efforts to improve power supply in the country intends to use Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG) as back up fuel for natural gas which is currently in short supply for the thermal power plants taking gas from the Escravos Lagos Pipeline System (ELPS). The ministry intends to use part of the provisions in the 2010 budget proposals for the provision of SNG for the river water-accessed power plant at Egbin in Lagos State, Nigeria. Consequently, the ministry is inviting prospective consulting firms with the necessary expertise to express their interest in any or all of the following areas.

Lot A: Engineering Studies, Design and Preparation of Contract Documents;

Lot B: Environmental Impact Assessment;

The various work streams entailed in these consultancies will be elaborated in the respective Requests For Proposals (RFPs) that will contain the terms of reference for the assignment

PREQUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The requirements for the prequalification for the Expression Of Interest (EOI) from the prospective consulting firms are as follows:

- i) Curriculum vitae of individual consultants/staff who will be assigned to the requested service(S), including qualification, individual experience in handling assignments and attestation of availability.
- ii) Capacity profile of the consulting firm
- iii) Summary of similar projects/assignments executed or under execution by the firm. This should include brief description on the role played in the execution of the assignment.
- iv) Copy of certificate of incorporation with CAC and form CO7 for Nigerian firms.
- v) Evidence of company audited accounts for 2006, 2007, and 2008
- vi) Evidence of tax clearance certificates for 2006, 2007, and 2008 for Nigerian firms
- vii) Company profile including ownership structure with the copy of article of association, memorandum of understanding (for joint ventures) and firms registration with COREN, or its equivalent for international firms (NES for EIA only)
- viii) Evidence of firms accreditation with the Federal Ministry of Environment accredited laboratory for (EIA) only

Firms will be selected with the procedures set out in the BPP Standard Request for Proposals for the selection of consultancy firms January 2008

SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Expression of interest (EOI) must be submitted in six(6) copies including (1) original in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Expression Of Interest FOR ANY OF THE LOTS" and delivered not later than 1500hrs Nigerian time (1600hrs GMT) two (2) weeks from the date of this publication to the address below:

The Secretary
Ministerial Tenders Board
Federal Ministry of Power
Federal Secretariat Complex
Phase 1, Annex III, 3rd floor, Room 347
CBD, Abuja.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Only prequalified consulting firms will be invited to collect Request for Proposals (RFPs) for any of the project Lots.

Interested firms may obtain further information from the address below:

The Director (Procurement)
Federal Secretariat Complex
Phase 1, Annex III, 3rd Floor Room 347
CBD, Abuja
Tel: 08033140575
E-mail : wyunusa@yahoo.com

Signed
I.B Sali
Permanent Secretary



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF POWER

SELECTION OF CONSULTANCY FIRMS FOR THE STUDY AND DESIGN, ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF COAL POWER
PLANTS AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS NATIONWIDE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Federal Government of Nigeria, in its 2010 Budget Proposal has provided Funds through the Federal Ministry of Power, for the Development and Construction of Coal Power Plants at different locations nationwide through Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangements. The Ministry therefore, intends to apply part of this fund to engage competent Consultancy Firms to carry out the following services:

- Lot A - Up date of Feasibility studies and Engineering Designs and preparation of Contract documents;
- Lot B - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

2. The various work streams entailed in the Consultancy Services will be elaborated in the Request for Proposals (RFPs) that will contain the Terms of Reference for the assignment.

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

3. The requirements for pre-qualification for the Expressions of Interest from prospective consulting firms are as follows:

- i. Copy of Certificate of Incorporation with CAC and Forms Co7 for Nigerian firms.
- ii. Full name and nationality (company of registration) of the Company and contact person, postal address, telephone number(s) as well as e-mail address for international companies.
- iii. Details of ownership structure of the company, number of years in core business.
- iv. Summary of similar projects/assignments executed or under execution by the firm.
- v. Curriculum Vitae of individual Consultants/Staff.
- vi. Who will be assigned to the requested service (s), including qualification, individual experience in handling assignment and attestation of availability.
- vii. Evidence of experience in concession operations.
- viii. Demonstrate legal, and Administrative Capacity.
- ix. Audited financial statement for 2006, 2007 and 2008 for Nigerian Firms.
- x. Evidence of Tax Clearance Certificate for 2007, 2008 and 2009 for Nigerian Firms.
- xi. Evidence of Firm's Registration with COREN or its equivalent for International Firm and NES (for EIA only).
- xii. Evidence of Firm's accreditation with the Federal Ministry of Environment accredited Laboratory (for EIA only).

4. Firms will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the BPP Standard Request for Proposals (RFP) for the selection of Consulting firms January 2008.

SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOIs)

5. The Expressions of Interest (EOIs) must be submitted in six (6) copies including one (1) original in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Expression of Interest FOR ANY OF THE LOTS" and delivered not later 1500 hrs Nigerian time (1600GMT) two (2) weeks from the date of this publication to the address below:

The Secretary
Ministerial Tenders Board
Federal Secretariat Complex
Phase 1, Annex III, 3rd Floor, Room 347
CBD, Abuja.

FURTHER INFORMATION

6. Only pre-qualified consulting firms will be invited to collect Request for Proposals (RFPs) for any of the project Lots.

Interested firms may obtain further information from the address below:

The Director Power Department
Federal Secretariat Complex
Phase 1, Annex III, 3rd Floor, Room 332
CBD, Abuja.

Signed
I.B. Sali
Permanent Secretary



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF POWER

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI) FROM INTERESTED CONSULTANCY FIRMS FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR FEASIBILITY STUDIES, ENGINEERING DESIGNS AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM HYDROPOWER PLANTS (150MW)

BACKGROUND

1 The Federal Government of Nigeria through the Federal Ministry of power is desirous of improving power Supply in the Country through the diversification of sources of electricity supply. Accordingly, the Federal ministry of power requests for the Expressions of interest (EOIs) that will lead to the short-listing of eligible consulting firms for the development of small and medium hydropower plants.

Scope of Works

2. The Consultancy Services will cover the following areas:
- Lot A - Feasibility studies and Engineering Design and Preparation of Contract Documents
 - Lot B - Environmental Impact Assessment
3. The various work streams entailed in these consultancies will be elaborated in the various Requests for Proposal (RFP) that will contain the Terms of Reference for the assignments.

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

4. The requirements for pre-qualification for the Expressions of interest (EOIs) from prospective consulting firms are as follows:-
- i. Curriculum Vitae of individual consultants/staff who will be assigned to the requested service(s), including qualification, individual experience in handling assignments and attestation of availability
 - ii. Capacity profile of the consulting firm
 - iii. Summary of similar projects/assignments executed or under execution by the firm. This should include brief descriptions of the role played in the execution of the assignment.
 - iv. Copy of Certificate of incorporation with CAC and Forms CO7
 - v. Evidence of Company Audited Account for 2006, 2007 and 2008
 - vi. Evidence of Tax Clearance for 2006, 2007, and 2008.
 - vii. Company profile including ownership structure with the copy of Article of Association, Memorandum of understanding (For Joint Ventures) and Firm's registration with COREN, (NES for EIA only).
 - viii. Evidence of Firm's accreditation with the Federal Ministry of Environment accredited Laboratory (for EIA; only).
5. Firms will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the BPP Standard Request for Proposals for the selection of Consultancy Firms January 2008.

SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOIs)

6. The Expressions of Interest (EOIs) must be submitted in six (6) copies including one original in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Expression of interest FOR ANY OF THE LOTS" and delivered not later 3.00pm two (2) weeks from the date of this publication, to the address below:

The Secretary
Ministerial Tenders Board
Federal Secretariat Complex
Phase 1, Annex III, 3rd Floor, Room 347
CBD, Abuja.

FURTHER INFORMATION

7. Only pre-qualified consultancy firms will be invited to collect the respective Request for Proposal (RFP) for each project Lot.

Interested firms may obtain further information from the address below:

Ag. Director
Engineering Inspectorate Services
Federal Secretariat Complex
Phase 1, Annex III, 3rd Floor Room 332
CBD, Abuja.

Signed
I.B.Sali
Permanent Secretary



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF POWER

SELECTION OF CONSULTANCY FIRMS FOR THE PREPARATION OF LONG TERM SUPPORT/MAINTENANCE SERVICES AGREEMENTS FOR POWER PLANTS

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Federal Government of Nigeria, conscious of its huge investment in Power Generation in the country, and desirous of achieving its long term goal of providing 25,000MW of electricity by 2020, has in its 2010 Budget proposals made provisions for Long Term Support/Maintenance Services Agreements for Power Plants across the country. The Federal Ministry of Power, requests Interested Firms with relevant proven track record in the Power Sector to submit Expression of Interest for the Provision of a Long Term Support/Maintenance Services Agreement (LTSA) for its Power Plants across the country.

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOIs)

2. The requirements for prequalification for the EOIs from prospective Consulting firms are as follows:
- i. Full name and nationality (the country of registration) of the company and contact person, postal address, telephone number(s) as well as e-mail address for international firms;
 - ii. Copy of Certificate of Incorporation with CAC and Forms CO7 for Nigerian firms
 - iii. Details of ownership structure of the company; number of years in core business;
 - iv. Audited financial statement for 2006, 2007 and 2008;
 - v. Tax Clearance Certificates for 2006, 2007 and 2008 for Nigerian firms
 - vi. Examples of similar contracts completed; and reference;
 - vii. Evidence of technical and managerial capability to execute
 - viii. Evidence of administrative and financial strength.
 - ix. Evidence of Registration with professional bodies like COREN or its equivalent for International Firms
3. Firms will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the BPP Standard Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the selection of Consultancy Firms January 2008.

SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOIs)

4. The Expressions of Interest (EOIs) must be submitted in six (6) copies including one (1) original in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Expression of Interest for LONG TERM SUPPORT/MAINTENANCE SERVICES AGREEMENTS FOR POWER PLANTS" and delivered not later 1500 hrs Nigerian time (1600GMT) two (2) weeks from the date of this publication to the address below:

The Secretary
Ministerial Tenders Board
Federal Secretariat Complex
Phase 1, Annex III, 3rd Floor, Room 347
CBD, Abuja

FURTHER INFORMATION

5. Only pre-qualified consulting firms will be invited to collect Request for Proposals (RFPs)

Interested Firms may obtain further information from the address below:

The Director
Power Department
Federal Secretariat Complex
Phase 1, Annex III, 3rd Floor Room 332
CBD, Abuja

Signed
I.B. Sali
Permanent Secretary



Federal Republic of Nigeria
Federal Ministry of Power

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) (CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR FEASIBILITY STUDIES, ENGINEERING DESIGNS AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR CRUDE/GAS FIRED PLANT (250-300MW)

The Federal Ministry of Power intends to diversify its sources of generating electric power in the country through the development of a Crude/Gas Fired Power Plant that is capable of generating 200-300MW of electricity close to the Waterfront (Badagry/Transmission Infrastructure and Storage Facilities) in Lagos through Public Private Partnership (PPP) with funding from the 2010 Budget Proposal.

SCOPE OF WORKS

2. Interested National and International reputable consultancy firms (including Joint Ventures) are invited to submit their Expressions of Interests (EOIs) that will lead to the pre-qualification of eligible consulting firms for the following:-

- Lot A - feasibility studies and engineering designs and preparation of contract documents;
- Lot B - Environmental Impact Assessment .

3. The various work streams entailed in the consultancy services will be elaborated in the Request for Proposal (RFP) that will contain the Terms of Reference for the assignment.

SUBMISSION OF EOIs

4. The requirements for pre-qualification for the Expressions of Interest (EOIS) from prospective consulting firms are as follows:
 - i. Copy of Certificate of incorporation (Registration with CAC): Forms companies for Nigeria firms;
 - ii. Tax clearance Certificate for 2006, 2007 and 2008 respectively for Nigerian firms;
 - iii. Evidence of experience in concession operations;
 - iv. Demonstrate Legal, and Administrative capacity;
 - v. Full name and nationality (country of registration) of the company and contact person, postal address, telephone number(s) and e-mail address for International Firms;
 - vi. Company profile including ownership structure with copies of the Articles of Association, Memorandum of Understanding and Firm's registration with COREN for Nigerian Firms or its equivalent for International firms and (NES for EIA only);
 - vii. Evidence of Firm's accreditation with the Federal Ministry of Environment accredited laboratory (for EIA only);
 - viii. Curriculum Vitae of individual consultants/staff who will be assigned to the requested service(s), including qualification, individual experience in handling assignments and attestation of availability;
 - xi. Capacity profile of the consulting firm
 - x. Summary of similar projects/assignments executed or under execution by the firm. This should include brief descriptions of the role played in the execution of the assignment.

5. The Expressions of Interest (EOIs) must be submitted in six (6) copies including one (1) original in a sealed envelope clearly marked " Expression of Interest" "CRUDE/GAS FIRED PLANT (200-300MW)" addressed and hand delivered not later than 1500 hrs Nigerian time (1600GMT); two (2) weeks from the date of this publication, to the address below:

The Secretary,
Ministerial Tenders Board,
Federal Secretariat Complex,
Phase 1, Annex III, 3rd Floor, Room 347
CBD, Abuja.

FURTHER INFORMATION

6. Only pre-qualified firms will be invited to collect Request for Proposals (RFPs) for any of the project Lots.

Interested firms may obtain further information from the address below:

The Director
Power Department
Federal Ministry of Power
Federal Secretariat Complex
Phase 1, Annex II, 3rd Floor, Rm 332
Abuja.

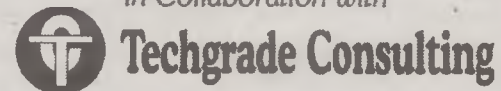
Signed
I. B Sali
Permanent Secretary



Nigerian Society of Engineers

(Continuing Professional Development Division)

in Collaboration with



Presents a National Workshop on

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT OF ENGINEERING PROJECTS

ABOUT THIS WORKSHOP

This comprehensive workshop will improve public procurement management capabilities of attendees and particularly in the area of procurement of engineering and related works and consultancies.

The workshop will greatly benefit public procurement officers who are not from engineering disciplines but whose responsibilities include the procurement of engineering projects.

The workshop will also be of immense value to engineering professionals who are involved in public procurement but not widely experienced in the area of public procurement management. This workshop is a credit earning Continuing Professional Development Program of the Nigerian Society of Engineers.

WORKSHOP TOPICS

1. Overview of the Public Procurement Act, 2007
2. Overview of Technical Documentations for Procurement of Engineering Projects
3. Procurement Planning with Practical Illustrations
4. Preparation & Evaluation of EOIs and Proposals for Engineering Consultancy Services
5. Preparation and Evaluation of PQ Applications and Bids for Engineering Projects
6. Public Procurement of Civil Works according to the Public Procurement Act
7. Public Procurement of M&E Projects According to the Public Procurement Act
8. Procuring Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Projects
9. Public Procurement Offences and Avoidance Strategies
10. Strategies for Preserving Professional Ethics and Integrity in Public Procurement

LEARNING OUTCOME

At the end of the workshop, attendees will have very clear understanding of the Public Procurement Act, the processes involved in engineering projects and the procedures for procurement of works and selection of engineering consultants from start to finish.

OPENING AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The workshop will be declared open by **Engr (Chief) O A Ajibola**, FNSE, President, Nigerian Society of Engineers. Keynote Address by **Engr Emeka Ezeh**, FNSE, Director General, Bureau of Public Procurement.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Engineers, Architects, Builders, Quantity Surveyors, Procurement Officers, Project Managers, Contract Administrators, Estimators, Members of Tender's Board, Senior government Officials in charge of public procurement Directors of Works/Physical Planning.

FACILITATORS

Engr Dr Charles Uko, Engr Prof D A Adesanya, Engr Barr Tope Oribuyaku, Engr Dr J O Akanmu, Engr Dr Charles Mbelede, Barr Ugwah Umolo.

DATE: Tue 13th - Thur 15th April, 2010

VENUE: Fountain Hall, Rockview Hotel (Royale), Abuja

FEE: N40,000.00 per Participant

For registration, call: 08033059527, 08036143849,
08033469413, 08054890243, 08034885989
or e-mail: pd@nseng.org, info@techgradeconsulting.com

Inside Politics

Yuguda behind my recall move — Sen Moh'd

By Turaki A. Hassan

SENATOR Bala Mohammed (ANPP, Bauchi South) has accused the Bauchi State governor Malam Isa Yuguda of being behind the ongoing move by some people in his constituency to recall him from the Senate.

In a telephone interview with *Daily Trust* yesterday, the lawmaker said he sees the hand of Yuguda in the recall saga which is evident in some of his recent remarks.

"I see the hands of Bauchi State governor in this because his advisers are the ones doing it. Again, he was quoted to have said that I don't like the north, I don't like Yar'adua, I don't like this or that," Mohammed said.

He said he was only being persecuted for his role in the passage of resolution by the Senate which recognized Goodluck Jonathan as Acting President.

"I don't have anything personal against President Yar'adua; he is a man of honour, integrity and credibility because he never got himself in any corrupt act. In fact what I am doing is for his own good and the good of the nation because most importantly, it is to rescue him from the hands of the cabal who are using him to mess the country up.

"I wish him quick recovery but most importantly, that decision was an institutional decision or resolution of the Senate, not that of Bala Mohammed. It is Senate's decision of which I am a member. It is the entire Senate and indeed the National Assembly that took that decision," he said.

Mohammed described the threats as borne out of mischief and 'calculated attempt' to bring his good name and the good work he is doing to disrepute. "I did everything with the fear of Allah who will see me out of this. I did what I did and I am doing it for the nation to remain peaceful to remain together but I understand it is against the selfish interest of the cabal that surrounded President Yar'adua whose interest is capable of dividing the country into pieces," he said.

Senator Mohammed who is also the Secretary of Northern Senator Forum (NSF) had led his colleagues in the senate to endorse move to pass resolution making Goodluck Jonathan Acting President.

'Why Bauchi South is against Senator Mohammed'

ALHAJI Ahmed Shuaibu was the governorship candidate of the Action Congress in Bauchi State in 2007. He rejoined the PDP at the same time with Governor Isa Yuguda last year. In this interview in Abuja, the politician talks on the ongoing dispute between Senator Bala Mohammed and the people of Bauchi South senatorial zone and other issues. Excerpts:

By Suleiman M. Bisalla

WHAT'S your reaction to the series of demonstrations by groups of Nigerians regarding the situation at the presidency?

I believe these demonstrations are uncalled for because they could distract the attention of the Acting President. What they should do is to urge the Acting President to sway into action. Nigerians are really eager to see something happening in the country. Many sectors of the economy are going down. The power sector is a typical example; the situation is deteriorating. Our roads are yearning for attention; the security situation also requires the maximum attention of the Acting President, and so many things. We want Jonathan to sway into action. So I will say that the demonstrations by various bodies in recent time are not reflective of the opinion of the general public. They are probably organized by self seeking groups that are unpatriotic. Among them are religious groups but what we expect from religious leaders to do is go back to their churches and mosques and pray for the President's quick recovery so that he can carry on with his job and deliver the dividends of democracy to Nigerians. But at the moment, we have an Acting President, and he is doing well, so we don't expect any distraction by demonstrators, if at all we want Nigeria to move forward.

The people of your constituency, Bauchi South, appear to have some problems with Senator Bala Mohammed over the recent role he played in support of Jonathan's acting presidency. What's the problem?

Senator Bala Mohammed is doing something that his constituency did not ask him to do. I think last week, a group of people addressed a press conference over what is happening in Bauchi South. We are planning to recall him, there is no doubt. We are not happy that he led a renegade group to promote the removal of a legally and democratically elected president through unconstitutional means is wrong. What Bauchi people are saying is simple; they don't want Bala Mohammed to represent them in the senate anymore. I am one of the people he is representing and as a stakeholder and a political leader in Bauchi South, I am adding my voice to the call for his recall from the senate. He will definitely be recalled because Bauchi people are known

for observing democratic processes which he abandoned through his actions since he was elected. What he is doing is not what we asked him to go and do in the senate. We think that he has been misguided by few disgruntle people. I think he has made a very serious mistake in his political career.

But is it possible to recall him considering that the process is a long and tedious one, and we have less than one and half years in this dispensation?

We are doing everything to speed it up. Even if at the end of the day we are unable to succeed due to time limitation, at least we would have shown him how angry our people are with him over what he has done. But I am assuring you that the people are determined.

You are said to be nursing ambition for a certain political post, don't you think people will assume you are antagonizing him because of that?

I have not come out to say I am contesting for any office. I am just talking as a citizen of Bauchi South and since he is my voice in the senate, I must voice my anger and disappointment to his wrong doings. It has nothing to do with antagonism but everything to do with the way he betrayed us. We are in full support of the president who was democratically elected. The President is sick, yes, but he is not responsible for what befell him. The President has not committed any offence and we see no reason he [Senator Bala] should take the position he took.

The PDP has said that it is maintaining its zoning formula so that the north will retain the presidency till 2015. How do you see this within the context of what is going on in the polity?

The PDP is our party and we all had input into the zoning arrangement. It is a very good thing the party thought of because it stabilized the polity when every section of the country got the assurance that no section will now dominate the presidency. Even though it is not democratic enough, for the time being, it is serving the very purpose of stabilizing the polity and enhancing the unity of the country. I am in support of that and there is no reason the arrangement should be changed for now. What the PDP did is right and I am glad they came early to dispel any fear regarding the presidency in 2011.



ALHAJI Ahmed Shuaibu

But I would like to see this reviewed with time so that candidate will emerge through a more democratic process setting aside zoning so that the northerner can sell his candidature in the south and vice versa. When Abiola contested, he won in Kano even though he was from the South West. We would also like to see somebody from the south that can be acceptable to the whole of Nigeria, not only his region.

Are you calling for the abrogation of the zoning system?

Well, as time goes on we hope that PDP will review the situation so that democracy can be in full operation. But at the moment I think there is agitation arising from imbalance. There is the thinking that the north had conceded to the south in 1999, and supported it to rule for eight years, therefore the south should reciprocate in like manner for now.

There are three regions in the north, where do you suggest the candidature should move to now? IF we continue to follow the agitations, then everyone small unit will ask for it including states and local

governments.

Are you suggesting it should be thrown to all the three northern regions?

Anybody who is accepted by the north should prove himself. It does not have to be from the north east, west or central, let him prove himself because there is a possibility you may pick a wrong candidate if you restrict it to one region of the north. Let us orient our people on how to rally around credible candidates. When we do that good leader will emerge.

What do you think of names like Gen Ibrahim Babangida, Danjuma Goje, Gen Aliyu Gusau in the contest?

All these names are credible. Each one of them has proved himself in some ways, except for some shortcomings. And that is part of human nature. So it is entirely up to Nigerians to choose. At the end of the day, there is going to be some form of selection process and it is left for Nigerians to determine who the best is through the ballot box.

Inside Politics

'PDP not jittery over cabinet dissolution'

By Muideen Olaniyi

NATIONAL Chairman of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Prince Vincent Ogbulafor yesterday dismissed reports that the party's leadership is jittery following last week's sack of federal cabinet by the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan.

Speaking through his Special Assistant on Media and Public Affairs, Chijioke Adindu, Ogbulafor said the report which also stated that the NWC members were afraid of

losing their positions, was an attempt to destabilise the party.

Adindu restated Ogbulafor's satisfaction with the dissolution of the cabinet, expressing confidence in Jonathan's capability to assemble credible ministers who will deliver for Nigerians.

Adindu said: "these sponsored media attacks on the person and office of the national chairman is calculated effort by some disgruntled elements to destabilize the steady progress our great party

has recorded under the present stable leadership which has ensured that the party returned to the principles and values of justice, fairness, equity, consultations, consensus building and respect for the sanctity of the rule of law."

He also dismissed their insinuations that the party had never supported the Acting President since he was empowered by the resolution of the national assembly, saying that there has always been close consultation between the party and the government.



FROM left: Former Attorney-General of the Federation Kanu Agabi, a former Commissioner in Yobe State Alhaji Mohammed Hassan and former Senate President Anyim Pius Anyim, at the INEC stakeholders meeting in Abuja recently.

Rep Tambuwal knows fate today

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

THE Court of Appeal in Sokoto will today give judgment in the case brought before it by Alhaji Faruk Maiturare against the election of member representing Tambuwal/Kebbe Federal constituency of Sokoto State, Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal of the Peoples Democratic Party.

The PDP and Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) are second and third respondents respectively in the Appeal.

Maiturare had filed a suit before the Federal High Court Sokoto in January 2008, seeking a the court to declare him as the lawful candidate of the PDP, having been returned unopposed at the House of Representatives primaries of the party for

the Tambuwal/Kebbe Federal Constituency and his name submitted to INEC as the party's candidate for the 2007 House of Representative election.

He had also prayed that the Federal High Court declared that his substitution with Tambuwal by the PDP before the election on 14th April 2007 was unlawful. He therefore sought an order of the court to compel INEC to issue Certificate of Return to him as the duly elected member of Tambuwal /Kebbe Federal Constituency.

But Tambuwal and INEC by way of preliminary objection invoked against the suit relevant provisions of the Public Officers Protection Act relating to time within which action against a public officer could be commenced.

STUDY IN MALAYSIA (UK DEGREE)

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON AND COVENTRY
UNIVERSITY IN CONJUNCTION WITH LEGENDA
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, MALAYSIA.

Legenda University College is one of the leading Universities of Learning with High-Technology facilities in Malaysia.

The officials of the University will be in Nigeria to conduct interviews and process on

the spot admissions for qualified and interested students for the **April/May 2010** intake.

Courses offered include:

Bsc. in - Computer & Information Technology

- 1 Mechanical engineering,
- 2 Software Engineering
- 3 Power Engineering
- 4 Information Technology
- 5 Computer science
- 6 Communication Engineering
- 7 Business Information System
- 8 Electrical/Electronic Engineering
- 9 Civil Engineering
- 10 Quantity Surveying
- 11 Architecture
- 12 Accounting/Finance
- 13 Business & management. etc

VENUES:

ABUJA- Rockview Hotel, (Old Wing -Training Rom), Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent, Wuse II,

Date - Tuesday 23rd - Wednesday 24th March, 2010.

Time - 9am - 5pm Daily

KADUNA - Hamdala Hotel, (Syndicate Room D), 26 Muhammed Buhari Way, Kaduna.

Date - Thursday 25th March, 2010.

Time- 9am - 5pm

MINNA - Shiroro Hotel (Conference Hall)

Shiroro Road, Minna, Niger state.

Date - Friday 26th March, 2010

Time - 10am - 4pm

ABUJA - SUITE 14, OGB PLAZA

Majekodunmi street street, off Obafemi Awolowo way, By Berger Junction, beside ARAB Contractors, Utako district, Abuja.

Date - Monday 29th March, 2010.

Time - 10am -5pm

For Further Details Contact:

FAB CONSULTING NIG. LTD

SUITE 14, OGB PLAZA

Majekodunmi street street, off Obafemi Awolowo way, By Berger Junction,

beside ARAB Contractors, Utako district, Abuja.

Tel: 0806-332-5541, 0805-888-5742, 0805-6145597.

E- mail: fabworldng@yahoo.com.

Website: www.fabconsultingng.com

SPORT

West: 'I practised voodoo'

Page 61



NSC to reopen missing \$236,000 case

By Orkula Shaagee

NATIONAL Sports Commission (NSC) Director General, Chief Patrick Ekeji has said that the Commission would re-open the case of \$236,000 that got missing at the secretariat of the Nigeria Football Federation last year.

Ekeji, who stated this while receiving hand over, notes from the former Minister of Sports and Chairman National Sports Commission, Engineer Sani Ndanusa, assured that the matter will be tackled soon.

"The matter is not closed yet and the recommendations of the White Paper on the issue will be revisited and we will act accordingly," Ekeji said.

Speaking further, Ekeji informed that the Commission under the current leadership will continue to pursue the restoration of credibility in the nation's sports administration to a logical conclusion.

He stated that part of the credibility restoration was the issue of litigation regarding elections into the Board of the Nigeria Premier League (NPL).

"We have already looked into that matter and we are stepping in to ensure that we do not have a series of conflicts disrupting the smooth running of sports in our land," he said.

He also said the Commission would continue with the policies and ideas put in place during his 14-month tenure of the former minister that have helped in repositioning and improving the fortunes of Nigerian sports.

"We will ensure that those policies you enunciated are continued during your short break because we know that they have helped to uplift sports in Nigeria," he said.



CHELSEA'S Ivorian forward Didier Drogba, right, vies with Blackburn Rovers' French midfielder Steven N'zonzi during their English Premier League match at Ewood Park, Blackburn. The match ended in a 1-1 draw.

Tennis: Three foreign based starlets hit camp

By Ismaila Lere

TWO European based junior tennis player and one from South Africa will this week storm the camp of the Nigerian team preparing for the forthcoming 33rd edition of Africa Junior Tennis Championship to be held in Abuja between March 29 and April 12.

The arrival of the trio this week is expected to brighten the chances of Nigeria in the competition that involves other African countries.

The duo of Onyeka Mbanu from Holland and Lolade Ogungbesan from England form the Euro based junior stars to arrive, while South Africa based Umaru Balami is also expected from his International Tennis Federation Training Centre.

Dutch-based Mbanu will arrive in Abuja tomorrow and Tuesday respectively. The trio will join others on ground already sweating it out in readiness for the big event that the Nigeria Tennis

Federation is hosting in collaboration with the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and Confederation of Africa Tennis (CAT).

According to Team Nigeria coach, Ubale Mohammed, the arrival of the three youngsters would beef up the group as the tennis federation team that will produce good results.

"Nigeria shall present 18 players for the tournament. The team will have 11 males and 7 females. At the moment we are experienc-

ing good camping ahead the tournament with the players responding well to training and in good shape. We are expecting three foreign based players this week. And their presence will boost our chances. Nigerians should expect a good team to be seen."

Ubale revealed as part of moves to perfect strategies before the competition, the federation is planning a test tournament for the junior team against some of Nigeria's senior players from Port

Harcourt, Lagos and environs.

Team Nigeria trains twice daily at the National Stadium in Abuja.

Meanwhile, twenty eight countries are expected to participate in the competition. Some teams will start arriving Nigeria on Monday commencement of the tournament.

Already, 14 brand new ITF standard tennis courts have been completed at the National Stadium, Abuja in line with international specifications and requirements.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

PUBLIC NOTICE

ANWAR FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL

The General Public is hereby notified that the above named Association has applied for registration with Corporate Affairs Commission in accordance with the provision of part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Abdullah Baba Idris - President
2. Idris Yakubu Gomda - Financial Secretary
3. Yahaya Muhammed Sheshi - Secretary
4. Chief Haruna Dauda
5. Haj. Khadijat Ismail Abdullah
6. Ab. Muhammad Wali
7. Mr. Ahmad Musa

Aims and Objectives:

1. To support abandoned youths and youths from less privileged families in meeting up academic and career challenges through provision and operation of orphanage home and classes.
 2. To provide for the less privilege in the society with a view to reduce destitution and eradicate Almajiranci.
 3. To render humanitarian services for social and economic good of the society.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama P.M.B 198, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

Negan Adeoti Esq.

Legal Practitioner

Z/A Abubakar Kano Road, Kaduna

ALJAWAB AL-ISLAMY SOCIETY

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

TRUSTEES

1. Abdurrahman Abdullah
2. Lawan Muhammad
3. Garba Bello
4. Hassan Abdulhadi Ladan
5. Salisu Ibrahim
6. Tigari Sadiqi
7. Yaqub Bashir

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Propagating Islam and correcting misconceptions
 2. Organising lectures, debates and symposia on Islam and comparative religion
 3. Distribution of disc, video and audio tapes of world Islamic scholars
 4. Training Islamic missionaries
 5. Teaching the principles of Islam to new converts
 6. Promoting peace unity and progress among the Muslims
- Any objection to the above registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, PMB 198, Maitama, Abuja within Twenty eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

Secretary

PEACE AND ELECTORAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

This is to inform the general public that the above named Initiative has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the Companies and Allied Matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Chukwuemeka Ugboaja - Chairman
2. Chika Onwubiko - Member
3. Dorothy Ugboaja - Member
4. Barr. Ambrose Ugboaja - Secretary

Aims and objectives:

1. Promote peace and electoral ideals.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

Barr. Ngozi Onwuka
08034934929

FOUNDATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Foundation has applied to Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under part C. Of The Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. AHUKANNA CHIBUZO (MR) CHAIRMAN
2. MR. IBEKWE CHIKADIRI SECRETARY
3. SISTER IBEAWUCHI EMMANUELA
4. AHUKANNA CHIZOBA (MR)
5. EMUKA CHUKWUMA (PASTOR)
6. MRS. TESE-DZUNGWEASHI

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To provide a forum for the development of science and technology.

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:

DANIEL OHABUKE ESQ.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Company and the general public and the Power Holding Didi Died on the 1/01/2009.

Until his death, he was an employee of Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN). That, Mrs Baba Didi Fatima is the wife of the Late Mohammed Baba Didi and Ibrahim is the son of the deceased. Both are in the capacity of next of kin. Therefore, by this publication, the Power Holding Company of Nigeria should accord the next of kins maximum support in collection of their due entitlements.

Signed:

Mohammed Adamu

CORRIGENDUM

RE: PROVISIONAL OFFER OF ADMISSION INTO DIPLOMA PROGRAMME OF THE INSTITUTE OF ADMINISTRATION, ABU, KONGO ZARIA, 2092010 SESSIONS.

This is to inform the general public that the registration date started on Thursday 11th March, 2010 and ends on Wednesday 31st March, 2010. This was an erroneously published in Daily Trust of 18/3/2010 has stated on Thursday 11th March, 2010 and end 13th March, 2010. We regretted any inconveniences this might have caused.

Signed: Management

VACANCY RECRUITMENT OFFICER

Due to expansion, an Abuja-based education consulting firm, providing high-value services to students seeking further/higher education in UK and other European countries and currently representing over 40 A/Level and Foundation schools in UK and several universities in Ukraine, requires a Recruitment Officer.

Education

First degree and preferably Masters Degree

Requirements

- Three years + work experience
- Good English speaking and writing skills
- Proficiency in computer packages
- Ability to scrutinize student applications
- Attention to detail
- Developed presentation skills
- Previous experience in student counseling at an overseas agency / university will be an added advantage.

Applicants will be liaising with students on a day to day basis so good interpersonal skills and confidence is required.

Application Procedure

Apply by sending your CV to consult.hallmark@yahoo.com indicating position in the email title. Only Shortlisted applicants will be contacted for an interview. Application deadline: April 5 2010.

ST DEBORAH (OKIKI OLORUN KAN) EVANGELICAL CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM CHURCH

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for Registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

The Trustees are

1. Modupe Onagoruwa - Chairman
2. Adefunmilayo Adeyemo
3. Adekumbi Adeeko
4. Adeyinka Joan Adeeko

Aims and Objectives

1. To promote the Lordship of Jesus Christ by preaching the gospel.
2. To equip the believers in our Lord Jesus Christ in this end time
3. To win souls into the kingdom of God by aggressive evangelism around the world
4. To minister healing to the sick, set the captives free and preach the kingdom of God to the saints.

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:

Modupe Onagoruwa
(Chairman)

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the general public that the original Certificates of Occupancy of plots of land allocation Nos. EK 206 and EK 271 respectively, situated at Sabon Lugbe, Airport Road Abuja are missing since Sept. 2009 belong to Mrs. Omotayo .I. Omotoso, 'F' of house no. 31 Amazon Street Maitama. All effort made to trace the missing documents proved abortive. If found contact the above address and the AMAC to please take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of a C of O No. BA/18213 issued by Bauchi state ministry of Lands and Survey to JIBWIS GWALLAGA. All efforts to trace the document have proved abortive. If found it should be taken to the nearest police station or DR, A.A. SAMBO, NO.6 YAYA ABUBAKAR LINK, G.R.A BAUCHI.

LOSS OF LAND DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of originals copy of with File No. 1m/1990 and Plot No. 3602 of about (1500sqm and 1,440 sqm in Lugbe I Extension Layout, belonging to MR. CHUKWUKA OKEKE OKOLI issued by Federal Capital Territory Administration Urban Department of Land, Planning & Survey, Abuja, Abuja Municipal Area Council Area Council - (AMAC) office dated 24/1/2001 is declared missing. All effort made to trace the said document proved abortive. If found please return to the nearest police station or call us with this Nos 07093240124 or 08037010775.

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as SIMDI JONAH now wish to be known as SIMDI DASSEN JOHN BASS. All former documents remain valid. Pankshin LGC and general public should take note.

I formerly Known as MORIN LATEEFAH MOFUNRAYO now wish to be called and addressed as Mrs ALATISHE LATEEFAH MOTURAYO. All former documents remain valid. General public to note

I formerly Known as IFEYINWA CHINELO ANUNANDU now wish to be called as Mrs OKPARA IFEYINWA CHINELO. All former documents remain valid. KANO POLY and General public to note.

I formerly known as LINDA NANFE NIMS is now MRS LINDA OLUWAROTIMI OLAEGBE. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

I formerly MISS TAIYE DEBORAH IBITOYE, now wish to be addressed as MRS. TAIYE DEBORAH OYEBO, All former documents remain valid. NYSC to note.

Formerly MISS MARYAM YAHUZA now wish to be MRS. MARYAM YAHUZA. NYSC to note.

Formerly MISS AISHA IBRAHIM now wish to be MRS. AISHA IBRAHIM. NYSC to note.

I formerly called MOHAMMAD SANI AHMED now wish to be called MOHAMMED SANI AHMAD KARGI. Kaduna State Government and ABU Zaria should note.

I, formerly known and addressed as SULAIMAN CHIROMA DUGUZA, now wish to be addressed as SALEH MAGAMA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS AMOKE EDITH MAUREEN, now wish to be addressed as MRS AGUDIEGWU EDITH MAUREEN ANULIKA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I formerly GRACE ELISHA, Now wish to be called as GRACE COLLINS EKE. All former documents remain valid general public should take note

I formerly NAOMI ADAMS, Now wish to be called as NAFISA AUWAL ADAMU. All former documents valid general public should take note.

I, formerly known as EMEREOLE CHIDINMA .B. now called UGOCHUKWU CHIDINMA .B. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I formally called HUMINA N PHILIMON now wish to be called CHINAP I DAVID. All documents remained valid. General Hospital Buni Yadi, Yobe State and the public to note.

I, formerly known as MISS ESTHER OLUWASEUN MOSES now wish to be known as MRS ESTHER OLUWASEUN SORINOLA. All former documents remain valid, general public to note.

I, formerly known as MISS ROSELINE ADA UMORO now wish to be known as MRS ROSELINE ADA SAMSON. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public to take note.

I, formerly known as RAIMI OJO ADEKU now wish to be known as JOSEPH OJO RAIMI. All former documents remain valid. National Assembly and the general public to please note.

I, formerly known as IBRAHIM SALIU now known as PRINCE SUCCESS ABRAHAM. Former document remain valid. University of Abuja and general public to note.

I formerly known as MISS MARY JOSHUA, now wish to be called MISS MARY DANJUMA ZAWONYAYI BWARI. All former documents remain valid (UBEB) to note.

I, formerly known as NDUKA OKOH now wish to be addressed as NDUKA OBU. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

West: 'I practised voodoo'

FORMER Super Eagles defender Taribo West has admitted he practised voodoo rites so as to become a better player.

West featured at two World Cups and starred for several top clubs including Auxerre and Milan giants, AC and Inter.

"I looked for supernatural powers to play football. I was into a lot of things both in Nigeria and outside the country," West disclosed in an interview published by the weekly Nigerian sports paper, Weekend Soccer Star.

"I used to go to a place in Senegal where they used to 'cook' me and after that I would be assured that no attacker would go past me on the pitch and score against my goalkeeper.

"They cut my legs with knife and put some fetish things inside. I would stay for two nights without bathing and every part of my body would be smelling."

He added: "Papa Samba, my first manager, was Senegalese. So, he introduced me to the voodoo people in his country. He knows all the powerful voodoo people in his country.

"I had some people who worked for me in Nigeria. They would ask me to send money for sacrifice and rituals. They would kill a big cow and tell me what would happen in the next two months. At the end of the day, it would happen exactly the way they had predicted.

"These things worked, but the



TARIBO West admitted voodoo rites so as to become a better player.

problem was that they didn't last. I spent a lot on sacrifice, but it ended

in vain." Taribo West is now a born-again Christian and founded a minis-

try, Shelter in the Storm, at his former base of Italy.

Chibambo the hero in Heartland draw

A brace from Signs Chibambo helped Heartland come from behind twice and earn a 2-2 draw in Douala against Tiko United FC in the first leg of their CAF Champions League second round tie on Saturday.

Ake Ambeno gave Tiko the lead after sixty minutes when he found himself unmarked in the box and rounded goalkeeper Austin Brown.

Chibambo, who replaced

“Heartland will now be confident of progress

Joshua Obaje on 67 minutes, took only nine minutes to find the target. The Zambian outpaced his markers to get on the end of a whipped cross from the right and level the game.

Five minutes later, the hosts were back in front. This time, it was Tamen Nganthe's turn to restore the advantage for the hosts.

Again, it was Chibambo to the rescue, using his pace to get to a wonderful low cross from Bello Musa Kofarmata with three minutes of play left.

Heartland will now be confident of progress when they host the second leg in two-weeks at Owerri.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the general public that the following original land document Re-certification and Re-issuance of C of O Acknowledgment and letter with File No. PL2556 and New File No. PL10215, offer of term of Grant/Conveyance of Approval of Plot No. LD 875 about 3,000m², Guzape District with Ref: No. MFCT/LA/PL 2556 all bearing **HARUNA DEFWAN** is declared missing. All efforts to trace the missing documents has proved abortive. If found please contact the nearest police station or AGIS.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF THE LOST OF ORIGINAL ALLOCATION OF PLOT NUMBER 1197 CADASTRAL ZONE B02, DISTRICT DURUMI WITH FILE NUMBER: NS988 AND NEW FILE NUMBER: NS 20000 DATED 8/12/2004. ALL EFFORT MADE TO TRACED THE MISSING DOCUMENT PROVED ABORTIVE. IF FOUND, IT SHOULD BE RETURN TO FCDA/AGIS OR THE NEAREST POLICE STATION OR CONTACT 08036153982.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF THE LOST OF ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY BELONGING TO YUSUF A. ARGUNGU WITH FILE NO: KB 10022 DATED 16/8/2005 IN RESPECT OF PLOT LAND SITUATED IN DAPE DISTRICT WITH PLOT NO: 492 GOT MISSED. ALL EFFORT MADE TO TRACE THE MISSING DOCUMENT PROVED ABORTIVE. IF FOUND, IT SHOULD BE RETURN TO FCDA/AGIS OR THE NEAREST POLICE STATION.

AFRICAN ENDEAVOR BASIC LEADERSHIP CENTRE

This is to inform the general public that the above named Centre has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Mrs. Rosemary Ada Nze
2. Manthanus Nnanna Emetanmma Nze
3. Miss Queeneth Chibuzor Nze
4. Rev. Fr. Sam-Paul Onyekpa
5. Colonel Edward Okechukwu Nze

Aims and objectives:

1. To teach basic leadership skills in Africa.
2. To promote educational development in the grassroots in Africa.
3. To provide advisory and counseling services to young people in Africa.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:
Secretary

NIGERIAN ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Sylvanus Obichere Amaechi
2. Chief (Dr) Osobonye Rogers Longjohn
3. Francis Adedoyin Olusiji Owosina
4. Emmanuel Chukukelue Osita Osisioma
5. Osadiaye Osamwonyi

Aims and objectives:

1. To promote, develop and project the science, art and practice of Orthopaedics and allied trauma surgery and rehabilitation in Nigeria with regard to clinical practice, service, research, training and ethics.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:
Gabriel Warmate Esq
B.E.I Nwofor & Co.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the Original Land Document/ Acknowledgement Receipt in respect of Plot No. 341 Cadastral Zone B07 with File Number SO 1389 and new File Number SO 10124 bearing Umaru Abubakar Tallata is declared missing while on transit. All efforts made to trace the missing documents proved abortive. If found, please return to the nearest Police Station. AGIS, FCDA to note please.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **MISS BOYE OMODUNNI OLAJUMOKE** wish to be addressed as **MRS ADIGUN OMODUNNI OLAJUMIKE**. All former documents remain valid. General public remain valid and NSCDC should take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS ADEDOYIN ADEBIMPE ADENIKE**, now wish to be called as **MRS MABOGUNJE ADEBIMPE ADENIKE**. All former documents remain valid. General Public to please note

I, formerly known as **MISS WASILAT DANJUMA**, now wish to be called as **MRS ADA WASILAT ACHUGBU**. All former documents remain valid. General Public to please note

I, formerly known as **MISS AMARACHI VICTORIA ONYENDILEFU**, now wish to be called as **MRS AMARACHI VICTORIA UKAONU**. All former documents remain valid. General Public to please note

I, formerly known as **SUSAN AKUNNA OKAFOR**, now wish to be called as **MRS SUSAN AKANNA IKEJI**. All former documents remain valid. University of Calabar to please note.

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Weekly Trust, *Sunday Trust* and *Aminiya*



JOHN Obuh, Flying Eagles coach

Obuh throws light on 21-man list

By David Ngobua

FLYING Eagles Chief Coach, John Obuh has said the list of 21 players invited to camp is not the final list for players who would represent Nigeria at the next Africa Youth Championship.

Speaking to Trustsports yesterday, the coach said the list released so far is for the four nations invitational tournament billed for South Africa from April 6-12.

He explained that due to time constraint, he decided to settle for those players he knows but as soon as the tournament is over, he would invite more players to camp to add to the ones who would impress at the invitational tournament.

The coach said: "The 21-man list is not the final list of players I intend to work with. It is for an invitational tournament in South Africa. When we come back from there, I will then invite more players to begin preparations for the Africa Youth Championship.

"I don't have time to begin to look at so many players for this tournament. I therefore decided to assemble the players I know and I believe can easily assimilate my tactics."

He expressed confidence that with the caliber of players he has called to camp, Nigeria will do well at the four nations invitational tournament.

Coach Obuh said the tournament is an opportunity for him to kick start preparations for the more serious challenges ahead.

"I am happy that we would be commencing our preparations with a tournament. It is my fervent hope that at the end of the tournament in South Africa, I would be able to lay a solid foundation on which I will build a formidable team for the Africa Youth Championship," he maintained.

Park heads United back to top

MANCHESTER United returned to the top of the Premier League table as they broke their losing run against Liverpool by beating them 2-1 at Old Trafford.

Fernando Torres opened the scoring for Liverpool early on before Pepe Reina saved a Wayne Rooney penalty, only for the England striker to tap in the rebound. United then completed the comeback to seal victory on the hour mark via a header from Park Ji-sung.

United retook their place at the top of the table, two points above Arsenal, who led the title race for less than 24 hours following Saturday's win over West Ham United.

As ever, this fixture needed little added spice. However, not only was ground in both the title race and the fight for the final Champions League spot at stake, but there was also the added pressure on Liverpool to take their chance at stopping United sealing a 19th championship, surpassing the Anfield side's haul of 18 titles.

Five minutes in, Torres won the ball in the centre circle, found Steven Gerrard with a backheel and continued his run forward. Gerrard fed Dirk Kuyt out on the right and the Dutchman chipped in a cross. Torres lost Gary Neville easily and rose unmarked to head past Edwin van der Sar for his 16th league goal of the season.

United were given the chance to level five minutes later when Antonio Valencia went down in the box after being fouled by Javier Mascherano. The initial foul looked to have been committed outside the area, but referee Howard Webb gave the penalty and booked the Argentine midfielder.

Rooney's spot-kick was well saved by Reina, but the ball rebounded kindly for Rooney



PARK Ji-Sung nodded home the winner for Manchester United against arch-rivals Liverpool at Old Trafford, Manchester, England, yesterday.

tap in his 33rd goal in all competitions.

The rest of the half was evenly contested, with a well-organised Liverpool coping well as United saw more of the ball. The home side's chances were limited, with Reina tipping one effort from Nani round the foot of the post while Park sent one header wide and another over the bar.

After the break, both sides played in even more measured fashion, and the game was there for the taking for whichever team

took the initiative. That side was United.

Rooney found Darren Fletcher wide on the right on the hour mark. The Scotland midfielder waited by Gary Neville's overlapping run, which distracted Emiliano Insua long enough for him to curl in a cross that Park met with a decisive diving header.

Liverpool boss Rafael Benitez brought on Alberto Aquilani and Ryan Babel on with 15 minutes remaining, but they struggled to

create any more clear openings as United sat back and defended their lead, confident of their ability to hit them on the break with a killer third goal if necessary.

Liverpool were presented with one gilt-edged chance to grab a share of the points in the final minute of the 90, but when the ball fell at the feet of Torres on the penalty spot the Spain striker scuffed his shot woefully. The ball looped up for Yossi Benayoun to head, but the ball was caught easily by van der Sar.

Milan squander Serie A leading role

AC Milan missed the chance to go top of Serie A for the first time this season after being held 1-1 by Napoli at the San Siro yesterday.

Filippo Inzaghi's 26th-minute header cancelled out Hugo Camagnaro's 13th-minute opener in an entertaining encounter with both sides having chances to claim the three points.

The result leaves Milan in second position, one point behind Inter Milan, who were held to a 1-1 draw at Palermo on Saturday, and three above third-place Roma.

Inter and Roma meet next Saturday in a mouth-watering top of the table clash.

Napoli are seventh, five points off the Champions League places ahead of the night

match between Sampdoria and Juventus.

"It's never easy playing Napoli. We had a few chances after the goal but it wasn't to be," said Brazilian winger Ronaldinho, who was celebrating his 30th birthday.

"There are ten games left to give it our all. We need to take the positives from the game and keep our feet on the ground. If we do, the scudetto is a real possibility.

Napoli coach Walter Mazzarri felt his side deserved all three points after dominating the early stages.

"We should have had it won by half time but we just couldn't take our chances," said Mazzarri, whose side had lost their 42-match unbeaten home run last weekend against Fiorentina.

"It was about even second half so we showed today that we are at the same level as Milan."

The result leaves Milan in second position



RONALDINHO, AC Milan star

Nine-men Rangers win League Cup

A late Kenny Miller goal seven minutes from time sealed a remarkable League Cup final win for nine-man Rangers over St Mirren on Sunday and wrapped up the first part of a possible domestic treble.

The Ibrox side showed dogged resilience to keep the Buddies at bay after Kevin Thomson and Danny Wilson were shown straight reds before Miller rose unmarked to head in substitute Steven Naismith's cross at Hampden.

St Mirren had dominated the game with chances from Billy Mehmet and Steven Thomson cleared off the line before a David Barron shot grazed the bar.

Kevin Thomson saw red in the 53rd minute for a late challenge on namesake Steven Thomson and Wilson joined him for an early bath when he tugged Craig Dargo's shirt on the edge of the box as he raced in on goal.

But the Buddies couldn't make their numerical advantage count and it was Rangers who collected the trophy for the 26th time.

INNA LILLAHI WA INNA ILAIHI RAAJI'UN!

**Maman Kawo
has gone.**

Which sad event occurred
on Friday, 19th March, 2010.

We pray the Almighty Allah to
grant her gentle soul eternal rest
and reward her with Aljannat Firdausi
Ameen.



Late Hajiya Sa'adatu Abdulkarim

**(Maman Kawo)
1944-2010**

Signed:

**A.S AMUTA (Babanzara)
OTIGBADI 1
For: The Family**

THE MONDAY COLUMN

Mahmud Jega

mmjega@dailytrust.com, 08054102925

The surgeon's scissors

Thinking about the political import of last week's dissolution of the Federal Executive Council [FEC], I thought of a passage that I read many years ago in Arthur Hailey's old book *The Final Diagnosis*, about the set up of an American hospital in the 1950s. It was about the Chief of Surgery conducting an operation to amputate the leg of a nursing student who was diagnosed with a malignant tumour.

The surgeon was working swiftly, cutting through the muscles of the thigh until he arrived at the sciatic nerve, the largest nerve in the human body that runs from the lower back through the leg and foot. For a moment, the surgeon hesitated because "severing this nerve is the first irrevocable step in amputation." Once he used a scissors and severed it, he again proceeded swiftly because from that point, the amputation process was irreversible.

Acting President Goodluck Jonathan had taken several steps prior to last week to consolidate his hold on the Presidency, set his identity apart from Yar'adua and possibly unroll a program as yet unknown to the public. Dissolution of the FEC however amounted to a severing of the sciatic nerve in an amputation operation; it is no longer possible to pause and look back, politically speaking.

Up until last week, the Acting President had sniffed and sniped at the margins of the stricken President Umaru Yar'adua's crumbling power edifice. On his first day in office as Acting President, Dr. Jonathan removed the controversial Attorney General Mike Kaase Aondoaka and planted him at Special Duties, the Cabinet's equivalent of Siberia. It was a move unlikely to please Yar'adua, who seemed well pleased with Aondoaka's dog-style loyalty.

Next, Dr. Jonathan up-ended and disembowelled the Niger River dredging contract by stopping the operation in the lower Niger, in response, it was said, to the demands of Niger Delta stakeholders. It was however done without recourse to FEC, which approved the contract in the first place. He then appointed a Presidential Advisory Council and gave it terms of reference that overlapped those of at least half a dozen high councils of state and party, including FEC, National Economic Council, PDP Caucus, PDP BOT, National Defence Council, National Security Council and National Council of State, not to mention all the Special Advisers in the Presidency. Jonathan also replaced the President's National Security Adviser. And he set up a committee to probe all the major contracts awarded by the Yar'adua regime, while Yar'adua was still nominally in office. In Nigeria, this action is usually conducted only when a regime is violently overthrown or when it is succeeded at the polls by a hostile opposition.

In choosing this course of rule, Jonathan quietly repudiated the counsel of "The 12 Wise Men," the team of ministers led by Chief Ufot Ekaette and Major General Godwin Abbeh that advised him to continue to run a Yar'adua-Jonathan administration, not to try to create a different Jonathan regime. All 12 unwise men have now paid for it with their jobs even though their advice had some practical utility, not the least being there is little time left and also because Yar'adua could somehow bounce back.

Now, to dissolve the FEC with only 14 months to go to the regime's end, and with even less time than that before electioneering for 2011 grounds governance to a halt, suggests a very serious motive for the action. The officially stated purpose was the need to reinvigorate the regime and inject fresh blood into it. Was that the real reason?

If the purpose was to weed out non-performing ministers, then there was a simpler way to go about it. The process of selecting 42 new ministers after a whole cabinet dis-

solution is cumbersome, to say the least. Dr. Jonathan must scrutinise hundreds of CVs, listen to an endless stream of lobbyists, learn to balance major political and communal interests, reflect the constitutional requirements for spread, search for political loyalty, struggle to identify some technocratic competence, avoid embarrassment by ensuring that the person nominated has not been indicted by any of this country's numerous probe panels or courts, then the nominees must pass security screening, and finally there is Senate screening and confirmation [and senators' qualification criteria are not necessarily the same as the Presidency's].

From all indications, it was not Jonathan's intention at first to involve the tumour-like PDP in this selection process, because the PDP leaders had to go to him last week to appeal for a role in choosing new ministers. Of course Ogbulafor has a point, that the party exists for elections and appointments, and if such major appointments were to be made without reference to PDP structures at all levels, the party could lose control of its [mostly itinerant] members.

At the end of it all, what are we likely to get? It is very doubtful that Jonathan can balance these parameters more successfully than Yar'adua did. Yar'adua did not know many people outside Katsina State, and it is doubtful if Jonathan

knows a lot of people outside Bayelsa State. In which case, he must either surrender ministerial choices to the party [and end up with many political hacks] or rely on the advice of someone who claims to know the country, such as Obasanjo [and end up with many self-serving nominees].

After the selection and appointment, there is the essential learning period for ministers, which means at least three months of groping around. The learning period is however shortened if a person is appointed to a ministry to which he or she has profes-

sional affiliation, e.g. a medical professor to Health, a big lawyer to Justice, a retired diplomat to Foreign Affairs or a retired Army General to Defence.

At the end of this long and tortuous cabinet selection process, look out for this key indicator: will Dr. Jonathan seek to reappoint all those men and women known to be his "loyalists" in the old cabinet, including those of them who were accused by the National Assembly of heating up the polity through a reckless media war against cabinet colleagues? If he does that, then it stands proved that the principal motive for the cabinet changes is political, not any technocratic re-engineering. In short, a Yar'adua cabal would have been replaced by a Jonathan cabal.

To what end? No cabal is morally superior to another cabal. Suspicions will then be rife that Jonathan's ultimate goal will be to first consolidate himself as the substantive President and then bulldoze away the PDP's announced stand to zone the 2011 presidential ticket to the North, so that he can stand again.

To achieve these, he must get the new cabinet to invoke Section 144 and declare Yar'adua permanently incapacitated. He must then cow the state governors who pushed that position, notably by changing the EFCC chairman. After that, he could rout the Ogbulafor-led party bosses at the PDP's scheduled mini-convention, and thereafter revoke the presidential zoning arrangement.

Never mind that if such an agenda were to unfold, the body heat of the polity will somewhat rival that of Death Valley in California. If and when all these happen, just remember that last week's Cabinet dissolution was the cutting of the sciatic nerve, the irrevocable step in a long operation to amputate what the new Jonathan cabal sees as a political malignant tumour.

“Dissolution of the FEC however amounted to a severing of the sciatic nerve in an amputation operation; it is no longer possible to pause and look back”

SPORTS REPORT



THE challenger Eddie Chambers feels the force of Wladimir Klitschko as the Ukrainian successfully defended his world heavyweight titles in Düsseldorf last night.

Klitschko wants David Haye next

Wladimir Klitschko retained his IBF, WBO and Ring heavyweight titles with a brutal 12th-round knockout of the American Eddie Chambers.

The Ukrainian, who along with his brother Vitali is expected to fight Britain's WBA champion, David Haye, at some point, was never

in danger of failing to keep hold of his belts against an opponent dwarfed in terms of size and quality.

Minutes afterwards Klitschko had already set his sights on Haye's WBA crown.

The 33-year-old said: "I do not feel my age at all. I just feel that I keep getting better and better. There is more where this came from."



RHYS Davies

Welshman Davies wins Hassan II Trophy

Welsh rookie Rhys Davies captured his maiden European Tour title by winning the Hassan II Trophy yesterday.

Davies, 24 carded a final round seven-under-par 66 to win by two strokes with a 25-under-par total, two ahead of South African Louis Oosthuizen who finished with a three-under-par 70.

Frenchman Thomas Levet (71), Spain's Ignacio Garrido (70), South African Thomas Aiken (71) and Finland's Mikko Ilonen (66) shared third place on 18 under par.

