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TRUST IS A BURDEN

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Jonathan bows to FIFA

By Mohammed S. Shehu

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan yesterday rescinded an earlier decision withdrawing Nigeria from all international football competitions, apparently caving in to threats of sanctions from world football governing body FIFA.

The lift of the withdrawal, announced an hour before the FIFA deadline of 5pm yesterday was to elapse, was taken at a closed-door meeting between the president and the leadership of Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) at the State House in Abuja.

In announcing the earlier ban on Wednesday, Jonathan said it was to enable the country reorganise its football administration and audit

“They also informed the president of their decision to disband the team and address the numerous shortcomings

the finances of the World Cup project following the poor performance of the Super Eagles at the ongoing World Cup in South Africa.

FIFA, however, told Nigeria to reverse the decision or risk suspension from the football community, an action that would have led to withdrawal of financial help, suspension of

Nigerian referees from officiating in international matches and other punitive measures.

A statement by presidential spokesman Ima Niboro yesterday said the government rescinded the withdrawal from international football based on assurances given by the NFF that it would evolve an enduring football development programme for the country.

“NFF at a meeting with President Jonathan (yesterday) tendered unreserved apology to the president and the Nigerian people on the dismal performance of the country's football team, the Super Eagles, at the World Cup appearance,” Niboro said.

“They also informed the president of their decision to disband the team and address the

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Bankole: Melaye, others may be recalled

PHOTO: FELIX ONIGBINDE



SPEAKER of the House of Representatives Dimeji Bankole with students of City Royal Secondary School, Nyanya, Abuja, when he visited yesterday to apologise over the June 22 fracas in the House, which happened while the students were observing proceedings in the chambers

By Turaki A. Hassan

ELEVEN members of the House of Representatives who were suspended after they accused their leaders of corruption may be recalled as the House considers an “amicable resolution” of the crisis,

speaker Dimeji Bankole hinted yesterday when he visited school children who were witnesses to the free-for-all in the chamber two weeks ago.

Some students of the City Royal Secondary School, Nyanya, Abuja, were observing proceedings of the

lower chamber when fracas erupted on June 22, leading to the suspension of the 11 lawmakers.

Bankole visited the school yesterday and apologized to the students for the fighting, and told them that it was precipitated by colleagues who flouted the rules.

Responding to questions from newsmen on whether he would take the advice given by the students to reconcile with the suspended lawmakers, Bankole said, “It's a wonderful idea and we will consider it absolutely. We are adults and we

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Fulanis allege fresh attack in Jos

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

SOME Fulani herdsmen who were displaced in the recent crisis in Jos were at the weekend

attacked by unknown persons while returning to their hamlets at Doi village in Du District of Jos South Local Government Area, Chairman, Miyetti Allah Cattle

Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN), Plateau State chapter, Muhammad Nuru said yesterday.

Speaking to our correspondent in Jos, he said the herdsmen, following series of peace meetings and agreement between Berom and Fulani leaders in the area, were being escorted back by some security operatives when they were attacked.

"About 1,000 people attacked and injured them and their cows. This is really bad because we held several meetings and agreed that everybody should return to his home. A communiqué was even signed to show the level of commitment.

Some people are saying that the Fulanis cannot return because the land belongs to them, but I want to tell you that the Fulanis were on the Plateau before the Beroms came to the state. Fulanis have been here since the 17th century. What kind of peace agreement is this?

They have been announcing in the media that peace has returned to the state and there was an arrangement to hold a peace rally to be sponsored by the state government to show the world that peace has returned to the state, but they still go behind to attack our people," he said.

He called on the Federal Government to intervene in the matter. The spokesperson of the Special Task Force in the state, Lieutenant Colonel Kingsley Umoh, confirmed the incident, saying they had made some arrests and that investigation was going on. Umoh urged all stakeholders in the state to work together to

ensure peace.

Reacting to the incident, Commissioner for Information and Communication, Mr. Gregory Yelong said during the last

Some people are saying that the Fulanis cannot return because the land belongs to them, but I want to tell you that the Fulanis were on the Plateau before the Beroms came to the state

security council meeting it was resolved that all people willing to return to their homes must contact local government councils, DPOs and the district heads, saying this would enable returnees to be properly rehabilitated. He added that Fulanis that attempted to return to the area were not the actual residents of the area, adding that if they were truly residing there, the natives would have recognised them.

On cattle rustling, the commissioner said he was not fully briefed on the incident. He however stated that he learnt that it was a cattle rustling clash and promised to make further comments as soon as he was fully briefed.



PIC: NAN

A four-month-old baby Fatima Adamu, a survivor of the petrol tanker fire accident in Gombe metropolis receiving treatment at the Federal Medical Centre, Gombe, yesterday.

Two killed in Barikin Ladi

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

POLICE in Plateau State said two persons were recently killed by hoodlums in different places in Barikin Ladi Local Government Area of the state.

Police Public Relations Officer ASP Mohammed Lerama stated this while answering questions from newsmen yesterday in Jos. He said, "The Divisional Police Officer in charge of the area sent signal that the Joint Task Force received a report that some hoodlums attacked a village in Barikin Ladi Local Government Area. They went to the scene but found out that the hoodlums had left. They recovered the corpse of one person called Yakubu". Lerama said another person was killed but that they were waiting for signal from the DPO in order to give detail of what led to his death, adding that no arrest was made in to the two circumstances.

He said the police had commenced investigations into the incidents in order to bring the perpetrators to book and appealed to the general public to help with useful information to arrest those causing trouble.

Yuguda Vs Gadi suit comes up today

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE Federal Court of Appeal in Jos will today hear the appeal, on the case between former Deputy Governor of Bauchi State Alhaji Muhammad Garba Gadi and Governor Isah Yuguda, his deputy Babayo Garba Gamawa, the Speaker of the state House of Assembly and the State Chief Judge.

The presiding judge, Justice Zainab Bulkachuwa, had earlier adjourned the suit to enable the counsel write their briefs on the arguments within 14 days after she granted their applications for extension of time and the former deputy governor's counsel are expected to reply the arguments before the hearing date.

Garba Gadi was impeached by the Bauchi State House of assembly over the allegation of gross misconduct and abuse of office in August 2008, but he was re instated in a separate court case recently.

Anambra introduces sanitation levy

From Beatrice Onuchukwu, Awka

THE Anambra State government has introduced a sanitation levy on different types of residential buildings and business premises in the state with the aim to improve its revenue base.

Addressing journalists in Awka, the Group Managing Director, Olisawarren Associates Ltd.(OAL) Mr. Olisa Aniunoh said the levy would among other things create employment for some Anambra youths, formalise all payments, and eliminate multiple payments. According to him, OAL is working in collaboration with the state government to produce automated environmental sanitation revenue collection through the Property Revenue Manager (PRM).

One dies, 2 missing in cattle rustling attack

From Ahmed Mohammed & Mahmud Lalo, Jos

AT least one herdsman was killed while two others are missing in an attack by cattle rustlers in Ganawuri village in Riyom Local Government Area of Plateau State Sunday.

Special Task Force (STF) spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Kingsley Umoh said the attack said the which took place

at about 12:30pm was launched by bandits numbering about 200, some armed with automatic weapons while others armed with machetes, spears, bows and arrows invaded Ganawuri and its environs in Riyom.

The bandits according to Task Force statement, are suspected to be cattle rustlers from neighbouring communities in Chiwar, Kaura Local Government Area of Kaduna State. It added that

several houses were burnt, property looted and over 100 cows were stolen. Umoh added that the attention of the STF troops was drawn to the incident and they responded promptly.

"The bandits were pursued, they engaged the STF in a fire fight at the end of which about 140 cows were recovered. One of the bandits sustained gunshot wounds while six others were arrested including a

woman. Those arrested have been handed over to the state CID for further investigations", Umoh added.

The STF spokesman who pointed out that the incident was "purely criminal" further added that the STF was on top of the situation, stressing, "Residents are again advised to report suspicious persons or activities to the STF through any of the widely circulated distress lines".

Traditional ruler seeks concrete action on fertilizer

From Isa Liman, Zaria

A traditional title holder in the Zazzau Emirate, Denejin Zazzau Alhaji Isa Abdullahi Soba, has urged the Federal, State and Local Governments to ensure speedy distribution of fertilizer for this year's farming season.

Speaking in Zaria yesterday,

the Denejin Zazzau said distributing fertilizer in good time would go a long way in assisting the farmers to have good harvest. "It is on this ground that I want to commend the government of Kaduna State under the leadership of Mr Patrick Ibrahim Yakowa for flagging off the fertilizer distribution in good time. It

is indeed commendable the way it was made available in all the local governments of the state. It would be commendable, as well, if the federal, state and local governments copy the Kaduna State example.

This is why we need to continue to support Governor Yakowa and put aside all our

differences as performance in office is supposed to be our guiding principle in electing leaders," Alhaji Abdullahi Soba said.

He also advised the Federal Government to continue to pay more attention to agriculture as the sector has the ability to meet the revenue requirement of the country.

Ayo Oritsejafor voted CAN president

PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

By Ben Atonko & Terkula Igidi

PRESIDENT of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN) Ayodele Joseph Oritsejafor was yesterday voted as the new president of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN).

He was voted by an electoral college of 104 members, where he polled 66 votes against the incumbent, His Grace John Onaiyekan's 38 votes.

Archbishop Daniel Okoh who is of the Organisation of African Instituted Church of Christ (OAIC) was made vice president.

Oritsejafor's election along with that of his vice will be ratified today by the General Assembly comprising 301 members.

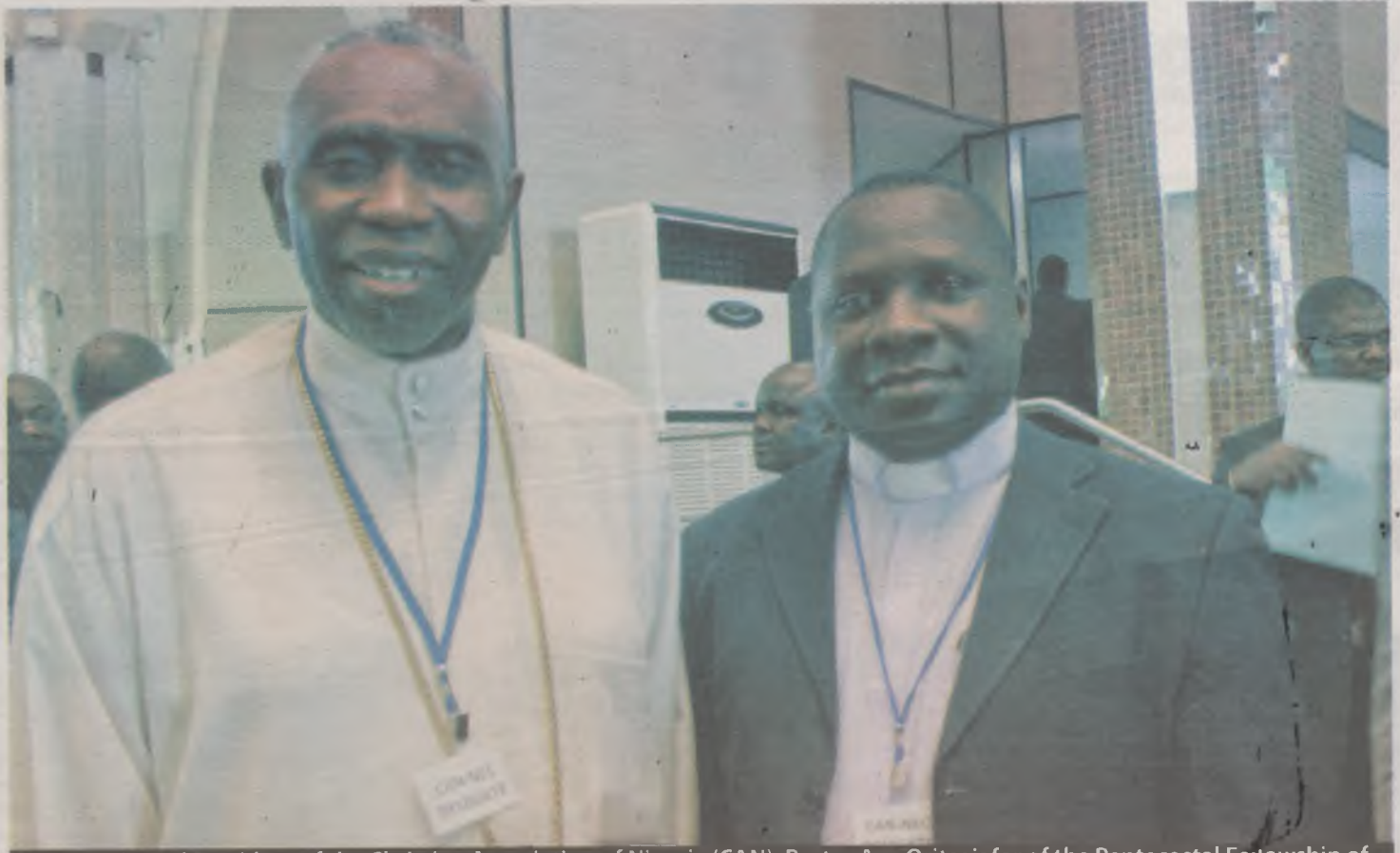
Going by CAN's constitution, Onaiyekan, who is also the Archbishop of Abuja Diocese, would have been the vice president having scored the highest votes after Oritsejafor, but he said he cannot comeback to be vice president having been president himself.

Speaking to journalists shortly after the election, the CAN General Secretary Engr. Samuel Salifu said the election was peaceful.

Salifu said that while in office Onaiyekan was able to bridge the rift between Christians and Muslims in the country, stressing that Onaiyekan was a peaceful person who did not believe in spitting fire when presenting Christian issues.

"He has also bought an estate for CAN in Kubwa and laid the foundation stone for the construction of 300-bedroom Guest House at the Ecumenical Centre," Salifu added.

Onaiyekan as well as the newly



NEWLY elected President of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (right) with his Vice President, Archbishop Daniel Okoh, shortly after their election in Abuja yesterday.

elected president declined speaking to journalists yesterday.

Delegates who spoke to *Daily Trust* expressed satisfaction with the way the election was conducted.

The Niger State Chairman of CAN, Rev. Musa Dada, said: "I like the way Onaiyekan conducted the election. Immediately the results were announced, he shook Oritsejafor, congratulating him."

ing him."

The election was conducted by an electoral committee headed by the Primate of the Anglican Church of Nigeria, Archbishop Ola Makinde under close doors.

The 104 NEC members who voted were drawn from the five blocs in CAN - Catholic Church, Christian Council of Nigeria, Organisation of African Instituted Churches, Evangelical

Church of West Africa, ECWA, and the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria. Each of these blocs produced 10 members to vote at the election.

Other members included the Women Wing and the Youth Wing, which have a member each represented at NEC.

There are also 37 members, one drawn from each state of the federation including Abuja.

Oritsejafor, an Itsekiri, is happily married and resides in Warri, Delta State, with his wife Helen and family. He is also a prolific author of Christian books.

In 1980 Oritsejafor started the regular and popular television programme, "Hour of Deliverance", which presently airs in many local and international television and Satellite Stations.

NAPTIP: No case against Yarima

NIGERIA'S anti-human trafficking agency says it lacks enough evidence to criminally charge a senator who allegedly took a child bride.

In a statement yesterday, the National Agency for Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters said it had concluded its investigation against Sen. Ahmad Sani, Yariman Bakura.

The agency said Sani, a former governor of Zamfara State, may have violated the nation's child rights laws, though Nigeria's attorney general has to file that criminal case against him.

The 49-year-old senator allegedly married the 13-year-old Egyptian daughter of his driver earlier this year after paying a \$100,000 dowry.

Yarima's alleged marriage has sparked fierce controversy in Nigeria. (AP)

Gov Aliyu: PDP zoning neither Bible nor Qur'an

By Mohammed S. Shehu

THOSE who think the contentious Peoples Democratic Party zoning formula is not subject to change should have a rethink because it is mere mortal arrangement that is subject to change, Niger State Governor Babangida Aliyu has said.

Aliyu, who is also the Chairman of the Northern Governors'

Forum, said only the Bible and the Qur'an were rigid because of their divine nature and not anything decided by mortals.

Speaking to State House correspondents shortly after meeting with President Goodluck Jonathan at the Presidential Villa, Abuja yesterday evening, he said nothing on earth is rigid to the point of stopping anyone from contesting the polls if he wants to.

Aliyu said the zoning arrangement being talked was a strategy to win elections and not a violation of the political rights and entitlements of any person or zone in the country.

When asked about his opinion on the controversy trailing the zoning arrangement, he said, "Has it become the Bible or the Koran? Only these holy books are rigid as far as I know."

"There is nothing in the issue. Political parties are formed to win elections and they exist for that purpose. If the strategy of winning the elections is to adopt a zoning arrangement, then it can be followed, but if the positions of President and Vice President can come from the same zone and yet elections can be won, there is no big deal doing otherwise" he said.

FG moves to stem abuse of expatriate quotas

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE government will from tomorrow begin the process of automating the operations of the Citizenship and Business Department of the Ministry of Interior to stem the tide of abuse in the grant of Expatriate Quotas and Business Permits.

A memo drawn up by the outgoing Permanent Secretary of the Interior Ministry Mrs 'Dere Awosika identified factors that had led to abuse in the grant of quotas and Permits.

"Failure of companies to properly fill the Forms T1 and T2; these forms are expected to provide

comprehensive information on the companies; absence of a policy and standardized guidelines of operation for the grant of Business Permit and Expatriate Quota Positions as Quota positions are subjectively given.

"Porous and corruption-laden payment system; lack of an effective Monitoring and Evaluation system, the consequences of which competent Nigerians are being denied jobs in favour of less competent expatriates;

"Prevalence of fake documentations such as Tax Receipts, CAC's forms CA2 and CA7. (These forms are expected to provide details of shares allotment, particulars of

directors and ownership structure of the companies);

"Poor systems of dispatch of approved Expatriate Quotas; rampant use of paid touts and agents as consultants by companies for the processing of their Quota positions; and lack of enforcement of the understudies guidelines which hampers the transfer of the necessary needed skills and expertise.

"Lack of appropriate payment records leading to charges put to the Ministry by the Public Accounts Committee of the National Assembly."

She said as part of the key role of the Citizenship and Business Department, it is imperative that

a befitting ICT structure is put in place to facilitate efficient service delivery.

Against this background therefore, the Ministry has designed a website (www.fmi.gov.ng) where all business transactions such as purchase of the application forms, filling, submission and payments could be made on-line using Scratch cards, ATM cards or International credit cards.

Nigerian entrepreneurs have for years been complaining that cheap labour from Asia, Eastern Europe, and the middle east are imported into the country to carry out jobs that could easily be performed by Nigerians.

Foreign investors eye Nigerian power sector

FOREIGN investors stand ready to pump billions of dollars into Nigeria's dilapidated power sector if the government can sort out the regulatory framework, a leading African infrastructure financier told Reuters.

Nigeria is home to Africa's biggest oil and gas industry yet is plagued by chronic power shortages, leaving its 140 million people without reliable mains electricity, and businesses and wealthy individuals reliant on expensive diesel generators.

"There is a lot of interest, we're certainly seeing that from a number of foreign investors," Andrew Alli, chief executive of the Africa Finance Corporation (AFC), said in an interview in his office in the commercial hub Lagos.

"First of all there are large companies who specialise in the power space who have several billion dollars available to invest and we've seen a number of those companies pass through Nigeria and express some interest in coming in," he said.

"We believe that if the environ-

ment is right they will come in and invest."

Jonathan last month appointed Barth Nnaji, an engineering professor and former science minister, to head a taskforce on boosting power supply.

Nnaji, who runs Nigeria's first indigenously owned private sector power company and knows the challenges first hand, last week promised faster reforms to encourage foreign investors to take part in a planned privatisation programme.

Jonathan has said Nigeria will privatise generation and distribution next year. "From a debt financing point of view, we definitely see a lot of interest from the development finance institutions like members of the World Bank group, the African Development Bank, who also would be very willing to provide financing for these projects," Alli said.

"The financing is there, provided the regulatory environment allows for well-structured, properly bankable projects."

Defection: Court dismisses suit against Yuguda

By Atika Balal

AN Abuja Federal High Court has dismissed a suit filed by the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) against Bauchi State Governor Isa Yuguda for defecting from the party to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

ANPP sued Yuguda alongside PDP and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) seeking an order directing Yuguda to vacate his position as governor and an order restraining him from parading himself as same.

They similarly asked the court to declare the deputy governor Garba Gadi as governor since Yuguda decamped from ANPP to PDP and an order directing INEC to withdraw the certificate of return it issued to Yuguda.

They had argued that by defecting Yuguda had lost his right to vote and be voted for on the platform of ANPP.

In dismissing the suit for lack of merit, Justice Mohammed Garba Umar said INEC cannot be ordered to withdraw the certificate of return it issued to Yuguda primarily because he decamped from ANPP to PDP.

He said decamping from one party to another is morally reprehensible but not constitutionally illegal as such the court cannot sanction Yuguda on that basis.

Meanwhile, the court has set Monday, July 12 to deliver judgment in another suit filed by the ANPP against 17 members of the Bauchi State House of Assembly for defecting from ANPP to PDP.

The court was meant to deliver judgment yesterday but could not do so as the stipulated 3 months (provided by the court rules) in which judgment can be delivered after addresses are adopted had elapsed.

The Bauchi State chapter of the ANPP had written to INEC informing the commission of the defection of the 17 members and had also stated that under section 109(1g) of the 1999 constitution, by operation of law they automatically cease to be members of the state house of assembly.

But counsel to the defendants, O. I. Olorundare (SAN) had told the court that the suit is an abuse of court process as a Bauchi State High Court had already decided on a similar case of defection.

He had argued that the constitution allows the legislators to decamp as a result of fractionalization in a party.



PEOPLE attending a march calling for the release of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit in Tel Aviv, Israel yesterday.

Chinua Achebe: Nigeria still a corrupt, violent country

By Nasir Imam

FAMOUS Nigerian novelist Chinua Achebe has said that though Nigeria is trying to become a modern state on one hand; on the other, it's still a very corrupt and violent country.

The 79-year-old author and social critic said this in an interview with the *Newsweek*, an

American weekly news magazine, about recent developments in Nigeria and politics on the African continent.

Achebe said, "We need to hand power over to those people who have special training through good education or people who have some qualities that can pull together the resources of a nation.

"Nigeria is very wealthy because of the amount of oil. This richness becomes a drag if there is no order and no honesty. I write about Nigeria, yet I cannot understand why we refuse to grow up.

"It's a mystery to Nigerians and a mystery to me. Come to any election in Nigeria and it's full of bad news. Nigerians know what they want. So why don't you get

your house in order, I ask?"

Speaking on the violence in the country, the renowned author said, "That's a very serious problem. A politician will use whatever is handy, and the things that are handy are ethnicity and religion. It's very worrying and it could damage the nation permanently. I think it's a sign of a lack of development."

2011: Rights commission urges staggered elections

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has urged the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to consider staggering the 2011 elections across the country to ensure better coordination of security

deployment and other logistics.

A report by the commission on the conduct of the February 2010 election frowned at the massive deployment of security operatives for the election saying "Although this must have contributed to general peaceful and violence free nature of the

exercise, it must be stated that this fact in itself runs counter to the prescribed UN minimum standard for elections."

The report said "Out of 1.84 million registered voters in the 21 local government areas of Anambra State, only 301 thousand voters actually voted to elect

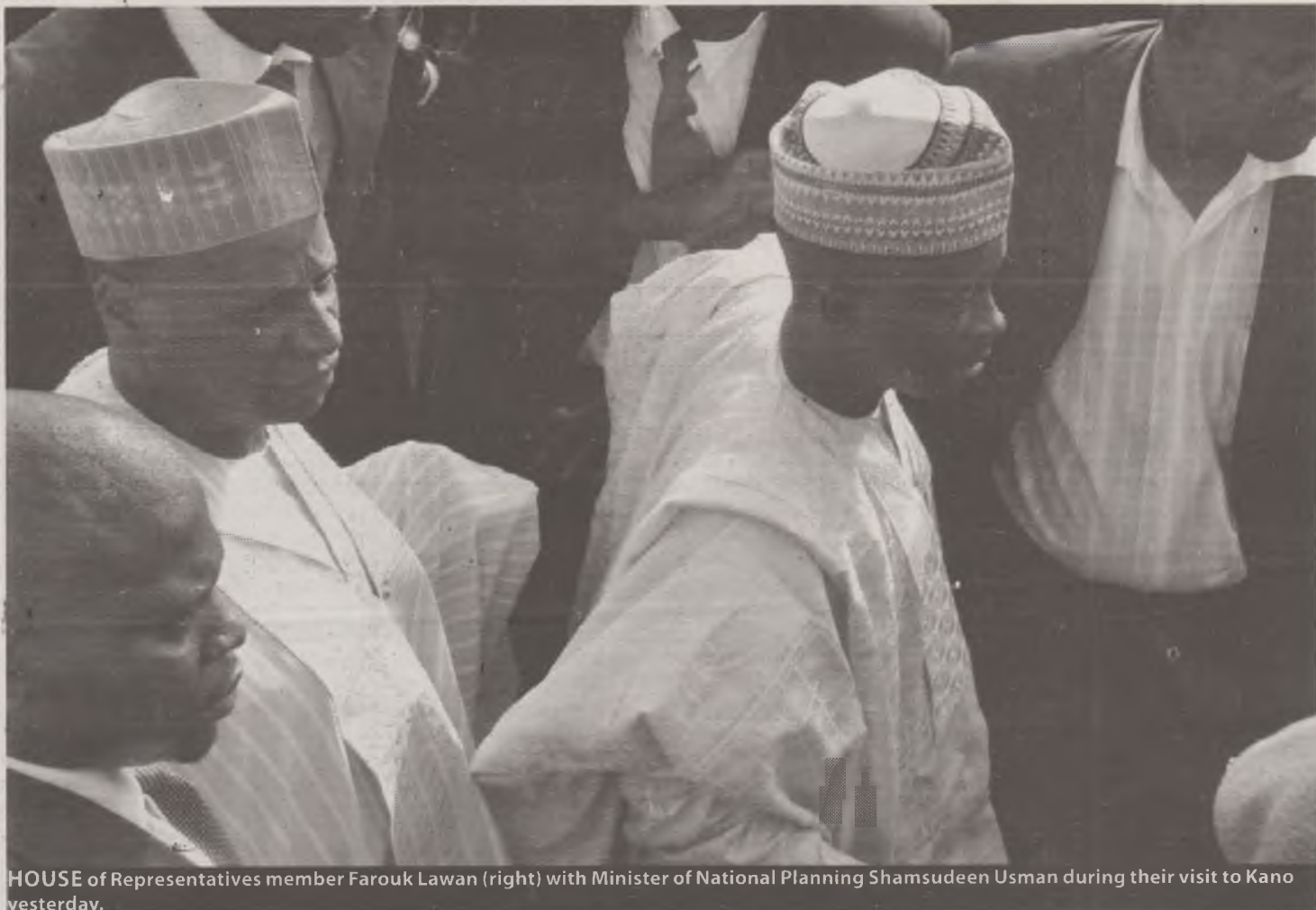
the governor. The figure translates to barely 16.3 percent of the total registered voters in the state."

"If democracy as generally described is government of the people, by the people and for the people, can a government elected by just 15.4 percent of the registered voters of a community be

described as true representation of the wish of the people of such community? The answer definitely will be in the negative," the NHRC report said.

The report suggests that INEC should embark on review of the voters register ahead of the 2011 general elections.

PHOTO: SANI MAIKATANGA



HOUSE of Representatives member Farouk Lawan (right) with Minister of National Planning Shamsudeen Usman during their visit to Kano yesterday.

I am yet to decide on zoning, says Shehu Malami

By Suleiman M. Bisalla

SOKOTO Prince and elder statesman Ambassador Shehu Malami has said that he has yet to take a decision on the debate regarding whether President Goodluck Jonathan should contest the 2011 elections or not.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* on telephone yesterday, Malami who is Nigeria's first ambassador to post apartheid South Africa, said he is 'not for or against Jonathan' but he deems it compelling to participate in any forum where issues of national importance are discussed.

He said his participation in

the Northern Political Summit billed for Kaduna next week is "because of the issues to be discussed which are of great importance to Nigeria."

"I'm not a politician and I will never be one but I have the right to participate in any discourse that affect Nigeria," he said adding that he is a member of the board of the Shagari World Institute which recently hosted a similar event that discussed national issues.

He stressed that he had not made up his mind for or against President Jonathan but he is interested in the well being of Nigeria's democracy and national life.

D-8 establishes preferential trade agreement

THE D-8 Commission yesterday in Abuja established a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) to facilitate investment and economic cooperation among member states.

The commission, established in 1997, comprises developing nations of Nigeria, Egypt, Turkey, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran and Pakistan to promote economic growth and development among member countries.

Nigeria, which on Sunday assumed the chairmanship of the commission, is also hosting the 28th session of the commission, which began on July 4 and ends on July 8 with the theme: "Enhancing Investment Cooperation among D-8 Member States".

Speaking at the D-8 Business Forum, Commerce and Industry Minister Sen. Jubril Martins-Kuye lauded the PTA which sought to promote free trade among member countries and eliminate non-tariff barriers such as quotas, border charges, fees and taxes on transactions.

Martins-Kuye, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary in the ministry, Alhaji Mohammed Abubakar, said the PTA covered eight per cent of D-8 country tariff lines above 10 per cent.

"In this respect, tariffs greater than 25 per cent will be reduced to 25 per cent while tariffs between 15 per cent and 25 per cent will be cut down to 15 per cent, as well as a 10 per cent reduction for tariffs between 10 per cent and 15 per cent," he said.

He said the agreement would, among other things, promote global trade and investment as the scope applied to trade in goods, phases of tariff reduction as contained in the D-8 road map. (NAN)

Jonathan bows to FIFA

Continued from page 1

numerous shortcomings evident in the management of football in Nigeria.

"They assured the president of their commitment to evolving an enduring football development programme and grow a new senior national team that will bring glory rather than consistent embarrassment to Nigeria on the world stage.

"They informed the president that as a first step, they have proceeded to put their own house in order by removing the former leadership of the NFF and replacing it with an interim leadership.

"Based on these assurances and the appeals of well-meaning Nigerians, including former leaders, President Jonathan has decided to review the earlier two-year ban on the country from all international football competitions."

The review of the earlier decision would enable other categories of Nigerian players to participate in global football competitions, while a new

senior national team was being developed, the statement said.

It said the president had directed the sports minister to call a meeting of all relevant stakeholders to resuscitate football academics and other talent spotting outlets to produce a new crop of footballers and other sportsmen for the country, so "that this kind of rather embarrassing outcome we had from South Africa will not repeat itself."

Following the initial presidential order, FIFA threatened to sanction Nigeria over government interference in football administration, saying its rules prohibit such political interference.

"We consider that this governmental decision would only completely isolate Nigerian football and could thus stall reforms and further development and improvement of Nigerian football for a long time," FIFA Secretary-General Jerome Valcke said.

The NFF on Sunday fired its president Sani Lulu Abdullahi and two other executives over the Super Eagles poor outing in South Africa, finishing bottom of Group B and crashing out in the first round.

Melaye, others may be recalled

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responsibility of managing ourselves as leaders and I can assure you that we will come to amicable resolution."

Earlier, head girl of the school Roseline Ode told the speaker: "The deed has already been done, we are looking for a correction. Even in our class we do fight sometimes. So all that we are saying is go and reconcile with your colleagues when you get back. We appreciate your humility and we want you to see how you reconcile."

Morale instructor of the school David Sunday also urged Bankole to forgive the suspended lawmakers. "We need a landmark here to show that you were here and we pray that peace will flow like a river in the House of Representatives and all those offenders will be forgiven," he said.

Head boy Obo Kinsley said, "We were terrified and disappointed with what we saw that day in the House, but when we came back we were consoled by our teachers when they cited examples of some countries whose parliaments fought in the past. We believe that fighting for a just cause brings about peace, harmony and stability."

In his response, Bankole blamed the suspended lawmakers for precipitating the fighting in House, saying "there are laws in this country that are to be obeyed... I believe in your school here, you also have your own laws, whereby if you have complaints, you go and report to your teachers. You never take the rules into your own hands. Because when you do that, it leads to chaos. And then you will have to follow the rules irrelevant of what you believe at that point. On this particular day, I believe a few of our colleague flouted the rules of the House and actions were taken based on the rules of the House."

Earlier, proprietress of the school Justina Onwe urged the speaker to donate a bus to the school. The suspended lawmakers are Dino Melaye, Austin Nwachukwu, Doris Uboh, West Idahosa, Independence Ogunewe, Solomon Awhinahwi, Abba Anas Adamu, Bitrus Kaze, Kayode Amusan, Gbenga Oduwaiye and Gbenga Onigbogi.



DINO Melaye

24,869 candidates jostle for Unilorin admission

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

OUT of the 50,000 candidates who chose and sat for the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) into the University of Ilorin, 24,869 are qualified for admission. The university bulletin said the trend is not unconnected with the admission policy of the school which stipulates minimum of 200 as cut-off mark for JAMB candidates. The 24,869 candidates are those students who have 200 marks and above in the UTME. According to the bulletin, "Apart from over 50,000 students who chose the University of Ilorin as their second choice university and several thousands who did not meet the basic 200 cut-off mark, a total number of 24,869 candidates chose Unilorin as their first choice and scored 200 and above the University of Ilorin, according to UTME results".

Abducted Ondo PDP chairman set free

From Adewale Giwa, Akure

THE abducted Chairman of the Ondo State chapter of the PDP, Dr Tayo Dairo, was yesterday released by his abductors. Confirming this to Daily Trust in Akure, the Publicity Secretary of the PDP Chief Yemi Adedipe said the party chairman was released around 1.00pm yesterday.

Adedipe could not confirm at the time of filing this report whether any ransom was paid.

Dairo, a native of Idanre Local Government Area of the state, was on his way to Benin to attend a meeting of leaders of the party when the kidnapers struck. He was said to have attended a caucus meeting of the same party at Iju-Odo, the hometown of Dr Olusegun Agagu in Okitipupa Local Government earlier in the day. The abduction received criticisms from both the ruling Labour Party and the Peoples Democratic Party in the state. The state government described it as shocking and another sad commentary on the increasing spate of insecurity in the nation. A statement from the Chief Press Secretary to the State Governor, Mr. Kolawole Olabisi, enjoined security agencies to bring the culprits to book. The government also cautioned against politicization of the incident which it described as unfortunate and a national malaise that must be arrested with all the seriousness it required in the overall interest of innocent citizens of Nigeria and for the nation's corporate image. The PDP Publicity Secretary Yemi Adedipe thanked all Nigerians for their concern since the episode began.

Cleric warns against amassing wealth

From Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

WOMEN going into politics should see themselves as agents for fighting poverty and unemployment in their constituencies, especially among women and youths instead of the current quest to amass wealth for themselves, the women wing leader of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN), Pastor Helen Oritsejafor has said.

Pastor Helen was speaking at the distribution of materials to women from the North-East sub-region at the Living Faith Church in Maiduguri Saturday. The items distributed include, 18 sewing machines, 10 grinding machines and four hair dryers to 32 beneficiaries from over 25 churches denominations in the North-East. She added that for women to successfully participate in politics and bring about positive transformation, they should be encouraged to embrace politics in totality, without gender barriers, maintaining that it is not what you have that makes you, but what you can give out of what you have in order to empower people.

Boko Haram: Yusuf's widow flees to Chad

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

HAIJIYA Fatima Baba Fugu, popularly called 'Baa Hajja', one of the four widows left behind by late leader of the Boko Haram Islamic sect, Malam Muhammad Yusuf, has fled Maiduguri for Chad to meet an undisclosed person who she claimed had offered to cater for her and her children. Daily Trust gathered from family relations in Maiduguri yesterday.

Fatima is the daughter to Ba Fugu Mohammed who was executed at the age of 72 on the last day of the crisis in July, 2009 over suspicion that he aided the activities of the sect by giving them his son In-law, Yusuf, a house which served as the sect's enclave at Unguwar Doki in Maiduguri.

Fatima may have joined the deputy leader of the Boko haram sect, Mallam Abubakar Shekau who was seen granting interview in a video clip. The Borno police command has since dismissed the clip, insisting that Shekau was killed during the July, 2009 crisis. In the video interview, Shekau had claimed that he was getting married to Fatima, late Yusuf's widow.

When Daily Trust contacted Babakura Alhaji Fugu, the widow's eldest brother and leader of the Fugu family, he confirmed that she had actually said she was in touch with someone, a friend of her late husband who promised to cater for her and her seven children, fathered by Muhammad Yusuf, the late leader of the Boko Haram sect.

He revealed that she made the

announcement two months back and about five weeks ago, Fatima fled left Maiduguri and crossed into Chad without informing any of her relations. The family later learnt she left for Chad.

Babakura said his sister was residing in old Maiduguri before her departure and she didn't disclose the new helper's identity. Asked if the widow has any relation or was used to going to Chad, the brother said Fatima has no relation there and he doesn't think she was there before her recent visit.

Babakura however said the widow never mentioned anything like marriage to the family. The widow holds a Higher National Diploma in Business Management which she obtained from Ramat Polytechnic, Maiduguri before she got married to late Yusuf about 11 years ago.

PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE



CENTRAL Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Governor Dr. Sanusi Lamido Sanusi (right) with Bangladesh Central Bank Governor Atiur Rahman during a press briefing on the outcome of the Monetary Policy Committee meeting in Abuja yesterday.

Lack of political will, West weaken Sharia - Don

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

PROFESSOR Naya Sada of the Ahmadu Bello University Zaria has blamed the poor implementation of Shariah law in Nigeria on the lackadaisical attitude of governments at all levels to give it the needed constitutional recognition.

He spoke yesterday in Minna at a workshop on the proposed Shariah penal code in Niger State, saying blackmail from the international community had also impeded the execution of numerous judgments of Shariah courts across the country.

"There are today a lot of people in our prisons awaiting execution of sentences of amputation for theft and stoning to death for adultery and other crimes.

Absence of political will to implement coupled with threats and blackmail of international organisations fighting for human rights are certainly formidable challenges affecting the execution of such judgments", he said. He observed with regret that that hundreds of people in detention in parts of the north were mocking the system as he claimed that they had written several letters to dare the implementation of the law.

Sada added that the Shariah legal sys-

tem was an instrument known only to Muslims to effect proper judgment as he added that most northern Muslims were craving for the law which is a way out of the British common law. He said the coming of imperialists eroded the core values of the Islamic legal system, adding that since their presence in Nigeria, the law had been denied its basic instruments and potency.

He noted that while people were persuaded to believe that the legal system was not in conformity with human rights, its original purpose was to ward off criminal practices and not to amputate as people think.

Why my husband saved Zamani Lekwot, by Maryam Abacha

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

THE widow of the former military Head of State General Sani Abacha, Hajiya Maryam Abacha, has said that her husband was the one who saved Zamani Lekwot from execution, saying her late husband's intervention was borne

out of the spirit of forgiveness.

Retired Major General Lekwot was sentenced alongside 16 others to death for complicity in the 1992 Zangon Kataf crisis in which hundreds were killed. Lekwot escaped the hangman's noose when his death sentence was commuted to jail term before he later received a

state pardon in 1995.

Speaking weekend at the family's Gidado Road residence when the Southern Kaduna Community in Kano paid a solidarity visit to her on her son Muhammad Abacha's governorship aspiration, Hajiya Maryam said it was her husband's intervention that saved Lekwot.

"The intervention of my late husband saved Lekwot's life, and he was instrumental to Lekwot's state pardon a few years after he was sentenced to death," she said. She also said Abacha's sense of unity and love for the country were evidenced in the appointment of Muslim officers as governors in

the Christian dominated south and vice versa.

Hajiya Maryam therefore reiterated the family's continued commitment to national unity, saying their employment of Christian household servants spoke volumes of their sustaining the legacy late Sani Abacha left behind.



CROSS section of new permanent secretaries recently appointed by the Lagos State Governor Babatunde Fashola taking the oath of office, yesterday.

Niger to strengthen Sharia legal system

From Ayegba Israel Ebiye, Minna

THE Niger State government has concluded plans to strengthen Sharia law in the state, Governor Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu has said.

Dr Aliyu said this at a two day workshop on the proposed Shariah penal code of Niger State. The governor, who was represented by the state Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice Adamu Yusuf, said the law at inception in 2007, had no solid framework to make it function as a true Islamic legal system, adding that the state government had to instruct the state Judiciary Service Commission to establish a reform commission to have a penal code to make the law operational.

"At the inception of this administration in May 2007, we inherited what could be termed as a

hybrid version of Sharia/Common law in the state being applied pari-pasu in the guise of Shariah law. This became obvious when the man with 86 wives was arrested and charged to court for marrying more than four wives as the jurisdiction of the Upper Shariah Court was challenged and the matter was transferred to a Magistrate's Court", he said.

Speaker of the Niger State House of Assembly Musa Ma'ali, who was represented by the Chairman, House Committee on Judiciary, promised to ensure speedy passage of the resolution on the penal code into law.

"We promise that after a successful deliberation, we will make sure that the bill is passed into law for the Sharia system in Niger to have a strong legal backing", he added.

Seven die in auto crash

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

SEVEN persons died and five others were injured in an accident that occurred at Gadama Junction near Babale along the Bauchi-Jos road Sunday.

Public Relations Officer of the Federal Road Safety Corps in Jos, Malam Saidu Badamasi, who confirmed the accident to our correspondent yesterday said 14 persons were involved

in the accident, adding that seven died, five sustained injuries while two were unhurt.

"The accident was due to a brake failure, thereby causing the truck loaded with petroleum products to collide with a tipper and two cars. All the vehicles were burnt beyond recognition. We cannot even recognize their plate numbers," he added.

He said the survivors had been taken to the Jos University Teaching Hospital for treatment.

Kantin Kwari fire c'ttee realises N553 million

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

THE committee set up to ascertain the extent of loss and cause of the fire that gutted the Kantin Kwari textile market in March, has received over N553 million as donations.

The chairman of the committee and Commissioner for Projects Monitoring in the state Alhaji Ibrahim Garba while presenting the report of the committee to Kano State Governor Ibrahim Shekarau yesterday, said it had been established that about 861 people were affected while the seven shops complexes destroyed were worth over N114 million. He added that the total loss was about N1 billion.

He said though the committee was unable to ascertain the real cause of the incident, investigation showed that the fire started from a tea shop in the market. Part of the recom-

mendations by the committee is for the state to register the market as a limited liability company so that there would be an established body to oversee its activities. It also recommended for the market and the state to enter into a public/private partnership to provide a car park in the market.

It also asked the state government to establish a law to punish business people, who sell materials, bearing inscriptions of the names of Allah. Kano State Governor Ibrahim Shekarau announced N250 million as the state government's donation and commended the committee for carrying out the task. He said the government would set up another committee to distribute the money to the victims.

Shekarau added that the state would consider the recommendations made by the committee with a view to improving business activities in the market and to avoid a re-occurrence.

KWASIEC warns against electoral offences

From Mustafá Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Chairman of the Kwara State Independent Electoral Commission (KWASIEC) Alhaji Bashir Oni, has warned people in the state against electoral offences. Speaking at Ilorin South Local Government Area yesterday, he warned against ballot stuffing, snatching and violence, saying offenders would not go unpunished.

He also told stakeholders to steer clear of the transportation of electoral officials during the forthcoming local government election in the state, adding that it is the responsibility of the commission to convey electoral officials and materials to polling units and collation centres during elections and not the duty of political parties.

He said the commission was ready to conduct an election that would be a model not only in Kwara, but to the whole country.

Oni said the commission had given the mandatory 150 days notice to an election as provided by the electoral laws, assuring that it would provide a level playing field for all political parties.

In his address, Chairman of Ilorin South Local Government Area, Barrister Lanre Daibu, who was represented by his vice, Alhaji Abdulganiyu Jimoh, charged the commission to ensure a free and fair election.

He commended Governor Bukola Saraki for appointing credible people into the commission, assuring that the council would give the commission the required support.

Boko Haram: Police witnesses shun court

From Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

FOUR of the five police witnesses from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Borno State Police Command, who are supposed to testify in the case involving 10 suspected members of the Boko Haram sect from Biu Local Government Area yesterday failed to appear in court.

The Deputy Director of Public Prosecution in the state, Barrister Richard Balami, told the court that the witnesses

were all served the court summon, saying he did not know why they were not in court. During cross examination, the only witness, who appeared in court said, he only recorded the statement of one of the accused, Kashim Imam, but that he did not take part in his arrest.

The police earlier told the court that Imam was arrested with the others in the house of one Inusa Sambo, the alleged leader of the group in Biu, but the accused said he was arrested somewhere else, and not at Sambo's house

as claimed.

The presiding judge, Justice Abdullahi Sanya Yerima, adjourned the case till today. Meanwhile, seven of the ten accused persons, including the only female have been granted bail. The suspects are being charged with planning to cause religious disturbances in Biu town and environs, unlawful assembly and gathering in the house of one Sambo to breach the peace of Biu town. The offences are punishable under sections 97, 103 and 114 of the penal code.

40,000 pensioners for verification in one centre

By Frances Okeke & Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

OVER 40,000 pensioners turned out for the ongoing nationwide biometric verification registration exercise of federal pensioners at one location in Lagos, an official said.

National Coordinator of the exercise and acting Director of Custom, Immigration, and Prison Pension Office (CIPPO), Alhaji Abdulrashid Maina said this yesterday in Abuja. He said many retired civil servants across the country find it difficult to claim their entitlements because they do not know from where to start.

"At the ongoing biometric verification exercises, government expected only 25,000 pensioners and now we have over 40,000 just in one of the two centres in Lagos, which is Ikoyi centre; this is to show that 15,000 were not on the list, this is out of the 200,000 pensioner we are expecting," he said.

He said many of the pensioners are undergoing the verification exercise for the first time and that had created the commotion in the centres. He pointed out that the money is not getting to the right people despite government's budget for them saying "this is because of the fact those who called themselves as organizing the pensioners are involved in shady deal with clerks, so they would not be happy." Head of Civil Service of the Federation Mr. Stephen Oronsaye had last week instructed that the exercise which was billed to end July 5 be extended to July 18 to accommodate all entitled pensioners.

Ex-IGP's nephew still held by kidnappers

By Misbahu Bashir

THE nephew of the former Inspector General of Police Ibrahim Atta, Rufa'i Abdulmalik, who was abducted last week in Abuja has not been released.

A friend to the victim told *Daily Trust* yesterday that the kidnappers asked for N50million ransom and are still in custody of Atta.

He said family members are making effort to see how the kidnappers can release the victim who suffers from life threatening ailments.

"The victim is hypertensive and suffers from diabetics and needs medical attention," he said.

The Federal Capital Territory Police Public Relations Officer Moshood Jimoh said the matter has not been reported to them. "We can only investigate a matter that was reported to us," he said.

Elumelu, Ugbane lose bid to quash charges

By Atika Balal

A Federal High Court in Abuja yesterday dismissed two separate applications filed by Chairman House committee on Power Ndudi Elumelu and his Senate counterpart Nicholas Yahaya Ugbane seeking to quash charges against them by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

Elumelu, through his counsel Patrick Ikwueto (SAN), had asked the court to quash the 66 count

charge against him as there is nothing in the proof of evidence to show that he influenced the procurement processes either directly or indirectly.

He argued that the award of the contract was done by the REA and they had followed their internal process (REA Procurement Planning Committee) in doing so, and Elumelu was never a member of the REA committee.

Counsel to Ugbane, S. I Ameh (SAN), had also argued that

Ugbane

acted in his capacity as chairman Senate committee on Power in the passage of the appropriation as such there is no basis for him to be put through trial.

But Prosecutor, Godwin Oba, opposed both applications and urged the court to dismiss both applications for lack of merit.

In ruling on the application, Justice Mohammed Garba Umar said having gone through Volumes 1 and 2 of the proof of evidence

filed by the prosecution, the court is convinced that both Elumelu and Ugbane have explanations to make before the court.

The case has been adjourned till July 22 for hearing.

Other accused persons are REA Managing Director, Engr. Samuel Ibi Gekpe, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Power, Dr. Abdullahi Aliyu, Simon Nanle, Engr. Lawrence Orekoya, Abdulsamad Garba Jahun, Barrister Kayode Oyedeji and Jibo Mohammed.

PIC: NAN



CROSS section of crowd at a reception for PDP National Chairman, Dr. Okwesilieze Nwodo, in Enugu, yesterday

Strike: FG has honoured its promise, say doctors

By Francis Okeke & Ruby Leo

NIGERIAN Medical Association (NMA) has joined the Federal Government in urging striking resident doctors to call off their action, saying government has commenced the payment of the Consolidated Medical Salary Scale as demanded by them.

Nigeria Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) has been on strike since last month over claims of

unpaid wages.

NMA National President Dr. Omed Idris led national executive officers of the association to the meeting which was also attended by the Minister of Labour and Productivity Chief Emeka Wogu and the Minister of State (Health), Alhaji Suleiman Bello.

A press statement by the Media Aide to Chief Wogu, Mr. Emmanuel Aziken, said the minister revealed that N74.59 billion has been ear-

marked for the payment of the arrears to the doctors.

The NMA President also confirmed that the Federal Government has commenced the implementation of the new salary scheme for the doctors in June.

Yesterday's meeting was sequel to an earlier one on the issue convened by Vice President Namadi Sambo where he urged all parties involved towards a commitment to end the strike.

The NMA and the Labour Minister at the end of the meeting called on the striking doctors to also heed appeals from prominent Nigerians including the Sultan of Sokoto Alhaji Abubakar Sa'ad to end the strike action following the sincerity of government to meet the demands of the doctors.

Efforts to reach NARD's National President Dr. Tunde Aremu to comment on the development were futile as his phone was switched off.

Jonathan: Nigeria needs best leaders

From Muideen Olaniyi, Enugu

NIGERIA needs to put in place machinery that will give room for the best leader to emerge irrespective of where he comes from or what religion he practices, President Goodluck Jonathan said yesterday.

Jonathan said this in Enugu during a grand reception organized by Enugu State Government and the state chapter

of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for the party's new National Chairman Dr Okwesilieze Nwodo who hails from the state.

Represented by National Coordinator of Goodluck Support Group (GSG) and a former Speaker of the Adamawa State House of Assembly Alhaji Ahmed Ali Gulak, Jonathan hailed the occasion which was attended by all the governors

from the zone irrespective of party affiliations.

"From the 1960s till 1990s, the military intervened in Nigerian politics. But in 2010 what is next is a great Nigerian politics. The emergence of President Jonathan and the new party National Chairman is an act of God. I will straight away tell Mr President that from the South-east, he will have no problem of unity. And that from Nigeria as

a whole, he will have no problem of unity," Gulak said.

Meanwhile, Dr Okwesilieze Nwodo said the PDP will break the jinx of slavery, marginalization and intimidation existing within the party.

He reiterated his plan to ensure that PDP restores people's power to choose the leaders of their choice, stressing that Nigeria has many 'Obamas' who must come out to join politics.

Regulatory bodies team up against piracy

By Atika Balal

IN a bid to protect intellectual property across the country, regulatory agencies have decided to collaborate on issues bordering on piracy, content development, enforcement and capacity building, Director General

Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), Adebambo Adewopo has said.

The agencies are NCC, Nigerian Broadcasting Commission (NBC), Nigerian Film Corporation (NFC) and Nigeria Film and Video Censorship Board (NFVCB). Speaking on behalf of the

group when they paid a visit to the Minister of Information and Communications Monday, Adewopo said the collaboration is aimed at salvaging the entertainment industry, particularly the music industry.

While calling on Nigerians to join in the fight

against piracy, he described piracy as a socio cultural and economic problem in country that no government can eliminate alone.

"There is no government all over the world that can fight piracy alone, so every Nigerian must be ready to fight. We are providing our

common resources and mandate to ensure that we provide the needed support for the industry," he said.

Responding, Professor Dora Akunyili decried the high rate of piracy and what the lack of a uniformed national standard has done to property owners and the

industry.

She said if the potentials of the industry are properly harnessed it will become a major foreign exchange earner and described the collaboration as a good step for the nation's rebranding project which will boost the country's image.



PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

FROM left: Chairman, House Committee on Defence Oluwale Oke, Senate President David Mark, Defence Minister Adetokumbo Kayode and Chief of Army Staff, Lt.-General Abdulrahman Dambazau, at the commissioning of the Nigerian Army Museum in Abuja, yesterday.

Air force to rehabilitate Markurdi runway

By Misbahu Bashir

SECRETARY of the Tenders Board of the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) Group Captain Adewale Steven Ogunmodede said the runway at the NAF Base airport in Makurdi, Benue State, will be rehabilitated.

He said this yesterday during the opening of contract bids for the 2010 NAF capital projects in Abuja.

He said the contracts will be awarded the rehabilitation of transverse and longitudinal joints and safety areas as well as airfield lighting for taxiways and apron in the air-

port.

The runway bird and wildlife hazard protection system will rehabilitate.

Work will also commence in the airport for the provision and installation of stand-alone distance measuring equipment for runway 05 and 23 while runway rapid intervention impulse fire extinguishing system will also be provided.

He said total of 78 companies indicated interest to undertake the 2010 NAF capital projects including the development of the NAF institute of safety in Ipeju-Ijesha, Oshun state.

Minister wants youth involved in 2011 election

By Romoke W. Ahmad

MINISTER of Youth Development Senator Akinlabi Olasunkanmi has urged the newly elected executives of National Youth Council of Nigeria to be actively involved in the 2011 general election having demonstrated competency during their just concluded election.

He said this during the formal presentation of the executives by the care taker committee in his office yesterday in Abuja.

He said the election, according to security reports by security agencies, network and social mobilisation department of federal ministry of youth development and other observers

show that Nigerian youths are capable of handling the affairs of this great country in future.

While congratulating Nigerian youths on the conduct of the election, Akinlabi urged the new leadership to contribute positively to the 2011 general election and not to be allowed to use as an agent of election fraud and violent.

The elected president of NYCN Ajani O. James promised to start by reviewing the youth council's constitution and appealed to the minister to help them secure a befitting secretariat, official car to ease their movement and to also help them to be actively involved in the nation's 50th Independence anniversary.

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Please Note: we will only be at the above venues on the specified days. Pls No Extension!

ANPP chairman threatens to expel erring members

From John Kennedy Uzoma, Owerri

CHAIRMAN of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) Imo State chapter, Chief Vitalis Orikeze Ajumbe, has threatened to expel any member of the executive, who absents himself from meetings. Ajumbe gave the warning at the weekend after his election as the chairman of the party. He

assured that the party would practice true democracy. Ajumbe, who said the party would introduce new cards for members also called for the support of all to succeed.

He was unanimously elected after his opponent, Chief O.F.C Ohaegbulam, stepped down for him at the congress held in Owerri at the weekend. Also elected was the vice

chairman, Orlu Zone, Chief S.N. Emeghebo who pulled 109 votes to defeat Chief Okorie Emejuru.

The Commissioner of the State Independent National Electoral Commission, Mrs. Myria Owi, commended the party for the successful congress and called on other parties to always invite SIEC to observe their activities.



From Left: Mrs Agnes Akpan; her husband, Chief Augustine Akpan; Chief Effiok Uwatt and wife, Ireti, during their coronation as "Fathers of Akwa Ibom people in Gwagwalada" by the Aguma of Gwagwalada, Alhaji Mohammed Magaji in Abuja.

'Defection resolved Yobe ANPP disputes'

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

THE Chairman of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), Yobe State chapter, Alhaji Inuwa Nguru yesterday said the defection of some members from the party had resolved the disputes that the party has been battling with for the past three years.

Nguru, who addressed newsmen in Damaturu, said the party extended olive branches through its reconciliation committee to all aggrieved members, but many of them ignored the party.

He said the ANPP was not bothered by their exit. "In

fact, their defection is good for the party. It is better for them to go than to stay and engage in anti-party activities which will be detrimental to the progress of the party. These people are in politics for selfish reasons. Let me tell you that no party can constitute any threat to the ANPP in Yobe. Our achievements in the past three years speak for themselves and are capable of selling the party in 2011," he added.

Among those who defected from the party are Senator Usman Albishir, who was a gubernatorial candidate of the ANPP in 2007, Baba Gishiware and Zakariya'u Galadima, who are currently members of the House of Representatives.

Yugoslavia to open consulate in Kano

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

THE Yugoslavian Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Rifat Rondic, has said that plans are underway by his embassy to open a consulate in Kano before the end of this year.

Rondic, who said this when he visited Kano State Governor, Ibrahim Shekarau, said the aim was to strengthen the relationship between both countries. He said he was working hard to ensure

that Nigeria reopens its embassy in Yugoslavia.

Rondic added that his country intends to enter into a bilateral agreement with Nigeria in the education sector so that more Nigerians could be awarded scholarships to study in Yugoslavian institutions of higher learning. He said his country was also interested in signing a defence pact with Nigeria as according to him, both countries had the capacity to work together to ensure

peace and progress.

Shekarau said the plan by the Yugoslavian government to invest in the education sector of the country was a step in the right direction, pointing out that the move would provide opportunities for many Kano indigenes.

Malam Shekarau, who thanked the Yugoslavian government for its interest in the state, urged Yugoslavian entrepreneurs to also explore the vast commercial and tourism opportunities in the state.

Kano Assembly constitutes ad-hoc c'ttee on embezzlement allegation

From Hisham Habib Kano

THE Kano State House of Assembly has constituted an ad-hoc committee to investigate the alleged misappropriation of public funds by Ajingi Local Government Council which led to the suspension of the chairman, Masud Toranke, by the legislators in the local government.

The committee was constituted after the House debated on the report presented by its Committee on Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs headed by Alhaji

Habib Saleh Minjibir.

Members took turns to criticize the report which led to the suspension of the chairman and the freezing of the local government account.

A member, Alhaji Habib El Yakub said the report was unable to state whether the money was actually misappropriated or if it was returned by the accused persons.

The ad-hoc committee is expected to investigate the matter and submit its report within two weeks. The committee is headed by Abdullahi Shelhu Dawakin Kudu.

2011: Army urged to remain neutral

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

NIGERIAN Army has been urged to remain neutral on the 2011 general elections. The call was made by the General Officer Commanding the 3rd Armoured Division and Commander of the Special Task Force in Jos, Major General Sale Maina, at the interdenominational service to herald the 2010 Army Day celebration. Maina, who was represented by the Division's Chief of Staff Brigadier General Femi Adeoye, said the Army, whose pri-

mary responsibility was to protect the integrity of the nation should not interfere with the forthcoming elections. He maintained that all it was expected to do was to provide security where necessary.

He said there were rules and regulations as well as code of conducts guiding the military profession and that such rules must be obeyed. The GOC also enjoined soldiers to cooperate with other security agencies. The service was presided over by Major Rev. A.F. Mai Magani.

Two arraigned over illegal credit society

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

TWO persons were yesterday arraigned before an Ilorin Magistrate Court for allegedly operating an illegal Finance Co-operative Investment and Credit Society. The accused, Richard Williams, 45 and Farouk Mohammed, 50 were arraigned on a two-count charge of criminal conspiracy and cheating.

Their arrest followed a report received by the state CID, alleging that the accused persons and one Aliyu Adamu, said to be at large, were operating an illegal micro-finance cooperative society known as Adame Finance Co-operative Investment and Credit Society at Patigi, Kwara State.

They were also alleged to have under false pretence granted loans to their unsuspecting customers with interest.

Police First Information Report (FIR) on the matter stated that the accused criminally lured

unsuspecting people to deposit money with them.

It added that investigation revealed that the accused criminally conspired, and collected N81,000.00 from unsuspecting customers as their contribution to the illegal business.

It further stated that N36,000 of the money was recovered while various forms printed by the accused for the purpose of operating the illegal finance co-operative were recovered as exhibits.

The prosecutor, Sergeant Mathew Saye, objected to the bail application by the accused persons and urged the court to remand them at the Federal Prison, Oke-Kura, Ilorin, pending the outcome of investigation into the matter.

The accused pleaded not guilty and Magistrate S.O. Hanafi granted them bail in the sum of N20,000 and reliable sureties in like sum.

The matter was adjourned till July 29.

Lula: We cannot pay back Africa debt

By Aisha Umar Agale

BRAZILIAN President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has said that Brazil would never be able to repay the historic debts it owes Africa even as he offered trade and commerce relationship between Brazil and the continent.

He made the state-

ment at the first Brazil-ECOWAS summit in Sal Island stating that "There is no way to pay back our historical debts to Africa. We are debtors in our ways of being, our culture, our arts, Brazil would not have been what it is today without the efforts of millions of Africans."

He said "I am not in

Africa just to seek new markets for Brazilian products like other countries do, but conditions must be built to ensure the transfer of technology to Africa, so that you can be able to produce what we are producing."

He added that the relationship between Brazil and Africa must be built on a more concrete platform

for the mutual benefits of the two parties.

da Silva proposed the establishment of an African-Brazilian Centre of Excellence in Biofuels to ensure capacity building and training, as well as a joint Brazil-ECOWAS Financial Mechanism to give incentives to investments and trade.

Builders honour IBB, El-Rufai, Useni, others

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE Nigerian Institute of Building (NIOB), FCT chapter, has honoured former President Ibrahim Babangida, former FCT ministers Nasir El-Rufai and Lt. Gen. Jeremiah Useni for their contributions towards the development of the Federal Capital Territory.

Other recipients of NIOB awards of recognition at the investiture of the chairman and newly elected executive members

for 2010/ 2011/ award recognition ceremony held in Abuja are Mrs. Dooshima Suswan, first lady of Benue State, Julius Berger PLC and Urban Shelter among others.

All the awardees were presented with award certificates.

In his address at the occasion, NIOB Abuja chapter President, Mr. Abdulrazaq Ayo Alao said that the new executives will take the issues of building collapse and technological development seriously.

Project to curb trafficking of Nigerians to Europe launched

By Francis Okeke

A multilateral project to curb the forced trafficking of Nigerians to Europe and also improve the protection and reintegration of victims of trafficking was launched in Abuja yesterday.

The initiative involving the Federal Government, European Union and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) is being hosted by the Ministry of Labour on behalf of the Federal Govern-

ment.

The project which is to run for 24 months also aims to boost the capacity of Nigerian agencies involved in the prosecution of traffickers and is to cost €1.2 million (N220 million) being funded by the European Union.

Minister of Labour and Productivity Chief Emeka Wogu who launched the programme at the United Nations building in Abuja praised the collaboration as another evidence of the glo-

bal endorsement of President Goodluck Jonathan's sincere efforts in putting Nigeria on a higher footing.

A press statement signed by Chief Wogu's media aide Mr. Emmanuel Aziken said the minister expressed optimism on the positive impact of the project on Nigerians.

Earlier, the Resident Coordinator of the UN System in Nigeria Mr. Toure noted that trafficking in persons is a crime and an abuse of human rights.

Agency wants its responsibilities back

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE National Geological Survey Agency (NGSA) is set to get back all its responsibilities which it said have been hijacked by some government agencies.

Speaking at the NGSA's retreat in Abuja, Chairman, board of directors of the agency, Abu Y. Karofi, said there are many responsibilities of the agency being carried out by other gov-

ernment agencies.

He said the board members decided to draw the attention of federal government to address the matter, adding that an ad hoc committee has been set up to look into the matter so that government will not double-fund agencies for work done only by NGSA.

"There are quite a number of agencies that are being funded by federal government that are doing work that supposed to be

doing or have been doing. We believed government is funding two agencies doing the same job and we intended to approach government," he said.

He said the mining industry in Nigeria has not developed enough to absorb all the geologies graduating from the universities and called for government to increase the mining activities by empowering the NGSA.

UMAR SULEIMAN COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, P.M.B 02 GASHUA YOBE STATE (OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR)

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- Company audited account for three (3) years
- Technical Competence (list of plants/equipment) of the firm including profile of technical and administrative staff
- Verifiable list of similar projects executed in the recent past with evidence and for completion certificate
- Evidence of tax clearance certificate for the last three (3) years/VAT registration certificate
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E. The invitation for pre-qualification for contract is not an invitation to tender and only contractors that have been pre-qualified will be invited to tender. Also, prospective applicants, on submission of application, will pay a non-refundable fee of N10, 000.00 for lots i-iii and N20, 000.00 for iv & v.

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Inside Politics

Talba: Yobe PDP in order for 2011

In Yobe State, the next general elections will certainly be tougher than any previous ones because of the metamorphosis that has occurred in the political space. Senator Adamu Garba Talba (PDP, Yobe South), in this interview, addresses the issues at stake especially as they affect the PDP. Excerpts:

By Turaki A. Hassan

POLITICAL atmosphere in the country is getting hotter but the PDP in Yobe seems not to be doing anything. Are you really prepared to challenge the ANPP in 2011?

This time we have a certain degree of confidence that the PDP will capture Yobe State. We are very sure of unseating the ANPP government next year because as I am speaking to you the people of Yobe are fed up with the ANPP government it has not measured up to expectation. Look at states like Gombe; it is well ahead of us. In fact we need 10 years of concerted effort to catch up with a state like Gombe. So if you have been following political events in the past one year, you will conclude that the PDP will unseat the ANPP in Yobe. You are aware of the fact that numerous ANPP supporters have defected to our party [PDP]. We have won to our side the strong man of the ANPP Senator Usman Albishir. Even some commissioners in the ANPP government have resigned and defected to the PDP. Some national as well as state legislators have also defected to the PDP. That shows that PDP will put up a good fight in the next election.

In the past we had internal crisis. We were really determined to unseat the ANPP in Yobe but each time election drew closer, problems would set in.

So what guarantee do you have that problems will not set in as we draw closer to another election? As I am talking to you, we have



PROF. Attahiru Jega, INEC boss

already put our house in order. We have mended all fences and block all leakages in the political space. More than ever before, we are one strong and indivisible party.

Aspirants for the governorship position in many state have

begun campaign. Even in Yobe, the incumbent governor has declared his intention to contest and is busy campaigning. But nobody from the PDP has so far indicated interest. What's the problem?

No, we are preparing for a

We have mended all fences and block all leakages in the political space. More than ever before, we are one strong and indivisible party.

great showdown because we have learnt our lesson in the past elections. So what we are doing now is strategizing properly so that we will come out in full force like a whirlwind and sweep away the ANPP. When the time comes, we will parade our candidate and he will definitely win the election in 2011.

Are you working towards a consensus candidate?

If we are able to get a consensus candidate, it will be better for us. If eventually we don't get that, we will go for primaries and there will be no crisis.

The problem that looks certain to crop up is that Senator Usman Albishir and many of his supporters have applied for waiver to enable them contest election but they could not obtain it in the last National Executive Committee meeting of the PDP...

Let me say that they were not denied waiver to contest elections. They were never denied. I think that the due process, which our party stands for, was not followed in their application for waiver. As soon as they follow due process which they are now trying to do, it will be given them.

But they are saying that only the NEC can grant waiver and since they did not get it at the last NEC meeting, it means that they are technically out since there will be no any NEC meeting before the party primaries.

There are special cases hope you understand so if some cases are special the NEC will meet

just on that and grant them the waiver. PDP is a party that well comes everybody even though we are the ruling party in the country our doors are widely open for anyone who wants to come in so there is no reason for them not to be given waiver. The NEC can meet any time and I believe that it will meet to decide not only on that but there are also many cases from different states of the country and as we draw closer to the election more people will be decamping to the PDP that why they have to be given waivers to contest election.

Are you not scared that Albishir and his people may now be looking elsewhere since they seemed not to be fully welcomed and integrated into the PDP?

No, waiver is not an issue at all. It is only some people that are playing it up to give the impression that we have problems. They became part and parcel of us from the day they joined the party.

But people, especially the ruling ANPP, are not comfortable with them joining us; so they scared that the party is becoming stronger every day. We know that they are ones sponsoring some write ups in the newspapers to give the impression that we have problems but they won't succeed.

The waiver would have been given them at the last NEC meeting if they had followed the due process. But that is not a problem I am aware that it is being processed and the next time NEC meets it will grant them the waiver.

Nasarawa ANPP gets new exco

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

AFTER a prolong leadership crisis, the All Nigerian People's Party (ANPP) in Nasarawa State has elected a new executive committee. The election took place at the weekend in the state capital, Lafia.

The election which was conducted by a congress committee led by Paul Chinweza produced Barrister John Mathew as chairman. Mathew defeated Suleiman Tanko to emerge winner. The congress was duly supervised by officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) who described it as free and fair.

Other officials elected at the congress are Haruna Yakubu as Vice Chairman, Ibrahim Osabuwa as Secretary, Hassan Alfa as Treasurer, Husseini Ismaila as Publicity Secretary and Shehu

Mohammed as Youth Leader, amongst others.

In his inauguration speech, the new chairman promised to carry every member of the party along. He expressed satisfaction with the transparent manner in which the election was conducted.

Mathew said that with the new executives, the ANPP would be re-organized more than ever to wrestle power from the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Nasarawa State.

Congress committee chairman, Okafor, commended the peaceful conduct of the delegates during and after the election, noting that their attitude towards the election was a demonstration of internal democracy in the party.

Public Affairs Officer of INEC in the state, Mrs. Judith Omar, said that the election showed that internal democracy was at play in the party.

Lagos PDP, APGA differ on deregistration of parties

THE Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) yesterday hailed the House of Representatives' recommendation that INEC should deregister political parties which failed to win any seat in any legislature.

Mr Olatunji Shelle, the Publicity Secretary of the Lagos State Chapter of the PDP said in Lagos that the recommendation would deepen politics and democracy.

"It is a welcome development because some parties are just on paper and not on ground; they do not have membership, offices or strength. Do we continue to allow them to collect money from

the federation account without justifying it?" he asked. Shelle said that the Federal Government's annual grant to political parties was to enable them to register members and acquire offices to be able to contest and win elections.

He said parties should be able to mobilise funds on their own, contest elections and win some seats. "If they fail, let them go," he said.

However, Mr Nkem Lemchi, the Secretary of the Lagos State Chapter of the All Peoples Grand Alliance (APGA), said that the House of Representatives' recommendation was harsh. (NAN)

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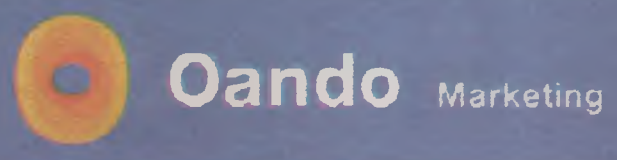
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Inside Politics

PDP chair, Kwankwaso faction shun party rally in Kano

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

CHAIRMAN of Kano chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Barrister Faruq Iya and former governor of Kano State Engineer Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso were absent at the party's rally organised in honour of Minister of National Planning Dr Shamsuddeen Usman as the state party leader.

Faruq Iya, who was part of the Kwankwaso-led rally in the 44 local government areas of the state, is perceived to be loyal to Kwankwaso faction, popularly known in local parlance as Kwankwasiyaya.

Daily Trust observed that all other members of the Iya-led exco were also absent.

Lamenting the absence of the party leadership at Filin Polo yesterday, Dr Shamsuddeen Usman said they had notified the party leaders and all the stakeholders of their intention to hold the rally.

Delivering the President Goodluck Jonathan's message to the gathering, he said the president urged the party supporters to ensure that they vote wisely.

"I am here, to deliver two messages to you: that of the president and the new party chairman. President Jonathan urges you to unite and ensure the sanctity of your vote, while Mr Nwodo calls for unity in the party," said the minister.

Also speaking, a gov-

ernorship aspirant of the party, Rep Faruq Lawan said the party in the state should unite in order to actualise its dream of winning elections come 2011.

Also addressing the rally, former chairman of the party Senator Mas'ud Doguwa said without unity the party would not achieve its aims. "Victory eluded us for many years and we can't afford to fail again. But the only way to succeed is through unity," he said.

He also said that the magnitude of the gathering was a pointer to the ruling All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) in the state that it is time they packed their load out of the Government House.

Plateau: Court rules three year tenure for LG chairmen

From Ahmed Mohammed & Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE state high court sitting in Jos yesterday ruled that the Langtang North local government chairman Brian Dadi is to spend three years in office beginning from the day he was sworn into office.

Dadi was pronounced winner of the election for Langtang Local Government by the Appeal Court in November last year, one year after the election which the state electoral body [PLASIEC] wrongly gave to the PDP candidate.

The chairman had gone to court to challenge the amended local government law that reduced the tenure of local government chairmen in Plateau State from three to two years. The law was made by the short lived administration of Michael Botmang after former governor Joshua Dariye was wrongfully impeached. In his ruling, presiding judge, Justice Hussaini

Othman, nullified the amended law, saying the administration of Michael Botmang which made and signed the law is considered as void in the eyes of the law.

He said the administration of Botmang was considered as void because a court judgement said former governor, Joshua Dariye, was illegally impeached as the governor of Plateau State.

According to the judgment which granted 18 prayers of the applicant (Dadi), his tenure had commenced in November 2009, when he assumed office, and is to end after three years [in November 2011].

Meanwhile, the Plateau state government has indicated its readiness to appeal the judgment. State Attorney General Edward Pwajok told our correspondent after the judgment that the state government had concluded plans to file an appeal.



FROM Right -left: Governor Sullivan Chime, National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Dr. Okwesilieze Nwodo and Senator Jim Nwobodo during a grand reception in honour of the new national chairman of the PDP, in Enugu, yesterday.

2011: Southeast govts back Nwodo

From Muideen Olaniyi, Enugu

ALL the five governors from the Southeast geo-political zone of the country yesterday put party affiliations aside and attended a grand reception organized for the new Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Dr. Okwesilieze Nwodo in Enugu.

The reception organized by the Enugu State government and the state chapter of PDP was graced by All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA) governors of Anambra and Abia states; Peter Obi and Theodore Orji respectively.

Speaking at the reception, Governor Obi expressed confidence in the ability of Dr Nwodo to lead the PDP to greater height and rallied support for his leadership.

Obi reiterated the resolution of the Southeast governors to back only candidate that has the interest of the Igbos at heart, stressing that "no Igbo man will contest President and Vice President in 2011."

While warning against any act of sabotage among the Igbo people, Obi said there are no crises again in the Southeast. In his remarks, Governor Orji who said it was the resolution of all Southeast governors to grace Nwodo's reception programme urged the new chairman to have the interest of the people at heart.

Imo State Governor Ikedi Ohakim called on Nwodo to tear down the wall of Godfatherism, unjustified de-registration of members and poverty among other social vices.

Governor Martins Elechi of Ebonyi State hailed Nwodo's move to change the PDP leadership style from that of military to civilian style. While speaking, the host governor Sullivan Chime said PDP under Nwodo will not be the same again, adding that Nwodo will turn the party around for the better.

"In the Southeast, politics is now a brotherly thing. We have eschewed politics of bitterness. We have decided not to play politics of selfishness and division. We must play it like a family," he said.



FROM left: Enugu State Governor Sullivan Chime supported by his Ebonyi, Anambra, Imo and Abia States counterparts, Chief Martin Elechi, Mr. Peter Obi, Chief Ikedi Ohakim and Chief Theodore Orji during a reception organized in his honour in Enugu, yesterday.

Kwara LG polls: AC vows to surprise PDP

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Kwara State chairman of the Action Congress, Prince Sunday Fagbemi, has vowed that his party would unseat the ruling Peoples Democratic Party in a free and fair contest during the next local government election.

The AC chairman who spoke with journalists in Ilorin said the party had been working round the

clock since 2007 to ensure that it makes impressive outings in subsequent elections.

"The fact that we have not been doing jamborees like PDP does not mean that we are not on ground. Again, with the guideline the Kwara State Independent Electoral Commission issued, there will be accreditation simultaneously, which means it is difficult to have multiple voting," the chairman said.

The fact that we have not been doing jamborees like PDP does not mean that we are not on ground

Send Forth Dinner

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Former Head of State, Federal Republic of Nigeria

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MPC: Financial system still fragile

Investors yet to tap from N500bn power fund

By Idris Ahmed

NIGERIA'S financial system is not yet off the hook as the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) yesterday said the country's financial markets are fragile.

Although MPC says the financial system is on the path of recovery.

The Committee also retained the Monetary Policy Rate (interest rate) of 6 percent.

CBN has introduced series of reform measures since last year when it audited the banks through its special examination and found out that ten out of the twenty four banks had liquidity problems and injected N620 billion into eight of them.

The proposed bad bank-the Asset Management Corporation (AMCON) is in the offing to soak up toxic assets.

"The MPC observed that financial markets, though still fragile, have recovered faster than expected, urging greater efforts in accelerating reforms in the other sectors of the economy. This is critical for economic growth", the MPC said in its communiqué.

The constraints affecting the financial market include: Infrastructure inadequacy, lack of access to finance, lack of requisite skills, unfavourable trade policy and a poor investment climate all of which have the potential to constrain economic growth.

The MPC stressed the need for government to pursue macroeconomic, structural and institutional reforms that appear to have slowed down in the past few years.

"However, it underscored the need to diversify the economy to protect the country from the vagaries of oil price volatility", it said.

MPC believes that the inflation risk of the rebound in energy prices appears mitigated by the continuing low levels of capacity utilization, weak private demand, good harvest, and well-anchored inflation expectations.

It said money in circulation declined by 0.2 per cent in May, which, when annualized represented a contraction of 0.48 per cent, compared with the indicative growth target of 29.26 per cent for 2010.

Reserve money (RM), which stood at N1.7 trillion at end-December 2009, declined to N1.6 trillion at the end of June which was below the provisional 2010 second quarter indicative benchmark of N1.87 trillion.

It said that available data showed that in May 2010, aggregate domestic credit (net) grew by 12.38 per cent over the December 2009 level, and by 29.72 per cent when annualized, which was still below the 2010 indicative target of 55.54 per cent.

According to it, the credit to the private sector declined by 1.88 per cent (or 4.51 per cent on annualized basis), in contrast to the growth benchmark of 31.54 per cent for 2010.

"The substantial growth of credit to government (net) against the backdrop of declining private sector credit reflected the risk aversion of the DMBs to lending to non-government borrowers.

"The Committee believes that in order to provide the private sector with the necessary credit to grow the economy, further



efforts are needed to unlock the credit market in order to enhance the flow of credit to the real economy", it said.

The rates at the inter-bank segments of the money market were much higher than what obtained in the preceding period owing to the short-lived tight liquidity conditions in May.

Speaking on the N500 billion set aside for the power sector and the SMEs, which has also been extended to the aviation sector, the governor of central bank Sanusi Lamido Sanusi said that nobody or firm has made request to access fund for the power sector.

He said N150 billion is ready and would be disbursed to the manufacturing sector this month.

Sanusi said that inflation remained a "real threat" due to an expected public sector pay rise and an anticipated rise in food prices caused partly by food shortages in neighbouring Niger.

He said country's GDP growth was forecast at 7.74 percent this year compared to 6.66 percent in 2009.

CBN maintained its corridor of an 8 percent lending rate and 1 percent deposit rate around the benchmark rate, which has been at 6.0 percent for a year despite double-digit inflation.

BRIEF

Indices drop at Stock Exchange

The Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) yesterday opened trading for the week on a negative note with the market indices dropping by 0.29 per cent. The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that indices performance shows that market capitalisation depreciated by N18 billion to close at N6.123 trillion against N6.141 trillion recorded on Friday. The All-Share Index dropped by 74.11 points to close at 25,149.59 points compared with the 25,223.70 points recorded by on Friday. NAN reports that the low market activity resulted in 36 listed equities dropping in share price value in contrast to the 29 which grew in share price value last week. B Dangote Sugar topped the price losers' table shedding 86k to close at N19.99 per share. Cadbury shares went down by 78k to close at N26.76 while Oando reduced by 49k to close at N74.50. The Universal Press Ltd. (UPL) led in the price gainers' table, gathering 35k to close at N7.40 per share. NASCO shares rose by 32k to close at N7.92 while May and Baker advanced by 31k to close at N6.61. The NSE daily summary analysis shows the Banking sub-sector dominating transactions in sector performance with 114.4 million shares worth N888.43 million exchanged in 2,900 deals.

STOCK MARKET INDEX

Date:	Monday, July 5, 2010
Index:	25,149.59
Volume:	218,869,061
Cap.:	N6,123,497,952,730.00

TRUST INDEX

Inflation	11%
GDP	7.23%
Budget	N4.6tr
Ext. Reserves Acct	\$38bn
Excess Crude Acct	\$3.2bn
Poverty Ratio	54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	6%
Banks	24
Oil Price	\$72 a barrel
Power Supply	3,759.9MW
Oil output per day	2.6mbd
Broad Money Supply	N10,959,238.2m
Credit to Private Sector	N10,065,975.8m
Inter-Bank Rate	4.3700%
Treasury Bills	1.65%
Deposit Rate	7.51%
Prime Lending Rate	18.06%

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
5/7/2010			
CFA	0.2581	0.2601	0.2781
DANISH KRONER	194.7101	185.9666	185.993
EURO	24.7807	24.8647	24.9487
FOR. NIP. STERLING	223.0476	223.801	223.5603
RIYAL	39.32	39.4534	39.5867
ADP	219.9931	220.7411	221.4874
SWISS FRANC	138.6721	139.1423	139.6125
US DOLLAR	145.45	147.91	148.43
WAUA	217.7006	218.5191	219.2376
YEN	1.6902	1.6879	1.6915

Bureau de Change Rates

BUYING	
Dollar	N152
Euro	N182
Pound	N227
SELLING	
Dollar	N153
Euro	N186
Pound	N230



Source: CBN Bureau de Change, West Zone & Abuja.

Business

Insecurity is businessman's worst headache in Nigeria — Survey

By Boco Edet

A major bother of the average Nigerian businessman is insecurity if one is to go by the findings of a survey carried out by the National Bureau for Statistics (NBS) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The survey's aim which was to gather the perceptions and experiences of businesses with regard to corruption and crime, covered a total of 2203 businesses across all Nigerian states and sectors of the economy in 2007.

Business executives were not particularly perturbed by issues pertaining to economic governance like tax regulations, complicated business registrations or changes in laws and regulations. For them, a major concern was crime and insecurity, corruption, inflation and political instability.

In the survey, "75% and 71% of those interviewed said that crime and corruption respectively pose

as very serious obstacles to doing business." 50% of interviewed businesses had experienced at least a crime during the 12 months before the survey.

Commonly, the high prevalence of crime against business is accompanied by a high level of violence aggravating an emotional and psychological impact on victims. Half of the respondents who said they had been victims of a crime mentioned burglary represented by 30%. Others had dealt with theft or fraud from employees, vandalism, assault and robbery.

After crime, corruption in form of bribery was rated as the second top impediment to conducting business in Nigeria. A chunk of these bribes are offered to public officials to facilitate administrative procedures.

According to the survey, "When restricting to businesses which had at least one contact with public officials in the year before the survey, the proportion of those who had to give money increases to 34%. On average, one



INVESTORS fear insecurity is a disincentive to business in Nigeria.


out of three enterprises had to pay a bribe to public officials when carrying out certain administrative procedures." The interviewed businesses reported that they paid higher percentage of bribes when dealing with police investigations or traffic offenses and clearing goods through customs.

Another interesting aspect of

the survey is that bribes are often paid by businesses without a precise goal. "Among businesses that had to pay a bribe in the year before the survey, about 30% declared they simply could not avoid paying the bribe and another 13% did not know the reason for the payment."

The survey also reported that, "In other cases, bribery is used to

speed up the procedure (31%) or to have better treatment (18%). Among public officials, police personnel were most frequently alleged by respondents (58%) to request the payment of bribes followed by employees of PHCN and the Water board (39%), Revenue officials (26%) as well as Customs (25%)."



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NUTRITION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS 2010

As a part of its corporate social responsibility, Dufil Prima Foods Plc, last year, instituted a scholarship programme for Nigerian students studying Nutrition and Dietetics at Masters degree level. The programme is aimed at assisting the training of high-level Nutrition and Dietetic manpower in the country. It is hoped that over a period of time this will produce a critical mass of highly trained nutritionists that will continue to sustainably chart and guide the way for optimum nutrition for all Nigerians.

Eligibility: The scholarship is open to all Nigerian students qualified for admission to an M.Sc programme in Nutrition (and Nutrition/Dietetics) in the Nigerian university system. Awards will be made to qualified and suitable students from every geo-political zone of the Federation, including the FCT.

Applications are invited from qualified candidates in writing, clearly providing the following:

- Full names (surname first).
- A copy of Letter of Admission into the programme (or photocopy of Application for Admission).
- Details of educational history (i.e. schools attended with dates and certificates - photocopy should be attached).
- Evidence of state of origin obtained from the appropriate Local Government Area and duly signed by the Chairman or Secretary.

ALL applications (and enquires) should be addressed to:

Co-ordinator
DUFIL-NUTRITION
AWARDS PROGRAMME
P.O. Box 1883 SAGOH, ABECHUTA
OGUN STATE.
E-mail: acad@dufil.com

To reach him on or before July 30, 2010. The envelope (A4 size) should be marked "APPL. 2010 AWARD" on the top left corner.

Business

As fuel scarcity looms

FG to release Q3 import allocation tomorrow

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Federal government would release third quarter import allocations to major marketers and importers of fuel in the country on Wednesday.

Executive Secretary of the Major Oil Marketers Association of Nigeria [MOMAN], Obafemi Lawore, who disclosed this to our correspondent yesterday, said the Petroleum Products Pricing and Regulatory Agency (PPPRA) has assured him of the release of the third quarter allocation before the close of business on Wednesday.

"The Petroleum Products Pricing and Regulatory Agency [PPPRA] has assured me that they would release the import allocation any moment from now. In fact, as I am talking to you, the agency is working assiduously to get the allocation released to the marketers and importers".

He said with the development the fear of possible fuel

scarcity due to the initial delay in the release of the third quarter allocations will now be allayed.

He expressed the commitment of marketers association in ensuring availability of products as at when due.

A number of marketers who spoke with our correspondent on the development commended the agency for averting another round of fuel scarcity in the country. They however charged the PPPRA to ensure release of the import allocation in line with industry requirement.

Report had it that the Federal Government's effort to scale down the 2010 budget by 40 per cent caused delay in the release of the third quarter import allocation to major marketers and importers of fuel, including the Nigerian

National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC).

It was learnt that the release of the import allocation for the third quarter was supposed to have been done at least two weeks before the second quarter.

According to the report, the development automatically hamstrings PPPRA to release the third quarter allocation.

General Manager, Corporate Service of the PPPRA, Mr Ole Adamolekun said concerned stakeholders have been kept abreast of development and confirmed that they would get the third quarter allocation any moment from now.

Executive Secretary of the agency, Abiodun Ibikunle, could not be reached for comments.



THE royal household said it was "acutely aware" of the difficult economic situation.

Britain: Royal household spends £38.2m taxpayers' money

THE royal family cost Britain's taxpayers £38.2 million in the last financial year, according to accounts released by Buckingham Palace Monday.

The figure, which represents 62 pence per person, was released with Britain facing deep public spending cuts as the coalition government bids to cut the country's record budget deficit.

Officials insisted that the royal household was "acutely aware of the difficult economic climate" and had taken action including freezing the number of employees.

The figure for 2009-10 represents a 7.9 percent drop on the previous year, a fall attributed in part to royals taking fewer commercial charter flights.

But opponents of the monarchy are demonstrat-

ing outside the palace Monday to demand more clarity on how the royals spend public money.

"We'll be demanding real transparency and accountability from the palace, so we can really see how much public money they are wasting at a time when government spending is under the pressure of huge cuts," Graham Smith of campaign group Republic said.

"Royal finance reforms promised by the government are a start, but they don't go far enough or quick enough."

Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne announced in last month's budget that the royal household would face a funding shake-up and in future undergo the same audit scrutiny as other areas of government expenditure. (Yahoo)



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Business/Maritime

Shipping coys seek N150bn to procure vessels

SOME indigenous shipping firms have applied for more than N150 billion as loans to procure vessels under the Cabotage Vessel Financing Fund (CVFF).

NAN investigation revealed in Lagos that about 92 applications for funds had been received.

Four banks have been appointed as the Primary Lending Institutions (PLIs) to handle the disbursement of the loans.

They are: Skye Bank, Equitorial Trust Bank, Diamond Bank and Fidelity Bank.

It was also gathered that only N15 billion would be raised by NIMASA, the banks and the benefitting shipping

companies in the ratio of 50 per cent, 35 per cent and 15 per cent respectively.

Mr. Temisan Omatseye, the Director-General, NIMASA, said the level of funding available to indigenous ship owners had been hindering fleet expansion and capacity development.

Omatseye said the paucity of funds had made shipping business a difficult venture in Nigeria, adding that NIMASA had encouraged access to offshore facilities.

He said that the CVFF must not be mistaken for the various offshore facilities.

Omatseye said while the CVFF was a local initiative for

capacity development, the offshore facilities were being worked out to facilitate entry of Nigerian seafarers into the international league.

"Even with all the seafarers training programmes that we have, if we do not have international flag vessels, the cadets cannot obtain their certificate of competency.

"This can only come if you are on board the ships that fly international flags.

"The plan is to place cadets from the Maritime Academy of Nigeria on board these vessels just like the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) is doing right now," he said.



AN American cargo ship.

Customs get Senate resolution to reinstate Faith Umoh

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) has received the Senate resolution directing it to reabsorb, Assistant Comptroller-General Faith Umoh into the service after she was wrongfully retired. After considering a petition on the premature retirement of Umoh from service, the Senate resolved that she should be reinstated with full benefits as a senior officer of the Customs service.

A copy of the Senate resolution reached on the matter has been transmitted to the Comptroller-General of Customs, Abdullahi Dikko Inde for immediate implementation.

Senator Effiong Bob (PDP, Akwa Ibom North east) who presented a petition on the matter to the Senate has expressed concern on the delay in reinstating Umoh who according to him has been deprived her rights and benefits as officer of the Customs service.

BIZtoons

BY akila JIBRIN



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FEDERAL MINISTRY OF LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR INVESTMENT IN HOUSING DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

The Federal Ministry of Lands, Housing & Urban Development in furtherance to implementing its mandate in Housing development, is inviting Interested and Reputable Real Estate Investors/Developers to express interest in Partnering with the Ministry in the provision of decent, safe and affordable housing for Nigerians in all States of the Federation under the Public-Private Partnership programme (PPP).

2.0 The programme will be executed in phases. The phase one of the programme will be in the following locations:

S/NO.	STATE	LOCATION
1.	Abia	Isiala Ngwa North, FLCHE; Obloma Ngwa, FLCHE; Okeikpe, FLCHE.
2	Adamawa	Numan-Yoia Road, Yoia; Numan, FLCHE; Mubi, FLCHE; Gombi, FLCHE.
3	Akwa-Ibom	Mbierbe-Oblo, Uyo; Oron; Ikot-Ekpene; Etinan, FLCHE; Ikono, FLCHE; Eket-Oron Road, Ukwa Mkpok, Eket; Ete-Ikot Abasi Road, Ibekwe Village, ikot Abasi.
4	Anambra	Amansea, Awka. Nkwelle-Ezunaka, Oyi LGA;
5	Bauchi	Behind Federal Secretariat, Nasarawa-Jahun, Bauchi; Kari-Kano Road, Misau, FLCHE; Off Jos Road, Gumau, Toro, FLCHE. Bauchi-Dawaki Road, Tafawa Balewa, FLCHE.
6	Bayelsa	Azikoro/Okaka, Yenagoa.
7	Benue	Behind Federal Secretariat, Makurdi. Otukpo, FLCHE;
8.	Borno	Baga Road, Maiduguri, Pompomari Industrial Layout, Off Jos Road, Maiduguri; Numan Road, Blu, FLCHE.
9.	Cross River	University Satellite Town, Calabar, Atimbo-Akpabuyo Road, Calabar; Odukpani; Akamkpa
10	Delta	Asaba-Illah Road, Ugboiu, Asaba
11	Ebonyi	Obi Ozara, Oha Azara LGA
12	Edo	Benin-Abraka Road, ikpobe Oke Egba Village, Benin
13	Ekiti	Ikere-Ado Road, Ado-Ekiti Ijero, FLCHE.
14	Enugu	Kwubor-Nike, Emene; Agbani Federal Low Cost Housing Estate; Oji River, FLCHE; Edemani, Nsukka, FLCHE; Enugu-Ezike, FLCHE; Umulokpal, FLCHE; Awgu, FLCHE.
15	Gombe	Gombe-Yoia Road; Gona; FLCHE; Duku Road, Gombe, FLCHE.
16	Imo	Ohajiegbe, FLCHE; Umuelimai, Mbano, FLCHE
17	Jigawa	Off Kano-Gujungu Road, Ringim; FLCHE; Birnin Kudu, FLCHE.
18	Kaduna	Kachia-Kafanchan Road, FLCHE
19	Kano	Naibawa Village, Kano
20	Katsina	Katsina; Behind Federal Secretariat, Katsina.
21	Kebbi	Gwan Dangaji, Birnin-Kebbi
22	Kogi	Post Office, Lokoja; Kabba, FLCHE.
23	Kwara	Offa, FLCHE; Bacita, FLCHE
24	Nasarawa	Lafia; Keffi; New Karu
25	Niger	Bida- Agale Road, Bida. Kutigi Bida Road, Lapai, FLCHE; Kutigi Mokwa Road, Lapai, FLCHE
26	Ogun	Ajebu-Abeokuta Road, Ajebu, Obafemi/Gwede LGA
27	Ondo	Ora/Odigbo, FLCHE; Owo
28	Osun	Osogbo/Ikirun Road, Dagbodu, Ikirun Ifeledun LGA.
29	Oyo	Ogbomoso, FLCHE
30	Plateau	Barkin-Ladi, FLCHE; Dong Village, Jos FLCHE; Langtang, FLCHE; Pankshin, FLCHE Shendam, FLCHE
31	Rivers	Dekema, FLCHE, Isiole, FLCHE.
32	Sokoto	Gidan Madi, FLCHE
33	Taraba	Mile 6, Jalingo, FLCHE; Tagun Town, FLCHE; Bali, FLCHE. Lau Town, FLCHE.
34	Yobe	Damaturu-Potiskum Road, Damaturu; Gashua Road, Geidam.
35	Zamfara	Gumi, FLCHE.

Interested Investors/Developers should contact the respective State Field Headquarters of Federal Ministry of Lands, Housing & Urban Development for inspection of the site locations.

METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Interested investors/developers are required to apply for participation in the programme, through Application Forms obtainable in all branches of Oceanic Bank Plc at a non-refundable fee of N100,000 (One hundred thousand Naira).

Completed application forms, accompanied with the following documents, should be returned in a sealed envelop to the Office of the Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Headquarters, Mabushi, Abuja, and marked "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN PPP HOUSING DEVELOPMENT", Attention: Chairman, Partnership and Business Development Committee:

- i) Photocopy of Oceanic Bank Plc payment teller;
- ii) Company profile;
- iii) Location and size of land required;
- iv) Financing plan showing source(s) of funds (evidence of availability of funds shall be by an irrevocable letter of commitment from a reputable Financial Institution);
- v) 3 years Tax Clearance Certificate;
- vi) Evidence of similar projects undertaken previously and any other relevant information.

Deadline for the submission of completed forms is three (3) weeks from the date of publication.

Please note that only short-listed Investors/Developers will be called for further discussions and submission of specific site proposals.

Signed
The Permanent Secretary
FMLHUD

Business/Agric



NIGERIAN farmers still use primitive tools.

FCT rolls out agric roadmap

By Nasir Imam

THE FCT Agriculture and Rural Development Secretariat has carried out its public presentation of the Agriculture and Rural Development Sector and Operational Plan (ASP) which is expected to serve as the roadmap for meaningful growth and development in the Federal Capital Territory for a medium term of five or ten years (2010- 2020) to key into Nigeria's Vision 20:2020.

Speaking at the event held at the new Chelsea Hotel, Abuja, the Secretary, Agriculture and Rural Development Secretariat, Malam Hamza Adamu Buwai, said there was universal concern about the declining performance of agriculture, explaining that the FCT Administration was poised to tackle food insecurity, rural poverty and unabated rural-urban drift of farm labour as well as unemployment.

Malam Buwai further explained that issues of agriculture and rural development have been given top attention by the FCT Administration to ensure adequate food production for the teeming population of the territory. According to him, the FCT Administration has continued to procure fertilizers and other agric inputs and distribute them at subsidized rates to all categories of farmers in the territory so as to ensure adequate

food security.

Buwai assured that the sector plan document has provided the roadmap for agriculture to move to the next level in the territory.

In a presentation titled Agriculture and Rural Development in the FCT, the Director of Agriculture Development Project (ADP), Dr. Mike Uwazie, said the founding fathers of FCT have provided 544,000 hectares of land for agricultural purposes in the master plan. Out of this number, 270,000 hectares have been provided for protective forest reserves.

Dr. Uwazie explained that since the inception of the FCT, agricultural activities have undergone a lot of transformation growing from about 20,000 farming families to more than 120,000 farming families as at now.

Uwazie articulated the statutory responsibilities of ARDS to include amongst others, ensuring timely provision of farm inputs, developing and establishing grazing reserves, encouraging investors to establish agro-based industries.

The major challenge of Agriculture and Rural Development in the FCT hinges on the ever-increasing pressure on land for infrastructure and other human development activities, pointing out that the challenge can be addressed through aggressive introduction of best practices in farming.

Food: Plateau seeks help from First Bank

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

IN its bid to boost food production and agricultural activities in the state, the Plateau State government has sought the help of First Bank of Nigeria Plc.

The state Commissioner of Finance Mrs Clara Gyang Iyokura stated this at the commissioning of two of its branches in Katakao and Farin Gada areas of Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State.

She said: "Government is working very hard to improve the agricultural sector and it has entered into partnership with the Israeli government on agricultural products and there is

need for First Bank to help the government and inject fund into its agricultural products in their effort to develop the sector as partners in progress."

The Business Development Manager (BDM) of First Bank Alhaji Sani Bala Tanko said the Bank is happy to do anything that will help the development of the state.

Alhaji Sani Tanko said the bank had disbursed over N1.5bn as Agricultural loans to farmers in Plateau State under its agricultural programme to enhance local mechanised agricultural practices in the country to boost food production, reduce hunger and complement government effort to meet the millennium Development Goals programme of eradicating hunger.

FG commissions garri processing project in Nasarawa

By Sunday Williams

THE Federal Government has commissioned garri processing project of the Comon Fund for Commodities at Angwan Mada Village, Lafia, in Nasarawa State, a statement from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said.

Commissioning the project, the Permanent Secretary, Dr. Abubakar Muhammad who represented Senator Jubril Martins-Kuye, Minister of Commerce and Industry at the occasion said the importance of this project cannot be overemphasized, particularly at this period of dwindling prices of raw export commodities.

He said that processing our cassava to any derivative adds tremendous value, enhances competitiveness and reduces waste which will attract premium price in the market both locally and internationally.

He said that the project site will serve as poverty alleviation and an avenue to empower the people especially women around the village as well as farmers who plant cassava.

A statement from the ministry yesterday quoted

the minister as saying that government was willing to support stakeholders in the commodity sub-sector by providing all the necessary facilities that may be required to enhance production and productivity.

He said that government was not unaware of the problems that stakeholders in the industry are passing through as a result of shortage of infrastructure such as electricity, water, good road network, lack of access to effective farming and processing equipment etc.

Speaking, the project coordinator of Cassava Value Chain Development in West Africa, Professor Lateef Sanni (IITA) pointed out that the project approach was to strengthen farmers, processors and marketers of cassava and cassava products through the introduction of appropriate technologies.

Earlier, the Head of Anguwan Mada Village Women Association, Mrs. Talatu Usman had thanked the Federal Government and their partners for citing the village as well as farmers who plant cassava. She assured government that the site will be properly managed.

“Government was not unaware of the problems that stakeholders in the industry are passing through as a result of shortage of infrastructure such as electricity, water, good road network, lack of access to effective farming and processing equipment etc.

Edo farmers lament inability to access N700m agric fund

FARMERS in Edo State say the non-payment of counterpart funds of N200 million by the state government for Federal Government's agricultural programmes has denied them access to more than N700 million.

Edo North Senatorial District Coordinator of All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN), Dr Abdulahi Mohammed, made the claims in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Auchi, Edo State.

Mohammed accused the

state government of insensitivity towards agriculture.

He said that aside the N20 million paid in 2009 as counterpart fund for Root and Tubers Expansion Project (RTEP), no other money had been released for the sector.

He said that the discrimination against agriculture in the scheme of things by the state government was exemplified in the less than one per cent budgetary allocation to the sector this year.

Business/Agric

Shonga farms: No market for fresh milk in Nigeria

By Tina A. Hassan

FRESH milk farmers have raised concern over poor market in the country because of the apparent preference for powdered milk.

Dairy farmer in Shonga farms, Kwara State said recombined milk (powdered) has taken over the markets and this is making it difficult for them to sell the fresh milk produced in the farm to the locals who do not know how to consume such product.

Paul Retuaff is the Head of Pineleigh Farms, the Dairy farm in Shonga, he says the major problem is that the prolonged use of recombined milk has virtually stifled fresh milk market in addition to the problem of lack of storage facility by consumers.

According to him, fresh milk is richer and easily used up by the body because it is coming fresh from the farm and it retains the freshness and original taste of the milk but these qualities of the milk are difficult to retain in powdered milk.



MILK extracted from cows in the farm at Shonga, Kwara State.

Although the villagers in Shonga enjoy power supply that is hardly interrupted, Retuaff said storage of milk is another obstacle to the sales of the product because of its high perishable nature.

"Milk can easily get bad if it is not refrigerated and

the power supply is not stable to most people so this is also another problem for us because people do not know how to preserve it and when it gets bad, they may not want to buy it again and would prefer to get recombined milk", he added.

AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY AVERAGE PRICES AS COLLECTED BY ABUJA SECURITIES AND COMMODITY EXCHANGE ON JULY 04, 2010

COMMODITY	VARIETY	LOCATION	PRICE/TON (Naira)
PALM Produce	Palm Oil Benin	(Edo State)	200,000.00
	P.K.O		190,000.00
	PALM Kernel		57,500.00
COCOA	Graded	Akure (Ondo State)	400,000.00
	UNGRADED		395,000.00
MAIZE	White	Bodija (Oyo State)	61,224.00
	YELLOW		71,428.00
MAIZE	White	Mangu (Plateau State)	47,000.00
	YELLOW		49,000.00
MAIZE	White	Dawanau (Kano State)	52,000.00
	YELLOW		51,500.00
SORGHUM	White	Dawanau (Kano State)	48,000.00
	YELLOW		48,500.00
	RED	N.A	
SOYABEANS		Gboko (Benue State)	50,000.00
SOYABEANS		Dawanau (Kano State)	56,000.00
SESAME	Cleaned	Dawanau (Kano State)	157,000.00
	UNCLEANED		145,000.00
SESAME	Cleaned	Gboko (Benue State)	172,500.00
	UNCLEANED	N.A	
SESAME	Cleaned	Mangu (Plateau State)	160,000.00
	UNCLEANED	N.A	
SESAME	Cleaned	Muna (Borno State)	156,000.00
	UNCLEANED	N.A	
GROUNDNUT	Shelled	Mai Bargo Dawanau (Kano State)	124,000.00
	BAHAUSHIYA UNSHELLED	N.A	118,000.00
GROUNDNUT	Shelled	Dakar Muna (Borno State)	133,962.00
	KAMPALA		125,000.00
	UNSHELLED		106,897.00
GROUNDNUT	Shelled	Native Gboko (Benue State)	122,450.00
	UNSHELLED		69,290.00
GUM Arabic	Grade 1	Muna (Borno State)	166,000.00
	GRADE 2		108,000.00

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Meet Martin Hals, representative from INTO University London at British Canadian International Education (BCIE) Nigeria offices as scheduled below. Applications will be taken for September 2010 intake.

Monday 12th July 2010: BCIE Abuja office. Time: 10:00am - 5:00pm

Wed. 14th July 2010: BCIE Victoria Island office. Time: 10:00am - 4:00pm

Thursday 15th July 2010: BCIE Ikeja office. Time: 10:00am - 4:00pm

Students should come with their credentials and International Passport.

For further details contact:

INTO Lagos Representative,
BCIE VICTORIA ISLAND OFFICE:
Plot 146C Imam Abibu Adetoro Str.,
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Tel: 01-8990891. Mobile: 0706 093 0343
E-mail: into_lagos@bcie.co.uk

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E-mail: into_nigeria@bcie.co.uk

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Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange
(Source: APT Securities)
Monday, July 5, 2010

STOCK Name	Prev Day Close	Open	High	Low	Price	Change	Deals	Volume Traded	Value
ZUR	47.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	47.00	0.00	13	15,810	714,354.00
ABCTRANS	0.85	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	-0.04	9	127,450	103,318.74
ACCESS	8.02	8.00	8.05	8.00	8.04	0.02	108	4,215,327	33,865,688.00
AFRIBANK	1.88	1.88	1.97	1.88	1.97	0.09	34	792,775	1,525,548.38
AIRSERVICE	2.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.85	0.00	5	50,800	137,668.00
AP	35.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.61	0.00	35	40,608	1,428,283.00
BCC	62.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	62.00	0.00	18	83,618	5,094,387.00
BECOPETRO	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.88	0.88	-0.04	31	1,700,026	1,508,819.25
BERGER	6.29	5.98	5.98	5.98	5.98	-0.31	12	141,533	862,459.12
BOCGAS	10.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.18	0.00	10	110,375	1,127,280.00
CAPOIL	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	1	12,761	6,380.50
CONOIL	54.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	54.00	0.00	32	40,472	2,088,255.00
CONTINSURE	1.10	1.10	1.14	1.10	1.14	0.04	9	2,244,785	2,509,377.00
CORNERST	0.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.63	0.00	1	20,000	12,000.00
COSTAIN	7.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.21	0.00	22	101,941	712,659.31
COURTVILLE	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	3	180,560	90,280.00
CRUSADER	0.63	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	-0.03	2	82,547	50,428.20
CUSTODYINS	3.33	3.49	3.49	3.45	3.49	0.16	12	714,008	2,481,679.75
CUPIX	3.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.61	0.00	3	25,000	85,750.00
DAARCOMM	0.79	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	-0.03	8	174,890	132,916.41
DANGFLOUR	21.00	21.10	21.15	21.10	21.15	0.15	123	773,636	16,350,269.00
DANGSUGAR	20.85	20.00	20.00	19.81	19.99	-0.86	111	1,854,460	36,995,996.00
DIAMONDBNK	7.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.84	0.00	31	251,337	1,892,024.88
ECOBANK	4.36	4.40	4.40	4.28	4.28	-0.08	52	863,525	3,751,382.75
ENAMELWA	43.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	43.06	0.00	1	100	4,091.00
EQUITYASUR	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	1	2,400	1,200.00
ETERNAOIL	7.02	7.05	7.05	7.05	7.05	0.03	35	823,610	5,862,421.50
FCMB	8.04	8.05	8.05	8.03	8.03	-0.01	31	404,244	3,262,934.75
FIDELITYBK	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.41	2.42	-0.08	98	5,048,559	12,308,850.00
FIDSON	3.08	3.18	3.20	3.15	3.15	0.07	15	672,811	2,136,665.50
FIRSTALUM	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	1	16,600	8,300.00
FIRSTBANK	12.80	12.90	13.10	12.87	13.00	0.20	771	15,574,289	201,266,096.00
FIRSTINLND	0.51	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.53	0.02	61	3,856,921	2,033,729.38
FLOURMILL	68.00	68.00	68.50	68.00	68.00	0.00	46	5,416,200	168,315,808.00
FTNCOCOA	0.69	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.03	16	807,685	580,157.62
GLAXOSMITH	28.00	28.00	28.08	28.00	28.00	0.00	24	1,332,753	37,343,288.00
GOLDINSURE	0.64	0.61	0.65	0.61	0.65	0.01	14	1,013,580	646,341.69
GTASSURE	2.10	2.05	2.20	2.05	2.20	0.10	28	1,805,160	3,788,386.00
GUARANTY	16.83	16.71	16.78	16.60	16.70	-0.13	468	20,309,826	338,938,496.00
GUINEAINS	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	1	50,000	25,000.00
GUINNESS	158.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	158.51	0.00	49	90,807	14,421,930.00
HMARKINS	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	2	31,000	15,500.00
HONYFLOUR	7.65	7.50	7.50	7.31	7.31	-0.34	14	238,460	1,771,224.00
IBTC	10.00	9.76	9.99	9.76	9.95	-0.05	35	555,188	5,515,286.00
INTENEGINS	0.52	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	-0.01	16	1,232,150	628,405.00
INTERCONT	1.60	1.60	1.64	1.60	1.63	0.03	66	2,125,202	3,425,366.25
JAPAOIL	1.42	1.41	1.49	1.41	1.49	0.07	106	4,247,914	6,253,387.00
JBERGER	55.00	54.50	55.00	54.50	55.00	0.00	25	204,799	11,195,216.00
MOBIL	174.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	174.67	0.00	11	10,156	1,724,950.50
NB	63.05	62.98	63.05	62.86	62.86	-0.19	134	1,622,264	102,154,032.00
NBC	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.00	0.00	8	18,933	558,978.50
NEIMETH	2.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.53	0.00	1	2,000	4,820.00
NIGERINS	0.87	0.87	0.91	0.87	0.91	0.04	7	554,110	500,546.81
NNFM	33.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.58	0.00	6	10,000	319,100.00
OANDO	74.99	74.25	74.50	74.25	74.50	-0.49	109	1,153,757	85,798,552.00
OASISINS	0.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.59	0.00	1	200	114.00
OCEANIC	1.69	1.68	1.77	1.68	1.77	0.08	128	7,247,600	12,373,025.00
OKOMUOIL	13.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.57	0.00	5	60,500	780,450.00
OMATEK	0.56	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.02	8	1,515,300	877,028.00
PLATINUM	1.40	1.47	1.47	1.35	1.47	0.07	126	3,646,992	5,071,018.50
PRESKO	0.05	5.83	5.83	5.83	5.83	-0.22	12	176,215	1,021,462.25
PRESTIGE	3.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.27	0.00	4	1,150	3,597.70
PZ	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	0.00	35	406,983	12,210,111.00
REDSTAREX	4.12	4.29	4.32	4.00	4.00	-0.12	43	3,106,453	13,140,647.00
RESORTSAL	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	8	1,306,935	653,467.50
ROYALEX	0.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.76	0.00	3	1,060	773.80
RTBRISCOE	4.28	4.07	4.07	4.07	4.07	-0.21	23	221,124	901,836.31
SKYBANK	8.00	7.81	7.99	7.81	7.90	-0.10	82	3,732,962	29,509,816.00
SOVRENINS	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	2	80	40.00
SPRINGBANK	0.63	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	-0.03	9	189,575	115,333.20
STARCOMMS	2.20	2.15	2.15	2.09	2.09	-0.11	17	2,448,254	5,166,189.00
STDINSURE	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	3	78,891	39,445.50
STERLNBANK	2.01	1.91	2.09	1.91	2.08	0.07	93	30,147,002	61,531,984.00
TANTALIZER	0.90	0.87	0.87	0.86	0.86	-0.04	12	694,370	597,984.19
TOTAL	253.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	253.94	0.00	21	40,144	9,976,384.00
TRANSCORP	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	133	34,200,229	17,100,514.00
UAC-PROP	21.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.00	0.00	11	11,825	248,325.50
UACN	41.50	41.25	41.25	41.25	41.25	-0.25	27	102,307	4,219,343.00
UBA	10.37	10.33	10.49	10.16	10.49	0.12	228	3,906,137	39,995,164.00
UBN	4.99	4.99	4.99	4.93	4.95	-0.04	123	1,871,688	9,285,067.00
UNHOMES	0.65	0.62	0.65	0.62	0.65	0.00	19	395,000	251,305.00
UNIC	0.52	0.52	0.53	0.51	0.53	0.01	18	1,913,489	997,714.25
UNILEVER	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	0.00	65	2,598,999	61,118,796.00
UNIONDAC	0.66	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	-0.03	9	1,151,400	725,382.00
UNITYBNK	1.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.11	0.00	5	52,582	58,366.02
UNIVINSURE	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	1	60,000	30,000.00
UNTL	1.29	1.23	1.23	1.23	1.23	-0.06	2	65,000	79,950.00
UPL	7.05	7.40	7.40	7.40	7.40	0.35	12	1,013,400	7,499,160.00
UTC	1.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.32	0.00	4	3,178	4,004.28
VITAFOAM	6.93	6.64	7.00	6.64	7.00	0.07	28	749,800	5,148,245.00
VONO	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	3	5,904	2,952.00
WAPCO	39.00	39.00	39.00	39.00	39.00	0.00	28	481,775	18,789,982.00
WAPIC	0.85	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.04	6	673,833	599,387.38
WEMABANK	0.92	0.89	0.89	0.88	0.88	-0.04	32	489,436	433,477.16
ZENITHBANK	13.50	13.45	13.50	13.03	13.25	-0.25	319	9,176,741	122,271,832.00



By Yakubu Ahmed

Who's afraid of Yuguda?

He is the beneficiary of Nigeria's most credible election. No state Governor under this dispensation can lay as much claim to being a product of the cleanest process. He emerged with no iota of ambiguity whatsoever owing to the widespread support which he freely and massively received from the grassroots. The entire state rooted for him, massively voted for him and made sure that their votes counted. The story of Isa Yuguda of Bauchi state is therefore a case study of a man with an awesome support base that is second to none in the country.

The road he has followed to his victory at the polls may be tortuous and tasking due mainly to the man-made thorns placed on his path, yet it can safely be said that Malam Isa Yuguda is the architect of the politics of defiance in the pursuit of justice regardless of the discomfort it portended and despite the long road it took to achieve it. When he served as Managing Director of the Bauchi state owned Inland Bank, he superintended the only state owned bank that did not go under. By the time he left the bank, he had succeeded in establishing a credible financial institution worthy of the name. The other banks he took charge of later were also

It was at this same time that he got sacked as Minister of Aviation when he led a team to Singapore on bilateral mission

run on the same pedestal of growth and distinct corporate identity.

As a Minister in the Obasanjo regime for more than five years and in charge of several ministries, Isa Yuguda stood out as a consummate administrator with a knack for breaking grounds, vision and foresight leading to innovations and initiatives which helped the country to reap bountifully from the fountain of his work ethics and knowledge.

At the Ministry of Transport for example, he initiated a 25-year old national transport policy which till today is the pivot of an amenable transport system that may not have solved our entire teething transport problems but has taken the nation on the path to a long-term solution. When he assumed duty as Minister of Aviation, the sector had no single plane in the industry. The situation was a source of national embarrassment to all Nigerians. At the time he left the ministry, several credible private airlines were on ground and as at today, the sector is getting stronger and reliable.

His human relation in his native Bauchi and all over the country has been excellent. He is known as a stickler for valuing and respecting friendship, most times inconveniencing himself to help others, providing jobs, scholarship, financial lifeline and succour to the needy with no regard to sentiments. He is about the most successful mechanised

farmer in Bauchi state but at the end of each farming season, the entire produce from the farm is given out to the needy. He is borderless in his quest for genuine friendship as testified by the fact that most of his friends in Bauchi state are from the Katagum area. He has always been viewed and seen across his state as an invaluable asset and a good marketing brand for the state.

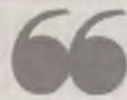
At what stage and at what point did the good man in Isa Yuguda faded in the eyes of his valuable political friends and associates with whom he has gone through the trials and tribulations of life? What has he done to deserve the gang up to pull him down and who exactly is behind the apparent baying for the political blood of the man? This question becomes more pertinent if one takes into consideration that most of his antagonists and traducers were at various stages of their lives beneficiaries of Yuguda's large-heartedness, generosity and compassion. He has been a benefactor to the army of those who today wish the man ill. Surprisingly, it is like any good he does brings with it treachery and betrayal. As soon as he becomes a ladder to people, they quickly turn around to despise and betray him. Yet, the man will still trust people.

To our knowledge, his troubles began when he signalled his intention to vie for the governorship of Bauchi state. It was at this stage that all manner of stories started flying, all directed at cowing the man. It was at this same time that he got sacked as Minister of Aviation when he led a team to Singapore on bilateral mission. His sack was engineered by some powerful elements who felt very uncomfortable with his rising political profile and his popularity with the people of Bauchi state. Meanwhile, the man that was alleged to be behind his sack was his childhood friend and political associate whose campaign he coordinated and on whose behalf he raised over N350million in contribution for the 1999 elections. At the end of the day when he persisted in his angling to become governor, the same people conspired and frustrated him out of the PDP. The party he personally bankrolled in the state into its enviable status.

He moved into the ANPP at a time the party had only one local government councillor in the whole of Bauchi state to pursue his legitimate aspiration and those of his followers. He infused life into the ANPP, empowered it and led it into the biggest political battle in the country. The rest as they say is history. He worsted the incumbency factor, opened a new vista in political resoluteness and perseverance, led Bauchi to an unprecedented revolution and put in place a people-oriented government that got its mandate from the most credible process.

In the absence of any worthy allegation to make, his opponents and their crumb eating charlatans introduced an angle of mischief by trying to question the rationale behind his marriage to the late Yar adua's daughter forgetting altogether the factor of destiny and the fact that no one can alter his or her route in life. The fact that marriage is simply a private thing is meaningless to them.

Ahmed wrote from 114 Kashim Ibrahim Road, Maiduguri (beekayyaks@gmail.com)



By Moshe Ram

Daily Trust, Israel and the Gaza flotilla problem

In reference to the "Daily Trust" editorial of the 11th of June and the two op-ed pieces of the 10th and 11th of June respectively, I must say, unfortunately, that these articles are indeed a lesson in simplicity, shallowness, and a lack of any real understanding of the long and complex conflict in the Middle East. This struggle is rather sadly depicted in the *Daily Trust* as a duel, extracted from an old American western movie in which the good guys are, with no exception, the Arabs and the bad guys are always the Israelis. How simple, how wrong: Life is so much more complicated, and has so many different colours, rather than only of black and white.

Moreover, it is a perfect example of the prejudicial way in which Israel is usually treated by some of the media, aimed for the singling out if the only democratic state in the Middle East.

This was but one instalment in the long and continuous campaign to isolate Israel, and to turn that state in the eyes of interna-

Israel is the worst thing to happen since the Holocaust. Racist Israel

tional opinion into a pariah, to erode its legitimacy and to break its will. You've seen the branding. Apartheid Israel. Israel is the worst thing to happen since the Holocaust. Racist Israel. Imperialist Israel. Not even one of the three writers of the articles bothers to relate to the responsibility of the Hamas, Hezbollah, Turkish IHH or any other terrorist organization, or the "contribution" of the Arab and Palestinian incitement and behaviour to the present situation.

Not much credit is given to the intelligence of the readers, otherwise how can anyone explain it that the other side of the equation is totally ignored? And

Not much credit is given to the intelligence of the readers, otherwise how can anyone explain it that the other side of the equation is totally ignored?

there is definitely another side. The writers simply ignore to inform their readers, of some of the following fact: -Israel disengaged from Gaza in

2005 and that for the last 8 years more than 10,000 rockets were launched into southern Israel causing death, injuries and other collateral damage.

The "peace activists" on that sixth ship, the ones who received the Israeli soldiers boarding the ship with bats, pipes, knives and chains — well, the video footage of

In addition, it has abducted an Israeli soldier 4 years ago, who in a very inhuman and cruel manner is isolated from the rest of the world

the moments preceding the boarding and the boarding itself will make most rational people review their understanding of peace and activism.

That the Hamas, that took charge of the Gaza strip in 2007 by pushing its political opponents from the Palestinian Fatah, is a terrorist one, whose declared aim is the destruction of the state of Israel. In addition, it has abducted an Israeli soldier 4 years ago, who in a very inhuman and cruel manner is isolated from the rest of the world, and is even denied by Hamas receiving a letter from his mother through the red cross.

In almost any given day, scores and scores of Arabs and Muslims alike are being killed or injured by their own brethren whether it is in Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Darfur or elsewhere.

This is just a random list of intentional omissions by the various writers of this newspaper. Many more can be provided upon request.

However, *Daily Trust*, priding itself with the logo "truth is a burden", would neither publish an editorial, nor an op-ed piece on the real atrocities committed in the Muslim world, thus casting a dark shadow on their pretentious logo.

Yet, they are very quick in responding to any event related to my country, using a wide range of their famous vocabulary to defame and smear Israel.

Constructive criticism is, indeed the lifeline of the journalism profession and in this regard, I am well aware of some of the mistakes that were made by us in relation to our Arab neighbours, and the need to make sure that they won't be repeated. However, the constant demonizing of Israel by writers in the *Daily Trust* is totally unwarranted, and is not in line with a responsible, investigative and serious journalism. In the 21st century, journalism can look a little different, and more reliable standards can be adopted.

Mr Ram is the Israeli Ambassador to Nigeria.



By Francis Ede

Nwodo and the call to duty

By the excitement and smiles on their faces, chieftains and other members alike, it could be seen that the People's Democratic Party (PDP), has finally got it right in its choice of Dr Okwesilieze 'Okwy' Nwodo as its National Chairman to replace Prince Vincent Ogbulafor who resigned earlier.

For a party that only recently was reported in the most negative superlatives, the successful resolution of the thorny issue of who its chairman should be has been heralded as timely and tangential to evolving solutions to the party's internal problems.

Nwodo is immensely talented in human and material resources management; just the kind of person the party needs to put its house in order as the 2011 elections approach.

Many have argued that Dr. Nwodo's greatest asset is his humility and easy disposition, very calm even under intense pressure, a trait he shares with President Goodluck Jonathan.

In settling for Nwodo, party leaders must have agreed, as the writer Robert Ludlum once put it, that "the son of a mechanic approaches a malfunctioning carburettor with less trepidation than the son of a carpenter". And much more than a carburettor in the engine of PDP malfunctions at the moment. There is a total disorientation and schism in the party to worry its founding fathers, who staked all that were dear to them in the struggle that led to its formation.

But all these were thrown to the dogs by those who were to later hijack the running of the affairs of the party, forcing out many of the founding fathers by de-registration. Now the party has a chance to make amend and, according to Nwodo "in returning our party to the dreams of its founding fathers, we must know and share in those dreams. We promise our people that never again we will allow the military back into politics and governance of our dear country. Only a while ago, Nigerians were even wishing that the military should come back. Nothing could be more disheartening".

In his acceptance speech, Nwodo also argued strongly that primary elections of the party in recent times lacked the competitive edge that it deserved and which would have made candidates to churn out promises, while sticking to the party's manifesto in appealing to the voters for their support and votes, the danger in this being that the people are not only short-changed in matters of choice, but also in terms of services delivered. For the supposed elected functionaries of government no longer owe their loyalty and allegiance to the people whose mandate they have usurped using the instrumentality of the god fathers. "The days of imposition of candidates by the PDP, hoping to hoist such leaders on the people through rigged elections are over and over forever. Our members aspiring to carry our banner in future elections must start now to market themselves and canvass their programmes aggressively to our members and the Nigerian electorate".

Dr. Nwodo was part of the great democratic minds behind the formation of the PDP and was in fact the party's founding National Secretary. And now duty once again calls on him as its National Chairman to reposition the party to its former vintage position as a party that Nigerian were very proud of.

He requires all the support of party members to carry out the difficult task ahead of him and the party, knowing as Machiavelli has said a long time ago, that "There is nothing more dangerous to carry out, than to initiate a new order of things. For the reformer has enemies in all who profit from the old order, and only lukewarm defenders in all those who profit by the new order" knowing again that his chairmanship of the party has inherent potentials and the potency to give the party the much needed homogeneity and consciousness of its functions and obligations to the people of Nigeria.

Ede wrote from Abuja.

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Re: Chinese firm flees with Kano's N80 million

HABA! This is unbelievable! Kano has no drugs in hospitals, water, good education, etc, and the state government is awarding contract for only rehabilitation of failed portion of less than 2km road at N160 million.

IBRAHIM Garba, Kano,
08023739158.

These Chinese, but...

THE contract might not be done through due process. To clear his name, the governor, or whoever is involved, should report to EFCC to clear themselves.

UBALE Bompai Rano,
08033246464.

Mahmud Jega on zoning agreement

I understand your passion for moral rectitude, Mr Editor, but I think you are wasting your time about the PDP zoning issue. Let them jettison zoning and you will laugh last. At least they are not saying they have zoned it to the south. I pray Jonathan contests in 2011. He will certainly demystify the incumbency factor. They say "a fly that doesn't take advice follows the corpse into the grave".

A. A Saleh, Kaduna,
08034501999.

Shikafi on zoning

SO Governor Shinkafi thinks that zoning has been overtaken by events! Is his position an expression of his personal view or that of the Zamfara people? His attempt to be accepted and recognised by the powers that be is rather unfortunate and regrettable. I want to strongly advise him not to sell the conscience of his people for a plate of porridge.

M.D., Wukari, 08065680195.

Profiling the Tiv

I am shocked that at this age of advanced and professional journalism a newspaper (not *Daily Trust*) could in its desperate bid to tarnish the image of the Tiv nation, coin a word like TIVing in apparent reference to the alleged but unsubstantiated corruption case against ex-minister Mike Aondoakaa to insult, discredit and cause emotional trauma to the peace-loving and ever accommodating Tiv people. Is corruption not a national issue or its common only among the Tiv?

CHUBU Perry, Abuja,
08069504198.

Wing the Eagles please

THE federal government should remove the ban

on the Super Eagles. Not because they don't deserve it but because the ban will not make them play any better next time. It's Amodu nemesis that caught up with the team. May be next time, Nigeria will think twice before hiring a foreign coach.

BILKISU, 08063104115.

I disagree

YOUR Excellency the President, the disbanding of Super Eagles is a well done job.

07039608186.

As for FIFA...

THEY should live Nigeria alone. Meanwhile, Nigeria should focus on important issues that will bring progress to the country since huge amounts have been spent on Super Eagles and nothing show for it, we are not more in darkness, please.

ABDULLAHI Auwal Mohamad, Mokwa, Kogi State,
07038097750.

Haba Daily Trust

I reside in the heart of Maiduguri but there is no visible sign of Boko Haram, they are only emerging on the pages of *Trust*.

USMAN Gambo, Gwange, Maiduguri, 08094348908.

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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

National honours list

The federal government last week made public a list of 189 nominees for the 2009 National Honours approved by President Goodluck Jonathan. The National Honours Awards Committee had made the recommendations. Three nominees, including Chief Justice Aloysius Katsina-Alu, former Chief of General Staff Admiral Mike Akhigbe; and former Senate President Joseph Wayas are to be invested with the nation's second highest national honour, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON). The list also includes 13 recipients for Commander of the Federal Republic (CFR); 27 for Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON), 22 for Member of the Federal Republic (MFR); 25 for Member of the Order of the Niger (MON); and 7 for the Federal Republic medals I and II.

As in past exercises, the nominations evinced no rhyme or reason for such bestowals. We believe that the latest list, without casting aspersions or questioning the integrity of the individuals in it, once more casts doubt on the nomination process. The list is reported to include names of serving political holders whose integrity has been called to question for corruption-related matters. This indeed is prompting some Nigerians to ask whether or not the conferment of a National Honour on a citizen is based on defined criteria. It is already being considered by others as a "reward" for endeavours not accomplished, when it strictly should be reserved for prior achievements or acts. National Honours seem to have also lost some shine when some nominees rejected the awards because they either considered the process dubious or the category of awards did not match their status.

As a result of this slipshod process, the National Honours have been exposed to ridicule because regardless of personal attributes, any politician holding high office automatically qualifies for one. A case that is difficult to understand is the honour awarded to former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mrs Patricia Etteh who left the post in obviously dishonourable circumstances. Similarly, it is a tragic irony that a nominee for a National Honour would be choosy in a matter that should ordinarily be guided by specific rules. For instance, some members of the House of Representatives complained in 2008 that it was degrading to confer on the presiding officer the same CFR honour that was bestowed on the deputy presiding officer at the senate. Similarly, the former secretary to the military government turned down the National Honour of CFR on the ground that it was lower than the CON for which he was previously nominated by an earlier administration but was cancelled by former President Obasanjo in May 1999.

Conventionally, National Honours are supposed to be earned by deserving recipients who must have distinguished themselves by their contributions and services to the growth and development of their communities, country or to humanity. Such honours are expected to serve as source of inspiration to the younger generation of Nigerians to value excellence and appreciate hard work and duty to the nation. In order to preserve the sanctity of National Honours, we recommend that the entire nomination process should be reviewed with intent to defining in specific terms, the requirements for all categories of the honours, stating the criteria that would qualify an individual for a particular award. Such criteria being implemented by the Nigerian National Merit Award Committee can be expanded and streamlined to suit the search to honour Nigerians who truly and selflessly serve their country. There should be no room in this for political cronies and hangers-on who contribute nothing to national development, or could in fact have contributed to stunting its growth, only to be bestowed with undeserved honours.

The nomination process should also be revised to allow ordinary but credible, industrious and hardworking citizens, from all walks of life and in all trades and vocations, to benefit from such honours. Nigerians want to see citizens who display rare sense of patriotism, honesty and selfless service becoming recipients of National Honours. It is not late to take a second look at the latest list and make all nominations pass through rigorous screening process. It is necessary for the reputation of the nation to restore and preserve the sanctity of the national honours, which should not under any guise be given to charlatans.

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2011: Triumph of ethnic and religious politics

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If you happened to be visiting Nigeria for the first time in the past several weeks, one issue will definitely not escape your attention. The way politician from all ethnic, religious and political persuasions have gone about the issue of zoning or rotation of the nation's highest office, one is tempted to imagine that if the matter was to be settled in favour of any of the groups all the nation's problems would disappear into oblivion.

Almost overnight, the pathetic energy situation in the land has been relegated to the backwaters of intellectual discourse, along with other potent reminders of our colossal failure at nation building, such as the paucity of a national consensus on what constitutes crime and its and punishment all at the expense of our collective dignity and self respect.

As we cascade dangerously towards 2011, all the debates have centered on where the president is likely to emerge from and not his individual capacity to rescue Nigerians from decades of economic stagnation and retardation; insecurity on a scale never before experienced on these shores, and the alarming flight of honour and integrity in the corridors of power.

It is no longer a secret that going by the last UN Human Development Index (HDI) reports, our leaders should be hiding their faces in shame. Nigeria is ranked among the most troubled and wretched countries in the world despite our abundant human and natural resources. A great majority of our common folks exist on less than a dollar per day. 90% of Nigerians are supposedly illiterates. Life expectancy is below 45 years.

In between, hunger continues to exact its deadly toll on the stomachs and psyche of Nigerians, only this time it is also reflected in the attitude and political prostitution of high profile Nigerians as well. In the past we used to believe that Nigerian women who sale their bodies and souls to prostitution have no excuse, but now, what can we say about politicians and community leaders who indulge in cult activities, or sale their conscience for the lucre?

Something is definitely wrong with a nation where the citizenry are serially hoodwinked to idolize common thieves and idol worshippers at every turn.

In any other nation but Nigeria, a revolution would have occurred ages ago. It is a tragedy of monumental proportions that despite the hard work our elites have made of our national economic development, there seems to be a silent agreement on the disgraceful expenditure of 10 billion Naira to celebrate our stunted growth at fifty. Incredibly, there are also whispers that a healthy chunk of

the amount is to be expended on junkets to our erstwhile colonial masters in England for.

God knows what!

It seems that with our politicians, disagreements occur only when they lack consensus on how

ing. No one wants to interrogate the consequences of the loud clamour for 'power shift' which precipitated the hasty departure of the military and produced the brutal regime of Olusegun Obasanjo.

Like people incapable of learning from our mistakes, we seem ever prepared to blunder once again by mortgaging our future to the dictates of our primordial sentiments.

Eight years of Obasanjo's presidency did as much damage to the south as much as it did to

In the past we used to believe that Nigerian women who sale their bodies and souls to prostitution have no excuse, but now, what can we say about politicians and community leaders who indulge in cult activities, or sale their conscience for the lucre?

to share the benefits of their high offices. And for that they seem ever prepared to behave like common thugs like we saw the other day in the House of Reps. They would punch themselves to stupor for the benefit of their allowances and not the welfare of their constituencies. They are prepared to impeach their leaders to act out a script in perpetuation of their political lives but not the collective interests of the nation.

And through all these it has become that honour and integrity have counted for very little. For their selfish interests, the power brokers in the PDP would rather the nation boils rather than to respect the party's internal arrangements on power sharing.

With each passing day has come one explosive statement after another credited to important public figures, who experienced the civil war first-hand and need no further reminders on its sad legacies. The entire focus seems to be on how to grab power and not how to rid Nigerians from the ill effects of decades of abysmal leadership that has made them paupers in the land of so much hope.

What is actually scaring is that the entire focus is now on the brutal grab for power with every indication that the various protagonists are prepared to damn the consequences, including the very existence of the nation.

And the way they are going about the business of power grab is alarmingly indicative of one thing: the mistrust among the various constituent groups in the country has descended to its lowest ebb since the civil war.

It is now either power or noth

the North. And while there was little to cheer in the short time that Umar Yar'adua was president the collective lessons suggest that good and bad leadership have no distinct boundaries.

Still, at the risk of being called a regionalist, I believe that Obasanjo's shadow is so overbearing on Goodluck Jonathan that it will be better for the entire polity if the President excuses himself from running this time. With the way events are unfolding, it is obvious that the President would be pushing his luck too far if he succumbs to the pressure to run in 2011.

My prayers are for the President to seize the opportunity provided by destiny to organize free and credible polls which only his non-participation can guarantee given our antecedents. But try telling that to a man who has experienced power and its trappings.

Still, if he insists on running, like every available evidence on the ground suggests he would, then things are likely to get worst for the country before they get better, if at all it emerges from the impasse in one piece.

Without the slightest doubt, Obasanjo's presidency has left the North more fragmented than at any other time since the nation's independence. His presidency has been an unmitigated disaster to the cohesion of the region. Yar'Adua's brief tenure and Jonathan's emerging hegemony are seeing as integral parts of that nightmare.

The way events are unfolding, however, it is not only the unity of the North but the entire nation that would be put to the stiffest test.

Star Feature

A bumpy ride on the

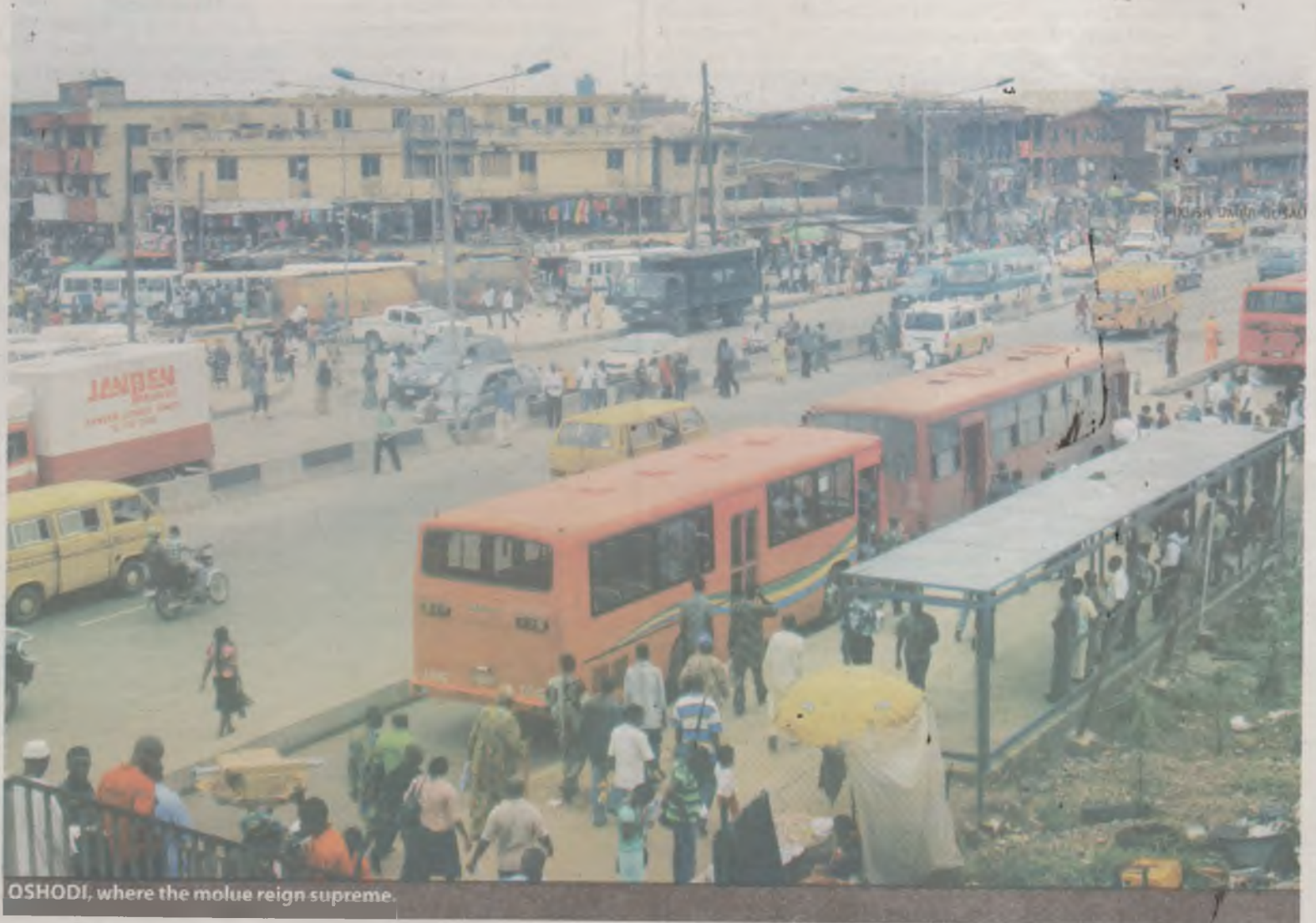
For the adventurous, a visit to Lagos will certainly not be complete without a ride on the st

By Tosin-Omoniyi

CYANA Ipaja, Oshodi, Iyana Ipaja, Oshodi, toba ni changi ma wole. Mo fewala laroyi. Ladipo, Shogunle ma wole. Stafu ma wole, (this bus is going to Iyana Ipaja and Oshodi. If you do not have small change on you do not venture to come in. I don't want trouble with anyone this morning. If you intend to alight at Ladipo or Shogunle bus stops please don't come in. If you are a friend to the driver or conductor don't come in unless you are willing to pay the fare like every other person), the scruffy looking conductor of the ubiquitous molue bus screams at the top of his hoarse voice. His counterpart who mans the other entrance to the massive bus howls similar warnings, albeit interspersed with obscenities. A sea of commuters shove and trample over one another as they attempt to get into the bus. A young man and an elderly woman are already engaged in a war of words over the former's lack of respect, which she says is evident in his shoving her aside, even as both still grapple with each other in an attempt to embark on the bus. A similar drama of strength is playing

The driver continues to blare his horn and scream unprintable words to his aides and other motorists, whose paths he has unwittingly blocked, and who are also raising a different hell of their own. Welcome to the world of molues.

out between one of the conductors and a bus stop tout with blood shot eyes, who is holding on to the knickers of the equally aggressive conductor, over what he terms incomplete payment of 'dues' 'Fun mi lowo mi ogbeni ti o ba fe kin gbacloju. O moti yo ni? O yawere ni? (Give me my money before I give you a dizzying slap or have you taken alcohol this morning, are you sane?) The other



OSHODI, where the molue reign supreme.

bus conductor in a jiffy appears at the side of the battle ready duo, and in a moment the tide of the strug-

gle becomes one sided, as the hapless conductor receives assistance from his assistant. The driver con-

tinues to blare his horn and scream unprintable words to his aides and other motorists, whose paths he has

unwittingly blocked, and who are also raising a different hell of their own. Welcome to the world of molues, an undying form of transportation in the nation's former capital city, Lagos!



SOME say that the molue is gradually becoming extinct...

In the confines of the molue, a comedy of sorts is also playing out. A surprisingly decently dressed young man in a corporate suit, is engaged in a heated altercation with the lanky conductor over the correct fare. While the conductor insists on N50, the commuter says the right fare is N40. Other passengers quickly form different opinions on the issue, with some supporting the harried young man, while others insist that the conductor is right. A solution is quickly arrived at: the man is ordered out of the bus by the irate conductor. Surprisingly he does not dispute the judgment as he quickly clambers down unruffled, even as the conductor steps up his abuses. A commuter tells another by his side, 'at least he is closer to his destination now, and he still has his money. By the time he enters two other buses he will get to his destination.' In Lagos you can

e molue

sturdy 'molue' bus.

molue operators and their patrons. At the various bus stops it is another struggle between the bus drivers and vigilant lines men, who coordinate where and how such buses should be parked, or which bus stops are off limits.

In several parts of Lagos, especially Oshodi, Agege, Ojota and Idumota areas of the commercial nerve center of Nigeria, Molues reign supreme. But with the introduction of the new BRT buses

she has practically stopped boarding the molue buses. Asked about the rationale behind her decision she has this to say: 'the drivers are very rough and rude. Moreover, the state government has reduced drastically the number of bus stops that they can stop at. This is not applicable to the BRT buses, who are allowed to stop at most bus stops. And the price difference is really negligible. While the molue collects N50, the BRT collects N70 for the same service. And their drivers are well behaved and

“ In the bus, the atmosphere is stifling as those standing in the aisle push and shove at one another. The lucky ones seated still shout angrily at those standing for stepping on their feet.”

get to your destination if you are 'smart' enough, and of course with the assistance of the molue. All you need to do is to embark on one, get into an argument with the bus conductor over fare, get ordered down without paying a dime, quickly get on another molue and go through the same process. By the time you do this a couple of times, it is possible that you eventually get to your destination without paying anything. However it is not all rosy as such unscrupulous elements often get brutalized by angry conductors, who are fast catching on the new form of fraud by commuters.

The molue bus driver, an elderly man, is a clown on his own turf. Constantly yelling abuses at other road users and pedestrians, he weaves in and out of traffic with unnerving accuracy, that leaves even the stouthearted ones amongst his passengers hurling insults at him.

He returns the 'compliments.' In the bus, the atmosphere is stifling as those standing in the aisle push and shove at one another. The lucky ones



DEPITE the increase in BRT buses molues are still in vogue for many.

seated still shout angrily at those standing for stepping on their feet. Confusion reigns supreme in the bus as it strives to accommodate about 70 passengers, when it was built to take only about 40. In the midst of the chaos the bus conductors wade in to collect their fares, as insults and curses flow freely between the

which is state run, the tempo of their operations appears to have thawed considerably. Despite this you can still see these yellow toned massive buses, conveying commuters to their numerous destinations on a daily basis. Joy Basse, a commuter however says that since the introduction of the state owned buses

decent. So I prefer to board BRT on any day.' 54-year-old Ramota Asabi, a trader at the Oshodi market, however says that it is the molue for her on any day. "For the past 30 years I have been boarding them, and I feel at home on them. The drivers to me are well experienced and know the Lagos terrain well, much more than

the newer and younger drivers that now drive these BRT buses. Moreover all this queuing up to buy tickets to board BRT, is not what most of us are used to," she enthuses.

Muftau Adebajo known to his colleagues as 'Japon' is a driver of one of the molue buses that ply the Oshodi Agege axis and he is one of their union leaders. He says that he has been in the business for over 27 years, and has trained his children from the proceeds. In a smattering of Yoruba and broken English he debunks claims that the drivers are rough when they drive, attributing the complaints to detractors. 'Most of us are elderly and we have been in the trade for a long time. Molue drivers are still the most careful drivers on Lagos roads. The younger drivers are the ones who engage in rough driving,' he insists.

He says further that their greatest challenge is the activities of lines men, who have constituted themselves into a nuisance to the molue drivers. "They arrest us at the slightest excuse and will not release you until you part with as much as N10,000. And this fine is not recorded. It goes straight into their pockets. They will not allow us stop at most of the bus stops, and this creates problems between us and the commuters, many of which think we are deliberately being wicked when we fail to stop for them at the bus stops. Many of the lines men are house owners and cars owners today due to the money they constantly extort from us on a daily basis. This is a great challenge for us as we have to daily pay nothing less than N6,000 to the owners of the buses. Years ago they used to demand for N4,000 as daily payment"

Despite this, he foresees a glorious future for the molue. "Molues can never die. They have come to stay even after over 40 years of its existence. There is no challenge even from the new BRT buses which we see as an achievement for the Fasola administration. Their existence will in no way cause any decline in the fortunes of the Molue. For most Lagosians, the Molue is a part of their life which they will not give up for anything in the world..."



DANFO buses used to complement the operations of the molue years ago.



THE PRESIDENCY BUREAU OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT (BPP)

NAMES OF OFFICERS IN MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES (MDAs) TO ATTEND CONVERSION TRAINING TO PROCUREMENT CADRE

Pursuant to Part 11, Section 5 (K) of the Public Procurement Act, 2007, the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) hereby announces the names of procurement officers in Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) scheduled to attend this year's training preparatory to their conversion to the procurement cadre. The training which is also a continuation of the Bureau's efforts at enhancing the professional capacities of the officers in the discharge of their duties shall hold between **MONDAY, July 12th, AND FRIDAY, July, 16th, 2010**. The training shall be in two batches. **Batch A** training holds at **Dennis Hotel, Plot 910 Ndjamena Street, Off Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse 2, Abuja**. **Batch B** training holds at **Rockview Hotel (Classic), Plot 194, Wuse II, Abuja**. Training begins at **9.00AM** each day. The batches are as follows:

BATCH A

S/N	NAME	MDA	S/N	NAME	MDA	S/N	NAME	MDA
1.	MAMDOM, D.S	FMM&SD	73.	ADEKUNLE O.OLUDAPO		144.	ADEBAYO SEMIU OLAYIWOLA	MIN. OF NIGER DELTA AFFAIRS
2.	ABUBAKAR L.U	"	74.	FAJOBIBIODUN AJANI	FMWH & UD	145.	ANDISHU EMMANUEL	FMA&WR
3.	EMENIKE BLESSING	"	75.	ADEYEMI BANKOLE T.	FMWH&UD	146.	MOYDADE O DUNMOYE	FMWH&UD
4.	IKPO C. JENNIFER	"	76.	OLABODE J.OGUNDANA	FMWH&UD	147.	SULEIMAN ZAKARIALIH	NAT. SPORT COMM.
5.	AKHADELOR J.TOBI	HOSF	77.	MUSTAPHA KAZEEMA.	FMW&UD	148.	JOHN C. DIOKA	FED. MIN.OF LABOUR& PROD. MOD
6.	A.G.ADEOYE	HOSF	78.	OROBOGHA H.R	FED. MIN OF JUSTICE	149.	DANIAA.O	MOD
7.	AKOR ESTHER	NOA	79.	UCHEAGWU PETER UCHE		150.	OBJUJI UBA OTA	FMA&WR
8.	OZOMADU VERONICA U.	HOSF	80.	ADEWOLE A. OLUSEGUN	FCTA	151.	BERTRAM CHUDI UDEH	FMA&WR
9.	ANEKE CALLISTUS	HOSF	81.	FABUYI ADEBAYO O.	FCTA	152.	UMEZURIKE O. CHUKWU	FMA&WR
10.	YAHAYA INUSA DAKATA	HOSF	82.	UDOGWU GEORGINA	FMWH&UD	153.	ABAH PHILIP DIO	FMA&WR
11.	ALIKALI OKALA M.	HOSF	83.	AKWUBA J.CHINWE	FMEH&UD	154.	WILFORD MBAGWU	NAT ORIENTATION AGENCY
12.	M. NADEWALE	FMWH&UD	84.	EKPO UWEM I.	FMWH&UD	155.	OKOLI FLORENCE CHINYERE	MIN. OF POLICE AFF.
13.	K.O. AINA	MIN. OF NIG.DELTA	85.	DOMINIC C. IKEJIAKU	N&MCN	156.	OKOLI VICTOR CHUMA	MIN. OF POLICE AFF.
14.	MALIK IDRIS	FMA&WR.	86.	ODENIYI O.ARIKE	FMWH&UD	157.	EYO NICODEMUS BASSEY	NIMC
15.	AGWU DAMIAN C.	FMST	87.	IBRAHIM ANNE JULIET	MIN.OF INTERIOR	158.	NWANERI OKECHUKWU BENEDICT	FED. MIN. OF HEALTH
16.	NWANKPA F.CHIDI	MIN. OF POLICE AFFAIRS	88.	OJO T. A. B	MIN. OF INTERIOR	159.	UZOR NKECHI	SGF
17.	OSUMAH ABDULRAHMAN	FED. MIN.OF TRANSPORT	89.	OLORUNMONU OMODELE	MIN. OF INTERIOR	160.	IJIGAH O.SUNDAY	FMA&WR
18.	IBRAHIM A. JIMOH	MOH	90.	OBIWURU VICTORIA C.	MIN. OF TETRIROR	161.	B.M. YUSUF	FMA&WR
19.	OYIBO EWHUBARE S.	NAQS	91.	ATOKU ALHASSAN MUSA	FED. MIN. OF HEALTH	162.	SANI NASIR M.	MIN. OF PET. RESOURCES
20.	M.SALAHU	MOH	92.	OLORUNDARE MICHAEL	FMWH & UD	163.	FATIA.MONOGUNO	MIN.OF PET. RESOURCES
21.	AKHIGBE FLORENCE	MOD	93.	AJAYIAKINLOLU	FED. MIN. OF MINES&ST. DEV.	164.	DAVID M. DURKWA	FMA&WR
22.	ONUOHA, I.A	MOD	94.	KEKONG MOSES EWA	FMWH&UD	165.	GARUBA OLUWATOSIN O.	MIN. OF NIGER DELTA
23.	FATUNWASE, E.O	FMWH&UD	95.	ISHAKU ISSAH	FED. MIN. OF MINES & ST. DEV.	166.	BENJAMIN OLUWATOYIN	FMA&WR
24.	DAKU M.S	FMWH&UD	96.	LADEJO GA	FME	167.	ANICHEBE NEBEIFE	MOD
25.	KOMOLAFE AYODEJI I.	FMWH&UD	97.	YUSUF ABDULLAHI	FME	168.	MUONEME M. UGO	PHCN
26.	BEN. DAUDU OMOKHUDU	F.M.W&H	98.	SULE ABDUL-AZEES	FME	169.	CHIJIOKE JOSEPH M.	PHCN
27.	BANYIGI EZEKIELA.	NAT. SPORTS COMM.	99.	ESU IKWON	FMWH&UD	170.	SANI SULE	FMWH&UD
28.	UMARU YUNUSA	NAT. SPORTS COMM.	100.	OZOMATA S.M.SANNI		171.	OSUNTUYI KEHINDE O.	FMLH&UD
29.	OJO-OSAGIE, A.O.	F.M.AVIATION	101.	H.O.OADENUGA	FED. MIN. OF FINANCE	172.	ADIGWE E. EMMANUEL	CIVIL SERVICE COMM.
30.	JAMILU AHMED	FMWH&UD	102.	OGUNSEMI J.O.	FED. MIN. OF HEALTH	173.	NKEMKAH M.AZUBIKE	CIVIL SERVICE COMM.
31.	B.M DAHIRU	B. P.S.R	103.	ADESANYA S.T	FED. MIN. OF HEALTH	174.	F.O. BAJOWA	FED. MIN. OF COM. & IND.
32.	OJAMIREN JOHN	NOA	104.	CHINENYE EZEWUZIE	NOA	175.	UBA OTA OBJUJI	FMA&WR
33.	ELIZABETH OPPONG	OS G F	105.	DAJOH AMBAKATERKAA	NAQSA	176.	IMEVBORE JOHN OMOGBAI	NAT.BOUNDARY COM.
34.	ARIBO P.O	MOD	106.	RAJI TAJUDEEN O.	FED. MIN OF FINANCE	177.	O.J.EJOWA	MIN. OF HEALTH
35.	C.V.AGBAPONWU	MOD	107.	IGBO EZIOMA GLADYS		178.	GORAH ADAMS AYUBA	FMWH&UD
36.	FATIMA YAHAYA I.	M. M.&S DEV.	108.	MGBEMENA-ABI N.F.	FED. MIN. OF EDUCATION	179.	YUSUF AHERE UMAR	FCT
37.	IBRAHIMA.DUTSIN-MA		109.	OSO JOSEPH JIMOH	FED. MIN.OF EDUCATION	180.	OGUNDELE KINGSLEY	FMWH&UD
38.	ODU. ANTHONY. N.	FED. CIVIL SER. COMM.	110.	IBRAHIM ADAMU	FED. MIN. OF WORKS	181.	IBRAHIMA. MALLAM	FMWH&UD
39.	IBRAHIM MOHAMMED	FED. CIVIL SER. COMM.	111.	UNAMMA VICTOR C.	FMA&RD	182.	ABANA ABUBAKAR B.	FMA&WR
40.	ATTAH O. GODWIN	FED. MIN. OF INTERIOR	112.	BABAN-LAYI KUDU UMAR	STATE HOUSE	183.	NZEH EBEL CHIAMAKA	NAT. POPULATION COM.
41.	EIBO EDWIN OSMAN	FED. MIN. OF INTERIOR	113.	ASHINYOKEM, E. U	FMH&UD	184.	ADEGOKE NSEABSI	NBC
42.	OLAIYA F.OLUWATOYIN	FED. MIN. OF INTERIOR	114.	BUBA B. GODOBE	FED. MIN OF FINANCE	185.	AWOSEYI STEPHEN OLUYEMI	FMLH&UD
43.	H.S. KAIGAMA	FED. MIN. OF INTERIOR	115.	NWAGBARA C.CHIKAOJI	FMWH&UD	186.	AKWOLE PAUL	MIN. OF ENV.
44.	OTI HELEN. G.	F.M.L.H&UD	116.	UGWU JOSEPH C.	FMWH&UD	187.	ODOEMENEM MARTIN EBERE	CIPPO
45.	CATHERINE E. OKPOKO	FED. MIN WOMEN AFF.	117.	USMAN ALIYU	FMLH&UD	188.	OGUNLAND IDOWU ALEXO	FCTA
46.	ABDULKARIM OGIEAGBEGAH	FED. MIN. WOMEN AFF.	118.	GARBA MUSA	FED. MIN OF HEALTH	189.	SULEIMAN MUSA AHMED	NAT. SPORTS COMM.
47.	FAJIMI EJINYI ALABA	F.C.T WATER BOARD	119.	MUKTAR UBA	FMLH&UD	190.	ALAMI OCHOLIAMANA	MIN. OF INTERIOR
48.	ADEBOYE FOLUKE I.	F.C.T WATER BOARD	120.	DAHIRU USMAN BABURA	FMLH&UD	191.	K. MOHAMMED	MIN. OF YOUTHS DEV.
49.	OLATUNDE A. OJO	DANA MOTORS LTD	121.	DORATHY MKAV BOTAR	FED. MIN OF FINANCE	192.	CHINEDU AZI	NF&VCB
50.	OREWA M.B	FCTA.	122.	BOTAR MKAV. EMMANUEL	FCT/UBE	193.	CHINYERE AGUIYI	MIN. OF COM & IND.
51.	U.J.AKPAN	FED. MIN. OF JUSTICE	123.	SADIQ DAUDA IGGA	FED. MIN. OF WORKS	194.	OMOLETU O. PETER	NF&VCB
52.	E.N ANWAKANG	FED. MIN. OF JUSTICE	124.	OLUTAYO B.A	FED. MIN. OF WORKS	195.	MOHAMMED J.ABDULLAH	FMWH&UD
53.	I.D IBRAHIM	FED. MIN. OF JUSTICE	125.	OGUNMOLA O.H	FED. MIN. OF WORKS	196.	OPELOYERU ABDULGANEEY	FMWH&UD
54.	OYEFESO A.O	MOD	126.	OYINLOYE A.L	FED. MIN. OF WORKS	197.	BALOGUN M.OMOTAYO	FMWH&UD
55.	RUKIYAT ODEKUNLE	FED. MIN. OF JUSTICE	127.	ONOJA DIKSON OJILE	FMLH&UD	198.	ALEX U. ANOCHIRIONYE	FMWH&UD
56.	SUNDAY O. EADOWAYE	FED. MIN. OF AVIATION	128.	VICTOR TUBOTAMUNO A.	MIN. OF DEFENCE	199.	IYIOLA S. ABIODUN	FMA&W
57.	A OYINDOLA	F.M.L.H & UD	129.	OGUNLEYE OLUSANYA	FED. MIN. OF AVIATION	200.	AKAUBA C.EUCHARIA	NOA
58.	ELIMIMIAH ALORAHAM	F.M.W.H & UD	130.	HARUNA UMAR IBRAHIM	NEPAD	201.	UMORU IBRAHIM	NOA
59.	OZBOZOR C.I	F.M.W.H & UD	131.	BASHIR BELLO	FED. MIN. OF ENVIRONMENT	202.	FAJIMI V.OMOWUMI	NOA
60.	EBENEZER EKWEBELEM	FED. CIVIL SER. COMM.	132.	IBRAHIM M.LAWAL	NAPEP	203.	EHIROBO L.O	MIN. OF EDUCATION
61.	EKWEBELEM NKEIRUKA	F.M.A & R.D	133.	OSUAGWU CHIOMA C.	M.FED. IN. OF AGRIC	204.	OJEH J.NKIRUKA	MIN. OF EDUCATION
62.	KABIRU MOHAMMED	NEPAD	134.	OMOLUSI OLUWAFEMI	FMLH&UD	205.	MOHAMMED A.MELE	FMA&WR
63.	ABDULLAHI ABDULKARIM	FED. MIN. OF AGRIC	135.	SARAH O.MOMOH	M.FED. IN. OF WOMEN AFFAIRS & SOC. DEV.	206.	EGBARINA A.ADEDOKUN	NIG. PRISONS SERVICE
64.	IKEMBA U.V	FED. MIN. OF EDU.	136.	ORDU NGOZI J.	FED. MIN OF WOMEN AFFAIRS	207.	BELLO, A.G.	NIG. PRISONS SERVICE
65.	ADEBAYO W.A	FME	137.	UMAR BABA ZANGO	FED. MIN. OF PET RESOURCES	208.	ISAH HARUNA CHAFE	NIWRMC
66.	CHUKWUMA ANOPIEME	FMA&WR	138.	PATIENCE FAKAI	RMA&FC	209.	MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI	FMA&WR
67.	SALAMI OLA RAHAMAN	FED. MIN. OF AGRIC	139.	ABUBAKAR TIJJANI	RMA&FC	210.	OLANLA E.O	FMOH
68.	SALAWU ABDULAZEEZ A.	FMA&WR	140.	B.G. MOHAMMED	NIG. ELEC. REG.COMM	211.	IHEKWABA OBIAGELI	FMOE
69.	ILYASU USMAN	FED. MIN. OF EDU	141.	NTUI COLUMBUS	NIG ELEC REG COMM.	212.	ADEBOLA O.KAYODE	FMOH
70.	AIYEKTAN ROTIMI		142.	L.A. IBRAHIM	FED. MIN OF PET RESOURCES	213.	YAKUBU J. AKUBO	FMA&WR
71.	ADEN RAN, M.S	FERMA	143.	MOMOH JUSILA	FED. MIN OF PET RESOURCES	214.	JOHN SYLVESTER AMEH	FMA&WR
72.	CHUKWU AGA OBICHA	FME	144.		NAT. UN. COMM.	215.	OLUWATAYO S.ROTIMI	NOA
						216.	ABDUL ISAH WAZIRI	MIN. OF WORKS
						217.	DOCTEUR MAM HIBARA	STATE POLICE

Continued on next page...

NAMES OF OFFICERS IN MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES (MDAs) TO ATTEND CONVERSION TRAINING TO PROCUREMENT CADRE (Cont'd)

218. SIMON O AGBO	MOD	303. ALIMI RASQA ADEYEMI	FMWH & UD	395. ALI YAHAYA	NAMA
219. OKANYA PAUL IKENNA	NOA	304. ANIFOWOSE SAMSON	FMWH & UD	396. NJOKU E. NKEONYE	NAT. BOUNDARY COMM
220. OPARAE ONYEKACHI	NOA	305. ATTEH NKEREUEWEM	FMWH & UD	397. OSILO GLORIA N.	FMS&T
221. ANGELAI ANETOR	MIN. OF AVIATION	306. A.T EBIEKON	FMWH & UD	398. OKPEHI PETER	FMS&T
222. OLUSOLAA O	FMA&WR	307. EMEANA P OBINNA	FMF	399. POPOOLA.A.A	FED. MIN. OF POWER
223. USOROH B. DICKSON	CIVIL SERVICE COMM	308. BATYAK J. KAZAHCHAT	STATE HOUSE	400. NJOKU NELSON N.	FMWH&H
224. OSOAKU INNOCENT C.	MIN. OF PET	309. ONWUBUYA K. CHINEDU	FMA&WR	401. MAREFE	FME
225. MARGARET N. OYINLOYE	CIVIL DEFENCE	310. ZANNA BUKAR F.	FMA&WR	402. ODUNMOSU DADAA.	FED. MIN. OF COMM. & IND
226. IIESANMI O. ISAAC	MIN. OF NIGER DELTA	311. IKONOH VICTOR I.	FMA&WR	403. OTALIKE P.Y	FED. SCIENCE & TECH. COLL.
227. OLAYIWOLA OLAYINKA	FMWH&UD	312. AUDU OMOLARA O.	FMA&WR	404. ETETIM IDIM	FMWH&UD
228. NWANERI C.C.	FMA&WR	313. ENGR. O. OKEDARIO	FMWH & UD	405. AINOKO DAVID I.	FME
229. AGBOOLA JOHN T.	FMA&WR	314. OMONYI R. OLAYINKA	MIN. OF TOURISM	406. AMAKA NZEDURU C.	NAPEP
230. SADIKE E.A	FMA&WR	315. ADIO O. EMMANUEL	FME	407. ANIONWU FELIX OSITA	FED. MIN. OF INFO. & COMM.
231. UBHOHO F. KELECHI MADU	AIRBDA	316. DURUJI M.C.	MIN. OF PET. RES	408. DANIEL F. AUDU	MOD
232. ELETU TOYIN	FED. MIN. INFOR. & COM.	317. EZEMBA PRECIOUS A.R	FMWH & UD	409. ADAMA GABRIEL J.	MOD
233. AHMED A. BEKAJI	UBRDA	318. OPALUWA GRACE O.	MIN. OF WORKS	410. ETOKANA C.H	MOD
234. ALIYU YUSUF TUKUR	CONS. PROT. COUNCIL	319. ADAGADZU C. BASHAYI	SEB, FCTA	411. OKOBA, K.B	MOD
235. AIABUBAKAR	PHCN	320. ADEJIMI AJAO JIMOH	CIVIL SERVICE COMM.	412. UMAR Y. GIREL	NAT. INL. WAYS AUTH
236. AMADI CHIMEZIE P.	NCC	321. E.O ARCHIE	MIN. OF PET. RES	413. OSAGHADEDE A.E	MOD
237. SULEIMAN ISA JERE	PHCN	322. GODWIN M. OKEREKE	FMWH & UD	414. AMAO, E.O	FMWH&UD
238. ABBAM T.UJA	MIN. OF FOREIGN AFF.	323. AYANO B. OLUMUYIWA	FERMA	415. MARY SULE	FMF
BATCH B		324. ILLOH CHINEDU N.	FMC	416. OKOCHA, N.F	FMF
239. A.R. KOLAPO	FMM&SD	325. OSUEKE JOYCE	MIN. OF JUSTICE	417. OMANG, A.N	MIN. OF COMM. & IND
240. AFOR GODFERI	NAT. SPORTS COM.	326. MUSA B. OINEBI	MIN. OF FINANCE	418. GOTENG NAOMI	MOD
241. JAGINDI EZEKIEL	MIN. OF AVIATION	327. AZORJI DORIS GOGO	NAPEP	419. ETOKHANACECILIA	MOD
242. LAZARUS UZOMA DURU	FERMA	328. EGBUONU VINCENTIA	NYSC	420. AKPONOR, JOYCE I.C	MOD
243. G.C. ADINDU	FMWH& UD	329. OPARAANNE	NYSC	421. OLUMUYIWA, I.O	MOD
244. ODEKUNLE O. BOSEDE	MIN. OF PET. RESOURCES	330. QUADRI SHEFIU	NYSC	422. OKORONKWO, E.O.	FMP
245. JOACHIM J. IFECHUKWU	MINI. OF PET. RESOURCES	331. EUGENE O. ODIAMMA	NAT. POPULATION COM.	423. OLAOYE KEHINDER.	MOD
246. IBEGBUNAM O. FIDELIA	FAAN	332. JOSHUA LAMBERT	MIN. OF LABOUR & PROD	424. AMEH S.M	MOD
247. OKWUNZE IFEOMA C.	FAAN	333. AWOSEYI STEPHEN OLUYEMI	FMWH & UD	425. ONYENEKE, C.O	MOD
248. UDJOYEH OBIORA F.	FAAN	334. USMAN ABDULAH	FMWH & UD	426. TUNDE BAIYE	MOD
249. ONOJA SUNDAY A.	FAAN	335. LIMAN A. TAMBAWAL	FMWH & UD	427. AMAECHI PETER O.	MOD
250. HALIDU M. SALIHU	FCTA	336. JIMOH G.A	MIN. OF PET RESOURCES	428. MSHELTANGA I.C	MOD
251. OKOROMA CHIOMA	FERMA	337. IGBO EZIOMA GLADYS	FED. CIVIL SERVICE COM.	429. ADARA O.S	MOD
252. OJO ADEDOYIN	FERMA	338. BELLO MUHAMMED	FMF	430. MADI YUSUF D.	NAPEP
253. OLADIMEJI BUKOLA F.	FERMA	339. JOHNSON M. ODINIYA	MIN. OF HEALTH	431. KUBILI JOHN M.	NAT. IDENTITY MGT PROG
254. ALAO K. M.L.	MIN. OF PET. RESOURCES	340. JOSEPH P. SINEBE	MIN. OF AVIATION	432. AISHA D. MENSIN	MIN. TOURISM & CULTURE
255. CHRISTIAN C. AMADI	MIN. OF POLICE AFF.	341. RABIATU T. UMAR	MIN. OF DEFENCE	433. OBASEKI V. IDJESA	PHCN
256. MOHAMMED BALARABE	CODE OF CONDUCT BUREAU	342. IBRAHIM ADAMU	FMWH & UD	434. ORIMOLOYE M OJO	FCTA
257. SANMI ADESOJI.	FERMA	343. CHARLES I. AGERI	NAPEP	435. OLOCHE GABRIEL	NIMET
258. LONGE C.S		344. SEIDU AHMED O.		436. G.A. ALEX-OGELENYA	FME
259. OLADEJI WALE K.	FCTA	345. A.A OLANIYAN	MIN. OF MINES & STEEL DEV.	437. NWOKEDI, C.C	FIRS
260. AMBELE S. MIEBAKA	MIN. FOREIGN AFF.	346. NWACHUKWU CHIBUEZE E.	FERMA	438. GREGORY FEMI OLUWOLE	OAU, ILE IFE
261. UGWUANYI THEOPHILIUS		347. CHARITY UKWUNNA	MIN. OF HEALTH	438. IBEKU LEONARD	FMH
262. NTUMBE N. ETTA	FMM & SD.	348. USMAN Z. IFEYINWA	MIN. OF DEFENCE	439. OBASEKI V. IDJESA	PHCN
263. ADEJUWON A.O	FERMA	349. TOM LI LIFU UKPATA	NBC	440. ORIMOLOYE M OJO	FCTA
264. NCHOR PATRICK EJESI	MIN. OF COM. & IND	350. OTU FLORENCE INYANG	ND	441. OLOCHE GABRIEL	NIMET
265. OSENI MERCY O.	FCTA	351. ASUNI S.O	MIN. OF YOUTH DEV	442. G.A. ALEX-OGELENYA	FME
266. MOHAMMED J. WADA	MIN. OF AVIATION	352. JOEL BABA WAYARDA	FMWH & UD	443. NWOKEDI, C.C	FIRS
267. EZEKIEL DAVOU	ASCE	353. IHEAGWARAM MACAJULAY O.	FMWH&UD	444. GREGORY FEMI OLUWOLE	OAU, ILE IFE
268. A.S. SHOYEGE	FED. MIN. OF TRANSPORT	354. BARMA JIBRI S.M	FMWH&UD	445. O.J. EJUWA	MIN. OF DEFENCE
269. AWOLEYE E.O	AFCG	355. AUWALU ILIYASU MOHAMMED	FMWH&UD	446. OKEDAIRO O.	MIN. OF WORKS
270. GARBA YUSUF	OHSF	356. AUWALU MOHAMMED	MIN. OF EDUCATION	447. PRINCE RAJI MUSA	MIN. OF AGRIC
271. MONYE E.I	MINI. EDUCATION	357. OLATOYE MATTEW ODUNAYO	MIN. OF POWER	448. ODENIYI OYEKUNBIA	MIN. OF WORKS
272. ONUH EMMANUEL CHUKS	MINI. OF YOUTH DEV.	358. IHEMTUGE ONYEDIMMA E.	FMWH&UD	449. OGBOZOR C.I	MIN. OF WORKS
273. OWOICHO P. UGBAHA	MIN. YOUTH DEV.	359. MORAH LYNNIE OBIANUJU	FMWH&UD	450. BALA MUSTAPHA	NYSC
274. ONYILOKWU ODANGBE	OAGF	360. ABDULKAREEM OLADYE	MIN. OF AVIATION	451. JOEL BABATOPE M	MIN. OF DEFENCE
275. OKPENGE OWULO FRIDAY	OSGF	361. ALABI CORNELIUS KOLAWOLE PSIN	MIN. OF YOUTH DEV.	452. PATIENCE I. TIMOTHY	MIN. OF DEFENCE
276. ADEJO MARY O.	OSGF	362. IDRIS SHEHU GAYA	FCTA	453. IBRAHIM A. DUTSIN-MA	MIN. OF FINANCE
277. ILORI O. OLAYINKA	MOD	363. ALJIBKE KAZEEN OLAJIRE	FCTA	454. BALAA. SHAIBU	FIRE SERVICE
278. BALA MUSTAPHA	OHSF	364. AGORO R. OKUNLADE	FCTA	455. IBRAHIM GABRIEL E.	MIN. OF FINANCE
279. ALI ADAMU K-MATA	MIN. OF LABOUR & PROD	365. DATUKUM O.J	MIN. OF DEFENCE	456. JOHN I. AGADA	MIN. OF PET RESOURCES
280. TUKUR ALI TUKUR	NMDC	366. OBE NGBEDE	NAT. SPORTS COMM.	457. O.A. EKUN	MIN. OF WORKS
281. ONOJA M. ELEJO	STATE HOUSE	367. RAKIYA ADO ALI	FMWH&UD	458. IIESANMI O. ISAAC	MIN. OF NIGER DELTA
282. LECKY DAUDA	PSIN	368. JOHN OKOBA	MIN. OF FINANCE	459. E.A. SADIKU	MIN. OF AGRIC
283. A.O. OLAYIWOLA	OSGF	369. F.B. ADAMU	FMWH&UD	460. SAHABO SULEIMAN Y	MIN. OF DEFENCE
284. RACHEL MANDI NMADU	MIN. COM. & IND.	370. TOMORI, S.O	FMWH&UD	461. MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI	MIN. OF AGRIC
285. OBAFEMI MARY LARA	HEAD OF CIVIL SERVICE	371. ARDO USMAN KUMO	MOD	462. OBANLA E.O	MIN. OF HEALTH
286. NWOYE FELICA ADAOBI	MOD	372. GOTOM EDWARD G.	OFSGN	463. MOHAMMED A. MAYAKI	STATE HOUSE
287. JIMOH MOHAMMED	OSGF	373. UMUKORO, C.A	NAPEP	464. AJOKU GLORIA	MIN. OF COM & IND.
288. ADEDIRAN O. GRACE	FCTA ED. BOARD	374. MUJOKA ULOCHUKWU	FED. MIN. OF SC. & TECH	465. JAMILA BARBA ISAH	MIN. OF COM. & IND.
289. AIYENIKO O. MATHEW	STATE HOUSE	375. FRED. OLORUNFEMI	FMA&WR	466. S.A. ADEBOMI	NEPAD
290. ABAYOMI ADESANYA	FMWH& UD	376. A.R. ONYEAGBA	MOD	467. SUBERU ADAMS	MIN. OF HEALTH
291. ALIYU AFASKARI	FMA&WR	377. OKUN BABATUNDE O.	FMA&WR	468. EKEANYANWU N.E	FMC
292. BOMAN S. MARCUS	BPCR	378. USMAN O. ALIYU	FMH	469. EKWOABA MAUREEN B.	RURAL ELECT. AGENCY
293. NWAEZE C. GLADYS	MIN. OF NIGER DELTA	379. UMAR ALHAJI UMAR	MIN. OF PET. RES	470. SHUAIBU ADA USMAN	MIN. OF INFOR. & COM
294. OKORO LAZARUS ETO	MIN. OF NIGER DELTA	380. IBIDAPO J. A	MOD	471. OJO ADEKUNLE	FERMA
295. ADEYEMI A.O	MOD	381. UMAR YUSUF G.	NAT. INLAND WAYS	472. CHUKWUYEM, A.O	MIN. OF POWER
296. BELL O.M. TREEMAN	FMWH & UD	382. AKINWALE M.B	MIN. OF PET. RES.	473. ADEYI SUNDAY D.	MIN. OF DEFENCE
297. ADENIYI OLUWATOYIN	FMWH & UD	383. OLUBAYODE. O.I	FMH	474. IBRAHIM T. BIU	MIN. OF DEFENCE
298. ABIMBOLA TAIWO F.	FMWH& UD	384. IKECHUKWU ADINDE	NCC	475. ELUMINIAH ALORAHAM	MIN. OF LAND, HSG. & UD
299. AJAO J. ADEJUMO	FCTA	385. AGBANA ADELOLA	FED. MIN. OF FINANCE	476. AISHATU B. USMAN	FMH
300. SALISU SANI MAITALA	FCTA	386. MOHAMMEDO ABUBAKAR	MOD	477. ISAH SALIHU	FMH
301. OYINLOYE B. OLADELE	FMWH & UD	387. SHEKARAU M. BALA	MOD	478. OGBAN, E.E	MIN. OF INTERIOR
302. ALARIBE AMBROSE U.	FMWH & UD	388. SULEIMAN S. MSHELIA	MOD		
		389. MIKE E. ANYEBE	FMT&C		

All enquiries to: info@bpp.gov.ng, or call: 09-6252380, 6252377

SIGNED:
MANAGEMENT

AFRICA REPORT

Guinea bans vote protests before court verdict

GUINEA'S caretaker government banned street marches called yesterday to protest against alleged fraud in the country's landmark presidential poll, now set for a run-off between the two front-runners.

Former Prime Minister Cellou Dalein Diallo won June 27's poll with nearly 40 percent of the vote and will now go forward into a July 18 head-to-head with second-placed Alpha Conde, according to provisional results released

last week.

But losing parties in the poll, widely seen as Guinea's best chance in half a century of securing democratic civilian rule, said they have evidence of rigging such as ballot-stuffing and falsified voters' cards.

"I will not accept any public order disturbance by people contesting things for which they have no proof and while the Supreme Court has not pronounced its verdict," caretaker prime minister

Jean-Marie Dore told state television late on Sunday.

Candidates have eight days from Monday to lodge formal complaints with the Supreme Court, which will then rule on the validity of the election within three days.

An eyewitness said a peaceful group of protesters, mainly women holding parts of tree branches, gathered yesterday, chanting "CENI zero," a reference to the election commission.

The party of third-placed Sidya Toure, a former prime minister, is among those who called rallies in the central Kaloum district for Monday. Many of the demonstrators on the streets said they supported Toure's Union of Republican Forces (UFR) party.

Election observers from the European Union and the Carter Center said they were broadly satisfied with the vote, while noting irregularities caused by logistical problems.

Guinea is the world's top exporter of the aluminum ore bauxite and a handful of mining firms are currently jockeying for position to exploit its iron ore resources.

Sekouba Konate, the soldier who took control of the country after former junta leader Moussa Dadis Camara was wounded in an assassination attempt late last year, has issued a batch of promotions to army officers for their part in securing the poll.

Central Africa calls on US to help crush LRA

THE Central African Republic has called on the United States for military support to help "neutralise" LRA rebels terrorising the country, state radio said yesterday.

Rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army "have been on Central African territory since February 2008 when they were chased out of Uganda, and have been committing violations of all kinds and sowing terror among the population," it quoted Foreign Minister Antoine Gambi as saying.

Gambi made the comments in a speech at the US embassy in Bangui during a reception Sunday marking US Independence Day.

"The danger the LRA represents for Uganda has been transposed to the Central African Republic. We hope that the United States of America can contribute to the efforts of the Central African armed forces, backed by the Ugandan forces, with the aim of neutralising the LRA," the minister said.

In May, US President Barack Obama promulgated a law to develop a comprehensive strategy to protect civilians from LRA attacks in the four countries in which they have been active, Uganda, DR Congo, south Sudan and the CAR.

"The American government will understand the sense of this request, to allow the organisation of elections in Central Africa.

Moroccan king calls for improved ties with Algeria



KING of Morocco Mohammed VI

MOROCCO'S King Mohammed VI called yesterday for improved relations with Algeria in a message to Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

The king reiterated his desire to work "for the reconciliation and solidarity between the two countries", notably on a basis of complementarity and integration, in the message sent on Algeria's Independence Day.

The message comes after Morocco sent a high-level delegation to Algeria Saturday to extend condolences to Bouteflika after the death

of his brother.

Relations between Morocco and Algeria have been strained, particularly due to the long-running dispute over the Western Sahara.

Morocco's 1975 annexation of the territory, a former Spanish colony, sparked a war between its forces and Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas.

The two sides agreed to a ceasefire in 1991 but UN-sponsored talks on Western Sahara's future have since made no headway.

Middle East



US Vice President Joe Biden, left, meets with Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, right, in Baghdad, Iraq.

Biden tells Iraq to form government and end deadlock

VICE President Joe Biden yesterday made a final effort to push Iraqi leaders to bridge their differences, which have created a dangerous political vacuum as U.S. troops head home.

The vice president met with senior Iraqi officials, including President Jalal Talabani, before wrapping up a Fourth of July visit designed to help Iraq overcome a four-month post-election stalemate in efforts to form a new government.

During the trip, Biden urged rival Iraqi politicians to select new leaders for their wobbly democracy without further delays, emphasizing that a government that does not represent all sides would not be successful.

Iraq has been without a new government since the March 7 election, which produced no clear winner. The bickering between opposing political blocs vying to lead the country has raised fears that insurgents could exploit the uncertainty to re-ignite sectarian violence.

Biden's discussions with Talabani focused on ways to move the political

process forward, Talabani said in a statement, without giving details. Speaking to reporters before the meeting, Talabani also said the two would discuss ways to enhance Iraq-US relations after the withdrawal of US forces from Iraq.

Yesterday, Biden also met with Shiite cleric Ammar al-Hakim, leader of the Iranian-backed Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council.

In a statement on his website, al-Hakim welcomed the meeting but downplayed any American influence on the formation of the new government, saying it was "purely an Iraqi national affair."

Biden, who was on his fifth trip to Iraq during the Fourth of July weekend, spoke little to reporters during a visit that began Saturday.

During separate meetings Sunday with two men who claim the right to head Iraq's new government, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki former premier Ayad Allawi, Biden said the major political blocs, including Iraqiya, State of Law, the Iraqi National Alliance and the Kurdish Alliance should be included in the new government.

Iran says Germany, UK and UAE deny fuel to its planes

IRANIAN officials accused Germany, Britain and the United Arab Emirates yesterday of refusing to refuel Iranian passenger planes due to unilateral U.S. sanctions imposed over its nuclear programme.

"Since last week, our planes have been refused fuel at airports in Britain, Germany and UAE because of the sanctions imposed by America," Mehdi Aliyari, Secretary of the Iranian Airlines Union, told Iran's ISNA news agency.

If confirmed, the new measures will be evidence of a determined intention to make these sanctions really bite.

An airport company in the UAE capital Abu Dhabi denied that any such measure was in place. "We have contracts with Iranian passenger flights and continue to allow refueling," said a spokeswoman for Abu Dhabi Airports Co (ADAC).

U.S. President Barack Obama on Thursday signed into law far-reaching sanctions on Iran that aim to squeeze the Islamic Republic's fuel imports and deepen its international isolation.

The unilateral U.S. action and other measures planned by the European Union go well beyond a

fourth round of U.N. Security Council sanctions against Iran approved on June 9.

Iran is the world's fifth-largest oil producer, but imports various oil products for lack of sufficient refining capacity.

Unlike the U.S. measures, the U.N. sanctions stop short of targeting Iranian imports of refined products.

Western powers believe Iran is trying to build bombs under cover of a civilian nuclear programme. Tehran says the programme is only for electricity generation and medical purposes.

ADVERTORIAL

NIGER STATE GOVERNMENT/UNDP

7TH COUNTRY PROGRAMME

1. The Niger State Government is desirous of implementing the NGSG/UNDP 7th Country Programme (2010) under the Capacity for Governance, Capacity for Economic Governance and Environment and Risk Reduction programmes.

2. In view of the above, the State is inviting competent and reputable companies/members of the Academia, NGOs, CBOs, and Consultants to submit proposals for each of the activities listed below:

LOT 1 Review Report and formulate Policy on renewable energy

LOT 2 Design and produce State Farmer's guide

LOT 3 Review report on Climate Change, design and produce adaptation strategies and Action plan

CAPACITY BUILDING

LOT B1 Design and implement training for Resident DUE process Teams on Managing competitive bidding processes

LOT B2 Capacity building for LGA Chairmen and state officials on Accountability and Transparency in Local Government Administration

LOT B3 Facilitate Accountability sessions (Town Hall meetings) on Local Government Administration and Budget implementation in the three zones of the state

LOT B4 Design and Implement Training programme for planning officials on mainstreaming cross cutting issues of Gender, HIV/AIDs and Environment into state development plans

LOT B5 Design Technical capacity building for state officials on the development of Medium Term Development Plans (MTDPs)

LOT B6 Produce the 2009 Niger State Millennium Development Goals Report (MDGR)

LOT B7 Organize workshop on development of Niger State Millennium Development Goals Report (MDGR)

LOT B8 Organize Sensitization workshop for Farmer Associations and Cooperatives on commodity exchange village and enhanced productivity.

LOT B9 Capacity Building on Gender Mainstreaming in conflict prevention and peace building

LOT B10 Training for state statistical officers on primary data collection and reporting of related issues

3. Seeking Proposals in two separate envelopes (Technical and Financial) marked "2010 NGSG/UNDP 7th Country Programme" should be submitted within two (2) weeks from the date of this publication complying strictly with UNDP's Process and Programme Implementation Guidelines which can be obtained from the UNDP Nigeria website www.ng.undp.org/procurement.

4. The Terms of Reference (TOR) for each activity can be obtained from M&E Unit/Programme Committee Secretariat.

5. All submissions should be made to the **State Outcome Committee Secretariat, No. 6, Palko Road, Adj. FRSC office, Minna.**

The Chairperson
State Outcome Committee
C/O Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning
NIGER State Secretariat

World



PAKISTANI Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani

Pakistan calls for landmark anti-terror conference

PAKISTANI leaders called yesterday for a landmark national conference to develop a strategy to counter the Islamist militant threat following the latest carnage targeting a place of worship.

The nuclear-armed Islamic republic of 170 million is on the frontline of the US war against Al-Qaeda and the Pakistani military are bogged down fighting homegrown Taliban in its northwestern mountains.

Hugging the border with Afghanistan, where 140,000 US-led foreign troops are trying to end a nearly nine-year war, bomb attacks causing mass casualties and insurgency in northwest Pakistan have fanned fears about regional stability.

"We would like to convene a national conference to formulate a national policy on terrorism," Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani told government officials after a twin suicide attack killed 43 people at a shrine in Lahore.

In a rarity for the fractious world of Pakistani politics, the government said all major parties would be invited to the conference to find ways to eradicate terror and curb the problems of militancy.

"We will assemble all the political leadership and will take their advice," Information Minister Qamar Uzman Kaira told a news conference.

A Taliban and Al-Qaeda-linked bombing spree across Pakistan has killed more than 3,400 people in three years since government troops

besieged a radical mosque in the capital Islamabad in July 2007.

Gilani said that after being "hit hard" in northwest Pakistan, "terrorists are on the run and seeking refuge in the urban areas of the country," where they are "attacking soft targets and spreading sectarian hatred".

Last Thursday's attack was the latest violence in Lahore, Pakistan's most liberal city and the capital of its largest and most populous region Punjab.

In May, gunmen wearing suicide vests also stormed mosques belonging to the minority Ahmadi community in Lahore, killing at least 82 people.

Interior Minister Rehman Malik said Punjab-based sectarian militant groups Lashkar-i-Jhangvi and Sipah-e-Sahaba were colluding with Taliban and Al-Qaeda to recruit footsoldiers across the country.

Young men were sent to training camps in the tribal belt, which lies outside direct government control, and dispatched as bombers and militant cells back to Punjab and other cities, he said.

"All the tools of federal government and provincial governments are working. We are working together for the sake of the country and to fight against terrorists," Malik told reporters.

While the government announced no date for the conference, government and opposition party officials indicated it would be next week or the week after.

Suicide-car bomber kills soldier in NW Pakistan

A suicide car bomber shot at guards and detonated his explosives at the gate of a paramilitary base in northwestern Pakistan before dawn yesterday, killing one soldier and wounding at least seven other people, said security officials.

The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in a telephone call to The Associated Press. Hafeez Ullah, who identified himself as a local Taliban commander, said the goal was to free Taliban militants imprisoned at the base.

The bomber first tried to force his way onto the base in Lower Dir district by shooting at troops and policemen guarding the gate, said Maj. Suleman Khan, a spokesman for the paramilitary Frontier Corps. He blew himself up after realizing he couldn't penetrate the base, said Khan.

The guards killed a second suicide car bomber, preventing him from detonating his explosives, and also killed two suicide bombers who were on foot, said Khan. The blast from the first bomber killed one soldier, said the army in a statement. There were conflicting reports about how many people were wounded in the attack.

The army said seven soldiers were wounded. But a local police officer, Raffat Ali, said 12 were wounded, including 10 troops and two policemen. Two civilians also were wounded by retaliatory fire from guards trying to repel the bombers, said Ali.

The Pakistani Taliban has declared war on the government because the group deems it unIslamic and is upset at its alliance with the United States.

French parliament to vote on proposed veil ban

A French bill to ban full-face veils worn by some Muslim women in public will go to parliament tomorrow, bringing closer a measure which critics argue is hard to enforce and may be unconstitutional.

Supporters of a ban on full-face veils in France, home to the European Union's largest Muslim minority, argue that wearing garments which hide women's faces violates the republican ideals of secularism and gender equality.

Opponents say only a tiny minority of Muslim women wear the full veil, known as a niqab or burqa, and that the legislation is a step towards tighter restraints on individual freedom.

France already bans Muslim headscarves and other religious symbols from schools.

"It's going to increase feelings of being ostracised in part of the Muslim community, even parts where women don't wear the niqab," said Jean Bauberot, sociologist at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes at Paris' Sorbonne University.

Most voters back a ban, polls have shown, but legal experts warn it could violate the constitution. The Council of State, the top administrative court which advises the government on the preparation of new laws, said in March a ban could be unlawful.

Komorowski wins Polish election

PRIME Minister Donald Tusk's candidate won Poland's presidential poll but the narrowness of the victory cast doubt on the government's ability to carry out unpopular reforms ahead of a 2011 parliamentary election.

Bronislaw Komorowski, a moderate conservative from Tusk's Civic Platform party (PO), won 53.0 percent of votes in Sunday's poll, final official results showed, after a cliff-hanger vote that saw his right-wing rival Jaroslaw Kaczynski perform much better than expected.

Turnout was 55.3 percent, higher than in a first round on June 20, despite the start of the summer vacation period. Political analysts said the unexpected closeness of the presidential race, the prospect of looming local elections and the parliamentary vote next year could lead Tusk to take a cautious approach in introducing reforms.

Komorowski's win was "market positive," Goldman Sachs said in a note to clients.

"However, these reforms look increasingly unlikely to happen quickly as local and parliamentary elections are approaching."

DIGEST

Scientists discover chemical that can stop you from eating for pleasure

AN appetite suppressant that takes away the desire for post-pub kebabs and calorific late-night snacks has been discovered by British scientists.

The substance, which occurs naturally in the body, could pave the way for a new class of dieting drugs that help people shed pounds without distressing side effects.

The idea would be to stop us eating purely for pleasure instead of from hunger.

It could also be used to treat alcohol and drug abuse, researchers at Manchester University say.

The chemical called hemopressin works by affecting the reward centres of the brain that light up when someone enjoys a comforting snack or cigarette.

Tests have shown that hemopressin blocks these areas of the brain, reducing the reward from eating.

A synthetic product called Rimonabant, which acted on the brain to reduce hunger, was developed six years ago and marketed as an anti-obesity treatment.

But it appeared to increase the risk of depression and suicidal thoughts and was withdrawn from the market.

Dr Garron Dodd, co-author of the latest findings published in the *Journal of Neuroscience*, believes naturally-occurring



AN appetite suppressant has been discovered by British scientists

hemopressin can suppress hunger without the side effects.

In tests, laboratory mice fed hemopressin ate less food.

However, the chemical had no other impact on their behaviour. An identical group of mice given a synthetic form of the chemical also

ate less, but suffered side effects such as increased grooming and scratching.

'We now plan to investigate this further,' Dr Dodd said.

He added: 'While our findings are an indication of safety, this cannot be immediately

extrapolated to humans.

'This discovery does, however, offer new insights into how the brain controls appetite and opens new avenues by which to manipulate this brain circuitry and aid the development of anti-obesity treatments.'

The finding could lead to drugs that stimulate the brain to produce more hemopressin, he said.

Orlistat, the most popular obesity drug, prevents fat absorption and is taken by hundreds of thousands of people.

Brain patterns could reveal if children will go on to develop mental illness



MANY people who go on to develop mental health problems will have a history of behavioral problems going back to childhood.

BRITISH scientists have found specific patterns of brain activity in children that could be 'markers' of those who will develop mental illnesses such as schizophrenia.

Researchers from Nottingham University said it may be possible to one day use this information to find youngsters at risk of becoming ill before they develop symptoms.

'If we can identify people who are at particularly high risk of developing schizophrenia, perhaps using neurocognitive brain markers, then we might be able to reduce that risk and also help them to function better,' said study leader Dr Maddie Groom.

'If we give them a better start, they may encounter the illness in a more positive way and not get quite so ill.'

Hundreds of millions of people worldwide are affected by mental, behavioral and neurological illnesses such as schizophrenia, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), depression, epilepsy and dementia.

Many people who go on to develop diverse mental health problems will have a history of behavioral problems going back to childhood, but it is difficult to say

early on which children will develop them.

In one study, Dr Groom and her colleagues investigated looked at the healthy siblings of people with schizophrenia, who also have a very slightly increased risk of developing schizophrenia compared with the general population.

Using brain imaging to read activity levels, the scientists asked the siblings to perform task which involved playing an alien-zapping computer game in which they needed to respond quickly, and crucially, halt the urge to respond if the wrong kind of alien popped up. The task was called a 'go, no-go' task.

'When we measured the brain activity of the siblings of people with schizophrenia, their brain activity was reduced at the time when they needed to pay attention to the stimulus, and when they needed to inhibit their response,' Dr Groom explained.

She said this suggested the subtle differences in brain activity may act as a risk marker for the disorder.

Lucie Russell, Campaign Director for mental health charity Young Minds, said: 'The possibility of studying brain activity to predict the risk of young people developing mental illness could be really use-

ful in preventing the suffering mental health problems cause to thousands of young people.

However, as with the criticisms of gene testing we risk labelling children and young people.

'We also must not forget the vital importance of a stable and loving family background on a child's wellbeing and how emotional and physical abuse can have a devastating effect on their mental health.'

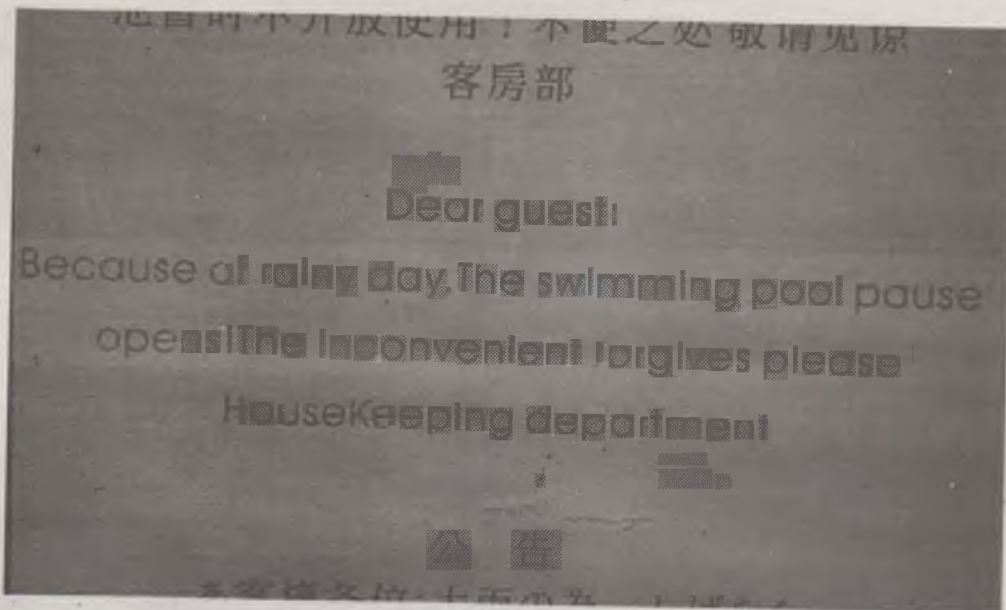
In a second study, scientists compared brain activity of children with ADHD - a mental disorder that affects up to 12 per cent of children and four per cent of adults worldwide.

The researchers used the same "go, no-go" task in various scenarios, including when the children were taking their medication, Ritalin, and when they were not, and then using an additional system of rewards and penalties.

Dr Groom's results showed that children who were taking medication, and children given an incentive, performed better than those who had neither medicines nor incentives. This suggests, Groom said, that doctors may be able to find new ways to treat children with ADHD using a combination of behavioral strategies and drugs.

The team presented their study at the Forum for European Neuroscience in Amsterdam.

Sign Language



Yes, pause to decipher the meaning of the message
 Photo location: Hotel in Tai Chung, Taiwan by Josef Furse
 Culled from telegraph.co.uk

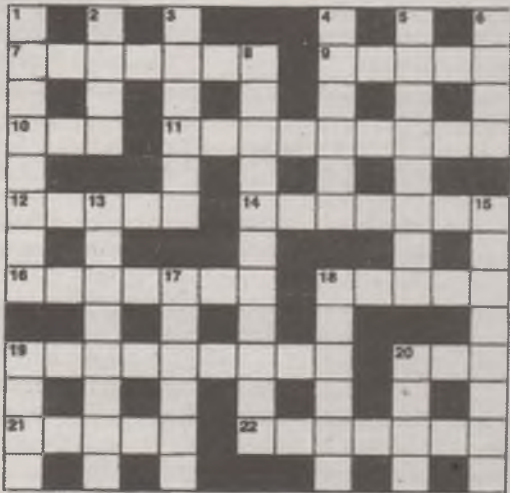
CROSSWORDS 19

ACROSS

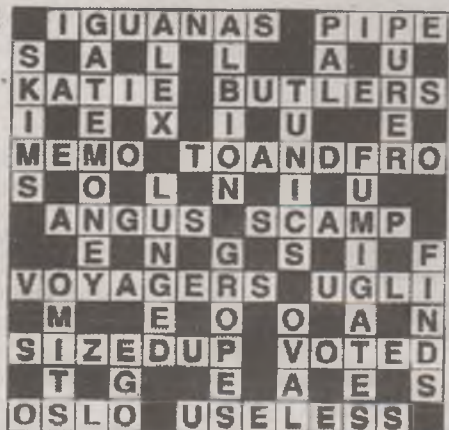
- 7 Canadian Great Lakes port (7)
- 9 Non-reacting (gas) (5)
- 10 Pioneer aviator Miss Johnson (3)
- 11 Make less strong or intense (5,4)
- 12 Lounged (5)
- 14 Inconsistent (7)
- 16 Welsh city, birthplace of Catherine Zeta-Jones (7)
- 18 Surname of Beetlejuice actress Winona (5)
- 19 Wages container (3,6)
- 20 US organisation once headed by J Edgar Hoover (inits)(3)
- 21 Warm outdoor garments (5)
- 22 Camping fastener (4,3)

DOWN

- 1 Makes firm (8)
- 2 Macy ____, singer who had a hit in 1999 with *I Try* (4)
- 3 Munched (6)
- 4 Reflector (6)
- 5 Banished (8)
- 6 First name of Oliver Hardy's partner (4)
- 8 For sale (2,3,6)
- 13 366-day period (4,4)
- 15 Sculptures (8)
- 17 Scanty (6)
- 18 Light-sensitive membrane (6)
- 19 Peace treaty (4)
- 20 Coxcombs (4)



SOLUTION TO CROSSWORDS 18



SUDOKU

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

185

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

Solution to Sudoku 184

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

News Extra



JAILED: Temitope Adenugba

Temitope Adenugba jailed over false rape claim

get an extension on her end-of-term coursework, the court heard. Sentencing her to 18 months in prison at Oxford Crown Court



Temitope Adenugba, 24, was struggling to meet a deadline whilst studying at Oxford Brookes University last year

A student has been jailed for 18 months for falsely claiming a cleaner had raped her - so she could get an extension on her university course work.

man who raped me.'

Mr Ogunmola was arrested, before a subsequent police investigation exposed a catalogue of lies and her claims later proved to be complete fantasy.

The lie was created in a bid to

on Friday, Recorder Rabinder Singh said: 'It's extremely easy to make an allegation of rape when

there's no foundation whatsoever.

'It's likely to have the perverse impact of guilty men walking free.'

The court heard that police attended Clive Booth Halls of residence, Oxford, on May 21 last year after she reported historic abuse against her as a child.

Officers interviewed her but were stunned when she told them Mr Ogunmola had used a key to get into her room on April 13 and raped her.

A full police investigation was launched and the cleaner was quizzed and later arrested.

But police found any keys taken by Mr Ogunmola had been returned by April 12 and would not have given him access to her room at any time.

Adenugba had also alleged her victim had been harassing her with phone calls, but analysis of both parties' mobile phones showed this to be a lie.

Scientific examination of her pyjamas also revealed no link to Mr Ogunmola.

Mr Walsh added that Adenugba had made a fictitious rape complaint against a previous partner in October 2006.

Walter Scott, mitigating, said his client had made the claim against Mr Ogunmola after an earlier false allegation of harassment against the same man 'didn't have the desired effect of extending her time to do her coursework'.

He added: 'She was not seeking to directly attack the victim, he was chosen rather arbitrarily.'

Detective Chief Insector Colin Paine, of Thames Valley Police, said: 'It is exceptionally rare and unusual for a malicious complaint to be made in this way. It caused significant distress to the man who was accused.'

“Officers interviewed her but were stunned when she told them Mr Ogunmola had used a key to get into her room on April 13 and raped her

Temitope Adenugba, 24, was struggling to meet a deadline whilst studying at Oxford Brookes University last year.

She phoned police to tell them she had been abused as a child, before complaining she had also been subjected to a serious sexual assault as she slept in her university digs.

When officers attended her halls of residence to take a statement, Adenugba pointed at cleaner Kunle Ogunmola and said: 'Can't talk here, that's the



ADENUGBA was a student at Oxford Brookes University when she made the false allegations

News Extra

- Sumeet Merchant calls himself the "Merchant of Marriage"
- He is a Dubai-based matchmaker who says he has set up 3,000 weddings
- Most of his clients are parents looking for a husband for their daughters
- Women are looking for a modern man who is financially secure, men want a "slim, tall" wife



SUMEET Merchant says he reads "minds and hearts" to provide a perfect love match.

He is the self-styled "Merchant of Marriage" -- a Dubai matchmaker who says he has helped set up 3,000 weddings for the Emirate's Indian and Pakistani community.

Sumeet Merchant moved to Dubai from India in 1972 and has been playing Cupid for the last 17 years.

There are around one million Indians in Dubai, according to India's Embassy in the UAE, and Merchant told CNN it's common for Indian and Pakistani parents to search for a suitable spouse for their children.

Most of his clients are parents searching for husbands for their daughters. But they won't accept just any suitor.

"Everybody looks for a boy who can afford to keep a wife in Dubai, which is very expensive these days. Every parent wants a professionally qualified boy, from a good family, who can keep their daughter happy," he said.

Prospective brides are usually aged between 22 and 27 and are typically educated to at least degree level "so they are not financially dependent on their husband," he said.

They are usually looking for men aged from 28 to 31, who have a Masters degree and have already climbed a few rungs of the career ladder.

"Every girl now, they are not looking for a slim, tall or handsome man; they are looking for a good-natured boy, a modern boy who allows their wife to work, and is financially secure," said Merchant.

"And the boys are always looking for slim, tall, fair and good-looking girls. They want their wife to look like in the movies."

Merchant explained that in money-centric Dubai, where career comes first, young professionals don't have the time to find their Mr. or Mrs. Right. Which is

Meet Dubai 'marriage merchant'

...He finds love for upwardly mobile Indians

where he comes in.

For between \$1,000 and \$2,000 you can secure Merchant's services for three months. He places singles adverts in the national newspapers, vets the applicants to ensure compatibility, and sets up meetings between the families of the prospective spouses.

One example of an ad placed by Merchant for Dubai-based Hindu clients "inviting proposals for" their daughter includes

he deems suitable he will interview in person.

"I ask if you are [a] smoker or alcoholic, whether you are fit for marriage -- you are not impotent -- if you are a perfect man or not," he said.

"When I find the right match I arrange a meeting either in the lobby of a five-star hotel or in a beautiful shopping mall, between the two families. And after that the boy and girl talk separately."

good points -- the minus points come later on."

"When the boy and girl like each other, slowly you can say, 'I drink a bit much but after marriage I'll stop. I smoke too much but after the marriage I'll stop.'"

"Once the boy finds the girl is beautiful, well educated, and well qualified, the boy always makes a compromise for one of the bad habits he might have."

Last year Dilip Paranjape,

Paranjape came across Merchant's adverts in the classified section of his newspaper and enlisted his help in finding a good man from a good family.

"We say it is not only the relation between two people, it's the relation of two families," said Paranjape. "The bonding between the two people must be for years to come, not just for today."

Like most of Merchant's clients, Paranjape and his niece wanted a well-educated, well-off man, and Merchant provided him with five candidates.

Paranjape met them and whittled the list down to two, and Uttara decided on a 30-year-old Dubai man whose family were also from Bombay. The pair have now been happily married for seven months, said Paranjape.

But while families are often the instigators of Merchant's match-making, it is their children who ultimately decide if they want to marry.

Merchant told CNN, "The family background is very important in a marriage. Both girls and boys understand that, and they let the parents select the family. But the girls and boys are selecting their life partner."

For the "Merchant of Marriage," the part he plays in helping people make that decision is more than just a job -- it's sacred.

"Parents trust me," he said. "Every girl who comes to me is like my daughter. For me it's a very holy job. Marriage is always made by god in heaven."

Culled from cnn.com

For between \$1,000 and \$2,000 you can secure Merchant's services for three months. He places singles adverts in the national newspapers, vets the applicants to ensure compatibility, and sets up meetings between the families of the prospective spouses.

reference to their caste -- Brahmin -- and their daughter's level of education -- BBA (Marketing).

The ad encouraged responses from "well-educated and well-settled, Gujarati, Sindhi, Bhatia, Maharashtrian or North Indian Hindu boys in UAE."

Merchant told CNN he often gets 150 men responding to a single advert, and he will typically rule out 70 percent because they don't earn enough. Those whom

Merchant also coaches both the potential partners before their meeting, telling them how they can to dress to impress, and what they should avoid saying so they don't scare off their would-be soul mate.

I tell them to say only the good points -- the minus points come later on.

--Sumeet Merchant, matchmaker

"I tell them to say only the

based in Dubai, was struggling to find a suitable husband for his 26-year-old niece Uttara, who was living in Bombay.

"She wanted to marry somebody from outside India," Paranjape told CNN.

"We tried to spread the word in our friend circle but it did not click. The main problem is that it's such an intimate subject people don't want to talk about it in public."



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AVIATION

FEDERAL SECRETARIAT COMPLEX
SHEHU SHAGARI WAY, MAITAMA, ABUJA

INVITATION TO TENDER

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Federal Government's agenda towards improvement of Air Transport has necessitated the Federal Ministry of Aviation to embark on the infrastructural improvement at some of the Federal Government owned Airstrips in the country.

2.0 SCOPE OF WORKS

The renovation/rehabilitation works includes:

- LOT 1: Procurement and installation of Non-Directional Beacon (NDB) at Lafia Airstrip. The work entails the supply of one duly redundant dual 10-250 watt NDB transmitter with unit micro processor controlled for comprehensive full management at each of the above listed airstrips.
- LOT 2: Fencing of 4,500 X 1000m selected site and consultancy services for Survey, Design and construction supervision of Abeokuta Airstrips
- LOT 3: Fencing of 4,500 X 1000m selected site and consultancy services, Survey Design and construction supervision of Ekiti Airstrips
- LOT 4: Fencing of 4,500 x 1000m selected site and Consultancy service for survey, design and construction supervision of Taraba Airport at Jalingo.
- LOT 5: Chain link fencing of 4000 x 500m Bida, Airstrips.
- LOT 6: Rehabilitation of Azare Airstrip. Including strip clearing, repairing pavement trouble spot, pavement marking, drainage clearance, repair of access road.
- LOT 7: Chain link fencing of 4000 x 500m Bauchi Airstrips
- LOT 8: Chain link fencing of 4000 x 500m Gboko Airstrips
- LOT 9: Chain link fencing of 4000 x 500m Lafia, Airstrips
- LOT 10: Reconstruction of Gboko Airstrip. Including strip clearing, Runway laterite pavement trouble spot, pavement drainage clearance, repair of access road.
- LOT 11: Procurement and installation of Non-Directional Beacon (NDB) at Lantang Airstrips, The work entails the supply of one duly redundant dual 10-250 watt NDB transmitter with unit micro processor controlled for comprehensive full management at each of the above listed airstrips.

3.0 TENDER REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

All interested companies with requisite cognate experience are invited to submit relevant technical and financial proposals. All quotation must be inclusive of all taxes. The tender documents should include the following:

- Evidence of registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)
- Annual Audited Accounts for the immediate past three (3) years;
- Valid/Verifiable Tax clearance for the last three (3) years;
- Evidence of verifiable VAT registration/VAT remittances;
- Company profile and curriculum vitae of key personnel
- Evidence of verifiable past experience in handling similar project;
- Evidence of financial capability/ guarantee from reputable Bank; and
- Company's Annual Turnover
- Non refundable tender fees of **N50,000.00** payable by bank draft to Federal Ministry of Aviation.

Methods of Submission of Bids

Bids should be neatly bound in ten (10) copies on wax seal envelope indication any of the lots tendered for, and addressed and submitted to:

The Secretary
Ministerial Tenders Board;
Room 5A 43
Federal Secretariat Complex
Phase 1, Shehu Shagari Way
Abuja;

Enquiries

All enquiries be addressed to the Director Safety and Technical Policy, Federal Ministry of Aviation, Room 5B0 128 Federal Secretariat Complex. Phase 1, Shehu Shagari Way, Abuja.

Deadline for submission

All bids document should be submitted on or before 12.00 noon Monday, 2nd August, 2010. Late submission will be rejected. Bids shall be publicly opened same day at 1.00pm at the Conference Room, 1st Floor, Federal Ministry of Aviation, Federal Secretariat Complex phase 1, Abuja. All interested contractors are invited to attend.

Signed:
Secretary,
Ministerial Tenders Board,
5th JULY, 2010.

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MEDICAL AND DENTAL COUNCIL OF NIGERIA



PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE TRIBUNAL FOR THE TRIAL OF OFFENCES UNDER THE MEDICAL AND DENTAL PRACTITIONERS ACT CAP M8, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA 2004

IN THE MATTER OF THE TRIAL OF OFFENCES UNDER THE MEDICAL AND DENTAL PRACTITIONERS ACT CAP M8, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA 2004

IN THE MATTER OF FITNESS TO PRACTISE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST:

- | | | | |
|------|----------------------------------|---|-----------|
| i. | DR. ADEBIYI, ADEMUYIWA O. | - | FM 4,937 |
| ii. | DR. OLUMIDE, OLUSUMADE ADESEGUN | - | FM 14,911 |
| iii. | DR. OGUGUO, NOBLE EMMANUEL | - | FM 15,177 |
| iv. | DR. ADEKOYA-COLE, THOMAS ODUNTAN | - | FM 10,698 |

REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

We bring to Public Notice the directions of the Medical and Dental practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal in respect of the above-named doctors. The complaints against the doctors were proved. In consequence, the Tribunal found them culpable and handed the following directions:

- Dr. Adebisi, Ademuyiwa O. - suspended from practice for six (6) months
- Dr. Olusumade, O. A. - suspended from practice for six (6) months
- Dr. Oguguo, Noble E. - suspended from practice for three (3) months
- Dr. Adekoya-Cole, Thomas O. -suspended from practice for six (6) months

The doctors in consequence upon the directions filed separate appeals against the direction of the Disciplinary Tribunal. The appeals were struck out/dismissed by the Court of Appeal.

The Tribunal reviewed all these cases on 30th April 2010 and directed the enforcement.

THE NOTICE IS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT FOR THE TIME STIPULATED, THE ABOVE-NAMED DOCTORS STAND SUSPENDED FROM MEDICAL PRACTICE IN NIGERIA

Dr. A.A. Ibrahim
Secretary
Medical and Dental Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal



Media Trust Limited

ADVERT RATE

Effective July 1st, 2010

SIZE	BLACK			COLOUR		
	RATE (N)	VAT (N)	TOTAL (N)	RATE (N)	VAT (N)	TOTAL (N)
Full Page	356,400.00	17,820.00	374,220.00	475,200.00	23,760.00	498,960.00
Half Page	252,000.00	12,600.00	264,600.00	370,834.00	18,541.70	389,376.70
Quarter Page	109,350.00	5,468.00	114,818.00	284,286.00	14,214.00	298,500.00
10" x 6 cols	247,500.00	12,375.00	259,875.00	326,700.00	16,335.00	343,035.00
10" x 5 cols	201,960.00	10,098.00	212,058.00	277,200.00	13,860.00	291,060.00
10" x 4 cols	162,360.00	8,118.00	170,478.00	217,800.00	10,890.00	228,690.00
10" x 3 cols	148,500.00	7,425.00	155,925.00	198,000.00	9,900.00	207,900.00
9" x 6 cols	234,036.00	11,701.80	245,738.00	306,900.00	15,345.00	322,245.00
9" x 5 cols	194,040.00	9,702.00	203,742.00	267,300.00	13,365.00	280,665.00
9" x 4 cols	148,500.00	7,425.00	155,925.00	213,840.00	10,692.00	224,532.00
9" x 3 cols	142,560.00	7,128.00	149,688.00	194,040.00	9,702.00	203,742.00
8" x 6 cols	221,760.00	11,088.00	232,848.00	300,960.00	15,048.00	316,008.00
8" x 5 cols	186,120.00	9,306.00	195,426.00	257,400.00	12,870.00	270,270.00
8" x 4 cols	138,600.00	6,930.00	145,530.00	205,920.00	10,296.00	216,216.00
8" x 3 cols	134,640.00	6,732.00	141,372.00	186,120.00	9,306.00	195,426.00
7" x 6 cols	168,300.00	8,415.00	176,715.00	217,800.00	10,890.00	228,690.00
7" x 5 cols	158,400.00	7,920.00	166,320.00	205,920.00	10,296.00	216,216.00
7" x 4 cols	134,640.00	6,732.00	141,372.00	198,000.00	9,900.00	207,900.00
6" x 6 cols	162,360.00	8,118.00	170,478.00	207,240.00	10,362.00	217,602.00
6" x 5 cols	148,500.00	7,425.00	155,925.00	201,960.00	10,098.00	212,058.00
6" x 4 cols	130,680.00	6,534.00	137,214.00	194,040.00	9,702.00	203,742.00
6" x 3 cols	79,200.00	3,960.00	83,160.00	106,920.00	5,346.00	112,266.00
6" x 2 cols	69,300.00	3,465.00	72,765.00	89,100.00	4,455.00	93,555.00
5" x 5 cols	138,600.00	6,930.00	145,530.00	198,000.00	9,900.00	207,900.00
5" x 4 cols	124,740.00	6,237.00	130,977.00	196,020.00	9,801.00	205,821.00
5" x 3 cols	75,240.00	3,762.00	79,002.00	102,960.00	5,148.00	108,108.00
5" x 2 cols	59,400.00	2,970.00	62,370.00	79,200.00	3,960.00	83,160.00
4" x 6 cols	128,700.00	6,435.00	135,135.00	178,200.00	8,910.00	187,110.00
4" x 5 cols	126,720.00	6,336.00	133,056.00	154,000.00	7,700.00	161,700.00
4" x 4 cols	114,840.00	5,742.00	120,582.00	129,800.00	6,490.00	136,290.00
4" x 3 cols	69,300.00	3,465.00	72,765.00	91,080.00	4,554.00	95,634.00
4" x 2 cols	53,460.00	2,673.00	56,133.00	75,240.00	3,762.00	79,002.00
3" x 2 cols	33,660.00	1,683.00	35,343.00	49,500.00	2,475.00	51,975.00
3" x 3 cols	49,500.00	2,475.00	51,975.00	59,400.00	2,970.00	62,370.00
2" x 2 cols	23,760.00	1,188.00	24,948.00	39,600.00	1,980.00	41,580.00
1" x 1 col	4,950.00	247.50	5,198.00	5,940.00	297.00	6,237.00

SPECIAL POSITIONS			
POSITION	RATE (N)	VAT (N)	TOTAL (N)
PAGE 2 OR 3	1,140,480	57,024	1,197,504
PAGE 4 OR 5	1,036,800	51,840	1,088,640
FRONT PAGE STRIP	552,381	27,619	580,000
FRONT PAGE SOLUS	410,400	20,520	430,920
BACK PAGE STRIP	457,143	22,857	480,000
FRONT PAGE EARPIECE	323,810	16,190	340,000
BACK PAGE EARPIECE	295,238	14,761	310,000
CENTRESPREAD	1,632,960	81,648	1,714,608
DOUBLESREAD	1,209,600	60,480	1,270,080
ROP STRIP (COLOUR)	158,400	7,920	166,320
ROP STRIP (B&W)	129,600	6,480	136,080
INSIDE BACK COVER	518,400	25,920	544,320
FRONT PAGE	15,000,000	750,000	15,750,000
WRAP-AROUND		25,000,000	

TRUST CLASSIFIED				
POSITION	SIZE	RATE (N)	VAT (%)	TOTAL
Registration of Trustees	3" x 2 cols	18,000	900	18,900
Loss of Documents	3" x 2 cols	9,000	450	9,450
Change of Name	Per Word	100	NIL	

LOOSE INSERTS		
	RATE (N)	VAT (N)
Handling	142,000	7,100
Per 1000 copies (1 Sheet)	36,000	1,800
Per 1000 copies (Magazines)	60,000	3,000

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HEALTH REPORT

NGO starts up home for the elderly

By Ruby Leo

A non-governmental organization, Care Givers Initiative International (CGII), is set to open a home for the elderly aimed at ensuring that they receive adequate health care to enable them age gracefully.

The home which will be situated in Gwagwalada, will address the long abandoned health issues of old people which is evident in the lack of specialized institutions such as nursing homes, residential care homes and non residential care centres.

The founder, CGII, Victoria Ike-Onu said that the home is borne out of the urgent need to ensure that Nigerians outlive their life expectancy which according to the WHO stands at 45 years for males and 46 years for women.

Onu explained that unfortunately for Nigeria, those above the age of 65 years account for only 3.1% of its total population with the rest dead.

She said, "To combat this epidemic, CGII can help the youths

grow old healthily and it is our conviction that the elderly sick people are often unable to look after themselves in their twilight years and with less people living longer, the need for the resources to care for them should be addressed.

According to her if adequate attention is given to this class of persons, it would go a long way in decongesting the nation's hospitals which she said is already overpopulated.

She pointed out that other countries can boast of a healthy growing population while the reverse is the case in Nigeria as 88% of those who are over 65 years have at least one chronic health condition, making them unproductive to the country.

"Almost 20% of older persons suffer from mental disorder that is not part of normal ageing, others suffer diabetes, which makes their ageing difficult", she said.

"We intend to build nursing homes and care centres for older persons, partner with local and international organi-



SOME elderly persons queuing up for blood test after the workshop organized at Kuje and Gwagwalada, Abuja by the Care Givers Initiative International.

zations to promote and facilitate the establishment of these

institutions in every local government in the country thereby

bringing the services closer to user", she said.

Health: NHIS boss rallies 774 LGAs

From Yemi Bamiele, Ibadan

WORRIED over the country's ability to sustain the Maternal and Child Health programme, the Executive Director of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), Dr. Dogo Waziri Mohammed, has embarked on a nationwide tour of the 774 local governments in the country seeking increased collaboration with local councils and their respective state governments to buy into the scheme.

Presently, the NHIS is working with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) towards the implementation of the Maternal and Child Health Scheme.

Since the programme commenced in the various pilot states, Nigerian beneficiaries, notably the pregnant women and nursing mothers with their children of age 5 and below, have been singing a new song.

With NHIS bearing the cost, the benefits of the scheme have been enormous, manifesting in free drugs, free medical check-ups and provision of other facilities including beddings and insecticide treated nets (ITN) enjoyed by the mother and child.

The package for participants in the NHIS Primary Healthcare services include services for common ailments and injuries, Maternal and Child Health services, health education as well as essential drugs from NHIS accredited pharmacy providers.

Others are pediatrics cases that cannot be handled at the primary level such as simple congenital abnormalities like cleft palate and

life-threatening congenital abnormalities.

Tracheoesophageal Fistulae and others would be handled at the secondary level.

Fear persists in the health circle over what will happen to the maternal and Child Health services when the MDGs wrap up its support for the scheme by the year 2015.

This is what prompted the NHIS team, led by the Executive Secretary to commence an on-the-spot assessment tour of health facilities to advocate for collaboration with local and state government.

The South-West tour was flagged off on Monday, June 14, 2010 with the team visiting Ibadan South East Local Government Council headed by Hon. Abiodun Adedjoja Ekolo.

The NHIS Executive Secretary, Dr. Mohammed said that Ibadan South East Local Government has remained a force to reckon with, adding collaboration with Local Governments in tackling the menace associated with mother and child health has become a national assignment to ensure sustainability of the scheme.

"This programme needs to be sustained and improved upon and it must not stop," he stated.

Even though he emphasized that NHIS has not budgeted money for upgrading of facilities, he stressed the need for judicious utilization of resources to enable them upgrade facilities, particularly in the local governments, saying this will further boost the scheme.

The Ibadan South East Local Government Council Chairman, Hon. Adedjoja Ekolo reported that

seven centres in the council area have been rehabilitated and set aside for the free medicare scheme.

These are the Primary Health centres at Mapo, Molete, Odinjo, Boluwaji, Agbongbon, Oranyan and Orita Aperin.

Oyo State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Isaac Owolabi, represented by the Permanent Secretary for Health and Hospital Monitoring, Mrs. Mubo Obasa reiterated the state government's appreciation for the innovative collaboration of the NHIS and MDG in impacting positively on the mother and child healthcare in the country.

The commissioner advocated for more capacity building in the sector to further enhance the programme thus reducing maternal mortality in the nation.

The team then visited some of the Comprehensive Primary Healthcare facilities notably the Oranyan, Agbongbon, Odinjo and Boluwaji Health Centres.

At the Oranyan Primary Health Centre, Dogo though impressed with the work on ground particularly the physical expansion of the facility enjoined the personnel to always ensure proper recording on a daily basis, to assist them compare and contrast the patronage with a view to assessing the scheme's effectiveness.

According to him, the pool of money put in place will take care of women of child-bearing age, right from ante-natal to delivery, no matter the gravity of the complications, if any.

Dogo, however, pleaded with Oyo State Government to pay its counterpart funding to further assist the beneficiaries in the state.

National Hospital employs over 200 staff

By Ruby Leo

THE National Hospital management has employed over 200 different cadres of medical personnel in order to enhance the capacity of the health facility.

Head of management information services, Tayo Haastrup said that the move became necessary due to the incessant complaints by staff that they were being overworked.

Haastrup explained that the new recruits have already reported for duty and are undergoing training and induction courses in their various fields of

study.

His words, "I'm sure with this new development, the era of long queues of patients waiting to see a consultant or a doctor will be put to rest, as well as complaints about incompetence of some staff".

According to the spokesperson, the hospital is being overhauled to meet the challenges of this present age, saying, "for instance, the emergency unit used to be a nightmare, but it has been restructured. Right now, the unit only deals with emergency cases, and it has its own medical personnel waiting to attend to patients as soon as they arrive".

Kwara gets ethical committee on neglected diseases

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Kwara State Ministry of Health has reiterated its commitment to ensure that the code of principles guiding the correct behaviour in the administration of treatment, clinical tests, studies and operational research works are maintained in the treatment of Neglected Tropical Diseases to avert patients being exposed to unnecessary harm.

The Commissioner for Health, Alhaji Ladi Hassan, made this known when he inaugurated an ethical committee to oversee and supervise the administration of drugs for the treatment of Neglected Tropical Diseases in the state.

Alhaji Hassan noted that many neglected diseases are pre-

ventable and curable if adequate public enlightenment and treatment is given on time.

The committee comprises of representatives of the various medical directorates in the State HealthCare Delivery System chosen for their expert opinions and contributions.

Others include the representative of the Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, with the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Dr. Abdulrazaq Amuda acting as chairman.

In his address, the Coordinator for River Blindness and other Neglected Diseases, Dr. Rapheal Olawoye implored the government to put in more effort in training personnel, funding and sensitizing people.

Health interactive

Write in confidence to healthinteractive@hotmail.com; www.healthinteractive.wordpress.com or send a text message to 080-89972539 or P.O.Box 14807, Kano, Nigeria

Advice by Dr Aminu Magashi

Itchy sensations, my dilemma

I am suffering from severe vaginal itching and also discharge. I am interested in knowing the causes and likely remedy.

Busola

Severe Vaginal Itching, also called Pruritis Vulvae is defined as unpleasant sensation which provokes the desire to scratch. The severe itching can equally lead to the rashes.

Some of the causes of Pruritis and discharge are;

Local Causes

1. Sexually Transmitted Infections such as with Candida, Trichomonas vaginalis, Gonorrhoea or viral warts
2. Infestation with Scabies
3. Contact Dermatitis, this could be due to allergic reaction, irritation due to use of certain cream or soap, use of vaginal douches, spermicidal creams and deodorants, also use of Nylon Panties.

General causes

1. Metabolic Problems such as Obstructed Jaundice,
2. Lack of certain vitamins like Vitamin A and B

Idiopathic (some women may experience itching, without any known cause)

The approach to your problem is to be physically examined and properly investigated.

Some of the investigations that may help are as follows;

1. High Vaginal Swab for Microscopy, culture and sensitivity
2. Urinalysis
3. Skin snip for Microscopy

Also to improve personal hygiene and if any of the irritants mentioned above are provoking the problem, you should stop using them

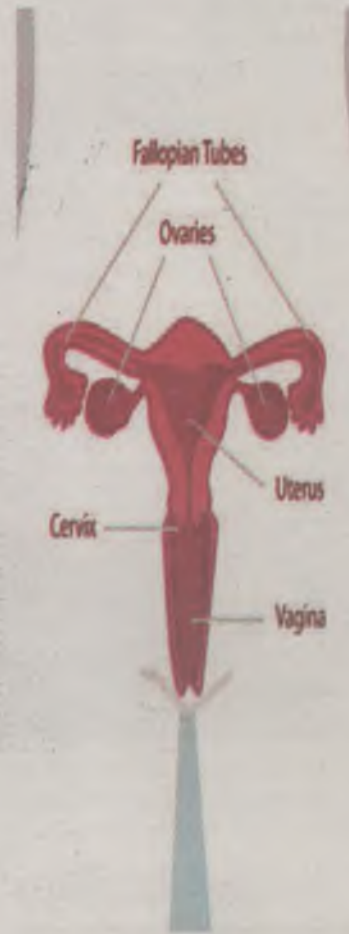
I want to practise Natural Family Planning

I am against using pills, but want to space my family, using only natural method of Family Planning. Please advise.

Labaran K

Family Planning is the process of planning one's family whereby the number of children to bear is planned as well as the interval at which to have them based on informed choice and the desire to have them.

Natural Method means that you don't want to use anything as you mentioned such as drugs, Intra Uterine Devices or



condom to mention but a few. There may only be two methods that fit into what you want.

Coitus Interruptus

This is a method whereby when a man is about to ejaculate during intercourse, he withdraw his organ from his partner's private part and discharges semen outside. If one can practice that, it will prevent pregnancy. However, the failure rate is very high, due to the following reasons

1. Not all men will be able to know and control timing of ejaculation
2. Very small percentage of men can actually remove their organ when they are about to ejaculate.
3. Many, even if tried, will fail, as it needs a lot of practice, patience, stamina and endurance
4. Some women are not comfortable with a man disengaging at the time he is about to ejaculate, because that's the time they enjoy the interaction more.

Above are some of the reasons for its high failure rate. However, I have come across some men that practised and succeeded in planning and spacing their family through this method. So it is not impossible.

Abstinence: Is another Natural Method of Family Planning, that is "not having intercourse

at all" or one can target his partner's ovulation time and avoid having intercourse around that period. For abstaining during ovulation period, one needs to understand the menstrual cycle of his partner very well.

I advise that you discuss with your wife the pros and cons and visit a Family Planning Clinic for more discussion. Good luck

Suffering from seminal problem

A friend who works in a lab took my semen for analysis and told me I lack sperm cells, which is why I am unable to have children. Please what is my problem?

Abdul

Depending on how the sample of semen was taken from you, if you transported your semen in a condom to a lab and depending on the interval of collection and providing it to the lab worker, chances were you might have had sperm cells within the semen but died in the process. Also, it is not every ejaculatory semen that contains sperm cells. So, your test was not conclusive and needed to be repeated at least 3 consecutive times.

Another dimension is that absence of sperm cells in the semen is called Azoospermia. Azoospermia is one of the most severe forms of male factor infertility. It is a condition in which a man has no sperm in his ejaculate. In order to transport sperm outside of the body, it mixes with ejaculate (semen) at certain places throughout the male reproductive system. Sometimes, due to blockage or sperm production problems, sperm does not mix with ejaculate, and therefore cannot leave the body via the penis. That is why so many men with Azoospermia find it difficult to have children.

There are two types of Azoospermia:

1. Obstructive Azoospermia: Obstructive azoospermia accounts for about 40% of all cases of azoospermia. It occurs when a blockage in your duct system prevents your sperm from mixing with your semen. These obstruction may be present in your vas deferens or epididymis. (Pathway of the sperm cells from testes to the Urethra)

2. Non-Obstructive Azoospermia: Non-obstructive azoospermia accounts for about 60% of all cases of azoospermia. It occurs when there is a problem with the actual production of sperm within your body. It is often the result of hormonal imbalances. (Example, Testosterone deficiency)

You need proper investigation to know the cause of your condition. Please, visit a teaching hospital close to you.

DOOR STEP HEALTH INFO

Muskoka Initiative and challenges ahead

FOR health workers and advocates especially those keenly following the event globally and figures coming out with respect to achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 4 and 5, the G8 and G20 Summits, which took place in the last week of June 2010 had provided some highlights with respect to the commitment of world leaders in tackling maternal and child health problems.

The host country, Canada, while entering a closed door meeting with the big giants declared that maternal and child health would be a central focus of the agenda, particularly for the G8. There was lots of enthusiasm that that meeting would be more than just a symbolic step to lead to concrete steps and financial commitments by the big giants.

Leaders of the eight richest nations adopted an initiative in that meeting on promoting maternal and child health when the two-day G8 summit concluded at Muskoka, Ontario, Canada. It is called The G8 Muskoka Initiative. The Initiative sets the Global Targets as between 2010 and 2015; the G8 will work with multiple partners throughout the global community with the objective of achieving the targets set in 2001 for Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 4 and 5.

We are all familiar with the goals, which are to reduce by two-thirds between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate; reduce by three-quarters, also between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio; and achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health. With respect to that, the G8 promised to mobilize as of today 5 billion U.S. dollars of additional funding for disbursement over the next five years, adding that G8 members already contribute over 4.1 billion dollars annually in international development assistance for maternal, newborn and under-five child health.

The G-8 leaders anticipate that over the period 2010-2015, the Muskoka Initiative would mobilize significantly greater than 10 billion dollars, and will assist developing countries to prevent 1.3 million deaths of children under five years of age; prevent 64,000 maternal deaths; and enable access to modern methods of family planning by an additional 12 million couples.

"This Initiative includes elements such as: antenatal care; attended childbirth; post-partum care; sexual and reproductive health care and services, including voluntary family planning; health education; treatment and prevention of diseases including infectious diseases; prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV; immunizations; basic nutrition and relevant actions in the field of safe drinking water and sanitation."

"Support from the G8 is catalytic," the declaration said. "We make our commitments with the objective of generating a greater collective effort by bilateral and multilateral donors, developing countries and other stakeholders to accelerate progress on MDGs 4 and 5."

It is important to note that the Non-Governmental Organizations have received the Muskoka Initiative with mixed feelings, which stressed that reaching these overall targets requires a major, sustained global effort including developed, emerging and developing countries, foundations, international agencies, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and other constituencies.

While some NGOs like World Vision and Make Poverty History welcomed the Canadian investment of \$1.1 billion over five years. They were however disappointed, even saddened by the paltry \$5 billion put together for the initiative. The One Campaign noted that "the much-anticipated Muskoka Initiative failed to meet the needs of so many mothers and children in the poorest parts of the world." Make Poverty History was scathing in its response, the campaign stressed, adding that the announcement is "nothing short of 'shameful'." World Vision, stated that "overall, the Muskoka Initiative looks more like a small down payment than an adequate investment, and won't reach as far as it must to stop needless early deaths."

Overall, I think it is a positive step from the giants. What remains it to press for more, ensure the funding reaches the deserving ones and track its release and proper implementation across developing countries.

All comments to healthweekly@yahoo.com

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Legal Quote

Our security agencies have issued the worn out cliché on their determination 'to bring the perpetrators to book'. This never came to fruition and continues to raise questions on our readiness to join the rest of the world who believes that welfare of the people is the primary responsibility of those in government... *Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN, President, NBA while speaking on the death of Abubakar Rimi*

Lawyers calling for the abolition of the rank of SAN are lazy – Roland Otaró

Roland Otaró SAN, is a specialist in various practice areas of law. In this interview, with **Adelanwa Bamgboye**, he speaks on the move by some lawyers to abolish the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), partnership, adequate remuneration for young lawyers and other topical issues.

Are you satisfied with the disciplinary mechanism put in place by NBA for erring lawyers?

I think that the disciplinary machinery put in place by the NBA is still very good and you'd discover that the disciplinary committee of the NBA has been fast-tracking its processes. Happily, the Nigerian weekly Law Report published by Law Publication has been publishing the decisions of the disciplinary committee.

The process is good because there is need to give the lawyer who must have committed any misdemeanour the right to fair hearing. You can not sacrifice justice on the altar of speed, so I think the process is good. Even the members of the disciplinary committee are up and doing now to ensure that they bring sanity to the legal profession. In recent times, they have been very active and their actions very formidable.

There has been a serious move even by senior lawyers for the abolition of the rank of SAN; would this be in the best interest of the legal profession?

Those who have been agitating for the abolition of the rank of SAN, with all respect to them, are mentally lazy.

Come to think of it, it is those lawyers who are not serious, who do not make good use of their youthful years.

As I speak to you by the grace of God, when I applied to be SAN, I had more than 30 cases at the Court of Appeal, all over the divisions of the court of Appeal in this country, then you expect a lawyer who would sit down under the tree in to now say that the SAN rank should be abolished.

I think what they ought to suggest is to bring in new amendment, new criteria, for the award. There is no profession in this world that does not have provision for attaining the highest in that profession.

For instance in the University, we have professors. In the engineering professions we have fellowships. So there must be some-

thing to motivate you to get to the zenith of your profession.

What would motivate junior lawyers to attain the standard?

The recent criteria that has been rolled out is very nice. But you know it's an evolving process. I suggested that if you want somebody to become a SAN, that person must produce practicing receipts for the last 10 years. That is an area that must be looked at because you cannot be a SAN until you attain the age of 10 at the Bar.

Any one that has been called to Bar and wants to apply for SAN should be able to produce his/her practicing receipts for at least 10 years up to the time of application.

During my own time when I applied for SAN, I produced all my practicing fees from the time I was called to Bar in 1986, although we were just asked to produce it for three years but I just wanted to show the panel that I have been committed in paying my practicing fees.

Also the tax clearance for ten years should be produced so that they will know that you are a good citizen. It will not be a question of rushing to pay your tax because you want to be a SAN.

Would you suggest that we have a decree by the NBA which stipulates the minimum wage to be paid to junior Lawyers?

Not a decree per se, may be an Act. May be the Legal Practitioners Act should be amended. The NBA has been agitating that the salaries paid to junior lawyers should be increased. At a time, it was categorised that lawyers in big cities like Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt, Kaduna and Kano should be paid above N30,000 and in other jurisdiction, it should be above N20,000 putting into consideration the employers. In Nigeria you would discover that the prices of goods and services are higher in some areas than in others.

In Abuja and PH for instance, prices are higher than in Lagos. Even the N30,000 which the NBA had been advocating is the minimum and not the maximum depending on the nature of the



ROLAND Otaró

office. There are some chambers that pay up to N50,000 as minimum and it all depends on the nature of that chambers too. For instance in a SAN chambers, you don't expect him to pay less than N30,000. Even though there is

ing. I was part of a partnership arrangement and it collapsed somewhere along the line.

Partnership globally depends on trust and confidence and once that trust and confidence are not there, partnership cannot work.

“There is no provision of the law as to advertising Judges before their appointment, it is a sensitive issue, hence I may not support that their names should be advertised

legislation, it might be difficult to enforce.

Talking about Chambers, why is it that we don't normally find partnerships?

In our NBA conferences, it has always been a regular issue. Partnership is a worthy venture and there are a lot of chambers that are into it and are flourish-

In order to improve the standard of practice in this country, partnership is a very worthy thing to do. Lawyers in a partnership would diversify, they would specialise in different areas of law. Petroleum law, maritime, election petition and so we should look at partnership not for the material gain per se but

for the advancement of the legal profession, but you discover that in most cases people concentrate on the material gain.

Outside this country, partnership is highly encouraged. I attended a lot of seminars under the auspices of the American Bar Association (ABA), on the issue of partnership, I have discovered that it is a way to advance the law.

The legal profession frowns at lawyers advertising themselves. Don't you think that it is time to review this provision?

The rules of professional ethics are very clear on advertising. Because this is a honourable profession, we should not advertise. There are some of our colleagues who are always interested in making noise, I do not think we should advertise because we borrowed our own rules from England. In England they do not advertise.

Before a lawyer can be made a SAN, the name of such lawyer would be advertised for members of the public to comment. Should the same not apply to the appointment of Judges?

Yes, I think the same thing should be applicable to the appointment of Judges because there are cases where you now see judges who cannot even deliver judgment, there are some lazy ones and there are some that do not even understand when you make some submissions. I would not say they do not understand the law but they do not follow it. Most of them too, are not courteous to lawyers, which should not be.

There is no provision of the law as to advertising judges before their appointment, it is a sensitive issue, hence I may not support that their names be advertised but the Federal Judicial Council and the National Judicial Service Commission should ensure that the appointment of Judges should be on merit.

Members of the public should not contribute. The NJC and the FJC are very competent bodies and they are made up of men of integrity. The reason why the SAN has to be published is because the appointing committee feel that people should know about the lawyers.

In some cases there are some lawyers who might have defrauded their clients. So if the lawyer has defrauded a client, the client should be able to say so, because we cannot rule out the existence of some bad eggs in the legal profession.

Law

EFCC/UNODC survey divides lawyers

By Adelanwa Bamgboye

A Lagos lawyer, Yomi Omoyinmi, has said that the election petition tribunal cases may have confirmed that the report of a survey on crime and corruption, recently released by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crimes (UNODC) describing the courts in Nigeria as receiving the highest bribes has divided lawyers in the country.

Speaking in a chat with Daily Trust, Yomi Omoyinmi said yesterday that any survey on corruption in Nigeria will certainly be very accurate.

“This, according to him, is because corruption has been institutionalised in the country and it is apparent, everyone can see it and feel it. It is very unfortunate, and as for the survey, nothing can be far from the truth about the statistic and the figure. It is just about the right information.

“I go along with it. The Election Petition Tribunal cases may have confirmed the courts



EFCC Chairman Farida Waziri

involvement and why they have been heavily indicted in the survey, Yomi Omoyinmi said.

However, on his part, Bayo

Ojo (SAN), former Attorney-General of the Federation and Justice Minister said that it would be preposterous to make such a

sweeping statement, adding that it was a mere suspicion.

“I definitely do not agree with that generalisation. It is a conjecture and suspicion. We all know that suspicion, no matter how strong, cannot take the place of legal proof.

According to the survey, ‘Nigerians have admitted paying their highest bribes to courts, an average of \$87 (N13,050) per transaction’. The survey was conducted by the EFCC and National Bureau of Statistics with the support of United Nations Office on Drugs & Crimes (UNODC) which revealed that courts were the place where the highest bribes were reported.

A summary report of the survey suggested that though bribery in the judiciary was less frequent it required bigger transactions.

The survey was conducted in 2007 on a sample of 2,775 enterprises randomly selected to represent businesses active in Nigeria but a response rate of 79.4 per cent representing 2,203 interviews was recorded.



PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan

Jonathan for Niki Tobi's book presentation

By Adelanwa Bamgboye

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan is expected as the special guest of honour at the public presentation of the book in honour of Justice Niki Tobi, JSC, who retires 14th July from the apex court.

The public presentation of the book, titled ‘Hon. Justice Niki Tobi: A Colossus at the Apex Court’ takes place today at the Shehu Musa Yar’adua Centre, Abuja. Hon. Justice Salihu Modibo Alfa Belgore, the former Chief Justice of the Federation, will chair the august occasion.

Justice Niki Tobi JSC, who is due for retirement on 14th July, 2010, has had an impressive career on the judicial bench, a fact attested to by many honours and awards won by him including the United Nations award for Judicial Activism in abrogating unjust traditional practices against women.

His contribution to legal development in Nigeria is also legendary, culminating in his being appointed the chairman, Constitutional Debate Coordinating Committee of Nigeria in 1999, which gave birth to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (1999 CFRN).

Unijos to build N150m centre for law, diplomacy

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Faculty of Law, University of Jos is to build an International Centre for Law and Diplomacy in order to ensure the training and development of high quality diplomats and personnel. Acting Dean of the faculty, Professor Joash Amupitan in his address at the fund-raising ceremony for the construction of the centre and the public presentation of University of Jos Law Journal yesterday said the faculty intends to upgrade its law and diplo-

macy programme “into a centre of excellence”.

According to Professor Amupitan, “The faculty is one of the two faculties of law in Nigeria that is offering Law and Diplomacy at Masters and PhD levels” pointing out that “the law and diplomacy programme is aimed at training and developing high quality diplomats and personnel for the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and diplomatic missions; this is an effort to ensure that Nigeria maintains its status as a key player in the international arena”.

He added that the project which is estimated to gulp N150m will contain an international conference centre, main auditorium lecture theatres, Moot court Hall, a digital library as well as a board room.

The acting dean who called on philanthropists to invest their fortunes in the project said the faculty “is rated as the best in Nigeria and among the three best in West Africa” and further stressed that “it is an opportunity to leave a legacy in one of Nigeria’s most prestigious institutions”.

FCDA: Lawyers fight over FCT judges

By Nasir Imam

TWO eminent legal groups are at war over a recent ruling by the Abuja High Court involving a high profile personality, Mrs Josephine Mbang. An Abuja-based human rights organisation, the Centre for Civil Rights Research and Education has alleged that its counterpart in Lagos, the Equity and Justice Group has embarked on campaigns to smear the integrity of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT judiciary, which according to it, is legally wrong.

Executive Director of the Centre, Barrister Chijioke Kanu

stated this in a press statement in Abuja weekend, accusing the Lagos-based Equity and Justice Group of blackmailing the Chief Judge, Justice Hassan Lawal Gumi and Justice Adebukola Banjoko respectively.

The equity group, operating from the Lagos judicial division had recently petitioned the National Judicial Council on the activities of the FCT Chief Judge and his judge for abuse of power, intimidation and use of violence against their client, Mrs Josephine Idongesit Mbang.

In the petition titled: “Illegal attempted eviction from law-

ful possession, criminal trespass to land and malicious damage to property and criminal use of police personnel and abuse of firearms, threat to life, abuse of court process and breakdown of law and order”, the equity group had told the NJC how the FCT judges have intimidated their client, Mrs Mbang.

Mrs Mbang, they alleged, was denied fair hearing by the duo of the FCT court officials.

But Barrister Kanu dismissed their petition, alleging that they were all out to blackmail the renowned jurists. He said, “We have read with dismay the open

letter by a group which goes by the name of Equity and Justice Group to the National Judicial Council, NJC, published in some newspapers on June 30th, 2010. We have come to a conclusion that the exercise by the group and their sponsors is a mockery of reason and has put equity on its head.”

Explaining, Kanu said it was even wrong to have gone to the media with what could have been trashed out using legal means.”

It was wrong to have read the petition as read is the story of only one side. It is wrong because it is full of sentiments and allegations

which are in the main superlative and ought to have been responded to before publication of any kind.”

What the Lagos group ought to have done, he said, would have been to allege a denial of fair hearing which could be redressed in the court.

Defending the FCT judiciary, Kanu said the petitioners themselves knew that the matter was in court and the petitioner’s solicitors, themselves, the lawyers know that the matter was before a court of competent jurisdiction as the position of the FCT Chief Judge was unassailable in law and in fact.

CITY NEWS



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Two die in auto crash at Yangoji

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

TWO persons lost their lives, while six others sustained serious injuries on Sunday morning in a fatal motor accident that occurred at Yangoji village, along the Abuja-Lokoja highway.

A witness said the accident happened at about 6 am when a Peugeot J5 bus with registration number XE 853 NSR had a burst tyre and lost control.

The bus crashed somersaulted thrice and crashed into a ditch,

killing two passengers on the spot.

The witness said officials of the Federal Road Safety Commission's (FRSC) rescue team on routine patrol in the area conveyed the victims to the hospital.

Yangoji FRSC unit Commander, Abdullahi Umar, attributed the accident cause to a burst tyre and said the corpses were deposited at University of Abuja Teaching Hospital's Morgue.

The unit commander further disclosed that one person also died while 16 were injured in another

accident that occurred on the same day.

According to him, the accident involved a 18-seat commercial bus with registration number XA 731 SML that overtook wrongly and collided with a Daf truck with registration number XA 617 DKU, leaving one person dead on the spot.

He blamed the accident on wrongful overtaking; saying the corpse has been deposited at the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital's Morgue, while the 16 injured

victims were taken to Kwali General Hospital.

Umar also disclosed that two persons lost their lives, while three sustained injuries in an accident that took place at Kamadi junction.

He said the bus driver lost control while on steering and crashed into a ditch, leaving two female passengers dead and a male injured.

The FRSC unit commander said the corpses have been taken to the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital's Morgue.

Kwali council subsidises fertilizer for farmers

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

KWALI Area Council Chairman, Mr. Joseph Shazin, Thursday disclosed that the council has subsidized fertilizer prices by 75 percent to farmers for this year's farming season.

The council chairman, who announced the subsidy during a flag-off ceremony for the sale of fertilizers at the council secretariat, disclosed that two truck load of 600 bags of the commodity were purchased from the FCT Agric Secretariat at the cost N1,650 per bag.

He said the council sold the fertilizers to farmers at N800 per bag, adding that it was done to encourage residents of the council to engage in farming in order to boost food production in the area.

The council boss explained that agriculture forms a great percentage of the occupation of residents in the area and appealed to the FCT Agriculture Secretariat to provide the council with more fertilizers, adding that the commodity will be paid for whenever it is available.

Shazin warned middle-men to desist from persuading farmers to sell their commodities to them in order to make fast money.

Speaking earlier, FCT Agric Director, Adamu Wakili Zhinze, praised Kwali council for being first among the six area councils to pay cash for the allocation of fertilizers for this year's farming season.

He said the department provided special fertilizer allocations to the people of Pukafa and Kilankwa communities of the council, who were involved in dry season farming.

The director assured that the FCT agric secretariat will make all effort to provide additional allocation of fertilizer anytime is available.

Fire guts filling station at Kado

By Ogechi Ohalee

FIRE burnt down some parts of a shopping mall at Con Oil Filling Station at Kado Estate in Abuja yesterday.

The fire which erupted from a generator in the complex burnt a part of ETB Bank and a supermarket, destroying property worth millions of naira.

Godwin Aghogho, a sales boy with Con Oil said when he resumed work at 5.30am and realized that there was no light.

"All of a sudden, we heard fire and raised an alarm, which attracted a crowd that tried to quench the fire with extinguishers but to no avail, Godwin said.

He said several calls were made to the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and fire service, adding that people watched helplessly as the fire burnt down the shopping mall.

Speaking on the incident,



THE scene of the fire incident at Kado, Abuja yesterday morning.

Superintendent Jeremiah Abraham of the Federal Fire Service said they learnt of the incident at 6 am from their radio control room and mobilized firemen to the scene.

The officer blamed workers at the filling station for placing a

distress call to NNPC instead of the fire service.

"If they had called us immediately, the damage would not have been much," he said.

He advised all filling stations' management and owners of business centers to paste the emer-

gency phone numbers of the fire services in their premises.

The filling station manager said his workers called him at 5.30am to alert him of the fire and suspected that the fire might have started from the supermarket.

PIC: OGECHI OHALEE

Sales girl charged with stealing money

By Usman A. Bello & Shenjobi Omotoyosi

A 20-year-old sales girl was last Friday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly stealing money from her employer.

The accused, Ifunanya Akakuru of Mpape village, Abuja, was accused of stealing 1,000 Euros and N25,000 cash belonging to one Maurice Okeke.

Prosecutor Francis Tanko told the court that on June 29, Mrs. Maurice of Suite 27, Yasuha

Plaza, Wuse II, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused who work as her sales girl stole 1,000 Euros and N25,000 from her shop without her consent.

He said the offence is punishable under Section 287 of the Penal Code.

When the charge was read to the accused, she pleaded not guilty and her counsel, Alex Ajoja, requested for her bail, which was objected by the prosecutor on the ground that the offence is not ordinarily bail able.

Magistrate Vera Tom Tukura granted her bail in the sum of N100,000 with a surety in like sum, who must reside in the court's jurisdiction with fixed address.

The case was adjourned to July 12 for hearing.

PIC: OGECHI OHALEE



AN unidentified girl that was hit by an INEC driver in Abuja Saturday afternoon.

Man in court over girl's abduction

By Bunmi Omolehin

THE police yesterday arraigned a 30-year-old man before an Abuja Upper Area Court for allegedly abducting a girl keeping her in his apartment for four days.

Police prosecutor Sani Yakubu informed the court that on July 2, one Rabi Abubakar of Ruga village, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused, Salisu Ibrahim, induced his daughter, a minor, and took her to his house from June 24 to June 27, in order to have illicit sexual intercourse with her.

He said the accused abducted the girl without her consent and committed an offence contrary to Section 275 of the Penal Code.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and sought for bail, which was not objected by the prosecutor.

Judge Umar Yusuf Kagarako granted the accused bail in the sum of N100,000 with one surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction.

The case was adjourned to August 11 for hearing.

FCTA to set up scholarship board

By Nasir Imam

THE FCT Administration will soon establish the FCT Scholarship Board to ensure that all classes of students in the territory are given the opportunity to discover and exploit their potentials.

FCT Minister, Senator Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed, made the revelation on Monday after the bi-weekly FCT Executive Committee (EXCO) meeting in Abuja.

He said the board will have representation from all the six area councils of the territory,

adding that scholarship matters in FCT was hitherto a unit under the education secretariat but would have to be upgraded to meet the new challenges in the sub-sector.

The minister emphasised that platforms as well as opportunities must be provided for every child from the territory, no matter his/her social or economic status to enable them attain high educational levels without systematic hindrance.

He charged parents to encourage their wards to advance their education; assuring that the FCT

Administration will always be there to support them since the literacy level in any society determines the level of advancement of such society.

"This current FCT Administration cannot afford to toy with the future of our children because the future of our nation depends on their future," he added.

The minister directed the Secretary of the Education Secretariat, Alhaji Hussaini Halilu Pai, to expedite action on the establishment of the Scholarship Board with a desirable framework that would stand the test of time.

Traders commend AMAC for Utako market clean-up

By Sunday Williams

THE National Association of Nigerian Traders (NANTS) yesterday commended officials of the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) for the clean-up exercise at Utako International Market.

In a statement signed by NANTS President, Barrister Ken Ukaoha and made available to City News, the association said the need for a clean market environment is essential especially for the health of Nigerians living in the FCT, who buy consumables from the market.

Ukaoha said the reason for commending AMAC on the exercise is based on past experiences in markets like Garki Modern Market and Wuse Main Market, where the authorities did not involve people in decision making and policy considerations.

NANTS according to Ukaoha is however disturbed by a publication asking traders to evacuate their wares/goods while the market is closed for three months.

"We call on the AMAC chairman and the legitimate authority to spell out clearly the agreement between them and the market leaders so that the public will not be misguided or misinformed," the statement added.

...As AMAC begins work on Jikwoyi roads

By Romoke W. Ahmad

ABUJA Municipal Area Council (AMAC) yesterday began work on an abandoned road at Jikwoyi phase 2 that leads to other parts of the community.

The work which started with levelling and grading of the road, will also entail filling of potholes and damaged spots.

Supervisory Councillor of works, Williams B. Gade, said the council chairman has directed that work commences with levelling and filling of the road in the first stage to make the road motorable to residents.

He disclosed that the council has plans to reach out to other parts of the community as time goes on.

AMAC's Peoples Democratic Party Chairman, Mr. Bitrus Kura Tanko, a resident of the area, said people of the area have tried on several occasions to see if they can repair the road but to no avail, adding that the present construction work was AMAC's effort.

"The council chairman promised that proper work on the road will start between October and November this year when the rain must have subsided," he said.

Some of the residents expressed happiness at the road construction work.



PARTICIPANTS at a civil societies anti-corruption forum in Abuja Thursday.

Armed robbers devise tactics to attack victims

By Hussein Yahaya & Romoke W. Ahmad

ARMED robbers have devised new tactics to attack their victims, mostly females in Abuja.

One of their victims who was attacked last Wednesday at Wuse Zone 5 bus stop said while wait-

ing for a vehicle at about 6 pm, two persons armed with a knife and gun accosted her and threatened to shoot her if she raises an alarm.

The victim said she was rough-handled and robbed of N35,000, two handsets, recharge-cards valued at N25,000, digital cam-

era, a wallet and an ATM card, among other valuables.

She said the robbers inflicted an injury on one of her fingers, adding that after the incident, some security guards around the area went in search of the robbers but could not arrest them.

In another incident, a nurse

said she parked her car close to Berger Roundabout to answer a call, when a man entered her car's front seat, while another stood by the window.

"Before I could recover from the shock, the man inside the car showed me a gun and started removing my necklace,

wristwatch, earrings as well as money," she stated.

The nurse said the man ordered her to look down while the operation lasted and when leaving, warned that she will be wasted if she raises an alarm.

She said the operation took place during a downpour.



ABAJI Area Council Chairman, Alhaji Yahaya Musa Mohammed (centre) discussing with his press secretary during the special prayer session at Ajana in Abaji Saturday.

Izala group holds prayers for Abaji council boss

By Abubakar Yakubu

CLERICs from the national chapter of Jama'atu Izalatul Bidia Walkamatu Sunna Saturday organised a prayer session to thank God for the re-election of Alhaji Yahaya Musa Mohammed as chairman of Abaji council.

The event, which drew a large crowd that included federal legislators, had the FCT minister's representative in attendance.

Speaking at the event, Senator Bala Mohammed, who was represented by Alhaji Umaru Sanda, said the re-election of Alhaji Mohammed as Abaji Council chairman is a great testimony of the confidence people as well as residents of the area have in his ability to deliver democracy dividends to them.

He charged the council chairman to see his re-election as an act of God and concentrate on

service to humanity.

"I challenge you that while delivering democracy dividends, you have to carry the people along irrespective of their political or ideological leanings."

The minister also informed the council leader to put in his best and take leadership role in the provision of public goods as well as services.

He advised residents and politicians in the council not to put ran-

cor and bitterness into politics so that the FCT can be developed to an enviable level.

In his speech, the council chairman, Alhaji Mohammed, vowed to judiciously use resources given to him on people-oriented projects.

He said the revenue base of the council will be expended on projects which will include mega filling stations and meaningful business ventures to generate more revenue for the council.

Group begins move to reshape youths' behaviour

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A non-governmental group, Goodluck Youth Advancement Initiative, Thursday, said it has drawn out a road map to reshape the lives of youths positively.

Chief Daniel Akwari, national coordinator of the group, said the data base of all the youths in the country has been gotten from the National Population Commission, while plans are on to re-direct the efforts of the youths towards national growth as well as enlightening them to know their rights.

He disclosed further that they will be made to eschew violence, crime, election malpractices and groomed to think positively.

The group leader said 'Goodluck' was chosen so that the youths can see the country's president as their role model and follow his steps.

Weekly Frontiers debut in Abuja

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A weekly newspaper called Weekly Frontiers was on Thursday launched in Abuja.

Chairperson/Editor-in-Chief of the media outfit, Hajia Amina Suleiman, said the newspaper will serve as the eagle eye of the nation and will ensure that the credentials of politicians are x-rayed properly in order to ensure that crooks are not elected into public offices.

She also said the newspaper will liaise with civil society organisations within the country to expose corruption cases.

Also speaking, Editor of the paper, Malam Mohammed Khalid, a former national secretary of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, said the paper will be objective in its reporting and ensure journalism is practised in the best way.

'Beads making changed my life'

By Hussein Yahaya

A teenager, Hauwa Oni Bello, Saturday in Abuja advised jobless women to take to beads making, adding that it has changed her financial incomes positively.

The diploma in Economics graduate from Concept College in London revealed that she took

to beads making as a hobby and never regretted her decision as it pleases her to see African women wear them to enhance their beauty.

"The prices for beads range from N2,500 to N30,000, depending on the beads quality as coral types are more expensive," she said.

She said Nigerian women who stay aboard normally come down to Murg Plaza, Abuja to purchase large quantities of her products for sale.

"I also train widows and girls in order to empower them economically, while those who are comfortable financially register with N10,000 and get trained

within two weeks," she added.

The teenager also advised housewives and working class executives to devote time to beads making as they may need the training knowledge in future, adding that she is striving to become an economist cum journalist but will continue to make beads.

Mechanics accused of causing grievous hurt

By Usman A. Bello & Shenjobi O. Omotoyosi

TWO mechanics, Danjuma Usman and Peter Mustapha were last Friday charged before An Abuja magistrate court for allegedly injuring

one Hussein Paul of Mechanic village, Wuse Zone 3, Abuja.

The accused persons and one Taiwo Olugunde, who is at large, were arraigned on a two-count charge of joint act and causing grievous hurt, offences punishable

under Sections 79 and 247 of the Penal Code. Prosecutor Francis Tanko informed the court that on May 31, one Hussein Paul reported at Wuse Police Station that on May 28, the accused persons jointly beat him and broke one of his teeth.

When the charges were read to the accused persons, they pleaded not guilty and requested for bail, which was not objected by the prosecutor.

Magistrate Eisape Adebayo Grace granted the accused per-

sons bail in the sum of N50,000 each with two sureties each.

The magistrate ordered that the sureties must be civil servants who must reside within the court's jurisdiction and adjourned the case to July 14 for hearing.

Education secretariat to provide computers for 30 schools

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE FCT Secretary for Education, Alhaji Hussaini Halilu Pai, Saturday disclosed that 30 additional Junior Secondary Schools (JSS) in the FCT will be provided with computers.

He said provisions for the computers have been captured in this year's budget.

Pai, who was represented by his Technical Assistant, Alhaji Sani Halifu, made the disclosure during the ninth speech/prize giving ceremony of Government Girls Science Secondary School (GGSSS), Abaji.

The secretary noted that senior secondary schools in the FCT now have access to computer and said the education secretary provided computer sets for seven schools when the MDG funds were provided, which increased to 14 schools in 2008 and later 23 junior

secondary schools in 2009. The secretary, who was conferred with the "Father of Information Communication Technology (ITC) in FCT" award, noted that the investiture was timely.

Earlier in her address, Principal GSSS, Abaji, Hajiya Zainab Mohammed Ari, said the event was organised to reward hard work, excellence, character, good conduct, skills and talents in both students and staff of the school.

The principal commended the FCT Education Secretariat/ Secondary Education Board for their invaluable contributions to the academic wellbeing of the school in the last two years.

Highlight of the occasion were the presentation of eight different prizes to Adija Suleiman, of Senior Secondary (three) for being the best in mathematic, biology, chemistry, physics, agric and geography.



ADIJAT Suleiman receiving a prize as the best mathematics student of GGSSS Abaji, during the school's prize giving day ceremony on Saturday.

PIC: ABUBAKAR SADIQ ISAH

The Northern Consortium of U.K. Universities (NCUK)

in partnership with

ZAMANI COLLEGE KADUNA

invites applications from suitable candidates for the

NCUK International Foundation Year (IFY)

scheduled for September 2010.

The NCUK International Foundation Year (IFY) is a one-academic year, modular programme for **international students** wishing to enter one of the NCUK partner universities for an undergraduate course in September 2011.

NCUK 11 PARTNER UNIVERSITIES:

Bradford, Huddersfield, Leeds; Leeds Metropolitan, Liverpool, Liverpool John Moores, Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan, Salford, Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam.

Entry Requirements for the NCUK IFY at Zamani College:

- 6 SSCE credits at C5 and above
- Credits must include English and Mathematics (Provisional admission given on basis of assessment and SS1-3 records pending release of SSCE results.)

Candidates wishing to apply for the NCUK IFY should bring with them their SSCE results/SS1-3 reports.

Dates for Admission Assessment in English and Mathematics:

Thursday 15th July 2010
Thursday 29th July 2010
Thursday 2nd September 2010
Thursday 16th September 2010

at 9.00 a.m.

at Zamani College, 1 Waziri Maccido Road,
Off Isa Kaita Road, Malali, Kaduna.

For all enquiries, please contact:

Mrs J. Mohammed
Principal 0805 648 0340

or Mr O. Shingyu
Vice Principal 0802 917 0280

or Mrs I. To-Anadu
School Administrator 0703 568 2002

or info@zamanicollege.com

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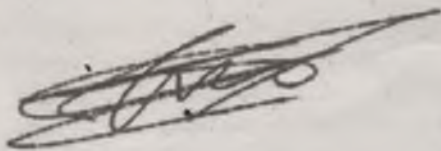
A CLARION CALL FROM NORTHERN CONSERVATIVES CONSULTATIVE FORUM (NCCF) TO THE CHIEF SERVANT .DR. MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU OON TALBAN MINNA, SODANGIN NUPE. THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF NIGER STATE AND CHAIRMAN NORTHERN GOVERNORS FORUM (NGF).

NORTHERN CONSERVATIVES CONSULTATIVE FORUM (NCCF) A SOCIO-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION FOUNDED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF TRANSPARENCY, ANTI-CORRUPTION, GOOD GOVERNANCE, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES, ELECTORAL WATCH AND TOTAL EMANCIPATION OF THE ACTIVE POOR FROM POVERTY AND LACK AFTER ITS 14TH CONSULTATIVE STAKEHOLDERS MEETING HELD AT ITS NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS PLOT 1085 JOSEPH GOMWALK STREET GUDU DISTRICT ABUJA, RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

THE CHIEF SERVANT, **DR MU' AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU OON TALBAN MINNA**, SODANGIN NUPE THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF NIGER STATE AND CHAIRMAN NORTHERN GOVERNORS FORUM, HAS EXHIBITED DEEP SENSE OF LEADERSHIP QUALITIES AND GOOD TRACK RECORDS AMONG OTHERS, IN THE AREAS OF URBAN AND RURAL INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION, HEALTH, AGRICULTURE, ROADS, WATER PROJECTS, CAPACITY BUILDING ETC.

IT IS PERTINENT FOR OUR ORGANIZATION, THE NORTHERN CONSERVATIVES CONSULTATIVE FORUM (NCCF) TO VOICE OUT THE CLARION CALL FOR THE CHIEF SERVANT AND THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF NIGER STATE, **DR MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU OON TALBAN MINNA**, SODANGIN NUPE TO CARRY ON WITH THESE NOBLE STRIDES COME 2011 BY ASKING HIM TO CONTEST FOR A SECOND TERM TENURE IN ORDER TO CONSOLIDATE THESE GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS.

WE WISH THE CHIEF SERVANT MORE GREASE TO HIS ELBOW. WE SALUTE THE GOOD PEOPLE OF NIGER STATE FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN THE QUEST FOR THE REALIZATION OF VISION 3-2020 AS CHAMPIONED BY THE CHIEF SERVANT ,THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF NIGER STATE AND CHAIRMAN NORTHERN GOVERNORS FORUM ,**DR MU' AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU OON TALBAN MINNA**,SODANGIN NUPE.



Dr. IBRAHIM BABA, mcvad, ffsd, fiics
NATIONAL CO-ORDINATOR (NCCF)
E: MAIL nccfnigeria@yahoo.com



CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA COMMUNIQUÉ No. 71 OF THE MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING, JULY 5, 2010

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) met on 5th July, 2010 to review domestic economic conditions during the first half of 2010 and the challenges facing the Nigerian economy against the backdrop of developments in the international economic and financial environments in order to reassess the options for monetary policy for the remainder of the year.

On the global scene, the Committee noted that market anxiety over the fiscal positions of several Euro Area countries was posing new challenges for the world economy even as global economic recovery remained fragile. In order to address the weak fiscal position, governments in these countries have started unwinding the fiscal stimuli by cutting government spending. Such cuts in public spending may have serious implications for growth and employment and may lead to a double dip recession with possible contagion effects on the global economy. If this were to happen, there may be an impact on global commodity prices, including prices of oil, with knock-on effects on the government's fiscal position and the foreign sector. However, recovery remained robust in most developing and developed countries, with the exception of high-income European countries where it stagnated. In this regard, the Committee commended the recent commitment of the G-20 Summit in Toronto, Canada, which agreed to safeguard and strengthen the recovery process to lay the foundation for strong, sustainable and balanced growth, as well as strengthen the financial systems against risks. The G-20 leaders of the world's major industrialized and emerging market economies welcomed measures so far taken to sustain global recovery and strengthen the financial systems, while agreeing to work together to curb public deficits, enhance economic growth and job creation as well as global prosperity. The Committee believes that the decision of the G-20 Summit would refocus and galvanize global strategies towards the recovery process.

On the domestic scene, the MPC observed that financial markets, though still fragile, have recovered faster than expected, urging greater efforts in accelerating reforms in the other sectors of the economy. This is critical for economic growth.

The MPC also noted the sustained rebound in commodity prices which is helping to support growth in commodity producing regions, including Nigeria. However, it underscored the need to diversify the economy to protect the country from the vagaries of oil price volatility. The Committee believes that the inflation risk of the rebound in energy prices appears mitigated by the continuing low levels of capacity utilization, weak private demand, good harvest, and well-anchored inflation expectations. In addition, as mentioned above, the European fiscal crisis and the recent slowdown in manufacturing output in China and other Asian countries may moderate the robustness of the markets.

Key Domestic Macroeconomic and Financial Developments

Output and Prices:

The Committee observed that the impressive output growth recorded in 2009 continued in 2010. Provisional data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) indicates that real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 7.23 per cent in the first quarter of 2010 up from 4.50 per cent recorded in the first quarter of 2009. GDP was projected to grow by 7.68, 7.76 and 8.13 per cent in the second, third and fourth quarters of 2010, respectively. Overall GDP growth for 2010 is projected at 7.74 per cent which is higher than the revised figure of 6.66 per cent recorded in 2009. The non-oil sector is expected to remain the main driver of overall growth, with agriculture, wholesale and retail trade, and services contributing 2.49, 2.03 and 2.11 per cent, respectively.

The Committee believes that the impressive growth forecasts reflected prospects for moderate rainfall in 2010, which is expected to support the production of major crops across the country, coupled with the current peace in the Niger-Delta, which has led to an increase in crude oil and natural gas production. It, however, cautioned that there is a thick cloud hanging over commodity producing countries because of the current crisis facing the Euro Area and emerging slowdown in manufacturing in major Asian countries and the US as indicated above. In addition, the Committee highlighted the binding constraints on the domestic economy namely, infrastructure inadequacy, lack of access to finance, lack of requisite skills, unfavourable trade policy and a poor investment climate all of which have the potential to constrain economic growth. The MPC, therefore, stressed the need for government to pursue macroeconomic, structural and institutional reforms that appear to have slowed down in the past few years.

The year-on-year headline inflation declined to 11.0 per cent in May 2010 from 12.5 per cent in April and 11.8 per cent in March. Similarly, core inflation fell to 8.8 per cent in May 2010 from 9.8 per cent in April and 9.5 per cent in March. The downward trend in the domestic price level could be attributed to a number of factors, including the continuing underperformance of monetary aggregates, with the associated constrained demand, adequate food supply, stable exchange rates and improvement in the availability of petroleum products, amongst others. Notwithstanding these developments, the MPC reiterated its earlier position on the threat of inflationary pressure arising from several factors including the announcement effect of salary increase in the civil service and the rising food prices against the backdrop of the famine in neighboring Niger Republic. The Committee restated its commitment to continue to monitor price developments with a view to taking appropriate measures to stem any inflationary threat and ensure that the downside risk of inflation to growth is minimized.

Monetary, Credit and Financial Market Developments:

Provisional data showed that relative to end-December 2009, broad money (M2) declined by 0.2 per cent in May 2010, which, when annualized represented a contraction of 0.48 per cent, compared with the indicative growth target of 29.26 per cent for 2010. Reserve money (RM), which stood at N1,668.50 billion at end-December 2009, declined to N1,516.55 billion at end-April and N1,534.79 billion at end-May 2010. As at June 23, 2010, the RM level of N1,618.02 billion was below the provisional 2010 second quarter indicative benchmark of N1,872.80 billion by 13.6 per cent.

Available data showed that in May 2010, aggregate domestic credit (net) grew by 12.38 per cent over the December 2009 level, and by 29.72 per cent when annualized, which was still below the 2010 indicative target of 55.54 per cent. Credit to government (net), which grew substantially by 50.87 per cent over end-December 2009 (or 122.1 per cent on annualized basis), was the major contributor. Credit to the private sector declined by 1.88 per cent (or 4.51 per cent on annualized basis), in contrast to the growth benchmark of 31.54 per cent for 2010. The substantial growth of credit to government (net) against the backdrop of declining private sector credit reflected the risk aversion of the DMBs to lending to non-government borrowers. The Committee believes that in order to provide the private sector with the necessary credit to grow the economy, further efforts are needed to unlock the credit market in order to enhance the flow of credit to the real economy.

The rates at the inter-bank segments of the money market were much higher than what obtained in the preceding period owing to the short-lived tight liquidity conditions in May 2010. Consequently, in May 2010, the average inter-bank call and Open-Buy-Back (OBB) rates rose significantly to 5.97 and 4.92 per cent, respectively, representing increases of 470 and 381 basis points above the 1.27 and 1.11 per cent recorded in the preceding month. In line with the increase in rates at the inter-bank call and OBB segments, the 7- and 30- day NIBOR rates increased by 397 and 311 basis points to 6.43 and 8.24 per cent, respectively, from 2.46 and 5.13 per cent in April. However, with the release of statutory revenue in the last week of May, the banking system became liquid. As a result, the average inter-bank call and OBB rates declined from 7.71 and 7.07 per cent, respectively on May 25, 2010 to 1.17 and 1.10 per cent on June 1, 2010. Thereafter, rates remained stable and low, hovering around an average of 1.20 per cent. Developments in interest rates structure indicated that the retail lending rates were still relatively high even though they were declining. The average maximum lending rate dropped to 22.56 per cent in May 2010, from 23.45 per cent in December, 2009. Also, the average prime lending rate dropped to 18.77 per cent in May 2010, from 19.03 per cent in December 2009.

Similarly, the weighted average savings rate dropped marginally to 2.92 per cent in May 2010 from 3.36 per cent in December 2009. The consolidated deposit rates declined to 3.30 per cent in May 2010 from 6.13 per cent in December 2009. Thus, the spread between the average maximum lending rate and the consolidated deposit rate widened to 19.27 per cent in May 2010 from 17.34 per cent in December, 2009. The Committee noted that the key policy challenges remained the negative growth in money supply and private sector credit as well as the subsisting high lending rates in the face of declining inter-bank rates.

The Nigerian capital market is still showing some signs of recovery. The All-Share Index (ASI) increased from 20,827.17 at end-December 2009 to 25,554.35 as at 23rd June, 2010, or by 20.70 per cent. Market capitalization (MC)—equities only, increased by 24.9 per cent from N4.98 trillion to N6.28 trillion over the same period. The number of deals, volume and value of shares traded increased by 16.34, 19.23 and 100.00 per cent, respectively. The increase in ASI and MC was principally due to share price increases in the Banking, Food & Beverage and Oil/Gas sectors. The Committee welcomed the continuing improvement in the stock market, and noted the potentials for further recovery given the passage of the harmonized Asset Management Corporation (AMCON) Bill by both chambers of the National Assembly.

External Sector Developments:

The foreign exchange market remained relatively stable in the first half the year. During the period-January 01 - June 16, 2010, total sales at 45 bi-weekly WDAS auctions amounted to US\$11,155.10 million, equivalent to an average of US\$247.89 million per auction. In the corresponding period of 2009, the sum of US\$12,995.48 million was sold at 70 daily and bi-weekly RDAS auctions, equivalent to an average of US\$185.65 million per auction.

In May 2010, the average foreign exchange demand of US\$459.26 million per auction was recorded against the average sales of US\$394.45 million, representing sales as a percentage of demand of 85.89. As at June 23, 2010 average demand for the month dropped to US\$315.73 million and, correspondingly, the average sales also declined, to US\$297.69 million, representing sales as a percentage of demand of 94.29

In June 2010, the WDAS rate opened at N150.27/US\$1 (inclusive of 1% commission) and closed at N150.09/US\$1, at an average exchange rate of N150.24/US\$1 for the month. This represented an appreciation of 6 kobo (0.04 per cent) compared with the average closing rate of N150.30/US\$1 recorded in May 2010. The BDC segment of the market recorded average selling rates of N153.26/US\$1 and N153.86/US\$1 in the months of May and June 2010 respectively, representing a depreciation of 0.4 per cent.

At the inter-bank market, the average selling rates for May and June 2010 were N151.48/US\$ and N151.35 respectively, representing a 0.09 per cent appreciation. The WDAS and interbank segments of the foreign exchange market witnessed mild naira exchange rate appreciation while the BDC segment experienced mild depreciation. Thus, the stability of the naira exchange rate attained in the foreign exchange market since the first half of 2009 continued in the first half of 2010. The Committee observed that the naira exchange rate has remained stable in all segments of the market during the review period, reflecting increased confidence in the Naira and the efficacy of the current exchange rate policy stance. It believes that the relative stability in the foreign exchange market is likely to be sustained in the near term. The Committee will, however, continue to monitor developments in the market to ensure that measures are taken to eliminate speculative demand and volatility in the market.

The Gross external reserves stood at US\$37.63 billion on 23rd June, 2010 representing a decrease of US\$1.19 billion or 3.06 per cent when compared with the level of US\$38.82 billion as at 31st May 2010. The Committee, however, noted that the current external reserves level is still adequate as it would finance 16 months of import, compared to the internationally recommended benchmark of 3 months of import cover for a country's external reserves.

The Committee's Considerations

Against the backdrop of the foregoing, the MPC noted with satisfaction the continued macroeconomic stability. It, however, stressed the need to grow the real sector on a sustainable basis. It also reiterated the possible inflation risks highlighted at the last MPC meeting, in the light of the anticipated budget deficit and the operationalisation of the proposed Asset Management Corporation. However, monetary aggregates are still underperforming and the Asset Management Corporation is yet to take-off. On balance, therefore, the inflation threat remained subdued in the short to medium term. In addition, some of the approved quantitative easing measures are yet to be completely implemented. The Committee, therefore, considered it appropriate to continue to monitor developments with a view to intervening as the need arises.

Decisions

In the light of the above, the Committee decided that:

1. No changes are made to the current policy stance viz: the MPR should remain unchanged at 6.0 per cent; and
2. The asymmetric corridor of 200 basis points above and 500 basis points below the MPR, respectively, are to be retained.

Sanusi Lamido Sanusi

Governor,
Central Bank of Nigeria
Abuja
July 5, 2010

ATIKU AND ADAMAWA PDP: FACTS OF THE MATTER (1)

- Atiku willingly left PDP
- Registered his Action Congress (AC) Party for the purpose of contesting under the platform.
- PDP won presidential elections and governorship in 23 states
- Atiku took Adamawa PDP to court seeking nullification.
- Jos High Court nullified PDP results in Adamawa and ordered fresh election.
- Adamawa People voted back PDP massively (won 224 out of 226 electoral wards).
- Atiku took National PDP to Court seeking for nullification of Yar'Adua/Jonathan elections.
- Court finally ruled in favour of Yar'Adua/Jonathan (PDP)
- President Yar'Adua died on May 5, 2010.
- Atiku begun onslaught same week to return to PDP despite these abominable attacks on PDP, its members and supporters.

MORE REVELATIONS IN OUR NEXT PUBLICATION

Signed:

Forum of Adamawa PDP supporters

Musa Maigari
(Chairman)

Paul Nimfas Guki
(Secretary)



BORNO STATE GOVERNMENT

GOVERNOR ALI MODU SHERIFF WELCOMES PROFESSOR DORA AKUNYILI AND THE REBRANDING NIGERIA CAMPAIGN TEAM TO BORNO STATE



Professor Dora Akunyili
Honourable Minister of Information
and Communications.



His Excellency
Senator (Dr.) Ali Modu Sheriff
The Executive Governor of Borno State

The Honourable Minister of Information and Communications, Professor Dora Akunyili and members of the Rebranding Nigeria Campaign Team would visit Borno State in continuation of the nationwide Rebranding Nigeria Campaign. The event is scheduled to hold in Maiduguri on Thursday, 8th of July, 2010. The Team will hold an interactive meeting with Borno Elders, Clubs and Associations, Youth and Women groups, Politicians, Journalists and other stakeholders. As part of the activities of the Hon. Minister and her entourage in Maiduguri, they will visit the University of Maiduguri to also launch the Rebranding Nigeria Campaign on the campus on Thursday, 8th July, 2010 at 4.00pm at the El-Kanemi Hall. The Team will visit Government Girls College Maiduguri on Friday, 9th July 2010 at 9.00am to address the students as part of the Rebranding Nigeria Campaign and would thereafter depart to Biu to commission the new NTA Biu at 11.00 am.

On behalf of the Government and people of Borno State, the Executive Governor, His Excellency Senator (Dr.) Ali Modu Sheriff heartily welcomes the Hon. Minister of Information and Communications, Professor Dora Akunyili and other distinguished members of the Rebranding Nigeria Campaign Team to Borno State, the Home of Peace and Hospitality. The good people of Borno share the vision and wisdom of Rebranding Nigeria, which is giving our country a more positive image and making it to take its rightful place in the comity of nations. This is a collective responsibility, which should be supported by all. Borno supports Rebranding Nigeria!!!

Barr. Isa Sanda Benisheikh
Hon. Commissioner of Home Affairs, Information and Culture
ANNOUNCER



SPORT

Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire,
seven others for Africa
athletics championship

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Iorfa, Yusuf applaud Jonathan's reversed decision

By Orkula Shaagee

FORMER Super Eagles attacker and current member of the Nigeria Football Federation Dominic Iorfa and former Secretary General in the Nigeria Football Association Tijani Yusuf yesterday praised President Goodluck Jonathan for listening to the demands of Nigerians by rescinding the decision to stop the country's national football teams from participating in international football events in the next two years.

President Jonathan last Wednesday disbanded Super Eagles and directed that Nigeria withdraws from all international football competitions for the next two years to enable the country reorganise its football administration following the dismal performance of the Super Eagles at the ongoing World Cup in South Africa.

Jonathan also directed that audit be undertaken of the finances of the World Cup project and that any perceived misapplication of fund should be investigated in order to bring whoever found culpable to book.

His decision followed Nigeria's failure to advance to the second round of South Africa 2010 World Cup, having lost to Argentina and Greece, and a draw against South Korea in Group B of the global soccer event.

In a telephone interview with Trustsports, Iorfa, who is also the Vice Chairman of the NFF Technical Committee, said he was happy for the President's gesture that would afford the Nigerian youths the opportunity to showcase their talents in the round leather game.

Iorfa, who also attended the meeting where the decision to lift



LUKMAN Haruna of Nigeria is challenged by Konstantinos Katsouranis of Greece when the two countries met in Group B of the South Africa 2010 World Cup. He has another opportunity to play for Nigeria.

the two year ban on international football was taken, said the Federation would re-organise itself to post better results in future competitions.

"It was a fruitful meeting and we are all happy because it would

afford the country the opportunity to right the wrongs and allow the youths of this country to showcase their football talents", Iorfa stated.

Also in a telephone interview yesterday, former Secretary Gen-

eral in the NFA Dr. Tijani Yusuf, who commended President Goodluck Jonathan for reversing the decision, said the decision was a good one because it would enable the country put its house in order and remains part of the

world football family.

"It is a good decision, and it will enable the country put its house in order and escape the impending sledge hammer from the world football ruling body, FIFA", Yusuf stated.

Youths demonstrate against NFF Board

By Orkula Shaagee

ANGRY youths yesterday stormed the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) Glass House secretariat in Abuja, demanding the probe of board members and the scrutiny of the Federation's financial books.

The youths also threw their weight behind the decision of President Goodluck Jonathan to disband the Super Eagles and probe

spending in the Nigeria Football Federation secretariat.

They requested that the board members should not only be sacked from office but be made to render account of their stewardship in office.

They also called on President Jonathan to extend the same treatment to the leadership of other sporting federations in the country in order to place them on the

path of growth.

The youths carried placards with various inscriptions also marched to the National Sports Commission (NSC) to make the same demand.

Some of the placards read "Arrest Ogunjobi", "Mr. President please extend this to other sports" and "FIFA go to hell".

The Spokesman for the group, Segun Adekoya maintained that

they were protesting in order to call the attention of all Nigerians to the sorry state of the Nigerian football.

According to him, the NFF board sat back over the years and contributed nothing to bring back Nigeria's lost glory in football, in spite of the huge funds pumped into the round leather game in Nigeria.

He said "They have been sitting down here doing nothing. They

should go and allow people with the right capabilities revive our football. We are in full support of the President's decision.

"We should close up and develop our own football, so that when we come back we will be where we are supposed to be. Ghana did it and today they are doing well, we should not allow anybody to tell us what to do," he stated.

Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, seven others for Africa athletics championship

By Orkula Shaagee

NINE countries in the West African sub-region, including Ghana and Cote D'Ivoire have sent in entries for the African Region Two Athletics Championships slated for Makurdi this weekend.

According to the Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN) Technical Director Sunday Bada, the nine countries that have sent in their entries are Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Senegal, Togo, Liberia, Benin Republic, the Gambia, Mali and hosts Nigeria.

"We are encouraged by the number of entries we have received from countries in the African Region Two so far. I am sure that figure may jump by the close of entries tomorrow," observed the former 400m World Cup winner.

While expressing AFN's gratitude to Gov Gabriel Suswam of Benue state for his magnanimity in the hosting of the sub-regional athletics event, Bada listed events to compete for glories to include all track and field.

"Apart from Steeple Chase and Marathon, all the countries coming to Makurdi are going to compete in all the events. So I expect stiff competition starting on Friday at the Aper Aku Stadium," he noted.



Nigerian athletes at a training session at the National Stadium Abuja

Already, Thursday has been scheduled as arrival date for teams and officials in Makurdi while competition proper begins on Friday.

Nigeria finished second behind Senegal at the last edition

in Port Novo, Benin Republic barely days of the Solomon Ogba administration came into office. Unlike the present team that has been in camp in Oghara, the Nigerian squad to the Port Novo event was picked based on their previ-

ous performance at the National Sports Festival in Kaduna. The athletes had just few days to train at the Liberty Stadium camp in Ibadan before leaving for Benin and still were able to finish a close second place.

Lagos wins first female national cricket championship

By Adeolu Johnson, Lagos

THE Lagos Cricket team on Sunday made history by winning the maiden edition of the female national championship held at the Tafawa Balewa Cricket oval, Race Course. They defeated the Imo state cricket team by 10 wickets.

The Lagos girls scored 104 runs in 15 overs for the loss of 9 wickets, with Ayoka Hannah scoring the highest runs of 9 for Lagos. In all Lagos scored only 22 runs and with 82 extras gained from the poor bowling of the Imo girls.

Imo state scored 55 runs in the second innings in 11.5 overs. Ashafa Modupe of

Lagos took 3 wickets in 2 overs, Ekaete Etim picked 3 wickets, Ayannike took one wicket, Ezeugo Joy, Uwajobi Akuka also took one wickets respectively.

Speaking after the competition, the Lagos State Cricket Chairman, Mr. George

Wiltshire said the victory was historic to his girls because this was the first time a female championship took place.

He promised to take the girls to the Chairman Lagos State Sports Council, Mr. Agbola Dabiri for a

decent reception just as he urged them not to rest on their oars.

The Coach of the Imo team, Tony Ajaelu blamed the defeat on the short notice given to his team disclosing that the girls were just assembled together with only two weeks to the competition.

He also blamed the defeat on the Kings College ground which he claimed was not a standard cricket pitch.

"If we had played at the Tafawa Balewa Square Cricket oval, the result would have been different," Most of my girls started bowling for the first time at this competition but we shall show our stuff when next we meet," he said.

The Technical Director of the Nigeria Cricket Federation (NCF), Mr. Okon Upong congratulated the players and said sky would be their limit if they continue with the way they played.

"This tournament will form a catalyst through which we will invite players to camp for a regional championship later on in the year in Kenya," he said.

"We shall engage the players by making them to play our Under 14 and 16 male teams to sharpen their skills," he added



Ahmed Musa vies for the ball against a Guinea player during the last African Nations Championship in Abeokuta

Immigrants helping Germany team, says minister

IMMIGRANTS have helped give Germany a strong team at the World Cup, the country's Sport Minister Thomas de Maiziere said in a radio interview yesterday.

He said the large number of players of foreign origin in the side was an indication of improving integration in a country of 82 million with a foreign population of about seven million.

"It's tremendous progress, 11 of the 23 Germany players are from immigrant families," de Maiziere, who is also the Interior Minister, told Deutschlandfunk radio.

"They've worked hard, delivered a great performance. They wanted to become German citizens and they've done that without turning their backs on their home countries," he added. "We've accepted that and they're loved as much as anyone else."

"It's a successful example of integration, a role model for our country."

The families of Miroslav Klose and Lukas Podolski came from Poland, Mesut Ozil is of Turkish descent, Sami Khedira's father is from Tunisia, Jerome Boateng's father is Ghanaian and Mario Gomez was born to a Spanish father and German mother.

Guest workers have been coming to Germany for decades but until recently few children of foreigners played for Germany. Before the citizenship law was reformed in 1999, conservative governments had said Germany was not a country of immigrants.

"This soccer team is a successful example of integration," added de Maiziere. "Those who work hard will be accepted and those who have faith (in Germany) will have opportunities."

The national team has been opening itself up since the 1998 World Cup when many in Germany hailed the ethnic diversity of the French side that won the trophy after an all-white German team lost 3-0 to Croatia in the quarter-finals.

Musa sets new league goals record

AHMED Musa has set a new League goal scoring record after scoring in Kano Pillars' 1-1 draw against Lobi Stars on Saturday at the Aper Aku Stadium in Makurdi.

Musa had been tied on 17 goals with Eugene Salami, the same number of goals scored by Ishaya Jatau when he set the record in 1990 and equalled by Akwa United striker Akarandut Orok last season.

The Pillars striker found the back of the net after just ten minutes of the fixture to set the new mark and said afterwards that it was mission accomplished.

"I am so happy that I finally achieved my aim of setting a new record of scoring 18 goals. Now the team must do its best to beat Enyimba in the last of the season to win the Premier League title," he told the NPL website.

THE TUESDAY COLUMN

Sanusi Abubakar

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Getting the banks to start lending again

From all indications, bank lending to the real sector, insufficient as it was, became even more difficult following the CBN intervened last year to prevent a systemic collapse. After sacking the management of eight of the country's 24 banks, it pumped some 620 billion naira to stem the rot. Lending should have picked up by now, but it hasn't.

Why did lending dry up? There are several explanations for this. One reason given was simply that many of the banks do not have the funds to lend, which explains CBN recent pumping of additional billions into the economy to assist large farmers, textiles manufacturers, aviation industry operators and others. With almost a trillion available to borrow things should be easing up. But are they doing so fast enough? There are indications that some of these banks are already busy using such funds to refinance their exposure rather than lending to new industries or expanding existing ones.

I share an office with a financial consultant who is good at what he does. Being a former banker he does a terrific job of packaging project proposals for his clients, and tries to get them bank loans, only to come up against the usual reluctance of the bank head offices to give the go ahead. This leads us to a second reason for the reluctance to lend: manpower problem. Most of the banks have recruited people over the last few years with one skill in mind; to bring in deposits. Now the skills requirements have changed. No longer do they focus on feminine physical attributes and skills. Currently, what is important is the ability to assess risks, and this has not been taught to the new recruits. The banks have to seriously re-train their staff and re-focus their whole operations. This takes time. However, in the short-

run, another problem seem to have reared its head; lack of trust. Why? Well, look at it this way, for years the decision makers have sat at the regional offices or head offices, approving proposals from the line managers, based on trust. Then, when the shit hit the fan and everyone got into serious trouble because those at the branch levels, who were supposed to have carried out due diligence on the loans and even on the moral, managerial and business pedigree (credit history, reliability etc) of the prospective borrowers, did not do their jobs well or did not have the competences for the jobs. Now all proposals originating from the branches are treated with suspicion by the approving officers. You messed up before, so why should I trust you now if you write a glowing recommendation on a customer or his project? This seems to be what has gripped the banks and is also contributing to a reduction in lending.

In addition to these technical and management shortcomings there is also the fact that government has been borrowing heavily from the system. For example, only this June, the Government sold N132 billion in treasury bills and about \$500 million at its bi-weekly foreign exchange auction, leaving the banks and other lenders with much less liquidity. Also, the NNPC recently sold about \$440 million in two tranches on the interbank market. All these compete with, and edge out, private borrowings and add to the scarcity of funds.

The good news is that with last month passing of the Assets Management Company Bill by the Senate (and,

hopefully early assent of President Goodluck Jonathan) the ground is set for setting up the AMC as a state-owned company that will buy the crippling debts of our struggling banks, clearing some \$10 billion of toxic debt from the system, at half that amount, which should energise the banks and get them lending again.

Linked to this is the effort to sell some of the banks to foreign technical partners who may bring the much needed expertise and training. Trouble with that option is the question of understanding the terrain. Would these banks start asking local farmers or traders to bring audited accounts, corporate profiles and credit history? We may have to work harder towards evolving our own lending policies.

There are those who think some banks just don't want to lend, especially to borrowers from Lamido Sanusi's section of the country as part of pressure to get even "his own people" to turn against him and thus ensure his early exit.

Personally, I think the systemic, managerial and historical reasons outline above are more germane to our understanding the reluctance to lend, and such lending will most likely pick up before the end of this quarter.

That extension for Unity and Wema banks

I quite expected the deadline given to Wema and Unity banks to inject additional capital into their system to be extended by the CBN. My reason was simple. They (the banks) were making serious efforts to meet the target but it was clear they could not achieve them fast enough. Not many investors have appetite for Nigerian banking stocks at present. I was not surprised that they got an extension. After all, I am one of those who still believe the inflexible target date given to banks by OBJ and Soludo, to

come up with N25 billion or close shop, was politically motivated and vindictive. So it was a relief to see regulators being more flexible and more realistic. Sure, some will give any extension a sectional interpretation, but so what?

....and still on football

Last week, I forgot to mention Africa's real trophy for which we should all be proud. Our brothers and sisters in South Africa have made us walk taller by showing the world that Africa can host a global event. South Africa's real achievement is in this fantastic organization effort. To that extent Shakira is right; it's Time for Africa. Well done brothers. We can even forgive your annoying craze for Vuvuzelas!

And while we are on this subject please let all of us tell Oga Goodluck to cool it. The issues go beyond emotional outbursts (for that was what we got recently from Aso Rock). If we ban our players from international matches where do we expect them to get the international exposure, experience and training? Sure we can refuse to give the cabal controlling our football the funds we usually throw their way, since it is public money and not FIFA largess. We must make sure we replace them with more serious, committed people. The NFF has kicked out Sani Lulu, that's a start. But what of the others, the age cheats, and all those who prey on our people's love for football? We should use pressure and all our resources to reform the NFF, on that we must remain united against FIFA's support for the corrupt and bungling officials messing up our football.

“You messed up before, so why should I trust you now if you write a glowing recommendation on a customer or his project?”

SPORTS REPORT



PENG Shuai

Peng reaches second round at Budapest GP

Fifth-seeded Peng Shuai of China defeated Silvia Njiric of Croatia in straight sets in the first round of the Budapest Grand Prix women's tennis tournament yesterday.

Peng won five straight games after one-all to take the first set 6-1. In the second set, Njiric, a wild-card entry, put up more resistance. Following three service

breaks, the 44th-ranked Chinese player, won her own serve to take a 3-1 lead, closing out the second set 6-3.

"In the first set I was playing well, which was good as this is my first match after my illness that forced me to skip the French Open as well as Wimbledon," Peng said, who had appendicitis in February and later dealt with stomach illnesses.



SYLVAIN Chavanel

Chavanel wins Tour de France second stage

Lance Armstrong and dozens of other Tour de France riders were caught up in a series of crashes Monday during a rain-splattered second stage won by new race leader Sylvain Chavanel of France.

In one of the spills, Armstrong and defending Tour champion Alberto Contador of Spain tumbled to the asphalt on a slippery descent from the mid-grade Stockeu Pass toward the end of the 201-kilometer run from Brussels to Spa. Both sustained scrapes but finished the stage and were OK, their teams said.

Armstrong returned to the RadioShack team bus with his team outfit torn and a bloody scrape on his thigh. Many riders believed a mixture of motor oil and water on the roads was to blame.