

# DAILY TRUST

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TRUST IS A BURDEN

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## Federal workers suspend strike action

By Francis Okeke

THE planned 5-day warning strike by federal Government workers to press their demand for higher pay, scheduled to start this morning, was called off at the last minute last night after an emergency meeting between top govern-

ment officials and leaders of the Joint Public Service Negotiating Council.

The communiqué issued at the end of the meeting, signed by Head of the Civil Service of the Federation Stephen Oronsaye and the workers' acting chairman Comrade Olakunle Olaitan, said a Negotiating Team should be inaugurated on Thursday,

May 6. It said all issues in dispute between the two parties should be negotiated and the negotiation should be concluded within two weeks. The communiqué also said they noted the appeal by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to labour leaders at the May Day celebrations last Saturday. **Continued on page 5**

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### Business

The National Boundary Commission plans to increase Nigeria's Exclusive Economic Zone by 150 nautical miles **31**

# Guards Battalion moved to Jaji

By Shehu Abubakar & Abdulrahman Abubakar

THE 4 Guards Battalion of the Nigeria Army responsible for the protection of the President in Abuja has been transferred to Jaji in Kaduna State and has exchanged places with the 7

Demo Battalion previously located there, *Daily Trust* learnt in Abuja yesterday. All the officers and soldiers of the battalion have been ordered to leave the Lingui Barracks at Asokoro, Abuja latest by May 24.

The 4 Guards Battalion is one of the three bat-

talions that make up the Guards Brigade, whose headquarters is based in Keffi, Nasarawa State. A soldier who requested for anonymity told *Daily Trust* that the Commander ordered the Sergeant Major to blow the *begla* (bugle), and when all the soldiers

hastily assembled at the parade ground, they were told that they were moving out to Jaji. Trucks soon arrived and began evacuating them.

When *Daily Trust* visited Lingui Barracks that used to accommodate the battalion's officers and

men, only a few of them were seen moving about the barracks.

A soldier said, "Those of us you are seeing here are the last batch to be evacuated on May 24. The way they ordered us to leave Abuja has never been **Continued on page 5**



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PHOTO: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

FLOODING along the Obafemi Awolowo Expressway, Jaji, Abuja as a result of heavy downpour yesterday.

# Car explodes near Bayelsa dep gov's home

From Mohammed Bello, Port Harcourt, with agency report

A car exploded in the Bayelsa State capital Yenagoa late Sunday close to a guest house owned by the Bayelsa State Deputy Governor Peremobowei Ebebi, a government official said yesterday.

Police and anti-bomb squad officers sealed off the area around the building, according to the official. It was not immediately clear what caused the explosion and

there was no claim of responsibility. There were no reports of casualties, the official told newsmen.

Tension has been high for months in Bayelsa state due to political rivalry between Governor Timipre Sylva and Ebebi, whose supporters would like to remove Sylva from office. The blast came a month and a half after two car bombs were detonated outside a government building in neighbouring Delta State where talks were being held

about implementing an amnesty programme for militants.

Those attacks were claimed by the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND). The deputy governor's press secretary, Mr Charles Tambou, acknowledged that there was an explosion but said it was far away from his boss's complex. "There is no connection between the explosion and the deputy governor. The explosion occurred more than one and half a kilometer away

from the hotel", Mr Tambou explained.

There was no response from the police when they were contacted.

Similarly, the spokesperson of the Joint (Military) Task Force (JTF) in the Niger Delta, Col Timothy Antigha could not comment on the issue as he said he was out of Yenagoa when our correspondent called him. He said he did not know anything about the blast.

## ...Govt. blames detractors

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

THE Bayelsa State government has said that detractors of Governor Timipre Sylva may be behind Sunday's explosion in Yenagoa. The governor's spokesperson, Doifio Ola, in a text message to our

correspondent said, "Government has received reports that some politicians opposed to the Sylva administration have perfected plans to cause havoc in the state". Ola added, "While we await the outcome of police investigation into the incident, we call on Bayelsans to be extra vigilant and report all

suspicious activities to security agents. There has been a disguised running battle between rival political groups in the state for more than three years. Recently, some officials of the state government were arrested by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on charges of corruption".

## Kwara to demolish buildings for water

TEN residential buildings obstructing water mains in Ilorin metropolis would be demolished, the Kwara State Commissioner for Works, Dr Abubakar Kanneke, said yesterday. Kanneke, who is also the Chairman of the Inter-ministerial Committee set up to fast track the delivery of water infrastructure in the state capital, disclosed this in an interview with newsmen in Ilorin.

HE said the location of the buildings had hindered the speedy construction of the water mains. He gave assurance that compensation would be paid to owners of property that might be affected by the ongoing construction work.

He therefore urged them to cooperate with the contractor as exercise was in the interest of all. The commissioner advised property owners to adhere to the specified rules when building along the highways. (NAN)

Compensation will be paid to owners of property that might be affected



TRADERS on their way to the market in Otukpo, Benue State, yesterday.

PIC: NAN

## Police foil attempt to kidnap woman

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

THE police in Rivers State yesterday foiled a kidnap attempt and successfully saved a Ghanaian woman identified as Mrs. Milicent Texas, who was abducted by unknown gunmen.

Police spokesperson, Rita Inoma Abbey, said a police team frustrated the attempt of the kidnappers who abandoned their get away car and their victim married to a Nigerian.

In a related development, a police Inspector, William Ezeogu, sustained severe bullet injuries yesterday around Elingbu part of Rivers State during a fierce gun battle with fleeing kidnappers being chased by the police. The kidnappers, according to a police statement, fled with an AK-47 rifle of the wounded cop, leaving him in agony.

The police spokesperson said they got a distress call that one Mrs. Rita Oparocha of the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing in the state capital had been kidnapped around Rumuokuta Girls Secondary school by four heavily armed men while driving into her compound.

Immediately, it deployed a patrol van to block a likely escape route for the kidnapper. In the ensuing exchange of fire that followed she said the patrol van went up in flames owing to shots from the fleeing kidnappers. Two civilians she said were also hit by stray bullets.

## Adamawa trains farmers in commercial farming

AS the rainy season sets in, the Adamawa State government has commenced the training of rural farmers' groups and extension officers on commercial farming.

Malam Usman Pallam, the Director, Planning in the state Ministry of Agriculture, disclosed this to newsmen in Mubi, one of the five training centres. Pallam said the training was part of measures to transform agricultural practice in the state.

"The present administration initiated this programme to change the present system of agriculture in the state which is subsistence to commercial. We are trying to do that by building the capacity of our farmers by imparting knowledge and skills in farming. Each participant will establish a quarter of a hectare with which he will teach other farmers in his locality. Fertiliser and other necessary farm inputs would be provided. We want them to produce at a profit. We want to make agriculture a big business in Adamawa State," the director said.

He said the state government was collaborating with an NGO, Sasakawa Global 2000, in executing the programme. A participant, Malam Abdulkarim Dapchi, commended the government for the programme. He said it would make farming a lucrative business and facilitate the nation's desire toward achieving food security. (NAN)

## NUJ protests killing of journalists

From Mohammed Shosanya & Benjamin Auta, Lagos

Members of the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) yesterday took to the streets of Lagos to protest the frequent killing of journalists in the country.

President of the NUJ Alhaji Mohammed Garba who led the peaceful march from the Ladi Lawal Press Centre to the Lagos State Police Command and the Lagos State Government House

in Marina, bemoaned the growing spate of killing of journalists in the country and implored Acting President Dr. Goodluck Jonathan and the Nigeria Police to bring the killers to book.

He was accompanied on the protest march by the Chairman, NUJ Lagos Council Mr. Wahab Oba, Chairman and National Secretary-General, Mr. Liman Shuiab among others. The protest caused a traffic hold-up on major roads like Billings Way in Alausa and

Kodeso Street in Ikeja Central.

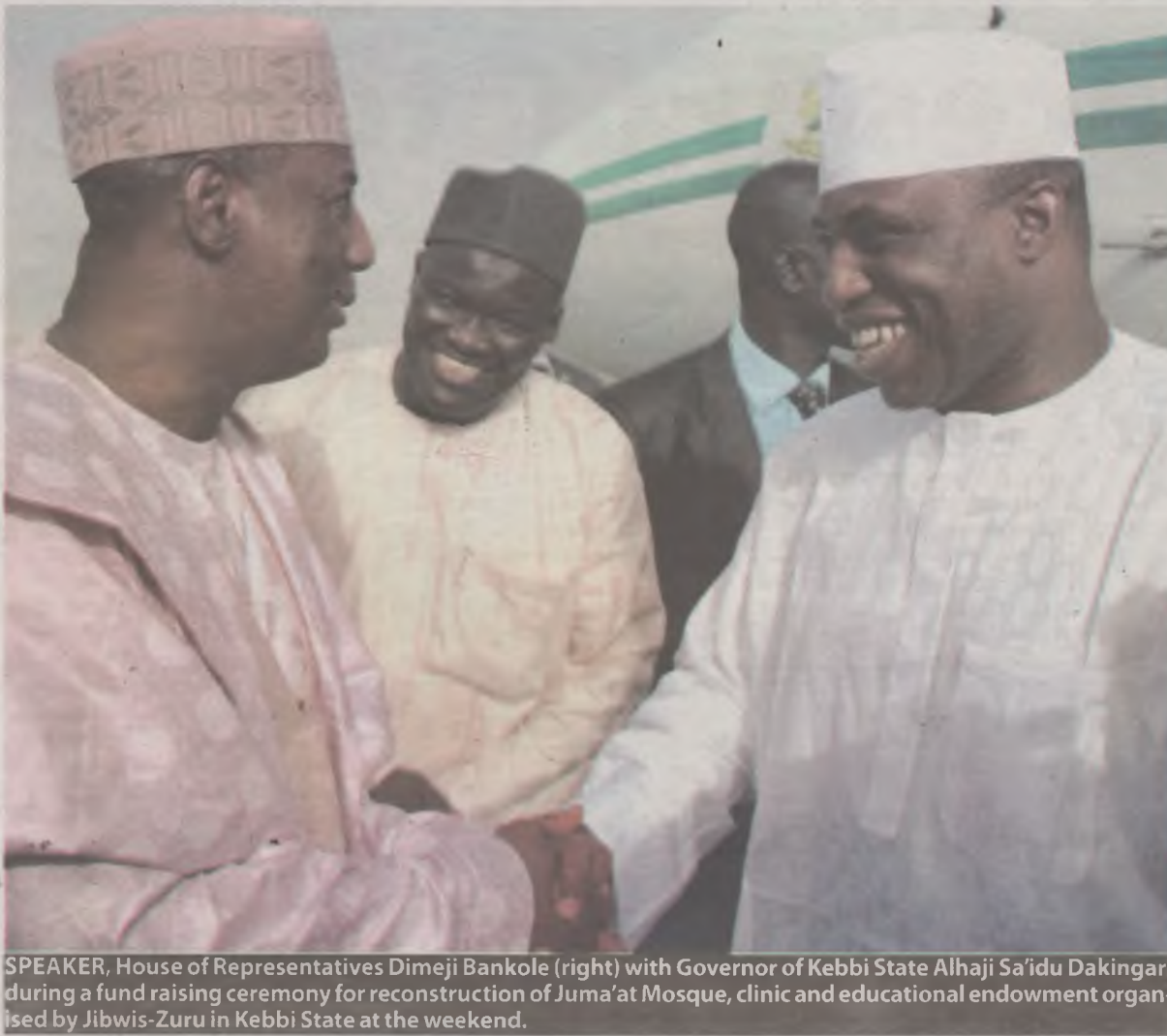
Dressed in back T-shirts and trousers, the journalists marched peacefully, holding placards of various inscriptions and singing dirges in honour of their fallen colleagues.

Some of the inscription on their placards read, "Journalists are no longer safe in Nigeria. Killers of our colleagues will not go unpunished. Enough is enough: stop the killing. God, protect us from the wicked enemies of the pen profes-

sion. Several years after, killers of Dele Giwa, Bagauda Kaltho, Abayomi Ogundeji, Godwin Agboroko, Omololu Falobi and Bayo Ohu are yet to be found.

At the Lagos State Police Command, Garba carpeted the Nigeria Police for their failure to disclose those behind all unresolved deaths in the country.

He said the development continued because none of the killers had been found since 1986 when Dele Giwa was killed.



SPEAKER, House of Representatives Dimeji Bankole (right) with Governor of Kebbi State Alhaji Sa'idu Dakingari during a fund raising ceremony for reconstruction of Juma'at Mosque, clinic and educational endowment organised by Jibwis-Zuru in Kebbi State at the weekend.

## ICPC arraigns Ogbulafor, others today

By Adelanwa Bamgboye

THE embattled National Chairman of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Prince Vincent Ogbulafor and four others will today appear before a Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High court to face corruption charges.

Others are former Secretary/Member of the National Economic Intelligence Committee (NEIC), Emeka Ebi-olah; former Director, Budget Implementation, Federal Ministry of Finance, Emmanuel Bosah; Henry Ikoh and Jude Nwokoro.

The case was filed by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) before Justice Ishak Bello of the FCT High Court, Abuja.

They were alleged to have used Henrichiko Nig. Ltd, DHL Consultants and Chekwes Industries, to siphon N82.6m, N11.5m and N6.2m respectively, in 2001.

The PDP chairman was alleged to have used his position as the head of NEIC, set-up to verify debts owed local contractors, to okay several forged documents as genuine.

It was also alleged that Ogbulafor, while in office as the Minister of State for Special Duties in 2001, connived with the other accused persons to float three fictitious companies, with which they perpetuated the fraud.

He was alleged to have relied on the forged documents to certify that the three fake companies successfully executed jobs worth N104m.

Ogbulafor was further alleged to have collected kick-backs of N2m and N28m from Ebiulah and one Chris Nwoke respectively.

The accused persons, who face a 16-count charge of defrauding the Federal Government of N104 million, were not arraigned yesterday due to public holiday.

# Minister denies favouring Niger Deltans in oil sector appointments

By Hamisu Muhammad

MINISTER of Petroleum Resources Mrs Diezani Alison-Madueke said last week's appointments and redeployments of officers were based on professionalism, track record and efficiency of the affected individuals.

The statement by the minister reads:

"The attention of the Honourable Minister of Petroleum Resources, Mrs Diezani Alison-Madueke has been drawn to a malicious publication by *Daily Trust* Newspaper of 3rd May captioned "Deltans corner top oil posts".

"A statement by the Group General Manager, Group Public Affairs Division of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Dr. Levi Ajuonuma noted that ordinarily the publication would have been ignored but in order to keep the records straight, the Minister of Petroleum Resources wishes to put it in black and white that the recent restructuring carried out by the Ministry under her watch was done based on the expediency to move the oil and gas industry forward out of the woods.

"He quoted the Minister of Petroleum Resources as saying that all the various appointments and redeployments of

officers made was based on professionalism, track record and efficiency of the affected individuals.

"Dr. Ajuonuma pointed out that in order not to lose sight of some of the spurious claims of the said publication, the former Group General Manager Human Resources of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, Malam Auwalu Abubakar was redeployed to Special Duties contrary to the claim that he was not assigned any duty. Also, the Acting GGM Crude Oil Marketing, Malam Farouk Bello was redeployed to Gas and Power while Mrs Aisha Abdulrahman former Managing Director Hyson was taken to NIKORMA as MD.

"He said that for the avoidance of doubt, all the six geopolitical zones of the country are well represented in the top management cadre of the Corporation.

"According to him, the recent restructuring has the Group Executive Director Commercial and Investment as Alhaji Attahiru Yusuf. The GED Special Duties, Aminu Baba-Kusa while the GED Refining and Petrochemicals is Austen Oniwon. All northerners.

"Dr. Ajuonuma observed with dismay that *Daily Trust* newspaper earlier published that Mrs Turai Yar'adua's younger brother F.B. Abudullahi was sacked from the services of the

NNPC. Contrary this report, Mr Abdullahi has been sent for a top management course sponsored by Shell Petroleum Development Company, SPDC, that would make him traverse six countries and he is expected to report to the London office of the Corporation as Group General Manager at the end of his course.

"The NNPC spokesman stated that Acting president Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan must be commended for expeditiously assenting to the Nigerian Content Development Act which seeks primarily to create jobs for the teeming unemployed youths of the Niger Delta and Nigerians as part of measures to ameliorate the unrest in the area.

"He also noted that worthy of commendation is Mrs Alison-Madueke for establishing the Nigerian Content Development Monitoring Board and for immediately appointing an Executive Secretary saddled with the responsibility of enforcing compliance of Nigerian Content in the International Oil Companies doing business in Nigeria.

"The NNPC spokesman urged *Daily Trust* newspaper to devote its pages to developmental journalism rather than fanning the embers of regionalization or ethnicity which would not benefit any section of the country."

## Why Jos North is sidelined, by Plateau SSG

By Fidelis Mac-Leva, who was in Jos

JOS North local government council of Plateau State is being sidelined politically by the state government because it has perpetually chosen to remain in the opposition, Secretary to the State Government (SSG) Nde Samson Dimka has said.

Dimka said there was no reason why the people of Jos North would be patronized by a government which they have refused to support.

The SSG spoke while receiving a coalition of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) who visited Jos on a fact finding mission over the recent wave of crises that engulfed Plateau State.

"When it comes to party politics Jos North has always

being in the opposition by refusing to support the ruling party in the State. There is no way we can continue to recognize them when they have chosen to perpetually remain in the opposition", Dimka said.

He said while the state government was willing to reach out to every community in the state, including Jos North, on peace building measures over the crises in the state, it would not do so at the expense of political support.

The SSG who received the CSO delegation on behalf of Governor Jonah David Jang said the state government was still searching for solutions to the Jos crises, saying that "After 100 years that it was found, Jos has gone beyond people claiming ownership."

Reacting to claims by the Hausa/Fulani community of Jos North that they were being denied indigene certificate

Dimka said the state government did not receive any protest letter from those making such claims.

He said it was part of efforts at finding a lasting solution to the protracted crises that the state government set up an Inter-Religious Council jointly headed by the Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI) and Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) chairmen in the state.

Executive Director of the Centre for Democracy and Development Dr. Jibrin Ibrahim, who led the CSO coalition, wondered why inter-community relations have broken down in Plateau, a state he said was hitherto known for peace.

He said the delegation was in the state to sympathise with the government and people of the crisis ridden state as well as fashion out a roadmap towards finding a lasting peace.

# El-Rufai faces EFCC today

By Boco Edet

FORMER Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Nasir el-Rufai, who returned to Nigeria on Saturday after nearly two years of self-imposed exile, is to appear today before the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to answer corruption charges against him.

The EFCC is investigating the alleged sale and allocation of federal government lands by the former minister to his family members and cronies. El-Rufai left Nigeria without honouring the invitation of the anti-graft commission.

Before his exit, el-Rufai appeared before the Senate Committee on Federal Capital Territory which was investigating his administration from 1999 to 2007. At the end, the committee made the following key recommendations which were

presented before the Senate:

That the ex-minister be barred from holding public office for ten years and be investigated by appropriate government agencies for economic crimes and abuse of office in revoking and re-allocating lands to his wives and family members. The recommendation to stop him from holding any political office in the future was however later rejected after the Senate President decided only the judiciary had such powers.

In October, 2008 el-Rufai was invited by EFCC in November to clarify matters relating to petitions against him on allocation of PHCN and NIPOST land. El-Rufai replied through his lawyer that he would be unable to honour the invitation owing to the nature of his studies abroad and directed that questions be forwarded to him through his lawyer.

EFCC then proceeded to

declare him wanted for failure to appear before operatives. El-Rufai approached the Federal High Court on December 15, 2008 for the enforcement of his fundamental human rights and court papers were served the EFCC. The anti-graft agency also expanded its investigations to include the alleged misappropriation of N32 billion proceeds from the sales of FGN properties in the FCT.

The report submitted by the Senate Committee which probed the sales stated that total receipt was N96.7bn and deductions were N34.2bn and the balance was given as N62.198bn. The Bank statements showed only N29bn, leaving a balance sum of N32bn unaccounted for. El-Rufai maintained that the sales processes were handled by public servants and all the proceeds of sale were collected by the Chairmen of the Ad-Hoc Committee

(Dr. Abdu Mukhtar and Mr. Abbas Umar - who are still in the service of the FCTA). The FCT Director of Treasury, Mr. Ibrahim Ibrahim Habu Sule, handled all financial matters relating to the proceeds of sale.

He said the gross receipt as at 31st May, 2007 stood at N55.88bn, from the seven rounds of public biddings and since then the monies had increased to N96.74bn over 73% from the situation in March, 2007.

EFCC filed an eight count charge before a Federal High Court in Abuja bordering on abuse of office, corruption and gratification against him and more than 11 others including the Director-General, Abuja Geographic Information System (AGIS), Altine Jubrin, and a General Manager with AGIS, Ismail Iro.

The charges border on alleged

reallocation of a parcel of land No 1201 in Asokoro District and Plot 3352 (Maitama District) by el-Rufai to his wife, associates and a company in which he had vested interest. It also indicated that some of the parcels of land were originally designated in the FCT master plan for a power transmitting sub-station by the Power Holding Company (PHCN) and the Nigeria Postal Service.

In July 2009, EFCC Chairman Farida Waziri asked the ex-Attorney-General of the Federation Mike Aondoakaa to initiate an extradition process against el-Rufai.

Since his return, el-Rufai has received another invitation from EFCC and is supposed to appear before operatives today. He is reported to have said he was not afraid any federal government agency which might want to question him.



PIC: SHEHU K. GORO

FROM left: The Most Reverend Dr. Joseph Oche Job, Methodist Bishop of Kaduna Archdiocese of the North, Dr. S. Ola Makinde, Prelate of Methodist Church of Nigeria and Rt. Reverend (Dr) Chibuzor Raphael Opoko, Secretary of Methodist Bishops Conference of Nigeria at a press conference in Kaduna yesterday.

## Minister: 18m Nigerian orphans blighted by AIDS

By Akor Ojoma

THE devastating effect of HIV/AIDS pandemic in Nigeria has been identified as the major contributing factor to the miserable plight of over 17.5 million Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in the country.

Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development Iyom Josephine Anenih also said that women account for about 58% of all infected adults aged 15 and above living with HIV in Nigeria mainly because of the well-documented gender imbalances of power, social status, and resources that increase their exposure and vulnerability. She said this in a statement at the 5th National Conference on HIV/AIDS held in Abuja.

The minister said the alarming situation poses a clear and present threat to the future socio-economic development of the country, especially as most of those affected represent the nation's future. She said children orphaned as a result of their parents dying from HIV/AIDS still suffer a lot of discrimination and stigmatization in the society and often denied basic human rights like access to education and health care services. "A destitute child without any guidance, any education, or ties to society, is a walking time-bomb. No nation has the resources to intercept and defuse 17.5 million of these walking time-bombs, so we cannot afford to be reactive," she added.

## INEC scribe, PDP accredited to observe UK polls

By Abbas Jimoh

THE United Kingdom has accredited the secretary of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Abdullahi Kaugama and some members of the National Assembly to observe the country's general elections slated for Thursday, May 6.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) research institute (PDI) has also been accredited by the UK authorities among other groups and individuals from Nigeria.

Those on the list are Reps Hajia Khadija Abba Ibrahim, Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, Mr. Sidi Ibrahim, Musa Sarkin-Adar, Olakunle Amunikoro, Saleh Mohammed,

Wilfred Onyema and Owunne Uzo Enyi.

Others are Umar Farouk of the Transparency Movement, Aduwo Olufemi Samson, Rights Monitoring Group (RMG), Murphy John, Salman Mifta'hu Olowo, Ikita Philip, Ubani Anthony and Ugochukwu Obi among others.

The UK electoral commission

had accredited 364 observers to monitor the election.

A notice by the electoral body said the observers are free to monitor proceedings at the polls, at the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers and at the count. They are not required to give advance notice of when and where they intend to observe.

## Rep Ndume: Jonathan has mortgaged Nigeria's future

By Turaki A. Hassan

THE recent collection of loan of about \$1 billion by the federal government from the World Bank to finance the deficit in the 2010 appropriation Act is tantamount to mortgaging the future of Nigerians

yet unborn, Rep. Mohammed Ali Ndume (ANPP, Borno) has said.

Speaking to newsmen yesterday, Ndume, who is also the Minority Leader of the lower legislative chamber, said he raised serious objection to the loan because it was not necessary. "We object to collecting the

loan because this is the same government that expended over \$10 billion on power without any result. We have no problem we can leave with that because that is out money. But when you go borrowing to finance something that we collectively agreed never to go back into unless

it becomes absolutely necessary is, as far as I am concerned, unacceptable."

Ndume said the opposition staged a walk out shortly after the House approved the request because the lawmakers were hoodwinked into approving the loan request from the acting president. Jonathan had in

a letter to the Speaker of the House sought approval to borrow the sum of \$915 million from the World Bank to finance the 2010 budget deficit which the lawmakers approved. The total budget deficit in the 2010 budget stood at N1.3 trillion while the whole budget is N4.06 trillion.

PHOTO: FELIX ONIGBINDE



A police officer at the scene of an accident involving a commercial bus and an Abuja Urban Mass Transit bus at Wuse, Abuja yesterday.

## Ajumogobia to address UN nuclear conference today

MINISTER of Foreign Affairs Odein Ajumogobia will today address the meeting of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) on behalf of the African Group on the second day of the 25-day meeting taking place at the UN headquarters in New York.

Ajumogobia will also address the UN nuclear conference in his capacity as Nigeria's foreign minister at today's afternoon session.

Nigeria's Permanent Representative to the UN Prof. Joy Ogwu said the issue of nuclear security and disarmament was closely related to the global quest for international peace and security.

"We believe the time is ripe for the world to begin a new phase of universal and complete verifiable and irreversible disarmament within the multilateral framework.

"The African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty of Pelindaba, which came into force on July 15, 2009, is a good example," she said.

Ogwu noted that Nigeria was one of the first to sign the NPT in 1970, and that the country had voluntarily refrained from developing

nuclear weapon.

"Nigeria prefers the pursuit of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, for human development and international cooperation.

"Our programme has been transparent and solely for peaceful purposes and the International Atomic Energy Agency has given Nigeria a clean certificate of compliance and sole peaceful uses of nuclear energy programme," she added.

"The NPT is a landmark international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology.

The treaty promotes cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general complete disarmament.

The NPT represents the only binding commitment in a multilateral treaty to the goal of disarmament by the nuclear-weapon states.

Representatives from more than 100 countries, including Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, are attending the latest five-yearly review of the NPT. (NAN)

## Guards Battalion moved to Jaji

Continued from page 1

that way before. It is unprecedented. It is a tradition in the military, that when a battalion is being moved from one location to the other, signal will first be sent and it takes not less than three months for the battalion to move. In our own case, no such notice was given. They just called us and told us that we have been asked to move to Jaji.

"Almost immediately, vehicles were prepared for the movement. When they were bringing us from Takum in Taraba State in 1999, enough time was given for us to prepare and move to Abuja. That is why you hear all these soldiers saying we are being chased like

unwanted dogs."

He continued, "The Demo battalion they are transferring us to in Jaji is regarded as a punishment ground in the army because there is no specific duty. Most of us will be treated as instructors. It is a place where we shall have nothing doing except physical training.

They faulted us for providing security to President Yar'adua when he was returning from Saudi Arabia. But it is our duty to provide security to the Commander-In-Chief. If the acting President is the C in C, let him have a military officer as his ADC. As at today, it is a Police officer that is his ADC, meaning he is not the C in C by military tradition."

When our reporter visited the 7 Demo Battalion barracks at Jaji yesterday, several soldiers confirmed to him that they had been relocated from Abuja, while the 7 Demo's own soldiers were preparing to depart from Abuja.

Authorities of the Nigeria Army refused to comment on the movements. Director of Army Public Relations Brigadier Chris Olukolade refused to say anything when *Daily Trust* asked him about the transfer.

It could be recalled that earlier this year, there was controversy when soldiers from the battalion were deployed along strategic points and at the Presidential Wing of the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport,

Abuja on the day the ailing President Umaru Yar'adua returned from a long medical trip to Saudi Arabia. Army Headquarters later explained that the Guards Brigade is not under its operational control from the C-in-C "via agreed communication channels."

The Guards are often changed when there is a change of government or a security scare. Our reporters recalled that in 1976, soon after the abortive coup led by Lt Colonel Bukar Suka Dimka in which the Head of State General Murtala Mohamed was killed, the Federal Guards, as the brigade was then known, was transferred to Talata Mafara in the old Sokoto State.

## Federal workers suspend strike

Continued from page 1

Apart from Oronsaye, the government team at the talk included Labour and Productivity Minister Chief Emeka Wogu as well as his Special Duties counterpart Captain Ernest Olubolade.

Jonathan had said during the May Day rally at the Eagle Square, Abuja that he had directed the Minister of Labour and Productivity and the Head of Civil Service of the Federation to conclude all negotiations in three months' time and come up with increased wages. Comrade Olakunle Olaitan however said the strike must go on as intended because all their members across the nation had approved and sealed the decision.

Federal civil servants are demanding a salary increment of 75.37% but the government, after a series of meetings, only agreed to a 10% increase.

They are also calling for the abolishing of the "wide disparity" that exists in the salaries of permanent secretaries and directors in the Service.

They decried a situation where "a permanent secretary earns up to ten times what a director earns and it is the directors who do all the work."

They called for relativity in the amount earned by all categories of workers "for the sake of justice."

## Buhari: Many illegal firearms in circulation

By Misbahu Bashir

THERE are too much legal and illegal firearms in circulation in the country, former Head of State Gen Muhammadu Buhari has said.

Buhari spoke exclusively to *Daily Trust* during the launching of book titled 'Police, Security and Democratic Governance in Nigeria' by the Association of the Retired Police Officers of Nigeria (ARPON) in Abuja at the weekend.

He said the surge in crime and violence in the country is as a result of the increase in the circulation of guns among the populace, adding that unless government assumes absolute control, violence and crime will be difficult to control.

"Government should begin disarmament process and all those in possession of firearms must submit them to government and new license be issued within three month. Government must take record of the number of guns circulating and those having them," he said.

He said automatic guns including AK-47 which are not supposed to be used by private individuals are now widespread. "In some places the guns are displayed publicly just like walking sticks," he said.

# Minister: FG committed to fighting money laundering, terrorism

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

MINISTER of State for Interior Humphrey Enemakwu Abah has reiterated the Federal Government's resolve to fight money laundering and financing terrorism in the country. The minister was speaking when he received a delegation of the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering and Financing in West Africa (GIABA), a specialized organ of ECOWAS, in Abuja.

Mr Abah said the acting president had already inter-

vened on the two bills that are presently with National Assembly for the amendment of the anti-money laundering law and the prevention of terrorism in Nigeria.

On the invitation to the forthcoming 8th GIABA Ad-hoc Ministerial Meeting in Praia, Cape Verde, which Nigeria is chairing, the minister promised ministerial representation and quality participation.

Director General of GIABA Dr. Shehu Abdullahi said the group is concerned over the prevalence of violence, human trafficking, money laundering and terrorism within

the West African sub-region.

He promised to support ECOWAS member-states in the development and enhancement of necessary infrastructure aimed at combating money laundering and terrorism financing.

Also speaking, Director of Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit and GIABA National Correspondent in Nigeria, Mr. Norman Wokomo, called for the need to establish a unit within the ministry solely dedicated to anti-money laundering and terrorism matters.

## Group commends Jonathan over Iwu's sack

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan has been commended for sacking Prof. Maurice Iwu as chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

A group, Make Your Votes Count, made the commendation yesterday in Abuja stating that Iwu's removal has vindicated civil society organisations who said that Iwu was a problem for a free and fair election in the country.

The group's coordinator, Mr. Chido Onumah, said in a statement that for democracy to be sustained and the votes of electorate to determine who will govern the nation, people like Iwu should never be allowed to oversee the electoral body.

Mr. Onumah sounded a warning to whoever will replace Prof. Iwu as INEC boss that it would be no longer business as usual saying that "We shall tackle the next INEC chair with same urgency and seriousness we adopted to Iwu."

He also reiterated the call to ensure the implementation of Justice Uwais' recommendation on electrical reform.

## Hajj: Officials tasked on pilgrims' overstay at airports

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) and state pilgrims' welfare boards have been challenged on overstay of pilgrims at both Nigerian and Saudi Arabian airports.

This is the outcome of a stakeholders meeting organized by First Travels and Tours Limited in collaboration with Al-Wafeer Airline, a new Saudi Air line set to participate in the Nigerian hajj operation this year.

The meeting was primarily to introduce the Saudi based airline operating direct flight from Nigeria to Medina for this year's Umrah and Hajj exercises.

Speaking at the occasion, Managing Director of Skybai Consult Alhaji Suleiman Babatunde attributed the overstay of pilgrims at airports to lack of proper coordination both in Mecca and Nigeria.

He therefore called for collaboration among NAHCON, states and travelling agencies to put an end to the problem.

## Mamman Nasir to chair lecture on late emir of Agaie

A memorial lecture in honour of the 8th emir of Agaie Etsu Mohammed Bello will hold tomorrow at the School of Remedial Studies, Agaie, Niger State.

A statement signed by national secretary of the Gamji association, Abudullahi Isa, said the lecture will be delivered by a lecturer from Department of Linguistics, University of Abuja, Dr. M. U. Ndagi, and will be chaired by the Galadima of Katsina and the former president of Federal Court of Appeal (Dr.) Mamman Nasir. The lecture with a theme "Etsu Mohammed Bello: A leader with great attribute, to centre on exemplary leadership attribute of the great leader is organized by Gamji Association, whose objectives include immortalizing late Sir Ahmadu Bello (Sardaunan Sakkwato) and other past national leaders.

Etsu Mohammed who reigned for 36 years (1953-1989) was the longest serving emir of Agaie and his reign witnessed tremendous physical and social development in the emirate.



UNITED States Naval Forces Commander in Africa and Europe Admiral Mark P Fitzgerald receiving a souvenir from the Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Ishaya Ibrahim in Abuja.

## IT agency facilitates jobs for 6000 graduates

By Zakariyya Adaramola

THE National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) said it has trained and facilitated jobs for 6000 unemployed graduates in 2009.

Disclosing this at a press briefing to announce the e-Nigeria 2010 Summit in Abuja yesterday, the Director General of NITDA Prof. Cleopas

Angaye said the 6000 trained graduates, 1000 from each of the six geopolitical zones, were trained in Information Technology (IT) by experts in the industry.

According to Prof. Angaye, the agency would train another set of jobless graduates this year to reduce the high rate of unemployment in the country.

He said most Nigerian graduates are unemployable because they lack basic IT skills, which is what most companies now require.

He said the agency is poised to begin the implementation of the planned Software Development Centres and IT infrastructure centres across the country.

While reiterating

the country's resolve to become a software hub like India, the NITDA DG said the Federal Government is working to shift its attention away from oil and concentrate on other sectors like ICT.

He said ICT has long been identified as a goldmine, adding that NITDA would continue to work out how the country can effectively tap from it.

## FG to assist Kebbi on fiscal responsibility legislation

By Hamisu Muhammad

THE Federal Government is to provide technical assistance to Kebbi state in its bid to adopt fiscal responsibility legislation, Chairman of the Fiscal Responsibility Commission (FRC) Alhaji Aliyu Jibril Yelwa has said.

He disclosed this at the end of a meeting between a delegation of Kebbi State House of Assembly and the commission in Abuja.

The delegation from the Kebbi State House of Assembly was at the commission to seek information to guide it on a pending bill on Fiscal Responsibility Legislation in the state.

Yelwa also said that in fulfillment of this resolve, the commission will soon send a team of experts to Kebbi State House of Assembly to enlighten it on the whole essence of the Fiscal Responsibility Act so as to ensure an enduring fis-

cal legislation for the state.

He said prior to the enactment of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007, the state of public finance was discretionary as nobody could be held accountable for any lapses in fiscal matters.

The FRC boss said the Act was enacted to ensure prudent management of resources and guarantee economic stability for the country.

He commended Kebbi

assembly and appealed to the lawmakers to ensure that the proposed Commission was independent and secure the buy-in of all the relevant stakeholders.

Speaking earlier, the leader of the delegation and Deputy Chairman of General Administration in the Kebbi State House of Assembly Sambo Yusuf Zogirma said the legislature would be guided by the deliberations in fine-tuning the pending bill.

PIC: MISBAHU BASHIR

# Belgore links national problems to constitution

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

FORMER Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Salihu Alpha Belgore, has blamed Nigeria's inability to harness her endowed human and material resources to its present constitution that fails to recognise the country's culture, religions and aspirations.

Speaking at a public lecture organised to honour the retired president of the Court of Appeal, Justice Umaru Abdullahi in Katsina over the weekend, Belgore blamed irrelevant constitutions

and laws made under them as being responsible for the lack of economic and structural development that befit the nation's 50 years of independence.

"The whole misfortune is lack of vision in a distorted idea of constitutionalism. Our constitution from 1979 to say the least, is a disgrace to us, the framers lacked wisdom of our past resulting in the present not being coordinated and our future is misconstrued", he said.

He said instead of looking inward, the framers went across

the ocean to imitate a constitution that threw away all our norms, cultures, beliefs and aspirations to a very alien, impracticable, irrelevant and corruption breeding constitution. While from 1953 to 1963 constitutions recognised fully the Nigerian positions as diverse people in culture, religion and aspirations, the 1979 and 1999 constitutions are totally at variance with what generality of Nigerians believe, respect and want to see, he added.

The former chief justice who chided the Nigerian elite for fail-

ure to accommodate and recognise traditional institutions who till date remain relevant in the nation, however accused the people of being too happy to have the traditional titles of Magayaki, Turaki, Otunba, Igwe etc.

He said unless the country retraces its steps by removing all obnoxious areas in the constitution, it would continue to decline and be overtaken by less blessed countries with crime and corruption proliferating more than peace and economic development.

## Makinde flays rot at Methodist Hospitals

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

PRELATE of the Methodist Church of Nigeria, Dr. Ola Makinde, has blamed the Federal Government for the decaying facilities in hospitals established by the Methodist church across the country. Speaking when the Executive Director of the National Primary Health Development Agency (NPHDA) Dr. Muhammad Ali Pate visited him during the 28th meeting of Methodist bishops in Kaduna at the weekend, he said since the Federal Government took over the hospitals, they have become shadows of themselves.

"We have hospitals in the North, West and South but the government has destroyed our hospitals, it is painful, we are interested in primary health care, unfortunately government has taken over our hospitals. What our fathers and mothers have worked for, when you visit these hospitals, you will weep, they are carcasses of themselves," he said.

He reiterated the readiness of the church to work with the government in fast tracking the development of the country as especially as it concerns health care delivery and provision of qualitative education in the country.

In his address, Dr. Pate said he was at the meeting to solicit for their support in sensitizing the people at their own end on the importance of accessing primary health care service as a way of preventing any possible disease attack.

He said religious leaders had both spiritual and physical roles to play to ensure that the people live healthy lives for the development of the country and that the business of faith intertwined with the work of preventing diseases since the men of God also have the ability to heal ailments.

PIC: SANI MAIKATANGA



KANO State cultural troupe, Koroso, during the May Day celebration in the state on Saturday.

## Fulanis back IBB's presidential ambition

From Abdulfatai Abdulsalami, Sokoto

ALHAJI Dodo Oroji, the Chairman of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) in the FCT says Fulanis fully support the presidential ambition of former president Ibrahim Babangida under the PDP.

Oroji told newsmen in Sokoto Saturday that the Fulanis took this stand because of IBB's gestures towards them when he was a military president, noting that the establishment of the National Commission for Nomadic Education about 17 years ago and others development programmes were part of the reasons for their support for him.

He explained that as a result of activities of the commission, out of the 30

million Fulanis in Nigeria, over three million were now in various schools and that over two million of them had since graduated and were engaged in both the public and private sectors of the economy.

Oroji who is also a presidential aspirant of MACBAN averred that the Fulanis were more secure during the leadership of IBB, stressing, "Whoever brings education to your door steps, brings life and development".

According to him, IBB played a key role in transforming the Fulanis, adding that several grazing reserves and cattle routes were created across the country during his tenure. He noted that Babangida empowered them to seek their rights and therefore see him as their father.

## Senatorial aspirant flays age limit

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE constitutional amendment proposal to increase the age qualification from 35 to 40 for senators has been described as an attempt to prevent generational change.

Comrade Daniel Onjeh, an AC senatorial aspirant, who has declared his intention to contest the Benue-South seat which Senate President David Mark has sat on for three terms now, told Daily Trust yesterday that he would not fold his arms and watch like millions of Nigerians do anytime their representatives and authorities come up with bad plans to shut the doors against them.

"There is a quest for paradigm shift. They are hitting the youths below the belt. Mobilization is on against this, and we the youths of this country will not take it this time around from anybody. The age jack up proposal is a proposal to shut the doors against youths who aspire for leadership in this country", he said. Onjeh said the senators' reasons were warped and expose their ignorance about the actual problems facing the country.

## Ondo judicial workers reject govt offer

From Adewale Giwa, Akure

THE Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN) in Ondo State has rejected the state government's offer of 60 per cent outfit allowance and 10 per cent hazard allowance, saying it was a far cry from the agreement reached by the union and the government.

A statement issued yesterday in Akure by the union's Public Relations Officer Mr. T. D. Ilesanmi said the government had approved 60 per cent outfit allowance, litigation allowance of 35 per cent and 30 per cent hazard allowance before issuing the letter of approval. The workers urged the government to approve the allowances based on their agreement.

# Bishop condemns alleged killings in Imo

From John Kennedy Uzoma, Owerri

THE Anglican Bishop of Ohaji/Egbema diocese in Imo State, Rt. Revd. Chidi Collins Oparaojiaku, has condemned the alleged killing of some people by cattle rears in Ihi community in Ohaji/Egbema Local Government Council of the state.

The bishop in his ser-

mon at the induction of the Men's Christian Fellowship at the St. Michael's Church Egbema Sunday expressed dissatisfaction over the continued destruction of farm crops in the area by the cattle rears. Bishop Oparaojiaku also condemned the alleged harassment and molestation of people of the area by the cattle rears, adding that a situation where people are

killed because they complained over the destruction of their farms is not acceptable. Describing the action as inhuman, he said if nothing was done to check the excesses of the cattle rears, it could metamorphose into a crisis. The bishop called on security agents in the state to ensure security of lives and property.

He also called on states

and the Federal Government to promulgate laws banning cattle rears from invading farms, saying such a law would check their activities.

Oparaojiaku advised the 34 persons inducted into the Men's Christian Fellowship (MCF) to stand for the truth at all times. He urged them not to see the induction as a mere ceremony but a call by God.

# Maintain your ideals, Dakingari tells Media Trust

From Ismail Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi

GOVERNOR Saidu Usman Nasamu Dakingari of Kebbi State has enjoined the management of Media Trust Limited, publishers of Daily Trust and other titles to maintain the ideals for which the company was established 13 years ago.

The governor while receiving Media Trust executive officers, Mallam Manir Dan Ali, the Editor in Chief and Executive Director and Alhaji Aliu Akoshile, the General Manager Business and Strategy in his office in Birnin Kebbi yesterday said, "You should not derail, be focused and maintain your good cause. The ideals on which your paper was established should be kept, particularly in the North".

Dakingari noted that he was particularly happy that Daily Trust had kept afloat even in the face of the difficulties. The governor while saluting the courage of Daily Trust for being objective in its reportage of happenings in the country, said he was not afraid of being reported by newspapers but whatever must be reported about him should be what he did and not what he did not do.

'Happily, Daily Trust

has kept to objectivity in its report about events across the country," he added. He explained that even though the newspaper ought to have been in Kebbi State long ago, its presence now had made significant impact on the state in the last few months. "This is the first time Daily Trust management will be visiting Kebbi, though you ought to have been here before now but since you registered your presence in Kebbi things have changed because your paper is on ground in the state," he said.

He therefore called for cooperation between the newspaper and the state as his administration continues in its effort to transform Kebbi to greater heights.

Earlier in his address, the Editor-in-Chief and Executive Director Mallam Manir Dan Ali said the intention of the founders of Media Trust was to establish a newspaper that would out-live them. He said 13 years after the newspaper was established, it had considered it as a priority to ensure adequate and objective report of the country and the North in particular. He noted that it was this noble objective that led to the printing of other titles such as Weekly Trust, Sunday Trust, Aminia, Tambari and the Kano Chronicle.



QUEUING for water at the Otukpo Water Board in Benue State.

## Workers decry water shortage in Kaduna

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

WORKERS in Kaduna State have decried the shortage of water supply in the state, saying if not checked it could lead to an epidemic. The Chairman of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) Kaduna council, Comrade Daniel D. Bissalla, said at the weekend that for some time now, the state capital had been battling with the shortage of pipe-borne water.

"Every morning, you see adults carrying jerry cans looking for water to drink without a reasonable explanation from the authorities and one wonders when this will stop. Your Excellency, we are using this opportunity to call on you to address this issue as quickly as possible to avoid cholera and other diseases associated with bad water," he said. The NLC chairman whose speech was read by his vice,

Comrade Mukaila Ibrahim, said no nation could progress without addressing the welfare of its citizens. He advocated for the sharpening of instruments for policy formulation and implementation in all key sectors of the economy.

"We must deepen the democratic process. We must ensure our votes count as that is the only way we can hold our leaders accountable.

## GOC tasks army commands on soldiers' training

From John Kennedy Uzoma, Owerri

THE General Officer Commanding (GOC) 82 Division of the Nigerian Army Major Gen. M. D. Isah has urged all commands under the division to ensure constant training of soldiers.

Isah while declaring the Internal Security Re-Activation seminar open yesterday at the 34 Artillery Brigade Obinze, Owerri, Imo State, in a paper titled, "Exercise Dragon Cover", said the seminar was aimed at re-engineering the Nigerian Army for better performance. The GOC said a well trained soldier stands a better

chance of serving the nation than his poorly trained counterpart. He said the training should involve the use of minimum force, self defence, handling of arrested persons and fire control orders.

In his welcome address, the Commander, 34 Brigade, Brigadier Gen. DB Shaijaba, said the seminar was organized in compliance with the implementation of the 2010 training directives. He maintained that only trainings could ensure success during operations, adding that trainings should be proactive, qualitative, realistic and challenging.

## Ali Ciroma carpets IBB's regime

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

FORMER Military President Ibrahim Babangida is correct that new breed public office holders have failed Nigerians, but the failure was copied from his eight years of military rule, Comrade Ali Ciroma, former president of the Nigeria Labour Congress has said.

Speaking in an interview with our correspondent in Maiduguri, Borno State yesterday, Ciroma said the Nigerian economy experienced its toughest times between 1985 and 1993 when IBB was

military president because of the Structural Adjustment Programme and the debt at the International Monetary Organisation (IMF).

The former NLC president said SAP and the romance with IMF drastically devalued the Nigerian currency in favour of foreign currencies and made the country's economy import dependent.

Ciroma said under that regime, government manipulated citizens and policies while youths became polluted. He said the former president dribbled every one till he dribbled

himself by organising a free and fair election which he later cancelled. He maintained that, that act tarnished his image. The former union leader, whose executive was dissolved by IBB, said the dissolution by a decree promulgated by the former military president and an administrator appointed to head the NLC, led to the pollution and division of labour movements because after the ban was lifted, he alleged that IBB manipulated labour to install a leadership that he directed which couldn't serve the interest of workers.

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1985 and 1993 when IBB was

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE



Director of Corporate Development Group, Mr Osy Chuke (right) presenting a copy of FIRS Act to the Director General of Centre for Management Development Dr. Kabir Usman, on behalf of the Chairman of FIRS during a courtesy visit to the FIRS headquarters in Abuja recently.

## Dearth of equipment obstacle to health care delivery –Expert

THE absence of modern health facilities in most of the nation's health centres constitute an impediment to effective health care delivery at all levels, the acting Medical Director of the Federal Medical Centre ( FMC ), Keffi, Dr Joshua Giyan has said. He said though the country had the manpower to take care of all categories of patients, the absence of modern equipment in most tertiary health institutions had created room for influential persons to seek medical treatment abroad.

“Our hospitals have to some extent been neglected, otherwise we have the capacity to take care of patients here at home”, he said.

Dr Giyan who is also the head of clinical services at the hospital said in an interview that until the health care system is overhauled, it would be difficult to stop people from seeking medication abroad, adding that achieving the Millennium Development Goals ( MDGs ) health target by 2015 would also not be feasible. According to him, it will be difficult to curtail the rate of maternal mortality or child mortality without addressing primary health care, noting that the immunization coverage of the nation had dropped from the 80 percent achieved 10 years ago to less than 30 percent as at last year.

While urging government to encourage rural postings of medical doctors by providing incentives, Dr Giyan said the Federal Medical Centre Keffi was currently overstretched due to the high influx of patients-both within and outside its catchment areas comprising Nasarawa, Plateau and Benue States including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. He said though the hospital benefitted from the N200m grant for infrastructural development which was religiously spent, it was still awaiting the release of an additional N500 million grant for the purchase and installation of modern equipment which are lacking in the hospitals. These include CT scan machines, Mobile X-ray machines, laboratory automated machines and monitoring equipment in the intensive care, casualty and dental care units among others. He said due to the proximity of the hospital to Abuja, there is a high level of emergency cases resulting from accidents, thus overstretching the hospitals' mortuary which has a capacity to accommodate less than 20 corpses.

Commenting on HIV/AIDs, Tuberculosis, Polio, malaria and other diseases in the area, Dr Giyan said though, Nasarawa State was placed third in HIV prevalence in 2009, the situation had dropped. He added that 7,000 people living with the disease had enrolled in the hospital with 5,000 placed on anti-retroviral drugs.

## 'Kogi needs additional 3,500 teachers'

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

QUALITY education will continue to elude Kogi State unless the government recruits more teachers, the Academic Staff Union of Secondary Schools in the state has said.

The state chairman of the union

comrade Ranti Ojo told our correspondent in Lokoja that the state lacked adequate teachers, saying 3,500 more teachers were needed.

Ojo disagreed with the state Commissioner for Education Sylvester Onoja that the poor performance of students in public examinations was

due to teachers' indifference. He said the union had to no avail tried to get the government to recruit more teachers. Meanwhile, Governor Ibrahim Idris through his Special Adviser on Media and Public Affairs Zakari Adamu has said that competent teachers would soon be recruited.

## ...As commissioner decries examination malpractice

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE Kogi State Commissioner for Education Sylvester Onoja has condemned the level of examination malpractice in secondary schools in the state.

The commissioner,

who spoke Friday while monitoring the on-going senior secondary school examinations in Kogi-East Senatorial district of the state, said the situation was appalling. The commissioner, who said some principals caught in the act would face the wrath of the

law, maintained that a situation where school officials assist students to cheat during examination portends doom for the future of the state and the country. He added that he had directed the principal of the Community Secondary School Ofuloko in Igalamela

Odolu Local Government Area to report to the ministry's headquarters in Lokoja over alleged examination malpractice in his school. The commissioner said the present administration was doing its best to ensure quality education in the state.

## Rivers prepares to receive Jonathan

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

GOVERNOR Chibuike Amaechi of Rivers State says preparations are underway to receive Acting President Goodluck Jonathan who is expected to visit the state Thursday.

Governor Amaechi who spoke with newsmen while inspecting the Model Secondary School project at Eleme, said though the school project had not been completed, the Acting President is expected to inspect it so that he would have an idea of what the new 24 secondary schools project would look

like on completion. He added that Jonathan would also commission the new 100 megawatts gas turbine facility at Trans Amadi, the Eleme junction flyover project, the Rumuola Rumuokwuta road, Oginigba-Rumuobiakani road and one of the model primary schools. He will also attend the convocation ceremony of the University of Port Harcourt. He called on the people of the state to give the Acting President a rousing reception.

The visit will be his first since he became Acting President and he is expected to be in Port Harcourt from Thursday May 6 till Sunday, May 9.

## NBA honours Amaechi

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

RIVERS State Governor Chibuike Amaechi has been honoured by the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Ikeja branch for his leadership qualities and positive contributions to the growth of Rivers State and Nigeria. The Chairman of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Ikeja branch, Mr. Dave Ajetomobi, said all the awardees including Governor Amaechi had performed well. He said Governor Amaechi had impacted positively on the people of Rivers State within the past two years, saying his efforts at reinforcing security and urban renewal deserved commendation.

The chairman of the occasion, former Governor of Cross River State Mr. Donald Duke commended the NBA for promoting positive leadership in the country, saying Governor Amaechi deserved the honour done him.

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## KOGI STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

**INNA LILLAHI WAINA ILAIHI RAJIUN**

The government and good people of Kogi State commiserate with the first family of the state, over the demise of Hajia Fatima Maiyaki, mother of Hajia Zainab Idris, wife of the Executive Governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris. Hajiya Fatima Maiyaki died on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

We are consoled that Mama Fatima Maiyaki lived a fulfilled life until she joined her ancestors at the ripe age of 100 years.

We pray for Allah's protection for the remaining members of the first family. We also call on Allah to grant the governor, his wife and the entire member of their families the fortitude to bear the loss.

The 8<sup>th</sup> day prayers for the deceased will hold on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2010, at her residence in Idah by 10.00 am.

May Allah grant her Aljanah Fridaus.



*Signed*  
**Alhaji Musa Ibrahim Ahmadu**  
 Secretary to Kogi State Government

# Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON [www.dailytrust.com](http://www.dailytrust.com)



ALHAJI Aminu Bello Masari

## Masari, Nnamani, others are power hungry, PDP says

THOSE that are power hungry are the PDP officials that are bent on maintaining the status quo despite a glaring need to reform the party as we move towards the 2011 general elections. These are the "do or die" politicians that will stop at nothing to achieve their selfish ends. Nigerians must brace up and resist these power hungry politicians.

**Ibrahim T. Ibrahim**  
[elkutigi@gmail.com](mailto:elkutigi@gmail.com)

Please Baraje should look for other things to say. Any right thinking Nigerian will agree with me that Masari and co. are men of integrity. I feel PDP is a party that has nothing more to offer us and does not want right thinking people because of the massive exploitation they impose on this country.

**Com. Benjamin**  
[benjaminanthony12@yahoo.com](mailto:benjaminanthony12@yahoo.com)

# Deltans corner top oil posts

THOSE complaining of marginalization are now marginalizing others. Mr. Acting President, justice and fair play should be your guiding principles if truly you want to succeed.

**Aminu Abdullahi**  
[aminu.abdullah@yahoo.com](mailto:aminu.abdullah@yahoo.com)

Please stop this propaganda against the south-south. Even if it is true, I support the move. Let people from the area do their best to address the concerns of the Niger-Delta people. I will support same to apply to the agricultural sector by appointing northerners to dominate so that we see what they can do to help our region. Have we ever complained when it was our people that dominated the sector? What is more patriotic is to challenge them on performance.

**Usman**  
[shehudal@yahoo.com](mailto:shehudal@yahoo.com)

Niger-Deltans have been feeding us all for a long time. They deserve to control their resources. They would be in a better position to defend the area from the environmental effects of oil production.

**Femi**  
[fnajani@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fnajani@yahoo.co.uk)

Please let them enjoy what belongs to them.

**Oluwole**  
[oluwole.edmidcares@googlemail.com](mailto:oluwole.edmidcares@googlemail.com)

I don't think there is any reason for anybody and I mean anybody to complain about Niger-Deltans getting positions in the Petroleum Ministry. Northerners have occupied all those positions for too long. I think it is hypocritical for anyone to complain. The oil comes from that region and so far they have been terribly marginalized. Look at NNPC as a case study and see how Northerners have colonized it as their property.

**Anozie Aberdeen**  
[n\\_soolax@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:n_soolax@yahoo.co.uk)



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan

I am an Easterner to start with but I need to say the following. Yar'adua did the same when he allocated all top jobs to Northerners in his time. It is absolutely condemnable, but how come you did not condemn Yar'adua in own era? How come all those deprived as mentioned by you are Northerners? Aren't there others from other tribes? We should all learn to stop playing ethnic cards. Will we be judged, you can bet and by God alone.

**Lilian**  
[lily2003@yahoo.com](mailto:lily2003@yahoo.com)

More corrections are needed to reverse the near appropriation of the NNPC by Barkindo and his masters. You can see that all persons affected bear names of Barkindo's tribesmen. This shows the near total blanketing of the top management with people from Barkindo's tribe. Imo state is in the Niger Delta and produces more oil than Edo state. Don't confuse geographical Niger-Delta with the south-south geopolitical zone

**Kachalla Gana**  
[katchey@yahoo.com](mailto:katchey@yahoo.com)

As a Northerner, I am amazed that instead of the North articulating and working towards real growth of the region, the elites are busy sponsoring sensationalism and petty egocentrism. How

much impact would a GED or GEE appointment make on the average northerner or Almajiri on the street? We should better wake up from our prolonged slumber.

**Godiya Otis**  
[otorkpa@yahoo.com](mailto:otorkpa@yahoo.com)

Those complaining are highly ignorant of the fact that they cannot see that the south-south have been marginalized for years. I am in support of the changes by minister of petroleum resources. It is the right and honorable thing to do for peace to reign in Nigeria. Also, the oil belongs to them.

**Damian Orisakwe**  
[orisakwed@yahoo.com](mailto:orisakwed@yahoo.com)

I totally agree with Anozie. The northerners who had occupied those posts showed no results to Nigeria but to few of their friends and their families. So let the landlords try to manage and hopefully we may have peace and justice.

**Yahaska**  
[yahaska@yahoo.com](mailto:yahaska@yahoo.com)

Nobody should be crying marginalization now because for the past 38 years people from the north-western geo-political zone occupied the oil ministry while the people from the region were gnashing their teeth and Federal Government kept mute. Have seen people

from the South heading the ministry of water resources? Focus more on the resources in your region and our nation will be fine.

**Chief Anayor Ajator**  
[ichieawka@yahoo.com](mailto:ichieawka@yahoo.com)

It is unfortunate that we are consistently being misled on this geopolitical/regional mess at the expense of accountability. No one cares it seems about the massive corruption going on in the land or the dismal failure of our political leaders-almost all of them, to provide us with the basic necessities of life we rightly deserve. It also confuses me how we elites that claim to be educated cannot be immune to this ethnic cancer. Can't we see that there is basically no difference between these people when it comes to mismanaging our resources? They simply steal as much as they can at the expense of some critical infrastructure the country badly needs.

Furthermore, they are so lucky that instead of us fighting them collectively we are busy arguing with one another as to who among them has the better right to exploit us. These people will not even pay the school fees of our children or settle our medical bills even if we are their next neighbors. Please let us unite and fight corruption.

**Bala Mohammed**  
[mhdbal@yahoo.com](mailto:mhdbal@yahoo.com)

The industry should be controlled by Niger-deltans because the resources belong to them and they have the most qualified people in the industry. That is a known fact.

**Fatai Agbo**  
[fatai.agboluaje@googlemail.com](mailto:fatai.agboluaje@googlemail.com)

These Niger-deltans have come to clear the mess which our northern brothers have piled up over the years. It is a great step in the right direction.

**Mohammed**  
[trny\\_toni@yahoo.com](mailto:trny_toni@yahoo.com)

## Federal workers insist on strike today

THE Federal civil servant has every right to demand for wage increase in a country where political office holders are adjudged to be the highest paid in the world and the civil servant that form the labor force are the least paid. This is definitely not acceptable. The hopes of the civil servants were risen when it was said that the Acting President will announce a wage increase on May Day only for those hopes to dashed when they were asked to wait another three months. What other options is left for the civil servant than to down tools?

**Ibrahim T. Ibrahim**  
[elkutigi@gmail.com](mailto:elkutigi@gmail.com)

Mr. Acting President, this is not an issue for pleas. The most cheated person in this country is the civil servant and before corruption can be brought to a bearable minimum, the Nigeria civil servant must have a sustainable pay. What do these politicians do before they are rewarded with billions? What is the minister talking about when he made reference to 'opportunity' and 'good gesture'? Are we not Nigerians? So do we create wealth that we cannot eat from? The Nigeria civil servant must wake up now and fight for his right. The issue of pleas does not arise.

**Com. Benjamin**  
[benjaminanthony12@yahoo.com](mailto:benjaminanthony12@yahoo.com)

## 4 NAFDAC staff kidnapped after visiting late colleague's family

GOD has left history in the hands of the wicked.

See what joblessness has

turned our youths into.

Some governors now even have their own kidnap

squads.

**Gerald**  
[gibegbulem@yahoo.com](mailto:gibegbulem@yahoo.com)

## Nigeria asks BBC to stop airing Lagos documentary

I don't see anything wrong about the BBC broadcast of 'Welcome to Lagos' which was highlighting the challenges of the common man and what they go through to survive. Akunyili should stop her empty threats. She would be hap-

pier when they show all the skyscrapers in Lagos and Abuja. The BBC is not the local media they issue out threat to if they don't air the bourgeois like Bisi Olatilo does. The simple realization of our problems will go a long way to solving

them. 80% suffer daily without food and shelter. Akunyili should address these problems rather than issuing empty threats. It is high time we live a life free of deception

**Malik**  
[osarookoro40@yahoo.com](mailto:osarookoro40@yahoo.com)



By Tunji Ajibade

## In defence of Babangida Aliyu

The Chief Servant of Niger State has disturbed the bee's comb. He has always been known for that. But a lion's den was what he disturbed lately. In fact, he went to a lion's den and dared it. That was at Arewa House, in Kaduna, the seat of Northern establishment. And the occasion was the 10th anniversary of the founding of Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF). People who can do as Babangida Aliyu did at the event are not many. Not in these days when politicians don't want to step on toes. What he went to Kaduna to say however is not just for the hearings of the movers and shakers of the North that gathered. It had relevance for the whole country. And it was the issue of which section or ethnic group in the country an office holder comes from he was talking about.

"As Nigerians of northern extraction, should we be more concerned with the euphoria, sensationalism and sentiment of having a president from the north or a president who can deliver the goods and services for the improved well-being of Nigerians?" Governor Aliyu had asked his audience. And he added, "shouldn't we therefore, begin to articulate our con-

**The journey may be long and tough. But the ship will have to arrive. How?**

cerns and needs and judge candidates by what they can deliver to us rather than where they come from?" Then he counselled that northerners should be rational and negotiate wisely in order to tackle development challenges like infrastructural gaps, decay in the educational system, youth restiveness, poverty and *almajirci*.

These are fantastic words considering the place and the people to whom he said them. In some other era, even fatalistic. But what happened was that while Aliyu spoke in Kaduna, he was speaking to all Nigerians. Hardly will ethnic or religious group like to hear what he said from one of their own. His town association will ostracize him first. Then leaders of his religious group will call him to order. Are sections of the country that are yet to have a go at the presidency not clamouring for it? In the North that is said to have produced many, there are over a hundred ethnic groups that will be happy to have their own in the presidential villa or some other public office. The current North-South debate over who becomes president in 2011 is because a section feels it has a chance that should not pass it by. Every section talks of marginalization. Every Nigerian talks about marginalization, even when it has people in some public positions while others have fewer or none at all.

This word is used at its narrowest and the most myopic level though. Groups will always agitate to have their own in position. If it is not on the basis of religion, it is tribe. If it is not that, it is profession, or something that has nothing to do with the ability of the occupier of the office to deliver. In the end, the nation has the current result it has.

'It must be from us' is a popular mentality. But who benefits most? The answers are there. When masses celebrate their own town's man in position, he returns home having enriched himself, and maybe a few of his cronies. The rest suffer. Still the call and the quest for 'our own man' do not stop. The fact is, many of the instrumentalities put in place to share out positions at the moment pay only a few. From quota system to federal character to that gentleman agreement the People's Democratic Party (PDP) reportedly have that north and south of the country should spend equal amount of time in power on a rotational basis.

This is something that should naturally follow its course if the process of throwing up leader from within a party is what it should be; a situation in which whoever appears to be the best candidate is lifted to the forefront. The system however is not straight. And as such some other crooked avenue has been devised, and smuggled into the constitution. Those that don't make it into the constitution come in through the backdoor among politicians. That hurts the nation, it hurts its polity, and most importantly, it hurts the masses.

It's obvious that those with the strength, the zeal and the integrity to move the nation forward don't get there. From the electoral umpires to those that oversee ministries and the rest, the agitation of where they come from rather than what they can do has made the nation what it is. Many are threatening fire and brimstone if the presidency does not go to a particular section of the country for another four years. It is as if the last four had changed sand to gold for the masses from that part of the country. The section from which the immediate past president of Nigeria (1999-2007) came from knows better today. The masses from where the arrowhead of the current administration comes from, also know the same thing. It is time the nation's political and economic elite are discouraged from using these gimmicks that only pay them and their narrower interests. And the party hierarchy too also has a role to play here.

One significant point is this: If a Babangida Aliyu can get up and say what he said, at where he said it, it means there is hope for the country. The journey may be long and tough. But the ship will have to arrive. How? The leadership that uses the gimmick of 'if it is not us, the house will go up in flame' will soon shoot itself in the legs. And it has begun already with the lacklustre performances that have messed up this project called Nigeria.

Ajibade wrote from Abuja; he can be reached at [tunjioa@yahoo.com](mailto:tunjioa@yahoo.com)



By Ibrahim Muhammad

## I need a 13-year-old bride

I hope my wife will not be reading this; otherwise someone may need to invent the doctrine of necessity in the house if peace has to return in the event that she uncovers my plot. I cannot trust the loyalty of my children on whose side they will be when their mother and I go for broke, because I have decided to apply for a new wife must be in the age range of 12 ½ to 13. Senator Ahmed Sani Yariman Bakura needs no introduction, except to my grandmother in the village. He is an adult Muslim, a former Governor of Zamfara State from the Northern part of the country, and now a Senator of the Federal Republic. I address him first as a Muslim because that is the first human identity before our creator.

Senator Sani may have been a very controversial politician. In addition to this, many also argue that he knows when and how to generate religious sentiment to advance his political career. As with virtually all other Nigerian politicians, he knows where to pitch his tent for personal aggrandisement. When the Senator decides to go for a young blooded Egyptian, he apparently did not anticipate the furore that followed. In this part of country, where idleness and lack of anything tangible for the mind can lead anybody to engage in fruitless exercise and play ostrich, I wasn't surprised.

I am yet to decode what exactly his traducers want in his marriage to the so-called 13-year-old Egyptian girl. There are many questions that need to be answered if we are to do justice to the debate. We are all aware of

**Why are we easily swayed by emotions and ignorant of reason?**

how morality and decency have been driven beyond the shores of society. All sorts of despicable acts of prostitution by children even below the age of 13 in Nigeria are common.

If you disagree on this, let's assemble all 13 year-old girls across the religious divide and conduct a virginity test to ascertain whether they can be classified as minors. Why are we easily swayed by emotions and ignorant of reason? What could have happened if Senator Sani was found committing adultery with the same girl as has been the hallmark of most of our so called leaders today? Those who want equity must come with clean hands and not tainted thoughts. Some of these people own different guest-houses across the country; what are these for when they are out-of-bounds to their wives? The nongovernmental organizations whose idleness leads to writing baseless petitions should

rather dedicate their energy in campaigning against all forms of immorality and indecency in society today. In this part of the world, things are seldom what they seem,

Skimmed milk masquerades as cream.

It is interesting that the same people who now campaign against Sani are the ones that marched to the National assembly to protest the anti gay bill from being passed. The devil is now wearing the toga of non-governmental organisation to pollute humanity and desensitize us to the pervading immorality threatening our society today. Ask just about anyone of them. They'll all tell you they're in favour of equal rights for homosexuals. Just name the situation, and ask. They'll all say, yes, gays should have the same rights in housing, jobs, public accommodation, and should have equal access to government benefits, equal protection of the law, etcetera, and etcetera.

The other cancerous campaign is the so-called women emancipation under which they hide to malign an innocent man. The advertising industry which encourages the pseudo-emancipation of women, flattering them with its insinuating reminders, you've come a long way, baby, and disguising the freedom to consume as genuine autonomy for the women are only capitalist-driven ideologists. Merely external emancipation has made of the modern woman an artificial being. Now, woman is confronted with the necessity of emancipating herself from emancipation. The Universal declaration of human rights which forms the basis of fruitless campaign for equal rights between both sexes does not put African culture and Islam and Christian religions in perspective. This is causing moral extinction in the way the family is organized. Did they not call heaven and earth to witness that the dominion of the white man over the black is natural, that the black race is by nature incapable of anything good?

In short, women, in general, as well as the rich of both sexes, have acquired all the follies and vices of civilization, and missed the useful fruit.

In this election period, many people will fly any issue to smear the image of their political opponents. Intruding into the private life of Senator Sani is politics taken too far. Despite all the noise, the family of the Egyptian girl has never issued any statement to support that she was actually 13. If they based their argument on why he chose to go to Egypt when there millions of nubile young girls in Nigeria, I would understand. We should not delude ourselves because many of us have done worse.

The thinly-veiled campaign against Muslims who practice and try to live their life as prescribed by the Qur'an should not be condoned. It is annoying that the Senate will welcome such groundless and ill-motivated petition against one of their own.

Muhammad wrote from Jj9 Ibadan Street, Kaduna ([alhmuhaj2005@yahoo.com](mailto:alhmuhaj2005@yahoo.com))



## Your Letters

Send your letters to [letters@dailytrust.com](mailto:letters@dailytrust.com)

### Jonathan and 2011

The bitter truth is that democracy is a culture governed by a set of rules and standards of behaviour. Even when an agreement, written or unwritten, does not favour our sentiment or emotion, we still have to respect it for what it is. A rule can be changed, but not in the middle of the game.

When President Olusegun Obasanjo sought to extend his tenure against the dictate of our constitution, I was one of those who wrote vigorously against it. I wrote to advise members of his Yoruba community not to support his agenda because it could

cost them a loss of their moral authority in national politics. The same moral question will be raised again when controversy over the presidential candidacy of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) rages and the monster of ethnicity confronts. Someone asked if I thought Acting President Goodluck Jonathan should jettison the zoning arrangement of his party and run for office in 2011. I told this person that as one writer of politics and not that of love stories, I do not deliberately set out to please everyone with what I say or write. If Dr. Jonathan freely subscribed to a political arrangement, respecting the spirit of what had been agreed would not do his image any harm. Remember Nigeria is not America where something of this nature is hardly an issue Lyndon Johnson succeeded the assassinated John

Kennedy in 1963 and went on to win an election of his own in what would have been the second term for Kennedy.

Dr Goodluck Jonathan will be writing a great story for himself if he can preside over free and fair elections in 2011. He will, by doing that, be positioning himself for greater things in the years ahead. He will be the favourite son of our history. The honest truth is that if what befell Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'adua had befallen General Olusegun Obasanjo about the same time in his presidency I would have been one of those warning the northern members of his party that an agreed arrangement had to be respected notwithstanding. So why should anyone expect me to take a different position on this occasion?

Anthony Akinola, Oxford, England.

## Text us on 08 131 8000 30

### Going too far?

BABANGIDA Aliyu is certainly opening his mouth too wide; and it's inappropriate for him as Chairman of Northern Governors Forum to say that the North should forget about the presidency in 2011. I thought he was aspiring to be the next *Sardauna*. I am sure he is pursuing a personal agenda of becoming the next vice president at the expense of the North. He should resign as Chairman of the Northern Governors forum immediately. It's a shame!  
AHMAD, MG, 08037861783.

### Well, not birthright but...

YES, the presidency of this country might not be the birth right of the North, but as long and far as the PDP zoning formula is concerned, for now the presidency of Nigeria is not only a birthright, but a must, for the North.  
U.A. Halim, Minna, 07080443630.

### Help, Governor Danbaba

WE the people of Wuro Sembe are pleading with the Taraba state Gov-

ernment to urgently come to our aid and take measures to check the unfair payment of compensation for our land, houses and farms set aside for construction of Federal Technical college (F.T.C) permanent site at Jalingo. For even the only few that got paid ended up with peanuts as "compensation" Please help us out.  
BASHIR U Faruk, No. 50 Njidda Tafida Street, Jalingo, 07067655918.

### To supporters of Yariman

#### Bakura

I challenge you to quote the relevant portions of the *haddith* that you claim permit a 13-year-old girl to marry. What does a 13yr old CHILD know about marriage? Haba!  
SHEHU Mohammad, Kaduna, 07031534777.

IF Yariman Bakura is really serious about emulating the Holy Prophet SAW, why didn't he first, at 48, marry a 63 year old woman,

before the 13 year old girl?. After-all, Khadijah, the Prophet's first wife was a 40-year old widow when he married her at age 25. The true adherent of the Sunnah does not select which practice to follow and which to discard. It may also interest those who have risen to his defence to know that, to the best of my knowledge, no one of the Yarima's daughters was married off before age 20 or before entering the university. And, if there's nothing wrong with marrying a thirteen year old today, why did the Ulama in Egypt outlaw it? This cynical manipulation of our religion must stop!  
DR. Sa'idu Adamu, Dept. of Pol. Sci., ABU Zaria.

### Kaltungo's deadly snakes

HABA Daily Trust, why publish such disturbing pictures without warning on the front page. They really affected me throughout the day.  
SAFIYA Sada, Jaji, Kaduna. State, 08062332296.



By Usman Faruk

## Re: Chief Iwuanyanwu tells Ogbulafor not to resign

My attention was drawn to the above-captioned news item credited to Chief Emmanuel Iwuanyanwu and published on page 9 of the *Daily Trust* newspaper of 26th April 2010. At last, I am happy that my well-considered views aired on the floor of the National Political Conference of 2005 have been vindicated by one of the South East Delegates and Influential Igbo leader of that time and now.

Once on the floor of the conference, while contributing to an ongoing debate on the political situation in the country, especially the insistence by the Igbo delegates to the political conference that the slot of the nation's presidency be given to them by the ruling PDP; I strongly opined that it would be a costly mistake to accede to their demand. My reason then and even now is that the Igbo had not yet evolved a National character which would save Nigeria from experiencing a drama of changing the president after every six months as obtained in France before the coming on board of General Charles De Gaulle.

I drew the logic of my reason on the drama of the Senate Presidency and the circus of changing the personnel occupying the office when it was zoned to the South East- the Igbos.

It came to pass that during the tenure of president Obasanjo the senate Presidency, the third most important position politically in the country had five occupants all of them Igbo with some of them barely having anything to show for their tenure.

The reason for that drama of change is their unstable character and monumental greed. In pursuance of this, each of their five states ended up of having a Senate President!

I recall that when I finished my submission, the entire Igbo delegation staged a walkout, accusing me of calling them names that were not theirs.

However and on the contrary, I never called them names that were not theirs, but only stated the fact of their character, which I strongly believed would hasten the brining down of a democratically positioned Nigerian Nation, if we made the unfortunate mistake of giving them the presidency. It is still my belief that an Igbo presidency would last just about six months only for another Igbo president to take over and on and on!

So, can we accommodate the musical chairs? Yes Indeed, Chief Iwuanyanwu has vindicated my stand.

Again I stand by my conviction because it was only in a South Eastern state that about 25 candidates contested for just one Governorship slot with such political fury as to suggest that the whole exercise would lead to the end of the world! This was for just a state contest. What would happen if the contest were for the presidency which invariably would have to be repeated every six months? Please refer to my previous views published in the *Daily Trust* Newspapers of May 19th 2004.

The spectre of changes of elected Governors within the last 10 years (1999- to date) in the Five South Eastern States of Anambra, Imo, Abia, Enugu, Ebonyi speaks volumes of disgrace and immaturity - to say the least!

Nigerians will do well to take this advice and prevent an Igbo presidency, at least not for now. Let them demonstrate enough political maturity and sense of decency and not mere paper qualification in their handling of important political office. In just eight years, the Igbo had five of their kin who had been president of the senate, as follow:

- 1 Chief Evans Enwerem;
- 2 Chief Chuba Okadigbo;
- 3 Chief Adolphus Wabara;
- 4 Chief Anyim Pius Anyim, and
- 5 Chief Ken Nnamani, all qualifying for national pension due to a former senate president. This means nothing will stop them for changing the president every six months to maximize the accruing benefit to the number of occupants of that office from among their people.

But my best option for a stable democracy and a progressive nation is to denounce zoning and end it by 2015. From then on, let the presidency be won on merit. Zoning will eventually lead to putting the wrong person there. And besides, most importantly, zoning is at variance with the position of the constitution of Nigeria.

The constitution is very clear about this and I am with the constitution that after 2015, the Nigerian President be elected by merit and not by any other consideration. And for balancing of political power, the party in power may consider zoning other political offices for balance. Any other way will always lead to political crises and instability. It is time now we start facing the reality of our existence!

Faruk, CON, a former military governor of old North-western State, is the Jarman Gombe.

# DAILY TRUST

## EDITORIAL

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## Returning to the debt trap, willingly

**B**arely five years after Nigerians were told of the necessity to spend a huge amount of the nation's foreign reserve to wean the country from the supposed grip of a crippling international debt trap, the federal government recently announced new plans to borrow \$1 billion from the World Bank to finance the N1.3 trillion deficit expected from the 2010 budget. Communication with the National Assembly revealed that acting President Goodluck Jonathan has sought the approval for the loan to finance infrastructure deficit said to be critical to rapid development. The government has defended the loan, saying that it is concessionary and offered by multilateral agencies to which Nigeria belongs, and to which it commits substantial resources as affiliation fees.

A substantial part of the money to be drawn during the current fiscal year is scheduled to be devoted to finance the provision of water supply, capacity building and power infrastructure across the country. The loan comes at a time Nigerians appeared to be happy to have escaped the problems associated with the entrapment that usually goes with indebtedness. It is like a return to enslavement.

**T**he problem with borrowing, as the Nigerian example has shown, is not that it is inherently bad to borrow; indeed, most countries of the world, including the developed ones are highly indebted nations. The Nigerian experience has been our proven inability to properly channel borrowed funds into productive use in such a way that they benefit the generality of the people. Past debts incurred for development purposes have ended up in the pockets of a few greedy government officials and their lackeys, while the average tax payer and his children in whose name the loans were taken found nothing tangible to which they could attribute the debts.

Unfortunately this generation of leadership has not demonstrated prudence and accountability in the management of the country's vast resources. Nigeria is such a blessed nation that with prudence and proper management it should be incongruous to talk of borrowing to build national infrastructure that the country has resources to fund. If the resources available in this country are properly harnessed and judiciously utilised, the country ought to be lending to nations and certainly not borrowing. This is why this new move is truly a shocking degeneration, especially coming in the lifetime of an administration that is transitional and approaching an election year. The administration has less than twelve months to round off on its agenda, and should not be seen embarking on grandiose projects that it cannot complete. It needs all the resources and time to concentrate on conducting credible elections. If it must take this loan, we hope it would not be channelled to some profligate spending.

**B**enchmarks need to be set for external borrowing either by federal or state governments. Such benchmarks must be set out in clear terms, what projects the government proposes to use the borrowed funds for; where the projects to be financed are situated; the time frame within which those projects are expected to be completed; and in the spirit of due process, the cost of such projects. This will enable the people on whose behalf such borrowings are made to determine the necessity of such projects and to draw up a monitoring and evaluation programme. This gives them power to raise alarm if they feel that the pace of work is either slow or the cost is astronomical compared with other projects. These are rights guaranteed by the democracy that we profess to practise.

The future of Nigeria cannot be mortgaged to outside entities by the frivolous conduct of its leaders.

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## 2011: In search of progressives

*"Politics of exclusion is not helpful. Democracy is also politics of tolerance. My trade union training allows me to engage my opponent and not to avoid him and that is the kind of constructive engagement that this political environment deserves."*  
-- Adams Oshiomhole

**I**n the lead-up to the 1983 general elections the late M. K. O. Abiola emerged the principal public enemy in south-western Nigeria where he hailed from because he dared to do one thing: he rejected the adopted party of the dominant Yoruba ethnic group in the region and huddled with the National Party of Nigeria (NPN).

Not only that, the late business mogul also brought his considerable resources - including the now rested National Concord, to expose the sordid Maroko land deals involving the late Obafemi Awolowo in brutal fashion. Awo of course, enjoyed a cult status in the southwest at the time and could do no wrong in the eyes of his people.

As leader of the Action Group (AG) government of the Western Region in the First Republic Awo had charmed his way into the hearts of his Yoruba brethren through several populist programmes that yielded fruitful dividends. His pioneering efforts provided models for other regions to copy.

By the time of the Second Republic, the South-West was easily the first among equals in a battered federation that barely survived a brutal civil war and whose progress was retarded by series of military coups.

**A**wo deservedly revelled in his cult status. In the eyes of his people he was every inch, a trailblazer. It was only a matter of time before his ideas on regional development came to be synonymous with 'progressive politics' in the eyes of those who idolized him. It did not matter to them that the various strategies employed by Awo failed to project him as a leader with a national appeal.

It mattered even less also that with the passage of time, 'progressive politics' came to be equal with the rejection of almost everything with a 'northern' appeal, which were dismissed as feudal and backward, a sentiment encouraged, no doubt, by the strength of traditional institutions in the north before, and during the colonial period.

Pitched against the UPN in the Second Republic therefore, it was easy for the NPN to be dismissed as a party that lacked 'progressive' credentials not so much because of the poverty of its manifesto by ultimately of the deliberately created impression that it was a party out to perpetuate northern hegemony on the rest of Nigeria.

The fact that the NPN's national Chairman, Adisa Akinloye, hailed from the Southwest did little to dispel the notion. What added insult to aggravated injury, however, was the decision of Abiola to bring his immense resources to advance causes of the party at the 1983 polls, albeit to enhance his own chances of

## Muhammad Al-Ghazali

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08052100432 (SMS only)

leading the nation at some time in the future using the NPN's rigging machine.

**I**n the end though, Abiola's wealth alone could earn him a shot at the Presidency on the platform of the NPN. But such was the depth of animosity towards the man in the ranks of our so-called progressives that long after the demise of the Second Republic he was still derided as a northern lark and military apologist when he sought the presidency on the platform of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) in 1992.

It was only after the tragic

a slogan for political mercenaries.

I have once written in this column that in my view, the key issue in progressive idealism is the compelling need to shy away from fixated and rigid viewpoints, secure in the knowledge that everything is dynamic, with the only constant factor being the inevitability of change. Progressives should frown at stagnant thoughts, and sneeze at intellectual laziness that often breeds the politics of exclusion at the cost of the forceful interchange of ideas.

It is not enough to brand anyone as anti-democratic. We must be prepared to prove it. The only way to do that is through the proliferation of unhindered debate among all candidates even if they are offsprings of Satan, or belong to parties populated by demons. To make a mockery of the freedom of choice, or association, is therefore to strip democracy of its most valued, and essential ingredient, which is the

June 12 and Abiola's experience has already proved how easily democracy could be perverted by the politics of exclusion

annulment of the polls that he was suddenly adopted as a symbol of the democracy by even those who openly derided the polls that perpetrated the June 12 crises. Almost overnight, the same Abiola, who was serially demonized for demystifying Awo, was elevated as the symbol of democracy.

The matter of his democratic credentials suddenly became immaterial. Even lesser efforts were expended on the study of his political programmes and ideologies if he had any. All that mattered was that he was the counter-poise to the overwhelming presence of the military establishment in the national firmament.

**I**nevitably, several tyrants, pseudo-democrats swarmed on the Abiola farce like a tidal wave. NADECO became the vehicle for political rehabilitation of erstwhile political thugs among many who suffered from the poverty of political ideas. They wanted to be taken as serious democrats, but in reality they were fascists because their efforts would have amounted to nothing without the politics of exclusion.

I have gone through all these efforts because so very often in this country the term 'progressive' is often employed to include or exclude others from the political space without a thorough interrogation of their democratic credentials or even the concept of progressivism itself. Since Awo's death, 'progressive politics' as a term has become a tool for all manner of political journeymen. It has become

freedom of choice.

June 12 and Abiola's experience has already proved how easily democracy could be perverted by the politics of exclusion. Those who benefitted most from the crises were mere arm-chair critics that mocked the democratic process in 1992 as it evolved, but were quick to capitalize on the aftermath of the annulment to propel themselves to power. There is hardly any evidence on the ground that they have covered themselves in glory. What occurred in 1993 was an ambush of the democratic process by tyrants and closet anarchists.

Now as we approach 2011, we must resist every attempt to limit our freedom of choice using the same tactics. Progressive politics must not become a licence to exclude bonafide Nigerians from the democratic space. It must not be a licence to promote hidden or primordial sentiments.

**T**hat is why I fully support the position taken by the Edo State governor Adams Oshiomhole over the boycott of the political rally he organized in Benin by Wole Soyinka and others because it was attended by former military president Ibrahim Babangida. Genuine democrats and 'progressives' should have nothing to fear from engaging their opponents. They must not be prisoners of the past. Nigerians alone reserve the right to include or exclude any candidate from the political space and as far as I know the only way to do that is through the ballot box.

LET'S



help our



Hardworking Nigerians



eat their cake and have it



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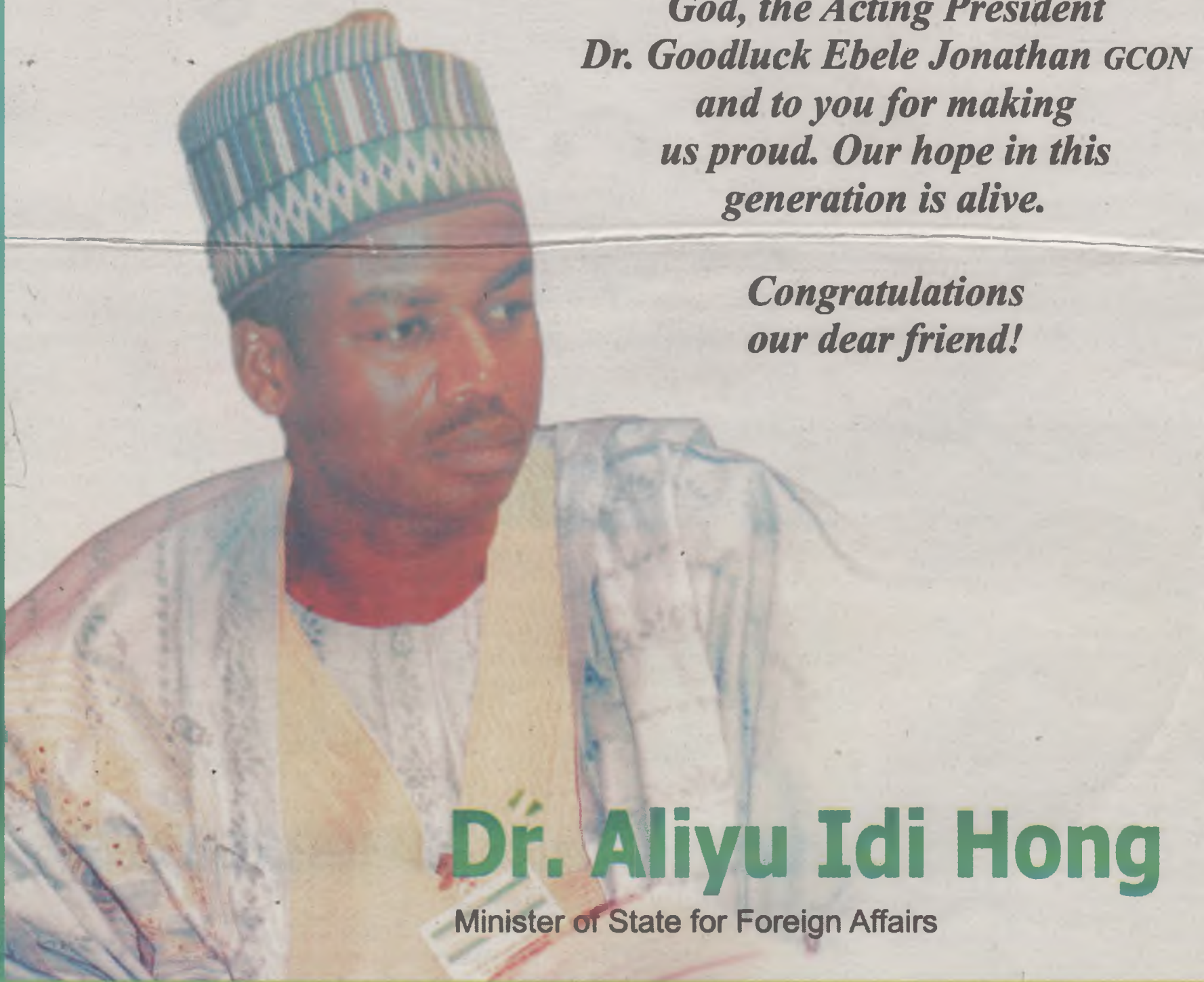
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# Congratulations

*We are grateful to  
God, the Acting President  
Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan GCON  
and to you for making  
us proud. Our hope in this  
generation is alive.*

*Congratulations  
our dear friend!*



## **Dr. Aliyu Idi Hong**

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

S I G N E D :

Tashikalmah Nehemiah Hallah

Umar Garba Pella

Engr Solomon Andrew Dacree (MNSE, MNICE)

Wafari Theman Dalatu

Engr Alvari Wilson Gundiri



# IMMIGRATION OFFICERS WIVES ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (IMMOWA)



Nigeria Immigration Service Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport Road, Sauka, Abuja

The Immigration Officers Wives Association Of Nigeria (IMMOWA) cordially invites the general public to the formal inauguration ceremony of her Association and 1 Billion Niara Found Raising for IMMOWA Secretariat on Thursday 6th May, 2010 at Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Conference Center, Central District, Abuja by 10:00am prompt.

**GUEST OF HONOUR**

Her Excellency,  
**DAME PATIENCE GOODLUCK JONATHAN**  
Wife of the Ag. President Of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

**CHIEF LAUNCHER,**

**ALH. ALIKO DANGOTE**  
Chairman/CEO Dangote Group

Mrs. Phoebean Ifeadi  
National Secretary

Mrs Priscilla Udeh  
National President

## THE RIGHT HONOURABLE GENTLEMAN TO FILL IN THE VACANT POST OF GOMBE NORTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

What is more dignifying than to be called upon by your community to serve thereby contributing your quota in the development of your immediate environment.

Outstanding personalities are better known for their articulate and purposeful commitment inspired through good kinsmanship and service worthy of appreciation and recognition.

Alhaji Babagoro Umaru Mu'azu is the Candidate and a Man to watch for he has answered the clarion call to serve his people of Gombe Northern Senatorial District.

His generosity and honesty endeared him the love and acceptance of his people that accorded him the rare opportunity to pilot the affairs of his kinsmen through political representation.

It is a conviction of his people that this gentleman, Alhaji Babagoro Umaru Mu'azu is the exceptional candidate for he has contributed immensely to the development of our great nation and ever remains determined to champion the course of development of his people.

Now the hope and prayers of this gentleman is the provision of plain level ground for all contesters to participate in the race freely.

Indeed, Alhaji Babagoro Umaru Mu'azu is a card carrying member of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and he has indicated interest to contest for the vacant post of Gombe North Senatorial District under the platform of the largest Party in Africa, PDP.

Alhaji Umaru Babagoro Mu'azu is a retired Public



**ALH. UMARU BABAGORO MU'AZU**  
(MARAFAN UBANDOMAN GOMBE)

Servant and he was until his retirement the Operations Controller, Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), Abuja Office. A seasoned Civil Servant, who had put in 35 years serving his fatherland from 1971 in the then North Eastern State and former Bauchi State and later NNPC/DPR. He retired in July 2006.

During his time while in the service he has contributed a lot to the Civil Service, socio-economic development as well as human capacity building by aiding the employment of people into the NNPC/DPR.

Alhaji Umaru Babagoro, who is also the (Marafan Ubandoman Gombe) was born in the year 14<sup>th</sup> - May

- 1947 in Gombe into the family of Late Alhaji Mu'azu Ubandoman Gombe.

Had his Primary and Senior Primary Schools in Gombe in 1955 - 1961, Bauchi Teachers College, Kano Advanced Teachers College from 1963 - 1971 and Ahmadu Bello University Zaria (ABU) in 1973 - 1977.

He also obtained PGDA at ASCON in Lagos in 1980 - 1981, later Royal Institute of Public Administration London (CTD) in 1991 and Penn State University USA (EDP) 1992. Alhaji Babagoro is professionally a member of the Nigerian Institute of Management (NMI).

Despite these series of academic qualifications the quest for more knowledge took Alhaji Umaru Babagoro to overseas apart from seminars and workshops in various human endeavors while in service.

In Gombe State, today, he is an active Member of the PDP where the State Governor Alhaji Danjuma Goje found him worthy of appointing him a Part Time Member of Gombe State Local Government Pension Board. He was also a member for Gombe Federal Constituency in the 1988/89 Constituent Assembly.

One of his cardinal principles and life desire is assisting the community in improving the life style of the poor as exhibited in his area of residence, Unguwar Bajoga Gombe, where he has contributed a lot in solving community electrification problems as well as other related societal needs around him.

**SIGNED**  
**COMMITTEE OF FRIENDS**

# INTERNATIONAL

## African states push for UN ban on female circumcision

LAWMAKERS from 27 African countries gathered in Dakar yesterday for a two-day conference to push for a UN ban on female genital mutilation as a breach of human rights.

International activists joined envoys from the United Nations and African Union in Senegal to "promote the adoption of a resolution that explicitly bans female genital mutilation as a practice that is contrary to human rights."

The cutting or removal of young girls' and women's clitoris and/or labia affects some 120 to 140 million women in 28 countries, mostly in Africa and the Middle East, according to the World Health Organisation. Often carried out for deep-seated religious or cultural reasons, it can lead to infection, urinary tract problems, mental trauma, sterility or complications during childbirth, and in some cases fatal haemorrhaging.

In Africa, around 91 million girls aged nine and under have undergone the practice, with three million operated on each year, the UN population fund's envoy Rose Gkuba told the conference.

"Now is the time to move forwards with a specific resolution at the United Nations that can give a new boost, a new hope to activists, governments and lawmakers," Italian Senate deputy leader and campaigner Emma Bonino said.

"There is no miracle solution," she told the conference. "Only a complex strategy that needs to be implemented."

The African Union's envoy Yetunda Teriba stressed that the West had a role to play in combating genital mutilations.

"Migrants have exported the practice," she said. "Although most of the victims are in Africa, the problem is growing in Europe among migrant and refugee communities."

But Senegal's parliament speaker Mamadou Seck said the key to fighting genital mutilation was "education and persuasion, to convince but not coerce."

Senegal is one of 19 African countries that have banned the practice and its Families Minister Ndeye Khady Diop said a nationwide campaign between 2000 and 2005 managed to reduce the number of mutilations by over 70 percent.

Dakar is preparing to launch a second campaign that hopes to eradicate the practice completely by 2015, she said.



A woman who performs genital cutting shows a knife she uses during a gathering to denounce circumcision in 2005 in Abidjan.

## US begins anti-al-Qaeda military exercise in Sahara

A major joint military exercise with countries around the volatile Sahara desert region is beginning as part of a US programme of counter-terrorism.

The three-week Operation Flintlock aims to improve the ability of the region's armed forces to work together to bring security to the area.

It serves as a base for the group al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and has seen increased terror attacks. Drug smuggling is also growing, moving cocaine from South America to Europe.

Flintlock 10 mainly involves Mauritania, Mali, Senegal,

Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria and Chad. Other countries in the region are taking part, but in a more limited way.

The operation is part of the United States' Trans-Sahara Counter-Terrorism Partnership, and European nations such as the UK, Germany, France and Spain are also involved.

About 1,200 people will take part in the exercise with about 300 of these based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, where a temporary command centre has been set up.

The next three weeks will see the military personnel assembled in Ouagadougou looking at how

they can better work together to counter the security threats in the Sahel and Sahara, says the BBC's Martin Vogl in Bamako, Mali.

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb has been responsible for attacks on Western targets in Mauritania and also hostage takings. The group is currently hold two Spanish hostages and is suspected of being behind the kidnapping of a Frenchman in Niger last month.

Just last month, Algeria, Mali, Mauritania and Niger launched a joint military command headquarters in the south of Algeria to co-ordinate their efforts.

## ANC's youth leader faces hearing

THE leader of the youth wing of South Africa's African National Congress is due to face a disciplinary hearing into his public behaviour.

Julius Malema has been accused of stoking racial tensions by singing an apartheid-era song about white farmers. He has also publicly backed President Robert Mugabe, jeopardising South Africa's role as mediator in Zimbabwe.

Mr Malema, 29, is known for his acerbic insults but this is the time he has faced disciplinary action. He was also involved in an altercation with a BBC journalist in April. A panel of senior figures from the ruling ANC party is to pass judgement on his conduct.

A disciplinary hearing against one member of the ruling party would not normally attract international attention, but it is the fact that Mr Malema's support was critical in helping secure Jacob Zuma the presidency that has cast it into the spotlight, says the BBC's Karen Allen in Johannesburg.

The charges against Mr Malema are expected to include bringing the ANC into disrepute, our correspondent adds.

The behaviour of one of the ANC's most colourful characters - in particular his support for Mr Mugabe - has divided the ANC and forced President Zuma to make a public apology on national TV, our correspondent says.

## International

# Indian court convicts Mumbai attacker

MOHAMMAD Ajmal Kasab, the lone surviving gunman from the attacks that killed 166 people, will be sentenced tomorrow and could face the gallows.

"It was not a simple act of murder. It was war," judge M.L. Tahilyani said in a summary of the 1,522 page judgement. "This type of preparation is not made by ordinary criminals. This type of preparation is made by those waging war."

India accuses Pakistan-

based militants of organising the attacks, saying Islamabad is failing to act against those who organised the raids. Pakistan denies involvement and says it is prosecuting seven suspected militants for their role.

"The judgement itself is a message to Pakistan that they should not export terrorism to India," Indian Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram told reporters after the court decision.

New Delhi broke off peace

talks after the attacks, saying Islamabad must first act against militants operating from its soil, including Pakistan-based group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), of which Kasab is accused of being a member.

The verdict came days after the prime ministers of India and Pakistan held talks in Bhutan and asked officials to take steps to normalise relations, signalling a thaw in ties that analysts say should not be affected by Monday's verdict.

One risk to normalising relations would be another major militant attack in India and the ensuing political pressure that could force the Indian government to break off dialogue again.

India had charged 38 people in connection with the attacks, most of them living in Pakistan. On Tuesday, the court found 20 of them guilty of conspiracy, including LeT founder Hafiz Mohammad Saeed and LeT commander Zaki-ur Rehman Lakhvi.

China, Russia and Rwanda world's worst "freedom predators" — media watchdog

MEDIA watchdog group Reporters without Borders has named the leaders of China, Russia and Rwanda as some of the world's worst "predators of freedom".

The report, marking World Press Freedom Day, lists what the Paris-based group regards as the 40 worst offenders against the freedom of the press.

North Korea's leader Kim Jong-il and the head of Burma's military government Than Shwe, are also on the list.

Mexico is named as among the most dangerous countries for journalists. Sixty-two journalists have been killed in Mexico over the last decade.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has "promoted a climate of pumped-up national pride that encourages the persecution of dissidents and free-thinkers", the report contends.



THE recount of Baghdad votes begun yesterday, being monitored by EU and UN observers

## Baghdad begins manual recount of disputed vote

IRAQ'S election commission has begun manually recounting around 2.5 million ballots cast in Baghdad during the country's parliamentary election almost two months ago.

Officials said yesterday that the process could take between two to three weeks.

"We will count 600 boxes today," Qassim al-Abbudi, an official with the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC), said.

Nouri al-Maliki, Iraq's incumbent prime minister, demanded the recount and alleged fraud had occurred after provisional results handed a two-seat lead to the political bloc led by his rival, Iyad Allawi.

Baghdad province accounts for about a fifth of parliament's 325 seats.

Al-Maliki had challenged results in four other provinces as well, but had those requests denied.

The recount was being carried out inside the green zone under the supervision of observers from the UN and the European Union.

Iraq's March 7 parliamentary poll produced no clear winner, with Allawi's Iraqiya coalition winning the highest number of seats, 91, and al-Maliki's State of Law bloc coming a close second, with 89 seats.

A political bloc needs 163 seats in parliament in order to form a government.

However, coalition-building talks between the major blocs and smaller parties in order to achieve that number appear to have stalled.

## Pakistan Taliban leader threatens new attack on US

PAKISTANI Taliban leader Hakimullah Mehsud has vowed to attack major US cities in two purported new videos released months after his reported killing in a US missile strike.

The videos emerged after an

attempted car bombing in New York City, for which his faction claimed responsibility in a third video, and provided the most substantial evidence so far that he survived a US attempt on his life.

Mehsud threatened to retali-

ate against the United States for the killing of Islamist militant leaders, appearing in a nine-minute video allegedly made on April 4, after his supposed death in January.

The videos spotlight the

Islamist militant threat in nuclear-armed Pakistan, which the United States has put on the front line of the war on Al-Qaeda and where Pakistani troops have waged multiple offensives against the Taliban.

## N/Korean leader on rare visit to China

NORTH Korea's reclusive leader Kim Jong-Il arrived in China yesterday, officials said, at a time of tension over the sinking of a South Korean warship and his communist regime's nuclear ambitions.

Some analysts said the rare trip to North Korea's sole ally could reinvigorate stalled six-nation talks on dismantling Kim's atomic programme.

But mystery over the warship's destruction clouds any hopes for early dialogue.

"Kim arrived at about five this morning," said an official at the Friendship Bridge tourist site, at northeastern China's Dandong border crossing with North Korea.

"We received a notice from the Public Security Bureau and the army that we should shut down tourist operations in the morning," the official told AFP by telephone.

It is Kim's first trip in more than four years to China, North Korea's main source of finance, food and fuel.



## THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM RESOURCES

### INVITATION FOR TECHNICAL PRE-QUALIFICATION AND FINANCIAL/COMMERCIAL BIDS FOR GAS RELATED PROJECTS UNDER THE 2010 CAPITAL BUDGET OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM RESOURCES

Interested companies are hereby invited to bid for technical pre-qualification and financial bids for the execution of the following projects under the 2010 Capital Budget, detailed scope of which is contained in the Tender Document to be obtained from Ministry of Petroleum Resources.

Lot No	Project Title	Project Definition	Tender Processing Fee	and Store Verification Units]	
1	Library development and Automation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conceptual Design of the Library</li> <li>- Supply and installation of Furniture and book shelves</li> <li>- Supply of hardware (with basic software drivers)</li> <li>- Computers</li> <li>- Photocopiers</li> <li>- Scanners</li> <li>- LAN</li> <li>- Procurement of Softcopies of text books</li> <li>- GPSA, Hand book of Chem. Electronics, Civil, Mechanical, Instrumentation &amp; Control Engineering and Mathematics Handbooks.</li> <li>- Automation of the Library</li> <li>(i) Electronic Archival of Library Wares and Books</li> <li>(ii) Develop a Customized Search Engine for the Library</li> <li>- Acquisition of Licenses</li> <li>- Procurement of Law Books and (Hard- soft- copies)</li> <li>- Petroleum Laws and Regulations</li> <li>- Commercial Law books – Contracts, —</li> <li>- Industrial Law Books</li> <li>- Civil Law Books</li> <li>(i) Replacement of Venetian Window blinds in all the staff offices</li> </ul>	25,000.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Conceptual Design of the Document Management and Store Inventory System</li> <li>(b) Document Archival System</li> <li>HARDWARE – Server, Workstations, Storage and Networking</li> <li>WebEx network solutions</li> <li>EMC Hardware (Celera)</li> <li>Two 7580 Canon Document Scanner</li> <li>Hp ML370 Server</li> <li>UDO High density optical drives</li> <li>Software</li> <li>EMC Documentum Application Xtender (and add-ons for Departmental)</li> <li>EMC Documentum Records Manager for Application Xtender</li> <li>EMC Documentum Room</li> <li>Captiva QuickScan Pro</li> <li>DATABASE</li> <li>Oracle 9i or SQL 2008</li> <li>(c) Customized Warehousing Software and Workstation</li> <li>(d) Account Leger System</li> <li>(i) Software and Workstation</li> <li>(ii) LAN</li> </ul> <p>Set-up and Participation: MPR staff would participate in the installation and set-up of the software.</p> <p>Project Location: MPR, NNPC Towers Abuja</p> <p>Software Evaluation Period: 3 – 6 months</p> <p>Training Requirement: The vendor would train ten (10) MPR staff on the use of the software for a period of one month each at the vendor's facility and thereafter offer support facility for the software. This is built into the cost.</p> <p>LICENSE AND SUPPORT AGREEMENT (Year one)</p>
2	Renovation of Offices in NNPC Towers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(ii) Painting of offices phase 2; which includes, Painting of staff offices, corridors, staircase area, iron reels and lavatory zones on 5th – 11th floors</li> <li>(iii) Replacement of broken suspended ceilings, changing of damaged doors, and plumbing works in the Ministry toilets on 5th – 11th floors then provision and installation of 14 Nos. water dispensers, two for each floor.</li> </ul>	5,000.00		
3	Furnishing of Offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Provision of computers, (desktops and laptops), computer printers, and photocopying machines</li> <li>(ii) Provision of Refrigerators, shredding machines, standing fans radio with cassettes, Stabilizers, UPS, Electric kettles, Microwave Ovens, scanner, wall Clocks and binding machines.</li> <li>(iii) Provision of tables, secretary Chairs, executive swivel chairs, Computer tables, EN-Series Chairs. Conference tables of Different sizes.</li> </ul>	5,000.00		
4	Document Management and Store Inventory System and Account Leger System [for Transparency, SERVICOM, Legal, ICT, Press	<p>There is the need to preserve and store existing/future hard copies of Administrative and Technical reports in digital format. The project will create database for all administrative and technical reports for future reference.</p> <p>SCOPE/SPECIFICATION OF WORK</p>	25,000.00		
5	Facilities and Equipment for Capacity Development				<p>This project intends to establish an in-house human capacity development centre for the MPR staff. An office space capable of accommodating 50 participants will be equipped for this purpose, which will include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Partitioning of offices to create the Human Capacity Development Centre</li> <li>B. Provide and install furniture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) 55 lecture seats</li> <li>(ii) Security cabinets</li> </ul> </li> <li>C. Provision of training equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) In-focus projector</li> <li>(ii) Projection Screen</li> <li>(iii) Electronic board</li> </ul> </li> <li>(iv) Manual lecture board and accessories</li> <li>- Public Address systems</li> </ul>
6	Implementation of Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB)				<p>This project intends to develop a number of petroleum regulations to align with the anticipated Petroleum Industry Act. The project will cover among others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Review of the Petroleum (Drilling and Production) Regulations</li> <li>(ii) Review of the National Gas Regulations</li> <li>(iii) Review of the Petroleum</li> </ul>

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM RESOURCES (2)

7	Ob/Ob - Owerri - Umuahia Gas Pipeline System	(Downstream Operations) Regulations	50,000.00			4. Project Administration/Logistics (i) Engineering Design Reviews  5. Project Monitoring (Provisional Sum to cover expenditures by MPR/DPR to monitor the project)  6. Project Documentation and Reporting Project Completion Period: 4 Months	20,000.00
		1. Consultancy Services covering project studies (a) Conceptual Studies/ Requirement Analysis (i) Project definition (ii) Project specifications (b) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies (c) Front End Engineering Design (FEED) (d) Secure Regulatory Approvals		9	Procurement of Crude Oil Terminal Equipment	The project intends to procure fiscal instruments and safety equipment for use by the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) in the oil and gas terminals across the nation.  Procurement and supply A. Fiscal Instruments i. Thief can 45 ii. Plain Thermometers 100 iii. Electronic thermometers 45 i v. Hydrometers  a. Specific gravity type 100 b. API Hydrometer 100	
		2. Contracting Services for Engineering Procurement & Construction (EPC) phase (a) Project Management including (i) Project scoping (ii) Bid Preparation (iii) Commercial bid evaluation (iv) Technical bid evaluation (v) Project scheduling (b) Project Calculation (c) Project Control (d) Invoice Verification (e) Quality Assurance (f) Documentation (g) Approval Planning		10	Establishment of Oil and Gas Reference Library (for the DPR)	(a) Library development and Automation (i) Conceptual Design of the Library (ii) Supply and installation of Furniture and book shelves (iii) Supply of hardware (with basic software drivers) a. Computers b. Photocopiers c. Scanners d. LAN (iv) Procurement of Softcopies of text books (v) GPSA, Hand book of Chem. Engineering, Petroleum, Electrical, Electronics, Civil, Mechanical, Instrumentation & Control Engineering and Mathematics Handbooks. (vi) Automation of the Library (a) Electronic Archival of Library Wares and Books (b) Develop a Customized Search Engine for the Library	20,000.00
		3. Technical Site Surveys (a) Surveys - Mapping of Right of Way (ROW) (b) Soil Investigation		11	Environmental Baseline Survey	Detailed Scope will be contained in the Tender documents.	25,000.00
		4. Detailed Engineering (i) Basis of Design (ii) Piping Engineering (iii) Insulation and Surface Protection (iv) HAZOP, SIL					
		5. Flow Assurance Modelling					
		6. Training of personnel (Capacity Building) on (i) Advanced Project management (ii) Pipeline management					
		7. Project Administration/ Logistics (a) Engineering Design Reviews (b) HAZID, HAZAN, HAZOP, SIL					
		8. Project Monitoring (Provisional Sum to cover expenditures by MPR to monitor the project)					
		9. BIDDERS INFORMATION (i) Location: Start: Obiafu/ Obrikom Gas Plant Stop: Umuahia (ii) Pipeline distance: 150 km (iii) Volume of feed gas: 1bcf/d (iv) Inlet pressure: 1000 psi (v) Outlet pressure: 1000 psi (vi) Nominal Composition: As listed in Table 1 (vii) Project life span: 100 years					
8	Construction of National Laboratory in Owerri	The DPR intends to construct an analytical petro-chemical laboratory in Owerri. The laboratory will provide for testing of all physical and environmental properties of hydrocarbon fluids.  Project Scope:	20,000.00				
		1. Consultancy services covering project studies (a) Conceptual Studies/ Requirement Analysis (i) Project definition (ii) Project specifications (iii) Site Surveys (iv) Soil Investigation (v) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies Front End Engineering Design (FEED) (including Prototype Model and Animated Walkthrough (a) Secure Regulatory Approvals					
		2. Contracting Services for Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) phase i. Project scoping ii. Bid Preparation iii. Commercial bid evaluation iv. Technical bid evaluation v. Project scheduling vi. Documentation vii. Approval Planning					
		3. Detailed Engineering Architectural, Structural/Mechanical, Electrical					

## MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM RESOURCES (3)

	for Contiguous Nigerian Continental Shelf to Establish Control Criteria for Environmental Quality and Easy Mapping				ii. Generate applicable coefficients for the NGLs v. Produce applicable Vapor Pressure Tables
12	Implementation of Trucking Policy	This project will provide and install facilities that will enable the DPR to track and monitor all trucks loaded at Nigerian Depots, from take off point to the delivery point, to prevent adulteration and/ or diversion of the product. The facility will also have the capacity to monitor the quantity and quality of products conveyed by the trucks.	20,000.00	17	Establishment of Automated Accounting System (ASS) Project Scope i. Conceptual design of the MPR Automated Accounting System ii. Provision and installation of relevant hardware and Software iii. Carry out electronic archiving of MPR financial transactions i v. Commissioning of the MPR Automated Accounting System v. Train 20 personnel on use of the installed package vi. Document and submit five (5) copies of Reports to MPR/DPR – 5 hardcopies, 2 softcopies
		<b>Project Scope</b> i. Feasibility studies ii. Conceptual Design iii. Front End Engineering Design Studies iv. Detailed Engineering Design v. Installation and Commissioning of Facility vi. Preparation of operational and maintenance manuals		18	Lease of 3 number 7 seater Helicopter for inspection and monitoring of offshore terminals
		<b>Project duration:</b> 8 months		<b>PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS</b>	
13	Pilot Project on Novel Oil and Gas Exploration Technology	This project implements a novel (non-conventional) oil and gas exploration technology in the Nigerian inland basin – Anambra, Benin, Bida, Bauchi, Sokoto and Chad basin. The technology employs information generated from aerial survey data to identify oil and/or gas reserves	30,000.00	Interested companies are required to submit the following documents: i. Evidence of Registration with the corporate Affairs Commission; ii. Evidence of Company's Audited Account, for the last three years, current/ valid Tax Clearance certificate for the past three years and Vat Registration Certificate; iii. Bid Security or Bank Guarantee (1% of the Contract Value); iv. Evidence of Pension Remittance to the appropriate Pension Fund Administrators for the past three years for the old companies and evidence of Registration for the new companies; v. Previous relevant works done that confirm the ability and capability of the Company/Consultant to successfully undertake the project; vi. Community Affairs, Health, Safety and Security Plan; vii. In case of Joint Venture or Consortium, provide copy of the JV/Consortium Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); viii. All relevant information concerning contacts, telephone, fax, e-mail of the representative of the company; ix. Nigerian Content. Company must: * Demonstrate that the entity is a wholly owned Nigeria Company or in genuine partnership with a foreign company and not a commission agent; * Provide a verifiable local involvement plan through employment and sub-contracting plan for Nigerians; x. Evidence of Financial capability and/or banking support; xi. Company's Profile with detailed evidence of previous experiences of principal and key personnel, including their capabilities academic/professional qualifications.	
14	Evaluation of Hydrocarbon In-transit Line Loss	A Research and Development Centre is required to conduct studies and establish authentic hydrocarbon in-transit losses along the hydrocarbon transmission pipelines in Nigeria.	20,000.00	2. <b>METHOD OF APPLICATION</b> Contractors interested in these projects should collect relevant bid documents from the Secretariat of the Procurement Committee (PC) Room D08.31 8 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Block D, NNPC Towers, Central Business District, Herbert Macaulay Way, Abuja, upon payment of a non refundable administrative fee as indicated against each project.	
		<b>Project Scope</b> i. Review available literature on the subject matter ii. Acquire field data from given hydrocarbon transmission pipelines iii. Establish the hydrocarbon in-transit losses for the given pipelines iv. Generate a model for predicting hydrocarbon in-transit loss under varied operating conditions v. Organize stakeholders' workshop in collaboration with MPR on the subject project vi. Document and submit reports (5 hardcopies and 2 softcopies) to MPR/DPR		Duly completed Pre-qualification forms and Tender bids with the necessary documents are to be submitted in separate sealed envelopes clearly marked Pre-qualification bid 'X' and Financial bid 'X' (indicating the Lot of interest) on the left hand corner and should be addressed to: The Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor, NNPC Towers, Herbert Macaulay Way, Garki, Abuja.	
15	Evaluation/ Review of Domestic Gas Pricing Model	This project seeks to review and evaluate available gas pricing models across the globe, and establish acceptable model for use in pricing gas in the Nigerian domestic sector. The result will form the basis for fixing and/or monitoring gas prices in the sector.	15,000.00	Six (6) copies of the Pre-qualification documents and tenders in respect of the project should be dropped in the Ministry Tender's Box at the Office of the Permanent Secretary, Block D 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor, NNPC Towers, Central District, Herbert Macaulay Way, Abuja, Not later than two weeks from the date of this advert (i.e. latest 12.00 p.m.) of the closing date).	
		<b>Project scope</b> i. Review available gas pricing models in different parts of the world ii. Acquire data from producers and user companies, and determine the optimal pricing model for both parties iii. Develop domestic gas pricing template and custom software for computing gas prices under various conditions. iv. Organize stakeholders' workshop in collaboration with MPR on the subject project v. Document and submit reports (5 hardcopies and 2 softcopies) to MPR/DPR		3. <b>OPENING OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS</b> The Pre-qualification Documents submitted by interested bidders will be opened publicly on 19 <sup>th</sup> May, 2010 at 12.00 p.m. at the Conference Room, Ministry of Petroleum Resources, Block D, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor, NNPC Towers, Abuja. Prospective bidders, interested members of the Public and Non Governmental Organizations are hereby invited to witness the opening of the documents. However, only pre-qualified contractors will be invited for the opening of the financial/commercial bids at a date to be announced later.	
16	Establishment of Vapor Pressure for Commercial Natural Gas Liquids	To enable accurate Fiscalization of low density hydrocarbons in the Nigerian oil and gas industry, a Research and Development Centre is required to produce following recommended international Vapor Pressure Tables for Commercial Natural Gas Liquids (covering the EP-Mix NGLs).	15,000.00	Applications sent by post will be rejected, please. For further enquiries on the Tenders; contact: <b>The Secretary of the Procurement Committee, (PC)</b> Ministry of Petroleum Resources, Block D, 8 <sup>th</sup> floor, NNPC Towers Abuja.  <b>Permanent Secretary,</b> Ministry of Petroleum Resources, Abuja.	
		<b>Project Scope</b> i. Acquire relevant data from given gas fields (3Nos) ii. Carry out PVT analysis of the fluid samples		<b>NOTE: (i)</b> Please note that this invitation to submit a proposal shall not entitle Tenderer to make any claims whatsoever and/or seek an indemnity from the Ministry of Petroleum Resources by virtue of having responded to this Invitation to submit a Proposal. <b>NOTE: (ii)</b> Please note that this advert is also available on DPR's website, <a href="http://www.dpr.nigeria.com">www.dpr.nigeria.com</a>	



# NATIONAL PRIMARY HEALTH CARE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

PLOT 681/682 PORT HARCOURT CRESCENT  
OFF GIMBIYA STREET, AREA II, P.M.B. 367, GARKI – ABUJA.



## INVITATION TO TENDER

### A. INTRODUCTION

The National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) is a Federal Government Parastatal under the Federal Ministry of Health responsible for development and strengthening of Primary health care services nationwide.

In compliance with the Public Procurement Act 2007 as regards Procurement of goods; the NPHCDA invites interested and qualified bidders for the procurement of the following items for the 2010 Appropriation:

**NOTE:** The vaccine cold chain infrastructure and logistics component is funded with MDGs-DRG.

### B. AREAS OF SUPPLY REQUIRED:

S/N	LOT NO.	DESCRIPTION/ALLOCATION
1	LOT /2010/1/1	Supply of 6 units of walk-in Cold rooms to NPHCDA Cold stores, Northern zones.
2	LOT /2010/1/2	Supply of 6 units of walk-in Cold rooms to NPHCDA Cold stores, Southern zones.
3	LOT /2010/1/3	Supply of 3 units of walk-in Cold rooms to Kaduna, Taraba & FCT (one unit to each state)
4	LOT /2010/1/4	Supply of 21 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Adamawa state.
5	LOT /2010/1/5	Supply of 20 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Bauchi state.
6	LOT /2010/1/6	Supply of 27 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Borno state.
7	LOT /2010/1/7	Supply of 11 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Gombe state & 16 units (One to each LGA) in Taraba state.
8	LOT /2010/1/8	Supply of 17 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Yobe state & 6 units to NPHCDA NE zonal office.
9	LOT /2010/1/9	Supply of 27 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Jigawa state.
10	LOT /2010/1/10	Supply of 23 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Kaduna state & 6 units to NPHCDA NW zonal office.
11	LOT /2010/1/11	Supply of 44 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Kano state.
12	LOT /2010/1/12	Supply of 34 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Katsina state.
13	LOT /2010/1/13	Supply of 21 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Kebbi state & 14 units (One to each LGA) in Zamfara state.
14	LOT /2010/1/14	Supply of 23 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Sokoto state.
15	LOT /2010/1/15	Supply of 23 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Benue state.
16	LOT /2010/1/16	Supply of 6 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in FCT & 13 units (One to each LGA) in Nasarawa state.
17	LOT /2010/1/17	Supply of 21 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Kogi state.
18	LOT /2010/1/18	Supply of 16 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Kwara state & 6 units to NPHCDA NC zonal office.
19	LOT /2010/1/19	Supply of 25 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Niger state.
20	LOT /2010/1/20	Supply of 17 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Plateau state & 5 units to National Strategic Cold store, (NSCS) Abuja
21	LOT /2010/1/21	Supply of 17 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Enugu state & 6 units to NPHCDA SE zonal office.
22	LOT /2010/1/22	Supply of 21 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Anambra state.
23	LOT /2010/1/23	Supply of 13 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Ebonyi state & 17 units (One to each LGA) in Abia state.
24	LOT /2010/1/24	Supply of 27 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Imo state.
25	LOT /2010/1/25	Supply of 16 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Ekiti state & 18 units (One to each LGA) in Ondo state.
26	LOT /2010/1/26	Supply of 20 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Ogun state.
27	LOT /2010/1/27	Supply of 30 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Osun state.
28	LOT /2010/1/28	Supply of 33 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Oyo state.
29	LOT /2010/1/29	Supply of 20 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Lagos state & 6 units to NPHCDA SW zonal office.
30	LOT /2010/1/30	Supply of 31 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Akwa Ibom state.
31	LOT /2010/1/31	Supply of 8 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Bayelsa state & 18 units (One to each LGA) in Edo state.
32	LOT /2010/1/32	Supply of 18 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Cross Rivers state & 6 units to NPHCDA SS zonal office.
33	LOT /2010/1/33	Supply of 25 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Delta state.
34	LOT /2010/1/34	Supply of 29 units of Solar Refrigerators (One to each LGA) in Rivers state.
35	LOT /2010/1/35	Supply of 112 units Laptop Computers (One to each LGA) in North East zone + 6 units Desktop Computers (One to each state) in NE zone + 1 unit Desktop Computer to NE zonal office.
36	LOT /2010/1/36	Supply of 186 units Laptop Computers (One to each LGA) in North West zone + 7 units Desktop Computers (One to each state) in NW zone + 1 unit Desktop Computer to NW zonal office.
37	LOT /2010/1/37	Supply of 121 units Laptop Computers (One to each LGA) in North Central zone + 7 units Desktop Computers (One to each state) in NC zone + 1 unit Desktop Computer to NC zonal office + 1 unit Desktop Computer to NPHCDA HQ office.
38	LOT /2010/1/38	Supply of 95 units Laptop Computers (One to each LGA) in South East zone + 5 units Desktop Computers (One to each state) in SE zone + 1 unit Desktop Computer to SE zonal office.
39	LOT /2010/1/39	Supply of 137 units Laptop Computers (One to each LGA) in South West zone + 8 units Desktop Computers (One to each state) in SW zone + 1 unit Desktop Computer to SW zonal office.
40	LOT /2010/1/40	Supply of 123 units Laptop Computers (One to each LGA) in South South zone + 6 units Desktop Computers (One to each state) in SS zone + 1 unit Desktop Computer to SS zonal office.

41	LOT /2010/1/41	Supply of 1 unit of Cold Truck to National Strategic Cold Store, Abuja.
42	LOT /2010/1/42	Supply of 1 unit of Cold Truck to Zonal Cold Store, South South Zone.
43	LOT /2010/1/43	Supply of 1 unit of Cold Truck to Zonal Cold Store, North West Zone.
44	LOT /2010/1/44	Supply of 2 units of Cold Vans to NPHCDA North East Zonal Cold Stores.
45	LOT /2010/1/45	Supply of 2 units of Cold Vans to NPHCDA North West Zonal Cold Stores.
46	LOT /2010/1/46	Supply of 2 units of Cold Vans to NPHCDA North Central Zonal Cold Stores.
47	LOT /2010/1/47	Supply of 2 units of Cold Vans to NPHCDA South East Zonal Cold Stores.
48	LOT /2010/1/48	Supply of 2 units of Cold Vans to NPHCDA South West Zonal Cold Stores.
49	LOT /2010/1/49	Supply of 2 units of Cold Vans to NPHCDA South South Zonal Cold Stores.
50	LOT /2010/1/50	Supply of 1,030,957 units of BCG Syringes to North East zone.
51	LOT /2010/1/51	Supply of 1,326,079 units of BCG Syringes to North West zone.
52	LOT /2010/1/52	Supply of 1,104,590 units of BCG Syringes to North Central zone.
53	LOT /2010/1/53	Supply of 878,102 units of BCG Syringes to South East zone.
54	LOT /2010/1/54	Supply of 1,491,506 units of BCG Syringes to South West zone.
55	LOT /2010/1/55	Supply of 1,133,887 units of BCG Syringes to South South zone.
56	LOT /2010/1/56	Supply of 19,270 doses of CSM (ACYW – 135) HAJJ Vaccines to North East zone.
57	LOT /2010/1/57	Supply of 49,150 doses of CSM (ACYW – 135) HAJJ Vaccines to North West zone.
58	LOT /2010/1/58	Supply of 17,360 doses of CSM (ACYW – 135) HAJJ Vaccines to North Central zone.
59	LOT /2010/1/59	Supply of 5,260 doses of CSM (ACYW – 135) HAJJ Vaccines to South East zone.
60	LOT /2010/1/60	Supply of 11,150 doses of CSM (ACYW – 135) HAJJ Vaccines to South West zone.
61	LOT /2010/1/61	Supply of 2,440 doses of CSM (ACYW – 135) HAJJ Vaccines to South South zone.

### C. COLLECTION OF BID DOCUMENTS:

ALL interested bidders can collect bid documents from the NATIONAL PRIMARY HEALTH CARE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, PLOT 681/682 PORT HARCOURT CRESCENT, OFF GIMBIYA STREET, AREA ELEVEN, GARKI- ABUJA; at the presentation of The Agency's receipt of payment of Ten Thousand Naira (N10,000.00) in certified bank draft made payable to the National Primary Health Care Development Agency. (PLEASE WRITE THE NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION AT THE BACK OF THE DRAFT). Note that acceptance of bank draft for bidding documents shall end by 12 Noon on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2010.

### D. SUBMISSION OF BID DOCUMENTS:

ALL bidders should submit their bids in a sealed envelope, showing the relevant Lot No. and addressed to: THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO, NATIONAL PRIMARY HEALTH CARE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, PLOT 681/682 PORT-HARCOURT CRESCENT, OFF GIMBIYA STREET, AREA ELEVEN, GARKI-ABUJA.

Closing date for the submission of bids is 12 Noon on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2010.

### E. OPENING OF TENDER:

Opening of bids shall be carried out at exactly 1.00pm on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 at NPHCDA Headquarters premises, Abuja.

### NOTE:

1. The NPHCDA reserves the right to reject any document it considers to be of doubtful authenticity.
2. Late submission will not be entertained.
3. This notice shall not be construed to be a commitment on the part of the Agency to award any form of contract to any respondent nor shall it entitle any Organization to claim any indemnity from the Agency.

**SIGNED:**  
**NPHCDA MANAGEMENT.**



# NIREC

Office of The National Co-ordinator/  
Executive Secretary

Federal Secretariat Complex Phase 1, Shehu Shagari Way, Abuja, (Ground Floor, Besides Dana Air Office).  
GSM: 08032372775; 08088009773; 07098200623

## Nigeria Inter-Religious Council

### THE COMMUNIQUE

### 1ST QUARTER MEETING OF THE NIGERIA INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL (NIREC) HELD AT THE ZARANDA HOTEL BAUCHI

BAUCHI STATE

APRIL 23RD. 2010

The Nigeria Inter Religious Council (NIREC) under the Co-Chairmanship of the Sultan of Sokoto, who is also the President-General of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) His Eminence, Alhaji Muhammad Sa' ad Abubakar CFR, mni; and the President of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), His Grace ArchBishop John Onaiyekan, CON held its 1st Quarter General meeting at the Zaranda Hotel, Bauchi from 21st - 23rd April, 2010. The meeting was attended by the principal officers and members of NIREC from across the states of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

The formal opening ceremony of the meeting was attended by His Excellency, the Governor of Bauchi State, Malam (Dr.) Isa Yuguda FNIM, who in an inspiring and passionate address declared the meeting open.

Other dignitaries included the Deputy Governor of Bauchi State, Members of the State Executive Council, Special Advisers to the Governor on Education and Peace and Conflict Management, Emirs, Traditional and Religious Leaders from the North East Zone; Prof. S.A.S Galandanci, Chairman; Ministerial Committee on MADRASAH who made a presentation on their assignment, Prof. Tunde Adeniran, Dr. Rasheed Aderinoye, Deputy Executive Secretary, IIBEC, Representative of the United States Embassy in Nigeria and Chief Uche Ezechukwu who made a presentation titled "Religious Crisis and the Nigerian Nation".

#### The Council:

- Expressed its immense gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency, the Governor of Bauchi State and the people of Bauchi State for the support and hospitality extended to the members.
- Expressed appreciation to the Bauchi Emirate Council, Traditional Rulers and Religious Leaders of the North East Zone of Nigeria.
- Congratulated the Emir of Fika on the receipt of the Staff of Office scheduled for Saturday, the 24th of April, 2010.

#### The Council also observed that:

- Peace and security are prerequisite for development of the country.
- Peace is a process of ensuring and sustaining justice, fairness and equity in the society.
- The two major religions in the country, Islam and Christianity, advocate the message of peace and respect for other religions.
- Sources of conflicts are multi-dimensional and mostly socio-economic, ethno-religious and political in nature.
- The Plateau State crises continue to be a source of concern to all well meaning Nigerians.
- Disregard for the rule of law, poverty, injustice and inequity fuel conflicts.
- Security of life and property still constitute a source of anxiety to all.

#### RESOLUTIONS

##### The Council resolved to:

- i. Call on the Federal Government to find a lasting solution to the Plateau State crisis and other crises and bring to book the perpetrators, promoters and facilitators of the acts of violence and destruction of lives and property.
- ii. Call on Governments at various levels to give compensation to victims of religions/ethnic disturbances to enable them mitigate the effects of human and material losses caused by unwholesome activities of a few misguided elements.
- iii. Collaborate with the Federal and States Governments in establishing and operating a Relief Fund to assist the victims of crises in the nation.
- iv. Caution reckless religious preachers who conduct inciting sermons without regard to the feelings of others and therefore fan the embers of religious misunderstanding and disturbances.
- v. Urge adherents of the two religions to adopt dialogue as an effective means of promoting understanding and peaceful co existence among the people.
- vi. Affirm our commitment to the pursuance of practical actions towards the resolutions of conflicts arising from interactions of peoples in a multi ethnic and multi religious society so that the impact of the Council would be felt by all.

- vii. Call on Governments, groups and all Nigerians, particularly the Faith-based Organisations to build an efficient platform for peace and religious harmony in Nigeria through the promotion of socioeconomic justice, transparency and good governance.
- viii. Call on the media to emphasize and promote issues that unite us as a country to enhance national development.
- ix. Call on religious leaders to tackle the issue of corruption in the country by urging their followers to take their religious values seriously and live by them.
- x. Call on Faith-based Organisations to educate their members on the tenets and injunctions of their religion.
- xi. Call on the National Assembly to act decisively on the thorny issue of settlers and indigenes.
- xii. Call on the Federal, States and Local Governments to tackle the problem of youth unemployment all over the nation.
- xiii. Call on the Federal, States and Local Governments to take concrete steps to nip in the bud all actions and activities that would portray Nigeria as a terrorist country.
- xiv. Urge the Ministerial Committee on MADRASAH to vigorously pursue the integration of the Almajiri education with the UBE in order to regulate, support and reduce the number of children on the streets.
- xv. Endorse the polio eradication effort of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency and actively participate so that every child is vaccinated.
- xvi. Ensure sermons and prayers from all places of worship in Nigeria to direct our religious leaders and our citizens to not only accept, but to demand the oral polio vaccine.
- xvii. Recognize that every child who is not sufficiently vaccinated poses a risk to every other child in Nigeria and Africa.
- xviii. Encourage every parent to accept the vaccine for their child, and ensure that every child is vaccinated against polio.
- xix. Urge all Nigerians to raise their children in the fear of God.
- xx. Call on the Federal Government to reduce the poverty of Nigerians by providing constant electricity, good roads, basic infrastructure and health care system.
- xxi. Urge Governments at all levels to intensify efforts to strengthen security services to make lives and property more secure in the country.
- xxii. Urge those States that are yet to establish State chapters of NIREC, to do so without further delay to enhance the promotion of peaceful co-existence amongst people.
- xxiii. Call on the National Assembly to guarantee free and fair Elections in 2011.
- xxiv. Call on the Federal Government to fully implement the Uwais Report on Electoral Reforms.
- xxv. Urge the Government to make appropriate preparations for the 2011 Elections.
- xxvi. Urge all Nigerians to continue to pray, for the quick recovery of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua.
- xxvii. Commend the Ag. President, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan for steering the ship of the State and pray for his success.
- xxviii. Commend the Co- Chairmen of the Council for their dynamic and focused leadership and affirm their commitment to the continued existence of NIREC and its aims and objectives

Prof. Is-haq Oloyede

National Coordinator/Executive Secretary

His Eminence,  
Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar,  
CFR, mni The Sultan of Sokoto  
President-General Nigeria Supreme Council  
for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA)  
Co-Chairman

His Grace, Dr. John Onaiyekan (CON),  
Catholic Archbishop of Abuja Diocese  
and President Christian Association of  
Nigeria (CAN)  
Co-Chairman

# APPRECIATION

On behalf of my family and myself, I wish to use this medium to express our appreciation to the numerous individuals and organisations who have in one way or another contributed to my successful turbaning as **Dan Masanin Mubi** on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2010. The turn out at the occasion was to say the least very large and so were the support, prayers and goodwill that were extended to us that it is not possible for us to name **all** those who contributed to the success of the occasion. **In that regard, we want to place on record our gratitude to everyone who has contributed in any way to that success.**

However, courtesy demands that we give special recognition to some of you as a symbol of our appreciation to **all** of you. Consequently, we wish to thank the following personalities and organizations:-

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) H.E. Vice-Admiral Murtala H. Nyako, GCON, Executive Governor, Adamawa State | 55) Mr. Yakubu Tsala (Shettiman Mubi)   |
| 2) H.E. Hon. (Bar) B.J. Nggilari, Deputy Governor, Adamawa State.              | 56) Alh. Abubakar Abdullahi mni, <i>Sardaunan Michika</i>                           |
| 3) HRH Alh. (Dr) Abubakar Isa Ahmadu, CFR, Emir of Mubi                        | 57) Dr. & Dr. (Mrs) Jibrilla Mohammed, Andal Science Academy, Kano                  |
| 4) Senator Muhammadu Mana, Senate Deputy Chief Whip                            | 58) Alh. Umar Sanda, <i>Chiroman Mbulu</i>  |
| 5) M. Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, CFR, Secretary to Government of the Federation      | 59) Alh. Hamidu Umaru, Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited                               |
| 6) Mr. Stephen Oronsaye, CON, Head of Civil Service of the Federation          | 60) Members of the Interim Management Committee of ASCL & NIOMCO                    |
| 7) Dr. Aliyu Idi Hong, Hon. Minister of State, Foreign Affairs                 | 61) Alh. Mijinyawa Kugama, Chairman, PDP Adamawa State                              |
| 8) Amb. Idris Waziri, former Minister of Commerce & Industry                   | 62) Prof. Isa Chiroma   |
| 9) Hon. Abubakar Mahmud Wambai, House of Representatives                       | 63) Barrister Kyari Gadzama, <i>SAN</i>   |
| 10) Alh. Abubakar Bobboi Jauro, retired Perm. Sec. INEC                        | 64) Mr. & Mrs. Ahmed Bode, Abuja  |
| 11) Dr. B.K. Kaigama, OON, former Permanent Secretary, the Presidency          | 65) Alh. Umaru Aliyu, Chairman ADSU Governing Council                               |
| 12) Alh. Suleiman Kassim, OON, mni, Perm. Sec. GSO                             | 66) Alh. Shuaibu Marafa Mayo Bani   |
| 13) Engr. Goni Musa Sheikh, Permanent Secretary, FMMSD                         | 67) Major Jackson Bent (rtd), <i>Wamban Bata</i>                                    |
| 14) Prof. Nicholas Damachi, Perm. Sec. FMIC                                    | 68) All staff of the Fed. Ministries of Power; Interior; Mines & Steel; OSGF & NCFR |
| 15) Alh. Bukar Goni Aji, PS, Police Affairs                                    | 69) Alh. Jibrilla Aliyu Digil   |
| 16) Mr. Danladi Kifasi, Perm. Sec. Aviation                                    | 70) Alh. Tijjani Kwaji  |
| 17) Alh. Abdullahi Yola, Solicitor-General/Perm. Sec. Justice                  | 71) Alh. Ahmadu Bello, NSC, Lagos   |
| 18) Dr. Yahaya A. Abdullahi, Perm. Sec. Niger Delta Affairs                    | 72) Alh. Bakari Fudamu, ACG, NIS  |
| 19) HRH the Gangwari Ganye, represented by the <i>Galadiman Ganye</i>          | 73) Alh. Ibrahim Bapullo  |
| 20) Alhaji Abdulkadir M. Ibrahim, Head of Civil Service, Bauchi State          | 74) Alh. Ibrahim Hassan   |
| 21) Alh. Muhammed Musa ( <i>Dan Malikin Gumel</i> ) Perm. Sec. Jigawa State    | 75) Staff of Nigeria Security & Civil Defence Corps in Mubi                         |
| 22) Prof. Abba H. Waziri, OON, <i>Wazirin Mubi</i>                             | 76) Nigeria Police Force, Mubi Division   |
| 23) Hajja Kebbindo and Hajja Diddi   | 77) Dr. Mustapha Barau, Rector, Federal Polytechnic, Mubi                           |
| 24) Prof. Tahir Mamman, DG, Nigeria Law School, Abuja                          | 78) The Secretary and all Members of Mubi Emirate Council                           |
| 25) Engr. Hussein S. Labo, MD/CEO, Power Holding Company of Nigeria            | 79) Alh. Muhammadu Kaigama, Chairman, ASHASC  |
| 26) Alh. Imamudeen Talba, Administrator NERC                                   | 80) All District Heads, Mubi Emirate  |
| 27) Dr. Umar Bindir, Director-General, NOTAP                                   | 81) Alh. Jibrin Zarewa and his Group  |
| 28) Mr. J. O. Olutu, MD, NDPHC   | 82) Alh. Faruk Aliyu, FCDA and his Group  |
| 29) Dr. Ade Abolurin, Commandant-General, NSCDC                                | 83) Alh. Abubakar Iya, NCS  |
| 30) Engr. O.J. Okebiorun, Controller-General, Federal Fire Service             | 84) Mr. & Mrs. Zac O. Lawal, Negris (Nig) Ltd., Lagos                               |
| 31) Mrs. Hadiza Sani Kangiwa, Federal Commissioner for Refugees, Abuja         | 85) Barny Adeku Ojiah, MD, CREDCO Co. Ltd., Abuja                                   |
| 32) Engr. Garba Usman, DG, NMDC Jos  | 86) Alh. Abba Murtala, Kano   |
| 33) Hon. Abdurrahman Shuaibu, Commissioner for Lands & Survey, Yola            | 87) Alh. Hamidu Mahmud ( <i>Wali Mubi</i> )   |
| 34) Engr. E.A. Diya, Director (Steel) Ministry of Mines & Steel                | 88) Alh. Abba Adamu S/Titi  |
| 35) Mr. A. Nnadi, Director/CEO, MTI Onitsha                                    | 89) Dr. Yerima Ngarma, Exec. Director 1 <sup>st</sup> Bank of Nig. Plc              |
| 36) Dr. Hassan Labo, DCG Nigerian Prisons Service                              | 90) Alh. Abdulkarim Gurin, <i>mni, OON</i>  |
| 37) Alh. Dahiru Bobbo, OFR, <i>Dan Madamin Adamawa</i>                         | 91) Engr. Segun Adeleke, Sadel Consults   |
| 38) Alh. Muhammad Lawan Buba, former MD, PPMC                                  | 92) Mr. Stephen Oguche  |
| 39) Alh. Y.M. Agabi, DFA, Fed. Ministry of Power                               | 93) Mr. Donald Peterson   |
| 40) Engr. Sanusi Garba, Director (Power), FMP, Abuja                           | 94) Mr. Sanusi Bala Dutsinma  |
| 41) Alh. Yunusa Wambai, Director, Procurement, FMP, Abuja.                     | 95) Dr. Salihu Bello  |
| 42) All Executive Directors of PHCN, TCN, NDPHC, NERC, and NELMCO              | 96) Alh. Sa'ad Maliki   |
| 43) Prof. Siyan Malomo, Director-General, NGSA                                 | 97) Mr. Kevin Peter, JP.  |
| 44) Mr. Linus U. Adie, PM (SMMRP), Abuja                                       | 98) Alh. Musa Bukar Sani, Esteem Islamic Academy, Abuja                             |
| 45) Engr. A.G. Umar, CEO Abuja Electricity Distribution Company                | 99) Alh. Babangida Jibrilla, Kaduna   |
| 46) Engr. Shehu Roro, CEO, Yola Electricity Distribution Company               | 100) Alh. Danladi Usman, Fed. Ministry of Science & Technology, Abuja               |
| 47) Engr. Rueben O. Okeke, MD/CEO, NAPTIN, Abuja                               | 101) Engr. Abbas Hassan, National Universities Commission, Abuja                    |
| 48) All CEOs of GENCOs and DISCOs  | 102) Barrister Suleiman Abubakar  |
| 49) Mr. Chris Onyemenam, DG, NIMC  | 103) Alh. Idi Amin, <i>Turakin Pakka</i>  |
| 50) Prof. Alkasim Abba, V.C., ADSU   | 104) Engr. Yusuf Kelo   |
| 51) Alh. Ibrahim D. Waziri   | 105) Alh. Ibrahim Njidda  |
| 52) Ms Rose Ndong, Ag. MD, NMC, Jos  | 106) The Reception Committee led by Mal. Bashir Njobdi                              |
| 53) Prof. Maxwell Gidado   | 107) The Accommodation Committee led by Alh. Nasiru Galadima                        |
| 54) Alh. Usman Bello (Executive Secretary, NSDC)                               | 108) The Logistic Committee led by Alh. Yusuf M. Agabi                              |
|  | 109) The Media Group – NTA, FRCN, and the Print Media                               |
|  | 110) International Energy Services Limited  |

I. B. Sali

*Dan Masanin Mubi*

Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Power



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

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

The National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) is charged with the responsibility of enforcing all environmental laws, guidelines, policies, standards and regulations in Nigeria. As part of the process for achieving its mandate under the 7<sup>th</sup> FGN-UNDP Country Programme (2009 / 2012), NESREA is requesting for submissions from the general public in order to implement the following activities.

**LOTA: REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT GUIDELINES**

**SCOPE OF WORK**

- Review the existing Environmental Audit Guidelines in line with current global trends;
- Define the Scope of An Environmental Audit and the responsibilities of an Environmental Auditor including ethics of an Environmental Auditor;
- Develop protocols to evaluate key aspects of environmental management and performance, such as waste disposal, energy use, cleaner production, supply chains, health and safety;
- Review the On-site audit checklist in line with current trends;
- Develop Presentation format of audit findings;
- Develop action plan framework for implementation of Recommendations;

Duration 4 weeks

**LOT B: DEVELOPMENT OF ENFORCEMENT POLICY FOR NESREA**

**SCOPE OF WORK**

- Principles of an enforcement programme;
- Achieving enforcement objectives;
- Procedure for compliance monitoring and enforcement
- Procedure for prosecution

Duration: 4 weeks

**LOT C: STUDY OF COMPLIANCE WITH CITES IN NIGERIA.**

**SCOPE OF WORK**

- Appraise Nigeria's status in the implementation of CITES.
- Identify key CITES species and their conservation status in Nigeria.
- Identify centres of illegal wildlife trade in the country and determine prominent routes and destinations.
- Identify and document major CITES violations and factors militating against effective enforcement of CITES.
- Determine the level of CITES awareness among all segments of Nigeria society and suggest awareness creation strategy.
- Considering the present institutional arrangement, design a strategic CITES enforcement regime sufficiently effective and sustainable, drawing from the NESREA Act and the Endangered Species Act.
- Prepare and submit report.

Duration 6 weeks

**CONSULTANCY REQUIREMENTS**

- A first degree in environment and environment related disciplines; a higher degree will be an added advantage;
- At least 20 years experience in environment and environment related disciplines;
- Good knowledge of the operation of the industrial sector in Nigeria with regards to health, safety and environmental policies;
- Must be NESREA duly accredited consultant;
- Verifiable proof of execution of similar assignment;
- Evidence of incorporation by Corporate Affairs Commission;
- Tax Clearance Certificate of 3 years including possessing of Tax Identification Number (TIN);
- Company's audited account of 3 years;
- Value Added Tax registration and remittance;
- Company Profile indicating key personnel with years of experience; and
- Verifiable evidence of Financial Capability to execute the project.

**SUBMISSION OF BIDS:**

Response to this shall be in separate sealed envelopes, ie Technical (including a detailed work plan) and Financial Proposal respectively. The bid, which must be packed in a sealed envelope, marked at the right hand corner "FGN - UNDP/NESREA 2010 MISCELLANEOUS BIDS", shall be delivered at the address stated below three weeks from date of publication at 12 noon (local time):

*The Director-General,  
National Environmental Standards & Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA)  
No. 4 Oro-Ago Street,  
Off Muhamadu Buhari Way, Garki II,  
Abuja, FCT.*

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders or their representatives who may choose to attend the event as follows at NESREA office at 4.00pm (Local Time) on date of bid closure.

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST  
(re-advertisement)**



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nigeria would like to invite registered Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) for Pre-qualification and possible inclusion in a database of NGOs specialized in the following areas:

- Elections**
- Media**
- Conflict Management**
- Political Parties**
- Gender**
- Human Rights, Rule of Law and Access to Justice**
- Youth**
- Other Democratic Governance areas not specifically mentioned above**

The United Nations Development Programme in Nigeria, through the Democratic Governance for Development (DGD) project is looking to complete a comprehensive roster of NGOs working in the area of democratic governance in Nigeria.

Interested NGOs must meet the eligibility requirements for consideration which can be downloaded at the following UNDP websites: [www.ng.undp.org](http://www.ng.undp.org), [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org). The application template can also be downloaded from the websites.

**SUBMISSION DETAILS:**

The EOI and supporting documents must be received not later than the 13 May 2010 by 3:00 PM (local time) and must be forwarded to the address below in a sealed envelope clearly labeled "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PRE QUALIFICATION OF NGOs IN NIGERIA" PLEASE INCLUDE THE NAME OF THE NGO AND THE GEO-POLITICAL ZONE OF INTEREST.

**OPERATIONS MANAGER**

**UNDP/DGD 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
ELIZADE PLAZA, OPPOSITE BOLINGO HOTEL  
CENTRAL AREA, GARKI (ABUJA)**

**The EOI submissions that are not in compliance with the requested information as outlined above will be not be considered eligible to be included in the next stage in this process.**

This EOI does not amount to a commitment on the part of UNDP, either financial or otherwise. UNDP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOI without any obligation to inform the affected applicants of the grounds for acceptance or rejection.

# BUSINESS

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**AIGBOJE Aig-Imoukhuede**

## Access Bank posts N5.2bn profit in Q1

By Idris Ahmed

ACCESS Bank Plc has posted a Profit Before Tax of N5.2bn for the first quarter ended March 31, 2010. The bank said this is a clear indication of rewarding year end for its shareholders.

The bank also has a earning of N27.8 billion in the same quarter, which is about 4 percent growth over last year's figure.

Information on the balance sheet of the bank indicated that aside from the 20 percent growth recorded by the bank, loans and advances went down by 14 percent. The bank's capital adequacy ratio stood at 29 percent while non-performing loans ratio improved from 16.8 to 8 percent, which are strong indication of operational efficiency.

A further analysis of the result also revealed that the bank's cost of fund improved by 400 basis points, buoyed by a liquidity ratio of 42 percent. The bank's capital adequacy ratio of 29 percent and liquidity ratio of 42 percent are far higher than the levels of capital and liquidity required for both the local and international standards.

The bank's Group Managing Director/CEO Aigboje Aig-

Imoukhuede said he was pleased to report that the first quarter results indicate that Access Bank has emerged from this difficult period.

He said the bank has strong business fundamentals and in a vantage position to take advantage of the new banking landscape. "We are particularly thrilled that our efficiency driven initiatives around cost of funds, cost of risk and cost to income are paying off across our group operations", he said.

Meanwhile, the bank has launched two new products to boost entrepreneurs' profitability through expense management and revenue enhancement. These products are Access Advantage and Mpower Biz.

The bank said that the Mpower Biz is a high yield business current account with zero COT specially designed for Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SMEs), while Access Advantage is a hybrid saving account with features of a current account.

Access Bank currently has a network of over 110 branches and service outlets located in all major commercial centres and cities across Nigeria and in 7 African Nations and the United Kingdom.



**JOSEPH Makoju**

## Cement production to hit 13 million tons in 2010

By Sunday Williams

LOCAL production of cement in the country is expected to increase to about 13 million tons at the end of this year, the Chairman of Cement Manufacturers Association of Nigeria Engr. Joseph Makoju has said.

Speaking to newsmen in Abuja at the end of a closed door meeting under the Organised Private Sector with the Minister of Commerce and Industry Jubril Martins Kuye, the Chairman said last year's total local production was about 7 to 8 million tons.

He said: "Last year total local production came to as 7 to 8 million tons.

This year, it will even be about 4 to 5 million higher representing about 50 percent increase."

He said cement importation in the past was done to bridge the gap between the supply and demand in order to meet the country's needs which the local manufacturers could achieve.

He said for Nigeria to become a cement producing nation that will meet local demand, the country needs to revisit some of the problems facing the sector especially the review of import policy.

Makoju who is a former Managing Director of NEPA said the dramatic improvement in gas supply is a good news as there will be huge increase in generation capacity from the thermal stations.

He said: "From privilege information that I can share with you, over the last 3 to 4 weeks for the first time in about 2 to 3 years, daily generation is averaging about 3,500 mega watts and above and this is good news."

He said the meeting between the minister and the organised private sector which is expected to produce a communiqué was a successful one, adding that they had a peace of mind as the minister is a manufacturer and knows most of their problems.

### BRIEF

#### PHCN buys N46m vehicles for Kano business units

From Hisham Habib Kano

VEHICLES worth N46.5 million have been handed over to the various business units of the Kano electricity distribution company of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria by the chief executive officer of the company Engineer Muhammad Tunde Balogun. The 15 brand new vehicles according to Engineer Balogun were procured with the federal government's intervention funds allocated to the company in 2009. He said the fund was purposely provided by the federal government so as to revamp the power sector in all facets of its operations. He said the vehicles will be deployed for both marketing and distribution activities, adding that each of the ten business units will get 1 vehicle, and the Daura self accounting undertaking, the planning and construction unit and the maximum demand metering group will also get one each. Balogun said "with the deployment of these vehicles, it is expected that the business units will show tremendous improvement in service delivery by way of rapid fault clearing, regular maintenance of equipment and prompt installation of energy meters in customer's premises".

### STOCK MARKET INDEX

Date:	Friday, April 30, 2010
Index:	25,789.53
Volume:	488,353,448
Cap.:	N6,398,379,830,660.00

### TRUST INDEX

Inflation	11.8%
GDP	6.68%
Budget	N4.6tr
Ext. Reserves Acct	\$40.3bn
Excess Crude Acct	\$3.9bn
Poverty Ratio	54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	6%
Banks	24
Oil Price (Bonny light)	\$85.9 a barrel
Power Supply	3,700MW
Oil output per day	2.6mbd
Broad Money Supply	N11,010,063.6m
Credit to Private Sector	N10,037,422.5m
Inter-Bank Rate	1.2000%
Treasury Bills	2.02%
Deposit Rate	7.51%
Prime Lending Rate	18.06%

### CBN EXCHANGE RATES

	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CEA	0.2802	0.2902	0.3002
DANISH KRONER	26.4331	26.5227	26.6123
EURO	196.8078	197.4749	198.142
POUNDS STERLING	228.2422	229.0159	229.7895
RIYAL	39.336	39.4694	39.6027
SDR	223.1679	223.9244	224.6808
SWISS FRANC	137.1293	137.5941	138.0589
US DOLLAR	147.51	148.01	148.51
WAUA	222.2933	223.0468	223.8003
YEN	1.5661	1.5714	1.5767

### Bureau de Change Rates

BUYING	
Dollar	N151
Euro	N204
Pound	N234
SELLING	
Dollar	N152
Euro	N206
Pound	N236

Source: Seb 1 Bureau de Change, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja.



## Star Feature

# When will stree

The recent raids embarked upon by the authorities to evacuate beggars from the numerous streets of Abuja, has received flak from the public, with not a few saying that addressing the issue of social welfare may be an unexplored veritable first step in stamping out street begging, and its various forms.

By Tosin Omoniyi

**I**N the federal capital territory they are as ubiquitous as the air one breathes. In major street corners and bus stops they accost you, thrusting their bleary eyes and grimy hands at you. They implore you for alms, even as the more daring ones block your path, in an aggressive attempt to make you part with your hard earned resources. Under the popular Mararaba bridge, a group of them have set up a mini village where they beg for alms. They are even well organized in such a way that they have a leader who sees to their welfare. The thick-set man, who patrols the fringes of the beggars' region like a testy mother hen, barks at anybody he considers a threat to his 'subjects.'

Their presence has once again hit on the sensitive nerves of the capital city's authorities, and in recent weeks they have come down on the beggars, just as they did a few months earlier, when there was a mass evacuation of the beggars from the multiple streets of the city of power. A source at the Social Welfare department of the federal capital development agency, FCDA, confirmed that the unit was making spirited moves to once again evacuate the beggars from the streets, as they now constitute an eyesore, even as the residents of the city deplore the nuisance they connote. He adds that over the next few weeks, the agency aims at removing over a thousand such beggars from the streets of Abuja, to a site that has been specifically designed to accommodate them and attend to their peculiar needs. "It is an ongoing process that we have kick started. The police and officials of the Abuja Environmental Protection Board are actively involved in the evacuation of these persons. The city authorities are hoping to reduce the number of beggars on the streets of Abuja to a manageable proportion, because what we have now is becoming a social menace, and most residents are not comfortable with the situation. We intend to address the issue of street begging as seriously as possible this time around," the source confirmed.

Officials of the Abuja Envi-



"REMOVING these beggars from the streets is not an easy task, as some of them are violent in nature."

ronmental Protection Board, AEPB also confirmed that they have deployed manpower and resources to the social welfare unit of the capital city, to aid them in their work at sanitizing the city's environment and making it relatively beggars free. Titus Ndawa, principal assistant

to the director on enforcement, says in the past few weeks, officials of the unit have assisted in the process of removing several beggars from the streets of Abuja. He enthuses, "removing these beggars from the streets is not an easy task, as some of them are violent in nature. But due to the

intense training we give our men in that regard, the social welfare unit always approaches us for manpower whenever they go on such raids, as we are more trained in handling such social problems. Some of our men have been injured in such operations, but we still provide men and resources for such operations despite this." The retired Deputy Superintendent of Police however believes more resources should be deployed to the agency in terms of manpower, technical support and logistics, if the war on street begging would ultimately be won by the city's authorities.

**I**nvestigations however reveal that most of the streets of Abuja are once again being patrolled with beggars and streets urchins, despite the serial raids carried out by the gov-

ernment agencies, although in the core metropolitan areas of the city, there appears to be a reduction in their numbers. In most parts of the suburbs and at major bus stops such as Wuse, Berger and Area one sections of the city, the beggars have returned in pockets. This has prompted many residents to wonder if the relocation sites they were taken in the first place, are guarded against escape by the beggars, or if the authorities are simply playing to the gallery over the issue.

Sadiq Ibrahim, a tutor, believes that the authorities have not yet gotten their acts together, hence the constant rigmarole over evacuation and return of street beggars. He notes that relocating such people to the outskirts of town without providing adequate infrastructure and welfare stipends for them, would not solve the social

**He adds that over the next few weeks, the agency aims at removing over a thousand such beggars from the streets of Abuja."**

# It begging end?

“But simply dumping them somewhere and hoping that they would just vanish like a bad dream, is laughable.”



LACK of welfare packages for beggars by the authorities necessitates their rise in numbers.

menace. “Relocating them will not solve the problem one bit. Adequate provision for the welfare has to be in place for them to stay put wherever they have taken them. But simply dumping them somewhere and hoping that they would just vanish like a bad dream, is laughable. They would still come back on the streets and constitute a burden on residents, and then the circle will begin once more, with evacuation and relocations. How long will that continue?” he queries.

For some residents however, the issue of relocation of beggars to be finally attended to, other professionals other than law enforcement agents should be actively involved. Ruth Claire, a student of the University of Jos, who usually spends her vacation in Abuja, states that leaving medical personnel like psychiatrists, psychologists, sociologists and other related professionals out of the process, will not ultimately be in the interest of all concerned. She attributes her assertion to the fact that not all the beggars are actually underprivileged. She believes that for many there is a deeper psychological underpinning to why they beg rather than the need to survive. “Do you think every beggar you see on the streets is actually in need? Some are chronic beggars. They beg when they are in need, and even they do not need to. If the authorities really want to stamp out the menace, whenever they pick these beggars off the streets, they should involve professionals like psychologists, sociologists and even psychiatrists in the process. These would be able to counsel the arrested persons on the disadvantages of begging to personal prestige and honor. You will find out that with these professionals assisting the enforcers, the issue of street begging would be greatly reduced and those taken to the rehabilitation centers when released, would certainly not go back to begging.” As an afterthought she also adds that spiritualists and clerics should equally be involved. “We live in a society that has direct bearing on the supernatural and fetish practices. We cannot undermine the fact that some beggars are under one spiritual spell or the other. Or how can you explain the fact that even supposedly well dressed and prosperous looking persons, daily engage in the act under one guise or the other?”

Claire’s observation may have some credibility, as there appears to be an upsurge in the presence of ‘corporate begging’ on the streets of Abuja. These well dressed and obviously decent looking persons now abound

in many parts of the capital city. They usually approach in such a humble manner, that you would be left with no choice but to grant them audience. With impeccable grammar and polite speech, as soon as they get your attention, they regale you with tales ranging from the humorous to the pitiable, at times tending to the bizarre. Their mission ultimately is to appeal to the good nature in you to assist them with money. Their usual ploy is to get you to help them with transportation fare to get them to wherever they are going. Some other daring ones would simply urge you to help them with money to feed oftentimes claiming to have gone on for days without food.

Donatus Nwosu a furniture maker at Kugbo market humorously recalls a young decently dressed man who once came to him for financial assistance while he was at work which he instantly obliged. But he says he was stunned when the same man approached him again a few days later having obviously forgotten that he had once come to him for money. “When I politely reminded him that he had once come to me for money, and for the same reason he was approaching me this time around, his reaction was surprising. He just laughed and told me that that was the only way he could survive without a job in a city like Abuja. He didn’t show any remorse at all which made me realize that this was another form of criminal activity going on in Nigeria today which the authorities should quickly look into.” Donates who is physically

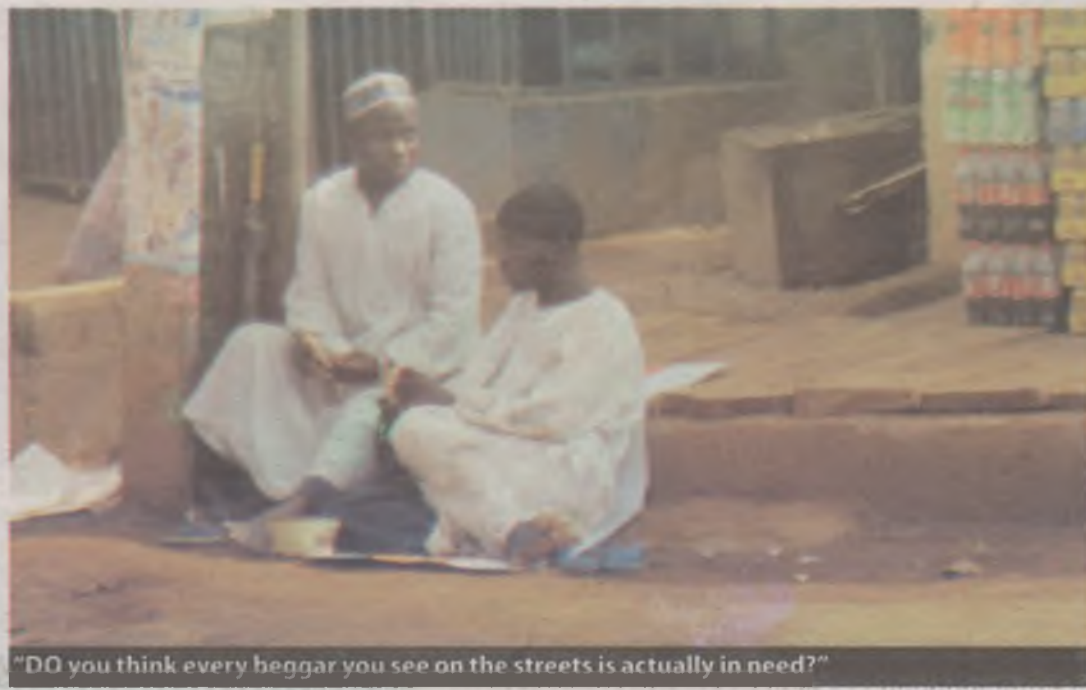
challenged believes that if people like him can survive in the country of today nobody has any reason to eke out a dubious living through begging.

David Udoiwang, a senior staff member at the National Productivity Center, NPC Abuja notes the menace of street begging would only be eradicated when the government stopped playing lip service to the issue of potent poverty, and inadequate social welfare for its citizens. He enthuses: “although we cannot ignore the cultural, social and religious basis for begging in Nigeria today, yet the government still has a great part to play in removing the unsavoury trend. The governments in the northern states, to be fair, have made some strides in order to

reduce the problem to a manageable level, but more still needs to be done. Poverty is the primary factor that makes street begging possible. And it manifests in different forms: you even see young able bodied men stopping on the way, and asking for alms. You see both the aged and young ones too engaging in it. Poverty is biting hard and there is widespread joblessness. It is when there is a change in the nation’s economy, that we can now begin to address other factors like cultural and religious underpinnings. Unless the government addresses the core issues of poverty, the situation will remain even with ad hoc attempts at removing the effects rather than the causes. Something fundamental has to be done by the government to fight pov-

erty such as social allowance for the handicapped, the weak and the homeless. There has to be social infrastructure on ground, and an institution that will take care of this class of people, or it would remain a social menace. It is not just the problem of Abuja, every state capital has this problem.”

He adds that the move by the city authorities to remove the beggars would be counterproductive, if the right things are not done first. “How many are you going to remove? It is not going to work. How do you sustain it? It is not picking them off the streets. How do you sustain and rehabilitate them? If you are unable to do this, that means in a matter of time they are going to be back on the streets!”



“DO you think every beggar you see on the streets is actually in need?”

## Business/International

### Zimbabwe, China in \$400m power plant deal

ZIMBABWE has signed a \$400 million agreement with China's Sinohydro to expand its Kariba hydro plant, an official said yesterday, as power cuts threaten to dim the country's economic recovery prospects.

"The government has signed a memorandum of agreement with China's Sinohydro for the expansion of Kariba by an additional two 150 MW units," Noah Gwariri, managing director of the Zimbabwe Power Company,

the generation unit of state utility ZESA, told Reuters. "China's Eximbank will fund the project to the tune of \$400 million. Sinohydro is already working on a similar project on the Zambian side of Kariba."

### Kenya's inflation rate slows to 3.7% in April

KENYA'S year-on-year inflation rate slowed to 3.7 percent in April from 4.0 percent a month earlier, thanks again to slower food price rises, official data showed yesterday.

The inflation rate in east Africa's biggest economy is the lowest since October 2005 when it was also 3.7 percent, although the two measures were calculated using different methodologies and are not directly comparable.

### 'Angola to get first credit rating soon'

ANGOLA should receive its first credit rating in the next few days, paving the way for the African nation to issue up to \$4 billion in bonds to foreign investors, a government source said yesterday.

Representatives from Moody's, Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor's were recently in Angola to assess its rating. The source declined to give details on timing and the exact amount of bonds to be issued.

"We expect the credit rating to be issued in the next few days," the source said. "The government will then decide how much and when it will sell the bonds."

Analysts have said that a rebound in oil prices in the last 12 months to above \$80 per barrel means Angola will need to issue less debt to rebuild infrastructure wrecked by a 27-year civil war that ended in 2002. Angola hopes it can get a better credit rating than oil-producing rival Nigeria, which is rated "B+" by Standard and Poor's.

Moody's, Fitch and Standard and Poor's officials were not immediately available for comment on Monday. (Reuters)

### S/Africa wants law tightening central bank shareholding rules

SOUTH Africa's government will amend the country's Reserve Bank Act to tighten rules on shareholding in the central bank, Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan said yesterday.

The government and central bank have said some shareholders in the institution were pushing for nationalisation of the bank so that they could be paid for their shares.



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## Business/Maritime

### NIMASA ensures adequate dispute resolution in maritime sector

From Sunday Ejike Benjamin, Lagos

THE Director General and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Mr. Temisan Omatseye has said the Agency would ensure that an enabling environment is provided for arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) as the first option in the resolution of disputes in the nation's maritime industry.

Addressing a two-day international conference on promoting maritime arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in the West and Central African Sub-Region in Lagos, the NIMASA boss said arbitration and ADR as dispute resolution mechanisms are options that are not intended to replace court adjudication processes but to supplement it.

"Today, more maritime disputes are preferable to arbitration that ever before, bringing with them challenges and presenting great opportunities for arbitration and ADR practitioners in providing practical solutions to meet the requirement of the industry", he said.

The NIMASA boss said parties in the maritime industry are interested in strengthening relationships through the promotion of linkages, sustaining trust and integrity in business environment to ensure positive and productive economy.

Nigeria, he noted controls more than 60 percent of the maritime trade in the West and Central Africa adding also that Nigeria should lead the way that would institutionalize arbitration and ADR as the first line option in dispute resolution in the maritime industry.

Omatseye said NIMASA as the apex maritime regulatory Agency is poised to, among other things develop and implement policies that will facilitate the growth of local capacity in all areas of maritime activity in the country in order to ensure the development of Nigeria's maritime sector.

In his address, the chairman, Advisory Council of Maritime Arbitrators Association of Nigeria (MAAN) Admiral Mike Okhai Akhigbe said ADR should be the preferred tool for resolving disputes in the country's maritime saying that is the internationally acceptable best practice.

Akhigbe said arbitration and ADR are the preferred and traditional means of resolving maritime disputes, adding that: "We need to enhance the attractiveness of our countries as preferred destinations for arbitration and ADR services.

We need to encourage other practitioners in the field from outside our shores to regard the sub-region as one of the preferred destinations for the resolution of maritime disputes".



NIGERIA controls more than 60% of maritime trade in West Africa.

## FG set to extend Nigeria's maritime boundary

THE National Boundary Commission has disclosed its plans to extend Nigeria's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) by 150 nautical miles.

Alhaji Sadiq Diggi, Director General of the Commission who disclosed this on Sunday in Abuja, said the extension would, however, be subject to UN's approval.

He said the intended additional 150 nautical miles,

through the commission's proposal extending "the Continental Shelf Project" would extend Nigeria's maritime boundary from its entitled 200 to 350 nautical miles.

"Initially Nigeria had 200 nautical miles as its Exclusive Economic Zone, so what we are trying to do is to extend it by 150 kilometres so that we can have 350 nautical miles all to ourselves.

"The benefit of this is that

all ships coming through that area must come under our authority, and we are going to be in control of all mineral exploitations and fisheries resources.

"Also we are going to be very safe in the event that oil is discovered somewhere above 200 nautical miles away, it will still be in our territory" he said. The Director General also said that once finance and logistics were in place, the commission hoped to continue with the

demarcation exercise along Nigeria's internal boundaries.

He said that Nigeria had been able to successfully negotiate, resolve and demarcate international boundary issues with its neighbours.

NAN reports that the international boundaries include Nigeria/Niger, Nigeria/Benin, Nigeria/Equatorial Guinea, Nigeria/Sao Tome and Principe, and Nigeria/Cameroon. (NAN)

## Customs MMA Command generates N7bn in Q1

From Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

THE Nigeria Customs Service, Murtala Muhammed International Airport Command, has generated over N7billion and remitted same into the Federation Account between the Months of January and March 2010, an amount that represents 78.28 per cent of its revenue performance for the year.

Addressing newsmen at the weekend in Lagos, the Area controller of the Airport Command Micheal Adedeji Adewole stated the command's target for the year is thirty six billion with a monthly target benchmarked on three billion each month.

According to him, the 78.28 per cent was achieved no thanks to the negative effects of

the volcanic ash, which impacted on flight operations in the European airspace as its spiral effects had a huge toll on cargo and passenger operations which also negatively affected the revenue generation profile of the custom.

He explained that the command will not relent on its efforts to generate more revenue for government.

Adewole stated further that the command will pursue full swing the introduction of the self assessment and up front electronic payment regime introduced to block all leakages in its operations.

On the anti-smuggling exercise in the command, the Customs boss said he has not relented since he assumed office three months ago to make sure that MMA command in not

used as an entry point for smuggling and prohibited goods into the country.

He explained that part of anti-smuggling strategy is the officers' moral persuasion with statutory enforcement to carry out the seizure of prohibited goods at the airport.

A strategy which he said assisted the command to record seizures of illicit goods worth over N53,432,040.37 million in the first quarter

Adewole listed the seized prohibited goods to include: chairs and tables, lace materials, garments, ladies slippers, ladies hand bags, fake FRSC drivers' license, ladies shoes as well as coins in 50 kobo denomination.

He further explained that besides the other seizures, Customs and the NDLEA in February seized drugs weighing over 6.3 kilograms.

## Business/Aviation

## Benin airport remains 4th busiest

BENIN Airport has continued to maintain the position of the fourth busiest airport in Nigeria with 20 daily scheduled flights for landing and takeoff.

The flights are mainly from the Murtala Muhammad Lagos and the Nnamdi Azikwe, Abuja airports.

Currently, the 21 airports in Nigeria record about 510 domestic flights for landing and takeoff daily.

Investigations revealed that Benin airport comes behind Lagos 192; Abuja 125; and Port Harcourt International Air-

port, 37 respectively.

Three airlines, Aero, Arik and Associated Airways operate from Lagos to Benin Airport daily with Arik and Associated Airways operating three flights each and Aero with two flights while Arik operates two flights into the airport from Abuja.

However, Ibadan airport joins the league of airports with double digit flights as it manages exactly 10 flights on both landing and takes off.

Interestingly, these are flights from Lagos, Ilorin and Abuja.

Other airports in this league include: Calabar 12; Port Harcourt (Air Force Base) 10; Kaduna 10; Kano 15; Warri 12; and Owerri 14.

Airports with single digit flights include Gombe 5; Minna 6; Akure 4; Sokoto 6; Yola 6; Maiduguri 3; Jos 8; Ilorin 8; Katsina 2; and Uyo 4.

Airlines operating to these airports include: Aerocontractors, Arik, Associated, Chanchangi, Dana, IRS, Virgin Nigeria and Overland.

## FG trains aviation security

ABOUT 18 staff of Aviation Security from the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) is expected to participate in the security training programme by organized by the Federal Government in Abuja by the end of the year.

The managing director of FAAN, Mr. Richard Aisuebeogun, dropped the hint at the passing out parade of the first batch of the graduating officers at FAAN training school at the Murtala Mohammed Airport (MMA), Lagos.

According to him, the graduating officers of 83 were the first batch of 182 officers who underwent a rigorous twelve weeks training in security at FAAN training school and would be posted to different stations to increase vigilance at all the airports in the country.

Aisuebeogun disclosed that the programme is the first time the authority's security officers would be included in any security training by the federal government.

He noted that the inclusion of AVSEC officers

was informed by federal government realization of the need to boost security in the country's aviation industry, hoping that the programme would enhance security knowledge and expertise of the workers.

Aisuebeogun applauded the various security agencies attached to the airports in the country for their cooperation with the authority, saying that with such collaboration, security would further be enhanced all the nation's airports.

The FAAN boss advised the graduating officers to be dedicated to their duty, saying "this is the beginning of your career in aviation".

He likened the profession to a pyramid where only a few of them would eventually get to the peak of their career, urging them to work hard to be among those at the top.

Aisuebeogun identified inadequate security as the major challenge confronting the industry and noted with recruitment and passing out of the officers, the management had given security all the attention it requires.

## Our headache in aviation industry - AIS

THE national president of Aeronautical Information Service Association of Nigeria (AISAN) Comrade Paul Jimoh Igene has identified inadequate equipment and shortage of manpower as bane of the association in the discharge of its duties.

He said his group is also faced with the problem of inadequate staff as most of those engaged were casual workers.

According to the AIS president, the association now has 128 workers as against about 240 workers needed to perform its duties optimally and then urged the aviation minister to address the shortage of

manpower and equipment in the industry.

He said: "Now AIS is shouting seriously that we should be well equipped. We don't have equipment, all AIS stations should have computers, not one, not two. Presently, we are about 128 AIS to be precise and we need over 240 to actually stand AIS equipment".

Comrade Igene however, disclosed that AIS has transformed from analogue to digital and noted that there was delay in the full automation of AIS as approved by the government and the networking of its automation which ought to have commenced in March this year.



## 'Jimoh Ibrahim to properly fund Virgin Nigeria'

STORIES from Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

BUSINESSMAN Jimoh Ibrahim will properly fund the Virgin Nigeria Airline and turn around its fortunes, the NICON Group, which acquired the airline has assured.

According to the management of airline, the injection of funds into the airline is sequel to its acquisition by Barrister Jimoh Ibrahim and his emergence as the Chairman of Virgin Nigeria.

The airline is now undergoing management change and is preparing to implement a turn-around strategy that will ensure its fast and profitable growth.

As part of the change, Mr. Kinfe Fekadu Kahssaye is now the new Chief Executive Officer for the airline.

According to the group, Kahssaye brings vast knowledge and experience of the aviation industry, including an experience in development and implementation of successful turn-around and transformational strategies from one of the leading airlines in Africa.

He joined Ethiopian Airlines as a college trainee in 1987; and had worked with the Airline in various capacities for the last 22 years; including as a member of Ethiopian Airlines top Executive Management Team for the last 10 years.

Kahssaye holds Bsc. degree in Mechanical Engineering, Master of Technology in Aerospace Engineering and MBA.

He had held the position of Executive Vice President Strategic Business Units in Ethiopian Airlines before joining Virgin Nigeria as Chief Operating Officer on October 12, 2009.

## Airport manager laments airlines' indebtedness to FAAN

REGIONAL Manager of Port Harcourt International Airport, Henry Anyaonwu, has attributed the cause of the current service deficiencies being witnessed at the nation's airports to airlines unwillingness to pay for services provided by the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN).

Recounting the problems currently confronting the Port Harcourt airport, Anyaonwu stated the issue of epileptic power supply as almost becoming endemic in the smooth running of the airport operations. He said high cost of diesel is affecting their use of generators at the airport.

His words: "Power is the greatest problem I have in this airport. Diesel is the problem; I use average of four trucks monthly; about 136,000 litres every month. This is because all the six generators here are not yet in operations. For now, we run one generator per time. We have not yet started synchronizing whereby

you bring in two generators to run at time, the fuel consumption level will be very high."

Though, he said the headquarters of FAAN has been supportive in the area of lending financial support to airports, Anyaonwu noted that this effort is crippled by the unrepentant habit of airlines not paying their bills to the agency.

He stressed that the non-payment for services rendered by FAAN by these airlines have put the former in a bad financial situation which is currently impeding a smooth flow in the discharge of its statutory responsibilities.

The regional manager said: "I must be frank with you that headquarters sends allocation when the money is available. It is a general problem which most people are aware. FAAN is going through difficult times in terms of cash flow and you find out that the cash flow problem has to do with the airlines that owe us."

## Business

### United, Continental Airlines to merge

US-BASED United Airlines and Continental Airlines have agreed a deal to merge, creating the world's biggest carrier.

The loss-making companies said they expected the deal, worth \$3.2bn (£2.1bn), to deliver savings of more than \$1bn a year.

The combined group will be named United Airlines.

But new branding will combine the current Continental colours with the United Airlines name.

After the deal was announced shares of both firms rose in morning trading in New York.

United's parent UAL Corporation saw its shares rise by 62 cents, or 2.9 percent to \$22.22, while Continental shares were up 63 cents, or 2.8 percent, to \$22.98.

Although United is seen as the dominant partner, the merger was described as "a

merger of equals".

Together United and Continental currently fly to 370 destinations worldwide, flying 144 million passengers a year.

Combining the two companies will create the world's biggest airline, based on the total number of passenger-miles flown.

Continental's boss Jeff Smisek will be chief executive of the new company based in Chicago, while United Airlines' Glenn Tilton will serve as the non-executive chairman.

Mr Tilton called the deal "great... for our customers, our employees, our shareholders and our communities".

"We are creating a stronger, more efficient airline, both operationally and financially, better positioned to succeed in a dynamic and highly competitive global aviation industry," he said.

The companies did not give any details on poten-



tial job cuts, but said they expected front-line employees to be "minimally affected by the merger", with staff

reductions coming from retirements and voluntary redundancy.

The two companies cur-

rently employ a total of 86,000 people.

Analysts expect redundancies to form part of the

merger, with airlines anxious to cut costs following a recent collapse in profits within the industry. (BBC)

# Nigeria trails behind as world steel usage up by 10.7%

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

DESPITE the possibility that world steel consumption would increase by 10.7 percent before the end of this year and a further increase of 5.3 percent in 2011, Nigeria is still left behind.

This is because Nigeria has abandoned its major steel production for years.

A report from the World Steel Association, in its Short Range Outlook (SRO) for 2010 and 2011 revealed that the world steel usage will increase by 10.7 percent to 1,241 million metric tonnes in 2010 after contracting by - 6.7 percent in 2009.

With these projections, the world steel demands in 2010 will exceed pre-crisis levels.

The report said that, "In 2011 it is forecast that world steel demands will grow by 5.3 percent to reach a historical high of 1,306 million metric tonnes. The resilience of the emerging economies, especially China, has been the critical factor enabling the earlier than expected recovery of world steel demand."

Speaking on this development, the deputy spokesperson of the Nigerian Ministry of Mines and Steel Development Mr. Steve Kilabi said, "Nigeria is still producing steel but only for local consumptions."

However, Daily trust findings at the ministry reveals that Nigeria with its abandoned mineral resources could not meet its local demands of steel consumptions.

"The raw materials is a metal scraps to produces steel, and that could not meet our demand, Nigeria relied on

exportation of steel to meet its demand on steel" the sources said.

This is an indication that Nigeria could not likely benefit economically because of the demands of Steel globally, which may affect the price in the market.

Commenting on this development, the Worldsteel Economics Committee, in its meeting in Beijing last month, stated the risks of increased volatility of raw material prices remains a major concern to the steel industry and its customers.

"The general picture is an improvement on the forecast we issued in October last year. The world steel industry now seems firmly set on a path to recovery. The emerging economies, who in total maintained positive growth through the crisis, will continue to show strong growth, driving world steel demand in the future, however the current recovery in the major developed economies is slower and the projected steel demand for them in 2011 is well below the 2007 level." Daniel Novogil, Chairman of the worldsteel Economics Committee said.

Daniel added, "The recovery is not only earlier but also stronger than expected. It was driven in large part by government stimulus packages and recent inventory restocking. The real concern will be how post-crisis macroeconomic policies deal with fiscal balancing and inflationary pressures."

The report stated that China's apparent steel use in 2010 is expected to increase by 6.7 percent to 579 million metric tonnes after the impressive increase of 24.8 percent in 2009. The pace of economic growth and steel production seen

in the 1st quarter of 2010 suggests that apparent steel use could be higher than this forecast.

In 2011, the growth rate will slow to 2.8 percent. In 2011, China will account for 45.5 percent of world apparent steel use, compared to 48.4 percent in 2009.

India's steel demand maintained stable growth during the crisis and is expected to grow by 13.9% and 13.7% in 2010 and 2011 respectively, after 7.7% in 2009. In 2011, India's apparent steel use will reach 71.6 million metric tonnes.

### BP shares in New York extend losses

OIL giant BP Plc's shares in New York sank further in early yesterday trade after news that the U.S. Department of Justice was taking part in the investigation of the massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

BP shares in New York fell 6.4 percent to \$48.84, bringing their drop to more than 18 percent since the close of trade on April

23. London stock markets were closed on Monday for a holiday.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder's comments that the Justice Department was involved in the probe raised the specter of criminal liability for BP in the oil spill spreading toward the Gulf Coast, after an explosion at a rig drilling its oil well on April 20. (Reuters)

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## Business/Energy

## Content law: Of content and contempt

By Hamisu Muhammad

**BACKGROUND to the Act:**

IT is no longer news that indigenous firms in Nigeria are not benefiting from the oil wealth. Before now, almost 90 percent of the contracts for goods and services in the sector are provided by foreign firms.

The estimate of the cumulative worth of the total businesses in the oil and gas sector is about \$18 billion US Dollars (N2.7 trillion) having realised that President Olusegun Obasanjo set up Nigerian Content Initiative under the direct supervision of NNPC with the mandate to domicile significant portion of oil and gas derivatives and increase contribution of the sector to the national GDP.

The government want to achieve 45 percent in 2009 and 70 percent in 2010, in its local content drive in the oil and gas sector, which seems unrealisable. In 2009, only 39 percent success was achieved and the figure remains almost the same for this year. Some experts say the absence of the legislation and lack of monitoring and supervision capacity by the NNPC dashed the dream.

**What the Local Content Act says?**

Key among the provisions of the Nigerian Content Act are: "Nigerians Independent Operators Shall be given first Consideration in the award of oil blocks, oil Filed Licenses, oil Lifting Licenses and in all projects for which contract is to be awarded in the Nigerian oil and Gas industry".

"In the bidding for any License, permit or interest and before carry out any project in the Nigerian oil and gas industry, an operator shall submit a Nigerian Content ('Plan') to the board demonstrating compliance with the Nigerians Content requirement of this Act".

Other provisions in the Act say "The award of contract shall not solely based on the principle of the lower bidder; where a Nigerian indigenous company has capacity to execute such job, the company shall not be disqualified exclusively on the basis that it is not the lowest financial bidder, provided the value does not exceed the lowest bid price by 10-percent"

"With the Act now in place, operators and service companies providing services to the Nigerian Oil and Gas industry will finally be required 'by law' to perform designated scopes of work set out within the Act in Nigeria," she declared.

But many questions were raised such as what different can the Act make in this versatile and dynamic petroleum sector? Why is the Act so important to indigenous oil firms and how preferred are they to handle some of the sophisticated contracts in the sector? And what are the likely implications it will bring into the majors' operations?

**The drivers:**

Speaking at the unveiling of the Act in Abuja, the Minister of Petroleum Resources, Diezani Alison-Madueke said now that there is Nigerian Content Law and that the \$18 billion average annual spending in the oil and gas industry will largely be domiciled in the country.

Alison-Madueke said their administration was determined to make the huge investment in the oil and gas industry to impact positively on the economy and the lives of Nigerians through the new law therefore promised to aggressively implement the Act.

"We are determined to get this right and to make it work. That is why the Bill was signed into law only a few days after it was presented to me to enable us go to work expeditiously," she said.

She started by appointing Engr. Ernest Nwapa, the Group General Manager, Nigerian Content Division of the NNPC as the Acting Executive Secretary of the newly created Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board which the Act provides for as the agency to drive its implementation as the demonstration of enforcing the law.

Alison-Madueke lamented that before now the impact of the oil and gas industry was not felt in the Nigerian economy because most of it was transferred to other countries to import materials and services for the industry because of the absence of a law to force the International Oil Companies, IOCs, and other players in the industry to source materials and services locally.

Mallam Shehu Ladan, the Group Managing Director of the NNPC, said now that we have the Act, NNPC will operate like other oil companies in compliance with provisions and focus on integrating the provisions into its business and operational strategy.

**The agony of IOCs:**

It is true that multinational companies are reluctant to implement the policy as stipulated by the government. It was revealed that the reluctance of the international oil companies is borne out of the fact that Nigerian graduate engineers do

The Nigerian Content Act signed recently by the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan has dominated discussions in the oil and gas industry in the last few days. It's a piece of legislation that many indigenous operators rejoice over due to the expected benefits they perceive it will bring to them. At the same time, it adds more confusion to the International Oil Companies on how the future of their operations in the country will look like. The Act entitled: An Act to provide for the development of Nigerian Content in the Nigeria Oil and Gas Industry introduces new policies and legislations that seem to change the shape of oil and gas business in Nigeria.



PETROLEUM Minister Diezani Alison-Madueke unveiling the Local Content Act last week.

not have the basic engineering knowledge and skills. Apart from inadequate training facilities to meet industry demands, there are also inadequate and obsolete infrastructure in the educational system. Besides, engineering certification by local institutions in Nigeria is said not to have met international accreditation standards.

Other reasons adduced by the international oil companies include: Absence of sustainable power to support fabrication and manufacturing industry, directives not always aligned with in-country capacity, lack of counterpart funding to execute major projects and security and safety issues.

With most of these problems unaddressed, and the passage of the Act by government, the IOCs are not really happy with the development, as they see it as opportunity of creating inefficiency and mismanagement in their operations.

A top officer with Chevron Nigeria Limited who doesn't want to be named in press said: "We are not happy with the law, but we have to abide by it since it is the law of the land, we have to obey it. It will affect our operations and that will hurt our profits". According to him if care is not taken the Act will simply politicise our operations and that will not go down well to our businesses.

He said our only prayer now is that it will not be implemented to the core, otherwise there will be problems.

It is happy moment for Nigerian firms

"If there is any beautiful piece of legislation throughout the history of the Nigerian Oil and Gas industry it is the Nigerian Content Act", said a Nigerian service provider.

The Director, Oceanering Services Nigeria Limited Sir Rowland Nze said the new Law means a lot to indigenous oil and gas companies. He said before now there is no enabling Law that guided the activities of the Nigerian Content Division of the NNPC. But the Law now can enforce all the companies

to implement the Nigeria Content.

According to him, the only problem is that Nigerian Companies are not yet developed to meet the requirement of the oil industry, "Oil industry is a very dynamic, there are virtually changes every day, new technologies, innovations are coming in but if you sit and wait for technology to get to you, you will never get it. So you have to get the means to grab it".

"Again the problem of mismanagement has to stop. If all the funds sunk into the system is continued to be mismanaged, we won't go anywhere. We need to set up an industry that can train Nigerians to acquire the experience because you cannot acquire experience from the school, you can only get it when you are in the field. If they can compliment this law to monitor the training of Nigerians in the industry and make sure they get the right qualifications, give it another five years things will change".

He said before now there was Indigenization Degree set up by the military government in the 70s which was very similar to this Act, it was doing very well until when the changes in administrations which kill the decree.

He said without strict monitoring and supervision, the Act will not make any difference because the IOCs are not happy with it.

Joe Odocha, the former Group General Manager in NNPC and now a consultant with the Jonakod Nigeria Limited, said the law is a welcome development.

"We hope Nigerians will take it seriously, because it is one thing to have the Law and another for it to materialise, because we need human capacity and the material to meet the requirement of the industry".

"I think with this law, Nigerians will be pushed into action, already there is progress in developing capacity, we have PTDF, PTI and many more who are ready to improve in that sector".

# DIGEST

## Severe morning sickness more likely if mom had it

WOMEN whose mothers suffered from a serious type of morning sickness are at triple the risk of the condition themselves, a new analysis of more than 2 million birth records shows.

The cause of severe morning sickness is unknown, although investigators have suspected there might be a genetic component. It occurs in up to 2 percent of pregnancies, and causes near-constant nausea and vomiting, putting both mom and baby at risk of serious complications.

To investigate what factors might affect the risk of severe morning sickness, Ase Vikanes, a PhD student at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health in Oslo, and colleagues looked at data on all births registered in Norway between 1967 and 2006. They identified nearly 550,000 pairs including a woman and her daughter and nearly 400,000 pairs including a woman and her son. All of the sons and daughters had children themselves.

One percent of the daughters of women who hadn't suffered from severe morning sickness had the condition, compared to 3 percent of the daughters whose mothers had suffered through it. The risk for the partners of men whose mothers had the condition was 1.2 percent. This meant the women whose moms had severe morning sickness were three times more likely to develop the condition in their own pregnancies. Risk was still greater even if a woman's mother hadn't gotten sick while pregnant with her, but had been ill in previous or subsequent pregnancies.

These findings, the investigators say, suggest that there could be a genetic link from mothers to daughters for severe morning sickness. It's also possible, they note, that environmental factors shared by mother and daughter, such as nutrition or cigarette smoking, could be involved.

Decades ago, the researchers note, severe morning sickness was seen as a psychological problem,



AN employee applies massage oil on the bare belly of a pregnant client in Tokyo July 31, 2009.

caused by a woman's "unconscious rejection" of the fetus or her partner. "Some women experiencing this condition are still told by their healthcare providers to 'quit pretending to be sick,'" they add.

However, Dr. Catherine Nelson-Piercy of Guy's and St. Thomas' Foundation Trust in London

notes in an accompanying editorial, the psychological problems suffered by women with severe morning sickness are likely a consequence of the condition, not its cause.

The new findings should encourage research into the genetic causes of severe morning sickness,

the researchers say. "This, as well as an understanding of the psychological consequences of experiencing severe nausea and vomiting, could be helpful for clinicians who treat and counsel women with severe morning sickness, they conclude.

Culled from reuters.com

## Five minutes in the green can boost self esteem



A man takes a break on a sunny day on the grass of LaFayette Park

JUST five minutes of exercise a day in the great outdoors can improve mental health, according to a study released on Saturday, and policymakers should encourage more people to spend time in parks and gardens.

Researchers from the University of Essex found that as little as five minutes of a "green activity" such as walking, gardening, cycling or farming can boost mood and self esteem.

"We believe that there would be a large potential benefit to individuals, society and to the costs of the health service if all groups of people were to self-medicate more with green exercise," Barton said in a statement about the study, which was published in the journal *Environmental Science & Technology*.

Many studies have shown that outdoor exercise can reduce the risk of mental illness and improve a sense of well-

being, but Jules Pretty and Jo Barton, who led this study, said that until now no one knew how much time needed to be spent on green exercise for the benefits to show. Barton and Pretty looked at data from 1,252 people of different ages, genders and mental health status taken from 10 existing studies in Britain. They analyzed activities such as walking, gardening, cycling, fishing, boating, horse-riding and farming.

They found that the greatest health changes occurred in the young and the mentally ill, although people of all ages and social groups benefited.

The largest positive effect on self-esteem came from a five-minute dose of "green exercise."

All natural environments were beneficial, including parks in towns or cities, they said, but green areas with water appeared to have a more positive effect.

Culled from reuters.com

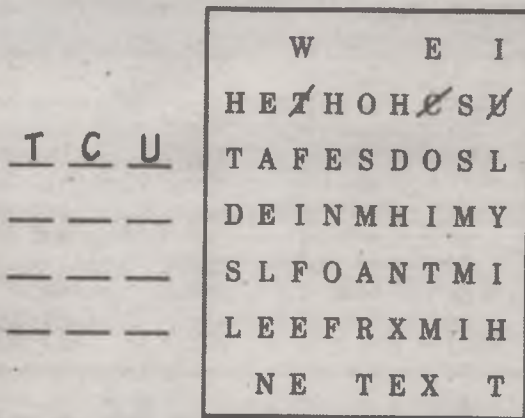
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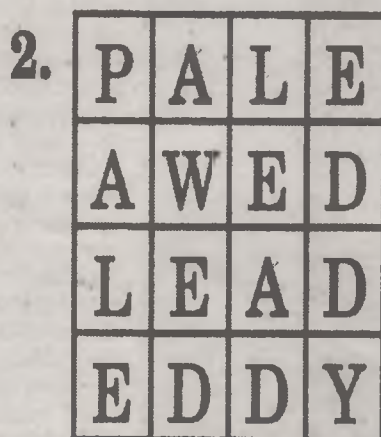
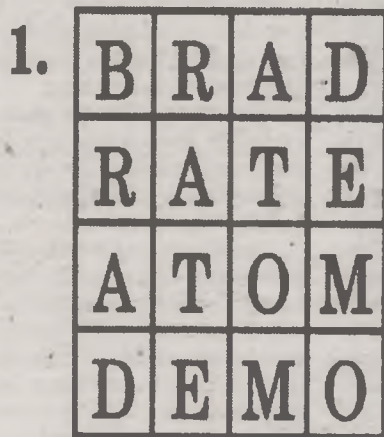
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Culled from www.signspotting.com

PASSING THE LETTER BUCK

The diagram contains a one-sentence truism, but each line has three letters out of place. In the top line, three letters have been crossed out and replaced with W, E, and I, in that order. The letters that were replaced have been entered on the dashes alongside the second line of letters. Now remove three letters from the second line, and replace them with the eliminated letters from the first line (in the same order). You will see the sentence taking shape as you work. Follow this same procedure down to the last line, always keeping the letters in the same order as you removed them. The letters eliminated from the next-to-last line should be placed in the empty spaces in the bottom line, and the truism will be complete.



SOLUTION TO ANAGRAM WORD SQUARES



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.

141

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

Solution to Sudoku 140

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

News Extra

# New York bomb investigators hunt for balding, middle-aged white man

- Mayor dismisses Pakistan Taliban claim of responsibility
- Handbag seller alerts police to smoking car

- Similarities with Tiger bomb outside London nightclub
- Police investigate South Park link

**T**he hunt is on in the U.S. for a balding, middle-aged white man who was seen taking off his shirt near the car where the New York bomb was found.

Surveillance video shows him slipping down an alley close to Times Square and taking off a shirt, revealing another underneath.

In the same clip, he's seen looking back in the direction of the smoking vehicle and furtively putting the first shirt in a bag.

The bomb 'looks like it would have caused a significant fireball' had it fully detonated, police Commissioner Ray Kelly said.

The petrol-and-propane bomb was crude but could have sprayed shrapnel and metal parts with enough force to kill pedestrians and knock out windows on one of America's busiest streets, full of Broadway theatres and restaurants on a Saturday night.

Detectives are understood to be investigating similarities between the New York bomb and two car bombs planted by Al Qaeda terrorists outside the Tiger Tiger nightclub in London three years ago.

In both cases, the devices were composed of propane gas and cans full of petrol intended to be ignited by electronic detonators.

Both attacks were stopped by members of the public contacting police after becoming suspicious of smoke coming from the cars.

Like the bomb in New York's theatreland the London device was found in Leicester Square close to the capital's theatres.

A Pakistani Taliban group



CCTV footage show the man taking off one shirt to reveal a red one underneath. He then puts it in a bag



THE balding white man in his forties then picks up the bag and moves on

When asked if the Viacom Inc office was a target in any way, Commissioner Kelly said: 'We can't rule anything out at this time.'

South Park is shown on the Comedy Central network owned by Viacom.

A large amount of fertilizer rigged with wires and fireworks was found with the bomb, but police said it was not the ammonium nitrate grade that can explode.

The homemade bomb was made largely with ordinary items, including three barbecue grill-size propane tanks, two 5-gallon gasoline containers, store-bought fireworks and cheap alarm clocks attached to wires.

Clearly it was the intent of whoever did this to cause mayhem, to create casualties,' Kelly said.

Authorities didn't know how deadly the bomb could have been, how it failed or who was responsible.

Police had already identified the registered owner of the 1993 Nissan Pathfinder - which didn't have an easily visible vehicle identification number and had licence plates from another car - and were looking to interview him.

Police also were searching more video, believed to be in the possession of a Pennsylvania tourist, of a person spotted near the car.

The bomb was found shortly before theatergoers headed to Saturday night shows.

Timers were connected to a 16oz can filled with fireworks, which were apparently intended to set the gas cans and propane afire.

The vehicle would have been 'cut in half' by an explosion, and people nearby could have been sprayed by shrapnel and killed.

Police had feared that another component - a metal rifle cabinet packed with a fertilizer-like substance and rigged with wires and more fireworks - could have made the device even more devastating.

Test results late Sunday showed that it was indeed fertilizer - but the New York Police Department's bomb experts believe it was not a type volatile enough to explode like the ammonium nitrate grade fertilizer used in previous terror attacks, said police spokesman Paul Browne.

claimed responsibility for the failed attack in a one-minute video but Commissioner Kelly and Mayor Michael Bloomberg said police have no evidence to support the claims. They noted that the same group had falsely taken credit for previous attacks on U.S. soil.

It has also emerged that the bomb could have been aimed at the creators of the controversial cartoon South Park.

Viacom, which makes the comedy show, has offices near where the bomb was found and defused in Times Square.

The show's writers were threatened with reprisals last month over an episode mocking the prophet Mohammed.



© Getty Images

THE alarm clock found in a dark SUV which is said to be in the vehicle with the bomb

## News Extra

# Singer Youssou N'Dour challenges Senegal's leader Abdoulaye Wade

Youssou N'Dour has fallen out with his old friend Abdoulaye Wade, prompting speculation that he will run for office



YOUSSOU N'DOUR meets fans in Dakar. His massive popularity makes him a powerful political ally in Senegal.

**Y**oussou N'Dour, the Senegalese musician once described by Rolling Stone magazine as the most famous living African singer, has taken his first steps into politics, prompting speculation that he may run for president in his homeland.

An outspoken anti-poverty campaigner, N'Dour is best known internationally for 7 Seconds, his duet with Neneh Cherry. His move last week to launch a political platform with Senegal's leading opposition figure marks a head-on challenge to President Abdoulaye Wade, 83, who is accused of grooming his son to succeed him.

N'Dour, who was born in the slums of Dakar 50 years ago, denies that he plans to run for president, saying only that "the people will decide" and adding "from now on I will no longer be neutral". Last Tuesday, when he launched his partnership with opposition politician Mansour Sy Djamil, he said the alliance's first objective would be public information.

“People do not know the constitution well enough. They need to understand that power has its limits. There should be no tinkering with the fundamental law of the land,” he told journalists gathered at his Thiosane nightclub in Dakar.

The singer is adored in the former French colony, which he has never left despite a string of gold albums in Europe and the US. By staying at home, he has created a Senegalese recording industry with world-class studios, launched a micro-finance institution and is in the process of starting a bank.

Wade, who is only Senegal's third president, came to power in a widely praised election in 2000 after battling in opposition for 16 years. But since he began his second term in 2007 he has faced growing accusations of nepotism, corruption and abuse of civil liberties.

**H**e was criticised last year for giving an alleged £130,000 “farewell present” to a departing official of the International Monetary Fund. After commissioning a £17m bronze statue known as the African Renaissance Monument, which depicts a man, woman and child emerging from a volcano, Wade demanded 35% of all the profits it generates from tourism.

The opposition coalition, Benno Siggil Senegaal, swept the board in local elections last year in which Wade had hoped that his son, Karim, would become mayor of Dakar. Following his son's defeat, the president created a super-ministry for him instead, granting Karim one of the longest titles in political history: minister

of international co-operation, national planning, air transport, ports, roadworks and infrastructure. Analysts say this is part of a plan to create a “Wade dynasty”

before the 2012 presidential election.

N'Dour, who last month released his latest album, Dakar-Kingston, a reggae collaboration



PRESIDENT Abdoulaye Wade

with Bob Marley's surviving Wailers, admits that he used to be close to Wade. “He called me his son,” he told Jeune Afrique magazine last month. “But there has been a parting of the ways between us.”

**N**'Dour owns a media group that has been trying for nearly five years to launch a television station. “My group, Futurs Médias, initially had the president's blessing and were allocated a frequency. But for more than six months now the Ministry of Communication has been dragging its feet and my 100 staff can't get to work,” he told Jeune Afrique. Out of frustration, N'Dour launched a petition last year demanding that the television station be allowed to launch. It was signed by more than a million people.

Analysts say that N'Dour fell out of favour with Wade in 2006 after his newspaper, L'Observateur, claimed that Karim Wade had carried out illegal international money transfers. N'Dour said: “I own a media group and trust the journalists who work for it. It is not my role to control what they write.”

**N**'Dour claims Wade has gone from being a democrat to an autocrat. “I get the feeling the president hears only in mono, these days, not in stereo. He used to be accessible,” he said. “He has removed those who told him the truth.”

*Culled from guardian.co.uk*

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## News Extra



A sampling of Chinglish

# Shanghai is trying to untangle the mangled English of Chinglish

For English speakers with subpar Chinese skills, daily life in China offers a confounding array of choices. At banks, there are machines for “cash withdrawing” and “cash recycling.” The menus of local restaurants might present such delectables as “fried enema,” “monolithic tree mushroom stem squid” and a mysterious thirst-quencher known as “The Jew’s Ear Juice.”

Those who have had a bit too much monolithic tree mushroom stem squid could find themselves requiring roomier attire: extra-large sizes sometimes come in “fatso” or “lard bucket” categories. These and other fashions can be had at the clothing chain known as Scat.

Go ahead and snicker, although by last Saturday’s opening of the Expo 2010 in Shanghai, drawing more than 70 million visitors over its six-month run, these and other uniquely Chinese maladaptations of the English language were supposed to have been largely excised.

Well, that at least is what the Shanghai Commission for the Management of Language Use has been trying to accomplish during the past two years.

Fortified by an army of 600 volunteers and a politburo of adroit English speakers, the commission has fixed more than 10,000 public signs (farewell “Teliot” and “urine district”), rewritten English-language historical placards and helped hundreds of restaurants recast offerings.

The campaign is partly modeled on Beijing’s herculean effort to clean up English signage for the 2008 Summer Olympics, which led to the replacement of 400,000 street signs, 1,300 restau-



SHANGHAI has been trying to harness English translations that sometimes wander, like “cash recycling machine.”

rant menus and such exemplars of impropriety as the Dongda Anus Hospital — now known as the Dongda Proctology Hospital. Gone, too, is Racist Park, a cultural attraction that has since been rechristened Minorities Park.

“The purpose of signage is to be useful, not to be amusing,” said Zhao Huimin, the former Chinese ambassador to the United States who, as director general of the capital’s Foreign Affairs Office, has been leading the fight for linguistic standardization and sobriety.

But while the war on mangled English may be considered a signature achievement of government officials, aficionados of what is known as Chinglish are wringing their hands in despair.

Oliver Lutz Radtke, a former German radio reporter who may well be the world’s foremost authority on Chinglish, said he believed that China should embrace the fanciful melding of

English and Chinese as the hallmark of a dynamic, living language. As he sees it, Chinglish is an endangered species that deserves preservation.

“If you standardize all these signs, you not only take away the little giggle you get while strolling in the park but you lose a window into the Chinese mind,” said Mr. Radtke, who is the author of a pair of picture books that feature giggle-worthy Chinglish signs in their natural habitat.

Lest anyone think it is all about laughs, Mr. Radtke is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Chinglish at the University of Heidelberg.

Still, the enemies of Chinglish say the laughter it elicits is humiliating. Wang Xiaoming, an English scholar at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, painfully recalls the guffaws that erupted among her foreign-born col-

leagues as they flipped through a photographic collection of poorly written signs. “They didn’t mean to insult me but I couldn’t help but feel uncomfortable,” said Ms. Wang, who has since become one of Beijing’s leading Chinglish slayers.

Those who study the roots of Chinglish say many examples can be traced to laziness and a flawed but wildly popular translation software. Victor H. Mair, a professor of Chinese at the University of Pennsylvania, said the computerized dictionary, Jingshan Ciba, had led to sexually oriented vulgarities identifying dried produce in Chinese supermarkets and the regrettable “fried enema” menu selection that should have been rendered as “fried sausage.”

Although improved translation software and a growing zeal for grammatically unassailable English has slowed the output of new Chinglishisms, Mr. Mair said he

still received about five new examples a day from people who knew he was good at deciphering what went wrong. “If someone would pay me to do it, I’d spend my life studying these things,” he said.

Among those getting paid to wrestle with Chinglish is Jeffrey Yao, an English translator and teacher at the Graduate Institute of Interpretation and Translation in Shanghai who is leading the sign exorcism. But even as he eradicates the most egregious examples by government fiat — businesses dare not ignore the commission’s suggested fixes — he has mixed feelings, noting that although some Chinglish phrases sound awkward to Western ears, they can be refreshingly lyrical. “Some of it tends to be expressive, even elegant,” he said, shuffling through an online catalog of signs that were submitted by the volunteers who prowled Shanghai with digital cameras. “They provide a window into how we Chinese think about language.”

He offered the following example: While park signs in the West exhort people to “Keep Off the Grass,” Chinese versions tend to anthropomorphize nature as a way to gently engage the stomping masses. Hence, such admonishments as “The Little Grass Is Sleeping. Please Don’t Disturb It” or “Don’t Hurt Me. I Am Afraid of Pain.”

“Some Chinglish expressions are nice, but we are not translating literature here,” he said. “I want to see people nodding that they understand the message on these signs. I don’t want to see them laughing.”

Culled from [newyorktimes.com](http://newyorktimes.com)

# VACANCIES

## AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria (ATM) network

### PROGRAMME OFFICERS, (HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA) AND ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE OFFICERS

#### About the Program

Within the health sector as elsewhere, civil society organisations (CSOs) serve as critical health delivery resources in communities. They create awareness, generate demand for services, disseminate information, promote health-seeking behaviour, facilitate commodity distribution, referrals, provide community home based care and generally act as linkages between the facilities and clients. The contribution of the HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria (ATM) CSO networks especially, in the successes recorded in the ongoing Global Fund Round 5 grants implementation has been documented.

The Global Fund Round 8 Health Systems Strengthening Project provides resources for the three networks to strengthen community based networks and community level committees to ensure that they have minimum capacity to deliver quality ATM services in the 36 States and the FCT.

Pursuant to the above, the ATM networks seek the services of experienced and committed officers with experience in the three diseases of AIDS, TB and Malaria to work as a team supporting the networks' activities in the states and the activities of the Ward Health Development Committees (WHDCs) at the ward level in all the 36 states and the FCT.

The ATM networks require the services of Three Programme Officers (One each for AIDS, TB and Malaria) as well as a Finance/Administrative Officer in each of the 36 states and the FCT for two years renewable.

#### 1. PROGRAM OFFICERS (AIDS, TB & MALARIA)

##### About the Job

The Program Officers will principally be responsible for, and focus on, providing technical and professional assistance and support to the CBOs/FBOs working on the three diseases within their states, provide effective programme management and administration, as well as the monitoring and reporting on the activities of CBOs/FBOs and WHDCs in their states.

##### Responsibilities

The Program Officers would be responsible for

- Providing sound and updated information relating to current and emerging issues in TB, Malaria and HIV/AIDS
- developing innovative strategies to strengthen the effectiveness and quality of service provision in their areas of assigned responsibility
- Proactively and efficiently managing the implementation of the project activities within their states of assignment
- Participating in development, management and review of program activities in states of responsibility
- Monitoring and evaluating progress of initiatives in areas of responsibility. This will involve undertaking periodic visits to program sites within the selected Local Government Areas and Wards in their states
- Achieving and maintaining an effective and efficient level of communication with their networks, other diseases and Program team in their states
- Performing any other duties as required by the ATM State Coordinating Committee consistent with the achievement of program objectives as they work in an ever changing and dynamic environment

##### Position Requirements

- Bachelor's degree or its equivalent in a health-related discipline, or the social sciences with 2 - 3 years post-qualification experience in an organisation working on TB, HIV/AIDS or Malaria. Applicants with working experience in more than one of these disease areas are encouraged to apply.
- Good communication and community mobilisation skills
- Resident in the states that they are applying to working in
- Ready to and capable of working both independently and as part of a team
- Ability to work with minimum supervision and exercise of sound judgment and flexibility to achieve agreed outcomes
- Well developed writing and analytical skills and an ability to express ideas clearly and concisely
- Effective presentation and interpersonal communication skills and ability to develop and maintain effective stakeholder relations
- Ability to contribute to the effectiveness of a team, including supporting others and managing priorities
- Ability to communicate fluently in English and the local dialect(s) of the states and localities they would be working in.

##### Other Requirements

Following experiences not compulsory but may give added advantages

- Knowledge of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria strategic planning, program management, and implementation
- Experience with Global Fund grants implementation and reporting procedures
- Experience with networking organisations especially in HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria will be added advantage
- Experience with facilitating trainings and workshops

#### 2. FINANCE/ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

##### About the Job

The Finance and Administrative Officer is primarily responsible for the sound and efficient functioning of the financial and administrative systems and procedures at the ATM state offices of assignment. In addition, the Finance/Administrative Officer will advise the State ATM Network Coordinating Committee and the Programme Team regarding all financial and Administrative matters (available budgets, activities, etc) connected to networks and WHDC activities. The Finance and Administrative Officer would also be responsible for developing state budgets as well as production of timely monthly and quarterly finance and administrative reports.

##### Responsibilities

1. Ensure compliance with Global Fund's financial management requirements.
2. Generate and coordinate periodic financial reports, (i.e. monthly/quarterly/annually)
3. Ensure that all accounting records are maintained in line with the manual, GAAP and Donors and Partners requirements.
4. Follow up on prompt release of funds, once approved.
5. Ensure relevant books and records are maintained for all financial transactions for activities under his/her.
6. Prepare monthly Bank Reconciliation statements for all bank accounts.
7. Responsible for issuing receipts, preparing and posting of Payment Vouchers into the relevant systems and maintaining the cash books in accordance with laid down procedures.
8. Payment of advances as approved by the State ATM Network Coordinating Committee as well as ensuring the retirement of such cash advances.
9. Ensure timely submission of relevant monthly, quarterly and yearly financial reports on activities implemented to all stakeholders.
10. Support the programme officers to draw up periodic work plans and budgets
11. Ensure prompt preparation and payment of monthly project staff salaries and other related payments.
12. Educate staff on the statutory laws and regulations, fiscal policies and changes thereon.
13. Engage in other duties as may be assigned by the State ATM Network Management Committee
14. Maintenance of the State ATM Networks staff data, equipment and facilities.

##### Other Requirements

As stated in the case of programme officers above

##### MODE OF APPLICATION:

1. Candidates interested in working as Programme Officers within the HIV/AIDS network should send their applications and CVs to:  
The Administrative Secretary,  
Civil Society for HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (CISHAN)  
CSO House, 4 Jaba Close, Off Dunukofia St. Area 11, Garki, Abuja  
Email: [csharjobs@yahoo.com](mailto:csharjobs@yahoo.com)
2. Candidates interested in working as Programme Officers within the Malaria Network should send their applications to:  
The National Programmes Coordinator,  
Association of Civil Society on Malaria Control, Immunization and Nutrition (ACOMIN)  
No. 6 Egbedi Close, Garki 2, Abuja  
[acominnationaljobs@yahoo.com](mailto:acominnationaljobs@yahoo.com)
3. Candidates interested in working as Programme Officers within the TB network should send their applications through the email address below to:  
The Secretary, National Steering Committee,  
Civil Society Coalition to Eradicate Tuberculosis in Nigeria (TB Network)  
Email: [tbnetworkjobs@gmail.com](mailto:tbnetworkjobs@gmail.com)
4. Candidates applying for the positions of Finance/Administrative Officers should send their applications to [atmofficersjob@yahoo.com](mailto:atmofficersjob@yahoo.com) indicating the preferred State & Geo-Political Zone of the three networks provided above.

All Applicants should file their applications according to their States, desired positions and their surnames, e.g. Adamawa - Program Officer - Usman Bola Obi.

Application letter and CV should be appropriately named and attached to the emails.

All applications must be received two weeks after the advertisement. All applications must be sent via e-mail to the contacts of the respective networks as shown above. No surface mails or telephone calls will be entertained.

## FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE, AZARE BAUCHI STATE

### SHORT-LISTED CANDIDATES FOR SENIOR STAFF EMPLOYMENT INTERVIEW (OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION)

The following candidates who applied for employment with the Federal Medical Centre, Azare, Bauchi State are hereby invited to attend interview scheduled to take place as follows:-

All cadres are to be interviewed on 17th May, 2010 except Nurses who are scheduled to be on 18th May, 2010.

Candidates are expected to come along with the original copies of their credentials plus their current Practising

Licence where applicable. Candidates are also to bear the cost of their transport and accommodations, please.

S/N	CANDIDATE	STATE	S/N	CANDIDATE	STATE	S/N	CANDIDATE	STATE
1	DR. OYELEDE RASHEED ADESADE	OSUN	1	UNGO KORE HUSSAIN YAHAYA	NASSARAWA	1	SAMATA GAMBO	BAUCHI
2	DR. OGBUJAGU MARTIN		2	IBRAHIM JANE ADAKU	IMO	2	HASSANA ADAMU	BORNO
3	DR. SAMMILA I. SHUAIBU	BAUCHI	3	LIACKDEN MANU DOUGLAS	PLATEAU	3	ALYU SULAMAN	BAUCHI
4	DR. SHUAIBU KAYODE	KWARA	4	MUSA GAMBO PRISCILLA	RIGER	4	MUKTAR AHMED	BAUCHI
			5	IMMEREMIKIYU APPOLUS C.	IMO	5	SADU MOHAMMED	BAUCHI
			6	MUKTAR AMINU GAYA	KANO	6	KAMILU SHUAIBU	JIGAWA
			7	AMINU ALHASSAN KUBA	KATSINA	7	IBRAHIM YAHAYA	BAUCHI
			8	OLUFEMI KEHINDE	KOGI	8	MON'D SANI IBRAHIM	BAUCHI
			9	IBIRIYU OLAWALE SHEHU	OGUN	9	SHEHU SANI MASAWA	BAUCHI
			10	EMMANUEL OBI	ABIA	10	EMMANUEL OBI	BAUCHI
			11	ALFRED OKEKE KANU	ABIA	11	YAHAYA GARBA	BAUCHI
			12	DANLUMA MOHD SAMMILA	BORNO	12	ALI YAKUBU	BAUCHI
			13	NIKE I. OBINNA	ANAMBRA	13	IBRAHIM MOHD SANI	BAUCHI
			14	ACHANYA E. SUNDAY	KOGI	14	IBRAHIM MOHD SANI	BAUCHI
			15	ORJI CHIWEMEKI DURU	IMO	15	IBRAHIM MOHD SANI	BAUCHI
			16	AKINSOLA AKINTUNDE	ONDO	16	MUKTAR MAIGARI	BAUCHI
			17	OMOREGBEE IRENE	EDO	17	ZAKARI MUSA CHROMA	PLATEAU
			18	ABDULAZEEZ ABDULATIF	KWARA	18	SULEMAN A. YAKUBU	KANO
			19	PALMER HENRY O.	DELTA	19	MOHAMMED ABDULLAH	BAUCHI
			20	IBHARONKONRE ABEL	EDO	20	WASSIYAHUSA SARI	BAUCHI
			21	EMORINKEN AIREMAKO	ONDO	21	ALYU MOHAMMAD	BAUCHI
			22	AFOLABI ANTHONY	ONDO	22	MUHAMMAD ALI ADAM	BAUCHI
			23	SANMI USMAN ABOLA	KWARA	23	ABUBAKAR USMAN	YOBE
			24	EGBE UFUOMA	DELTA	24	IBRAHIM M. OTSMAN	YOBE
			25	MBAIYE NAMDAM	PLATEAU	25	IBRAHIM MOHD SANI	BAUCHI
			26	UDON PHILIPS A.	AKWA-IBO	26	KAMILU SHUAIBU	JIGAWA
			27	OFOJEBE NKIRUKA	ANAMBRA	27	ABDULLAH USMAN	JIGAWA
			28	ALYU AMINU MANSI	KWARA	28	MAGAJI ALYU	BAUCHI
			29	ADERAYO KENNE TH	KWARA	29	ISHAYU INIWA MUMU	BORNO
			30	DAUDA VICTOR	RIGER	30	IBRAHIM YAHAYA	BAUCHI
			31	MWANNAN N. SOLOMON	PLATEAU	31	ABUBAKAR USMAN	YOBE
			32	EMPHITE JOHN O.		32	NAFTU ABUBAKAR	JIGAWA
			33	ADUNLANNA AMBROSE E.	IMO	33	ZAKARI M. OTHMAN	BORNO
			34	MUSA ABISAHU ZAIDI	BAUCHI	34	UMAR SULEIMAN	KATSINA
			35	MUHAMMAD S. BASHIR	ADAMAWA	35	SHUAIBU SAIDU	BAUCHI
			36	UKPA NNANNA DIKSON	EBONYI	36	ABDUL KARIM IBRAHIM	KATSINA
			37	EKEREA E. IROBEKHIAN	EDO	37	ABDUL KARIM IBRAHIM	KATSINA
			38	OGUNDELE ISAAC OLADU	KWARA	38	MARY GARBA	BORNO
			39	MESAK DANIEL	GOMBE	39	IBRAHIM MUSA	BAUCHI
			40	BAMBELE O.	KWARA	40	RABIU ABDULRASAG	BAUCHI
			41	ORISHIMO		41	KAFSAT BELLO	NASSARAWA
			42	NJAGRO JOHN PAUL E.	ENUGU	42	MUSA ISAH ABUBAKAR	OYO
			43	AJURUKA E. UMANHLE	DELTA	43	IBRAHIM M. ABUBAKAR	KATSINA
			44	OHORHORO A. MADHAKHIN	IMO	44	IBRAHIM M. ABUBAKAR	KATSINA
			45	MAKAYEGA	BORNO	45	IBRAHIM M. ABUBAKAR	KATSINA
			46	SAMADA IBRAHIM	BAUCHI	46	IBRAHIM M. ABUBAKAR	KATSINA
			47	AGWAE MATHEW	DELTA	47	IBRAHIM M. ABUBAKAR	KATSINA
			48	MAGNO SCIENTISTS		48	IBRAHIM M. ABUBAKAR	KATSINA
			49	REKOWA PRINCE JO	ENUGU	49	IBRAHIM M. ABUBAKAR	KATSINA
			50	TAGU ANN EBERE	ENUGU	50	IBRAHIM M. ABUBAKAR	KATSINA
			51	NURSES CONTINUED		51	IBRAHIM M. ABUBAKAR	KATSINA
			52	IBRAHIM ADAMU	KADUNA	52	IBRAHIM M. ABUBAKAR	KATSINA
			53	YAFARU ISHAKU	KATSINA	53	IBRAHIM M. ABUBAKAR	KATSINA
			54	ABDULAZIZ HASSAN	KADUNA	54	IBRAHIM M. ABUBAKAR	KATSINA
			55	RANDAGI		55	IBRAHIM M. ABUBAKAR	KATSINA
			56	FATMA ABDULLAH	KADUNA	56	IBRAHIM M. ABUBAKAR	KATSINA
			57	VICTORIA EMEAGO	BENUE	57	IBRAHIM M. ABUBAKAR	KATSINA
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SIGNED  
KABIR M. LELE  
HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION



## FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, OKENE

# INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFICATION

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Federal College of Education, Okene wishes to pre-qualify competent, experienced and qualified building contractors for the construction of **Home Economics Complex-years 2008/2009 (Merged) ETF Normal Interventions**.

### 2.0 REQUIREMENTS

Interested companies are required to submit in sealed envelopes, pre-qualification documents for consideration on or before the closing date.

The documents required for pre-qualification include:

- Company's Certificate of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission.
- Company's profile and evidence of **Relevant/Similar** projects executed in the last six years.
- Company's audited account for the last three years.
- Tax clearance certificate for the past three years.
- Irrefutable/Concrete evidence of financial capability to execute and complete the project/Bank reference.
- Ability to complete the project within a specified completion time.
- Evidence of VAT remittance.

### 3.0 SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

Pre-qualification documents shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope and marked "**Confidential**" Pre-qualification (Home Economics Complex)

Pre-qualification documents shall be submitted to

**The Secretary,  
Procurement Planning Committee,  
Federal College of Education,  
Okene.**

Pre-qualification documents must be submitted not later than three (3) weeks from the date of this publication, i.e. **24<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 by 12.00 noon.**

Pre-qualification documents shall be publicly opened immediately the same day in the College Board room.

Contractors are advised to be represented at the opening and should be able to produce original copies of Company Tax Clearance Certificates, if requested.

Contractors who choose to attend are advised to be seated by **12.00noon** for the opening exercise.

**Signed:**  
**Secretary, Procurement Planning Committee**



## VETERINARY COUNCIL OF NIGERIA

No. 8 Zambezi Crescent, Maitama District  
P.M.B. 433, Garki, Abuja  
Tel: 09-2906054



### INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Veterinary Council of Nigeria (VCN) intends to execute its approved Capital Project for the year 2010.

Consequently, the VCN is inviting competent and interested bidders for Expression of interest for:

**"REMODELLING AND RENOVATION OF THE OLD VETERINARY COUNCIL OF NIGERIA (VCN) SECRETARIAT BUILDING".**

### 2. PRE-QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

Interested bidders must submit copies of the following documents (All originals are to be made available for sighting during the bid opening).

- Evidence of Registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).
- Tax clearance certificate for the last three (3) years.
- VAT Registration certificate and evidence of past VAT remittances.
- Articles and memorandum of Association of the Company, including company profile/Names of Key professionals (their qualification, current practice license, experience, address, telephone numbers, and e-mail address) to be attached to the project.
- Evidence(s) of compliance with the provision of the Pension Reform Act 2004 as contained in section 16 sub-section 6(d) of the Public Procurement Act 2007.
- Audited Accounts of the bidder for the last three (3) years and Bank name for verification.
- List of verifiable documentary evidence of similar and other jobs successfully executed within the last three (3) years. Documents like letter of awards, completion certificates and evidence of payment received.
- Evidence of financial capability and banking support.
- Equipment and technology capacity.
- Registration with the relevant professional bodies.

3. The proposal should be arranged in order of the specified criteria above, loose bound and enclosed in a sealed envelope clearly marked at the top right hand corner "**RROVCNSB**".

4. The Pre-qualification bid must be returned to the Registrar, Veterinary Council of Nigeria No. 8 Zambezi Crescent, Maitama District, P.M.B. 433, Garki, Abuja at or before 12:00 noon, forty two (42) days from the day of this Publication. All bids will be opened on the following day (or on the next working day should the closing date fall on a Friday or a day just before a Public holiday) at 10:00 am prompt in the VCN Conference Hall in the presence of the applicants and other interested members of the Public/Media houses.

#### Please note:

- Non-compliance with guidelines may lead to disqualification;
- Only Pre-qualified companies will be invited to participate in the competitive Tendering and will be required to pay a non-refundable Tender Fee of Twenty thousand naira (N20,000:00) only;
- Late submissions will be rejected;
- Quotations will be assumed to include VAT and WHT;
- VCN Secretariat is not bound to accept the lowest or any other tender.

**Dr. D.G. Maddo,** FCVSN, MNIM  
**Registrar/CEO**

# ENVIRONMENT

environment@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

## FG tasks states on conservation

THE Federal Government has urged states and local government councils in the country to intensify effort toward environmental conservation to safeguard lives.

Zamfara State Commissioner for Health, Alhaji Suleman Bello, made the call on Sunday in Dangladima in the Anka Local Gov-

ernment Area, where the second wild polio-virus was reported in the country.

Bello said that the call had become necessary because "the greatest challenge of our time, is the issue of climate change that has direct bearing on human life.

"I therefore call on you to assist the government in the area

of environmental conservation, by taking measures that would curb indiscriminate felling of trees, pollution and improve environmental sanitation," Bello said.

He also reiterated the readiness of the Federal Government to join hands with the states and local governments in the war

against diseases.

Bello said it was through this collective effort that the country would be able to achieve the goals of the millennium.

He reminded parents in the state that routine immunisation services were available in all health facilities in the state.

In his remarks, the Emir of

Anka, Alhaji Attahiru Muhammad, promised to continue mobilising people on the importance of immunisation until the virus was eradicated from the state and the country in general.

Muhammad also called on religious leaders to support the effort to realise set objectives. (NAN)

### FCTA to partner Ukraine on waste recycling

By Nasir Imam

PLANS are underway by the FCT Administration to go into joint venture with a Ukrainian company on recycling of waste in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

The FCT Minister, Senator Bala Mohammed, made this disclosure after meeting with the Ukrainian Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. V. Vasylien in his office, Area 11, Garki I District, Abuja.

The Minister remarked that his administration will not rest on its oars until the status of the environment is improved in the entire 8,000 square kilometres of the Federal Capital Territory.

His words: "The Ukrainian Ambassador has come with his team to discuss on joint venture in recycling waste, thus, we are expecting a proposal in form of expression of interest without financial implication to the Federal Government".

The Minister reiterated that the joint venture will be corporately beneficial to the partners and would be institutionally beneficial to the FCT Administration.

According to him, "this move is predicated on the interest of my administration to uplift the status of Federal Capital Territory, Abuja in terms of sanitation and environmental sustainability".

Senator Mohammed revealed that the meeting with the Ambassador has afforded the FCT Administration the opportunity to share the highpoints of the roadmap of his administration as it affects environmental aspect.



FCT Minister, Senator Bala Mohammed, (left) and the President Green Society, Gen. Theophilus Y. Danjuma, during a recent courtesy visit

### Miners challenged on environmental pollution

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE Minister of Mines and Steel Development, Alhaji Musa Muhammad Sada, has urged miners to be aware of the environmental impact while carrying out their business.

The minister made the comment in his keynote address at the opening of a one-day seminar on environmental assessment and compliance for mining operators in the Nigeria.

He urges miners to build a mining industry that is environmentally friendly, via abiding by the extant environmental rules and regulations

guiding sustainable development of the solid mineral resources in the country.

Mining, he said, is associated with negative environmental impacts, which "must be predicted, prevented, or mitigated for sustainable mineral development."

Sada, also said, prior to the commencement of any mining operation any where across the country, the section 119 of the Nigerian Ministry and Mining Act, 2007, has made it mandatory for the mining operators to submit to the Mines Environmental compliance Development, among other things, an approved environmental impact assessment

statement in request of the proposed mining operations.

He said, the mining subsequent laws had attempted to correct what he called "the mistakes of the past, but with some limitations."

Commenting on the recent, acting president's approval of N650m, for resumption of operation at Ajaokuta Steel Company, the minister said the ministry is still expecting report from Ajaokuta on how they could utilise the money.

He said the money would be release to them but they have to come up with proposal, which will convince the ministry.

### FG, Canada partner coy on N/Delta waste management

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE Federal Government and the Canadian government are to collaborate with Titan Project Nigeria in the area of integrated waste facility in the Niger Delta region, as parts of efforts to address environmental issues in the region,

This was made known by the Minister of Environment, John Odey, when the Deputy High Commissioner to Canada, Mr. Jean Gauthier, visited him in Abuja recently.

"We welcome you and we are ready to collaborate with Canada most especially in the area of remediation

on our oil imparted sites, to share from your knowledge, so as to ensure a sustainable environment for our people," he said.

Speaking earlier, the Deputy High Commissioner to Canada, Mr. Jeans Gauthier said he is in the Ministry to invite the Minister to participate in the Global Petroleum show to hold in Canada by June and to a world Energy Conference scheduled for September this year.

The Managing Director of Titan Nigeria Limited, Mr. Chris Agara explained that the integrated waste management project which is a flexible one would assist in remediation of all kinds of hydro carbon oil generated

waste, of which the Ogoni waste is part of. According to Agara, "the Integrated waste management would involve the private public partnership with the federal government and Rivers state and titan project in furtherance to set up an integrated waste management facility and clean-up and remediation of hydrocarbon impacted sites, Exploration & Production activities, as we all know, sometimes result to accidental discharge of oil into the environment thereby distorting the originality of the area. This defect of the oil spills creates environmental hazards, loss of the natural habitat and inability of the impacted area to sustain plant and human life."

## Environment



environment@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

# Obama visits Gulf spill site

PRESIDENT Barack Obama visited the U.S. Gulf Coast on Sunday as his administration aims to deflect criticism that it could have responded more quickly to a huge oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico that threatens to become an economic and ecological catastrophe.

The incident could ultimately rival the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster in Alaska, the worst U.S. oil spill ever.

Efforts to contain the spill and protect the sensitive coastline continued on Saturday, but were limited due to rough seas kicked up by heavy winds, authorities said.

U.S. officials conceded on Saturday it was "inevitable" that oil from the uncontrolled leak in the Gulf of Mexico would hit the U.S. coast -- most likely Louisiana first.

Coastline from Louisiana to Florida is threatened by the slick, estimated to be

some 130 miles by 70 miles in size and still growing. Many of the communities in the path of the oil slick are the same ones devastated by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

The oil gushing unchecked from the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig explosion and ruptured well about 42 miles off the Louisiana coast has been pushed northward toward the shore by heavy but shifting winds.

## Veterinarians move to sanitise abattoirs

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

WITH a view to sanitising the unhealthy conditions of Nigerian abattoirs, the National Veterinary Medical Association (NVMA), has called on governments in the country to look into the conditions of abattoirs.

Speaking during the World Veterinary Day celebration in Kano, the National Vice President of NVMA, Dr Umar Sanda, said the unhealthy manner with which animals were being handled for slaughter at various abattoirs gives cause for government's commitment.

Dr Umar Sanda said that his association had toured some abattoirs across the country and were so much worried at the nature which livestock was handled. He cautioned that such conditions may likely open room for infectious diseases.

According to Sanda, governments should require the services of veterinarians to inspect and supervise the slaughter of animals at the abattoirs while livestock health personnel should be charged with the responsibility of uploading and transporting animals to their various destinations, as was the case in the past.

According to him, if such practice was reviewed, a lot of bacterial infections among the animal handlers would reduce.

Also speaking, the state sectional head, Disease Control Service, Dr Shehu Bawa, stressed the need for additional veterinary clinics across the country, especially in a densely populated state of Kano. "Doing so will give government the opportunity to accommodate the teeming unemployed veterinary graduates that roam the streets without job," he said.

Kano State governor Ibrahim Shekarau, represented by the state commissioner for Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives, Alhaji Ibrahim Ahmad Yakasai, noted that 75 per cent of the emerging diseases were from animals, while 60 per cent of them are found to be common in both animals and human beings.



MEN stopping traffic to allow women to sweep the road in Benin, Republic

## N/Assembly to pass law on Climate Commission

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE National Assembly is working on the Bill for the establishment of National Climate Change Commission, Chairman, Senate Committee on Environment and Ecology Senator Grace Bent said this in Abuja over the weekend.

Senator Bent (PDP, Adamawa) said this at an occasion where the Clerk of the National Assembly Prince Olayemi Ogunyomi was honoured as one of 34 'Champions of Change' for his work in nurturing democracy and bringing civil society groups and government together for positive change.

Speaking during a lesson sharing event organized by Coalition for Change (C4C), Mrs Bent said Nigeria would become the first country in Africa to have achieved the feat if the Bill for this Commission aimed at catering for the environment is passed.

She said with the effort, Nigeria has shown that it has a will to make its environment good, attributing the success story recorded in the environment sector to the support of C4C and Nigeria Climate Action Network (NCAN).

"For any government agenda to succeed, we must place premium on the environment," Senator Bent added.

In her remarks at the occasion former

Minister of Women Affairs Hajia Salamatu Hussein expressed hope that the women would celebrate the attainment of 30 per cent affirmative action by the end of 2011 general elections.

Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Public Procurement Yusuf Tuggar underscored the need to sustain the ongoing fight against corruption in the country.

Earlier in her welcome, the C4C Chairperson Prof. Bolanle Awe presented a book aimed at nurturing the young ones on the need to be agents of positive change, expressing hope that it would help move the country forward.

## K/ Kwari fire c'tte solicits banks' support

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

THE committee constituted to handle the fire incidence that gutted Kano textiles market, Kantin Kwari, in March has solicited support of commercial banks to come to the aid of the fire victims.

The call was made by the Chairman of the Commit-

tee, Alhaji Ibrahim Garba, when he received a donation of N4 million to the victims from the manager of Kantin Kwari branch of First Bank Nigeria Plc in his office.

Garba commended the bank over the gesture and pledged judicious distribution of the funds raised by the committee to the affected victims while he called

on the other banks in the country to emulate gesture of the first bank by way of donating to the victims.

He said the committee was put in place with a view of ascertaining the cause of the inferno as well as the loss recorded. He also said the committee is also saddled with the responsibility of handling all donations made to the victims.

# HEALTH REPORT

## WAHO to integrate herbal into conventional medicines

By Ruby Leo

THE West African Health Ministers rose from its 11th Ordinary Meeting with a resolution to Institutionalize Traditional Medicine and for Studies to be conducted into herbal medicines for its integration into conventional medicine.

The meeting which was held in Freetown, Sierra Leone on April 23-24, 2010 recognized the potentials of traditional medicine in improving access to quality health care in the region with appropriate regulation and control.

In a statement signed by the chief press secretary, Mrs Aboade Akinola the minister of State for Health, and Chairman of WAHO, Alhaji Suleiman Bello in his opening speech said that

for many people in the African region, traditional medicine is the only means they have which provides health care as it is readily accessible, affordable and culturally acceptable.

"It is therefore imperative that the traditional medicine sector is supported to leave no room for charlatanism."

"Traditional medicine practitioners must be trained and regulated to enable them acquire the necessary skills and competencies to perform this ancient and culturally respected art of compassionate care and healing alongside the orthodox medical practice," he said.

However, Alhaji Suleiman cautioned that traditional medicine cannot always be a substitute for effective, life-saving modern medicines and

emergency measurement that have saved the lives of millions of people around the globe.

He therefore called on his colleagues to prevent situations where Traditional medicine Practitioners turn themselves into specialists of all pathologies and thereby risk patients lives.

He said this could be prevented through adequate regulations and by integrating their practices and products rather than marginalizing them.

The ECOWAS Ministers also emphasized the need to adopt an innovative approach to address the health challenges of the region, and therefore called for a Primary Health Care System that has adequate human resource, infrastructure and offers better access to quality essential medicines.

## 2,766 pupils get free eye screening

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

AT least 2,766 primary school pupils in some selected schools in Ijebu Ode, Ogun state have received free eye screening and examination.

The three day free eye screening, the second since January, was sponsored by Tunwase National Paediatric Centre Ijebu Ode, First City Monument Bank (FCMB) and Tulsi Chanrai Foundation, Yola.

The benefiting schools include, St. John Basic School, Holy Flock Nursery and Primary School, CAC Primary School and St. Paul's Anglican School.

Other are Moslem Basic School, Local Government Model School, St. Thomas Catholic School, St. John Anglican Primary School, St. Peters Anglican School,

Idowa and St. Peter primary School.

Students from the Ogun State College of Health Technology Ilese-Ijebu and Pogil School of Health Technology Ijebu Ode, conducted the screenings having been trained by Dr. Raj Senthilraj the manager of Tulsi Chanrai Foundation and Mr. Christopher Osso, an ophthalmic nurse on how to examine and identify eye diseases.

Among the 2,766 students screened, about 300 students were found to have refractive error, cataract, corneal opacity, pterygiums, squint, defective and other types of eye diseases with several symptoms.

Speaking on corneal opacity which is one of the eyes diseases, Dr. Raj Senthilraj, explained the factors that can increase the

likelihood of developing corneal opacity include vitamin A deficiency, measles, and viral infections.

According to him others can be eye herpes, herpes zoster or shingles and conjunctivitis or pink eye adding that having an eye injury from a chemical or from something poking or hitting the eye, or wearing contact lenses too long or during the night can also increase a person's chances of having eye problems.

He explained further that, "when corneal opacity is suspected, a physician will use a slit lamp, which focuses very bright light into a slit, to examine the numerous structures of the eye.

Using a magnifying lens and eye drops that dilate the pupils and numb the eye, the doctor is able to check

for foreign bodies, and corneal scarring."

"In most cases, corneal opacity can be treated by a doctor with oral medications or steroid and antibiotic eye drops.

For more serious scarring, laser surgery is used to remove the scarring from the corneal surface while in the most severe cases, a cornea transplant may be needed" he explained further.

Mr. Christopher Osso, an ophthalmic Officer Nurse speaking on the common symptoms of corneal said it could lead to decreased vision or vision loss.

He said a person may feel like there is something in his eye, even after flushing the eye and having someone look in it. He may also suffer light sensitivity and unexplained eye redness. The former Minister of Health and Provost of Otunba Tunwase National Paediatric Centre, Professor Grange said that all eye infections should receive immediate attention and a doctor should be consulted any time anyone suffers an eye injury.

"If anyone sees any of the following signs in a child such as flutter quickly from side to side (nystagmus), watery eyes, high sensitive to light, changes in eyes from any way from their usual appearance, white or yellow material appears in the pupil, seek medical attention" constantly

## MDGs to build 100 health centres in Niger state

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

DETERMINED to improve the quality of health care services provided in states across the federation, the Millennium Development Goal has decided to build over hundred health centres in Niger state to boost the health sector.

According to the state Director General for the Niger state MDG, Alhaji Hassan Nuhu, the move to construct more clinics in the state was in line with the state government's desire to give its citizens the best in the area of health care services.

Nuhu pointed out that before the initiative to build the 100 clinics, the state was in dire need of such facilities because of the recent increase of infant and maternal mortality which had reached an alarming rate.

He said that the clinics aside offering emergency services were equipped to operate like regular hospitals, just to enhance the general welfare of the people.

He observed that the construction work would be strategically located in four centres in each local government of the state to ensure maximum coverage across the state for effective handling of health cases.

"In line with the Niger state government health care program, we have constructed a hundred health care clinics in all the twenty-five local governments in the state.

"Four clinics are located in each local government in the state for easy accessibility of persons to the health services at all time of the day," he said.

According to Nuhu, the health care projects in the state have been captured in the N1 billion joint intervention fund between the state and federal government.

He revealed that the MDGs have commenced the construction and equipping of 12 comprehensive primary health care centres



ALHAJI Hassan Nuhu Niger State DG, MDGs

across the state to also boost health services.

"We have already taken off with the construction of 12 primary health centres, with each senatorial zones having four and an addition one for the M. I Wushishi housing estate in Minna.

"The supplies of comprehensive hospital equipment has also commenced ahead of the completion of the centres with boreholes to provide portable drinking water," he said.

He said that there is no wisdom in establishing clinic and health centres across the state when requisite hygiene measures are left unattended to, saying that adequate action has been taken to ensure the slandering of portable drinking water is boosted for the people.

He disclosed that fifty-two bi-water projects have been targeted for reactivation in the state, adding that 75 solar powered boreholes will also be sunk in all the 25 local government areas of the state, with each getting four.

We are also going to reactivate all the water works in the state which includes that of Chanchaga, Bida, Badeggi, Agaie, Lapai, New Bussa, Kontagora, Kuta and Suleja local government areas of the state," he said.

While expressing concern on the condition of the state health institutions, Alhaji Nuhu stated that some have been identified for either renovation or re-construction work.



EXPERTS examining a pupil during eye screening exercise

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## CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513  
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# Three die in Yangoji auto crash

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THREE persons lost their lives while 12 others sustained various degrees of injuries Sunday evening in a fatal motor accident that occurred at Yangoji village, along the Abuja-Lokoja highway.

A witness said the accident occurred when a Toyota bus with

registration number XA 766 LKJ belonging to Okene Mass Transit had a burst tyre and crashed into a bush, living three of its passengers dead.

"Twelve other passengers that sustained serious injuries were immediately rescued and rushed to Kwali General Hospital by officials of the Federal Road Safety

Commission (FRSC) at Yangoji," the witness said.

Our reporter learnt that among the dead was a middle-aged woman whose baby daughter escaped unhurt. Yangoji FRSC unit commander, Abdullahi Umar, attributed the accident cause to a burst tyre and said the corpses have been conveyed to Univer-

sity of Abuja Teaching Hospital's Morgue, while the injured are at Kwali General Hospital.

When our reporter visited Kwali General Hospital yesterday, the victims were seen receiving treatment, while a nurse disclosed that the baby girl who lost her mother has been reunited with her father.

## Court to rule on newspaper law Wednesday

By Romoke W. Ahmad

AN Abuja High Court presided over by Justice Ugochukwu A. Ogakwu will on May 5 rule on a suit seeking the nullification of the Newspaper Registration Act.

The suit was filed by a seasoned journalist, Isaac Umunna, following the seizure of copies of National Newpoint, of which he is Consulting Editor, by the police, who also arrested and detained distributors of the magazine.

Umunna, through his lawyers, Festus Keyamo Chambers, is challenging the action of the police, which he considers to be "arbitrary, oppressive, arrogant, unlawful, illegal, wrongful and unconstitutional."

Joined in the suit are the Inspector General of Police, the FCT Police Commissioner and the Wuse Divisional Police Officer, Abuja.

In the suit, Umunna complained of how the police descended on magazine distributors in Abuja, seizing copies of the February 2010 Special Edition of National Newpoint magazine, arresting the main distributor, Ademola Adesoji, and causing him to be wrongfully arraigned before an Abuja Magistrate Court and detained for a month.

He also complained of how the police dispatched a three-man team to Lagos to harass marketers of the magazine, which featured a Special Report on "Nigerian Police as Wilful Killers."

The police had claimed that National Newpoint is an "unregistered magazine" and that its publication and circulation contravened the Newspaper Registration Act, Cap 291 Laws of Federation 1990.

Faulting the action of the police, Umunna in his suit argued that the Newspaper Act is an obsolete law, having been left out of the Laws of Federation 2004.

He also argued that the said Newspaper Registration Act "has been rendered unconstitutional by reason of inconsistency with Sections 1 and 39 of the 1999 Constitution."

Umunna therefore prayed the court to declare the Newspaper Registration Act unconstitutional, null and void. He is also praying for N600 million general and special damages, an unreserved apology by the police and the restraining of the police from further harassing or intimidating anyone in connection with the publication or distribution of National Newpoint magazine.

When the case last came up on April 15, Justice Ogakwu fixed May 5 for ruling.



THE wreckage of an 18-seater bus where three persons lost their lives on Sunday evening at Yangoji.

## Police nab suspected hoodlum

By Ogechi Ohalee

A report by a woman that her handbag was snatched at knife point by a gang at Life-camp, Abuja, spurred the police in the area into quick action that led to the arrest of a suspect on Sunday evening.

The victim said as she was standing close to RCC junction and waiting for a cab, three persons jumped out of a bush to waylay her.

"One of them slapped me, the other showed a dagger, while the next snatched my bag and they all disappeared back into the bush," she said.

The lady immediately rushed to the Life-camp Police Station to report the incident, which made the police comb the bush and arrest a suspect.

The Divisional Crime Officer of the station, Magawata, an assistant superintendent, confirmed the report and

said as soon as they got the information, policemen were sent to the crime scene and they combed the whole area, after which one of the criminals was caught in the bush.

Magawata disclosed that when the boy was searched, dangerous weapons with other items were recovered from him and he wondered what the boy was doing in the bush at that time of the day.

He said interrogation is presently on to get further information and advised ladies to beware of walking aimlessly around the town at odd hours.

The crime officer assured that the suspect will be taken to court as soon as the police conclude their investigation.

The suspect however denied the allegation but agreed that he is a tout who went into the bush to ease himself before he was apprehended by policemen on his way out of the bush.

## Landlord beaten to coma at Mararaba

By Gladys Ogechi Nworgu

A middle-aged landlord, Daniel Okechukwu, was on Friday evening beaten to coma by his tenant at Aso area of Mararaba, in Nasarawa State.

Our reporter learnt that the relationship between the tenant and landlord became sour when the former refused to pay his house rent since January.

A witness said the tenant complained that the landlord has been disturbing him and removed the roof in his apartment.

The tenant said that the landlord removed the door to his kitchen and also stopped his family from using the toilet as well as bathroom.

"The tenant did not take kindly to such actions and beat the landlord until he collapsed," the witness said.

The witness added further that the landlord was rushed to Aso Clinic, where he was revived, while the tenant is being detained at Aso Police Post.

At the police post, a policeman confirmed the incident and said they are investigating the matter.

# PDP area council chairmen criticise Sidi Ali

## ...As party suspends Abajispeaker

By Abubakar Yakubu & Abubakar Sadiq Isah

SIX area councils' Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chairmen in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) at the weekend condemned the senator representing them at the National Assembly for his alleged anti-party activities during the recent council poll in Abaji.

The chairmen who met at Garki village, Abuja for several hours, accused the senator of sponsoring an opposition party to ensure that the PDP is defeated in the council's poll.

Kura Bitrus Tanko, Abuja Municipal Area Council; Alhaji Idris Gana Yaba, Abaji; Alhaji Usman Mohammed Giri, Gwagwalada; Alhaji Salihu Kolo, Kwali; Yakubu Z. Bako, Kuje and Alhaji

Aminu Musa Bwari of Bwari, all in one voice criticized Ali and threw their weights behind the PDP Abaji for suspending the senator from the party.

Kura Bitrus Tanko, who spoke on behalf of all the PDP council chairmen, vowed that they will write to the party's national secretariat so that the senator is further disciplined or expelled from the party.

In another development, the PDP Abaji chairman, Alhaji Idris Gana has suspended the council's legislative speaker, Alhaji Mohammed Ibrahim from performing his function in the chambers for alleged anti-party activities during the last council poll.

The party had nine days ago suspended the speaker from the party before the latest action.

In a signed letter dated April 26 and copied to Abaji council chairman as well as the clerk of the council's legislative chamber, the chairman's letter stated thus: "I write to communicate to you that your position as speaker of the legislative arm stand's suspended and we order that the deputy speaker henceforth remains our acting speaker of the house," the letter read.

Reacting to the letter, the embattled speaker said the party was not the body that made him speaker and has no right or constitutional backings to suspend him, adding that only the legislative members by a 2/3 majority can suspend or impeach him from office.

"They can only suspend me from the party, which is the platform that I contested but

the party has no any right to suspend me as speaker of the house with a resolution from legislative members of the house and I want to state here categorically that I still remain the substantive speaker of Abaji Area Council," he said.

The speaker denied involving in anti-party activity and called on the party leaders to show evidence to prove the allegation.

He quoted Article 21.5 of the party's amended constitution of 2009, which states that a decision taken against a house member on anti-party activity without given the person an opportunity to defend him or herself shall be null and void.

He wondered how the PDP in Abaji can accuse him of anti-party activity as well as call him an Action Congress agent in the

last council poll, adding that some faceless individuals are hell-bent to smear his name and reputation before the public.

Meanwhile, councillors Mohammed Shuaibu Tanni, representing North-East ward and Suleiman Yerima of South-East ward have kicked against the suspension of the speaker.

They said it is unconstitutional for the PDP as a party in the council to suspend the speaker of the council's legislative chamber's, who was elected by majority members of the house.

The two councillors advised the PDP Abaji chairman to immediately withdraw the suspension letter to allow for peace and rule of law to be maintained, adding that it is only the house that can suspend or impeach the speaker through majority votes.

## Mechanic jailed for breach of trust

By Romoke W. Ahmud & Hussein Yahaya

A 23-year-old mechanic was on Friday sentenced to one month imprisonment by an Abuja Upper Area Court for criminal breach of trust, cheating and mischief.

Ali, Muhammed of Kugbo mechanic village was sentenced for pleading guilty for committing offences contrary to Sections 312, 322 and 326 of the Penal Code.

Prosecutor Umar Muhammed told the court that one Philips Akogbu, a police officer attached to Asokoro Police Station reported at Karu Police Station that on April 28, he entrusted the sum of N5,000 to the accused for the repairs of his Nissan Primera car but the accused failed to repair it.

He said the accused damaged the car's side mirror valued at N3,000, the exhaust silencer valued at N7,000, adding that he dishonestly converted the sum of N5000 to his own use.

Judge Salisu Garba sentenced the accused to one month imprisonment or to pay N3,000 as fine.

The judge also ordered that the accused pay an additional N15,000 as compensation fee to the nominal complainant.



BRISTOW Workers cooling their feet during the May Day celebration on Saturday.

## Man jailed 3 months for theft

By Romoke W. Ahmad

AN Abuja Upper Area Court Friday sentenced a 20-year-old man, Muktar Abu, to three months imprisonment for theft, an offence contrary to Section 286 of the Penal Code.

Muktar, who reside at Nyanya, Abuja, pleaded guilty when the charge was read to him and blamed the devil for misleading him.

Prosecutor Umar Muhammed told the court that on April 28, one Elo Agbarah of Karu site

reported at Karu Police Station that the accused trespassed into her compound on the same date and stole a rug carpet valued at N24,000, which was kept outside to dry.

He said the Karu vigilante chairman apprehended and

recovered the rug from the accused, adding that during police investigation, he confessed to the crime.

Judge Salisu Garba sentenced the accused to three months imprisonment or to pay N3,000 as fine.

PIC: ABUBAKAR YAKUBU

PIC: ABUBAKAR YAKUBU

## Bishop commissions grotto at Nyanya

By Usman A. Bello

THE Archbishop of Abuja, Most Reverend John Onayikan, Sunday commissioned a grotto with the statue of Virgin Mary at SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Nyanya.

The grotto was constructed by the church's Catholic Women's Organisation and opened for parishioners to pray before it.

In her speech, President of the Association, Mrs Victoria Acholo, expressed joy that women in the church were able to fulfil their dreams in constructing the grotto and enjoined parishioners to make the best use of the place.

Highlights of the event was the display of cultural dances by societies in the church.



CATHOLICS praying before the newly commissioned grotto yesterday.

# Water vendors want govt recognition

By Hussein Yahaya

WATER vendors in the Federal Capital Territory have appealed to relevant government authorities to recognise their operations in the territory.

Most of them who spoke with our reporter on Saturday, observed that they have been contributing to the development of satellite towns

by providing potable water in such areas.

Ali Dogo, a water vendor, admitted that the business is lucrative business but requires a lot of energy.

He appealed to government to give them the necessary attention in order to allow them go about their business unmolested as well as for them to benefit from government's policy on small scale enterprise.

Meanwhile, our reporter observed acute water scarcity at Bwari metropolis due to difficulties experienced by vendors in getting supplies from borehole operators.

Investigations by our reporter revealed that many households are finding it difficult to get water from the water vendors, who have hiked their prices to between N50

as against N20 for a 20 litre jerrycan of water.

Mrs Rainat Musa said since the past two days her family has been buying sachet water, adding that getting water from water vendors has been so difficult.

Borehole operators assured that the problem will soon be a thing of the past and attributed it erratic power supply as well as diesel scarcity.

## Bwari residents complain of erosion

By Hussein Yahaya

RESIDENTS of Bwari in the FCT have called on the council's authority to find a lasting solution to the erosion problem facing some part of the town.

Most of the residents along Sabo-Gari road said they want urgent action from government before erosion consumes their apartments.

Mr. Danladi Etsu, a resident, lamented that people along Sabo-Gari road are worse hit by erosion and wondered why the FCT Administration has done nothing about it.

The residents also called on government to help remove dirty from gutters in the area to allow for free flow of water any time it rains.

Johnson Mathew, a resident, appealed to the council authority to also clear water ways which the residents have filled with refuse.

An environmentalist, Toyin Ajayi, attributed the yearly erosion problems to the attitudes of some residents who dump refuse along water ways.

He also called on the council authority to provide the town with a compressive drainage system, adding that both the government and residents must play complimentary roles if the erosion problem facing the town is to be controlled.

## FCT Senate c'ttee visits Abaji today

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE Senate committee on the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) will today visit Abaji Area Council to inspect projects executed by the incumbent council's Chairman, Alhaji Musa Yahaya Muhammad, in the last three years.

Our reporter learnt that the committee Chairman, Senator Abubakar Sondagi, who will be leading other members will arrive the council at 11:45 am, where they will pay the council boss a visit in his office before proceeding to inspect projects.

A source at the council disclosed that the senate committee had last week sent a letter to intimate the council boss of their intention to visit the council in order to ascertain the number of contracts awarded, including the completed/uncompleted projects.

## Scorpions worry Nyanya residents

By Zainab Shehu

RESIDENTS of Area A extension in Nyanya, Abuja are complaining of rampant scorpion attacks in the area because of the raining season.

A 20-year-old woman, who resides in the area, said she was sitting on the floor and eating when she felt the bite of a scorpion on her leg and screamed loud due to pains.

"My husband immediately

rushed me to Garki Hospital, where I was injected at a spot on my leg close to the bite," she said.

Audu, another resident of the area, stated that the scorpions bite a watchman and his wife at the weekend.

He said the family took paracetamol as well as robbed the affected spot with rub ointment.

Mustapha, a resident said the scorpion bite a man that was play-

ing in a Mosque on the fore head early one morning which caused pandemonium.

"After the bite the man got up, shouted, pick only one of his slippers and ran for his life living other worshippers in a panicking state," Mustapha said.

Our reporter also learnt that such insects have bitten people on top of beds and the victims prefer native medicines in curing themselves.

## Kwali chairman-elect inaugurates committee

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE chairman elect of Kwali Area Council, Mr. Joseph Shazih, of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) yesterday disclosed that a 14-man transitional committee has been inaugurated to look into the activities of the out going administration of the council.

He said the 14-man committee, headed by Alhaji Yakubu Yunusa Dangara, will among other things look into the council's revenue profile, uncompleted ongoing projects,

awards of contracts, liabilities, abandoned projects and others.

According to him, the committee which is made up of technocrat, retired professionals, civil servants and some experts will give first hand information to his administration on how to pilot the affairs of the council.

He said the committee are expected to submit their report before May 17, noting that their blue print will inform the council's next line of action after his swearing in.

He further disclosed that a committee to look into how farmers can be assisted through agricultural/ agro chemicals and farm inputs in order to boost farming in various communities of the council will be constituted as soon as he resumes duty.

"For the past two years, the incumbent administration has not procured anything for the agric sector and if they did, it was not maintained which caused a lot of complains from farmers during my electioneering campaign," he said.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS NNEKA PEACE EMMANUELLA AGBO now wish to be known and addressed as MRS NNEKA PEACE EMMANUELLA JK-ONYEKA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.



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MSH is looking for suitable registered companies to print Health Management Information System (HMIS) Tools. Interested companies in Abuja who have the capability to undertake this type of printing should send an email requesting for the detailed RFQ and other relevant documents necessary for putting in a bid.

#### QUALIFICATION CRITERIA:

- Company Profile and Certificate of Incorporation
- Details of company contacts including location, contact address, email, fax, contact person
- Documentation showing reference of similar works done including company name, location, address and contact person

Interested groups should kindly send their indication of interest by email to [bids\\_Nigeria@msh.org](mailto:bids_Nigeria@msh.org) with the subject "Indication of Interest For Printing of HMIS Tools On or Before May 9, 2010"



Freddie Wasi, PhD Student and Scholarship Winner for Best Engineering and Technology Student of the Year in the UK, 2008.

#### LAGOS

**Friday 30 April, 10am (Ikoyi)**  
Nubi Educational Counselling  
300A Surulere Way, Dolphin Estate, Ikoyi  
Tel: 01 7910572 Mob: 080 23135688, 080 24096292

**Saturday 1 May, 10am (Ikeja)**  
BCIE, Valley View Plaza, 99 Opebi Road  
Tel: 01 8966508 Mob: 080 23379290

**Monday 3 May, 10am (Ikeja)**  
Dave Abion Consulting  
6th Floor, Elephant Cement House, Alausa  
Tel: 01 7746088, 01 7735611  
Mob: 070 3388 3223, 080 6270 0622

#### ABUJA

**Tuesday 4 May, 10am**  
Nubi Education Counselling  
Suite 17B Maitama Shopping Complex  
Lumpopo Street, Maitama  
Tel: 080 28618669, 097 800157, 080 33160919

**Wednesday 5 May, 12 noon**  
BCIE, Ground Floor Metro Plaza, Plot 991-992,  
Zakarya Marmari Street  
Tel: 09 6277719, 09-4614900  
Mob: 080 66788636

**Thursday 6 May, 10am**  
Dave Abion Consulting  
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## AJAKUTA STEEL COMPANY LIMITED

### PENSION SCREENING EXERCISE FOR YEAR 2010

VENUE: Main Admin and Welfare Building (Auditorium) Ajaokuta.

DATE: Monday, 10th - 18th May, 2010 (7 Working Day).

TIME: 9.am - 5pm DAILY.

#### REQUIREMENTS:

Original of the following documents;

1. Appointment Letter.
2. Letter of transfer from other Organisation (if any).
3. Stood off/Reabsorption Letter (if any).
4. Letter of Conversion (if any).
5. Final Letter of Exit.
6. One recent Passport Photograph.
7. Pensioner's I.D. Card.

DATE OF THE EXERCISE	BANKS	No. OF PENSIONERS	CF. NOS
Mon, 10th May, 2010	Unity Bank Plc, Ajaokuta	483	0106 - 8469
Tue, 11th May, 2010	Unity Bank Plc, Ajaokuta Unity Bank Plc, Lagos	456 27	8470 - 15344 0011 - 12346
Wed, 12th May, 2010	UBN Plc, Ajaokuta	453	0035 - 8890
Thur, 13th May 2010	UBN Plc, Ajaokuta UBN Plc, Okengwe	325 128	8891 - 15296 0036 - 14485
Frid, 14th May, 2010	UBA Plc, Ajaokuta	443	004 - 11302
Mon, 17th May, 2010	UBA Plc, Ajaokuta NAC Okene Int. continental Bank, Lokoja	277 152 16	11329 - 15109 0147 - 14458 0951 - 13067
Tue, 18th May, 2010	First Bank Plc, Ajaokuta First Bank Plc, Ayangba First Bank Plc, Lagos	473 26 1	0018 - 15082 0774 - 12413 0809

Signed  
CHAIRMAN (BOT)

# LAW

## Legal Quote

"If an act is void, then it is in law a nullity. It is not only bad, but incurably bad. There is no need for an order of the court to set it aside. It is automatically null and void without more ado, though it is sometimes convenient to have the court declare it to be so. And every proceeding which is founded on it is also bad and incurably bad. You cannot put something on nothing and expect it to stay there. It will collapse." The words of Lord Denning in *MacFoy v. UAC Ltd.* (2000) 15 WRN 185 (1962) A.C. 152 a Privy Council case."

## Imperatives of a Freedom of Information Act

*We argue that a bill on freedom of information is legally and practically imperative. A freedom of information bill will improve transparency in government. An Act furthers the aims and achievements of the fundamental objectives and directives principles of state policy. The positive economic benefits of a freedom of information Act include early and useful assessment, measurement, and prediction of government policies, while displacing information rent seeking. Private investors will obtain credible information to plan and develop products and relevant strategies. Genuine or ill conceived policy mistakes by government may also be prevented by those outside government. Further, the law will contribute to national security since, destabilising acts, measures and persons can be discussed, managed, and dissuaded. Dr. Jonathan will ensure an eternal legacy for himself in ensuring the passage of an Act.*

By Adelanwa Bamgboye

FOR independent reasons political, non-governmental, and media organisations have been concerned with the need for, and contents of, a proposed bill on freedom of information in Nigeria. The constitution already guarantees freedom of expression and the press. Section 39 (1) states that: "Every person shall be entitled to freedom of expression, including freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart ideas and information without interference." (Italicised words for emphasis.) Quite clearly, section 39 (1) obliges public sector institutions, to release available information to persons interested or affected by such information. This provision is consistent with modern civilised standards of democracy and good governance practices. Clamour and resistance dates back to the Obasanjo/Atiku regime. President Yar'Adua's tenure has generated its own bickering. While previous view was that the executive arm does not favour such a law, evidence also suggests the legislative arm is jittery. A detailed localised contents

bill vide a freedom of information statute deepens and advances the general existence of the right of expression. (see Section 39 (2)) The expression "freedom" then becomes meaningful. The question is why is an Act for freedom of information imperative? In general, an Act is required to further the aims and achievements of the fundamental objectives and directives principles of state policy. Freedom of information is the live wire for promoting good government and welfare of all persons and achieving other essential freedoms, equality, and justice. It is cardinal to consolidating the solemn resolve by Nigerians to live in unity, ie peaceful, harmonious and territorial co-existence. Specifically, a freedom of information Act will improve transparency in government. It being incontestable that bad leadership and corruption constitutes the gravest factors afflicting Nigeria's society and development, legislation is bound to assist individuals and authorities to discover and arrest corruption, graft, abuse of public office, and the moral turpitude of individuals in society. Current efforts singularly based



CHIEF Justice of Nigeria Aloysius Katsina Alu

on the creation and successes of anti-crime agencies are reactive chance based policies. The freedom of information legislation constitutes a more effective preventive strategic policy. Differently, a freedom of information legislation will improve security of the country, whether at the grassroots or the centre.

Public and private officials can legitimately demand information directly or indirectly from institutions, about people and activities in the neighbourhood. It becomes easier to correctly assess criminal, political, and social disorder situations. Recipients are more enlightened and assured in discussing their concerns in a common purpose environment. Without a freedom of information policy rumour mongering is encouraged to become the past time of national life. These can have singular or cumulative devastating consequences. A noteworthy example in 1980 is the \$2.8 billion dollar scandal of illegal private misappropriation that caused national outrage, students' demonstrations, and eventually led to the Irikefe Panel of Inquiry. The recent popu-

lar reaction to the emergence and existence of a corrupt power grabbing cabal by cabinet ministers of President Yar'Adua following his health crisis is another outcome of denial of public information. There is no doubt benefit to government arms and agencies. With the existence of a law they are less likely to stop chasing shadows and spending heavy, but scarce, public funds, in investigating unfounded allegations.

There are also serious positive economic benefits of a freedom of information act. Because government policies can be assessed, measured, and predicted, private investors are thereby assisted with credible information to plan and develop products and strategies relevant to national economic development policies and aspirations. Genuine or ill conceived policy mistakes by government may also be prevented by those outside government. For government, a freedom of information law may enable it to substantively and procedurally properly manage information inflow and outflow. The thrust of a freedom of information regime is to oblige departments to give up

to date information of past, present and future policies and practices to enable stakeholders act accordingly. This is crucial to earning public trust and confidence, while systemising organisations work pattern. The absence of freedom of information creates an illegitimate rent seeking mafia clan with regard to government business and plans. As several persons of low moral caste seek to attain public office come 2011, a freedom of information law would make the most insidious practices of successful ones highly risky and not worth the bother. Certainly, if a greater number of citizens are expected to actively participate in defending democracy and promoting good government, the existence of a freedom of information legislation is imperative. Finally, because such legislation is not within the exclusive legislative list, progressive state governors and legislators who genuinely want to promote good governance have a duty to ensure the passage of such a bill in their states. One advantage is that it will prevent undue demands upon them from voracious supporters and local god fathers and perhaps puncture a hole in the vicious opposition's sail. Dirty cupboards need not be opened. Any legislation will only take effect post 2011. No doubt, Dr. Jonathan will be the best person to lead by example.

The long and short of it is that at all levels, Nigeria does not have in place an Act to promote the goals of an open and democratic society or place on open record the deeds and misdeeds of persons and authorities. This detracts from the rights, true meaning, and application of the provision for freedom of expression. The need for a bill is accordingly imperative. Dr. Jonathan and his cabinet will have generations of Nigerians to thank, remember, and bless them in successfully ensuring the passage of this important Act. Because the constitution promotes it, they should do the right thing.

## Lagos Magistrates thrown into confusion

From Adelanwa Bamgboye

MAGISTRATES in Lagos State have been thrown into confusion following the suspension of the Lagos Magistrate Court Law 2009.

While the Magistrates have complied with the ruling of the High Court which is binding until set aside; it has

however opened a flood gate to applications attacking their jurisdiction on the ground of having reverted to a repealed law.

The Magistrates, under the aegis of Magistrates Association of Nigeria, Lagos Branch, are also now divided since they,

Thursday, embarked on a two-week strike in protest against their poor condition of service and the suspension of the Lagos Magistrate Court Law 2009.

While some said that they are willing and ready to go on and work in obedience to the Lagos State Chief Judge (CJ) Hon. Justice Inumidun Akande, others are hell bent on going on with the strike action.

Justice Aishat Opesanwo of a Lagos High Court had in a ruling delivered on March 24, suspended the new Magistrate Court Law 2009 and directed that the old Magistrate Court Law 2003 should be the operating magistracy law in Lagos State

pending the determination of a suit by a Lagos-based lawyer, Mr. Jiti Ogunye, challenging the legality of the new law. The magistrates' decision to embark on strike was reached at an emergency meeting of its association at Yaba Magistrate's Court in Lagos on Wednesday.

The decision of the magistrates came after a circular dated March 30 and sent to them by the Chief Registrar of Lagos High Court, Mrs. Lateefat Folami, directing them to adhere strictly to the ruling of Justice Opesanwo.

How ever the remote causes of the strike was the partial implementation of the Jus-

tice Sector Reforms initiated during the regime of the immediate past Governor of Lagos State, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, when he assessed the deplorable conditions of the Courts and its Personnel. Following the reforms the New High Court Complexes were constructed and put into use. The Personnel were given all befitting fringe benefits. Also the New High Court law was enacted by the House of Assembly and the New High Court Rules was put into use. Everything went on well. The former Governor then promised that the Magistracy would be the next justice sector to be reformed.

## Law



ABDUL Ibrahim, NBA Chairman, Abuja branch

ABDUL IBRAHIM is the chairman of the Abuja Branch of the Nigeria Bar Association, he spoke with AD-ELANWA BAMIGBOYE, on the relationship between the NBA and the Judiciary and other topical issues.

**What is the numerical strength of lawyers in the Abuja branch?**

Abdul Ibrahim NBA Abuja Branch chairman- the NBA Abuja branch is popularly call the unity branch and it has a membership strength of over 7000 lawyers including both public and private sector because we are all one branch.

**What is unique about your branch?**

The unique thing about my branch is that it is the melting point, the centre and it is very influential and prime. To that extent it can not be relegated. When we are talking about the legal profession and the Bar Association in Nigeria, Abuja plays a very prime role, in fact it was instrumental to the resolution reached when the NBA was comatose in the 90s. The conference where D. G Okpoko SAN was elected was held in Abuja. Many other elections have been held in Abuja so we have always been playing pivotal roles.

**With these 7000 lawyers in Abuja, would you think that this number is enough for Abuja?**

I can tell you that not all the lawyers we have here go to court. Some are in the academic, some are into cooperate services and some have even veered out of the legal profession. There is still room for more lawyers to come in and there is still room for specialisation. One

other thing that has added to the increase of lawyers in Abuja is that a lot of people are moving into Abuja because, it is the centre of the government. Apart from that, those kidnappings and insecurity in some States contributed to the influx of lawyers into Abuja. I can tell you that Lawyers have moved from the south East, South South and have moved their practice to Abuja. Lawyers who practice in Plateau State are also affected because some have said that they cannot continue to practice in those places.

You see there must be space for every body. It depends on what you want to do and how you go about it. One thing I can tell you is that Abuja is not a town where you sit in your house and somebody just knock at your door and say I want a lawyer.

It is either you get clients through referrals based on records, image or the retainership that you have.

**There has been criticisms that the NBA is veering into politics. Is this correct?**

Yes to a large extent I think we need to check ourselves. At the same time we are the vanguards of the society in promoting the rule of law. Anything that we will do that will promote the rule of law, yes, but we don't have to dabble into politics. NBA is a professional body. Telling you from the

# We enjoy cordial relationship with the Judiciary -NBA Abuja Chairman

position I occupy, I know some of our members in political parties. Some are in Labour party, PDP etc and they are all members of the profession and we have a role to play in all these things. The key word and the prime consideration is that we should promote rule of law, politics should be left for the politicians.

**What are your challenges?**

Some of the challenges are there and we are coping with it. Some of the critical challenges of late is the question of indiscipline and this is very crucial because so many people are moving into Abuja, with different ideas, wisdom and complaints come up, but as compared to before is on the increase.

Some of the lawyers are in a rush to make money. I don't see the legal profession as where you rush to make money. Yes you will make money, but you have to invest into the society -do free cases, you must donate to the society. Don't look at it as a business that you come and make money overnight.

A lot of the younger ones are in haste to make money. It is like wine, the older you get the better you become. Whether we like it or not, yes when we agree that indiscipline must be tackled, one other factor is economic factor which is also affecting us as lawyers.

We can not work without light. When we do not have light, certainly it would affect your output and before you know it, you are using other sources of light like petrol. These will affect the bills and the charges.

Another challenge which I am facing now which is primary to me is part of the electoral promise I gave. It has come off age that the Bar Association Abuja should have

its own Bar centre and for the Bar centre; we have been given a plot which has now been identified. We want to start something because it was one of my electoral promises and I want us to have a Bar centre where we could have functions. And interact, and you know with good interactions it eases tensions. But I must also tell you that at the Bar today we relate well with each other. We play together and do functions and meetings together.

**You said that you have the problem of indiscipline in your Branch, so far how many lawyers have you disciplined?**

Some have been disciplined and recently at the last meeting we had, there was a decision we had to try to deter. As a deterrence, we publish complaints, after the complaints we also publish it. not just to publish in the newspapers alone but we also placed them at critical areas so that if there is a complaint against you, your name would be there and your colleagues would know that you have a complaint against you. Unlike those days when we just write you to come and appear before a tribunal, these days we would publish it and your colleagues would know. And at least it would make some people to deter. What has led to that is that we as lawyers are dabbling into professions that shouldn't be ours just as some people are also dabbling into our profession.

Most of the complaints have to do with remittance of money especially in property business because one thing in Abuja is that most people think you can make money through property and that is why you see cost of rent on high.

**What is your relationship with the judiciary?**

Abuja is the centre and the Bar

has enjoyed a very excellent relationship with the judiciary. At least with the Supreme Court we do not have any problem, they get across to us and if they have any event we mobilise our members. We have a good interaction with them. The Court of Appeal, the Head Quarters is here, we have a warm and cordial relationship.

Coming to the FCT Judiciary, we also enjoy very warm relationship with the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Judiciary. They have been very supportive and as a matter of fact we have a forum where we meet and discuss, recently an end user refresher course was organised where our members and Registrars attended. We also have what we call the Bar/Bench Forum where lawyers and Judges sit down together and discuss frankly with view to finding solutions.

Then we have the FCT Chief Judge (CJ), who is a very proactive person, progressive in thinking and dynamic. Often coming out with one good thing or the other that helps the legal profession and propelling all of us forward. As a mark of our appreciation, on 1st March 2010 we held the first ever NBA annual lectures and as a mark of appreciation, it was held in his honour, the attendance was very impressive. We enjoy a good working relationship with him.

By extension, we have the Customary Courts here and we have a good working relationship with the Judges of the customary courts. For the Sharia Courts we also have a very good working relationship with them and the President who have been supportive.

So far so good, the NBA have been enjoying good relationship with all the key players in the judiciary.

## TRUST LAW REPORT

*The law is that once an alibi has been raised, the burden is on the prosecution to investigate and rebut such evidence SC.239/2006*

Sunday Ani, Peter Ani (appellants) v The state (respondent) JUDGMENT (DELIVERED BY J. O. OGBE JSC)

The appellants were tried and convicted on a charge of armed robbery contrary to section 1 (2) (a) of Robbery and Firearms (Special Provisions) Act cap. 398 LFN 1990 in the High Court of Enugu State presided over by Nosike J.

The appellants appealed to the Court of Appeal, Enugu Division and the appeal was dismissed on the 10th of March 2003. This is a further appeal to this Court.

The respondent's case is that the appellants and 3 others robbed PW1 Chime Ugwu (hereinafter also called "the

complainant") of the sum of N300,000 with a gun and iron rod in the early hours of 29th of June 1997. PW1 had known the appellants very well before as the 1st appellant was an apprentice under him and the second appellant frequently visited him. He said that he recognized the appellants with the aid of bush lantern.

The prosecution called 3 witnesses and tendered the statements of the appellants denying any involvement with the crime. The appellants in their statements to the Police raised a defence of alibi which was never investigated by the Police. The appellants' case was a total denial of the offence in their evidence in court. DW1 Inspector James Eze gave evidence on their behalf.

The learned counsel for the appellants in their brief formulated 3 issues for determination as follows:

1. Whether the prosecution proved its case beyond reasonable doubt to warrant the affirmation of the conviction and sentence of the Appellants by the Court of Appeal.

2. Whether the learned Justices of the Court of Appeal misdirected themselves in their evaluation of the evidence with which they found that PW1 did not report to the police that "unknown thief or thieves" robbed him, which misdirection, in turn, led to a miscarriage of justice to the Appellants.

3. Whether the learned Justices of the Court of Appeal were right, in law, to affirm the convictions and sentences of the Appellants by the trial court even though their defence of alibi, raised at the earliest opportunity, was never investigated and there was no conclusive evidence fixing them at the scene of the crime."

*To be continued*

## Inside Politics

# Gombe PDP threatens aspirants

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Gombe

THE Gombe State Chapter of People's Democratic Party (PDP) says any party member who pasted his posters or declared interest to contest for any elective position without the permission of the party should consider themselves dismissed from the party.

State party secretary Alhaji Zakari Musa said this yesterday in Billiri, during the distribution of 24 motorcycles to the party's officials of Billiri and Balanga local government areas.

He said the decision of the party was to check what he called unethical attitude of some members who had been littering the

state with their posters without first informing the party of their interest to contest for positions on its platform.

Musa said the party would no longer condone or spare anybody found working contrary to the rules of the party.

State Deputy Governor John Yoriyo, who also spoke at the event,

accused the party's leadership of engaging in sycophancy that earned them disrespect among members and elected public officials.

He said party leaders are supposed to be the kings while the elected public officials should be their servants, adding that the reverse was however the casenow.

Yoriyo said unless this tendency was ended the leadership of the party would remain undermined.

The donor of the motorcycles, Alhaji Aliyu Isa JC, said the distribution was philanthropic, saying a similar gesture was extended to various groups and associations in Gombe South within the last few years.

## Fayemi vs. Oni: Tribunal delivers judgment tomorrow

THE Election Petition Tribunal in Ekiti State has fixed tomorrow for judgment in the petition filed by the AC Governorship Candidate Kayode Fayemi against Governor Segun Oni of the PDP.

Mr. Mohammed Jimoh, the spokesman for the state police command, said this in Ado-Ekiti yesterday, adding that the command had received the judgment notice from the tribunal.

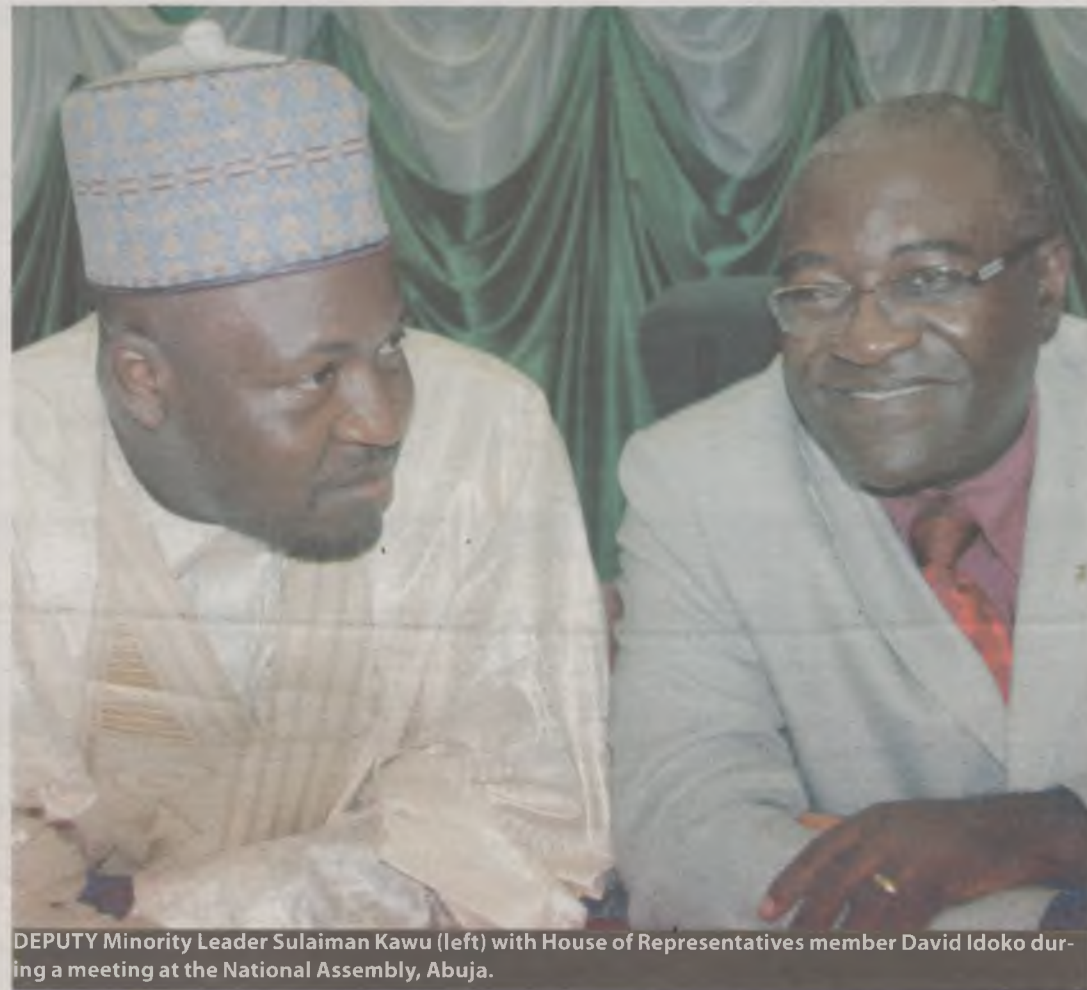
"I can confirm to you that the tribunal will deliver its judgment on Wednesday because the command has this morning (Monday) received the notice of judgment from the tribunal.

"The command has immediately dispatched our men to move round the town to create awareness that the police will not condone any form of violence from anybody before, during and after the judgment," Jimoh said. "As part of security arrangements the police have commenced stop and search at the boundaries and flashpoints to ensure that the judgment does not cause any violence."

Policemen have been deployed to strategic locations in Ado-Ekiti.

Chairman of the five-member tribunal, Justice Hamma Barka, had on April 13 after the adoption of final written addresses announced that the date of the judgment would be communicated to all the parties.

Fayemi is challenging INEC's declaration of Oni as winner of the April 25, 2009, re-run election. He is contesting the election in six wards of Ifaki Wards 1 and 2, Orin/Ora Ward, Usi Ward in Ido-Osi Local Government Area and in Ipoti wards A and B in Ijero Local Government Area. (NAN)



DEPUTY Minority Leader Sulaiman Kawu (left) with House of Representatives member David Idoko during a meeting at the National Assembly, Abuja.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

## Senator Nazif dumps AC for PDP

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

ACTION Congress' only senator in the North-east, Nazif Suleiman Gamawa, representing Bauchi North, finally returned to the PDP on Sunday. Nazif announced his movement from the AC at a ceremony in Gamawa.

Guest speaker of the occasion, Senate President David Mark, while welcoming the senator back to the PDP, called on electorate in the state to support the re-election bid of Governor Isa Yuguda, because of his achievements in the last two and a half years.

Also speaking at the event, member of the House of Representatives Abdul Ahmed Ningi described the return of Nazif into the PDP as another milestone in the political history of PDP.

PDP chieftain Alhaji Murtala Jibrin told our correspondent that all the political differences between Nazif and Governor Yuguda were resolved and that the senator's return to the PDP would work in favour of the governor's second term bid.

"He is the only person who can deliver Gamawa for the party in the 2011 general elections after the death two months ago of late commissioner of Housing and Environment, Mohammed Lele Raga, who was instrumental to the election of Isa Yuguda in 2007 when he joined the opposition ANPP," he said.

## AC asks Ogbulafor to step down

By Abdulmutallib Abubakar

THE Action Congress (AC) has asked PDP chairman Vincent Ogbulafor to step down from his office because of the charges of corruption pending against him at an Abuja court.

Spokesman for AC Lai Mohammed said though the chairman remains innocent of the charges until proven guilty, he should set a moral precedence by stepping down to defend himself against the charges.

Ogbulafor, who is billed to

appear in court today, has denied the corruption charges, saying they were politically motivated. He said he would stay in his post while the case against him went on, citing precedence.

But AC said Ogbulafor's decision to remain in office while his prosecution lasts would be a moral burden on him and the party.

Mohammed said, "How can Nigeria successfully fight against corruption when indicted ruling party officials... fail to live by a high moral standard? Since

most of those carrying the heavy moral burden in this regard are from the PDP, is it any wonder that this disappearing behemoth has become the biggest clog in the wheel of Nigeria's anti-corruption fight?"

"We demand that Ogbulafor, as the chairman of the PDP, should lead the way by stepping down in view of the fraud charges against him. We also demand that all the indicted former governors who are serving in the Senate should resign or be recalled by their constituencies."

## Katsina lawmakers visit minister

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

MEMBERS of the Katsina State House of Assembly have visited Minister of Mines and Steel Development Musa Sada in Abuja, to show their solidarity on his appointment as minister. The minister is a native of Katsina.

Majority leader of the assembly Abdullahi Tandama,

who led the delegation, said the visit was to congratulate the minister on his appointment. He said the lawmakers were proud of Sada's "laudable achievements" during his tenure as state Commissioner of Works, a position he held up till the time he was appointed minister.

The lawmakers urged the minister to be a good ambassador of his state and work towards the development of

mining activities in the country.

In his remarks, Sada promised to be a good ambassador of the state and the country. He said his appointment as Mines Minister enabled him to discover that vast solid mineral resources abound in the states. He pledged to reposition the mines and steel sector for the socio-economic development of the nation.



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# SPORT

James  
wins MVP  
award  
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## Martins hits German top ten

SUPER Eagles striker Obafemi Martins has been listed among the top ten strikers in the Germany, despite his lack of regular goals scoring form with VfL Wolfsburg.

However, experts stated in a survey of the league's top strikers that number of goals does not necessarily provide an indication of who is the best forward in the Bundesliga, while listing Martins along with Arjen Robben and Claudio Pizarro, but there is no sign of Dzeko, Kiessling or Kuranyi!

The list was drawn up by dividing the total number of playing minutes by the amount of goals, with only strikers who have completed 15 games considered.

Martins moved to the German side in July 29 last year when former club Newcastle United accepted a £9million bid from Bundesliga champions Wolfsburg, the transfer was confirmed on July 31, with Martins signing a four year contract.

For his debut, Martins came on as a second half substitute against FC Koln at the Rhein Energie Stadion, with his team deadlocked at 1-1.

He helped in the buildup to the second goal and capped off his first appearance in the Bundesliga for Wolfsburg with a well-taken goal.

On that occasion, he hit the headlines after dribbling past two on-rushing defenders and then coolly finishing from six yards out, slotting the ball past the Cologne keeper to the far post.



Obafemi Martins has been listed among the top ten marksmen in the German Bundesliga.



MOHAMMED

### Mohammed moves back to Al Hilal

SWISS club FC Sion are broke and the club president does not have respect for any player, according to Nigeria international defender Yusuf Mohammed.

Fellow compatriot Obinna Nwaneri was released by Sion, while former Enyimba right back Mohammed has reunited with his former Sudanese side Al Hilal.

"The weather in Switzerland was unbearably cold for me personally, but most importantly, Sion were short on cash and even more serious, the club president, did not respect the players," the 26-year-old Mohammed told MTNFootball.com.

"If you are a player who knows his value, you would not tolerate the insults from this man. That explained to a large extent why I decided to quit the club."

Mohammed joined Sion in 2009, but struggled to settle down no thanks to injuries and the freezing temperatures in Switzerland.

The former El-Kanemi of Maiduguri ace told MTNFootball.com he is now preoccupied with accelerating his rehabilitation after he suffered an Achilles tendon injury, which has now effectively ruled him

## First Deepwater begin title chase on bright note

FIRST Deepwater continued their impressive run in the Nigeria Basketball Federation (NBBF) organized Zenith Bank Women Premier League with an 86-33 points whitewashing of FCT Angels of Abuja in the second phase of the league.

The Oil and Gas ladies who is leading other teams in the race for the 2009/2010 league title went into the game as the clear favourite to pick the game against the Abuja ladies thus confirming pre-game prediction.

Speaking shortly after the game First Deepwater captain, Julie Onyelugo says nothing will stand between the team and its title ambition in the ongoing season.

The soft spoken small forward told our correspondent that the team will approach all their games with the same seriousness as no team is a pushover in the league.

"Gone are the days when the league title is ascribed to a particular team before the first jump-ball but all that has changed as all team now compete on equal level and strength.

"Our aim is to reward our management and fans with the league diadem this year and that we are committed to achieving, concluded Onyelugo.

In the other games played earlier in the day, Adolescent Health and Information Project (AHIP) of Kano defeated her city rival Nigeria Immigration by 75-43 points, defending champion, First Bank had the better of Dolphin basketball club also of Lagos by 64-45 points.

The Dolphin side who missed the first phase battle in Kano in March

this year held the banker in the first two quarters with the bankers taking a one point advantage of 23-22 points going into the third quarter.

The lose further compound the Wale Aboderin girls hope of making appreciable impact in the league now look slim.

Home girls Delta Force defeated Plateau Rocks by 67-37 points to maintain its fourth position from the first phase while the game between Sunshine Angels walked-over Nigeria Customs, the border girls are yet to make it to Asaba venue of the sec-

ond phase.

Action continues today with five games on the bill: Plateau Rocks will take to the floor against Nigeria Customs at 09H00; Nigeria Immigration will have its hands full when its battle First Bank at 11H00; FCT Angels and Dolphin will entertain Asaba fans at 13H00; AHIP of Kano and Sunshine Angels of Akure will enter the court in a battle royal at 15H00 before Delta Force and First Deepwater do battle in what look like the day's star match.



KAITA

## Kaita hints on Monaco return

NIGERIA midfielder Sani Kaita says he may return to Monaco after his loan spell with Alania Vladikavkaz in Russia.

Kaita, 24, endured a miserable spell at the French club before being farmed out on loan to Russia, first with FC Kuban, and then with Lokomotiv Moscow before ending up at Alania where he is now enjoying a regular run of games.

The midfielder told KickOff-Nigeria.com that Monaco now wants him back.

"My manager told me that Monaco wants me back desperately having watched my progress so far in the Russian League.

"So I may return to the French league soonest to rejoin them."

But Kaita, who also claims to have other options, says he won't make a decision until after the World Cup.

"Also a top European club is on my trail and they really want to sign me on. But I told them to wait until after the World Cup in South Africa."



OJO-Oba

## Ojo-Oba blasts NFF's critics

FRESH from South Africa, where a last minute change was made to the Super Eagles camp base, NFF general-secretary, Dr. Bolaji Ojo-Oba has slammed critics of the federation, in spite of obvious shaky events in the build-up to the World Cup.

The former Oyo State sports commissioner stated in an explosive chat with brilafm.net that critics should stay calm, instead of wailing behind the scene, while urging them to proffer solutions and advice to situations.

"People criticizing without proffering any solution, that's not how to help a system. This country belongs to all of us and we should all come together to make everything better.

"Nobody has come out with any solution. They have not advised on what should be done. Those who are not in office should give support to those given the responsibility.

We expect those who are not there to assist those who are holding positions. It's not good to criticize all the time. Criticism will lead to nowhere," he stressed.



TATENDA Taibu of Zimbabwe dives to make his ground during the ICCT20 World Cup Group B match between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe at the Guyana National Stadium Cricket Ground yesterday in Providence, Guyana.

# Nigeria to meet FIFA deadline on team-list

THE 30-man provisional list of players expected to represent Nigeria at next month's World Cup in South Africa is to be submitted on Monday, May 10, 24 hours earlier than FIFA's deadline.

The final list of 23 players will be submitted on May 31, which is also a day earlier than the June 1 for the submission of the list by FIFA.

Ademola Olajire, Head of Media of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), made this known in Lagos yesterday.

Olajire told journalists that the 30-man team would be sent off on May 20 in Abuja, while the pre-World Cup camp would open in England on May 21.

He said the team would play the first of their three pre-World Cup friendlies on May 26 against Iceland and the second on May 30 against Colombia. Both matches will be played in England.

The NFF spokesman said while the game with Colombia would be played at

Leyton Orient Stadium, no ground had yet been chosen for

the tie against Iceland.

The NFF organised a seminar for the Nigerian journalists, who will be covering the World Cup in South Africa.

NFF President Sani Lulu led a delegation of the federation, including Amanze Uchebulam, first Vice President, Taiwo Ogunjobi Chairman of the technical committee and James Peters, Assistant Secretary-General (Technical).

Asked how the Super Eagles coach, Lars Lagerback would compile his 30-man provisional

list from the 44-man list he invited recently when he had not spent time with them, Lulu said the coach would be guided by the information he was getting on them.

"He is getting information on the players from their team officials as well as watching their matches.

"He is monitoring their fitness and I believe the 30 players will also fight for places when they assemble, and I pray there will be no injury-worries," Lulu added.

## Lulu: Eagles' first choice hotel not the best

NIGERIA'S first choice hotel as team base in South Africa for the 2010 World Cup was not up to standard, Sani Lulu, the NFF President admitted in Lagos yesterday.

Lulu made the admission at a seminar for the World Cup-bound Nigerian journalists held at the Teslim Balogun Stadium, Surulere, Lagos.

The first choice hotel of the Eagles, Hampshire Hotel, was dumped late last week after it failed to meet the April 28 deadline for completion of all specified requirements.

A high-powered Nigerian delegation led by sports minister, Ibrahim Bio, went to South Africa for a final inspection and

dropped the Hampshire Hotel in Balito, opting for the Protea Waterfront Hotel in Richards Bay.

Lulu, who expressed gratitude to the Federal Government for coming to the aid of the federation in changing the hotel, said the government felt the country needed the best.

He said the government's endorsement of the new hotel showed that it was prepared to provide added comfort and extra security for the Nigerian team while in South Africa.

"The government wanted better option than Hampshire Hotel. We insisted on better environment," he added.

He said the choice of team hotels was usually the preroga-

tive of team coaches, adding that Hampshire Hotel was chosen after Nigeria's qualification for 2010 on Nov. 14 2009 and the draws for the championship that followed in December.

He said erstwhile coach of the Eagles, Shaibu Amodu and South Africa-based former Nigerian goalkeeper, Peterside Idah, chose the Hampshire Hotel.

Amodu's successor, Lars Lagerback was not satisfied with the hotel's standard during an inspection in March.

He explained that the federation's problems with accommodation followed FIFA's decision to provide money to national federations in lieu of hotels as was practised in the past.

He said the NFF had complained that the 400 dollars daily for each official delegation member provided by the world football body was not enough.

Nigeria will pay a fine of 125,000 dollars for the accommodation cancellation, a decision the sports minister said was a compromise for the 250,000 dollars, which Hampshire had insisted.

Bio had said the Hampshire owners failed to carry out their side of the deal as they failed to complete the work on schedule.

Media reports in February that the Hampshire Hotel was substandard, leading to the series of inspections and last week's cancellation by Bio.

37 Days  
To Go

COUNT DOWN TO SOUTH AFRICA 2010

# Any surgery must wait till after World Cup - Mensah

GHANA international John Mensah is eager to make his second World Cup appearance and does not want to book any appointment in the operating room before that time.

He told Graphic Sports: "If there will be any surgery at all it has to wait until after the season and the World Cup."

"I'm fully fit now and I want to help Sunderland in the last game against Wolverhampton and then switch attention to the World Cup."

The defender has recovered from a chronic back injury, but doctors recommend he undergoes surgery for a lasting solution.

The Black Stars' assistant coach Kwasi Appiah has already paid him a visit at his Sunderland base and has assured the nation of the player's readiness for South Africa 2010.

The deputy skipper of the four-time African champions is well respected back home and was instrumental during their 2006 and 2008 Nations Cup campaigns. Mensah, who made his continental debut for the Black Stars at Mali 2002, stood out during the World Cup run in Germany in 2006.

Meanwhile, striker Junior Agogo will miss the World Cup after undergoing knee surgery.

Ghana's Football Association said the 30-year-old Agogo, who



GHANA'S John Mensah will skip any type of surgery until after the World Cup.

plays for Apollon Limassol in Cyprus, will be out of action for six months.

Agogo missed the African Cup of Nations in Angola earlier this year because coach Milovan Rajevac said he was not fit enough.

Ghana lost to Egypt in the final.

The forward, who has also played for Chicago Fire and Colorado Rapids in the MLS, starred at the 2008 African Cup in Ghana,

scoring the winner in the quarterfinals against Nigeria and three goals overall for the tournament as the hosts finished third.

Since then, Agogo has struggled with injuries.



VAN Nistelrooy

## No Van Nistelrooy in Dutch World Cup squad

RUUD van Nistelrooy's hopes of a dramatic return to the international fold at the World Cup look slimmer after the former Manchester United and Real Madrid striker was left out of a Dutch training squad named on Monday.

Coach Bert van Marwijk, who names his provisional squad on May 11, omitted Van Nistelrooy from a 26-man training camp assembling next Monday.

The 26 players have no competitive club matches left this season, and the list includes Van Nistelrooy's SV Hamburg team mates Eljero Elia and Joris Mathijsen.

Van Nistelrooy resigned from international soccer after the 2008 European Championship, but had a change of heart earlier this season when he said he would make himself available.

Arjen Robben, Mark van Bommel and Wesley Sneijder are not on the list as they are due to contest the Champions League final on May 22 in Madrid, while Klaas-Jan Huntelaar and Rafael van der Vaart still have league obligations.

Van Marwijk invited AZ Alkmaar winger Jermain Lens and Ajax Amsterdam defender Vurnon Anita.

The Dutch play Denmark, Cameroon and Japan in the group stages in South Africa.

## Loew rules out call-up for Kuranyi

SCHALKE striker Kevin Kuranyi has been in superb form this season and the highly rated attacker was hopeful of making a comeback in the Nationalelf for Germany's World Cup push in South Africa next month. However, national team coach Joachim Loew has now made it clear that

Kuranyi won't make a comeback any time soon.

"The disciplinary incident in October 2008 was not a consideration recently. It would have been no problem for us to give him a new chance in the national team," said Loew in a press conference.

"However, after considera-

tion among our coaching staff we came to the conclusion that we had other ideas, tactically and personnel-wise, for the composition of the World Cup squad.

"This I discussed today frankly with Kevin, who has had a strong season and whom I think is a player of sound char-

acter."

Kuranyi hasn't received a call-up for the Nationalelf since he left the German squad ahead of the World Cup qualifier against Russia in October 2008. The striker was told that he wouldn't be part of the match squad and immediately left the stadium.

## 2010 WORLD CUP UPDATE

**LATEST Group B news** ahead of the World Cup in South Africa which starts on June 11...

### SOUTH KOREA

VETERAN defender Lee Young-pyo thinks the success of South Korea's World Cup finals campaign will depend on their opening game against Greece.

The South Koreans will also play Argentina and Nigeria in Group B but Lee says Greece will be the pivotal match-up.

"I can't say we're pleased with the draw, but we accept

it," he told FIFA.com.

"For me, that match against Greece will be the most important game of all in the group stage, because if we can win it we'll be in better shape to take on Argentina and Nigeria."

Lee also said coach Huh Jung-moo had made his mark on the team after a series of Dutch coaches including Guus Hiddink, Dick Advocaat and Pim Verbeek.

"We've picked up plenty of victories with him over the last two years. I also think that South Korean football has evolved enormously during those two years," he added.

### ARGENTINA

Striker Martin Palermo may have enhanced his World Cup chances with another fluke goal, a backward header that put Boca Juniors in front against Independiente during his team's 3-2 win.

Palermo, who has a knack for pulling rabbits out of the hat, will be looking to stake a final claim with coach Diego Maradona in Wednesday's friendly against Haiti in the southern Andean town of Cutral-Co.

Other possibles selected for the match are Colon goalkeeper Diego Pozo and Boca left-back Luciano Monzon, while a sur-

prise choice for the finals could emerge from the 17-man squad.

### NIGERIA

Nigeria have moved their World Cup base from Durban to Richards Bay, some 170km north on South Africa's Kwa-Zulu-Natal coast.

Nigerian Football Federation secretary general Bolaji Ojo-Oba said the decision had been made after an inspection of previously arranged facilities in Durban. He did not give a reason for the change.

The Nigerians will now stay at waterfront hotel in the coastal town for the duration of the tournament and travel by

air from Richards Bay to their Group B matches in Johannesburg, Bloemfontein and Durban.

### GREECE

There were no surprises in Greece coach Otto Rehhagel's Monday call-up of nine foreign-based players for his preliminary World Cup squad and a training camp starting on May 17.

Rehhagel has yet to announce the full squad but his early invitations included Liverpool defender Sotiris Kyrgiakos, Hertha Berlin striker Fanis Gekas, Celtic forward Giorgos Samaras and veteran striker Angelos Charisteas.

## THE TUESDAY COLUMN

Sanusi Abubakar

sanusiabubakar@dailytrust.com

## Are our memories too short?

Whoever said it is easier to forgive than to forget has never lived in Nigeria. With us, it is the other way round. Or is it? Ask most Nigerians to forgive Obasanjo, Babangida, Buhari or Abacha and you get a blank stare or a murderous look. Ask them what these former rulers did that was so terrible and you get incoherent responses, depending on class, ethnicity or region.

What you get clearly is the notion that what these rulers did is remembered only selectively, often even distorted favourably. The forgiveness is hardly forthcoming. You hear charges of destroying the economy, undermining trade unions and the political process, selective trials and hundred-year sentences, retroactive laws, suppression of press freedom and arrests and assassinations of opponents, corruption, nepotism and autocracy, depending on who is talking about those he despises. Yet, after a few years much is forgotten and these former rulers are turned into heroes, again depending on whom you happen to be talking to. Indeed, those who were instrumental to their few successes and many failures, suddenly re-emerge, offering themselves as the solution. Now we are only supposed to remember Babangida's political re-engineering, Buhari's PTF and "War Against Indiscipline and Corruption", Abacha's stability and no-nonsense, and Obasanjo's fantastic reforms.

Don't get me wrong; I am not saying that all of them are guilty of all the things I listed, no am I saying that none of them can offer anything. Only, that we do not seem to remember clearly how life was under each of them. Frankly, it appears that we rather forget the bad. But to forgive? That seems a different matter. We seem cursed to forget very quickly.

Which probably explains why Acting President Goodluck Jonathan was encouraged to dust up Obasanjo's former National Security Advisor and brings him back to counter what he, perhaps rightly, saw as a security threat from the bungling war-games of Yar'adua's handlers? To his credit, General Aliyu Gusau has discovered the virtue of silence on the part of security operatives. But I must drive home the security implications of his unguarded utterances by referring us to recent happenings in Greece.

The economy of Greece had been in a mess for years, yet the Government kept the lid on the truth, cooking the figures and lying especially about its deficits. Suddenly, without warning, one of the major rating agencies, Standard and Poor, brought out a revised rating of the country's sovereign debt, downgrading it to junk status. All hell broke loose, and the IMF and EU had to come up last Sunday with a \$145 billion bail-out package to save Greece. And ultimately, the Euro Zone itself. The Greek themselves had promise to enforce one of the most stringent austerity programme of recent time as a condition, as well as allow independent monitoring, effectively allowing others to reduce Greece's sovereignty.

Many of Europe's finance ministers and central bankers have already started to call S&P's sudden release of new ratings for Greece somewhat irresponsible, arguing that it could spark irrational and unfortunate negative response by the markets, threatening an already shaky economy. Others are already calling for opening up the field for more rating agencies besides the two or three licensed by the US. Luckily for us General Gusau's "ratings" of our CBN and

commercial banks (he did say many of them were as shaky as the ones CBN intervened in, but were spared unreasonably) did not carry the authority of the more professional rating voices, so we were spared. It stills calls into question the wisdom of his drafting by our Acting President.

The other draftee, though not in the Government (yet?) is Nasiru el-Rufai who recently returned to the country. El-Rufai was, since we forget so easily, was Obasanjo's super minister who to date does not admit any wrong doing or mistakes on the part of his master and has suddenly turned a latter day democrat. While the performance of Alaiero made him look like the best thing that happened to Abuja's sanitation and infrastructure, his attempt to paint himself as blameless is at best very strange. It is not just his "catch-me-if-you-can" approach to all the accusations labelled against him that I find funny, but his reduction of nepotism to something almost admirable.

When he could not deny signing the allocations of choice plots in Abuja to his wives and children (including minors) he resorted to Obasanjo's answer when he (Obasanjo) was asked why his children were winning huge contracts. Yes we agree, OBJ's children and El-Rufai's wives and kids are all Nigerian citizens and are free to apply. But, did the fact that their father or husband was the chief executive, a factor? That is the issue, because everyone should have a level-playing field. Were they given, as happened to some of the tens of thousands who applied ahead of them, plots in some uncleared bush in Kuje or Abaji, or in Asokoro, Maitama and other developed areas? That is the question. Anyway, it is good to have him back and hope he keeps to his promise of going into politics.

All we look forward to is, hopefully Nigerians have suffered enough to be hoodwinked into another cul-de-sac, because, while we should forgive, it is not helpful to keep on forgetting things easily. We must seek to understand the mistakes of the past, and do all we can to try to change them. Part of the solution is to demand truth and openness, and avoid theatrics.

.... By the way, who knows any functioning ATM?

I was going to end this piece with thanks to the gentleman who pointed out my mistake in my write up last week, where I mistakenly added late Ahmadu Ribadu's name to those assassinated in the January 1966. Ribadu died earlier from natural causes. The mistake is regretted. Wanted to get online and reproduce the exact date but my providers cut me off for the correct reason. So I went round all the ATMs in Gwarimpa, and Utako but all are either "out of order" or "temporarily unable to disburse cash" So I drove in the rain all the way to the Main Branch of my bank, and was pleasantly surprised to find the ATM there was working. After going through the formalities, guess what happened? A strange message: ISSUER OR SWITCH NOT WORKING? So I called a friend, who works in the bank, to explain the jargon and he told me the Bank's network must be down because of end of the month balancing or something. Honestly, couldn't they do their "house-keeping" chores at night? And they call themselves the First Bank? But, I still like them and have been with them since 1978. But too many ATMs, of too many banks, are "out of order" or "unable to disburse cash" too often for my liking.



Which probably explains why Acting President Goodluck Jonathan was encouraged to dust up Obasanjo's former National Security Advisor and brings him back to counter what he, perhaps rightly, saw as a security threat from the bungling war-games of Yar'adua's handlers?

## SPORTS REPORT



RORY McIlroy won the Quail Hollow championship after a record-breaking final round of 62.

## McIlroy wins first PGA Tour title

Rory McIlroy, the youthful star of European golf, made his mark in the United States last night when he won the Quail Hollow championship in record-breaking fashion, shooting a course-record 62, 10 under par, to become the youngest winner on the PGA Tour since Tiger Woods.

The Ulsterman, who will celebrate his 21st birthday on Tuesday, covered the first 17 holes of his final round in nine under par but saved his best until the last as he rolled a 45-foot putt into the centre of the hole for another birdie. There was a look of wonder on his face as the ball dropped and he was not alone in his astonishment. He finished his round with a run of six threes - two pars, three birdies and one eagle, at the par-five 15th - and his 15-under-par total beat the field by four shots.



LEBRON James of the Cleveland Cavaliers wins the NBA MVP award in a landslide vote

## James wins MVP award

Dominating the voting just as he dominated on the floor all season, Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James became the 10th player in league history to win consecutive MVP awards.

James received 116 of a possible 123 first-place votes to win in a landslide over Oklahoma City forward Kevin Durant, who was picked first on four ballots. Orlando center Dwight Howard received the other three first-place votes and finished fourth.

Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant had no first-place votes and finished third.

Voting was done by a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters, and this year one ballot was cast by fans in an online vote, which went to James. Players were awarded 10 points for first, seven points for second, five for third, three for fourth and one for fifth.

James finished second on five ballots and two writers placed him third. A year ago, James received 109 of 122 first-place votes.