

2011 polls: UK group raises fears

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7 NERC bosses charged

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin

CHAIRMAN of the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) Dr. Ransome Owan and six other commissioners were arraigned before an Abuja High Court on a 197-count charge of fraud yesterday.

They were accused of converting N1.5 billion belonging to the federal government to their personal use.

Arraigned alongside Owan

They are accused of converting N1.5 billion to their personal use

were Mallam Abdul-Rahaman Ado, Muhammed Baba Gana Bunu, Dr. Muhammed Alimi Abdul-Rasaq, Mr. Abimbola Odubiyi, Prof. O. C. Iloje and Dr. Grace Eyoma.

At the court session which lasted for nine hours before Justice Salisu Garba, the accused persons pleaded not guilty to all the charges.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has accused the respondents of disobeying the law with intent to cause injury, of maintaining fixed deposits from public funds, of taking illegal loans, theft and illegal estacodes for official trips, among others. The court remanded them in prison custody and adjourned the matter to Friday April 24, 2009 to entertain their bail applications.

His day in court



PHOTO: FELIX ONIGBINDE

Chairman of the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) Ramson Owan arrives at the Federal High Court, Abuja, to face corruption charges.

Cop-killers get bail, IG kicks

By Misbahu Bashir

FIVE top-flight robbery suspects who allegedly killed several policemen in a robbery spree across the South Eastern states have been granted bail by an Owerri High Court, prompting a petition yesterday from Police Inspector General Mike Okiro to Chief Justice of Nigeria Idris Legbo Kutigi.

Okiro said in the petition, "I protest the circumstances surrounding the granting of bail to Sylvester Ogbodo, otherwise known as Nkwu-Ekere-Omu, and 5 other suspects of robbery and murder charge by the Imo State High Court, Nkwerre Judicial Division presided by Justice T.N. Nzeukwu."

An Okigwe magistrate court where the suspects were earlier arraigned for armed robbery, possession of fire arms and multiple murders in Imo, Enugu and Anambra States ordered their remand at the Owerri prisons.

However, the suspects sued the Imo State Commissioner of Police; the State's Attorney General and the Deputy Comptroller of Prisons, Owerri at the Nkwerre Division of the Imo State High Court and prayed for bail, which was granted by Justice Nzeukwu. Okiro said one Sylvester Modu who acted as surety for Ogbodo gave fake address to the court and on the return date, the applicants and their counsel were not in the court.

No troops for Ekiti

By AbdulFattah Olajide

THE ruling Peoples Democratic Party's (PDP) sustained pressure on President Umaru Yar'adua to deploy troops to Ekiti State for Saturday's re-run governorship election was rejected yesterday, with the president saying he will neither send troops to Ekiti for the election nor return to the state to campaign for the PDP candidate, ex-governor Segun Oni. The President's spokesman Olusegun Adeniyi said this yesterday. Speaker of the House of Representatives Dimeji Bankole and other PDP chieftains had earlier requested for soldiers to be deployed to Ekiti for the re-run polls.

Adeniyi said, "The report that the president is going back to

PDP chieftains had requested for soldiers to be deployed to Ekiti for the polls.

campaign in Ekiti is not accurate. The president is not going back; there was never a plan for him to go back. He went the week before to declare the campaign open and is not going back. Also, it is not true to say that troops will be deployed in Ekiti on Saturday. There will be no such thing."

He added, "The president is a fair-minded man even though he is a PDP man and would wish that governor Oni returns back to government house. It is the wishes of Ekiti people that will prevail at the end of the day. It is for the people of Ekiti to determine who governs them come Saturday."

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Reps threaten to arrest Otedola over AP share scandal

By Tashikalmah Hallah, Nasidi A. Yahaya & Kayode Ekundayo

THE House of Representatives Committee on Capital Market yesterday threatened to arrest business mogul and Chairman of African Petroleum, Mr. Femi Otedola over his failure to honour the committee's invitation.

The Committee is investigating the alleged manipulation of share prices of African Petroleum Plc, and invited Otedola among others.

Aides to the Chairman of African Petroleum told Daily Trust in Lagos that he was not invited by the House.

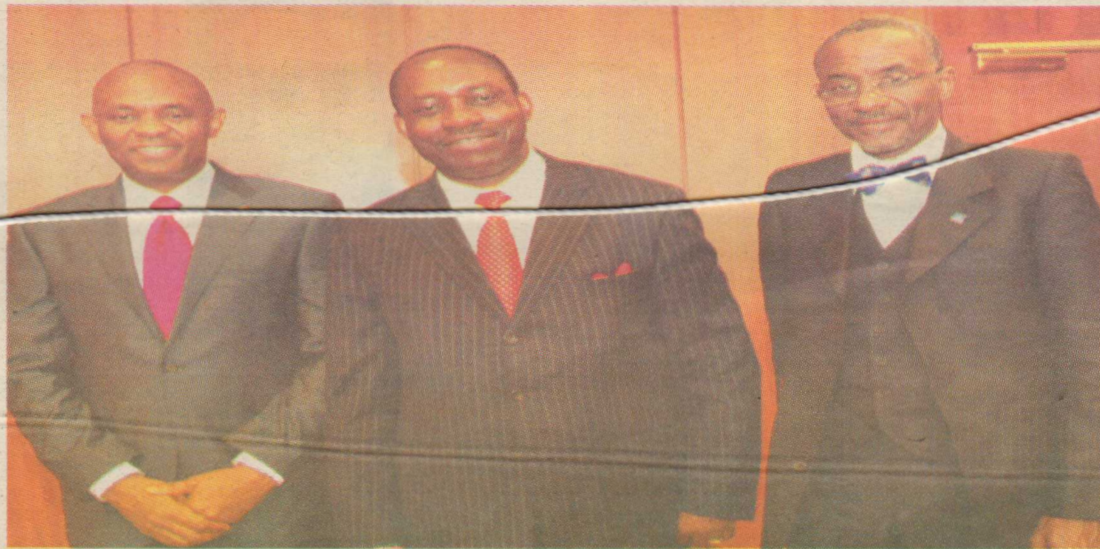
The aides in a telephone conversation in Lagos said it was only Alhaji Aliko Dangote and Nova Finance managing director Eugene Anenih that were invited.

The Chairman of the Committee on Capital Market, Rep Ahmed

Aliyu Wadada (PDP, Nassarawa State) had before calling off the probe, dismissed representatives of AP Plc and other representatives of banks, insisting that their principals must be present.

He however allowed Mr. Eugene Anenih who said contrary to the allegations of share price manipulation against his company which has earned it a suspension by the Securities and Exchange Commission, it was Otedola who had all along been involved in share price manipulation.

There was heated exchange between Nova officials and the Representative of AP Plc, Barr. I.D. Idigbe, midway into the submission of NOVA to the Committee, as Idigbe told the Committee to stop NOVA from further maligning the reputation of Otedola.



FROM LEFT, Group Managing Director of UBA Mr. Tony Elumelu, Central Bank of Nigeria Governor Chukwuma Soludo and Group Managing Director of First Bank Sanusi Lamido Sanusi soon after assigning the N200 billion agricultural loan scheme in Abuja on Monday. Pic Felix Onigbinde

I was never detained —Dangote

By Tashikalmah Hallah & Nasidi A. Yahaya

BUSINESS mogul, Alhaji Aliko Dangote yesterday denied being detained by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) over the alleged AP share prices manipulation but confirmed he was interrogated by the anti-graft agency.

Dangote in a chat with reporters at the National Assembly said "I was questioned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on Tuesday but I was not detained as reported in some papers".

He said: "You have to know that I have been in business for 31 years and I have been taught how to respect constituted authority and that is why I have to show up this morning despite my having a running stomach, this is to show you the respect I have for the com-



Alhaji Aliko Dangote

mittee"

He said that it was "normal-any person can be detained. And I am not above any constituted authority. I am a common citizen as you. Even yourself if you go now and make a complaint against me, I would be invited to come and say my own part."

Delta Steel Coy pensioners take protest to N/Assembly

By Tashikalmah Hallah, Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

PENSIONERS of the beleaguered Delta Steel Company yesterday took their grievances to the National Assembly demanding payment of their 45 months arrears by the Federal government.

The protesters in their hundreds and dressed in black attires and red headscarf blocked the entrance to the National Assembly Complex chanting solidarity songs and vowed to remain on the street until their demands are met.

Leader of the group Comrade

Akpoteghor I. Mathew pleaded with the committee to come to the rescue of the people who have worked for the country and have not been paid their benefit for the past five years. He said that they lost 180 out of the 5000 pensioners of the company since they were compulsorily retired following the privatization of the company in 2005.

"The company has been operating for 20 to 25 years, so it should be able to pay. Responding to the pensioners, Senator Chukwumerije assured them that the senate would do everything within it might to ensure they get justice.

Nigeria records biggest meningitis epidemic — EU

NIGERIA recorded its biggest meningitis epidemic in 2009 with a casualty of 40,000, including 1,900 deaths, the European Commission said in Abuja.

The Regional Information Officer in Dakar, Senegal, Ms Claire Barrault, who disclosed this at a news briefing, said: "This figure represents the biggest in five years. Twenty three states including 346 local government areas have reported at least one case of meningitis since the beginning of 2009. The epidemic reached the peak at a national level on week 12 when 7,000 cases were reported per week."

She explained that massive vaccination had commenced early in March, adding that vaccination was currently under way in nine states and nearly six million people between ages two and 30 would be vaccinated.

She said that so far three million people had been vaccinated to date. Personnel of Doctors Without Borders (MFS) from Spain and France were currently vaccinating at the rate of 300,000 and 400,000 people each week respectively.

"They now have between two and five weeks left to complete the vaccination" she said.

She said the funding was under the European Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO), the largest single donor of humanitarian aid in the world.

Barrault added that to date, humanitarian funding for the epidemic was nearly N480 million, adding that the overall funding for Nigeria and Niger was 4.7 million euros. (NAN)

JTF kills two militants, unaware of attack on Turkish vessel

From Muhammad Bello, Port-Harcourt

TWO suspected militants have been killed while three have been arrested during a clash with the Joint Task Force in Degema local government area of Rivers state.

The militant group that was crushed by the JTF was led by a self-acclaimed repentant militant leader from Rivers State. In the ensuing battle, they were overpowered and forced to retreat. Those arrested are Dasobobo Dawan, Pékribo Georgewill and Emi Alaibo.

Confirming the attack, the Coordinator, Joint Media Campaign Centre, Colonel Rabe Abubakar, said the attackers were from the camp of a prominent repentant-militant leader in the region. This fact emerged after the three captured militants confessed during questioning that they were sent to carry out attacks on innocent prominent personalities and JTF men deployed in the area, when they were intercepted following credible information from

a reliable source.

Similarly, in the militants' efforts to avenge their colleagues' misfortune and probably to rescue the arrested ones from JTF custody, a reprisal attack was carried out by the same group yesterday, in three speed boats. The attack was thwarted by the troops of the security out-fit. The militants fled with various degrees of injuries. No soldier was injured or killed, the JTF said.

In a related development, (JTF) has denied any knowledge of an alleged attack on a Turkish operated supply vessel about 50 nautical miles off Onne Port, near Port Harcourt.

Col. Abubakar told our correspondent over the phone that "we are not aware of the occurrence of any such incident around the area in question. As a matter of fact, when we got wind of it from unverified sources, we spread our tentacles wide by detailing our men to comb the area."

Robbers kill 30 in bullion van raid

ROBBERS killed at least 30 people as they attacked a van carrying cash in Anambra State, police said yesterday.

About a dozen armed robbers in three vehicles opened fire on the van, which was travelling late on Monday from the town of Onitsha, and made away with a large amount of money, police said.

"They also attacked three passenger buses at the same point killing about 30 people ... including three policemen, a soldier and three pregnant women," Anambra state police spokesman Felix Agbo



IGP Mike Okiro

told reporters in the capital Akwa. The gang also wounded about 15 other people, shooting sporadically as they tried to escape, police said. Three of the robbers were killed in the incident. (Reuters)

UK Parliamentary group raises fears on 2011 election

By Aisha Umar

BRITISH All Party Parliamentary Group has expressed concern on 2011 elections citing increasing corruption and mismanagement in Nigeria.

A statement by the British High Commission said findings by a group of British lawmakers noted that the people of Nigeria are suffering because of lack of leadership from within the country and from amongst Nigeria's international partners.

"Nigeria has an array of challenges to overcome: problems of accountability and transparency, human rights violations, a flagging power sector, political manipulation creating conflict and an economy dominated by oil. "Nigeria hopes to be among the top twenty world economies by 2020 but this will not happen unless its leadership – at all levels, including federal, state and local government and civil society leaders – become organised and take direct responsibility for the people.

"It is for this reason that Nigeria needs credible elections to take place in 2011. Elections are key to achieving democratic accountability: good elections in Nigeria are essential to start shifting government accountability from oil revenues to the people. The report recommends that electoral reforms are implemented and voter registration begins now". It stated

It said APPG believes that enabling the people to engage in the politics of their country is key to battling corruption in Nigeria. The report notes: "The country and any hope of reform or moving forward are undermined if the government lacks legitimacy in the eyes of the people."

The report praises the determination and resourcefulness of Nigerians in attempting to overcome the considerable challenges the country faces, but warns that Nigeria's extensive resources have for the most part been exploited for the wrong reasons.

It said "Key recommendations made in the report include, an international group of Nigeria's main partners such as the UK, US and EU to assist Nigeria tackle issues including illegal oil theft, the swift implementation of electoral reforms and voter registration, faster reform of the Nigerian Police Force with greater training and better equipment, more protection for the rights of journalists and documentary makers and greater pressure on international oil companies to stop gas flaring."

It added that Nigeria is of importance globally because of its large and influential global Diaspora, its role as an important cultural, economic and political hub, and as a producer of oil. Nigeria is of particular importance to the UK as economic and family links between the two countries continue to strengthen.

RMAFC: Yar'adua's 20% pay cut won't stop further cut

By Idris Ahmed

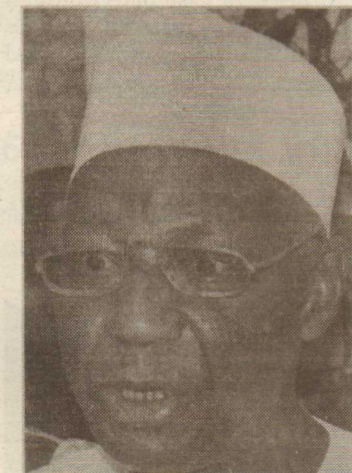
PRESIDENT Umar Yar'adua's 20 percent pay cut for political office holders would not stop further cut, the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) has said.

Chairman of the Commission, Engineer Hamman Tukur told newsmen yesterday in Abuja that the cut which commences this month is a sacrifice by the presidency to boost transportation in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Yar'adua in February wrote RMAFC to review downward salaries of certain political officeholders in the face of current global economic downturn and the dwindling revenue base of the government.

Tukur said yesterday that when the commission finishes its exercise of reviewing downward the salary of all political officeholders, the executive, like the legislature and the judiciary would still be affected.

"The President's circular did not say cut. It is a voluntary con-



HAMAN Tukur, RMAFC boss

tribution from the executive arm of government which will go into a central pool and will be used to purchase additional means of transportation in the FCT", Tukur said.

He said while the President is not imposing it on the other arms of government, the cut may continue even when the commission slashes the remuneration of the political officeholders involved.



PENSIONERS of Delta Steel Company, Aladja, protesting non-payment of benefits at the National Assembly, Abuja, yesterday Pic: NAN

Ambassadors want salary increase

By Muideen Olaniyi

NIGERIA'S non-career ambassadors to foreign countries yesterday advocated a salary review, saying that it was not fair for them as head of diplomatic missions to be earning salaries far below those whom they supervise.

The Coordinator of the Nigeria's Ambassadors Forum, Dr. Jerry Sunny Ugokwe made the advocacy when he led over forty non-career ambassadors to the national leadership of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

The non-career ambassadors came from Austria, Argentina, South Korea, Thailand, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Netherlands, Spain, the Vatican, Ukraine, Tanzania, Peru, Libya, Ireland, Uruguay, Zambia, Indonesia and Morocco among others.

Ugokwe also complained on the delay by Nigeria in replacing recalled ambassadors, noting that it affects the interest of the country when such replacements are not done on time.

He further protested their poor salary structures which put them below civil servants in their various missions.

FG in direct contact with N/Delta militants - Orubebe

By AbdulFattah Olajide

SOME Niger Delta militants have given the government assurance that they would protect expatriates and indigenous contractors executing developmental projects in the region rather than kidnapping them, the Minister of State for Niger Delta, Chief Godswill Orubebe said yesterday in Abuja.

Orubebe gave the hint while briefing State House correspondents along with the Minister of Information and Communication, Professor Dora Akunyili, after yesterday's Federal Executive Council meeting. He said the Federal Government is now dialoguing directly with the militants to ensure that peace returns to the Niger Delta region soon. President Umaru Musa Yar'adua recently offered any Niger Delta militant willing to lay down his arms.

"You have forgotten that there exists the Ministry of Niger Delta which has been on for the past three months. And if you have been reading about our activities very well, we have been handling the security issues very well. We have moved from the approach of through third party to direct contact with the youths in creeks. There is every guarantee that in the very near future, the security issues would have been resolved to a very reasonable level and we believe that the contractor that are going back to work now will have no problems, we will standby them to ensure that the jobs are done. Its been explained to every-

body over and over and that if we need development we don't have to create crisis, we need to support the contractors", Orubebe said.

Orubebe's explanation came after Prof. Akunyili announced that the council approved the reaward of the contract for the dualisation of section 11 subsection 1 (Port Harcourt to Ahoda) of the East-West Road earlier abandoned by Julius Berger to Setraco Limited at N29 billion.

She said the government also ordered Julius Berger to refund N6.1billion from part of the mobilisation fee paid to it for the contract.

The entire contract for the East-West Road, covering five states, Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Cross River and Akwa-Ibom, was initially awarded to Julius Berger in 2005 at the cost of N220billion.



MILITANT

Appeal Court upholds High Court ruling on Niger Governor

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE Court of Appeal sitting in Kaduna yesterday affirmed the verdict of the Federal High Court which dismissed the suit filed by Alhaji Jibril Bala Gunna challenging his substitution with Governor Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu as the Peoples Democratic (PDP) candidate in Niger State in the 2007 gubernatorial election.

Guna had in a suit at the lower court in Kaduna challenged the manner of his substitution, claiming his replacement was not in accordance with the party's guideline but the case was dismissed by the court on the grounds that it was an election matter and it had no jurisdiction to entertain it. Counsel to Gunna, Tajudeen Olajode while arguing in the court said at the time his client was substituted, the appellant was still a

civil servant. He urged the court to declare his client governor of Niger State.

The counsel to the first respondent, Ayodele Olajide, INEC representative, Dr Samson Ameh and that of the PDP, Mr. Rotimi Ojo said the matter was status barred as the issue was raised eight months after the substitution.

Upholding the verdict of the Federal High Court, the appellate court said: "Oyo had the action been embarked upon earlier at the Federal High Court, the court would not have lacked the jurisdiction to try it, but the action was commenced eight months after the act was committed". Meanwhile, Governor Babangida Aliyu has described the judgment as victory from Allah and called on the appellant and all his political opponents to join hands with him to move the state forward.

Meningitis kills 80 in Kaduna in three months

THE Kaduna State government yesterday said Cerebrospinal Meningitis (CSM) has killed 80 people in the state in the past three months. The state also disclosed that it recorded 1,728 cases of CSM during the period.

The state's commissioner for Health, Mr Peter Everton-Yari, disclosed this to newsmen in Kaduna while answering questions on the control of the disease in the state.

"All the 23 local government areas, except Jaba, had reported an outbreak of the epidemic. Reports were received from 130 wards out of the 255 wards in the state", he said.

He however said Jema'a coun-

cil recorded only two cases of the disease. He described CSM as "very infectious", adding: "This year, we have so many cases but recorded less deaths compared to last year's alarming figure". The commissioner commended the medical and health experts, drawn from the state ministry of health, WHO, UNICEF and CSOs, for their effort at controlling the spread, treatment and management of the disease.

Everton-Yari attributed the success of the control measures to the contributions of traditional rulers, religious leaders, NGOs and the media, to the crusade on CSM. (NAN)



MINISTER for Health Babatunde Osotimehin

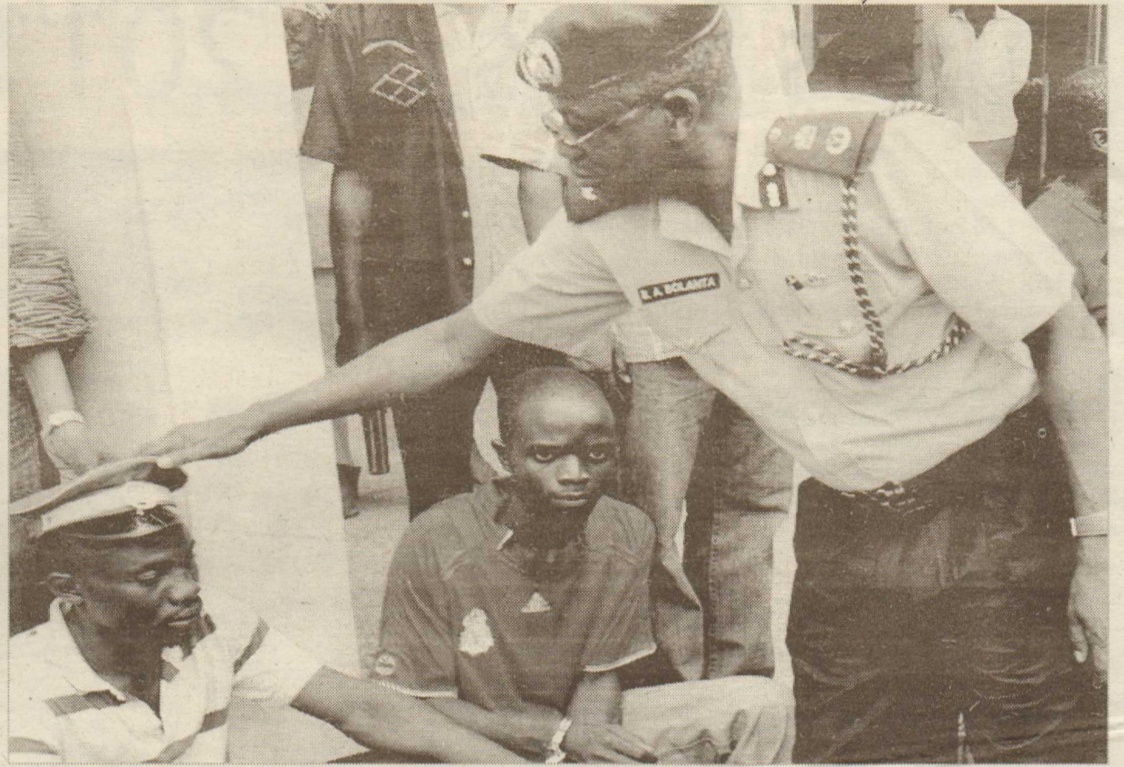
Kankia District Head dies at 80

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

KANKIYAN Katsina and District head of Kankiya Local Government Area of Katsina State, Alhaji Abdu Kaita died yesterday at the age of 80. He died at his home town, Kankiya after a protracted illness. He is survived by his wife, Hajija Aisha Abdu Kaita

and six children among whom is Mukhtar Abdu Kaita of the Nigerian embassy in Russia. Emir of Katsina, Alhaji Abdulmumini Kabir Usman was among the dignitaries that attended the funeral prayer in Kankia town. He was buried in Kankiya after a funeral prayer led by the Chief Imam of Kankia, Alhaji Lawal Bara'u.

The court says...
The case was that of preelection matter
but was filed as a post election one.



OYO State Police Commissioner Mr. Baba Bolanta (right) examines the cap of one of the vigilantes now suspected armed robber with his colleague paraded by the State Police Command in Ibadan yesterday. Pic: NAN

100,000 Nigerians die annually from TB complications --- U.S. Official

THE Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Nigeria, Ms Lisa Piascik, yesterday said more than 100,000 persons died in Nigeria yearly from Tuberculosis (TB) complications. She also said no fewer than 150,000 fresh cases of the disease were recorded in the country annually.

Piascik made the announcement at the inauguration of a Tuberculosis Culture and Drug Sensitivity Laboratory, at the Dr Lawrence Henshaw Memorial Hospital, Calabar, Cross River. The laboratory, the first in the country, was built through a partnership between the U.S. Government, the Family Health International (FHI) and the Cross River Government. Piascik also said

Nigeria had the largest TB burden in Africa, with a backlog of estimated 684,000 cases, making it the fifth among the 22 high-burden countries with the scourge in the world.

She noted that the TB phenomenon in the country would have been worse, if government had not adopted the global plan on the treatment of the disease. Piascik said the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Programmes (NTBLCP) recorded high achievements in the fight against TB since its inception in 1993.

"The target is to achieve 70 per cent case detection and 85 per cent treatment success rates," she added. Piascik said

the programme was also aimed at reducing the prevalence and death rates in the country by half by 2015. The goals, she said, could be achieved if current efforts were sustained, intensified and new approaches adopted. She promised that the U.S. Government would continue to strengthen TB laboratory services in Nigeria to ensure accurate diagnosis. The chief of mission said that through technical support by the U.S. Government, NTBLCP, six zonal and two national reference TB laboratories in the country had been established. She advised patients to always ensure that treatment was completed, to ensure the total elimination of the disease.

Pfizer: Victims deny accusing Kano emirate

From Hassan A Karofi, Kano

THE Trovan drug test Victims' Organisation (TVO) has dismissed allegations that victims were not happy with the role the Kano emirate played in the case against Pfizer.

Chairman of the organization, Alhaji Mustapha Maisikeli who led members of the organization on a courtesy call on the emir of Kano, Dr Ado Bayero yesterday said the victims were satisfied with the committee set up by the state government in which the emirate council is represented.

According to Maisikeli, there was never a time when people that were not victims of the Trovan drug were enlisted by the TVO

but that mischief makers went to town "crying wolf where there



EMIR of Kano Dr. Ado Bayero

was none". Part of the allegation against the chairman of the TVO was that he swindled members of funds from the state government during last year's Ramadan and the Eid-el-Kabir periods.

The chairman told the emir that everything was documented for posterity and urged anyone in doubt to go to the Cabinet Office because everything is there intact.

Responding, the emir urged members of the organization to be wary of media reports as not every media report could be the truth. Dr Bayero then urged them to continue living with one another in peace and pursue the out-of-court settlement diligently and forget about media hype on it.

Ekiti re-run: Senator wants FG to deploy soldiers

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

THE presence of soldiers for this weekend's re-run governorship election in Ekiti State is necessary for peaceful conduct of the exercise, Senator Ayodele Arise (PDP, Ekiti North) has declared.

Speaking to newsmen yesterday in Abuja, Senator Arise said military presence is necessary as he alleged that the opposition Action Congress (AC) has concluded plans to cause mayhem in anticipation of defeat at the poll.

According to him, "The military has been involved in terms of securing lives, property and ensuring that those who want to foment trouble are put in check. There is no sense for us to be asking after the attack has happened.

If these people through vio-

lence kill five or ten people or even more through mayhem and then we start reacting why can't we prevent this from happening since we already know that this is the plan that these people have?"

"People have been calling me not to come to Ekiti but there is no way I can say I belong to a party, and then on election day, I will stay away because somebody says he wants to kill me.

The best is to ensure adequate security that is why personally I support the use of the military," Arise said. AC on its side has condemned any move to deploy military personnel to Ekiti State for the purpose of the re-run election describing as an attempt to use them to intimidate the people and eventually rig the election in favour of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).



Globacom's Mohamed Jameel (left) and Dangote Group's Samuel Adebayo exchanging documents on a telecoms deal in Lagos, yesterday.

Stop discriminating against ex-convicts, FG told

By Yunus Abdulhamid

THE federal government has been urged to expunge from the country's laws the portion that disqualifies ex-convicts from contesting elections as it was counter-productive.

Speaking yesterday in Abuja at the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of "The life

recovery pre-release empowerment programme", otherwise known as "the Onesimus Project," at the office of the Comptroller-General of Prisons, the Executive Director of the Fellowship of Nigeria, a faith based NGO, Mr. Benson Iwuagwu said, the rehabilitation and re-integration of ex-prisoners should be a social responsibility of the government to the citizenry.

He said, "Any crime curtailment and containment strategy that does not include ex-prisoners re-integration component will sure not meet desired expectation."

The Director General of the Small and Medium Enterprises Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), Muhammad Nadada Umar in his remarks said, "A young and healthy person who is not gain-

fully employed runs a very high risk of taking to crime. If caught and convicted, he will end up in prison.

If while serving his term, he does not get exposed to a programme like the "Onesimus Project", there are very high chances that he will get into more vicious crimes and subsequently return to prison."

EU to produce meningitis vaccine

By Aisha Umar

THE European Commission (EC) is on the verge of introducing a new meningitis vaccine with validity period of ten years, Charge-d-Affairs of Commission in Abuja, Dr Alian Joaris has said.

Speaking in Abuja yesterday, Dr. Joaris said the commission has spent 2.8 million Euros (N480 million) on humanitarian funding in Nigeria and is set to replace the old vaccine which has validity period of three years.

She said the vaccination is currently under way in nine states including Jigawa, Katsina, Bauchi, Sokoto, Zamfara, Niger, Kebbi, Gombe and Kaduna and people between the ages of 2 to 30 years old would be vaccinated.



Health Minister Osotimehin

UN seat: Liberia pledges support for Nigeria's bid

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

THE Liberian Legislature has pledged to pass a resolution in support of Nigeria's bid for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council during the proposed expansion of the council's membership.

Moving a motion on the recent visit of delegation of the National Assembly to Liberia, Chairman Senate Committee on Defence (Army), Senator Ibrahim Ida (PDP, Katsina Central) said the Liberian legislature made the promise in expression of its appreciation of Nigeria's sacrifices to restoring peace in that country.

The National Assembly delegation led by Senate President David Mark was in Liberia to visit the country's troops on peace mission in Liberia as well as take inventory of their welfare and needs in the field.

After considering the motion, Senate resolved to encourage Nigerian entrepreneurs to avail themselves investment opportu-



LIBERIAN President Ellen Sirleaf

nities that exist in Liberia as the country continue to consolidate on peace secured by its troops in the West African nation.

Belgore makes case for land reform

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin

FORMER Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN), Justice Salihu Modibbo Alfa Belgore yesterday said the country's Land Use Act needs to be reformed in order to ward off administrative bottlenecks associated with land acquisition, saying there will be rapid economic development if land is made accessible in the country.

Addressing the summit of Real Estate Lawyers Association of Nigeria (RELAN) on Land Use Act, Belgore said a lot of people get discouraged from land development because of the tedious

process involved in acquiring land.

Belgore charged delegates at the summit to come out with useful suggestions in the efforts geared towards the reformation of the Land Use Act.

In his remark, the President of the association, Prof. Charles Udenze Ilegbune (SAN) said criticisms of the Land Use Act over the years have thrown up all sorts of imperfections and constraining elements in its provisions which, he said has fuelled calls for outright abrogation or a comprehensive review of the Act.

1200 houses destroyed

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

AFTER assessing weekend's windstorm in Cross River state, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has said the disaster rendered over 15,000 people homeless in the state.

Director General of the agency

AVM Mohammad Audu-Bida, who gave the figure yesterday in Ogoja and Yala Local Government Councils in Cross River, said 1200 houses have been destroyed by the wind and thunderstorm.

Audu-Bida also described the incident as the first and worst natural disaster this year.

Halliburton: NLC warns on diversion

By Francis Okeke

THE Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) has warned the Federal Government not to allow controversy surrounding the Halliburton bribery scandal shroud investigation into the matter.

NLC President Comrade Abdulwahed Omar in a press statement yesterday said "It is understandable that given the long history of broken promises, many have become sceptical of government; however this should not be allowed to divert attention from the monumental bribe scandal which the Presidency itself claims is a putrid affair."

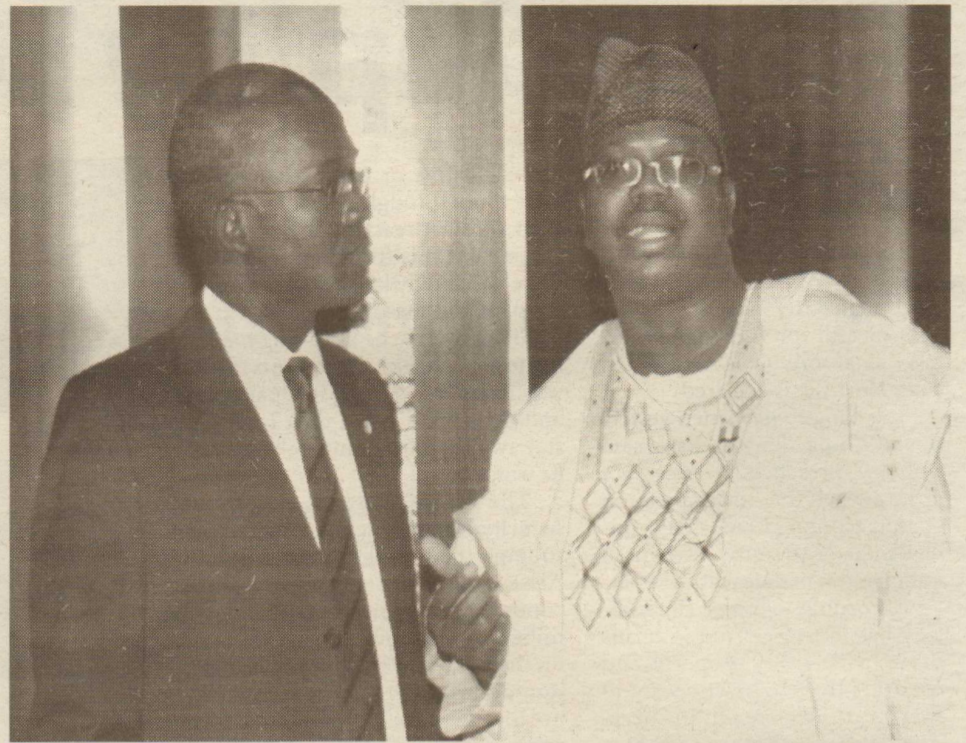
According to him, "If the presidency believes that it needs to investigate the matter before prosecution hence its decision to set up the inter-agency committee, this should not lead to controversy. We believe that the Yar'adua Presidency knows that

in the Halliburton Scandal, the administration's reputation, claims to the rule of law and avowed commitment to the anti-corruption war are at stake.

"In other words, this Government itself is on public trial whatever way it handles the Halliburton scandal and its outcome may be the basis to judge this administration's competence and commitment."

He said the high profile nature of the scandal has made it impossible for government to cover it up saying, "Even if there are attempts to cover up, we believe that given the international dimension the case has assumed including the involvement of the American, Swiss and French authorities, any attempt to clothe the culprits in the borrowed robes of decency will back fire."

Labour also called on government to ensure that all those involved in the Siemens 10million Euros bribery scandal are also brought to book.



Minister of Youth Development Senator Afolabi Olasunkanmi (right) with Minister of Power Lanre Babalola during the Federal Executive Council meeting at State House, Abuja, yesterday. Pic: NAN

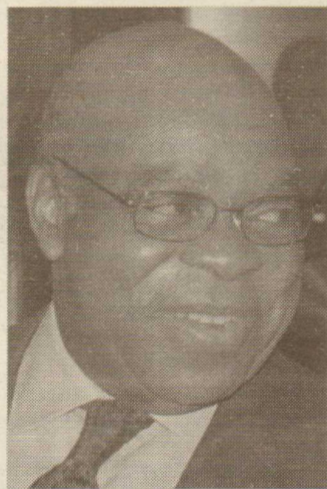
N/Delta crisis: Expert calls for all inclusive approach

By Yunus Abdulhamid

THE federal government has been advised to involve the ordinary people of the Niger Delta in its peace process rather than concentrating on the militants alone.

A statement signed by the Chief Press Secretary of the National Orientation Agency (NOA), Mr Fidel Agu said the advice was given by President of the Niger Delta Professionals for Development, Mr Joel Bisina, at a one-day Experts Roundtable to review achievements so far made by President Umaru Yar'adua.

Speaking at the event, the Director General of NOA, Alhaji Idi Faruk commended President Yar'adua for what he described as "strategic educational development plan and efforts to improve the state of our roads as well as diversifying production espe-



Niger Delta Minister Ufot Ekaette

cially in Agriculture and solid minerals."

He said if the initiatives are progressively sustained, Nigeria was on a sure path to being among the 20 most developed nations in 2020.

NUC convenes forum on low varsities ranking

By Abdullahi Gulloma and Ruby Rabi

DISTURBED by the low ranking of Nigerian universities, the National University Commission (NUC) has organized workshop for heads of parastatals to brainstorm on possible ways to reverse the situation

Declaring the workshop open,

Minister of Education Dr Sam Egwu lamented the poor showing of Nigerian universities in the global ranking for standards.

He revealed that in the aggregate web ranking of world universities, no Nigerian University ranks among the top 50 in Africa and no Nigerian laboratory ranks among the top 1000 in the world.

NTDC launches tourism-friendly products

By Mohammed S. Shehu

FEDERAL Government's move to reap the economic benefits of tourism through the creation of employment got a boost yesterday with the launching of tourism-friendly products by the Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC). The products include 37 Brazilian Marcopolo buses for the 36 states plus Abuja, Automobile Fault Scanner, In-Cabvision and Tourism Cashplus card.

Unveiling the products to the public, the Director General of the Corporation Otunba Olusegun Runsewe, said the automobile fault dictator was meant to provide car hire service operators update information on the conditions of their vehicles before engaging the services of their clients while the Cashplus, powered by Skye Bank, Interswitch and Ashosh Groups provide tourists and business individuals easily reached funds while in transit.

He said the In-Cabvision device would be installed in the back seats of airport taxis and other vehicles involved in tour operation adding that it has been designed to provide advertisement, map, and contact addresses of destinations for passengers in transit.

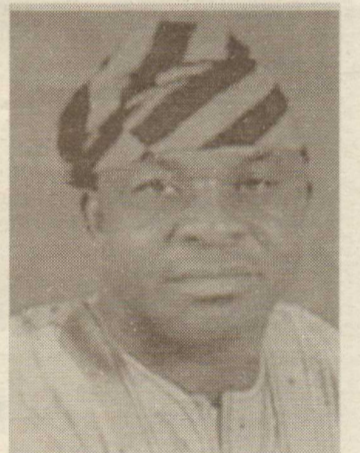
'N/Assembly can't review constitution'

By Tashikmah Allah & Nasidi A Yahaya

A member of the Board of Trustees (BOT) of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Prince Benjamin Apugo has said the National Assembly is incapable of reviewing the 1999 Constitution.

"I know that the present National Assembly can never amend the constitution. They are just deceiving Nigerians. There are processes to amend the constitution but from the way the National Assembly is going about it, there is little hope that they can achieve anything. I am advising the National Assembly not to deceive Nigerians again," he stated.

Apugo who spoke to newsmen in Abuja accused the lawmakers of deceiving Nigerians knowing very well that they cannot alter the constitution given the present lack of cooperation between the two chambers of the parliament.



Senate President David Mark

He said the N1 billion allegedly expended by the Joint Committee on Constitution Review (JCCR) was just a waste of the nations scarce resources expressing dismay that the parliament was not given Nigerians electorate value for their votes.

Guinea seeks fund to hold elections

By Aisha Umar

GUINEAN ambassador to Nigeria Dr Cheick Abdoul Camara has called on Nigeria to assist his country with funds to enable it conduct parliamentary and presidential elections before the end of the year.

Briefing newsmen in Abuja yesterday the ambassador said the major problem facing Guinea's election is not political but lack of sufficient funds to be utilised in sustaining electoral process and for payment of electoral officials.

He said European countries like France and Germany have offered assistance to Guinea adding that "This is African affair and African countries should be at the forefront of providing the fund to signify dignity of the continent."

ACF condemns Kaduna kidnap



FROM left: President Atlas Copco Johan Halling, Director, Artisan and Small-Scale Mining Department, Ministry of Mines and Steel Development Obiora Azubike and Vice President Atlas Copco Piet Leys during the official opening of Atlas Copco CMT and CT Nigeria Ltd in Abuja.
Pic: Felix Onigbinde

From Ibraheem Musa and Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) has condemned the abduction, noting that such practice which was unheard of in the North was creeping into the region. In a statement which was signed by Mr. Anthony Sani, its National Publicity Secretary, ACF noted that the incident underscored the fact that constituent parts of this country could not afford to be indifferent towards happenings in other parts of the country.

“Northern leaders and their people must therefore roll up their sleeves and fight this evil of kidnapping, ritual killings and breeding of infants for sale before they become common in the region”, the ACF said. The forum also appealed to the kidnapers to, in the interest of humanity, release the Canadian.

Meanwhile, Moses Kadeer, the man who was with Mrs Julie Ann Mulligan when the Canadian was kidnapped, does not live on number 29 Unity Link road, Narayi high cost, Kaduna as he told the police, *Daily Trust* has learnt. Mr Kadeer is a member

of the Kaduna chapter of Rotary Club International.

When our reporter went to the house, it was empty except for a teenage girl who answered his enquiries from behind locked gates. According to the girl who did not disclose her name, the house belongs to Pastor Dominic Sebastin and that there is no one named Moses Kadiri there.

She said policemen had come a few days ago looking for one Julie, apparently referring to the kidnapped Canadian, adding that no one with such a name lives in the house. When asked if a white lady had visited the house recently, the girl said no. Efforts to speak to the commissioner of police on this development failed as he neither picked his GSM phone when *Daily Trust* called his line, nor did he reply the text message sent to him.

In his press briefing on Sunday, the police commissioner, Alhaji Tambari Yabo Muhammad said that Moses Kadeer had reported the incident to Barnawa police station at about 2240 hours (10.40pm). Mr Kadeer claimed to be living at number 29, Unity Link road, Narayi high cost.

FEDERAL NEURO-PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, YABA MANAGEMENT BOARD P.M.B. 2008, YABA, LAGOS.

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced candidates to fill the following vacancies in the Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital, Yaba.

SENIOR HOUSE OFFICER (SHO) – CONTISS 10

Candidates must possess MBBS Degree from a recognized University registrable with the Nigerian Dental and Medical Council.

- Must have evidence of completion of NYSC.
- Candidates must be interested in training for a higher qualification in Psychiatry.
- A Pass in Primary in Psychiatry of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria or the West African College of Physician would be an added advantage.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

The Conditions of service are as applicable in the Federal Public Service.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Candidates should submit ten (10) typed copies of their letter of application with detailed Curriculum Vitae and Certificates to reach the Medical Director, Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital, P.M.B. 2008, Sabo, Yaba, Lagos within 42 days of the publication of this advertisement.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Only applications of those short-listed for interview will be acknowledged.

REFEREES

Candidates are advised to request three (3) referees, one of which must be from where the applicant is currently serving to forward reference letters directly to the Medical Director, Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital, P.M.B. 2008, Sabo, Yaba, Lagos

SIGNED
DR. H.T.O. LADAPO
MEDICAL DIRECTOR
FEDERAL NEURO-PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, YABA.

BUYER BEWARE

RE: SALE OF AREWA TEXTILES FACTORY/ RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

Our attention has been drawn to a publication in the *Daily Trust* of 14th April 2009 in respect of the above stated property by Messrs D.E. Ogonna and Bola Fagbola Joint receivers of Arewa Textiles Plc.

This serves to notify the general public that the above is presently subject of litigation before the Federal High Court Kaduna in Suit No. FHC/KD/CS/43/2005

BETWEEN:

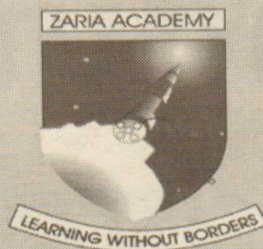
National Union of Textile Workers of Nigeria

AND

1. Chief D.E. Ogonna
2. Bola Fagbola

LET BUYERS THEREFORE BEWARE

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PP: NNAMONSO EKANEM & CO
SOLICITORS TO NATIONAL UNION OF TEXTILE
WORKERS OF NIGERIA
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INVESTMENT HOUSE (2ND FLOOR)
KADUNA.



ZARIA ACADEMY (BOYS AND GIRLS)

P.O. Box 532 Zaria, Kaduna State.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION RESULT FOR 2009

Following the conduct of the entrance exams on the 21st/03/09 into JSS1 and SS1 for 2009/10 session, I am pleased to invite the following successful candidates for interview on the 25/04/09 at Zaria Academy, Km 10, Zaria-Funtua road by 9am. Candidates are advised to bring along with them writing materials.

Js1 BOYS

ZARIA CENTRE

SN	Exam No.	Names
1.	ZA/01	Bala Ahmed Abubakar
2.	ZA/03	Yakubu Garba H.
3.	ZA/05	Bello Akolade
4.	ZA/07	Mahmood Suleiman M.
5.	ZA/11	Sadiq Idris Kwaru
6.	ZA/12	Abba Ibrahim Ibrahim
7.	ZA/19	Adamu Mohammed Auwal
8.	ZA/22	Alhassan Abdulhamid
9.	ZA/30	Yar'adua Abubakar A.
10.	ZA/39	Muhammed Mustapha I.
11.	ZA/40	Habib Idris
12.	ZA/42	Abusufyan Aminu Kano
13.	ZA/51	Shu'aib Abdullah S.
14.	ZA/52	Rufai Umar
15.	ZA/53	Ismail Lukman L.
16.	ZA/58	Danliman Fahad A.
17.	ZA/59	Mahmud Ahmad
18.	ZA/63	Fom Majeng
19.	ZA/66	Abubakar A. Garba
20.	ZA/72	Abdullahi M. Al'meen
21.	ZA/74	Muhammad M. Abbas
22.	ZA/172	Aliyu Abdullahi Amir
23.	ZA/139	Muhammed Shafiu
24.	ZA/014	Abdulmalik Mohammed Aliyu
25.	ZA/015	Tanimu Faruk A.
26.	ZA/016	Sadauki Nura
27.	ZA/020	Ubaidullahi Ibrahim
28.	ZA/021	Ibrahim A. M. Ibrahim
29.	ZA/026	Mohammed Saed Umar
30.	ZA/029	Ahmed Mahmud M.
31.	ZA/031	Abubakar Sadique M.
32.	ZA/033	Fahad Shehu Garba
33.	ZA/035	Hussaini M. Kabir
34.	ZA/036	Hassan M. Kabir
35.	ZA/051	Bilyaminu Mohammed
36.	ZA/061	Sadiq Ahmed
37.	ZA/065	Muhammad Ahmad
38.	ZA/068	Abubakar Ahmed

BAUCHI CENTRE

39.	BA/01	Usman Mohammed Wunti
40.	BA/04	Mahmud Ishaq H.
41.	BA/05	Mahmud Jibril H.
42.	BA/06	Muhammad Haruna G.
43.	BA/09	Mahmoud Mahmoud
44.	BA/10	Mahmoud Ibrahim
45.	BA/11	Adamu Mahmoud
46.	BA/12	Shafiu Rabiu Rabiu
47.	BA/21	Sambo Sadeeqe
48.	BA/00	Alfa Ahmed Mahmud
49.	BA/007	Abubakar Abdullahi H.
50.	BA/014	Rabiu Abdulsalam Mohammed
51.	BA/018	Ahmed Abubakar
52.	BA/018	Mohammed Adamu

ABUJA CENTRE

53.	AB/001	Attahiru Ibrahim
54.	AB/002	Musa N. Ubale
55.	AB/003	Mohammed Ahmed
56.	AB/006	Lawal Abdullahi
57.	AB/007	Shuaibu Mohammed
58.	AB/010	Abu Mohammed Aliyu
59.	AB/012	Omoriaboh Elfreda
60.	AB/013	Abubakar Suleiman
61.	AB/016	Ade Ngurhar Aondofa
62.	AB/018	Ahmed Ahmed Aliyu
63.	AB/019	Tijjani Ali
64.	AB/012	Abdullahi Alamin Moh'd
65.	AB/024	Dikko Yusuf Abubakar
66.	AB/026	Modibbo Mansur A.
67.	AB/027	Muhammed Amir
68.	AB/030	Isa Mohammed D.
69.	AB/033	Emakhu David
70.	AB/034	Joseph Hezebriah
71.	AB/039	Bashir Sufyyan

SN	Exam No.	Names
72.	AB/012	Yunusa Labaran
73.	AB/013	Umar Al-mansur
74.	AB/003	Abdullahi Ibrahim
75.	AB/007	Umar Faisal
76.	AB/041	Ibrahim Idris
77.	AB/050	Hammayo Muhammed F.

SOKOTO CENTRE

78.	SO/008	Abubakar Atiku
79.	SO/011	Hamza Aliyu A.
80.	SO/012	Muhammed Kindi Abdullahi
81.	SO/013	Muhammed Sani
82.	SO/003	Garba Mohammed A.
83.	SO/007	Hassan Khalifa Bello
84.	SO/014	Farouk Umar Farouk
85.	SO/016	Nasir Mustapha

KANO CENTRE

86.	KN/001	Muazzam Madu
87.	KN/005	Sambo Alamin
88.	KN/009	Ismail Kabir
89.	KN/010	Muhammed Sunusi
90.	KN/011	Hamza Muhammad
91.	KN/013	Sadiq A. Muhammed
92.	KN/015	Alamin Y. Muhammed

MAIDUGURI CENTRE

93.	MA/01	Usman Ibrahim
94.	MA/02	Abubakar Bashir

LAGOS-OTA CENTRE

95.	OT/001	Sule-Umar Idris
96.	OT/002	Abdulhameen Sultan Bala Isa

LAFIA CENTRE

97.	LF/001	Gambo Abba Dauda
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JALINGO CENTRE

98.	TA/003	Abubakar Abdullahi
99.	TA/004	Abubakar Abdullahi
100.	TA/001	Aminu Ibrahim

KATSINA CENTRE

101.	KT/001	Umar Nuhu Kankia
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GBOKO CENTRE

102.	GB/001	Iyobiyom Senenge
103.	GB/003	Arduen Terfa

SS1 BOYS

ZARIA CENTRE

1.	ZA/07/S	Abu-Nawashi Kamaludeen
2.	ZA/09/S	Munir Jafar Abdullahi
3.	ZA/10/S	Munir Jafar Ibrahim
4.	ZA/11/S	Muhammad Ibrahim
5.	ZA/15/S	Salisu Ibrahim
6.	ZA/16/S	Mahmud Umar Bello
7.	ZA/22/S	Isa Mohammed
8.	ZA/12/S	Gidado Mohammed Sada
9.	ZA/02/S	Shafiu Mubarak Madawaki

KANO CENTRE

1.	KN/001/S	Immamudeen D. Yusuf
2.	KN/002/S	Ibrahim Suleiman
3.	KN/003/S	Abubakar Hamza Bala
4.	KN/004/S	Imam Ahmed Lawal
5.	KN/005/S	Muhammed Tahir Tahir
6.	KN/006/S	Munir Y. Liman

SS1 GIRLS

SOKOTO CENTRE

1.	SO/01/S	Ahmed Shehu Fatima
2.	SO/02/S	Ahmed Shehu Zainab
3.	SO/03/S	Muhammed Mainasara Salma
4.	SO/05/S	Hauwa Ahmad Umar

BAUCHI CENTRE

1.	BA/03/S	Ahmed Usman Aisha
2.	BA/04/S	Mohammed U. Zainab
3.	BA/05/S	Bello Hadiza

ZARIA CENTRE

1.	ZA/03/S	Idris Sakina Isa
2.	ZA/04/S	Ahmad Malami Hauwa
3.	ZA/07/S	Abbas Amina Maimuna
4.	ZA/14/S	Yusuf Muhammad Hauwa
5.	ZA/17/S	Abubakar Ahmed Fatima
6.	ZAS/23	Dalhat Tijjani Maimuna

JS 1 GIRLS

ZARIA CENTRE

1.	ZAJ/02	Othman A'isha
2.	ZAJ/04	Ali Fatima
3.	ZAJ/08	Lawal Hadiza
4.	ZAJ/09	Lawal Amina
5.	ZAJ/17	Ismail Fatima
6.	ZAJ/23	Mohammed Ummusalamas
7.	ZAJ/24	Alhassan Farida Baby
8.	ZAJ/27	Isa Idris Halimatu
9.	ZAJ/32	Umar A'isha
10.	ZAJ/34	Mika A'isha Gerei
11.	ZAJ/41	Jumare Haruna A'isha
12.	ZAJ/43	Hajara Aminu Kano
13.	ZAJ/44	Ndass A'isha Moh'd
14.	ZAJ/48	Ahmed Nafisa Ahmad
15.	ZAJ/49	Umar Abida
16.	ZAJ/50	Umar Hauwa Aliyu
17.	ZAJ/56	Mamman Hauwa
18.	ZAJ/57	Abdulhassan Khadijat
19.	ZAJ/60	Lawal Fatima U.
20.	ZAJ/67	Safiya Abbas
21.	ZAJ/69	Abubakar Sadiya
22.	ZAJ/70	Anka Sadiya Bello
23.	ZAJ/71	Aminu Fatima G.
24.	ZAJ/28	Allam H. Liz-Marie
25.	ZAJ/173	Khadija Abubakar
26.	ZAJ/13	Jomoh Jafaru Salamatu Blessing
27.	ZAJ/18	Nana-Fatima Ahmed Shuaibu

BAUCHI CENTRE

1.	BA/01	Dayyabu Amina Mohammed
2.	BA/17	Mohammed A. Kadizat

GBOKO CENTRE

1.	GO/02	Umar A'isha
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KANO CENTRE

1.	KN/02	A'isha Abubakar
2.	KN/04	Badaru M. Khadija
3.	KN/06	Maiyaki Yusrus Sa'ad
4.	KN/07	Hassan N. Hauwa
5.	KN/12	Yusuf Maryam
6.	KN/14	Bindawa Ummulkhair
7.	KN/08	Grema Nafisa Abdu

ABUJA CENTRE

1.	AB/05	Mohammed Zainab Makarfi
2.	AB/17	Mohammed A'isha Makarfi
3.	AB/20	Mohammed Khadija Makarfi
4.	AB/21	Abdullahi Safiya
5.	AB/23	Sadiq Ibrahim Fatima
6.	AB/31	Ahmed Jidda Fatima
7.	AB/36	Shehu Isa Raliyat
8.	AB/38	Hauwa Ibrahim Aminu
9.	AB/39	Bashir Safiyya
10.	AB/11	Omrigbe Ubeya C.
11.	AB/006	Hauwau Lawal Abdullahi
12.	AB/032	Aliyu Fatima

KATSINA CENTRE

1.	KA/01	Sadiya Tanimu Abubakar
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Supplementary Examination will take place at the same centres on May 2, 2009

PRINCIPAL

Sokoto to get pharmaceutical coy

nFromRakiyaA.Muhammad, Sokoto

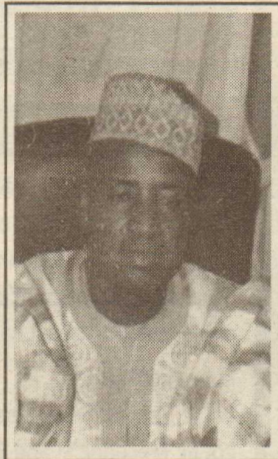
PLANS are on by the Sokoto State government and the Argentine-Nigeria Chamber of Commerce to jointly set up a Pharmaceutical Company in the state. This comes as the state empowers 13 large scale farmers to set up modern livestock farms. Governor Alhaji Aliyu Wamakko disclosed this in Sokoto when he received a 12-man delegation of Argentine experts on cattle production and water engineering led by the Nigerian Ambassador to Argentina, Mr. Empire Kanu.

The governor said the ratio for the establishment of the pharmaceutical firm was being worked out while the memorandum of understanding would soon be packaged and signed. On the farmers, Alhaji Wamakko said they would be given soft loans and the required technical advice on livestock production to

set up the modern livestock farms. He said the beneficiaries would be empowered to become major producers of livestock in order to be self reliant.

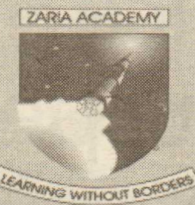
The governor assured that all categories of farmers in the state would continue to receive support from government. He restated his administration's determination to explore more areas of cooperation with the Argentines to further boost the socio economic development of the state.

His words "Argentina stands as a symbol of hard work, determination and innovations. We will explore more areas of cooperation which include: cattle/livestock production, embryo transplant and artificial insemination and milk production, among others". Speaking earlier, the Nigerian Ambassador to Argentina, Mr. Empire Kanu stressed the need for Nigeria to give more attention to the development of agriculture. He noted that Nigeria and Argen-



SOKOTO State Governor Aliyu Wamakko

tina shared a lot of things including history, topography, climate and unity of purpose. In his remark, the Chairman of the Argentine - Nigeria Chamber of Commerce, Dr Alberto Morante, said the delegation was in Sokoto for a 2-week tour. Dr. Morante observed that with the abundant sun, land and water Nigeria should be able to produce everything.



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- 3. Zaria Metropolitan College, 2 Circular Road, Off Queen Elizabeth Street, GRA, Zaria

The First Batch of Admitted Students are to report at **ZARIA ACADEMY ON TUESDAY APRIL 21, 2009**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION please contact the following

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Alhaji Manjalo 08065956860
Principal 08036786173

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CANDEL
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Civil service council suspends six over loan scandal

From: Fidelis Mac-Leva, Jalingo

THE National Administrative Council of the Nigeria Civil Service Union has suspended six executive members of the Union in Taraba State for allegedly misappropriating over N1.4billion meant for disbursement as loans to its members in the state.

The amount was said to have been obtained as loan from First Bank Plc. Jalingo branch for disbursement to civil servants in the state without the consent of the national secretariat of the Union as required by its constitution. *Daily Trust* learnt that the deal was exposed when aggrieved members of the union petitioned the national secretariat over the process of obtaining the loan and method of disbursement to beneficiaries. Consequently, the national secretariat queried the affected executive members and asked them to supply details of the loan and its beneficiaries, a request which they failed to comply with. It

was in view of this that the national secretariat through a letter signed by F.C. Ifoh on behalf of the acting National Secretary of the Union suspended the six officials pending further investigations into the matter.

The affected officials are: Jacob Biriye, State Chairman; Joseph Shimaor, Secretary; Asicus Kukong, vice Chairman; Abraham Black, Auditor, Esther Sule, second vice chairman and R.A. Shamaki, Financial Officer. Acting Chief Secretary of the Union, Luka Dabang was appointed and mandated to convene a special SEC meeting in Jalingo at the weekend during which a caretaker committee was put in place pending the outcome of the investigations.

Members of the caretaker committee are: Aminu Zakariya, Chairman; Abdulhameed Walako, first vice chairman; Mrs. Nana Alexander, second vice chairman; Jerry D. Abu, Treasurer, Eric Kunini, Auditor and Ibrahim Madondo, Assistant Secretary.

Police intensify checks in Makurdi, environs

From Hir Joseph, Makurdi

A directive from the new commissioner of police in Benue State, Ibrahim Mohammed has intensified stop-and-check operations in Makurdi, the state capital and its environs.

A special anti-crime squad of the command called Commissioner of Police's Monitoring Unit which is headed by Superintendent Emmanuel Deebom is in charge of the operation. The squad which is code named "Red Bandana" has carried out several arrests in the past one month.

Yesterday, the squad led by Superintendent Deebom embarked on the operation and arrested several vehicles. Police Public Relations Officer for the command, Mr. Samuel Jinadu (DSP) confirmed the arrests and told *Daily Trust* that the effort was to fight car theft in the state as well as restore the confidence of motorists. "The CP is not resting on his pledge to fight crime in the state to the barest minimum. One of such measures he has initiated is to strengthen and intensify stop and check in Makurdi and around the state since



IGP Mike Okiro

car theft has been identified as a major crime in the state", Jinadu (DSP) said.

It would be recalled that while taking over, CP Mohammed said officers and men of the command both in urban and rural areas would work in accordance with laid down procedure to boost its image as well as create cordial relationship with members of the public. (NAN)

Nigeria to benefit from \$500m French water fund

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

NIGERIA is to benefit from the French Development Agency's annual \$500 million water and sanitation intervention fund for Africa this year, the Tax Team Leader, water and sanitation division of the Agency, Mr. Martin Parent has said.

Speaking in an interview with newsmen in Kaduna during the supervision of the National Urban Water Sector reform project, a world bank assisted project, he said the agency which is also known as the French

Development Bank would team up with the World Bank to assist Nigeria address the water supply problem.

"Each year our Agency commits \$500 million to water supply and sanitation in Africa and for the first time we have decided to include Nigeria in the intervention this year. This is why we opened our office in Abuja in June last year. We have assisted some countries in Africa to overcome their water supply problem. We are very committed to providing potable water in Africa," he said.



NURSING & MIDWIFERY COUNCIL OF NIGERIA

(Established by Nursing & Midwifery Registration etc. Act. Cap. No. 143 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004)

INVITATION TO EXPRESS INTEREST AS CONSULTANTS FOR DESIGN WORKS AT THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY COUNCIL OF NIGERIA'S OFFICE AT GWARIMPA, BEHIND JULIUS BERGER LIFE CAMP, ABUJA

A. INTRODUCTION:

The Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria, a parastatal of the Federal Ministry of Health, as part of its on-going development projects at the Council's permanent site in Abuja, is undertaking the construction of its Main Office Blocks at her Gwarimpa (Cadastral Zone), and therefore, is interested in engaging the services of the following consultants:-

Lot I: Architects

Lot II: Structural Engineers

Lot III: Mechanical and Electrical Services Engineers

Lot IV: Quantity Surveyors

B. SCOPE OF WORK:

DESIGN OF MAIN OFFICE BUILDING(S) TO ACCOMMODATE:-

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| a) Corporate Headquarters | e) Main Stores |
| b) Eight (8) Departments | f) Clinic |
| c) Library | g) 2 Kitchenette |
| d) Two (2) Board-rooms | h) Ancillary infrastructure / equipment |
| i) Staff Canteen - Separate Bungalow | |

C. PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

INTENDING CONSULTANCY FIRMS MUST SUBMIT THE UNDERLISTED VERIFIABLE DOCUMENTATION:-

- Certificate of Incorporation with Corporate Affairs Commission
- Professional Licence to practice as issued by the relevant professional body.
- Profile of firms including ownership structure and management profile
- Names and profiles of Team Leaders and professional staff including certificates of competence and individual experiences in handling similar assignments.
- Evidence of Technical Competence covering the range of services contained in the scope of work
- Current tax clearance certificate for the immediate past three years
- Audited Accounts for the past three years
- Evidence of registration with Federal Ministry of Works and Housing in the relevant category
- Evidence of VAT Registration and payments
- Evidence of similar projects executed over the last three years with copies of letters of award and job completion certificates
- Evidence of financial capability from banker
- List and evidence of on-going projects
- Evidence of registration with the Council as a Consultant
- Consultants are to fully document their principal/main interest in architecture; Structural engineering; mechanical/ electrical Engineering and quantity surveying.

D. SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DETAILS:

Pre-qualification documents in both Soft and Hard copies should be submitted in a sealed envelop and marked at the top right corner: "Expression of Interest As Consultants" and addressed to:

The Secretary General/Registrar,
Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria, Plot 713, Cadastral Zone,
Behind Julius Berger Life-camp, Via Stella Maris College/High Court, Gwarimpa, Abuja;

To reach her not later than two (2) weeks from the date of this publication.

E. PLEASE NOTE:

1. No Consultant should express interest in more than one lot.
2. This advertisement is not an invitation to tender. Financial tendering will apply only to Consultants who are pre-qualified.

(Signed)

D. C. IKEJIAKU
For: Secretary - General / Registrar

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CALL TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO SANCTION THE BUA GROUP FOR 13 CONTRAVENTIONS OF OUR EXTANT LAWS

We have noted the BUA Group Press Statement in ThisDay, Volume 14, No. 5107, Page vii in ThisDay Newspaper of Thursday, April 16, 2009 in response to our various advertorials in the Daily Trust of April 14, 2009, the Guardian of April 15, 2009 and the ThisDay of April 16, 2009 on the contraventions of our extant laws by the BUA Group through the illegal operation of a Floating Cement Terminal (FCT) at the BUA Ports and Terminal leased from the Nigerian Ports Authority on a common user basis over the past six months.

In as much as we commend their belated affirmation of the validity of some of the 13 contraventions which we have brought to public discourse, we are further constrained to pose the following questions:

1. Since the BUA Group accepts that some of the issues we raised are valid, they ought to have told Nigerians through that publication the ones they are in compliant with out of the 13 contraventions we have enumerated. There is need to explain their moral and legal rationale for asking for the illegal vessel to remain in our water to operate until the end of the year. Are our laws to be amended for the BUA Group to continue these culpable acts that have dire implication for the maritime industry in Nigeria? The Federal Government should stop this malfeasance forthwith by sanctioning the BUA Group immediately.
2. Why is it that it is only the BUA Group that is in breach of Mr. President's approval for the importation of 3,000,000MT (Three million metric tons) of bagged cement out of the **6 New Entrants** (Companies that applied to produce cement locally) by using a floating cement terminal which employed foreign crew and 29 Sri Lankan nationals thereby undermining the noble intention of the Federal Government in reducing the prices of cement.

The approved beneficiaries and the quantities are detailed hereunder:

NEW ENTRANTS

S/No	Name Of Company	Proposed Location	Quantity (Mt)
1	Minaj Holdings Ltd	Enugu	500,000
2	Made Well Products Ltd	Sapele	500,000
3	Bua International Ltd	Kano	500,000
4	N I C A Ltd	Maiduguri	500,000
5	Reagan Renaissance Ltd	Calabar	500,000
6	Mann Lababidi	Lagos	500,000
	Total		3,000,000

The approval which was a short term response to address the current scarcity of cement was intended to create availability and force down cement prices for a period that precisely ended on December 31st 2008. It was critically tied to the following requirements: i. Satisfactory evidence of continued commitment to backward integration and growth of local capacity; ii. Compliance with quality and standards specifications issued by the Standards Organization of Nigeria; and iii. Acceptance of guidelines and conditions specified by the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry and other regulatory agencies regarding cement importation.

The BUA Group use of the floating cement terminal is in breach of this approval as it is a capital expenditure for a long term operation of a marine cement terminal which is an evidence of the BUA Group lack of continued commitment to backward integration and growth of local capacity, non compliance with quality and standards specifications issued by the Standards Organization of Nigeria and non conformity to stipulated guidelines and conditions specified by the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry and other regulatory agencies regarding cement importation. We are added that inspite of this breach, the approval has not being withdrawn as specified by the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

3. Why has the Federal Ministries of Transport and Interior not sanctioned the BUA Group for non compliance to the requirements for the sustainability of the approval? Instead the BUA Group is having series of meetings with various public agencies and other stakeholders with a view to resolve areas of disagreement in utter defiance of the provisions of the laws of our great nation. The approval being a temporary measure cannot cover the use of a floating cement terminal which is rather a long term investment in the maritime industry.
4. Why has the floating cement terminal not brought down the price of the cement in the Port Harcourt axis which still fluctuates between N1,380.00 and N1,400.00 despite claims by the BUA Group that cement can be produced for as low as N400.00? The use of the floating cement terminal then known as MV Seabulk Hope at the Bonny Allied Industries Limited cement operation was carried out by the Scancem Group in a privately owned terminal in Onne when the Cabotage Act was not in force in Nigeria. Why did the BUA Group choose to acquire the over age vessel in contravention of the Cabotage Act and operate the illegal vessel in breach of the Lease Agreement for the BUA Ports and Terminal Limited with the Federal Government under the NPA Ports Reforms Programme?
5. Why is the BUA Group not paying the correct duty of 10 per cent for bagged cement instead of the present payment of 5 per cent for the illegal bulk cement bagging operation at the common user terminal in Port Harcourt? The Nigerian Customs Services should provide the true position on actual duties paid by the BUA Group on cement importation to ascertain if there were underhand practices.

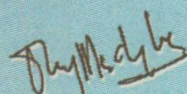
Without any doubt, cement is a strategic building product in a developing country such as Nigeria. As such, in the face of failed local policies and measures to address the subsisting pricing nightmare, extreme infrastructural deficit which feeds an even more extreme production environment, BUA Group's optimism deserves some commendation. But we would want to say that BUA does not have a good appreciation of the econometrics of cement manufacturing in an environment like ours.

Perhaps we need a more rigorous dissection of the key issues which would be of a more enduring benefit to the unfolding controversy that the sky-rocketing cement price has triggered. This could also disclose why cement prices remain high despite rise in imports. An across-the-board infrastructure re-invention in the country to support the local production of cement is obviously a much longer-term panacea to the current self-serving mantras by traders cloaked as manufacturers and worse still policy makers.

At the same time, as the BUA Group is curiously deceiving the Nigerian public, there appears to be a worrying level of collusion from the government in this fraudulent campaign. They need to be barred from peddling impossible claims and making mockery of a national travail. The Federal Government should sanction the BUA Group for deception and misleading Nigerians as evident in their admission of culpability in their Press Statement and also call their co-traducers to order immediately.

The BUA Group is not committed to best industry standards, best practices, workers welfare as well as upholding the laws guiding the operation of floating cement terminals as they claimed, rather they are hiding under a false moral duty to crash down cement prices to hoodwink Nigerians as they are leveraging the government's decision to allow cement importation to make quick profit while clothing their actions as a solution to the long term problem of a shortfall in local cement production. It is very clear that the BUA Group has no long-term interest in the sustainability of the cement and maritime industries in Nigeria but simply wants to maximize their returns from the expired licence for the importation of cement.

For and on behalf of Coalition on Best Port Industry Practices in Nigeria



Oke Maduegbuna
National Coordinator

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Goje's initiative and *finishiative*

Last Sunday, the first scheduled commercial flight by Arik Air, one of the nation's leading aviation companies, flew out of Gombe International Airport to Abuja. Arik Air is reported to have scheduled four flights weekly from that airport. The Sunday flight signaled the beginning of the full commercial utilization of the Gombe International Airport, initiated and completed by the Gombe State Government under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Danjuma Mohammed Goje.

This demonstrates the sense of commitment and responsibility to duty as well as quality of leadership Goje is offering to the people of Gombe. As is often the case with us a less concerned leader would have allowed the multi-billion Naira airport project to become a no more than prestige project that will have no real bearing on the real people of Gombe. But this airport will surely open Gombe up for business and pleasure.

I am aware of the fact that in other lands, the story of the idea to build, complete and utilize an airport such as the one in Gombe may not make much news.

But here in our land where many governments have come and gone without thinking seriously about leaving behind a legacy of projects that meet the felt needs of the people, the event of last Sunday in Gombe and the many other things Governor Goje has done in his so far six-year tenure of

Many of the people you meet on the streets of Gombe are very effusive in their praises

that north eastern state deserves some commendation.

About two weekends ago, I spent three days in Gombe and use part of the opportunity to see for myself to many good things I have heard Goje has done for the good people of Gombe State.

The airport we started by talking about here is one of the star achievements of Dr. Goje's. I visited the place and was impressed not only by the very beautiful, compact and functional airport on ground but also by the idea which gave it birth namely, that as a state on the fringe of the country Gombe needs an air link to integrate it with the rest of the country and to boost its social and economic life. This is a demonstration of initiative on the part of Goje, it also shows what the eminent writer Adamu Adamu calls *finishiative* on the part of the governor.

Some of our leaders may initiate a thing or two but lack the *finishiative* to complete some of their projects, which explains why we have so many

abandoned, white elephant projects all over town. For Goje to have not only conceived of the project but to have also seen it through, demonstrates that he has both initiative and *finishiative* which are very essential ingredients for successful leadership in a developing society like Nigeria.

I also visited the Gombe State University which must rank as the most beautiful university in the country today overtaking the famous Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. From what I saw speaks of leadership, initiative and focus on the part of Goje.

Many of the people you meet on the streets of Gombe are very effusive in their praises for Governor Goje. They see him as the architect and builder of modern Gombe state. They say the capital city which used to have only one main road traversing it and a few other tarred streets, has been transformed by Goje to a modern city.

I was unfortunately not fortunate to visit the whole of Gombe to see the rural towns and villages Goje is reputed to have opened up but was privileged to visit the historic town of Tula where the colonial officials made their abode.

A one time military governor of Gombe once advised the people living in the hilly idyllic town of Tula to come down the hill and dwell because it was going to be impossible to build a modern tarred road linking the town with other towns of the state. The path that once led there traverses a rocky and hilly terrain and it looked impossible to provide a tarred road for the people. It is therefore something of no mean achievement that Goje has built a 17-kilometre road from off the Gombe-Biliri-Yola road.

Easily the mega-star project of the Goje administration is the Dadin Kowa dam which supplies about 64 million litres of water to the residents of Gombe city and some other towns and villages of the state. Before the coming of Goje water was certainly a challenge in the state, which explains why many consider the dam water supply and irrigation project the greatest thing the governor has done for them.

Frugal management of the state's resources is also one of the things counted in the favour of Goje. His state is one of the states that receive the least from the federation account but it manages to do so much with what it gets.

Goje is to the north east what Babatunde Fashola is to the south west. However while Fashola literally has the media at his beck and call to toot at his achievements, Goje is not similarly blessed. His state is far removed from the centre of national media, bureaucratic and economic activities; it is tucked at the north east corner of the country where it takes a lot of efforts for people to know what is going on there.

Murtala Opoola

08056104602 (SMS Only)

Going a borrowing...

If pronouncements are any guide, government seems to be ambivalent on foreign loans. At the presentation of the breakdown of the 2009 budget in March, the minister of finance Dr Mansur Mukhtar declared that the country must borrow if it is to achieve some of its economic targets. Talking through his director-general Dr Abraham Nwankwo, he said the nation's external debt currently stands at less than \$3.7 billion. But just last week this free wheeling endorsement of foreign loan was seemingly brought under a leash by the Debt Management Office (DMO). The DG of the DMO, the same Dr Abraham Nwankwo noted that all debts including foreign and domestic ones owed by the three tiers of government would not exceed 45 percent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Is this an attempt at jettisoning the earlier impression created that the country is about to embark on taking loans? Well, if nothing else at least it put a limit to the amount of loans to be taken.

The aim of this about-face, according to Nwankwo who spoke when the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Mr Kamallesh Sharma was visiting him, is "to ensure overall debt sustainability for the country after its pains and exit from its foreign debt of about \$36 billion. I confess I am not an economist, but even Nobel laureates in the subject would tell you it is not an exact science therefore grave decisions or policies on whether or not a country should encumber itself with foreign loans should not be left to those who manage the economy alone. Debt peonage and its debilitating impact on Third World countries has been well documented by economists, particularly those from the South who have warned that it could hinder development and industrialization. The late Professor Bade Onimode, of the University of Ibadan, Ibadan made a career in railing against the unconscionable global system that pauperized African countries. A chapter in his book: *Africa in the World of the 21st century* entitled: *Transcending the foreign debt crisis* should be compulsory reading for everyone, who does not want his country ensnared into a debt trap that could plunge generations yet unborn into untold penury.

Included in Professor Onimode's explanation of the adverse effect of debts is what he called "capital movement" noting that foreign debt service brings about annual movement of capital from developing countries to the developed ones. He added that from the mid 1980s to the 1990 net capital export worth about \$50 billion went to the developed countries, all in the name of servicing debts. The ultimate result is that the debt crisis that ensued crippled the finances of most debtor countries to the point that they became incapable of performing many of the basic functions of state making them dependent on foreign dole-out

to pay salaries, maintain law and order, provide water, health care, education etc. In other words the debtor countries ultimately collapse under the debt burden. The debilitating debt burden grimly leads also to the collapse of the real economy as production in agriculture and manufacturing grind to a halt and little or no investments are made.

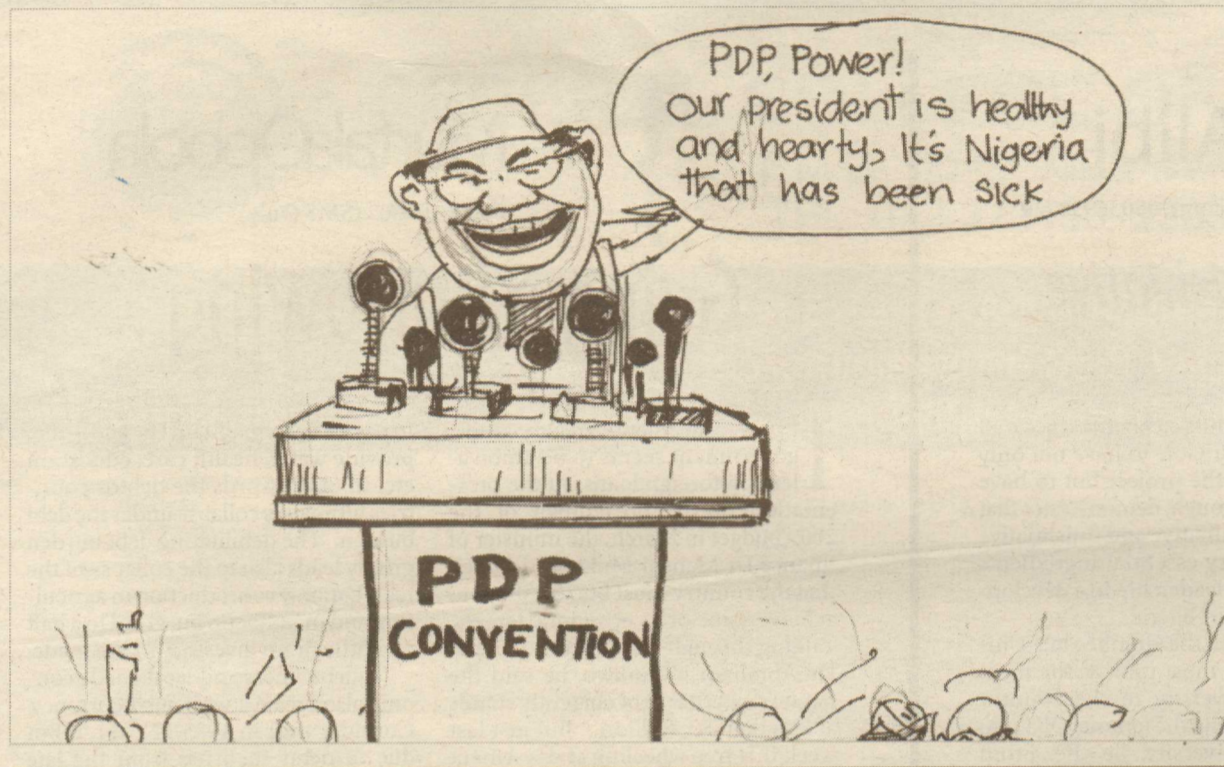
Indebtedness and weakened economy also create a weakened currency. Consider this: in 1985 1N = \$1.4. But due to debts incurred from the late 70s and the 80s, by 2000 1N100 = \$1.00. The figure is now hovering around 1N144 = \$1, the implication for imports for important industrial items for maintenance of plant and machinery needed to keep production going is obvious. It fuels inflationary spiral in the economy.

All the fore-going has been dredged up to underline the fact that not so long ago Nigeria or more appropriately those running its economy then,

Rather than go "borrowing" and later leave the country "sorrowing" government should... seek out ways to generate resources internally.

fell for the ploy that the country was "under borrowed" thereby embarking on taking loans from whosoever was ready to give them, which resulted in to the present poor state of the economy. The federal government and the states had a field day availing themselves with all manner of loans while taking no care to read the fine prints of the repayment stipulations. What was done with the borrowed money no one can account, since the infrastructure for whose improvement the loans were purportedly taken still remained in their deplorable state. Meanwhile, the funds have been looted and probably repatriated back leaving us with the burden of paying for loans that essentially cannot be ascertained to have been put to any use.

It boggles the mind therefore that we can still be talking of resorting to foreign loans in this country when indeed what we should be talking about is the judicious management of oil windfall. Not too long ago, the price of oil at the international market reached \$150 per barrel and at a budgeted price of \$36 per barrel Nigeria was awash with petrol naira, where has it all gone? Looted as the loans now being contemplated will be looted knowing full well that when the debts are called in those who took them will no longer be in office. So rather than go "borrowing" and later leave the country "sorrowing" government should take the necessary cost saving measures, exercise budgetary prudence or seek out ways to generate resources internally. No government's mandate includes plunging the country into debts when it could cause ill-gotten wealth to be repatriated to finance whatever projects it seeks to implement.



Your Letters

Re: EFCC seeks el-Rufai's extradition

When Mrs. Farida Waziri, a retired AIG of the Nigeria Police Force, was named the chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), not a few people doubted her ability to do the job diligently and without fear or favour.

Now after some months in the office, Waziri has left no one in doubt as to her style in fighting corruption, which is greatly dissimilar to that of Ribadu. But this is not about comparison. It is about the ability to bring criminals and corrupt individuals and organisations to book.

Currently, Mrs. Waziri is in the news. She is contemplating the extradition of Malam Nasir el-Rufai, former FCT minister, from where he is studying in the United States of America. As a firm believer in the rule of law,

I have no problem with people being called to account for their deeds, because it is one thing we will all do, if not here on earth, then in the hereafter.

El-Rufai, like Nuhu Ribadu, did their best in the circumstance they found themselves, and we must appreciate that fact.

Waziri should know that she will not remain in her position forever. We have former governors accused of corruption yet they are walking freely. Waziri will do well not to politicise the fight against corruption.

Ibrahim Bala Rigasa, Kaduna.

Reorganising Nasarawa civil service

I appreciate the move by the Nasarawa State government to re-organize the civil service in order of categories of staff on ideal grade level to head departments both in parastatals and

ministries.

The state's civil service urgently needs reorganisation. Politics has penetrated in no small measure into administrative dealings, which explains why a lot of projects are not executed.

Due to the sycophancy, public servants are engaged in witch-hunting themselves and those who are not suppose to head or hold offices are given that opportunity over those who are above them, that has a very wide negative impact in the service of the state.

This should go down to local government council. The ministry for local government and chieftaincy affairs should ensure this re-organization. They should not politicise the posting of staff or their promotions.

I look forward to seeing the implementation of this initiative and call on the people of Nasarawa State to support the government for the benefit of all.

Buhari A. Suleiman, Nasarawa State University, Keffi. suleimanabuyazed@yahoo.com

Text us on 08059 100 257

Treat Turaki in Jigawa
SAMINU Turaki should be flown back to Dutse General Hospital, Jigawa State which he equipped during his eight-year reign as governor.
BABA Dahe, 08033115819

PDP's convention
AT the People's Democratic Party's special national convention, members were just discussing their selfish ambition not the interest of Nigerians.
AHMED Rufai, Gumel, 08065926829

Remembering my mum
IT is exactly 11 years since I lost my lovely mother, Hajiya Fati Babagana Ciroma. May Allah in His infinite mercy grant her

Aljanna. We all miss you.
HADIZA (Daughter), 08069051368

On new states creation!
STOP the petro-dollar allocations and see how many states will be able to exist independently. The clamour for more states is the elite's way of accessing the petrodollars.
OKPUKPAN, Kano, 08023639412

NASS, save our soul
VICTIMS of wonder banks should be refunded their money. They are victims of loosely regulated financial system. CBN and SEC should take note.
A. D. Makun, Niger State, 08037868359

Call MTN to order
PROF Dora Akunyili, information and communication minister, should take her re-branding campaign to MTN and demand for the immediate release of MTN Treasure Hunt result which ended February 3, 2009.
SAFIYA Abubakar, Maitama, Abuja, 070667373793

Stop that practice
GOVERNMENT should stop rewarding people with money for help they rendered (like exposing robbers or kidnapers to police). The act is capable of eroding patriotism in our beloved Nigeria.
BILAL L A/Samad, Katsina, 08067796055

By Mahathi Mohammad

Al-Bashir and ICC's double standards



Dr. Mahathi Mohammad

THE International Criminal Court has issued a warrant of arrest for Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir, the sitting President of Sudan. The ICC admits that this is the first warrant of arrest ever issued for a sitting Head of State of the ICC.

The alleged crime of President Al-Bashir is that he is "suspected" of having co-ordinated the counter-insurgency campaign or alternatively it is also found that there are reasonable grounds to believe that he was in control of all branches of

the "apparatus" of the State of Sudan and use such control to secure the implementation of the counter-insurgency campaign.

It is also alleged that he was responsible for;

*Five counts of crimes against humanity: murder - article 7(1) (a); extermination - article 7 (1) (b); forcible transfer - article 7 (1) (f) and rape - article 7 (1) (g); (the fifth is not stated) *Two counts of war crimes; intentionally directing attacks against a civilian population as such or against individual civilians not taking direct part hostilities - article (2) (e) (i); and pillaging - article 8 (2) (e) (v) (the second crime is not given)

Apparently it was found that the President did not commit genocide and this charge could not be brought against him.

The world is aware of the hatred of the United States for President Bashir and clearly the US would like to see a regime change. Maybe the fact that Sudan has fairly large oil reserves has nothing to do with wanting to remove a recalcitrant Head of State. But maybe it has. Seems that those who have oil who are not compliant will get into trouble with the United States.

But the grounds for arrest can also be easily applied to (former President) George W. Bush and (former Prime Minister) Tony Blair. They are both guilty (proven) of more killings, extermination, forcible transfer and rape by virtue of their having, as Heads of Government, actually co-ordinated the design and implementation of the illegal wars against the Afghanistan and Iraq - countries which cannot be proven to have attacked the US the way the insurgents attacked the Government of Sudan.

As Heads of State faced with insurgency the President of Sudan has a duty to act against the insurgents. He wouldn't be a responsible Head of State if he left the counter-insurgency measures to others. Since when has it been considered wrong to fight against insurgents?

We are not told what weapons were used by Bashir but Bush and Blair directed the sanctions which killed 500,000 Iraqi children, use of depleted uranium in bombs and shells, instigated a war between Sunni and Shia Iraqis, killed more than 100,000 "civilian not taking direct part in hostilities," detaining and torturing prisoners outside the law and a host of other crimes against humanity which deserves to get the attention of the ICC; which the ICC should issue warrants of arrest.

If President Bashir is considered culpable, then Bush and Blair must be considered even more culpable. But the ICC is obviously applying double standards, picking on President Bashir but ignoring the perpetrators of the same crimes by other Heads of Governments. How can we respect the ICC if it openly discriminates between different people?

I would warn the Heads of State of other weak countries that they are likely to suffer the same fate as the President of Sudan. It is not necessary that you have done something wrong. If you are a recalcitrant, trumped up charges can be made against you and warrants of arrest issued. The world must condemn the ICC action because it represents a travesty of justice. If this is allowed to go through, the ICC will become another apparatus of resurgent imperialism of the powerful countries.

We are already living in an unjust world. There will be more injustice with the setting up of ICC.

Dr. Mohamad is Malaysia's ex-Prime Minister.

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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

Religious intolerance

To everybody's chagrin, a peaceful Easter procession in Gwada town in Niger State turned violent last Easter spreading to the state capital, Minna. At least 20 people were reported killed and property worth several millions damaged. In addition, an unspecified number of churches, mosque and vehicles were torched. So far, 110 people have been arrested and charged to court for the disturbance. It is unclear the circumstances in which this tumult occurred as no two accounts of the events leading to the crises corroborate one another. What is certain is that, as usual, opportunists and agent provocateur literally turned a peaceful protest into a fracas with cataclysmic events running from one area to another. Ironically, this is happening in Niger State, with a legendary history of ethno-religious pluralism and tolerance.

This attack came at a time when Nigerians were beginning to forge ahead after series of internecine skirmishes that tended to draw the nation back in all spheres of human endeavour. The frequent occurrence of religious and ethnic conflicts erodes mutual confidence and breeds distrust among otherwise good neighbours. Nigerians have learnt to accommodate and tolerate one another, left by themselves they know how best to resolve differences, which is why when there is a blow up instinctively people see it as the handiwork of enemies of the people pursuing their own agenda.

This crisis does not even qualify as a religiously provoked. It can be described as mob action sparked by ignorance and crass opportunism on the part of its perpetrators. It negates the principles of tolerance, love and peace, pillars upon which all modern religions are founded. With nearly fifty years of existence as a nation, reasonable and sensible Nigerians have come to realise that being a nation with people who adhere to the two major religions offers the best opportunity for the display of plurality and intense spirituality. They have also come to understand that their strength and power lie in the time-tested virtues of tolerance of each other's views and way of life rather than in division and constant hostilities.

While we commend the authorities for acting fast enough in making arrests, we call on them to pursue the matter to its logical end by ensuring that all perpetrators are brought to book and the guilty publicly punished to serve as deterrence. It is about time perpetrators of needless communal violence are made to pay for their wicked actions through the imposition of appropriate punishment. Letting them off after a few days of incarceration, as has been the practice, is a slap on those who have suffered and sustained losses as a result of their dastardly action. We believe that the lack of the will to do this has emboldened those who fuel these crises which is not beneficial to the welfare of the people.

We also call on authorities at the local, state and federal level to strengthen their intelligence gathering skills and increase their level of surveillance for prevention of crisis so as to bolster a sense of security among our people. No meaningful development takes place in an atmosphere of mutual distrust and constant needless violence. Perennially using slight provocations and differences like this to foment conflict only tarnish the good image and reputation of the nation. We call on Nigerians of all religious persuasions and opinions to realise that the constitution guarantees not just the freedom of worship but also the liberty to life, the acquisition of legitimate wealth and the legitimacy to do this from any part of the country they either find themselves or chose to reside. Nothing therefore should be done by any person or group to inhibit anyone going about his/her business peacefully. Those who perpetrate conflict and mayhem do not belong among us. They should be taken out.

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

Electoral reform and democratic sustainability

Civil Society Watch

By Hajiya Bilkisu (mni)

Cont'd from last week Thursday

7. On the disqualification of candidates, FEC approved that candidates fielded for any election should be done on the basis of the provisions of the 1999 Constitution and the Electoral Act. Council said for the purpose of transparency and accountability, political parties must publicly disclose to INEC all sources of funding including donations. Also, only parties that score a minimum of 5 per cent of votes cast will be eligible to receive grants from the public;

8. The Federal Government rejected the recommendation of the Justice Muhammadu Uwais Electoral Reform Committee regarding the appointment of the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). Information and Communication Minister said in rejecting the recommendation, government was mindful of the doctrine of separation of powers, which will be violated if the judiciary is asked to step in to perform executive functions. She also said since the head of NJC is appointed by the President, it made no sense for the body to be charged with the responsibility of nominating INEC's board.

Government also did not accept the recommendation that election petitions be concluded within six months, four months at the tribunal and two months at the appellate court, to ensure that election winners assume office only when all the petitions against them have been disposed off. "Council did not accept this recommendation because the current system in which judgments sometimes come after six months presents a better dispensation of justice to the aggrieved," she said.

9. FEC also decided to forward the conclusions to the Council of State for advice following which those decisions that require administrative action will be immediately implemented, while those that require amendment



Chairman Electoral Reform Committee Muhammad Lawal Uwais

of the 1999 Constitution and the Electoral Act 2006 or the enactment of new legislation will be forwarded to the National Assembly for appropriate action.

It is noteworthy that varied

Aside from the presidency, Peoples Democratic Party and INEC Chairman who have openly commend the government draft white paper, majority of other Nigerians who have written or spoken on the issue have condemned the Federal Executive Council for removing what they termed the sole of the electoral reform.

ERA Report and 2011 Elections.

It is doubtful if government sincerely wants to conclude the electoral reform exercise in time to impact positively on 2011 elections. Realistically speaking, with the way the Joint Committee on Constitution Reform has failed to resolve its controversies over status and order of protocol, it is unlikely to have a credible reform of Nigeria's legal framework before the end of 2009. Unfortunately, Senator Ayogu Eze, the Chairman Senate Committee on Media in a recent press interview had warned Nigerians not to be optimistic about the constitutional reform. Even if these reforms are concluded in a

“Many have criticised the rejection of the two critical recommendations of the Uwais panel viz. the involvement of the NJC in the appointment of chairman and members of INEC, PPRRC and EOC

and diverse reactions have greeted the draft white paper. Many have criticised the rejection of the two critical recommendations of the Uwais panel viz. the involvement of the NJC in the appointment of chairman and members of INEC, PPRRC and EOC. Secondly, the disapproval of resolution of election dispute before inauguration of elected political office holders.

record time, which is a tall order, what about the implementation? In the face of the global financial meltdown, does Nigeria possess the required financial muscle to back up the speedy implementation of these recommendations? Moreover, with the spate of criticism that have greeted the draft white paper released to the public on March 11 and 24, 2009, many have started to doubt the integrity of government to engender a genuine, people-oriented electoral cum political reform. In fact, Vanguard drew its conclusion when it said, "Government's attitude to the Uwais report so far proves that the electoral reform was a public relations stunt aimed at reducing the tensions that arose from the 2007 elections. The Federal Government does not intend to reform the electoral process."

“Realistically speaking, with the way the Joint Committee on Constitution Reform has failed to resolve its controversies over status and order of protocol, it is unlikely to have a credible reform of Nigeria's legal framework before the end of 2009

Concluded

INTERNATIONAL

ANC set for landslide win in South African elections

By Charles Onunaiju, with agency reports

SOUTH Africans trooped out yesterday to vote in an election energized by the hugely popular Jacob Zuma, who has overcome sex and corruption scandals and helped generate an excitement not seen since the country's first multiracial vote in 1994.

Zuma, one of the African National Congress party's most popular leaders ever, is now poised to become president. The poor black majority connects with his deprived background, and he has promised to speed up delivery of jobs, houses, schools and clinics. The ANC predicts an overwhelming victory in the parliamentary election, whose results are expected later today. The emergence of a party that broke away from the ANC, while not expected to be a formidable challenger, did force the ANC to campaign more aggressively.

Some speculate the ANC may have trouble reaching a two-thirds majority. Without it, the party will not be able to enact major budgetary and legislation unchallenged, or change the constitution. The ANC won 69.9 percent of the vote in the 2004 vote and Zuma said Tuesday he expected an overwhelming majority again.

Parliament elects South Afri-

ca's president, putting Zuma in line for the post when the new assembly votes in May after he survived scandals that once threatened to derail his political career. "Never did I think as I was growing up here that one day I would cast my vote here as I am doing," he told reporters in the rural Zulu heartland of eastern South Africa where he voted yesterday. "It must be great, feeling the difference from the olden days to where we are today, when we can decide our own fate."

The 67-year-old former ANC guerrilla, who was imprisoned for 10 years on Robben Island alongside Nelson Mandela and other heroes of the anti-apartheid struggle, was greeted by about 100 supporters. They cheered and broke into his signature song from the anti-apartheid era, "Umshini Wami," which means "Bring Me My Machine Gun."

In Johannesburg, crowds also cheered and sang for Mandela as the anti-apartheid icon cast his vote. People had waited after voting themselves at Mandela's station, and others came from elsewhere in town just to see him. Mandela, frail at 90, smiled broadly but did not speak.

The ANC sees Zuma as its first leader to energize voters since Mandela became South Africa's first black president in 1994.



FORMER South African President Nelson Mandela, right, casts his vote as daughter Zinzi Mandela, left, looks on at a polling station in Johannesburg, South Africa, yesterday.

Africa's first ladies urge health care

THEY have seen each other socially, with their husbands in Washington or at the United Nations, but the 15 African first ladies met this time to speak candidly about problems facing women and children on their home continent.

Some called for improved nutrition for children and pregnant mothers, clean water, sanitation infrastructure and inexpensive tools such as insecticide-treated bed nets to help combat malaria. The first ladies at the gathering earlier in the week, all called for better education for girls. "Developing partnerships with the education sector will give us significant mileage in preventing maternal and child mortality in the long term," Kenyan first lady Ida Odinga said.

The World Health Organization estimates 121 of every 1,000 children who survive birth in Kenya will die before age 5. The survivors often lose parents, espe-



FIRST Ladies of countries throughout Africa pose for a photo Monday, April 20, 2009, at the African First Ladies Health Summit in Los Angeles.

cially amid epidemics of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. Kenya has 2.4 million orphans, Odinga said.

HIV/AIDS remains one of the toughest problems faced by Africa. The continent is home to

nearly 70 percent of all adults and 80 percent of all children living with HIV/AIDS, according to the non profit US Doctors For Africa. Other infectious diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis have also plagued the continent.

Britain frees 12 terror suspects without charge

BRITISH police released the last of 12 suspects rounded up in a series of dramatic anti-terror raids earlier this month, failing to charge any of the men, authorities said yesterday. The news was an embarrassment for British authorities, including Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who claimed at the time of their arrests that police had disrupted "a very big terrorist plot" that had been monitored "for some time."

The arrests were rushed in part because a police commissioner inadvertently exposed details of the operation to a photographer outside the prime minister's office. Police had to scramble to catch the suspects before they learned of the leak, forgoing their usual dawn raids for a dramatic series of daytime operations across northern England on

April 8. Assistant Commissioner Bob Quick, one of the country's top counterterrorism officers, resigned after he inadvertently exposed details of the operation.

One suspect was forced to the ground by gun-toting officers in front of students at Liverpool John Moores University's library. Most of the men taken into custody were Pakistanis in Britain on student visas. British officials have said they want to deport all but one of the men on national security grounds, but that may be difficult. A lawyer for three of the men said his clients would fight to continue their education in the U.K., while Islamabad opposes deportation. "We think they should not be deported if there is no evidence against them and they can't be tried in Britain and if they're innocent."


International:  ANALYSIS

S/Africa: Awaiting the Jacob Zuma inauguration

By Is'haq Modibbo Kawu, with agency reports

SOUTH Africans went to the polls yesterday in their millions to elect the government that will run what is Africa's largest economy, for the next five years. It is the fourth democratic election since the end of apartheid. Some analysts describe today's election as 'the most fluid and unpredictable in South Africa since 1994'; but that appears the most pessimistic these analysts can get to.

The truth seems to be that

 The strategy of the opposition seems to be to ensure not win a two thirds majority in the elections.

more than at any other time since the end of apartheid, these elections are full of expectations about the possibilities of change that will benefit the grassroots and members of the working class: the strata which provided the base of support for the long-drawn struggle of liberation against white minority rule, and the movement which led that struggle, the ANC.

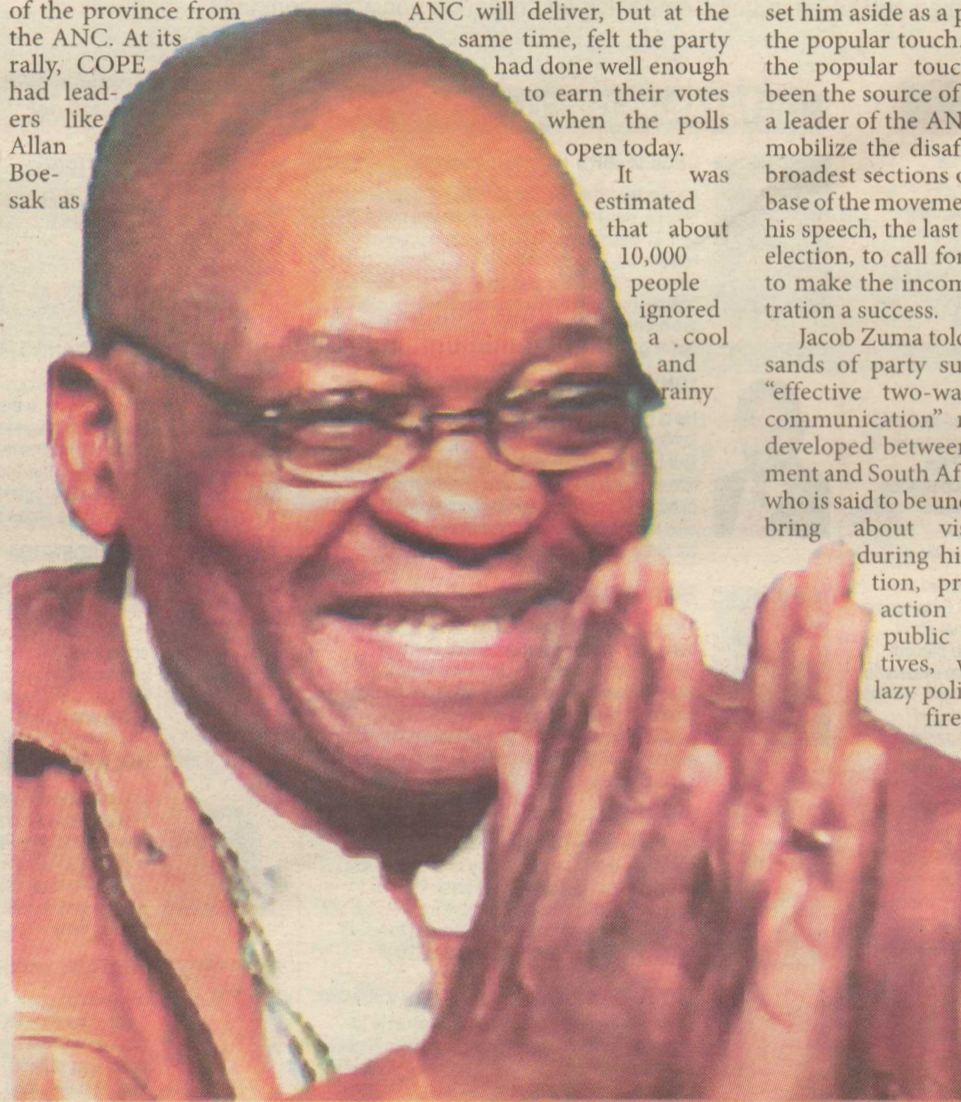
The basis of the huge expectations accompanying these elections must be located in the charged atmosphere of political intrigues which led to the political eclipse of the former president, Thabo Mbeki and the ascendancy of Jacob Zuma, as the leader of the ANC, at the Polokwane Conference last year.

An alliance of the radical elements within the ANC and its allied organisations, the South African Communist Party and the Congress of South African Trade Unions, ousted Mbeki and set the party in a new direction. Those who opposed the radical turn of events and the emergence of Jacob Zuma as leader of the ANC left the party to form the Congress of the People, COPE. These were mainly right-wing, middle class elements that have benefitted from the empowerment process of the post-apartheid years.

THE strategy of the opposition seems to be to ensure that the ANC does not win a two thirds majority in the elections. COPE was upbeat about its chances, and in the last days of campaigning, its spokesman, Philip Dexter told the media that they were in the elections to win it. "As you know, we as a party are in this election to fighting it and winning it and that is what we believe we can do. And we believe

we have a strong chance of being the future governing party".

The Western Cape seems to be the key to potential success for the opposition; it was therefore no surprise that both COPE and DA held their last election rallies there. DA currently governs the city of Cape Town, and it is hoping to wrestle control of the province from the ANC. At its rally, COPE had leaders like Allan Boesak as



speakers, with Boesak, who made his name as an anti-apartheid cleric, saying that South Africa's democracy was being threatened and the country "could become just like Zimbabwe". Meanwhile, at the Stephen Reagan Sports Complex in Mitchell's Plain, DA leader, Hellen Zille told about 3000 supporters that only DA could stop "Zuma from taking us down the path of the failed state, cronyism and corruption". ANC leaders, said Zille, wanted to be above the law "so they don't have to go jail when they commit crimes". She added that DA would do whatever it took to ensure that corrupt leaders had their day in court "because we know corrupt leaders make poor people poorer".

If the opposition was able to draw some hope from the crowds they pulled at their rallies, the

ANC seemed buoyed in its optimism as a result of the way people have responded to it, in the same Cape Province. A reporter covering the ANC's rally at the Nyanga Rugby Stadium in Cape Town, for the Western Cape leg of the ANC's nationwide Siyanqoba Rally, said the old and the young had concerns about whether the

ANC will deliver, but at the same time, felt the party had done well enough to earn their votes when the polls open today.

It was estimated that about 10,000 people ignored a cool and rainy

saw a surprise appearance of the frail but still very popular Nelson Mandela. Mandela did not speak, but a pre-recorded speech which re-presented the mission of the ANC was played to the very enthusiastic audience at the rally.

Jacob Zuma rallied the faithful with his sloganeering and the well-known dance steps, which set him aside as a politician with the popular touch. It is after all, the popular touch which has been the source of his success as a leader of the ANC, who could mobilize the disaffection of the broadest sections of the popular base of the movement. Zuma used his speech, the last before today's election, to call for partnerships to make the incoming administration a success.

Jacob Zuma told tens of thousands of party supporters that "effective two-way interactive communication" needed to be developed between the government and South Africans. Zuma, who is said to be under pressure to bring about visible change during his administration, promised swift action against tardy public representatives, warning that lazy politicians will be fired. The speech stuck to the ANC line on its policies, emphasising education, health, crime, rural development and jobs. He called on health workers to join the ANC to help build a sustainable

and affordable healthcare system. "Together we will begin the massive task of putting in place a national health insurance system that provides healthcare to all South Africans free at the point of service".


ON crime, the country needed to make sure the police and courts worked properly, that criminals remained in jail, and that the causes of the scourge were tackled. "Together we will overhaul the criminal justice system, and ensure that it is modern, efficient, and responsive. We will improve training and conditions of service of the police and other law enforcement officials, and ensure that they have the resources they need to carry out their work", Zuma said.

The ANC will invest in rural infrastructure and services, striving to ensure that people in rural areas had access to decent schools, roads, electricity, water and health care facilities. He also appealed to business people, professionals, entrepreneurs, informal traders and the unemployed to join the ANC in building an economy that continued to grow and create decent jobs.

"Together we will provide support to key sectors of the economy and strengthen manufacturing, mining, tourism, agriculture and others. We will forge partnerships to reduce job losses, and ensure that our economy has a solid foundation for renewed growth once the recovery (from the financial meltdown) begins".

MANY of the observers of the period leading to today's elections have worried about the threats, disrupted meetings and killings which took place; they argued that South Africa has not overcome fully its legacy of violence in politics. David Bruce of the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation said that violence in South Africa runs deep.

"There is a historical acceptance of violence as a way of expressing yourself politically and achieving political objectives", he said. The South African Independent Electoral Commission's

 On crime, the country needed to make sure the police and courts worked properly.

Chairperson, Brigalia Bam recently showed concern by saying "We are aware of the violent nature of how some people speak...Intolerance is one of the major causes of war". However, when all was said and done, Yarik Turianskyi, said the South African elections were going to be an example for the African continent.

The major lesson that South Africa will provide for the rest of the continent is that having an independent electoral commission and an independent judiciary makes the crucial difference.



Sardauna

National Excellence and Leadership

Awards '09



The Sardauna Annual Excellence and Leadership Awards is here again. Sardauna Magazine is inviting the nation to celebrate some of its best and brightest through the awards. This award is aimed at recognising and rewarding a few Nigerians whose legacies and achievements are true manifestations of the leadership qualities of Sir Ahmadu Bello. Without prejudice, Sir Ahmadu Bello was a sincere, detribalised, and disciplined administrator with a reputation for hard work.

The process that will lead to the eventual announcement of winner has begun since January, with extensive consultations amongst all stakeholders and the general public. We then chose some nominees for each category, based on their track records and pasted them on our website;

www.sardaunamagazine.com Our Audit Committee members comprising distinguished and accomplished elder statesmen will have the final say as to the winner in each category based on the results from the online voting and recommendation of the editorial committee. The award committee will also sit in consideration of shortlisting two candidates for this year's Sardauna Leader of the Year from the winners of each category and the Lifetime achievers. The two candidates' chosen shall be put to electronic voting by the guest on the night of the events to choose the 3rd Sardauna Leader of the Year. An impressive award dinner ceremony will hold at Transcorp Hilton Congress Hall, Abuja on Sunday May 24th 2009 at 7:00 PM. The Guest Speaker is Hon John Howard, Former Prime Minister of Australia who will discuss 'The Paradox of True Leadership in Nigeria and The Way Forward'.

Watch out for our Lifetime Achievers (not nominees), Outstanding Governors, Senators, House of Representatives, Democrats, Local Government Chairmen and Outstanding Companies on corporate social responsibility nominees next week.

OUTSTANDING MINISTERS



OJO MADUEKE Foreign Minister of Nigeria

He is a charismatic diplomat who is implementing effective foreign policies thereby contributing to the protection of the country's image and its citizens abroad. For the first time, we had a situation where Nigerians were evacuated from danger zones showing that our government care about the security of Nigerians abroad.



GODWIN ABBE Minister of Interior

His move of granting citizenship for 113 expatriates breeds a favourable ground for foreign investors, to invest in the nation's economy. He is a strong advocate for the upgrading of the Nigerian Passports. He has put in place policies for the return of Nigerian prisoners abroad.



SAYYADI ABBA RUMA Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources

This hard working leader has implemented the Commercial Agricultural Development Programme as the main vehicle to drive the National Food Security Programme. In the face of the present global economic crisis, he has taken up measures to ensure food sufficiency for all Nigerians. He has also ensured the recruitment and training of 10,000 youths across the country as specialised agricultural extension workers.



AKINLABI OLASUNKANMI Minister of Youth Development

He guaranteed the collaboration of Federal Government with the World Bank in providing employment and poverty alleviation in an effort to empower young people in Nigeria. His ministry has also collaborated with other key federal ministries to absorb corps members to assist in growing more food crops for the country.



REMI BABALOLA Minister of State for Finance

This outstanding man is a strategist, a consummate banker and a technocrat. He has contributed towards the policy direction of the current administration in developing the micro and macro economy. He has introduced prudent fiscal policies translating into strong macroeconomic performances. He is also helping Nigeria bounce back strongly as the third largest GDP economy in Africa.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ACHIEVERS

SAYYU DANTATA

Sayyu has been able to transform MRS into a formidable group in Nigeria. He has purchased controlling shares of 60% worth \$1 billion in Chevron Texaco Nigeria and West Africa in a move described as the biggest business investment by a private individual in 2008.

ABDULRAHAMAN MUSA BASHIR

Abdulrahman Bashir is a business man and an entrepreneur with vast interests in oil and gas, and property. He is the CEO of Rahamaniyya Group a fast growing and dependable oil and Gas Company. He has made Rahamaniyya into a formidable company within just three years.

OUTSTANDING CEOs



CECILIA IBRU MD/CEO of Oceanic Bank

Cecilia Ibru, the only female CEO of a bank in Nigeria, has turned Oceanic Bank into one of the fastest and most profitable banks in Nigeria with a remarkable growth in all financial indices. Under her supervision, Oceanic Bank has emerged the fifth best bank in Africa and is helping to develop the country's infrastructural base by part financing building and road projects across the country.



TONY ELUMELU Group MD/CEO of UBA Plc

He is one of the most influential corporate leaders in Nigeria who has led UBA to be one of the top four banks in the industry. He has nurtured UBA into an admirable brand with a fast growing network of branches across the country. He has also led the bank to be listed among the Forbes list of top 2000 world biggest companies.



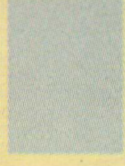
ERASTUS AKINGBOLA GMD/CEO of Intercontinental Bank plc

This consummate banker and administrator have been able to lead the most stable board of directors in the industry. Under his direction, Intercontinental bank has grown to be the most profitable bank in Nigeria with a positive positioning of being the face of leadership in the industry, and a growing network, nationally and internationally.



FRANCIS ATUCHE MD/CEO of Platinum Habib Bank

Under his leadership, he has been able to transform the bank from every ramification into one of the top ten banks in Nigeria. He has succeeded in increasing the bank's assets by 172 percent bringing the bank's total asset to N1.03 trillion within 12 months ended June, 2008.



SAYYU DANTATA Founder and Chairman of MRS Group

Under his leadership, Sayyu has been able to transform MRS into a formidable group in Nigeria. He has purchased controlling shares of 60% worth \$1 billion in Chevron Texaco Nigeria and West Africa in a move described as the biggest business investment by a private individual in 2008.



MUNI SHONIBARE

She is the founding CEO/MD of Interior Options (IO) a furniture businesswoman who has made a niche for herself when it comes to interior decoration and furniture. She provided employment to about 150 employees and has grown her company to a consistent profitability against all odds.

DEJI AKINYANJU

He is the founder and MD/CEO Food Concepts owners of the 'chicken republic' franchise in Nigeria. He has led the company through the various phases to its current position as a top 5 (by market share of revenues) of all quick service restaurants (QSRs) in Nigeria, and to being one of the most-respected and up-market brands in the industry.

OUTSTANDING ENTREPRENEURS



FEMI OTEDOLA

He is a brilliant young billionaire who has being recently listed amongst the Forbes world top billionaires and is the 3rd richest man in Africa. He plans to merge African petroleum (AP) where he as a majority stake with his Zenon Oil to create the continent's largest oil company.



ALIKO DANGOTE

A consummate business man and an industrialist, Aliko Dangote is the CEO Dangote Group which has become Nigeria's No 1 household name. He made the Forbes list of world top billionaires for the second time and is listed the richest man in Africa and in Nigeria. He is unarguably a major player in the Nigerian stock market.



MIKE ADENUGA

CEO of the first indigenous telecommunication company Globacom, Mike Adenuga is an astute businessman who is labelled a man of immense art for business; he falls in the league of billionaires and believes in the concept 'Nigeria'. He is also the owner of Equatorial Trust Bank (ETB) and Conoil.



BOLA SHAGAYA

An entrepreneur with great business potentials, Hajia Shagaya is the MD/CEO of Bolmus Group International and Pracoil Company a base oil company in Nigeria and is believed to be one of the richest businesswomen in Nigeria with investments in real estate, oil, banking and photography.



OBATERU AKINRUNTAN

An acute investor, keen business strategist, and a quiet philanthropist, Obateru is the MD/CEO of Obat oil and petroleum. He owns the largest petroleum storage facility in Africa and the second largest in the world. He is at an advanced stage of owning a private refinery.

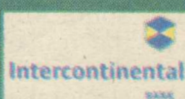


LADI BALOGUN

CEO of First City Monument bank (FCMB) Plc. Ladi has nurtured the bank to a 170 percent increase in profit from N7.6 billion to N20.5 billion within a year making a toast for investors. Under his leadership, he made FCMB emerge amongst the 25 strong banks in the country after consolidation.

SULEIMAN NAZIF

He was elected a House of Representative member in 1999 shortly after graduating from the university. He emerged the youngest Senator of the Federal Republic in 2007 after defeating the then incumbent. Senator Nazif is a young and honest politician with a bright political future.



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OUTSTANDING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

NIGERIAN COPYRIGHT COMMISSION (NCC)



The commission has recorded successes in its combat against piracy by physically carrying the battle to locations where pirates operate. It has collaborated with stakeholders, marketing companies and individuals in the industries concerned in its bid to fight the menace headlong. It has also ensured awareness of copyright laws in the country.

NIGERIAN TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (NTDC)



Nigeria's tourism potentials abroad have been highly promoted by this corporation. It has successfully rebranded the Nigerian image at the World Travel Market, boosting its appeal to tourists worldwide against its hitherto negative image. It has also marketed Nigeria's potentialities in the global world.

FEDERAL INLAND REVENUE SERVICE (FIRS)



The corporation has piloted a revolutionary campaign in the tax collection system of the country with the new tax payer identification number which has helped in increasing the revenue profile of the Federal Government. It has also spearheaded the Yar'Adua government at making tax revenue a major source of income in 2009.

FEDERAL ROAD SAFETY COMMISSION (FRSC)



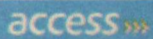
The commission have ensured and enforced existing rules and minimised accident rates on the nation's road. The commission has sanitised its workforce with a crop of fine ladies and gentlemen.

CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC)



The commission has ensured a better and prompt filing of yearly documents, moved to a more befitting headquarters aiding prompt registration of companies and a coordinated data base of all registered companies in Nigeria.

OUTSTANDING BRANDS



ACCESS BANK PLC

Access Bank Plc is Nigeria's fastest growing commercial Bank with a consistent triple growth in all key performance indicators over the past 6 years. It serves over 2 million customers through 120 branches and business offices located in all major commercial centres and cities across Nigeria, and 6 other African countries. It is currently ranked the 6th largest bank in Nigeria with shareholder's funds in excess of \$1.4 billion (N166 billion). Assets and Contingents in excess of N1.2 trillion and a deposit base in excess of N700 billion. Access Bank plc, has recorded an impressive performance across key indices for the nine months ended December 31, 2008.



OCEANIC BANK PLC

The bank has over the last three years grown its market share on all its selected indicators for market share. Oceanic Bank has also scored high in liquidity parameter and has been described as "... an active player in the interbank market". Trade checks reveals that the bank has a good reputation among other money market operators. The bank's pre-tax return on average equity of 63% is significantly higher than the industry average of 38%. The ratio is the best in the industry.



DANA AIR

DANA AIR is an airline that provides economic and wide-based community benefits for its customers. It brings service to many underserved routes and communities across Nigeria. It also represents a symbol of pride for the nation's aviation industry. Dana airline believes in safety first for all its customers.



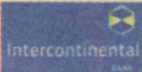
ARIK AIR

Arik airline is an airline based in Nigeria operating a growing domestic network with regional and international. Arik Air is dedicated to providing quality service to all its customers and safety is paramount to them that is why Arik airline is always taking on new aircrafts.



GLOBACOM

Globacom is a telecommunication company that partners with Alcatel. It is the second national carrier after the Federal Govt-owned NITEL with its licences covering GSM, Fixed Lines, Gateway Services, and Broadband Services & Leased Capacity Services. Globacom has recently established itself as the preferred telecommunications company in Nigeria by its provision of world class telecom services and affordable product packages.



INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC

The bank provides a gateway to trade and investment in Africa and outside its borders. It has been applauded by the Central Bank of Nigeria as a bank that stands robustly in the nation's financial market. The brand has continued to earn the full confidence of Nigerians despite the recent de-marketing campaign that was launched against it.

OUTSTANDING PUBLIC ADMINISTRATORS



OTUNBA OLUSEGUN RUNSEWE

The Director General of Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation has an undying passion for tourism. He could be described as an icon of the Nigerian Tourism industry. His untiring efforts aimed at maximally exploring the sector which has proven its worth in the international market. In 2008, he strove endlessly to reflect the benefits of tourism in all its ramifications.



MRS IFEUKO OMOIGUI- OKAURU

Chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Service is responsible for the total overhaul that has taken place with Nigeria's tax collection system. She is a selfless public servant who has greatly contributed to the Federal Government's revenue. She has built and sustained the human capital needs of FIRS enabling for the actualisation of the FIRS corporate objective driven by a technologically equipped system.



BABATUNDE OSHOTIMEHIN

The then Director-General of NACA ensured that the scourge of HIV/AIDS in Nigeria is taken seriously by the government and people of Nigeria. In 2008, he vigorously educated Nigerians on the scourge by breaking cultural, traditional, biological and religious barriers. He also collaborated with State Governors wives and the First Lady to campaign against stigmatisation.



MRS AMA INYINGIALA PEPPE

The Head of the Civil Service of the Federation has served as Permanent Secretary in various Federal Ministries before her recent appointment. In her current position, she has ensured that public servants are accountable in their administration by organising conferences on capacity building, reconstructive work and general developments in the civil service.



AHMED AL-MUSTAPHA

The Registrar General of Corporate Affairs Commission is a committed administrator and has turned around events in the commission ensuring a prompt and quick process of company registration. He has enforced prompt filing of yearly documents and seen to the commission's relocation to a more befitting headquarters. He has ensured that most companies in Nigeria are legally registered.

Sardauna
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Awards

THE JUDGES



Col Sani Bello rtd Chairman, Audit Committee

Currently the Sardauna Leader of the year, former Governor of old Kano State, former high Commissioner to Zimbabwe who also has a distinguished military career in the Nigerian Army. He is the Chairman of several companies and Vice Chairman, MTN Communications. He was born in 1942.



ALHAJI NASIRU IBRAHIM ARAB

Clerk of the National Assembly, the first Sardauna Leader of the year is a seasoned administrator, former teacher, former commissioner of Kaduna State. He was born in 1950.



ALHAJI LATEEF JAKANDE

Sardauna Magazine Lifetime Achiever, former minister, the first Civilian Governor of Lagos State is a reformer, a custodian of principles, a distinguished journalist and elder statesman. He is seen as one of the incorruptible leaders Nigeria has ever produced.



DR. UMARU A. MUTALLAB

Sardauna Magazine Lifetime Achiever, Chairman First Bank of Nigeria Plc, consummate entrepreneur, banker and technocrat is currently chairman to several companies, Chairman of the Vision 2020 Business Support Group and a former minister. He was born in 1939 and has the National honour of Commander of the Order of the Niger (OON).



MR BITRUS IKILAMA

Sardauna Magazine Lifetime Achiever, founder Hope for the Blind Foundation and a blind Physiotherapist. He is a vocal voice and vehicle of support for the blind. He was born in 1944 and has the National honour of Commander of the Order of the Niger (OON).



PROF. JOE IRUKWO

An insurance law pioneer, educationist, author and Chartered Insurer have held many top positions in both the private and public sector of the Nigeria economy; was the former President General of Chanaeze Ndigbo and is a Senior Advocate of Nigeria.



HASSAN RILWAN Secretary

Founder and Publisher of Sardauna magazine, a trained engineer with over ten years experience in poultry farming, fast food, printing and publishing. He is a Future awards 2008 Business Owner of the Year finalist and founder of the Sardauna Magazine Child Destitution Eradication Foundation.



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Release of Entrance Examination Result

The following candidates have been offered provisional admission into YEAR 7 for the 2009/2010 academic session

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Anyanwu Nkechi | 31. Santuraki Yusuf | 64. Mba Vincent | 97. Mohammed I. Samira |
| 2. Dijeh Edward | 32. Anyanwu F. Stephanie | 65. Balogun Abdulhamid | 98. Komolafe Ayodele |
| 3. Isigwe Chiamaka | 33. Farouk M. Musaddiq | 66. Usman Hussaina | 99. Sendave N. Vivian |
| 4. Usman Hassan | 34. Tsokwa Samuel | 67. Tagbo Chioma | 100. Joseph A. Okwocha |
| 5. Bakare Tope | 35. Ojo-Osagie Adekemi | 68. Joseph Glory | 101. Aliyu M. Muhammad |
| 6. Isangedighi U. Gabriel | 36. Ayeni Ooreoluwa | 69. Lekan Aaron | 102. Ifedi C. Dean |
| 7. Ugwu O. Chibusonma | 37. Uzzi T. Teghese | 70. Oji Jachi | 103. Segun S. Funmi |
| 8. Shaiyen Zachary | 38. Ojika Obianuju | 71. Ekechukwu Kamsidi | 104. Mohammed Abubakar |
| 9. Jibril Aishat | 39. Ojeife David | 72. Omo-Ojo Iwinosa | 105. Uthman Mohammed Ali |
| 10. Ochai O. Davidson | 40. Pepo A. Joseph | 73. Alhassan Kabir | 106. Ayeabatanbara K. Barigha |
| 11. Oji Ikenna | 41. Alhassan Mohammed | 74. Zirra T. Adam | 107. Durojaiye Modupe |
| 12. Tsegba I. Stephanie | 42. Acka Tareshima | 75. Mohammed A. Nabil | 108. Aminu U. Fatima |
| 13. Osho Toluwalase | 43. Opusunu F. Tanumo | 76. Chime O. Precious | 109. Akanbi Rasheedah |
| 14. Onyejekwe Augusta | 44. Nire Sola-Philips | 77. Sambo Bzionet | 110. Ikem Sydney |
| 15. Basse Favour | 45. Esangbedo Simi | 78. Ojeba Itopa | 111. Olagunju Sayo |
| 16. Babalola E. Tope | 46. Bekee S. Victor | 79. Jibril Faiza | 112. Al-hassan A. Kasum |
| 17. Chowven Praise | 47. Nwaobi Josephat | 80. Adeshina Victor | 113. Akeredolu Tolulope |
| 18. Ekandem F. Edoreyin | 48. Olafisayo A. Tope | 81. Omaka A. E. Lystra | 114. Myiniyawa L. Hadiza |
| 19. Nzeribe Joshua | 49. Sani S. Ummi | 82. Oyekunle M. Mary | 115. Abdulrahim Zubairu |
| 20. Ihechi Dinneh | 50. Emedekong Ederamfon | 83. Ibrahim Sadiq | 116. Onyegbule G. Prisca |
| 21. Mudashiru Oyinkansola | 51. Rievwe Fregene | 84. Molokwu Philip | 117. Zoaka B. Paul |
| 22. Oloko Khalil | 52. Olaoluwa Ajimoko | 85. Sambo Anisa | 118. Durojaiye Kunbi |
| 23. Onyia Adrian | 53. Msheliza N. Elijah | 86. Olowookere Segun | 119. Msheliza Bitrus |
| 24. Igwe M. Onyinye | 54. Bada Rudwan | 87. Agwunedu Nnenna | 120. Abass R. Abdulazeez |
| 25. Uko Ememobong | 55. Arinola Fisayo | 88. Aikhomu Osazua | 121. Balogun Tolu |
| 26. Bello M. Fatima | 56. Obatoyinbo Aisha | 89. Sherrif Mohammed | 122. Tagbo Ifunnaya |
| 27. Aniekan V. Ansa | 57. Suleiman I. Farida | 90. Auta Emmanuel | 123. Biplang Samuel |
| 28. Olarongbe Fatima | 58. Koinya Laurence | 91. Sambo Sananet | 124. Moguno Muhammad |
| 29. Ufedo J. Favour | 59. Pengk Sylvester | 92. Arogundade Michael | 125. Abu Gospel |
| 30. Bula Kelvin | 60. Audu-Bida Hajara | 93. Mustapha Judith | 126. Uhegbu Chimaroke |
| | 61. Muhammad Bashir | 94. Akiga F. Mariam | |
| | 62. Osamor Martha | 95. Ekpe Samuel | |
| | 63. Oladipo Ibrahim | 96. Timpre Obiene | |

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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

THE NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY POLICY FOR NIGERIA

CALL FOR MEMORANDA ON NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY POLICY FOR NIGERIA

In line with the 7-Point Agenda, Mr. President, His Excellency, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, GCFR, has approved the National Working Committee to draft a National Social Security Policy.

The National Working Committee on Social Security was inaugurated on Thursday, 16th April, 2009 with the following Terms of Reference:

- i) To propose a National Social Security Policy for Nigeria, which will cover both the formal and informal sectors of the Nigerian economy.
- ii) To recommend an Integrated National Social security Scheme which benefits will be adequate and available to the entire population (urban/rural/informal) with a view to creating a caring and inclusive society.
- iii) To recommend a robust and sustainable financing options for an integrated National Social Security Scheme (NSSS)
- iv) To recommend an administrative structure for the implementation of an integrated National Social Security Scheme with a view to harmonizing the overlapping functions of MDAs carrying out various social protection intervention measures.
- v) To ensure that recommendations are generally in accordance with international best practice without losing sight of Nigeria's peculiar diversity.
- vi) To look at the adequacy or otherwise of Section 71(2) of the Pension Reform Act 2004, Section 16 of NSITF Act 1993, the draft Comprehensive Poverty Avoidance Social Security Scheme (COMPASS) Bill and the mandates of the MDAs carrying out overlapping social insurance and social protection programmes in the quest for an integrated National Social Security Scheme (NSSS).
- vii) Any other recommendation(s) that may be useful for the realization of National Social Security Scheme (NSSS).

Accordingly, the Committee invites members of the public, stakeholders, Labour Unions, employer groups, civil society groups and other interested parties to submit written Memoranda to:

The Secretary
National Working Committee on Social Security Policy for Nigeria
c/o Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund
Plot 794 Muhammadu Buhari Way
Central Business District
Garki Abuja

Electronic copy in Microsoft Word format as e-mail attachment to: nwc.socialsecurity@nsitf.net on or before 30th May, 2009.

Signed:
His Excellency, General Dr. Yakubu Gowon
Chairman

National Working Committee on Social Security Policy for Nigeria.



THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURAL CREDIT SCHEME (CACCS)

The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar' Adua, through the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has established a N200billion "Commercial Agricultural Credit Scheme" (CACCS), for promoting commercial agricultural enterprises in Nigeria.

Administration of the Fund

The fund is being administered by two participating banks (PBs):

- (i) United Bank for Africa Plc (UBA Plc);
- (ii) First Bank of Nigeria Plc (FBN Plc)

Target Agricultural Enterprises and Commodities

Key agricultural enterprises and commodities to be covered under the Scheme are:

- (i) Cultivation of crops (rice, cassava, cotton, oil palm, wheat, rubber, sugar cane, jatropha carcus, fruits and vegetables);
- (ii) Livestock (dairy, poultry, piggery);
- (iii) Fishery;
- (iv) Processing, storage and marketing of target commodities; and
- (v) Any other activity as may be specified from time to time.

Eligibility of borrower under the Scheme include:

A. Corporate and Large Scale Commercial Farm/ Agro Enterprises;

(i) Integrated Large Scale Farm or Agro-based Enterprises with assets (excluding land) not less than N350 million with prospect of growing the assets to N500 million within the next three years.

(ii) Non-Integrated Commercial Farms/Agro-enterprises with assets (excluding land) not less than N200 million with prospect of growing the assets to N350 million within the next three years.

B. State Government /FCT.

All State Governments /FCT can access up to twenty per cent (20%) of the N200billion (i.e. N40billion) through specialized agencies or secretariat established for the purpose of on-lending such funds to Co-oper-

ative Unions, Co-operative Societies, Self-Help Groups and Agricultural Commodities Associations in their respective states.

Modalities of the Scheme

- i. Agricultural credit from the participating banks (PBs) shall be in the form of loans and overdraft.
- ii. Interest on loan under the Scheme is nine per cent (9%), inclusive of all charges.
- iii. Loan tenor under the Scheme shall be a maximum of seven (7) years.

Procedure for Applying for the Loan

All applications for loans under the Scheme shall be made to either of the two participating banks immediately as per the contact addresses below:

(A) United Bank for Africa Plc
Mr. Godwin Ize-Iyamu
Executive Director
57 Marina, Lagos
Tel. 08033001666
01- 2807919

e-mail:godwin.ize-iyamu@ubagroup.com

(B) First Bank of Nigeria Plc
Dauda Lawal
Business Dev. Manager
Plot 777, Mohammadu Buhari
Way, Central Business District
Abuja

Tel: 08033176790;

09-4614988

All loan applications are to be processed within 30 days.

Detailed Guidelines for the Scheme can be obtained from any Central Bank Branch, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources and the participating banks, or from the CBN website www.cenbank.org.

For further enquiries, you may please contact:

The Director,
Development Finance Department,
Central Bank of Nigeria,
Abuja.

Tel: 09 46237602

Mobile: 08037860675

e-mail: jalegieuno@cenbank.org

BUSINESS

Poverty in Nigeria

Page 26



LEFT: Globacom's Group Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Mohamed Jameel signing a telecommunications pact with Chief Operating Officer of the Dangote Group of Companies Mr. Olakunle Alake (Right) standing is Legal Adviser to the Dangote Group, Mr. Samuel Adedayo in Lagos yesterday.

Glo, Dangote sign deal on telecoms

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

GLOBALCOM Limited and Dangote Group yesterday in Lagos signed telecoms deal as the former now becomes the sole telecoms service provider for the Dangote Group of Companies, one of Nigeria's largest conglomerates with substantial interests in manufacturing, oil and importation.

Speaking at a press conference, the Group Chief Operating Officer of Glo, Mr. Jameel Muhammed said with this development the telecoms company would provide the total communications solutions to the expansive conglomerate at all its business facilities nationwide, thereby linking up the business in a single real time communications web.

According to Muhammed, the new deal would see Globacom providing voice, data, and video communications and vehicle for the Dangote Group at the touch of a button. The boss of the telecoms company said

Glo was thrilled by the opportunity to provide the Dangote Group with fast and reliable bandwidth and last mile accessories for Video, Voice and Data transfer to and from the Central Servers of the Dangote Group.

Other components of the deal which has already been signed include IP Telephony Configuration for the Group, creation of different Networks within the Dangote Network, Direct Access to Globacom's well-located Points Of Presence in London and New York and vehicle tracking for Dangote's fleet described as the largest in Nigeria.

Explaining how the new arrangement will work out, the the head of business enterprise, Mr. Bolu Aderibigbe, said the agreement between the companies include the provision by Globacom of free calls between all members of Staff of Dangote Group, calls at reduced rates to all Networks, handsets and Direct Connect Services to Staff of the Dangote Group.

He said other benefits to the Dangote Group include Free Bulk SMS service from the corporate Bulk SMS platform Connection of 16 centres of operation of the Group via Fibre Optics at a highly discounted rate.

He said that the Dangote Group wanted the best in terms of service delivery at the lowest rate and Globacom emerged the best in both criteria through a closely-contested bid process involving all major service providers in the country.

The Chief Operating Officer of Dangote Group, Mr. Olakunle Alake said the telecoms agreement between his company and Glo would make development happens in the company in the nearest future.

"Nigeria today is self sufficient in any technology to meet any ICT challenge. You don't have to go out of the country or give money to a service provider owned by foreigners. Globacom indeed is a company we have become proud of", he said.

BRIEFS

CAC data base

intact-Almustafa

By Jibrin Abubakar

THE registrar General of the Corporate Affairs Commission Mr. Ahmed Almustafa yesterday told *Daily Trust* on phone that the computer system and the data base of the CAC are intact and functional. He was reacting to inquiry by this paper on allegation that the system broke down and thereby barring clients and lawyers from accessing relevant data. He said it was true that the CAC had some technical problems during the Easter period but that it has since been ratified. Customers of the Corporate Affairs Commission in Abuja expressed fears over losing vital documents following rumour that the Commission's system had crashed. *Daily Trust* can report that in 2004 the CAC introduced new securities to arrest the proliferation of fake certificates.

Stock market

recovers N106bn

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

RECOVERY of stocks market continued yesterday with market capitalisation growing steadily by N106.297 billion, about 2.3 per cent, to close at N4.6 trillion. Activities in the shares of Japan Oil and Skye Bank helped the market to shore up its value. While investors traded Japaul Oil's 21.720 million shares worth N28.364 million, about 17.296 million shares valued at N70.43 million of Skye bank were exchanged. Analysts said the market recorded huge number of investors rather than sellers as the market continued to witness increase in the numbers of foreign investors in the market. All share index also rose by 390.58 points, about 1.9 per cent to close at 20,677.10 against the previous day dealing of 20,286.52 point level. In all, a total of 184.506 million shares worth N1.089 billion in 6,343 deals were exchanged in the market.

Gombe airport will attract investors

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Gombe

THE commencement of commercial flights by Arik Air from Gombe International Airport, Lawanti would add great value to economic development by creating room for both local and international investors into the hinterland by exploiting the untapped resources of the state. This was stated by Governor Danjuma Goje while cutting the tape for the maiden commercial flight Gombe-Abuja route.

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

DATE	CURRENCY	BUYING (NGN)	CENTRAL (NGN)	SELLING (NGN)
21/04/2009	CFA	0.2694	0.2794	0.2894
	DANISH KRONER	25.1522	25.239	25.3257
	EURO	187.4544	188.1008	188.7471
	POUNDS STERLING	210.772	211.4988	212.2255
	RIYAL	38.6693	38.8027	38.936
	SDR	214.7743	215.5149	216.2554
	SWISS FRANC	123.8978	124.325	124.7522
	US DOLLAR	145.01	145.51	146.01
	YEN	1.477	1.4821	1.4872

Business

Poverty in Nigeria

By Abubakar Buba

IF the United Nations information is anything to go by, then 70 per cent of Nigerians are very poor. They are, accordingly living below the poverty line.

A hypothetical analysis of the poverty situation in Nigeria shows that many are suffering amidst the abundant human and natural resources in the country.

At the startling rate of US \$1 per day in Nigeria, incidence of poverty increased from 28.1% in 1980 to 46.3% in 1985 and down to 42.7% in 1992, only to go up again to 65.6% in 1996.

United Nation's human development index reveals that more than 70% of Nigerians still live below the poverty line with another 35% living in abject poverty.

With the northern region ranking highest in poverty level, economic experts say that even at \$2 per day paucity and general fall in standard of living among Nigerians tend to up to about 90.8% unless urgent measures are put in place to salvage the monster.

As a composite indicator of development, countries index are measured by how close they have come to attaining a life expectancy of 85 years (45:46 in Nigeria), 100% adult literacy/school enrolment and GDP per capital of \$40,000 per year.

According to a world bank publication "poverty net", the number of poor in rural areas sharply fell from 26.3 million to 22.8 million, while urban poverty rose from 9.7 million to 11.9 million. Extreme poverty increased nationally from 10 million to 14 million, with a tripling of head-count in urban areas.

Worried by the statistical revelation of the number of people living below the poverty line all over the world, the UN declared the year 2005 as a year of MICRO-FINANCE with the aim of reaching the poor with financial products that would lift them above the poverty line.

As a signatory to the MDGs, past governments in Nigeria took the bold step of putting in place various poverty alleviation policies and programme including granting access to national micro finance development funds by Micro Finance Institutions (MFI).

Apart from mandating universal banks to reserve 10% fund as part of the Small and Medium Scale Industries Equity Scheme (SMEIS) for SME development in Nigeria, government has, through the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), National Directorate of Employment and Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) supervised and managed poverty.

In a paper presentation on the "thrills and challenges of micro finance banking in Nigeria", Man-

aging Director of Elim MFB, Mrs. Ifeoma Ana said that the country still ranks low in poverty alleviation.

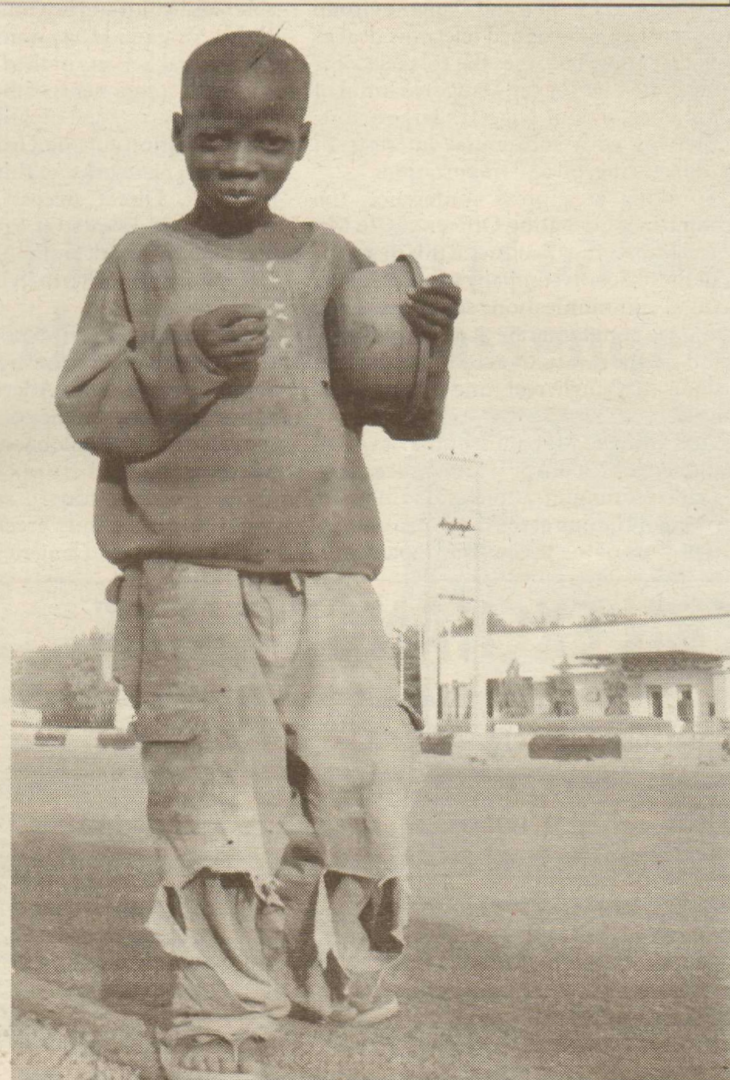
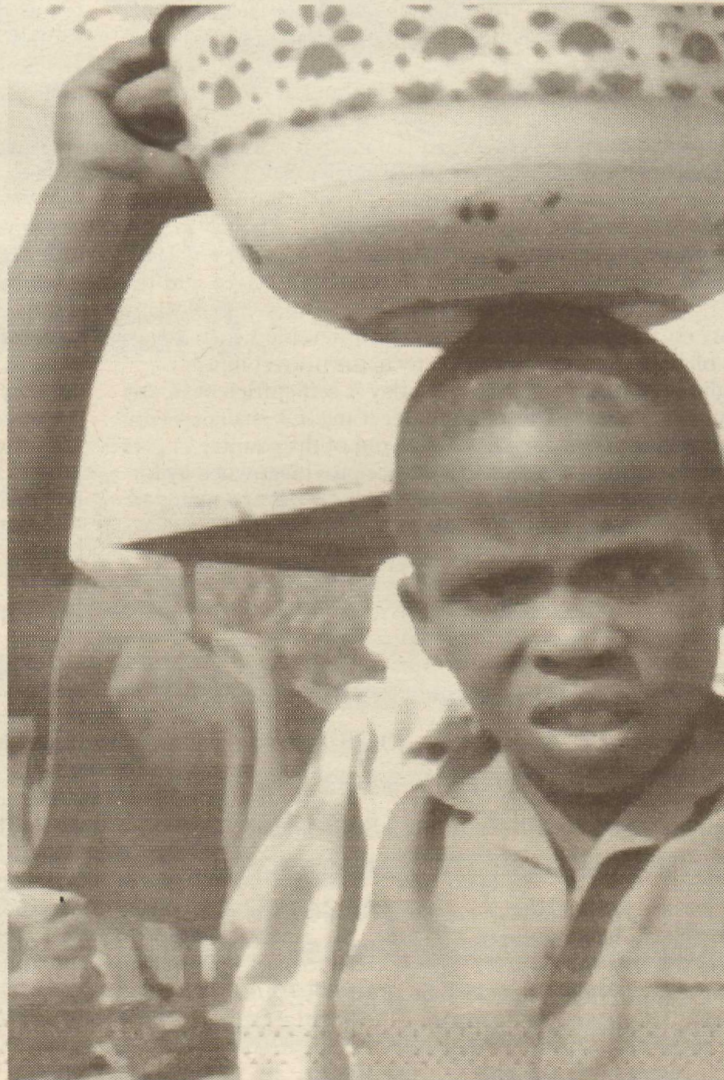
She said that the scope of micro finance operations should be improved and fully funded to cater for the needs of SMEs.

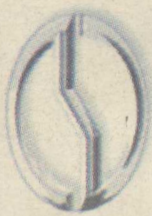
However, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SME manager's limited Mr. Rotimi Oyekanmi said that utilizing SME for economic growth requires a paradigm shift from informal to formal sector, adding "One key objective therefore is to encourage migration of SMEs from informal to formal sector"

Speaking on the role of parliament in poverty reduction in the country, Mr. Wale Aribisala said that it is ironical that Nigeria which is the largest explorer of crude oil in Africa and the sixth in the world host the third largest number of poor people after China and India.

He said that the greatest challenge to poverty reduction in the country lies in the equitable distribution of national resources through a well planned policy framework.

Economic experts say that the best way to reach out the poor who are mostly into small businesses is through a sustained programme aimed at boosting entrepreneurship.





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Every family can produce these food items if we take farming seriously in Nigeria

By Sikiru M. Jimoh

EVERY region in Nigeria has a particular type of soil good for producing certain cash and food crops yearly, irrespective of the season. The extreme north, characterized by dryness and dustiness, is noted for its resourceful horticultural activities to produce onions, varieties of pepper, tomatoes and other vegetables that serve the nation for over eighteen months.

However, what bothers farmers and hamper continuous productivity in the region is the disinterestedness of the federal government on how to boost agricultural productivity practically rather than the collapsing theoretical approaches to the field. The federal gov-

ernment is not able to monitor approval of funds to rural dwellers to invest heavily in agriculture for the survival of the entire federation.

Over the decades, it has diverted attention to the extraction of crude oil in only one state where years of extractive activities has rendered the inhabitants jobless and unproductive in terms of agriculture. Consequently, there is increasing rural-urban drift and establishment of small scale businesses.



"Abundant land is lying in the villages while those who cultivate it come from the cities," said one Abubakar Sani a trader in fabrics at Mararaba market in Nasarawa State.

"There is no state in Nigeria where the land is completely barren all year round. Therefore, application of fertilizer in farming is not a do-or-die affair in all parts of the country," he said.

In Kaduna State, Mr Sani Umar, a farmer who diverted to petty trading in the dry sea-

son, observed that the land produces yam, maize, millet, beans and other leguminous crops during the dry season.

Similarly, Mr Wakala Muhammad Isah, a farmer resident in also in Kaduna State, maintained that the frustrating government agricultural policies have rendered all-year-round farming impossible, which is why he, therefore, returns to his village to farm during the rainy season only.

The problem farmers face is not directly from the federal government but from state and local governments which contract bags of NPK 4 fertilizer to traders who sell them at exorbitant prices.

Speaking on the price-per-bag of fertilizer, Mr Muham-



Nigeria is a country blessed with abundant natural resources, among them a large expanse of greenland. This has been dormant for decades due to poor implementation and monitoring of agricultural policies and discovery of oil.

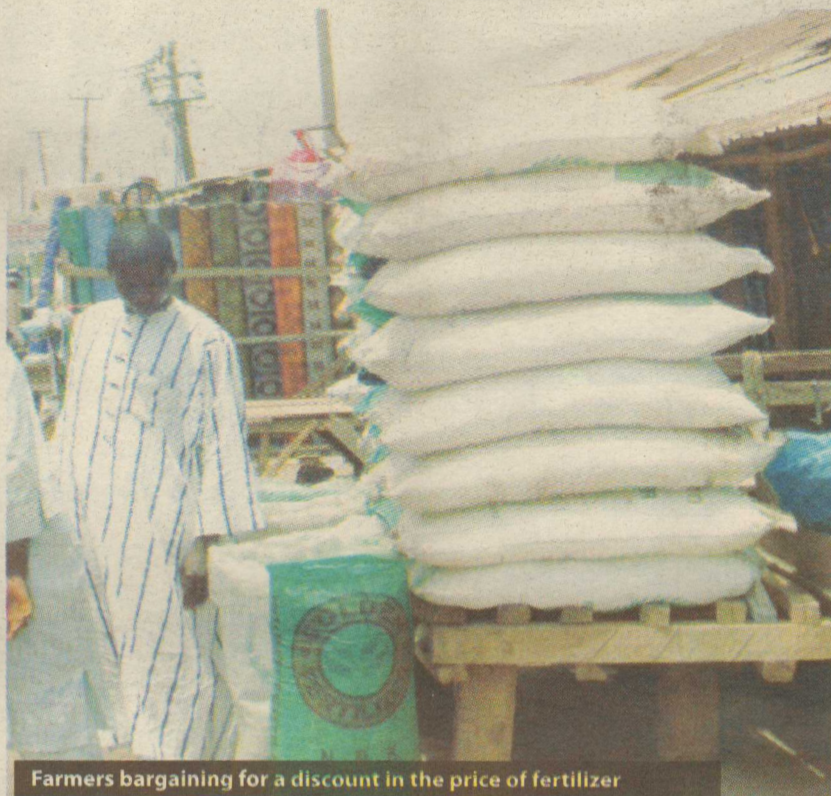
profit negligible when I put into consideration other expenses like hired labour, hired tractor and transportation before and after harvest.

Mr Chuks Obinna, a trader in Wuse Zone 3 market, said in Anambra State the dry season is not characterized by lack of activities in agriculture because the land is fertile and produces yam tubers and other food crops in large quantities during the rainy season while the dry season witnesses low pro-

FACT:
Most victims were children of primary and secondary school age

ductivity. He opined, therefore, that the supply of fertilizer should be free to farmers in disadvantaged areas to serve as an encouragement, not a commodity to be sold with a view to making huge unaccountable profits for the local government coffers.

"In my own case, I chose business in order to cope with the uncontrolled galloping inflation in the country. How many bags of grains and tubers would a farmer sell to produce a university graduate?" he queried.



Farmers bargaining for a discount in the price of fertilizer

Another farmer based in Abia State, who decided to supplement his living with trading, said farming is thriving for him in the state. He said fertilizer is not farmers' problem in the state because fertility of the land is an encouragement. But occasionally, he followed his friends to urban centres to explore avenues for white-colour trades because the attitude

of the government to farming is not encouraging. Nevertheless, during the dry season, he cultivated large farm-lands of rice, yams, other root crops and orchards favoured by weather in seven different places.

"Fertilizer is not our problem in Abia State because the land is fertile. If the policy of the government had been monitored to encourage farmers, I should find applying for

a tractor an easy thing, but the problem I encountered with the local government in 1998 made me buy my own tractor. If my business thrives in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), I will invest in housing and leave farming to my children when I am aging," he said.

In the FCT many people took to alternative jobs due to tentative deteriorating weather in the eastern part of the country. Joseph Onyeka, a sales agent in the FCT, said in Awka North in Anambra State, the land produces rice, maize, cassava and coco-yam in large quantities, irrespective of the dry season and they harvest rice twice yearly.

"As a seasoned farmer, I have other farms in Yola for the cultivation of beans, rice, groundnuts, millet, sugar-cane and pepper during the dry season," he said.

The land in Sokoto, a region characterized by dryness, has been confirmed by one Abubakar Sani to be good for the cultivation of onions, tomatoes and varieties of pepper planted and harvested during and after the dry season.

Mr Usman Umar, another trader, testified that in Kaduna State, the land is more productive than what is obtained far north during the dry season.

In this part of the country, yam, maize, guinea-corn, millet, some quantities of onions, carrots, lettuce, sugar-cane, beans and other food crops are grown.

The federal government seems unable to monitor the approval of funds to rural dwellers to invest heavily in agriculture for the survival of the entire country.

Mr Umar Usman, an indigene of Sokoto State, who shifted from farming to petty trading, said the factors that discourage many from farming are numerous.

Finance, according to Umar, constitutes the major problem to farming in Nigeria.



These vegetables can reduce your cost of living if you plant them

mad Shehu, a trader in Mobil filling station market, Minna, Niger State, said no one can tell the price until the item arrives from the line of contractors. In time of allocation he said farmers who harvest between 50 and 100 bags of maize have problems with the local government authorities when the fertiliser finally arrive because they go into different directions into hands of individuals contracted to sell it to the poor farmers at dictated exorbitant prices. This seasonal manoeuvrings of government policies on agriculture discourages those willing to take to the fields as a permanent occupation.

"Last year, I bought a bag of fertilizer for N4,000. I buy a ton for ten hectares every year. This is enough but after harvest, the

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Business

Yarádua is being careful about N70bn textile fund but... -Minister

The nation's textile industry is presently in a comatose while at the same time, cement prices are on the rise. In this interview, the Minister of Commerce and Industry Achike Udenwa explains some of the steps taken by the federal government to ensure the revival of the industry and stamp out activities of smugglers in the system.

FROM Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

SINCE you resumed, how far have you gone to revitalise the ailing nation's industry?

The major problem confronting our industry today is infrastructure and the primary one among them is power followed by transportation and other issues like smuggling, dumping, faking and Nigerians penchant for foreign made goods. These are some of the problems facing the industry and they require some measures unfortunately, the power issue is not what my ministry can resolve or anyone can resolve within twinkle of an eye. The power problem needs concerted efforts, more focus and commitment. What we have in the ministry is to hold meeting with the Ministry of Power. They have told us their problems, programme and it is now left for us to fit into their programme and that programme is to see how they raise the total power output capacity in Nigeria to 6,000 mega watts by December this year. We believe that if this target is realised we in the industry sector will be able to gain immensely. If you watch, you will see federal govern-

“He is very interested but one has to be cautioned

ment's commitment toward this. Just last month the federal government released N323 billion to the Independent Power Projects that were started by the Obasanjo administration but abandoned. If we are able to reactivate these power projects and completed, it is believed that before the end of the year we will come to 6,000MW while at the same time exploring other opportunities like hydro. There is a programme for Mambila Plateau project. There is a programme for dams up North but meanwhile, the NIPP was based mainly on gas to drive the turbines.

The other problem is transportation. Manufactures have to transport their raw materials, goods and this is quite expensive now. For instance to transport a bag of cement from Lagos cost

N500 that means no matter how low you want to bring down the price of cement, there is a limit to what you can do. That was why the federal government also is trying to intensify the railway system. Just last week, government has entered into agreement with a Chinese company to construct another line between Lagos and Kano for the existing rail system, build standard bridge with new modern locomotives. These are projects cannot be realised within one year but this does not really matter if we have started a very long time ago by now we should have had a very reliable railway system. Government is also looking at our Inland water ways, which is another cheapest means of transporting goods. In developed countries, you don't transport goods by roads but this is quite different in Nigeria. Just last week, government awarded the rehabilitation of east west roads from PortHarcourt to warri, it also concession Lagos-Badagry expressway. This is first in the country. These are some of the things government is doing to address the problem of infrastructure. Other problem includes lack of demand for our products in Nigeria. Everybody is guilty of this. We want to address that situation we should be proud of our own goods.

I visited the headquarters of Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON), and I was surprised at the quantity of sub standard goods they have seized. Generators, Candles, Shaving blade, Tyres all faked including electric cables. Some Nigerian goods were even faked abroad. I saw a fake cable with Nigeria company name. What that mean is that we have a standard good and that is the reason why the name is used. The same thing goes to our textile. All it requires is self consciousness and that is why very soon my ministry will be launching the campaign. Mr President has given his approval to launch a campaign on the patronage of made in Nigeria goods. We will start that soon

Now that you have identified the problems, what are your plans for the sector?

Since I came to the office I used the present situation both locally and internationally and the ministry is able to fashion out



MINISTER of Commerce & Industry Achike Udenwa

a new focus. Our focus is now to increase production capacity. To ensure that Nigerians manufacture more goods locally. To increase non-oil exports. Some will tell you we have a good balance of payment with some countries and increase the exports of non-oil products, reduce the importation of consumables. Those things we can get local alternatives or those things we can do without. We should reduce their importation. If we are able to achieve the three goals the sector will be doing well. The public cannot understand why cement is selling at the price it is selling. We have the dual responsibility. One, we will protect the public by having lower prices. On the other hand it is the duty of government to protect the interest of the existing industries. It is unfortunate, these two almost in conflict.

Right now we know that our industry cannot produce at best

“I visited the headquarters of Standard Organisation (SON

efficiency. If we say today more companies should be importing cement the only producing companies in Nigeria cannot remain in business and the consequence will be high rate of unemployment in the country.

It is not difficult to say that we want to bring down the prices of cement to N1,500 and everybody should go and import. It is not difficult but what is the implication, more unemployment. We

will pay foreign exchange for all import we made when actually 85 per cent of the raw material for the cement is here in the country- limestone which is abundant in our land. So what we will basically doing is importing limestone which is abundant in our soil. These are some of the problems. However, because we realised local production cannot meet demand, we bridged the gap and that was why we having locally produced cement and the control quantity of import cement. The reason for this is that we believe in bridging the gap also stabilises the prices. If we say today there is zero importation of cement the price will go up above N2,000. So it is with other products. Nigeria today is still the highest importer of cement in the whole world. These are some of the programme we considered that if we are able to pursue it we will be able to change the tide.

We want to see how we can exports our agricultural products, not in raw forms. If we can process them it, that will add a lot of value and provide employment opportunities for our people. Government also has export expansion grant which we give to exporters to assist them to be more competitive. Although there have been some increases in some of the things we exports but not at the level we expected. We have also been driving for investment. If today we get the problem of power right, more investment will come to this country, despite the economy meltdown. This is even the best time to attract investment. Because there is idle capacity in the developed countries around the world, they are looking for outlets for investment and Nigeria has the large market, the largest in Africa and it could also be a hub for other African countries. There are lots of trade going on from Nigeria to Ghana, Togo, Benin Republic and some of these trades are not recorded, just across the border. If we are able to attract investment you will be surprise at the large market that is available to our products here. As at now most of our beverages, detergents are sold in some West African countries market.

The immediate past administration did approve N70 billion for the revival of textile sector, what is happening?

If there is one topic that I have spoken on consistently is the textile fund. The textile fund is still on course. But let me tell you what has caused the delay of the fund. We discovered that some of the people that were selected to get the fund have sold their equipment. They are no longer in the

“If there is one topic that I have spoken on consistently is the textile fund

industry and these are the highly respected people in the society who are crying of the fund. They even sent some journalists come and ask me about textile fund and these people are no more in textile business. So what we are doing now is to send people to investigate and find out the real beneficiaries of the fund. Are they still in textile? Do they still need the fund? If government gives out the money, to what extent will it assist them? Nigerian must be patient with us. The exercise is still ongoing. Be rest assured that Mr President is still very much interested in the fund because it is a commitment made by the immediate past administration. He is very interested but one has to be cautioned. We must ensure that the money gets to the right people, what impact it will make in the sector. We need to verify if it will help to help some of them who have left to come back to production or if it is already producing, increase production or still owing the banks and once it is given, it use is to settle bank loan. These are some of the things unknown to the public.

What are you doing about smuggling?

I was addressing NACCIMA, man and other stakeholders recently and I told them point black that they are part of the problem. Go and check these smugglers are their members. They will say the customs is not doing well, fine, customs is just an enforcement body, why did you just refused to obey the law.

Business / Aviation

FG approves \$15 PSC for MMA2

Stories from Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

AS the newly built domestic terminal 2 of the Murtala Muhamad Airport entered the second year of operation, the federal government has approved \$15 (about N2, 300) airport Passenger Service Charge, PSC which is currently N350.

The increase is expected to come into effect from June 1, 2009 at the MMA2, Lagos with N1, 000 to be charged for now.

According to the managing director of Bi-Courtney Aviation Services, operator of MMA2 Mr Alex Van Elk the terminal operators have sought approval from the federal government to increase the charges and \$15

being N2, 300 roughly has been approved.

He said: "It takes know-how of the airport industry to operate an airport. It takes dedication from the people who are doing it. It takes appropriate management in the facility departments to send the people to the right places."

Van Elk added that operating airport requires a lot of money "This is a lot of money. It is not being paid by the N350 Passenger Service Charge, PSC that has been on for ages. That is why we are going to increase the charge as from 1st of June this year, 2009 to keep in line with what we need to cover."

He added: "We have sought approval from the federal government to increase the charge to \$15

being N2, 300 roughly."

He also hinted that: "It will take you about N130 million monthly or N150 million just to stay operational in MMA2. It is huge. If you look at your back-up power, fuel for the generator, maintenance of hi-tech equipment like X-ray machine, check-in system, close circuit recorder, conveyor system, the smoke detector, the hydrant system and the apron. I can even say the cost is lower compared to standard"

It could be recalled that the terminal was commissioned on April 7, 2007 by the then President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Presently, the airlines operating from our terminal include Aero, Afrijet, Bellview, Chanchangi, Capital, Dana, IRS and Virgin Nigeria.



A jumbo jet

FG backs Med-View as it opens Lome office

IN line with its vision of offering quality air services to customers across Africa, Med-View Airline has opened an office in Lome, Republic of Togo to serve as a window into the West African sub-region.

This is happening at a time the Togolese government itched for a strong airline to handle its Hajj pilgrim operations.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Med-View Airline Lome office called Med-View Travels Konsult, the representative of the Nigerian Ambassador to Togo; Joe Waribagha commended the efforts of the airline to set up an office in Lome, noting that many Muslim Togolese have had terrible experiences while trying to perform the Hajj in Saudi Arabia.

He extolled the management of Med-View for winning the trust of the Saudi authorities who gave them the right to issue visas for anyone or group wishing to perform the lesser Hajj.

He however urged the airline to ensure that customer satisfaction remains its sole aim as the success or failure of any organization lies in its customer satisfac-

tion.

"It's good that our people from Togo can now travel to Saudi for Hajj without having to go to Ghana to obtain the visa. Visas can now be issued from Med-View office here in Lome. So they'll provide an aircraft that will fly people directly from Lome to Jeddah. That is commendable and the Embassy is ready to support the airline to any length. Our doors are open 24 hours and we'll do our best to assist this laudable move by Med-View", he said.

Earlier the management team of the airline paid a courtesy call on the Director General of the Togo Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Latta Dokisime Gnana who pledged to fast-track all processes that will ensure Med-View stabilizes its operations in Togo.

He added that many Togolese pilgrims had passed through harrowing experiences in the course of performing Hajj, a development which prompted the government to set up the National Commission on Hajj to work out modalities on how to partner with an airline that can fly pilgrims directly from Lome to Jeddah.



Pilots in a cockpit

Kenya airways, NTDC, 36 states support Akwaaba'09

AFRICAN Travel Market (AFTM) received a boost recently from both local and international quarters.

The organizers of AKWAABA'09 were invited by Kenya Airways to be part of the huge 'African Mega Famtrip' that brought 156 tour operators from 20 African countries for an 8-day visit and interaction in Kenya, making it possible for AFTM to reach out to players from different countries in Africa.

Akwaaba is the only International Travel expo recognized by the United Nations World Tourism Organization [UNWTO] in West Africa.

It has the endorsement of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) and the NTDC and is recognized among the top 5 international events in West Africa.

It holds every October in

Lagos at Eko Hotels and Suite.

The Kenyan trip was just 3 days after the Joint Tourism Board meeting organized by NTDC in Abuja for all 36 Commissioners of Tourism and state tourism boards endorsed AFTM pledging to support and ensure Akwaaba becomes the leading Travel expo in Africa and a major contender to the famous ITB BERLIN and WTM LONDON.

AFTM is homegrown by the Nigerian private sector tourism practitioners and had already attracted exhibitors from 11 African Countries. In its 5th edition it has become the expo with the largest diversity in Africa offering access to the largest market in Africa

The Managing Director of Kenya Airways Mr. Titus Naikuni said that the vision of KQ is to link up every major African City to its neighbor to support its motto

of the Pride Africa. Mr Naikuni promised to support any effort to make Africans market and visit each other.

He said "African is poor but it also has a large market like China and India but only Africa's poverty is mentioned without any mention of its huge market but for the other poor nations of China and India only their markets are discussed...so Africans must look up to themselves for progress".

The Minister of Tourism Mr. Najib Balala in his speech encouraged the visitors to go home with stories of how great African tourism products are especially the Kenyan Variety.

He further said that "South Africa's tourism success is predicated on regional visitors from Africa and Kenya he said intends to reach out to other Africans to improve its Tourism receipts.

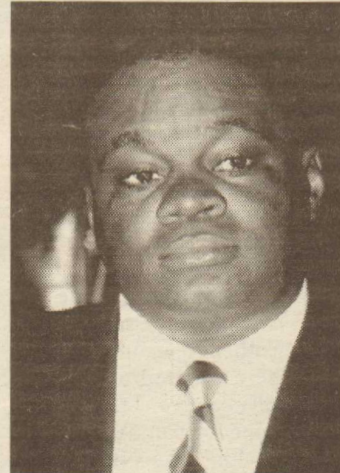
AERO now offers online check-in for passengers

AERO Contractors airlines has announced the introduction of online check-in on the Lagos-Abuja route.

Announcing this in Lagos, Marketing Manager of the airline, Bridget Oyefeso-Odusami said Aero customers flying between Lagos and Abuja with only hand baggage can now check-in from 7 days ahead of travel and up to 4 hours before their flight departs with an opportunity to choose their preferred seats.

"This is another benefit for all our customers especially those taking advantage of the recently introduced low fares on all domestic routes. This makes Aero the first domestic airline to introduce fares this affordable in the Nigerian aviation market," she said.

One way fares from N7, 000 (all inclusive) for domes-



Aviation Minister Omotoba

tic flights on all routes and N9, 000 (excluding taxes) on Lagos-Accra route are also available for purchase online at www.flyaero.com.

Business

Stock Market Report

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)					
CAPITAL OIL PLC	2	13.83	393,635	5,443,972.05	EKOCORP PLC	2	5.87	187	1,043.46
Sector Totals	2		393,635	5,443,972.05	EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	2	2.53	10,034	24,181.94
AGRICULTURE					FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	11	2.22	195,991	431,737.47
FTN COCOA PROC. PLC	37	1.02	1,142,246	1,152,690.00	GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONS. NIG. PLC	21	18.18	449,824	8,093,622.62
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	5	1.26	287,321	362,024.46	MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	23	3.87	549,783	2,083,013.82
PRESCO PLC	4	5.00	18,000	94,500.00	NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	4	1.65	28,144	44,186.08
SECTOR Totals	46		1,447,567	1,609,214.46	UNION DIAG. & CLINICAL SERV. PLC	23	0.70	3,625,857	2,408,857.02
AIR SERVICES					SECTOR Totals	86		4,859,820	13,086,642.41
AIRLINE SERV. & LOG. PLC	1	10.05	229,941	2,310,907.05	HOTEL & TOURISM				
NIG. AV. HANDLING CO. PLC	113	7.57	340,915	2,522,779.64	CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	1	3.94	500	1,875.00
SECTOR Totals	114		570,856	4,833,686.69	IKEJA HOTEL PLC	2	3.91	2,390	8,890.80
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE					SECTOR Totals	3		2,890	10,765.80
DUNLOP NIGERIA PLC	28	0.52	1,709,859	856,929.50	INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS				
R. T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	7	7.48	52,210	390,530.80	B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	2	16.96	1,341	23,869.80
SECTOR Totals	35		1,762,069	1,247,460.30	FIRST ALUMINIUM NIGERIA PLC	8	1.69	643,904	1,088,197.76
BANKING					VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	17	3.99	264,600	985,216.00
ACCESS BANK PLC	161	4.92	5,278,235	25,766,933.14	SECTOR Totals	27		909,845	2,097,283.56
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	50	5.50	358,415	1,933,765.33	INFOMATION, COM. & TELECOMMUNICATION				
DIAMOND BANK PLC	109	4.63	4,270,235	19,416,898.05	CHAMS NIGERIA PLC	29	1.18	1,760,189	2,060,153.28
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	8	27.96	35,567	994,453.32	MASS TEL. INNOVATION NIG. PLC	1	0.57	10,000	5,500.00
FIRST CITY MON. BANK PLC	82	5.45	7,856,103	42,786,660.65	STARCOMMS PLC	41	1.63	9,172,809	14,966,898.47
FIDELITY BANK PLC	93	2.35	3,233,575	7,562,652.70	SECTOR Totals	71		10,942,998	17,032,551.75
FIRST BANK OF NIG. PLC	861	15.08	13,450,989	200,620,824.05	INSURANCE				
FIRST INLAND BANK PLC	47	2.44	2,934,677	6,913,561.75	AICO INSURANCE PLC.	286	0.92	4,732,802	4,451,834.52
GTBANK PLC	193	10.51	7,466,417	78,408,949.26	CONTINENTAL REINSURANCE PLC	6	0.73	502,500	366,825.00
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	33	5.60	254,549	4,116,545.96	CORNERSTONE INSURANCE CO. PLC.	14	1.26	231,102	281,225.40
INT. BANK PLC.	144	7.78	3,281,580	25,408,154.54	CUSTODIAN AND ALLIED INSURANCE PLC	15	2.11	547,603	1,178,578.18
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	163	6.81	4,379,146	29,467,012.03	EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	2	1.48	65,000	96,200.00
BANK PHB PLC	91	5.34	4,408,930	22,842,385.38	GREAT NIG. INSURANCE CO. PLC	1	0.86	4,000	3,280.00
SKYE BANK PLC.	135	4.02	17,296,263	70,437,530.98	GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	6	0.50	819,500	409,750.00
SPRING BANK PLC	6	5.59	162,305	907,284.95	GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	17	0.50	1,055,451	527,725.50
STERLING BANK PLC	28	1.54	1,920,120	2,948,196.67	CONSOLIDATED HALLMARK INS. PLC 7	0.52	683,000	357,160.00	
U.BANK FOR AFRICA PLC.	340	8.70	3,296,411	28,428,271.08	INVEST. AND ALLIED ASS. PLC	10	0.50	902,429	451,214.50
UNION BANK OF NIG. PLC	174	11.36	1,919,750	21,379,502.38	INT. ENERGY INSURANCE CO. PLC	22	0.98	1,739,106	1,701,621.76
UNITYBANK PLC	31	1.44	796,165	1,102,298.74	LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	50	0.67	1,784,652	1,213,979.34
WEMA BANK PLC	16	2.34	2,105,219	4,926,212.46	LAW UNION AND ROCK INS. PLC.	1	1.29	5,000	6,150.00
ZENITH BANK PLC	211	14.70	4,063,709	59,040,031.99	LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	3	0.50	20,363	10,181.50
SECTOR Totals	2,076		89,270,366	655,403,125.41	MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSURANCE PLC	31	0.60	1,730,473	1,029,063.80
BREWERIES					N.E.M. INSURANCE CO. (NIG.) PLC.	51	0.61	1,850,368	1,098,867.09
GUINNESS NIGERIA PLC	55	90.51	134,773	12,170,304.94	NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	13	1.77	783,832	1,267,363.48
INT. BREWERIES PLC	20	2.90	552,430	1,610,600.60	OASIS INSURANCE PLC	2	4.44	27,090	114,319.80
NIGERIAN BREWERIES PLC	129	39.05	1,130,586	44,119,794.78	PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	27	4.17	346,473	1,314,272.67
SECTOR Totals	204		1,817,798	57,908,700.32	REGENCY ALLIANCE INS. CO. PLC	4	0.50	1,401,500	700,750.00
BUILDING MATERIALS					SOVEREIGN TRUST INSURANCE PLC	4	0.73	433,785	310,163.05
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	63	8.19	767,646	6,289,940.69	STACO INSURANCE PLC	3	3.66	70,500	258,030.00
BENUE CEMENT CO. PLC	14	22.00	43,582	954,027.26	STANDARD ALLIANCE INS. PLC	24	0.67	2,619,189	1,705,672.85
C. CO. OF NORTH NIG. PLC	12	7.00	115,800	803,933.20	UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	14	0.69	1,353,000	933,570.00
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	63	17.50	4,341,846	76,225,666.74	UNIVERSAL ASSURANCE CO. PLC	4	0.54	806,534	435,528.36
SECTOR Totals	152		5,268,874	84,273,567.89	INT/CONTI. WAPIC INSU. PLC	20	2.10	551,139	1,106,162.25
CHEMICAL & PAINTS					SECTOR Totals	637		25,066,391	21,330,089.05
BERGER PAINTS NIG. PLC	4	6.31	7,544	45,264.00	LEASING				
CHEM. & ALLIED PROD. PLC	2	34.00	4,050	130,815.00	C&I LEASING PLC	6	5.46	488,660	2,668,083.60
I. P. W. A. PLC	2	3.04	1,712	4,947.68	SECTOR Totals	6		488,660	2,668,083.60
SECTOR Totals	8		13,306	181,026.68	MARITIME				
COMMERCIAL/SERVICES					JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERV. PLC	252	1.32	21,720,399	28,364,136.49
COURTVILLE INVEST. PLC	1	2.85	500	1,355.00	SECTOR Totals	252		21,720,399	28,364,136.49
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	4	1.99	800,000	1,592,000.00	MEDIA				
SECTOR Totals	5		800,500	1,593,355.00	DAAR COMMUNICATIONS PLC	23	1.66	152,353	251,762.58
COMP. & OFFICE EQUIP.					SECTOR Totals	23		152,353	251,762.58
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	6	0.76	270,530	197,802.80	MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
THOMAS WYATT PLC	1	2.11	109	228.90	ASO SAVINGS AND LOAND PLC	13	0.96	3,310,201	3,139,947.49
TRIPPLE GEE AND CO. PLC	3	7.39	41,900	294,557.00	UNION HOMES SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	47	1.65	594,402	1,003,906.90
SECTOR Totals	10		312,539	492,588.70	SECTOR Totals	60		3,904,603	4,143,854.39
CONGLOMERATES					OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC	2	6.79	5,280	34,108.80	CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC.	1	3.44	10,354	33,857.58
PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	50	16.80	955,753	15,782,487.98	DEAP CAPITAL MANT. & TRUST PLC	2	5.16	565,000	2,915,400.00
TRANSNAT. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	35	0.52	1,694,657	847,968.50	ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	2	2.07	4,000	7,880.00
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	54	31.10	197,929	6,077,668.18	SECTOR Totals	5		579,354	2,957,137.58
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	84	8.51	758,278	6,417,418.37	PACKAGING				
SECTOR Totals	225		3,611,897	29,159,651.83	NIG. BAG MAN. COMPANY PLC	559	1.55	657,257	1,018,748.35
CONSTRUCTION					NAMPAK NIGERIA PLC	1	7.73	150	1,102.50
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	28	4.58	82,462	370,956.72	POLY PRODUCTS (NIGERIA) PLC.	1	5.44	1,000	5,170.00
J/BERGER NIGERIA PLC	14	22.75	71,934	1,587,937.62	SECTOR Totals	561		658,407	1,025,020.85
MULTIVERSE RES. PLC	23	0.50	1,053,339	529,398.67	PETROLEUM(MARKETING)				
SECTOR Totals	65		1,207,735	2,488,293.01	AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	62	86.00	214,638	18,146,190.53
ENG. TECHNOLOGY					CHEVRON OIL NIGERIA PLC	7	94.81	8,286	759,543.00
CUTIX PLC	1	6.72	3,840	24,517.60	CONOIL PLC	5	67.23	2,809	179,410.83
NIG. WIRE AND CABLE PLC.	5	1.41	20,000	26,800.00	ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	6	26.68	17,124	456,868.32
SECTOR Totals	6		23,840	51,337.60	MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	14	96.61	14,990	1,520,585.60
FOOD/BEV. & TOBACCO					OANDO PLC	60	68.00	170,191	11,889,686.79
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	8	39.90	6,615	252,974.90	TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	19	138.50	63,499	8,791,706.32
BIO TREAT PLC	3	2.24	14,000	29,820.00	SECTOR Totals	173		491,537	41,743,991.39
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	40	10.45	127,777	1,293,727.05	PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	171	8.03	597,675	4,782,729.00	UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	2	5.01	4,240	20,182.40
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	133	16.69	4,732,430	78,470,520.25	SECTOR Totals	2		4,240	20,182.40
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	58	15.58	502,228	7,830,565.52	REAL ESTATE				
NAT. SALT CO. NIG. PLC	45	3.80	1,187,420	4,218,557.40	UACN PROPERTY DEV. CO. PLC	13	17.85	117,390	2,093,279.00
NIG. BOTTLING CO. PLC	12	22.00	13,352	293,555.82	SECTOR Totals	13		117,390	2,093,279.00
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	15	139.90	40,184	5,719,806.54	ROAD TRANSPORTATION				
N/NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	3	17.14	10,150	165,343.50	ASSOCIATED BUS COMPANY PLC	16	1.00	207,500	207,500.00
TANTALIZERS PLC	9	0.81	120,709	98,519.01	SECTOR Totals	16		207,500	207,500.00
UTC NIGERIA PLC	5	3.01	27,878	79,731.08	TEXTILES				
SECTOR Totals	501		7,380,418	103,235,850.75	UNITED NIGERIA TEXTILES PLC	2	3.26	20,265	62,821.50
FOOTWEAR					SECTOR Totals	2		20,265	62,821.50
LENNARDS NIGERIA PLC.	1	4.48	1,100	4,686.00	THE FOREIGN LISTINGS				
SECTOR Totals	1		1,100	4,686.00	ECOBANK TRANSNAT. INC.	56	9.35	497,551	4,636,740.48
HEALTHCARE					SECTOR Totals	56		497,551	4,636,740.48
					OVERALL Totals	6,343		184,506,703	1,089,658,359.52

NIGERIAN COLLEGE OF AVIATION TECHNOLOGY ZARIAPMB 1031, Zaria Aerodrome
Kaduna State**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICES**

The Nigerian College of Aviation Technology, Zaria is an approved Aviation Training Institution located in Zaria, Kaduna State. The College Trains Pilots, Aircraft Maintenance Engineers, Aeronautical Telecommunication Engineers, Air Traffic Controllers and other specialists for the aviation industry.

The College has a cafeteria where it serves meals for an average of 350 students daily. Thus, the College wishes to engage the services of an independent caterer to run the College cafeteria for a period of two (2) years renewable based on satisfactory performance.

The College now wishes to request for expression of interest from suitably qualified caterers/catering companies with not less than five (5) years relevant catering services experience.

SCOPE OF WORK/SERVICES

The caterer/catering company will be required to provide the following services:

- i. Procurement of raw materials and preparation of quality meals.
- ii. Maintenance of kitchen equipment and furniture and fittings.
- iii. Serving of three (3) meals per day (Break-Fast, Lunch and Dinner) plus snacks.
- iv. Other catering services as may be required from time to time.

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS

All Expression of interest shall include:

- i. Detailed company profile including registered address, name, functional telephone and fax Nos. and email address (es) of the company.
- ii. Name, address (es), qualifications and experiences of key personnel. Attach copies of certificates.
- iii. Certificate of Incorporation, Memorandum and Articles of Association.
- iv. Veritable Evidence of provision of catering services within the last five (5) years, (2004 - 2008) in similar institution/organization or restaurants. Attach copies of letters of offer.
- v. Reference from a reputable bank stating the financial ability to carry out such services.
- vi. Audited company's statement of accounts and tax clearance for at least three (3) years (2006 - 2008).
- vii. Evidence of access to equipment and resources required to be deployed for the services. Please provide list of catering equipment available.

SUBMISSION

The completed documents in hard copy should be enclosed in an envelope, sealed and marked **"REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICES"** and addressed to:

**The Secretary,
Procurement Planning Committee,
Nigerian College of Aviation Technology,
P.M.B. 1031, Zaria Aerodrome,
Kaduna State.**

All submissions should reach the above not later than 11th May, 2009 at 16.00 p.m.

Please note that this is not an invitation to tender as only short-listed catering companies would be invited to tender.

Signed:
MANAGEMENT

NIGERIAN COLLEGE OF AVIATION TECHNOLOGY ZARIAPMB 1031, ZARIA AERODROME
KADUNA STATE**INVITATION TO TENDER**

The College intends to undertake the under-listed projects as part of its year 2009 budget and hereby invites reputable contractors to tender for the projects.

S/N	PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION	BID SECURITY	TENDER FEE #
1	Construction and furnishing of Classrooms	NCAT Zaria	3% of bid price	30,000.00
2	Construction of Central Store	NCAT Zaria	3% of bid price	30,000.00

2. Tendering shall be conducted through the National Competitive bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Procurement Act 2007 and is opened to all tenderers.

3. Interested reputable construction companies are requested to obtain complete set tender documents during office hours (8.00am to 16.00p.m.) as from Monday, 20th April, 2009 upon payment of the applicable tender fee. Interested tenderers may also obtain further information from address below.

4. Duly Completed bid documents should be submitted in an envelope, sealed and marked "TENDER FOR..... (Indicate the project title)" at the left hand corner of the envelope and addressed to:

**The Secretary
Procurement Planning Committee,
Nigerian College of Aviation Technology
PMB 1031, Zaria Aerodrome
Kaduna State**

All submissions must reach the above address not later than 1st June, 2009 at 10.00a.m. Electronics bids shall not be accepted and bids received after the deadline shall be rejected.

5. Bids will be publicly opened on 1st June, 2009 at 10.00am. at the College cafeteria, NCAT Zaria in the presence of bidders or their representative who chose to attend.

MANAGEMENT

Puzzles

Sudoku puzzle

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

64

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

Solution to Sudoku puzzle No 63

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

Sign Language



Beware of peeping Toms
Photo location: Tokyo, Japan by Daniel Sly
Culled from the telegraph.co.uk

FIND & CIRCLE JUMBO

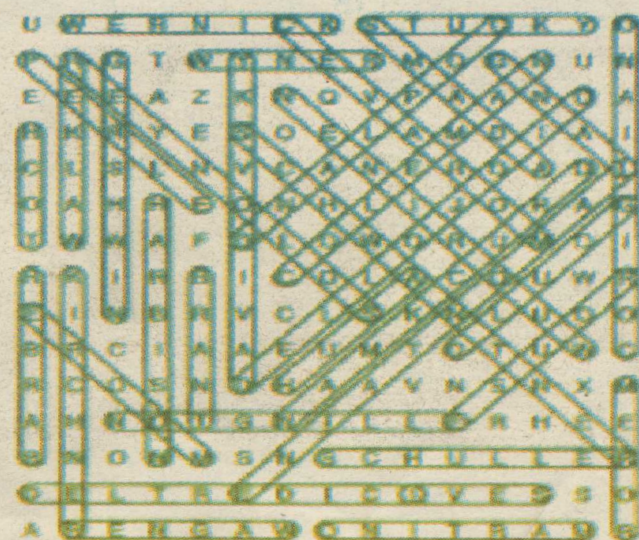
FIND & CIRCLE JUMBO puzzles are solved by finding all the hidden words in the diagram. The words are always in a straight line and may read up, down, forward, backward, or diagonally. Cross a word off your list once you have circled it. Many words will overlap.

53

Apollo

Archer	M	S	E	U	B	T	S	U	S	S	A	N	R	A	P
Artemis	A	T	H	P	I	C	Y	U	J	S	D	L	Y	R	A
Arts	R	R	E	Y	L	E	R	U	A	L	X	N	E	S	G
Asclepius	C	A	C	T	W	L	S	U	N	G	O	D	C	N	N
Clarity	H	U	T	H	E	L	M	E	T	M	R	L	Y	D	I
Daphne	E	P	O	I	O	E	Z	G	R	O	E	T	A	P	L
Delos	R	R	R	A	O	T	C	A	T	P	I	P	N	C	A
Delphi	G	O	L	D	E	N	H	A	I	R	H	Z	I	L	E
Golden	A	P	N	A	E	I	A	U	A	N	U	S	E	M	H
hair	D	H	G	O	T	L	S	L	E	R	U	T	L	U	V
Harmony	C	E	S	J	H	R	C	O	I	M	T	Y	H	S	S
Healing	A	C	L	L	E	T	O	A	L	T	R	E	N	E	G
Hector	J	Y	I	P	A	A	Y	M	R	E	Y	O	M	S	Q
Helmet	T	D	V	I	H	M	Q	P	M	O	D	J	V	I	V
"Iliad"	D	A	I	L	I	J	W	E	I	I	J	V	A	S	
Immortal	M	u	s	e	s										
Intellect	M	u	s	e	s										
Laurel	O	r	a	c	l	e									
Leto	O	r	a	c	l	e									
Lyre	P	a	r	n	a	s									
Muses															
Music															
Oracle															
Order															
Parnas-															
Prophecy															
Pythia															
Rational-															
Sun god															
Truth															
Vulture															
Zeus															

Solution to Puzzle No 52



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Super Grand
x 36



Toyota Land Cruiser
Ultimate Stallion
x 3



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Gold Prize
N25million

Houses
Ultimate Stallion
Star Prize
x 2



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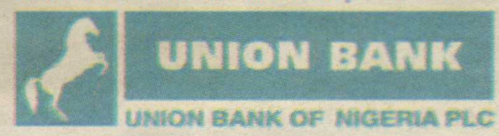
Category	Minimum deposit
Lucky Dip Draw	N10,000 daily
Lucky Dip Grand Prize	N30,000 for 90 days
Gold Prize Draw	N50,000 monthly
Super Grand Prize Draw	N100,000 for 90 days
Ultimate Stallion Draw	N250,000 for 90 days

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PROPERTY

Senator tasks panel on Kafin Zaki Dam

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

SENATOR Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan (ANPP, Yobe North) has called on the Senate Ad-Hoc Committee on Food Crisis to conduct extensive investigation into the viability of the proposed Kafin Zaki Dam in Bauchi State before presenting its recommendation to the Senate.

Reacting to a report that the Chairman of the Senate panel, Senator Audu Idris Umar (PDP, Gombe Central) has during a visit to the dam site endorsed the construction, Senator Lawan said the committee has to pay similar visits to all downstream users of the Jama'are River before taking a stand. According to him, "Since the committee has visited Bauchi



The Gurara dam, Bwari Area Council, Abuja

State and is yet to visit the downstream of the river, it will be premature to make a conclusive and definite statement about the situation of the proposed dam."

Senator Lawan insists that the construction of Kafin Zaki dam portends great danger to the existence and economy of millions of people living in communities

downstream of the river adding "Our grounds of objection to the construction of the dam are predicated on solid empirical evidence." While sustaining his objection to construction of the dam Senator Lawan said, "There are abundant research outcomes that clearly show on the attendant repercussions of the dam on the

downstream communities. So far nothing has changed to make us believe that those outcomes are not likely."

The senator said downstream communities in Yobe, Borno, Jigawa and some parts of Bauchi states are bound to be adversely affected by construction of the dam.

According to him, "Since the committee has visited Bauchi State and is yet to visit the downstream of the river, it will be premature to make a conclusive and definite statement about the situation of the proposed dam."

Kwara Assembly deliberates on Housing Estate Agency bill

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Kwara State House of Assembly has concluded deliberations on the report of the House Committee on Lands and Housing on the proposed State Housing Corporation Bill.

The proposed bill, which was forwarded by the state governor, Dr Abubakar Bukola Saraki, was seeking for a legal framework to establish an agency that would be responsible for the provision of decent and affordable housing to the people.

Speaking shortly after the consideration of the report, the Speaker, Alhaji Babatunde Mohammed, directed the clerk of the House, Mr. Job Afolayan, to prepare ground for the third reading of the bill.

In a related development, the chairman, House Committee on Education, Science and Technology, Alhaji Suleiman Sunaboro Idris, presented an interim report on the petition written by one Kadri Raheem Taiwo, titled "petition against the non-release of eighteen (18) years old academic certificate by the State College of Education, Oro.

According to him, "the motive was to intimate the lawmakers on how far his committee had gone on the assignment."

Gurara waterfall to gulp N135m on tourism

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE Gurara water fall is to get N135m for the purpose of establishing infrastructure preparatory to kick start operations in the place as a tourist haven.

This decision was conveyed by the commissioner for tourism Niger state, Alhaji Umaru Nasko, yesterday in Minna.

The commissioner said that the N135m will be provided by Lookatafrica.com Company, adding that the whole money will be provided by the company in line with the state government's Public Private Partnership initiative of the Niger state government.



Babatunde Fashola

Gas plant blockade

A truck towing a gas plant broke down on Ikorodu road, Lagos, causing a traffic jam, one of many headaches of Gov Babatunde Fashola



ENVIRONMENT

'Stop dumping waste in River Benue'

From Hir Joseph, Makurdi

THE Benue State government has frowned at the handling of River Benue in Makurdi by some Indian investors managing the state owned Benue Brewery Limited (BBL), brewers of More Lager Beer.

Daily Trust investigation showed that the state government acted on series of complaints reaching it from members of Gaadi community in Makurdi, who are alleging that the Indian investors have been dumping all manner of waste including chemicals and solid waste in the river which is a major source of water for many residents.

A resident who declined his identity told Daily Trust that dumps wastes in the river at the close of work after every production, and has been doing this for more than two years now.

"Most times, what they dump is chemicals and this has affected the water so badly that it is difficult to use the river in washing of cloths now, not to talk of using it to bath. You now we have been using the river for bathing, even our children", the resident said.

Complaints from the community which began last year peaked last two months when residents rose in series of protests against the management of the brewery, threatening to sue the investors for contaminating the river which has been serving their domestic needs.

The protests attracted the attention of the government which decided last week to act accordingly by visiting the brewery to carry out investigations.

State commissioner for Water Resources and Environment, Mr. John Ngbede confirmed this in a chat with Daily Trust, just as he disclosed that his visit to the brewery was extended to the river to take samples for laboratory test.

"We took the sample to carry out lab test and we are waiting for the result. Only

then would we decide on what action to take. You know that dumping of chemicals in the

river is dangerous to aqua life", the commissioner told Daily Trust. The commissioner disclosed

further that he registered government's annoyance to the management, however, insisting that they

must comply with government's directives for proper disposal of wastes.

In Tomorrow's

Obama Ya Shiga Sasanta Wa Da Abokan Gabar Amurka
Shafi na 32



'Yan Ta'adda Sun Kassara Wutar Lantarkin Jihohin Arewa Maso Gabas
Shafi na 6

AMINIYA

Juma'a 24 zuwa 30 ga Afrilu, 2009 Kundi Na 3 Ta 34 29 zuwa 6 ga Jimada Awwal, 1430 Bayan Hijira Kudinta N80

PDP Ta Yanke Wa Obasanjo Fikafikai
Shafi na 27

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Mujallar Rayuwa
Dandano
Cokali
Mata Kirjin biki ko bata biki?
Jamilu Maruwa

Garkuwa Da Mutane Ta Karaso Arewa

Ta Kashe Kanta Saboda Za Ayi Mata Auren Dole
Shafi na 2

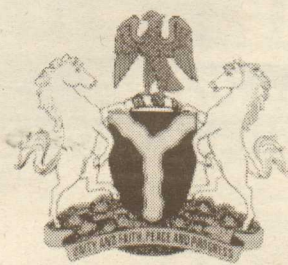
Ta Kashe Abokiyar Fadanta Da Cizo
Shafi na 3

Matsayin Malamai Kan Zargin Kashe Sheikh Jafar



Complaints from the community which began last year peaked last two months when residents rose in series of protests against the management of the brewery, threatening to sue the investors for contaminating the river which has been serving their domestic needs.

Shafi na 4



AREWA TRADITIONAL AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS' RETREAT

THEME: ESTABLISHING THE IMPERATIVE OF CULTURAL VALUES AND TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN CONSOLIDATING NIGERIA'S DEMOCRACY

SUB THEMES:

- i. Traditional Institutions and the Nigerian Constitution
- ii. Traditional Institutions and Strategic Political relationships
- iii. Traditional Institutions, Democratic Mobilisation and Development
- iv. Traditional Institutions, Religious and Ethno Cultural Relationships
- v. Traditional Institutions, Conflict Mediation and Resolution
- vi. Traditional Institutions, Advocacy and Rural/Grassroots Development

CHAIRMEN OF BUSINESS SESSIONS:

- i. HRH Alh (Dr) Shehu Idris CFR – Emir of Zazzau
- ii. HRH Alh (Dr) Ado Bayero – Emir of Kano
- iii. HRH Orchivirigh Dr Alfred Akawe Torkula CFR – Tor Tiv IV
- iv. His Eminence, Alh (Dr) Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar CFR mni – Sultan of Sokoto
- v. HRH Alh (Dr) Yahaya Abubakar – Etsu Nupe
- vi. HRH Maj Gen Muhammad Ilyasu Bashar – Emir of Gwandu
- vii. HRH Alh (Dr) Ibrahim Sulu Gambari – Emir of Ilorin

PARTICIPANTS:

- Chairmen of State Council of Chiefs/Emirs in all 19 States, including Abuja, FCT
- All First Class Chiefs in the 19 Arewa States
- All State Chairmen of Christian Association of Nigeria in the Northern States
- All State Grand Khadis in the 19 Northern States
- Honourable Commissioners for Local Governments and Chieftaincy Affairs in the 19 Arewa States
- Chairmen, Committee on Chieftaincy Affairs in the 19 Northern States Houses of Assembly.
- All Special Advisers on Chieftaincy Affairs to the Executive Governors of the 19 Arewa States
- All Directors of Chieftaincy Affairs in the 19 Arewa States
- All ALGON Chairmen in the 19 Arewa States

Dates: 27th to 30th April, 2007

Venue: The Banquet hall, Arewa House, Kaduna

Time: 9.00am to 4.00pm Daily

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**THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES
P.M.B. 159, AREA 1, GARKI ABUJA**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR
STUDY, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION OF FIVE (5)
DAMS AND IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN FIVE (5) STATES OF THE
FEDERATION**

1. Introduction: The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (FMAWR) invites suitably qualified, interested and reputable Consultancy Firms or Joint Ventures for the Study, Design and Construction Supervision of the underlisted Dams and Irrigation Projects;

- (a) Hawul Water Transfer project in Borno State
- (b) Ebonyi River Dam Project in Ebonyi State
- © Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Oyan Dam to Lagos Flood plains
- (d) Design Review of Dadin Kowa Irrigation Project in Gombe State
- (e) Agwatashi Dam

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE STUDY, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION OF DAMS AND IRRIGATION PROJECTS:

The works consists of the study and design of dams, irrigation and associated works situated at various locations in the country. The Consultant is expected to carry out the following services diligently and within the prescribed time. The services to be rendered are not limited to the list below:

- Review and Evaluate preliminary studies (if any) on the location
- Carryout and confirm the dam site location and feasibility
- Carryout detailed geotechnical, geological and geophysical studies to confirm the suitability of the chosen dam axis for the dam foundation.
- Carryout detailed hydrological and meteorological studies to confirm available water
- Carryout necessary land survey and mapping of dam and reservoir area in the scale of 1:2000 and 1:5000 respectively.
- Carryout soil investigation within the vicinity of the dam site for location of suitable materials for construction of the dam embankment.
- Identify water demand requirements at the location and other adjoining settlements for domestic and irrigated agriculture.
- Carryout final detailed engineering design of the dam and irrigation scheme based on above studies, including the hydrologic, hydraulic, structural and foundation aspects of the schemes.
Prepare a schedule to assist the FMAWR in matters on resettlement and compensation
- Carryout Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
- Carryout socio-economical studies of the project Area.
- Carryout cost benefit analysis of the project
- Prepare Bill of Engineering Measurement and Evaluation (BEME) and Tender Documents in Ten Hard copies and one electronic copy.
- Prepare Design report and Final design drawings in 3 Hard copies and electronic copy. Assist the FMAWR with the Tender Process
- Supervise the Contractor for the preparation of operation, maintenance and facility management schedule of the scheme for the FMAWR prior to handing over of the project.
- Prepare project completion report.

3. CONDITIONS FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION:

Interested Firms or Joint Ventures (JV) are expected to collect, fill and submit Standard Request for Proposal (RfP) for the Selection of Consulting Firms (Small Assignments Time Based), from the Secretary Ministerial Tenders Board, in addition to the following minimum requirements:

- (i) Item No. i-Evidence of experience in at least five (5) jobs of similar nature and complexity executed within the last five years with verifiable letters of contract award and certificates of job completion. Detailed description should be captured in the Rfp;
- (ii) Item no. ii Company profile with copy of Article of Association, memoranda of Understanding and Company's Registration with professional bodies particularly COREN;
- (iii) Item No. iii Evidence of personnel capability including list of key professionals, curriculum vitae of each professional, registration with professional bodies such as COREN, etc as detailed in the Standard Request for proposal (RfP) as adapted from the BPP document;
- (iv) Item No. iv - Submission of three (3) years Audited Accounts with Annual Turn Over of N10million in any of the last three (3) years as detailed in the Standard Request for Proposal (RfP) document;

4. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Completed Technical proposals for the project of interest should be submitted in two (2) hard copies and one (1) electronic copy in Microsoft Office and enclosed in sealed envelope marked Technical proposal with the project name marked clearly on top right hand corner, addressed and returned to;

The Secretary,
Ministerial Tenders Board,
Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Water Resources.
Old Secretariat, Area 1, Garki,
ABUJA.

To reach him on or before 3.00pm on Monday, 18th May, 2009.

Only Firms/Joint Ventures who are pre-qualified will have their financial proposals opened.

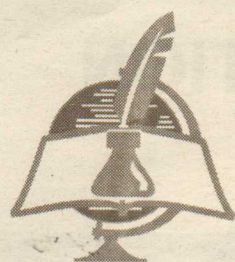
5. ENQUIRIES ON THE INVITATION

All enquires on the proposals are to be directed to:

The Director,
Department of Dams, Irrigation & Drainage,
Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources,
Old Secretariat,
Area 1, Garki,
ABUJA.
Tel: No. 09-2342324

SIGNED:

Otaki Oyigbenu, OON, mni
Permanent Secretary



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SIZE	BLACK & WHITE		COLOUR	
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Full Page	324,000.00	16,200.00	432,000.00	21,600.00
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10"x5 cols	183,600.00	9,180.00	252,000.00	12,600.00
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9"x6 cols	212,760.00	10,638.00	279,000.00	13,950.00
9"x5 cols	176,400.00	8,820.00	243,000.00	12,150.00
9"x4 cols	135,000.00	6,750.00	194,400.00	9,720.00
9"x3 cols	129,600.00	6,480.00	176,400.00	8,820.00
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8"x4 cols	126,000.00	6,300.00	187,200.00	9,360.00
8"x3 cols	122,400.00	6,120.00	169,200.00	8,460.00
7"x6 cols	153,000.00	7,650.00	198,000.00	9,900.00
7"x5 cols	144,000.00	7,200.00	187,200.00	9,360.00
7"x4 cols	122,400.00	6,120.00	180,000.00	9,000.00
6"x6 cols	147,600.00	7,380.00	188,400.00	9,420.00
6"x5 cols	135,000.00	6,750.00	183,600.00	9,180.00
6"x4 cols	118,800.00	5,940.00	176,400.00	8,820.00
6"x3 cols	72,000.00	3,600.00	97,200.00	4,860.00
6"x2 cols	63,000.00	3,150.00	81,000.00	4,050.00
5"x5 cols	126,000.00	6,300.00	180,000.00	9,000.00
5"x4 cols	113,400.00	5,670.00	178,200.00	8,910.00
5"x3 cols	68,400.00	3,420.00	171,000.00	8,550.00
5"x2 cols	54,000.00	2,700.00	91,800.00	4,590.00
4"x6 cols	117,000.00	5,850.00	126,000.00	6,300.00
4"x5 cols	115,200.00	5,760.00	171,000.00	8,550.00
4"x4 cols	104,400.00	5,220.00	163,800.00	8,190.00
4"x3 cols	63,000.00	3,150.00	82,800.00	4,140.00
4"x2 cols	48,600.00	2,430.00	68,400.00	3,420.00
3"x2 cols	30,600.00	1,530.00	45,000.00	2,250.00
3"x3 cols	45,000.00	2,250.00	54,000.00	2,700.00
2"x2 cols	21,600.00	1,080.00	36,000.00	1,800.00
1"x1 col	4,500.00	225.00	5,400.00	270.00

SPECIAL POSITIONS	RATE (N)	VAT (N)
Page 2 or 3	950,400	47,520
Page 4 or 5	864,000	43,200
Front Page Strip (2" x 6 cols)	342,000	17,100
Front Page Solus (6" x 2 cols)	342,000	17,100
Back Page Strip	324,000	16,200
Front Page Earpiece	120,000	6,000
Back Page Earpiece	96,000	4,800
Centre Spread	1,360,800	68,040
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ROP Strip (Black and White)	108,000	5,400
ROP Strip (Colour)	132,000	6,600

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Registration of Trustees	3" x 2 cols	15,000	750
Loss of Documents	2" x 2 cols	7,500	375
Change of Name	Per Word	100	NIL

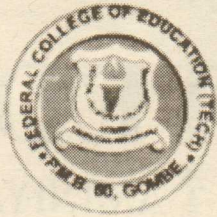
LOOSE INSERTS	RATE (N)	VAT (N)
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Per 1000 copies (1 Sheet)	30,000	1,500
Per 1000 copies (Magazines)	50,000	2,500

Technical Data	Series Discount
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- A. Education (CONTISS 07 – 13)**
- Psychology
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 - Special Education
 - Curriculum Studies
 - Primary Education Studies/Theatre Arts, Maths Computer, Science, Creative Arts
 - Philosophy of Education
 - Sociology of Education
 - Adult Education
 - Oral English
- B. Vocational Education (CONTISS 07 – 13)**
- Agric Economics
 - Soil Science
 - Agric Extension/Rural Sociology
 - Fisheries
 - Agric Mechanisation
 - Crop Protection
 - Plant Science
 - Fine Art
 - General Home Economics
- C. Business Education (CONTISS 07 – 13)**
- Secretarial Studies
 - Accounting Education
- D. Science Education (CONTISS 07 – 13)**
- Chemistry
 - Biology
 - Physics
 - Laboratory Technologist Chemistry Biology, Physics & Integrated Science
 - Mathematics
 - Integrated Science
 - Computer Education
 - Laboratory Instructor (Computer Education)
- E. Technical Education (CONTISS 07 – 13)**
- Automobile Technology
 - Building Technology
 - Electrical Electronics
 - Metal Work Technology
 - Wood Work Technology
- (a) Principal Lecturer CONTISS 13**
Minimum requirements in similar institutions of higher learning:-
- Doctorate degree with nine (9) years cognate teaching experience, or
 - Masters degree with 12 years cognate teaching experience
 - 3 journal publications since last promotion, or
 - 3 chapter contribution in a textbook, or
 - One published standard textbook
 - Evidence of academic and administrative leadership and community service.
 - Ability to initiate and supervise applied research, project or exhibition.
 - Possession of minimum teaching qualification
 - Registration with a relevant professional body.
- (b) Senior Lecturer CONTISS 12**
Minimum requirements in similar institutions of higher learning:-
- Doctorate degree plus 6 years cognate teaching experience,
- Or
- Masters degree plus 12 years cognate teaching experience in similar instruction or higher learning.
 - 2 journal articles published since last promotion, plus 2 conference or seminar papers presented since last promotion, or
 - Two chapter contribution in standard textbook plus two conference/seminar papers presented since last promotion.
 - Registration with relevant professional body.
 - Possession of minimum teaching qualification.
- (c) Lecturer I CONTISS 11:**
Minimum requirements in similar institution of higher learning:-
- Doctorate degree plus 3 years cognate teaching experience, Or
 - Masters degree plus 6 years cognate teaching experience, or
 - First degree plus 9 years cognate teaching experience.
 - One journal article published since last promotion, or
 - Two national seminar/conference papers presented since last promotion.
 - Possession of minimum teaching qualification.
 - Registration with relevant professional body.
- (d) Lecturer II CONTISS 09**
Minimum requirement in similar institution of higher learning.
- Masters degree plus 3 years cognate teaching experience, or
 - First degree plus 6 years cognate teaching experience
 - One journal article published since last promotion
 - Possession of minimum teaching qualification.
 - Masters degree in relevant field for (Lecturer III)
- F. Library**
- Librarian I (with cataloguing & classification experience)**
Minimum requirements as in similar institutions of higher learning:-
- Masters degree in Library Science (M.L.S.) or B.L.S. with 3 years cognate experience or approved degree plus post-graduate diploma in Library Studies plus 2 years cognate working experience.
- G. Bursary**
- (I) BURSAR (CONTISS 14 – 15)**
- Duties And Responsibilities**
The Bursar shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the College and will be responsible to the Provost for the day-to-day financial affairs of the College. He/she will be responsible for all accounting, financial planning, and management activities of the College. The Bursar will oversee all Bursary staff and ensure collection of all accruing revenues, - recording and reporting of all financial transactions of the College.
- Qualification & experience:**
The candidate must possess a Bachelors degree in accounting or HND in Accounting or Finance, plus professional qualification such as ICAN or ANAN. The candidate must possess a minimum of ten (10) years management experience and must not be below CONTISS 13, preferably in similar organization.
- The application should be forwarded to the Registrar Federal College of Education (Technical), Gombe, through the candidate's employers, if employed, to reach him not later than 6 weeks from the date of this advertisement.
- (ii) Computer Programmer**
Minimum requirements in similar institutions of higher learning:
- A good degree in Computer Science/Computer Engineering from a recognized higher institution with NYSC discharge certificate.
- (iii) Accountant I & II (CONTISS 07 & 08)**
- (a)** Candidate must possess a good degree in Accountancy or HND in accountancy from a recognized institution of higher learning or an equivalent professional Accountancy qualification plus at least 3 years cognate experience. In addition, the candidate must be registered with a recognized professional Accountancy body.
- (b)** Candidate must possess a good degree in Accountancy or HND in Accountancy from a recognized institution of higher learning, plus NYSC discharge certificate.
- H. Internal Audit**
- Auditor I & II (CONTISS 07 & 08)**
- (a)** Candidate must possess a good degree in Accountancy or HND in accountancy from a recognized institution of higher learning or an equivalent professional Accountancy qualification plus at least 3 years cognate experience. In addition, the candidate must be registered with a recognized professional Accountancy body.
- (b)** Candidate must possess a good degree in Accountancy or HND in Accountancy from a recognized institution of higher learning, plus NYSC discharge certificate.
- I. Works & Services**
- Principal Technical Officer I & II (CONTISS 08 & 09)**
A candidate possessing HND or equivalent with at least nine/six years cognate experience
 - Senior Technical Officer (Electrical) (CONTISS 08)**
A candidate possessing HND in the relevant field plus at least 3 years cognate experience or a holder of full Technologist certificate or City & Guilds full Technological certificate plus at least 4 years cognate experience.
 - Senior Technical Officer (Mechanical) (CONTISS 08)**
A candidate possessing HND in the relevant field plus at least 3 years cognate experience or a holder of full Technologist certificate or City & Guilds full Technological certificate plus at least 4 years cognate experience.
 - Electrical Engineer (CONTISS 07)**
A candidate possessing a good degree in relevant field plus NYSC discharge certificate or its equivalent
- J. Procurement Unit**
- Building Officer Grade II (CONTISS 07)**
A candidate possessing a good degree in Building or Building Technology from a recognized University with NYSC discharge certificate.
- K. Clinic**
- Medical Doctor (CONTISS 09)**
A candidate possessing MBBS or equivalent qualification, registered with the Nigeria Medical Council and NYSC discharge certificate.
 - Nurses (CONTISS 13)**
Chief Nursing Officer
A candidate possessing a good degree in Nursing or a holder of NRN and NRM in Nursing from a recognized institution or equivalent qualification with at least 12 years post qualification cognate experience.
 - Senior Nursing Officer (CONTISS 09)**
A candidate possession the NRN and NRM or their equivalent and who has been duly registered with the Nursing & Midwifery Council of Nigeria plus at least 6 years post qualification cognate experience in each case or a good degree in Nursing from a recognized institution plus at least 6 years post qualification cognate experience.
- L. Public Relations**
- Public Relations Officer II (CONTISS 07)**
A candidate possessing a good degree in Mass Communication or Languages or any of the Social Science with NYSC discharge certificate.
- M. Registry**
- Principal Assistant Registrar – PAR (CONTISS 12)**
A candidate possessing a good degree in any of the Social Sciences/Arts subjects from a recognized institution of higher learning plus at least 12 years cognate experience or at least 9 years cognate experience, or a Doctorate degree with at least 6 years cognate experience
 - Administrative Officer II (CONTISS 07)**
A candidate possessing a good degree in Arts or Social Science, from a recognized institution of higher learning plus NYSC discharge certificate.
- Method of Application**
Application in 10 copies must include full curriculum vitae together with photocopies of each credential mentioned. Names and addresses of three (3) referees which should include immediate past or present head of department should be submitted. Candidates should request their specified referees to send Confidential Reports on them within six (6) weeks of this advertisement. Application, which should pass through candidate's heads of department, should be sent within six (6) weeks from the date of this advertisement to:-
- The Registrar,**
Federal College of Education (Technical),
P. M. B. 60,
Gombe, Gombe State.
- N.B.** Only short listed candidates could be contacted.



Government of Delta State, Nigeria

His Excellency, **Dr. Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan**, Governor, Delta State, welcomes His Excellency, **Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, GCFR**, President and Commander In Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Vice President, **Dr. Goodluck Jonathan** to the 1st South South Economic Summit holding in Calabar :22nd - 24th April, 2009.



His Excellency,
Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, GCFR,
President and Commander In Chief of the Armed Forces,
Federal Republic of Nigeria.



The Vice President,
Dr. Goodluck Jonathan
Federal Republic of Nigeria.

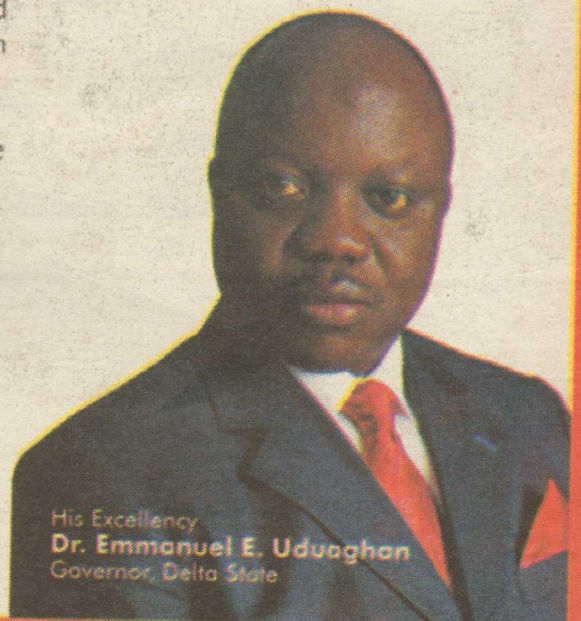
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 E-mail: corporateaffairs@dmo.gov.ng
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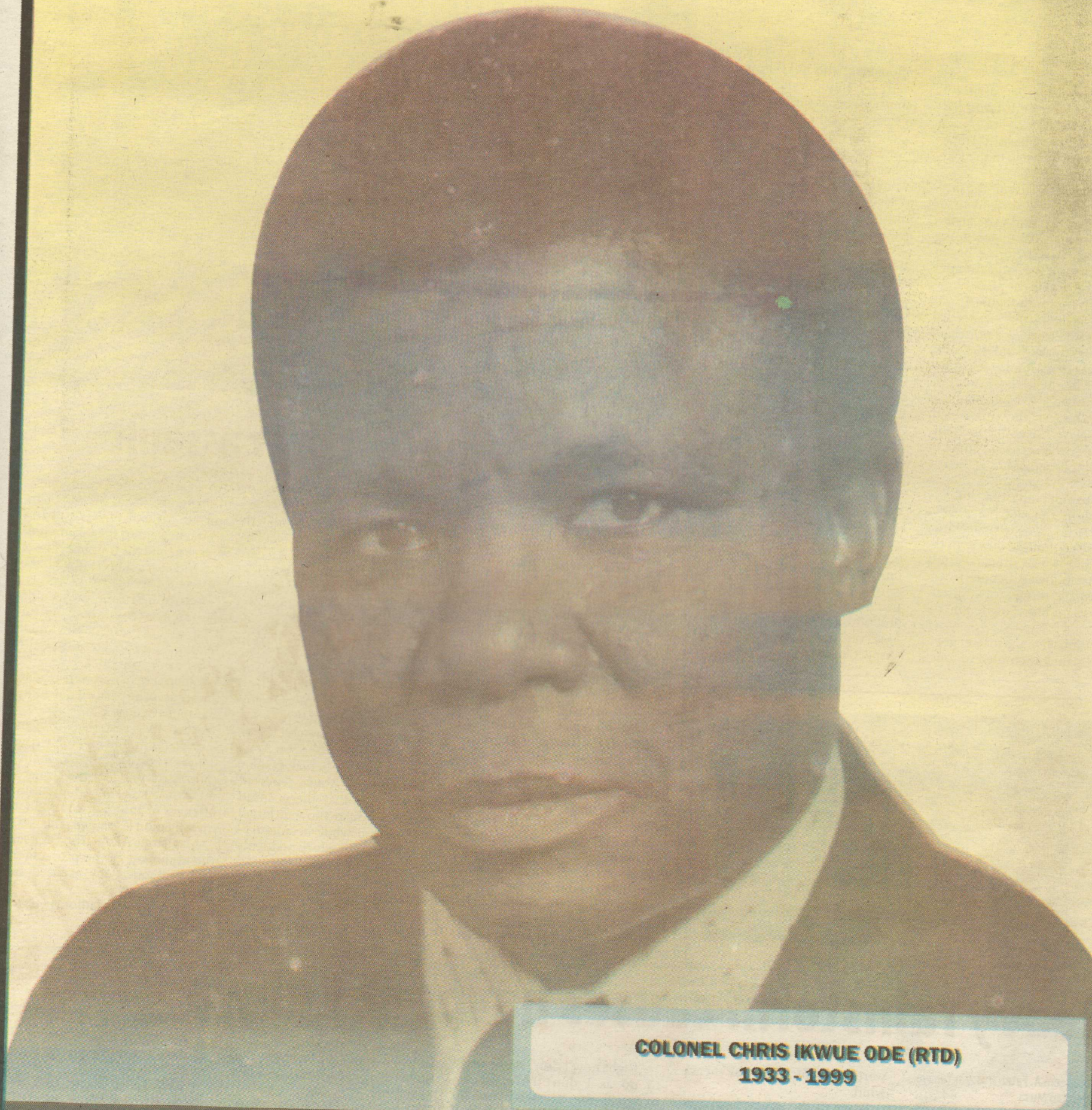


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Lightning kills boy at Jikwoyi

By Abubakar Yakubu

A 14-year-old store assistant, Monday, was on Saturday morning struck dead by lightning at a football field at Phase 1, Trans-former Area, Jikwoyi, in the Federal Capital Territory.

An eyewitness said the boy came to the field at 8.30am to throw away dirt and was carried away by a football match going on in the pitch, before it began to drizzle and the loud thunder sound that shook the place.

"At first we thought it was a transformer that exploded because we heard loud noise and saw huge sparks and the next thing was that Monday fell down dead on the field, burnt on one side of his body, from his head down to his feet," the witness said.

City News learnt that immediately after the incident, some of the footballers that know the late Monday's master ran to him to intimate him of the incident.

"The master did not believe that the boy was actually dead because he thought he was in the store and it was after must talk that he followed people to the field to see things for himself," disclosed a store owner in the area.

He said when the master got to the field and attempted to touch

the corpse, he was prevented by onlookers, who told him that death by thunder is a serious taboo and needs the intervention of a native doctor to neutralise.

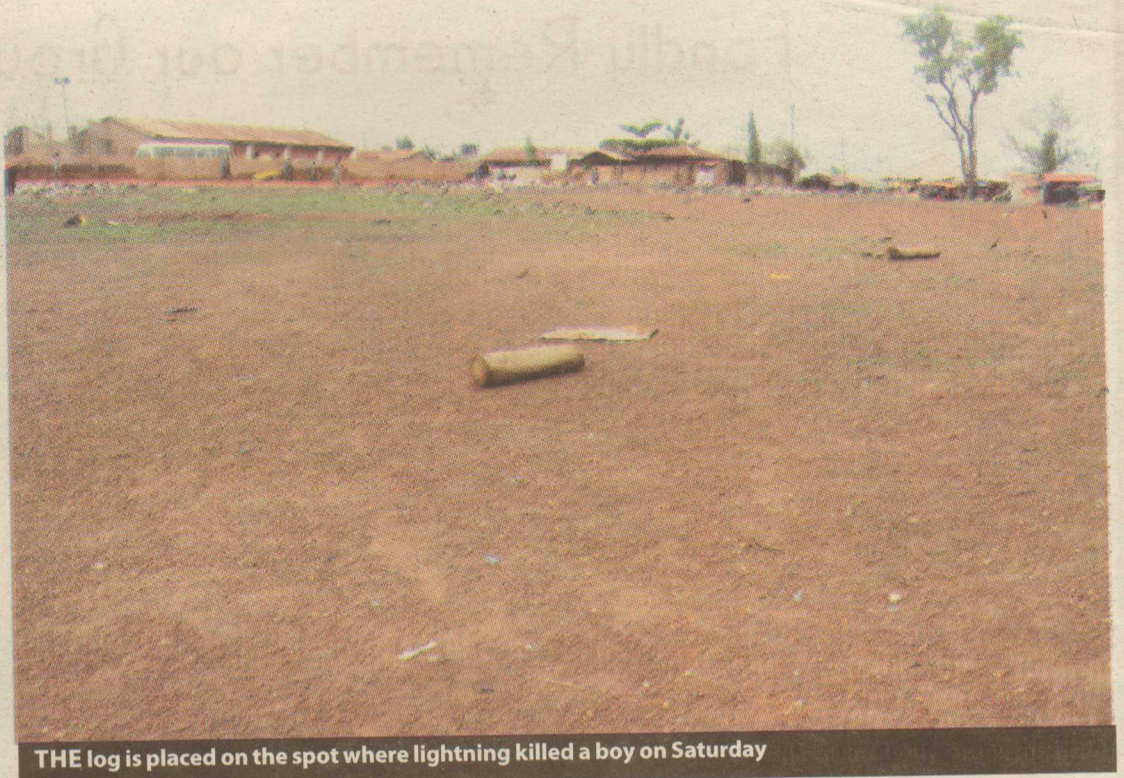
The store owner said that the boy's master then went to Jikwoyi Police Station to alert them of the incident and policemen were sent to accompany him to the spot to investigate, adding that when they got there and saw things for themselves, the policemen also did not touch the corpse.

"The dead boy's master later went to his Church to call members and his pastor, including a lawyer, who all came to the spot at around 4 pm to offer prayers and sing praises to God before the corpse was evacuated away for burial on the same day," he added.

When our reporter visited the scene of the incident, the field was deserted and a log of wood placed on the spot the boy died.

The deceased master's store, which is located opposite Jikwoyi Police Station, was locked up and owners of neighbouring stores said the master has not opened the place since the incident opened on Thursday.

At the police station, a policeman called the death unfortunate and odd. He said the policemen observed the corpse and do not suspect foul play.



THE log is placed on the spot where lightning killed a boy on Saturday

Scavenger in court over assault

By Ibraheem A. Fatai & Hussein Yahaya

A 23-year-old scavenger, Ibrahim Salisu was yesterday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly throwing a stone at a car belonging to one Ibrahim Halilu and breaking the car's side glass.

Prosecutor Obed Amikor told the court that on April 19, 2009, one Ibrahim Halilu of Kubwa village, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused boarded his vehicle with registration number NLC38FCT from Zuba to Julius Berger Junction, Abuja.

He said on reaching his destination, the accused alighted from the vehicle and threw a stone at it, thereby breaking the side glass. "During police investigation the accused confessed that he committed the offence, which is punishable under Section 327 of the Penal Code Law," the prosecutor added.

When the charge was read to

the accused, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail.

Magistrate Hafsat Soso granted him bail in the sum of N50,000 with a surety in like sum that must reside within the court's jurisdiction and swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to May 19 for hearing.

In another case, a man, Tosin Akinowo was arraigned for allegedly beating one Tobenna Okafor and stealing his N100,000.

Prosecutor Emmanuel Hossaini told the court that on April 16, 2009, one Tobenna Okafor of Jabi District, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused and three others (now at large) attacked him while he was trying to fix his car which suddenly stopped working.

"When the complainant's car stopped, the accused and others jumped inside and started beating him as well as tried to drag

the steering of the car with him.

"After the attack, the complainant discovered that N100,000 which he kept in the pigeon hole of his car and the number plate of the said car had been stolen," the prosecutor added.

According to the prosecutor, the offences committed by the accused are punishable under Sections 79, 265 and 288 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charges were read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail.

After the plea, the prosecutor asked the court for a hearing date and opposed the bail application, arguing that the accused might jump bail or commit more offences or interfere with police investigation if granted bail.

Magistrate Akobi Anna upheld the argument of the prosecutor and remanded the accused in prison custody.

The case was adjourned to April 28 for hearing.



A resident of Jikwoyi fetching pond water yesterday.

Heavy rainstorm causes havoc at Kubwa

By Ibraheem A. Fatai, Hussein Yahaya & Suleiman Musa

HEAVY rainstorm on Monday evening at Kubwa caused serious damage to the roofs of some houses and shops.

Our reporters observed that shops with their roofs blown off at Gbazango Layout, Kubwa, while some television antennas, bill boards, sign posts and trees

were brought down by heavy wind.

Some of the affected persons were seen yesterday morning trying to salvage some of their belongings that were partially damaged by the rain.

A trader lamented that the entire foodstuff she kept in her shop were all destroyed by rain, as a result of the shop roof that was blown off.

"Right now I don't know what to do as I don't have money to repair the damaged roof or restock the shop," she said.

Mrs Caroline Fidelis, a resident said many residents in the area did not sleep in their houses that night because of damaged roofs, adding that the heavy wind also destroyed doors and windows.

A carpenter in the area, Malam

Zubairu Sani said he spent that night fixing roofs from one house to another.

"What worsened the situation for some affected residents was that some of the blown roofs could not be found," he added.

The situation at Gwarimpa was also similar as Alhaji Kabir Bello, a resident in the area called on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to come

to their rescue by giving them roofing sheets.

City News learnt that the storm also fell some borehole tanks on the ground, which caused water scarcity in the area.

Residents close to Kubwa village complained bitterly of water scarcity and appealed to the FCT Administration to come to their aid.



FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT
Kapital Road, Area 11, PMB 24, Garki, Abuja Nigeria

The Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) through the ARD Secretariat is embarking on the pre-qualification exercise of interested contractors / suppliers for her 2009 statutory projects. It is therefore inviting interested contractors / suppliers to submit both Technical and Financial bids for these projects.

2. SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of work consists of the followings:-

LOTA

- i. Construction of 1 No. Slaughter House in Lugbe.
- ii. Construction of Fertilizer Warehouse at Tunga Manje.
- iii. Construction of 1 No. Specialized Warehouse at Tunga Manje.

LOTB

- i. Rehabilitation of 4 No. Abattoirs.

LOT C

- i. Computerization / Networking and Installation of Accounting Soft Wares (Peach Tree Accounting Package).

LOT D

- i. Completion of Fish Farm Estate at Kwali.
- ii. Establishment of FCT Fishing Festival Village.
- iii. Completion of Fish Farm Estate at Bwari.
- iv. Completion of Fadama Headquarters (Tilling, Painting, Furnishing, Electrical, Plumbing etc.)
- v. Accelerated Production of Tropical Fruits and Vegetable Programme.

PREQUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Interested contractors / suppliers must forward copies of the following documents and all originals must be presented for sighting:

- i. Evidence of Registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).
- ii. Evidence of Articles and Memorandum of Association.
- iii. Interested contractors / suppliers must have up to date returns with CAC, and note that due diligence could be conducted.
- iv. List of verifiable documentary evidence of similar jobs successfully executed within the last three (3) years.
- v. Evidence of Audited Account from a Chartered Accounting Firm.
- vi. Tax Clearance for the past three (3) years.
- vii. Reference Letter from a bank.
- viii. Evidence that none of the Directors of the company has been convicted.

NOTE

All interested contractors for either LOT 'A', 'B' or 'D' **must** in addition to the above general requirements provide the followings:-

- i. Evidence of experience and qualifications of professional staff and endorsed copies of professional qualification (certificates) must be attached where applicable.
- ii. List of equipments available to be used for the project and their locations and states whether the equipments are owned or leased.

ALSO:

- i. Interested contractors should **not** tender for more than two (2) projects in each 'LOT'.
- ii. Bidders or their representative are strongly advised to attend the opening session.
- iii. Late submission will not be entertained.
- iv. Further clarification can be obtained from Room 053 (PRS Unit), Secretariat, Garki, Abuja, FCT.
- v. All presentations should be neatly and serially arranged as advertised.
- vi. Nothing in the advertisement shall be construed to be a commitment on the part of ARDS to undertake the project.

SUBMISSION:

Prospective bidders are expected to collect bid document from Room 053, Engineering Annex Block, FCDA Area 11, Garki, Abuja between 8:00am to 4:00pm each working day (Monday - Friday) on the presentation of receipt for payment of **none refundable tender fee of Ten Thousand Naira (N10,000:00) Only** at any branch of Unity Bank with A/C Num: 327-173253-130 in favour of Agriculture & Rural Development Secretariat, Area 11, Garki, Abuja, FCT.

Every bidder is to submit his bid in two parts: **Part A** which is the Technical shall be submitted in a sealed envelope and clearly marked, "TECHNICAL" for either LOT A, B, C or D (please, the LOT and name of the project must be clearly written on the left corner of the envelope) while the **Part B** which is the Financial shall also be marked, "FINANCIAL" and submitted in two copies, and the original in one (1) envelope and the copy of the tender in another envelope, duly marked as "ORIGINAL" and "COPY". These two (2) envelopes shall then be enveloped in one (1) single other envelope as the Financial Bid and addressed to; **ARDS Tender Unit, Room 053, Area 11, Garki, Abuja** and should be submitted to;

FCTA Tenders Board,
 FCTA Secretariat,
 Kapital Street,
 Area 11, Garki,
 Abuja, FCT.

The submissions must be received by the above named address on or before 10:00 am, 12th May, 2009 i.e three (3) weeks from the day of this advertisement.

NOTE:

- i. All bids will be opened on the same day at the ARD Conference Room, Area 11, Garki, Abuja, FCT.
- ii. This publication supersedes the earlier one dated 20th April, 2009, of the Federal Tenders Journal volume 5 no 9.

Signed,
 Management!



SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Plot 272 Samuel Adesujo Ademulegun Street
 Central Business District Abuja,
 e-mail: sec@sec.gov.ng
 website: www.sec.gov.ng



PUBLIC NOTICE

MEETING OF INVESTORS OF ASSET PLUS LIMITED

The Securities and Exchange Committee hereby invites the underlisted investors whose shares were illegally sold by Asset Plus Securities Limited for an urgent meeting in the Commission's Lagos zonal office to discuss the manner of settlement that will be best appreciated by them from the recoveries made so far.

1. Alhaji Idrisu Ibrahim Dauda
2. Alhaji A. Ijaoba
3. Prof. Dominic Osegbe
4. Makanjuola David Olubisi
5. Comfort Adewara
6. Liyana P. A. Wijesinghe
7. Gbuzue Uche Eugene
8. Chinyere Alumona
9. Wise Invest. Ltd
10. Amoye Oluyomi Olumuyiwa
11. Mrs. Agbeke Ogunsanwo
12. Chief E.O. Payne
13. Ezeofunna Nwanneka Juliana
14. Adekunle Gbenro
15. Michael Folorunsho Oye
16. Samuel C. Agu
17. Abdu Idris

The meeting is scheduled to hold as follows

Date: April 24th, 2009

Time: 10:00 am

Venue: Securities and Exchange Commission
 3 Idejo Street
 Opp. ICON House, Off Adeola Odeku
 Sreet.
 Victoria Island, Lagos.

For further details please contact Mr. Bernard Ebe on 080-23042377, Miss Ime Ekong on 08023571285.

Signed
 Management.

labour report

Health workers' strike paralyses Imo public hospitals



Gov Ikedi Ohakim

THE three-day old strike by health workers in public hospitals in Imo State has continued to paralyse clinical and other health services throughout the state.

The health workers, including doctors, pharmacists, nurses and laboratory scientists, are protesting non-implementation of the consolidated health salary for the health sector approved

by the National Salaries and Wages Commission.

They are also demanding the restoration of call duty, shift duty and rural posting allowances, as well as implementation of the 22 per cent salary increase to health workers in the states as approved by the Federal Government in 2001.

Investigations showed that relations of patients in many government hospitals have transferred them to the Federal Medical Centre, Owerri and other private hospitals.

The situation was not different at the Ministry of Health within the state secretariat on Port-Harcourt Road, Owerri, with most offices under lock and key.

The Commissioner for Health, Dr Vincent Udokwu, said the health workers' strike came to government as a surprise but said government was still discussing with the various unions on their grievances. (NAN)

Miners association suspends national chairman

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos



Miners at work

THE Miners Association of Nigeria (MAN) has sacked its National Chairman, Mr. Sunday Ekozin, following an emergency meeting held at the Headquarters of the association in Jos yesterday. A statement by the Secretary General of the association, Alhaji Sani Shehu stated that the suspension of the former chairman is

with immediate effect. "We wish to inform the general public that Mr. Sunday Ekozin has been suspended as the chairman of Miners Association of Nigeria from the date of this release," the statement said. The statement explained that the decision to suspend Ekozin was taken following a vote of no confidence passed on him by the executive council of the association in response to a charge that he indulged in the habit of taking decisions that affects the association without prior consultation with other members of the executive council of the association. The statement directed that in view of the chairman's suspension, all matters concerning the association should be directed to the current interim chairman, 1st Vice Chairman or Secretary General, Dr. Kola Russell Ojo, and Alhaji Khalid Yusuf respectively. Reacting to the development, the suspended chairman described his suspension as a figment of the imagination of the Plateau State chapter of the association. He explained his reaction, "It is only through the National Congress such as the one coming up on 11th May that a member or any EXCO can be sanctioned or removed". He said.



MINISTER of Labour and Productivity Chief Adetokunbo Kayode, speaking to newsmen recently.

Only private sector can curb unemployment -Ndanusa

From Ayegbalsrael Ebije, Minna

CHAIRMAN of Peoples Democratic Party Elders Forum in Niger State, Alhaji Aliyu Ndanusa has asserted that only a private sector driven economy can pull Nigeria out of the global economic meltdown.

Ndanusa who made the assertion during a chat with pressmen in Minna yesterday maintained that the bulk of employment in the country is generated by private investors, adding that government at all

levels only employ a few people.

He said until government encourages the private sector to thrive and create jobs, government-owned institutions alone will continue to be unable to accommodate the employment need of graduates and the economic crunch will bite harder.

Describing Nigeria as a country with wealth of human and natural resources, Ndanusa said the country will soar above the tide of economic dis-

aster if collaboration is fostered between the government and investors, adding that such synergy will pave way for developmental projects which will by extension create job opportunities for the unemployed.

According to him, people should be bold enough to leave government jobs to explore the environment of self employment, saying that it will lead to a chain of opportunities for others to be gainfully employed rather than a situation

where so many will queue for stipends from government offices.

He said, "If I am a governor of a state, I will reduce the work force to lighten the budget of the state and pave way for the retirees to engage themselves gainfully which will invariably create jobs for others. As a young man, I left the civil service since the late seventies and today am an employer of labour. Looking back at my decision I have never had cause to regret my action", he

Civil Service Union urged to be agent of change

By Francis Okeke

A Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation (OHSF) Dr. Euagie Abebe, has called on the Nigeria Civil Service Union (NCSU), OHSF unit, to be agent of change.

Dr. Abebe, who heads the Common Service Office charged NCSU to be an agent of change by encouraging its members to embrace attitudinal and behavioural change to conform with the current service reforms.

She made the call in a

meeting with newly elected executives of the union in her office, just as she called on the union to be partner in progress by joining hands to resolve industrial disputes.

Speaking on late payment of salaries, the Permanent Secretary said it was due to the introduction of the Electronic Payment system (e-Payment), which she said will soon be solved.

She reiterated the importance of Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS), which she said will result in the estab-

lishment of a reliable and comprehensive database for the Public Service, facilitate manpower planning, eliminate record and payroll fraud, and facilitate easy storage, update and retrieval of personnel records for administrative and pension processes and staff remuneration payment with minimal leakages.

She disclosed that the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Ms Amal I. Pepple has directed that overtime payment should be paid monthly to deserving staffers.

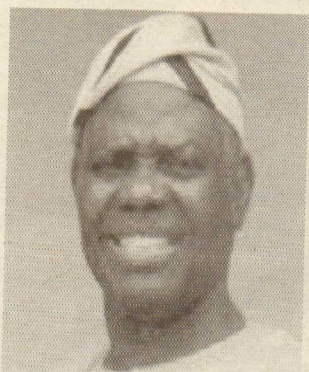
Dr. Abebe congratulated

the unionists on their election and promised an open door policy and dialogue in resolving all matters.

Earlier, the union Chairman, Comrade Christopher U. Ekpe, enumerated various problems of the union members and all workers in the office. The problems, according to him, include non-implementation of Trade Union Amendment Act 2005, late payment of staff salaries, irregular conduct of promotion interviews, irregular training programmes and constant power failure in the office.

Inside Politics

Ekiti re-run: AC raises alarm over INEC's request for soldiers



By Muideen Olaniyi

THE Action Congress (AC) yesterday voiced concern over alleged request by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for the deployment of troops during Saturday's re-run governorship election

Bisi Akande in Ekiti State. Media report on Wednesday suggested a move by INEC to ask for soldiers in order to forestall unforeseen circumstances. The party urged government to resist the temptation to send troops to the state, saying that there is no plausible reason for INEC to make such a demand, since the state remains largely peaceful ahead of the polls. AC said such demand by INEC would portray them as an instrument of rigging, warning that the deployment of a million soldiers may not be able to ensure peace. It implored President Umaru Musa Yar'adua not to accede to the request for troops deployment.

Defection fever grips Nasarawa AC

From Ahmed Tahir Ajobe, Lafia

ACTION Congress (AC) faces collapse in Nasarawa State following the defection of two key stalwarts of the party to the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). The party's governorship candidate in the 2007 elections, Engr Abdullahi Sule and the candidate for Nasarawa West Senatorial district, Dr Bala Tafida at separate fora defected to the PDP. Sule, who was believed to be the major financier of the AC, crossed over to PDP in a brief ceremony at his ward in Gudi, his country home last week. Tafida's defection notice was contained in a letter to the PDP chairman, Nasarawa Central ward and copied to the state governor, Alhaji Aliyu Akwe Doma, Speaker of the state assembly, Ahmed Mohammed, PDP national vice chairman north central, Yusuf Ayitogo, among others.

Group urges govs, LG bosses on seven point agenda

By Abbas Jimo

STATE governors and local government chairmen across the country have been urged to get involved in actualising the seven point Agenda of President Umaru Ya'adua. The Director General of 'Friends of Nigeria', a non government organisation (NGO), Chief Ben Oranusi told journalists in Abuja recently that the seven point agenda is a major catalyst to the growth of the various sectors of the economy. Oranusi said the objective of the group is to create awareness and wake those responsible for the implementation of the agenda from sleep.

ANPP, PDP against needed electoral reforms - Nnabuchi

Chief Nkwo Nnabuchi (ANPP, Anambra), was one time member of the House of Representatives and Former commissioner of housing and environment in Anambra State. In this interview, he speaks on problems of the ANPP and some national issues. Excerpts:



Chief Nkwo Nnabuchi

From Beatrice Onuchukwu, Awka

The All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP) appears to have gone underground since the Supreme Court judgment on 2007 presidential polls. Has the party lost focus?

It is doubtful whether ANPP still exists. At best it is in comma and may soon die. First, the acceptance to participate in the Government of National Unity is an indictment on the party's ideology and manifestoes. Now, the party's apparatus is entirely in the hands of PDP. ANPP is being strangled by three different ropes pulled in different directions. One is being pulled by the national chairman Chief Edwin Ume-Ezeoke and some governors. They disregarded the views of over 80% of ANPP members and acquiesced to be a willing tool in the hands of PDP to embarrass and humiliate

General Buhari and ANPP support base. The second rope is being pulled by those who were dissatisfied with the betrayal from the party leadership and opted for outright fusion with PDP. This group is led by governors of Zamfara and Bauchi States and other important dignitaries in the party including some popular gubernatorial candidates. The third rope is being pulled by the integrity group which insists that acts of Chief Edwin Ume-Ezeoke concerning the administration of the party since he was nominated by Gen. Buhari are null and void as he ceased to be national chairman from that moment. In effect, any decision of the party under the chairmanship of Edwin Ume-Ezeoke during and after 2007 general election to this time is of no effect.

Recently, Alhaji Bashir Tofa said that Gen. Muhammadu Buhari was being misled not to join the coalition

of parties. How do you react to that?

It will be recalled that Bashir Tofa, Babangida and M.K.O. Abiola were in the league that caused the crisis which engulfed the third republic. Therefore, how are you sure that he is not being drafted to repeat it in this republic? Tofa, Shekarau and Ume-Ezeoke are working together. The sincerity of this team is doubtful. You will recall that Shekarau's wife was the first ANPP first lady to pay an official visit to Yar'adua's family to congratulate them and express her support and loyalty to them. She could not have undertaken the trip without the consent and approval of her husband.

Chief Edwin Ume-Ezeoke betrayed Buhari who picked him as a running mate during the 2007 presidential election. He also disregarded the views of over 80% of party members and decided to sink and swim with PDP and President Yar'adua. Now, how do you take any of them serious? They are already dining with the PDP. Now, Shekarau is said to be organizing a coalition to contest the presidency in 2011 against Yar'adua. Let's hope that he does not follow the footsteps of Bafarawa.

ANPP's stand against governors of Zamfara and Bauchi looks unreasonable. If you are in government of National Unity against the views of your party faithful, do you have any moral right to question actions of the same nature from your governors? If their betrayal of Buhari and majority of members is right and legitimate, then the defection of ANPP governors is also right and proper. Similarly, ANPP's views about

government white paper on electoral reform report have again exposed the party to greater ridicule. It is also clear that government's white paper on electoral reform was issued jointly by ANPP and PDP because ANPP ministers, advisers and assistants worked with their colleagues from other parties participating in the GNU to endorse and release the document. In fact, it is now clear that ANPP

“It is doubtful whether ANPP still exists. At best it is in comma and may soon die.”

is fizzling out.

How do you assess the journey so far in this republic?

From day one, it was built on a very weak foundation. The situation on ground now indicates that the fourth republic is on the brink of collapse. This conclusion is based on the existing weak economy and political base, corruption and so on.

The economic problems are too complex for us to overcome soon. Our youths are without jobs. The nation's industrial base is fast collapsing. There is exodus of manpower to countries of the West. There is neither water nor light for rural and agricultural activities, talk less of sustaining urban and industrial centres. The rate of crime is shifting from armed robbery to kidnapping, with the likelihood of escalating into organized attack on the rich and public servants either in their houses or along the highways.

“It is clear that government's white paper on electoral reform was issued jointly by ANPP and PDP because ANPP ministers, advisers and assistants worked with their colleagues from other parties participating in the GNU to endorse and release the document. In fact, it is now clear that ANPP is fizzling out.”


SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

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website: www.sec.gov.ng



PENSIONERS VERIFICATION EXERCISE

This is to inform all pensioners of the above named organization currently drawing pension from SEC Pension Fund that a VERIFICATION EXERCISE will take place from 29th April to 18th May, 2009 at 9.30 am – 4pm each day.

All pensioners are expected to come along with the following items for the exercise:

1. Letter of Retirement
2. Pensioner's ID Card
3. Two recent Passport Photographs

The location and time-table for the exercise are as stated below:

S/NO.	DATE/TIME	LOCATION	VENUE
1.	29 th – 30 th April, 2009 9.30am – 4pm	LAGOS	SEC Office, No. 3 Idejo Str., Opposite Zenith Bank, Off Adeola Odeku St., Victoria Island, Lagos.
2.	5 th – 18 th May, 2009 9.30am – 4pm	ABUJA	SEC Head Office, Plot 272, Samuel Adesujo Ademulegun Str., Central Business District, Abuja.

Please note that attendance is compulsory, attendance by proxy will not be accepted, and the exercise would form the basis of continued payment of pension.

Signed
Management



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- ❖ To examine ways of entrenching effective Chemical Management System in Nigeria
- ❖ To explain the concept of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- ❖ To highlight the role expected of a Chartered Chemist in Chemical Management System and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- ❖ To make every Chartered Chemist a better professional

At

NORTHERN ZONE (KANO) **EASTERN ZONE (ENUGU)**

DATE: Wed. 6th – Thurs. 7th May, 2009 **DATE:** Wed. 8th – Thurs. 9th July, 2009

VENUE: Aminu Kano Centre for Democratic Research & Training, Mumbayya House, Gwammaja Quarters, Bayero University, Kano **VENUE:** To be communicated in due course

TIME: 1000 hours Daily

FEE: Members N20,000.00 Non – Members N30,000.00
This covers workshop materials, tea/coffee and lunch only.

Under the **Chairmanship** of: **Alhaji Tajuddeen Gambo**, Permanent Secretary, Kano State Ministry of Health

And **Special Guest of Honour:** **Prof. Muhammad Attahir Jega**, Vice Chancellor, Bayero University, Kano

FOR WHOM

The workshop is designed for all Chartered Chemists, Practising Chemists, Persons that deal on Chemicals, Representatives of Chemical Industries, etc.

Registration and Payment Advice: All payments should be made into ICCON account at UBA with the A/C number: 00800110000118

NOTE:

Members/Participants, who require that letters be addressed to their employers for sponsorship should contact the Secretariat for such letters.

ACCOMMODATION: For reservations, please call

LOC Chairman (Kano), **Dr. Sulaiman Yusif Mudi, 08037012978**

LOC Chairman (Enugu), **Mr. Reginald J. C. Arazu, 08038685772**

EXHIBITION:

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or visit

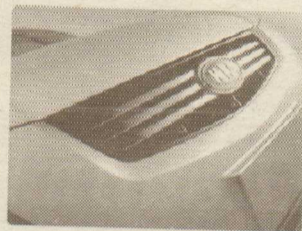
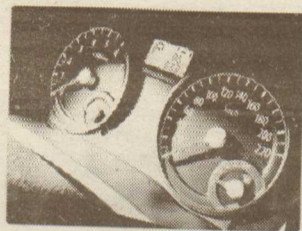
Institute of Chartered Chemists of Nigeria
W. H. O. Building (3rd Floor)
443, Herbert Macaulay Way
Yaba, Lagos



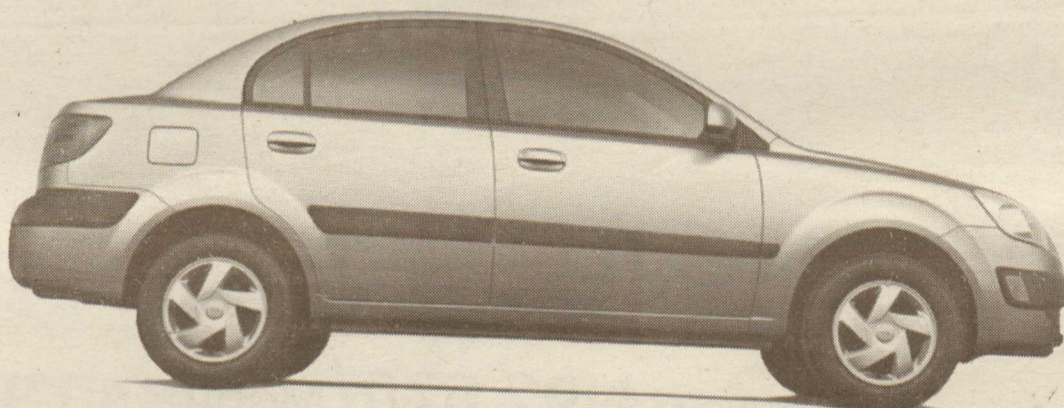
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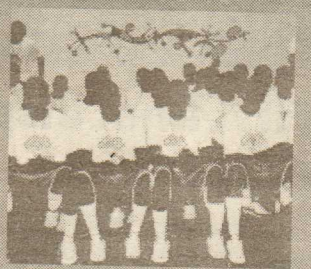


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SPORT

'Basketball future lies with these kids'



Page 54

Adefemi aims for new start

His career is back on track after FIFA cleared him to quit Romanian club Rapid Bucharest

By Ismaila Lere, with Agency reports

DREAM Team IV star Olubayo Adefemi is eager to get his career back on track now that the world football governing body, FIFA, has cleared him to quit Romanian club Rapid Bucharest.

Adefemi, who helped Nigeria to silver medals at the Beijing Olympics in 2008 and the World Youth Championship in 2005, has spent a frustrating five months in Romania.

He asked football's world body to cancel his contract with the club after they failed to pay his salary for two consecutive months.

A FIFA dispute resolution chamber, headed by Tunisia's Slim Aloulou, found Rapid Bucharest guilty of violating their contractual agreement with the player.

The chamber ordered the club to pay Adefemi almost US\$70,000 and to release him with immediate effect from his four-year contract, which he signed in September 2008.

The 23-year-old is now with Austrian top-flight club SC Rheindorf Altach and is now looking to move forward with his career.

"So much has happened to me physically and mentally since I joined Rapid after the Olympics, but now is the time to look forward and not backward," he told



ADEFEMI in action at the Beijing Olympics

BBC Sport.

"I missed out on the opportunity of playing for the Super Eagles against Jamaica in London due to this contract dispute, but am glad it's all behind me now.

"I made a mistake and have learned a lot in the last six months.

"I'm with Austrian club SC Rheindorf Altach for the time being but there are several options available for me in the summer."

Adefemi is also still part of the plans of Super Eagles coach Shaibu Amodu, but the defender knows it will not be easy.

"I have to prove myself all over again to prove my performance at the Olympics and before that at the World Youth Championship wasn't a fluke," said Adefemi.

Wary of making mistakes in the future, Adefemi is counting on his German agent Sascha Guenter for wisdom and support.

"I am not getting carried away by several calls from different agents lately and I have left all decisions in the hands of my agent," he said.

"There are a lot of dangers out there and youngsters coming from Africa need to be careful not to fall victim."

He represented Nigeria at the 2008 Olympic Games, scoring a goal in a semifinal match against Belgium. He was also part of the Nigerian U-20 team during the 2005 FIFA World Youth Championship.



OLUBAYO ADEFEMI BIO DATA

- Date of birth: August 13, 1985 in Lagos
- Playing position: Defensive Midfielder
- Senior career:
- 2004-2005 Hapoel Jerusalem F.C.
- 2005-2006 Hapoel Tel Aviv F.C.
- 2006-2007 Hakoah Ramat Gan
- 2007-2008 Hapoel Bnei Lod F.C.
- 2008-2008 FC Rapid Bucuresti
- 2009- SC Rheindorf Altach

Worgu struggles to adapt in Sudan

NIGERIAN striker Stephen Worgu has said that he is finding it difficult to adjust to life in Sudan, where he is playing for Khartoum club Al Merreikh.

The 19-year-old was bought by Al Merreikh for \$2.6 million last October after he scored 13 goals in the African Champions League for Enyimba.

But Worgu has had a very disappointing time at the club so far, with injury problems,

and he is yet to score in this year's Champions League.

"It's been very difficult I must tell you, very, very difficult," Worgu told the BBC's African sports programme Fast Track.

"It's a different culture, different religion, different language, but I'm really focussing on my game and want to improve."

Worgu says that the language barrier is a problem, as he is unable to understand the praises of Al

Merreikh fans.

"Going onto the pitch the fans are singing your name, but I don't know what they're saying, I have to ask a friend," he said.

"And if I meet people on the road they say something and I can't understand."

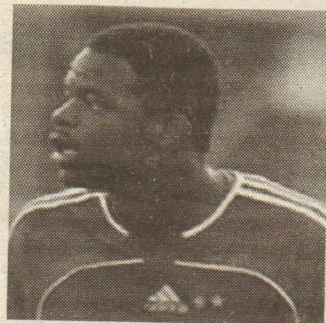
Worgu may not spend too much time in Sudan as El Merreikh are still sticking to their initial plan of transferring him to a European club.

"We look forward to selling him to Europe," said Al Merreikh executive manager Ali Sadiq.

"He's a big player, and we paid a lot of money to get him."

Soon after joining Al Merreikh, Worgu told BBC Sport that he was guaranteed an easy route to a bigger challenge elsewhere if the time comes.

Worgu has a four-year contract with Al Merreikh.



Worgu

News Briefs...

FIFA final inspection visit now May 13

THE final inspection visit by the Federation of International Football Associations to assess the state of readiness of facilities for the FIFA U-17 World Cup Nigeria 2009 has been fixed for May 14 - 23rd 2009.

The inspection team would be led by FIFA's Vice-president and Chairman, FIFA U-17 World Cup Organising Committee, Mr Jack Warner.

All the nine designated venues would be visited by the inspectors, during the 10 day visit. The Inspectors would be coming to verify that the venues are tournament ready for the World Cup. The nine venues are Abuja, Bauchi, Calabar, Enugu, Ijebu-Ode, Kaduna, Kano, Lagos and Warri.

Iran appoints another coach

IRAN appointed another national soccer team coach yesterday, replacing the coach who lasted two weeks.

Afshin Qotbi takes over a day after Mohammad Mayely-Kohan resigned after only two weeks on the job. Mayely-Kohan's resignation followed a bitter dispute with another coach, state television reported.

The 55-year-old Mayely-Kohan had replaced former Iran star Ali Daei this month after the team's loss to Saudi Arabia in a World Cup qualifier.



AFSHIN Qotbi

Amodu agonizes over Mikel position

NIGERIA coach Shuaibu Amodu admits that he faces a dilemma in deploying midfielder John Mikel Obi. The Chelsea star started off as an offensive midfielder early in his career, but under Jose Mourinho, was deployed as a holding midfielder, a position he continues to play at Chelsea.

Amodu, like other Nigeria coaches, prefers to employ him as a playmaking central midfield player and the coach admits that Mikel may get confused.

"Mikel is neither here nor there now and we should appreciate what the boy is going through psychologically in having to adjust between two positions."

Nadal wins opener in Barcelona



NADAL

IN a bid for his fifth straight title at the Barcelona Open, Rafael Nadal cruised past Frederico Gil 6-2, 6-2 Wednesday in the second round.

Nadal needed just 90 minutes to defeat the qualifier from Portugal on clay at the Real Club de Tennis Barcelona, where the top-ranked player has won 21 of 22 matches.

He is vying to become the first player to win the Barcelona Open five times in a row. Nadal achieved a similar feat last week at the Monte Carlo Masters.

Mutombo: My career is over

HOUSTON Rockets center Dikembe Mutombo said his lengthy career is finished after a knee injury knocked him out of the Rockets' playoff game Tuesday night against the Trail Blazers. "For me, basketball is over," he said.

Mutombo, an 18-year NBA veteran, appeared to get tangled with Portland center Greg Oden and came down hard on his left leg late in the first quarter of Game 2 and did not return.

He stayed prone on the court under the Blazers' basket for several moments before he was taken away by stretcher. A preliminary examination revealed a knee strain.

Basketball future lies with these kids – Ujiri, Umar

As Big Man Camp opens in Abuja

By Orkula Shaagee

TORONTO Raptors Assistant General Manager, Masai Ujiri and President of the Nigeria Premier Basketball Foundations, Tijani Umar yesterday noted that the future of the Nigerian basketball lies with the players being assembled through the Big Man Camp of Africa project.

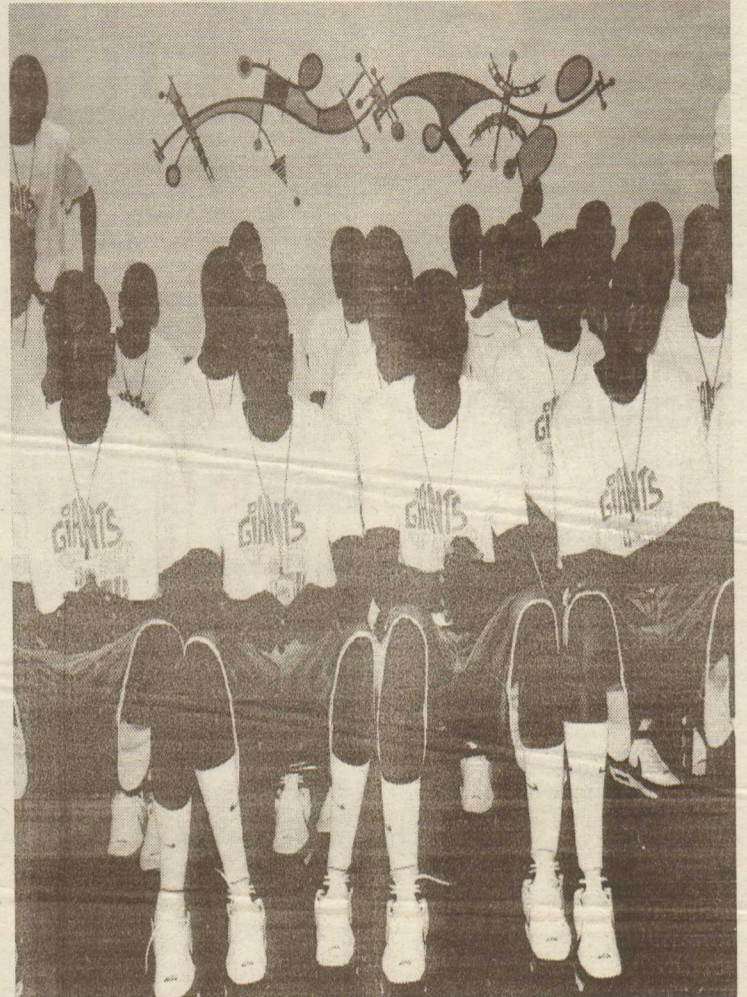
The two foremost basketball administrators, who were speaking at a media briefing to herald the fifth edition of the Big Man Camp in Abuja, said the kids would grow to become the nucleus of Nigeria's future national basketball teams.

Umar, who is the Chairman of Nigeria Basketball Special Task Force, noted that the problem of replacing ageing basketball players in the past would be addressed through the setting up of the camp, as there will be many options to select from.

Blaming the last board of the Nigeria Basketball Federation (NBBF) for not living up to its responsibility due to personal interest of some board members, Umar assured that they will continue to take the responsibility of the federation by building structures at the grassroots level to discover talents for the nation.

"What we are doing is what the national federation should be doing, but due to the many vested interests of members, it was very difficult to achieve it under the last board of the federation", Umar stated.

On his part, Masai Ujiri said he was marveled at the standard of skills exhibited by the youths during the five years of bringing the Bigman Camp to Nigeria, stress-



A cross-section of young basketballers at the opening of the Big Man Camp in Abuja, yesterday

ing that most of the kids are ready and have shown the stuff to play the game at its highest level.

He added that most of the players discovered in the previous editions of the Big Man Camp are currently doing well in the United States where they are playing col-

lege basketball.

Ujiri also informed that the organization plans to set up more camps across the country to ensure that abundant talents hiding the nooks and crannies of Nigeria are picked and nurtured for national duties.

Siasia: I won't discard Bosso Eagles

By David Ngobua

FOR members of the Coach Ladan Bosso Flying Eagles who qualified Nigeria for the 2009 FIFA U-20 World Cup, this may be a piece of good news as the new handler of the junior team, Samson Siasia yesterday said he won't just discard them when he begins preparations for the Championship billed to hold in Egypt.

Although the team managed to qualify for Egypt 2009, the players Coach Ladan Bosso led to the 2009 African Championship in Rwanda did not live up to the expectations of Nigeria football fans.

Consequently, when calls for the sack of the coach continued unabated, the Nigeria Football Federation sacked Bosso and replaced him with Samson Sia-

sia who was in charge of the U-20 team in 2005.

Speaking to Trustsports in an exclusive interview, the former Super Eagles forward said that in as much as he intends to re-build the team, he has no intention to discard every member of the team under Bosso.

He said that the players qualified Nigeria for the junior World Cup and must be given the first chance of making the team to Egypt.

His words, "The old and new players will come together. We would screen and see how we can blend the two together. Then we would look at the areas we feel we can change players. They qualified us for the world cup and have the first chance of making the team".



SIASIA

Benitez: Title in United's hands

LIVERPOOL manager Rafa Benitez admitted Manchester United were in the driving seat for the title after watching his side drop two crucial points at Anfield.

The Spaniard blamed "massive mistakes" after his side were held to a 4-4 draw by Arsenal, for whom Andriy Arshavin scored all four of his side's goals - the first player to achieve such a feat at Anfield in a league match since Denis Westcott for Wolves in 1946 - in an astonishing match.

Ironically the point was

enough to take Liverpool back to the top of the table, level on points with United but with a better goal difference.

However, United now have two games in hand over their rivals and barring a catastrophic collapse, ought to seal their third successive domestic title.

"I'm really disappointed because we conceded four goals," said Benitez.

"The positive thing is we have scored four goals, but I'm disappointed because we have made

massive mistakes.

"We have been fighting so hard and we will continue to do so. It has to be like this.

"They (United) were already in the driving seat and if they win their games in hand then it will be more and more difficult for us (to win the title)."

With five games and 15 points still to play for, Benitez is reluctant to concede defeat to United in the race for the Premier League.

And he insisted that Sir Alex Ferguson's side still had it all to do.

"They have to win and they still have to play Arsenal yet," he added.

Having bowed out of the

Champions League after a 4-4 draw at Chelsea last week, Liverpool have now conceded eight times in two games.

...No, it's not over yet - Gerrard

LIVERPOOL are tied in first place with 71 points and have a temporary command over the rest of the Premier League due to their superior goal difference compared to Manchester United.

Sir Alex Ferguson's men, though, have two games in hand to restore their league leader status, but despite their advantage, Steven Gerrard refuses to give up hope and is adamant that Liverpool can still win the Premier League. The versatile midfielder, who has supported Fernando Torres up front for much of

the season, told the Daily Mail, "United have a fantastic team and you look at their run-in, look to see where they are going to drop points - it would have been very difficult if we'd lost the game.

"But that point could be big. We'll have to wait and see how big it could be for us. Performance-wise, at times we were very good. Torres and Benayoun were frightening going forward. It's not like us to concede that many goals like we have tonight. We're normally sound defensively, especially at home."

Gerrard acknowledged that their run-in would be reliant on other clubs giving them a helping hand, starting this evening when Portsmouth visit Old Trafford.

"Now we need United to get beaten which is difficult to do because they're a good team. But I still believe there will be twists and turns in this title race," he concluded.

Liverpool spectacularly drew with Arsenal with an extraordinary 4-4 scoreline Tuesday evening, with Andrey Arshavin scoring all of the Gunners' goals.



BENITEZ blamed massive mistakes after his side were held to a 4-4 draw by Arsenal.

UNFORGETTABLE

10TH YEAR REMEMBRANCE

Today is another World's Earth Day, just like 22nd April, 1999, when you translated to the world beyond, to be committed to Mother Earth in accordance with Muslim rites after Juma'at Prayers the following day. It seemed like yesterday, but it is already 10 years

How Time Flies!

As always, we remember you with great pride and deep affection, our very dear Alhaja Amórorolágbó, the one who stands out daintily sparkling in the crowd, (your nickname among your peers whom you held in awesome admiration of your unfading beauty and high sense of personal hygiene and cleanliness).

You instilled in us the spirit of fairness to fellow human beings, as well as the values of loyalty in friendship, devotion to God and caring for the less-privileged; You lived and sacrificed everything within your power for our upbringing, education and survival; By what you made of us, we are today worthy reminders of you and what you lived and died for.

You are now with the Malaikas; Thank you for watching over us. We pray to Almighty Allah to sustain you in Aljanah Continue to rest in Perfect Peace.

Fondly Remembered by your Children

Dr. Goke Adegoroye, OON	Mrs. Christie Aladesaiye
Mr. Soji Adegoroye	Mrs. Temidayo Suulola
Mr. Ayo Lasisi	Mrs. Olawunmi Ossai

Dr. Goke Adegoroye, OON for the family

ALHAJA
SALAMOTU SAKA
ADEGOROYE



THE THURSDAY COLUMN

Is'haq Modibbo Kawu

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Mega party, Yuguda and all that politics

I gave this page to Malam Abba Kyari last week, because he had a very important story to tell. Did you read his well-written piece titled PUBLIC ENLIGHTENMENT NOT MEGA PARTY? It is a very compelling read. Abba Kyari has reminded us that some basic assumptions being made about Nigerian politics can be and are dead wrong. He argued that if politics will offer a route of salvation for the Nigerian people, then patriotic politicians must be prepared to dirty their hands, in a manner of speaking, by carrying out a patient work of enlightening, educating and mobilizing the Nigerian people to participate in their own liberation.

Besides, it is becoming clearer that the mega party idea as is being conceptualized will most likely be a clone of the PDP-BIG FOR NOTHING! If there is no ideological platform that mobilizes the Nigerian people especially along class lines, and with a national democratic project of reclaiming Nigeria from the bandit capitalism which has taken us to despair and left the country on the verge of failure and collapse, then it will merely be more of the same.

It is also frightening to note that politicians like Ahmed Bola Tinubu in recent days have ratcheted up their advocacy of a LEGISLATED two-party system in Nigeria. It is amazing that those elements who describe themselves as 'progressives' will continuously hack back to the political engineering project of a military dictatorship! Tinubu and his fellow riders want Nigerians to be railroaded into a two-party arrangement that will allow two contending cabals of thieves to alternate the fleecing of Nigeria and their template is the political party process of the Babangida regime. These gentlemen are not democrats really; but we must equally let them know that the right to an open, democratic political space was won by the Nigerian people and it cannot now be taken away by those hacking back to the NRC/SDP days!

Dr. Junaid Mohammed's interview with THE GUARDIAN newspaper of last Tuesday, also offered very remarkable insights into the contradictions inherent in attempting to create a 'mega party' of strange bed fellows, and led by frankly expired political Dinosaurs like Chief Anthony Enahoro, who made the transition from the nationalism of earlier years to the ridiculous platform of advocating Nigeria's "restructuring" along ethnic lines! The nut and bolt of the mega party huffing and puffing is that it has taken the dead-on-arrival trip to the morgue of Nigerian politics! Yes, Nigeria needs to build alternative politics, but it must be based on ideas of liberation. If those who are bunching up in a "mega" fashion want to continue business as usual, just like the PDP, then they miss the point about what the political imperative of the moment is!

Isa Yuguda's switch from the ANPP to the PDP was the worst-kept political secret of recent politics. Of course, the Bauchi governor has the right to make his choice, but he probably forgot that the massive support he got from the

people was the rejection of the PDP way of doing things in 2007. But what was most fascinating was the content of his letter of resignation from the ANPP published by DAILY TRUST of April 14, 2009. That letter reflects everything wrong with Nigerian politics: its soulless lack of principles, the prebendalist proclivities and the pettiness! The issues were about the sharing of offices as loot of war; petty jealousies and rivalries and such vain assertions about "utter disrespect and disregard to my person."

Yuguda's letter allows us to see the inner workings of the Nigerian political system and why it carries the DNA of failure. The parties are merely vehicles for the sharing

of the spoils of office while the Nigerian people are far from the locus of concern. Take the ANPP that Isa Yuguda dumped, for example; it is a party that is serially abused by agents of the PDP to ensure that it can never become a meaningful platform of alternative politics. For the roles they play, they earn a commission of jobs for themselves, as we saw with Sa'idu Kumo or for their children, as Edwin Ume Ezeoke arranged for his son. Yuguda's letter underlined the "party's leadership inability to resolve conflict and ensure justice and equity among members" and is one of the reasons for the hemorrhaging of membership. The ANPP resembles a roofless bus stop on a very rainy night; whoever stays out there is soaked wet!

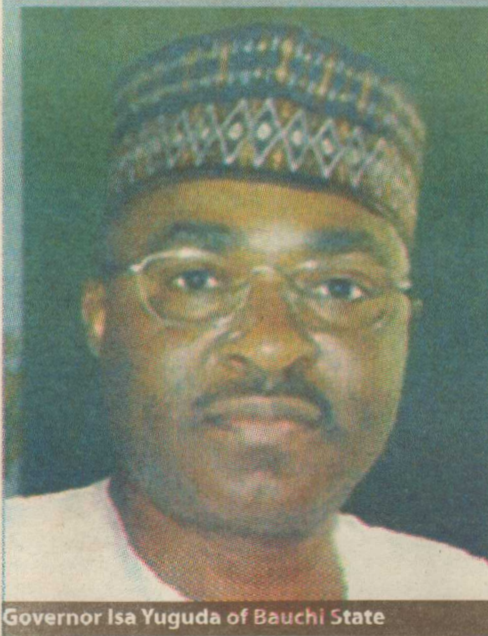
Significantly, the PDP also held its much anticipated national convention on Monday. There was no earth-shaking development, since the decision to take away Obasanjo's monopoly of the BOT chairmanship has long been in the works. In the end, Umaru Yar'adua took control and has positioned the vote-rigging contraption for 2011, despite his demand that party members should stop politicking. The field will be abandoned for more clandestine schemings, since it is in the smoke-filled recesses, that the party barons are most effective. The broth will cook, no matter what; how

a politician will ask his colleagues to stop playing politics is one of the wonders of Yar'adua's stewardship. But it is all a ruse anyway because 2011 is the only game in town!

The PDP will of course not stop politics where the Ekiti State re-run is concerned, and that comes up this weekend. It is the mother of DO-OR-DIE elections for the PDP, with the distinct possibility of unraveling in the South-West. They are desperate to "capture" Ekiti by ALL means. It is a very dicey situation even if they deploy soldiers as Speaker Dimeji Bankole threatened they would because they might jeopardize the nation's political system. If the PDP does not want to lose everything eventually, it is in their interest to allow INEC to conduct decent elections. I am rooting for Kayode Fayemi; I know he won the last time INEC and PDP rigged in Segun Oni, in May 2007, and will win again this weekend!



The ANPP resembles a roofless bus stop on a very rainy night; whoever stays out there is soaked wet!



Governor Isa Yuguda of Bauchi State

SPORT REPORT



Eyes on the ball... Chelsea's Didier Drogba, left, and Everton's Joseph Yobo

Man U beat Pompey, Chelsea held

Manchester United go back to the top of the English Premier League by beating Portsmouth and Chelsea are held by Everton.

Goals from Wayne Rooney (9th minute) and Michael Carrick (82nd minute) was all Alex Ferguson's side needed to ensure a 2-0 victory and reclaim the top spot.

Elsewhere in London, it was a barren draw between the two FA Cup finalists, Chelsea and Everton as both teams failed to utilise several scoring opportunities.



Lazio see off Juve

Lazio reached the Italian Cup final when they beat Juventus 2-1 in Turin for a 4-2 aggregate win in the semis last night.

Argentine forward Mauro Zarate curled a splendid right-foot shot into the corner in the 38th minute and Serb full back Aleksandar Kolarov doubled the lead with a deflected strike in the 52nd.

Captain Alessandro Del Piero came off

the bench to pull one back on 64 minutes for Juve, who had substitute Mauro Camoranesi sent off in the closing stages when he protested after being booked.

The exit came in a difficult week for Juventus with the storm caused by the racist chants their fans directed at Inter Milan's Mario Balotelli last weekend.

It left them with little hope of winning a trophy this season.