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Senate debates Yar'adua tomorrow

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

PRESIDENT Umaru Musa Yar'adua's 50-day absence from the country due to ill-health will top discussion in the Senate when it resumes plenary tomorrow, Deputy Senate President Ike Ekweremadu said in Minna yesterday. He said it was time the Senate stepped into the matter and puts an end to the issue.

Though he refused to disclose the action to be taken on Yar'adua's continuous absence from office, Ekweremadu said Nigerians should "watch out for Tuesday's Senate deliberations." He added, "By Tuesday we will rise to the occasion to look into the issues that surround the president's absence and all I ask of Nigerians is to look out for what is going to happen."

The House of Representatives has already indicated its readiness to commence debate on the implications of the President's absence from the polity. The situation may have brought the Senate under pressure to tow the same line.

Late last year, attempts by Deputy Senate Leader Victor Ndoma-Egba (SAN) to move a motion on President Yar'adua's health suffered defeat as he could not

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Soyinka, Ojukwu, Musa march against Yar'adua

By Muideen Olaniyi, Abbas Jimoh & Misbahu Bashir

THE heat is expected to be turned up against the ailing President Umaru Yar'adua tomorrow when leading activists led by Nobel laureate Professor Wole Soyinka, Dim Chukwuemeka Odumegwu-Ojukwu and Alhaji Abdulkadir Balarabe Musa lead a protest march in Abuja urging him to resign from

office due to his protracted ill-health.

Tomorrow's march, being organised by the Save Nigeria Group, is expected to be staged in several other cities around the world to protest what the organizers called power vacuum in Nigeria because of Yar'adua's long absence. The rally will also be used to protest the Federal Government's indecisiveness over electoral reforms, the terrorist tag placed on Nigerians by the US government due

to alleged plane bomber Farouk Umar Mutallab's action, as well as Nigeria's rising corruption profile.

Other rally leaders include Dr. Tunde Bakare, ex-House of Representatives member Farouk Adamu Aliyu, Mr. Solomon Asemota (SAN), Dr. Tunji Braithwaite and Hajiya Naja'atu Mohammed. Others expected to speak at the protest rally

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PHOTO: ISRAEL EBIE



FORMER First Lady Mrs. Mariam Abacha (right) condoling with former president General Ibrahim Babangida over the death of his wife, Maryam at the Babangidas' Hill Top residence in Minna yesterday.

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Business

The Federal Government will today pay the N41bn balance of oil subsidy owed oil marketers **29**

Sport

Mali yesterday came from behind to draw 4-4 with Angola, the host in the opening match of the Nations Cup **59**

Politics

Hajiya Naja'atu Mohammed says the men close to the President have been lying about his health **56**

Yar'adua not on ACF meeting agenda

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) meeting tomorrow has nothing to do with the health of President Umaru Musa

Yar'adua, its National Publicity Secretary Mr. Anthony Sani has said.

Speculations were high at the weekend that the ACF, the northern socio-political group,

would meet Tuesday to find a lasting solution to the uproar created by the illness of President Yar'adua. A source close to the forum said already, all members and top northerners have

been intimated on the meeting. However, the forum's Secretary Anthony Sani denied it, saying the forum was not PDP that would be discussing how to address the political issue.

"We are meeting on Tuesday right, but it has nothing to do with the president's health. Our meeting is focusing on our forthcoming anniversary," he said.



FROM left: Bauchi State Governor Isa Yuguda, Emir of Bauchi Alhaji Sulaiman Adamu and Emir of Ningi Alhaji Yunusa Danyaya during the naming ceremony of Umaru Isa Yuguda, grandson of President Umaru Yar'adua at the Bauchi Emir's palace.

Jos crisis: Panel resumes hearing today

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE panel set up by President Umaru Yar'adua to investigate the November 28, 2008 Jos crisis headed by retired General Emmanuel Abisoye will resume public hearing in Jos today.

During the first phase of the hearing held in Jos late last year, the panel received over 80 memoranda from ethnic and religious organizations.

Already, the Army, PLASEIC, University of Jos, ANPP, DPP, Jama'atu Nasril Islam, JIBWIS and widows made submissions before the panel.

Other organizations that testified before the panel include the Human Rights Watch, aid groups, Jasawa Development Association, Berom Parliamentary Forum, Berom Elders Eorum, different communities in the affected areas of Jos North and the Albayan Private School.



GOV. Jonah Jang of Plateau State

NBC urged to relax radio, TV licence fees

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

THE Managing Director of Kano-based private radio station, Freedom Radio, Alhaji Farouk Dalhatu, has asked the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) to reduce the licence fees charged for the establishment of private radio and television stations.

Speaking to newsmen over the weekend in Kano, Dalhatu said

the cost of acquiring the licence and the other subsequent charges discourage people from investing in the broadcast media.

He stated that apart from the fee, the stringent measures for the establishment of a media broadcasting organisation "is too harsh for somebody to be able to meet and successfully come up with a media outfit that will run without any hitches."

He said the NBC should relax the current situation to allow more broadcasting houses to spring up and meet the challenges of the democratic process of the country.

Citing difficulties surrounding licence acquisition, Dalhatu, who is also the managing director of Freedom Express newspapers, noted that for five years, they had written for a license to establish a

TV station but the NBC was yet to issue the licence. "We have met all the requirements, but they could not categorically point the reason why they denied us the license," he said. Faruk said his radio station was not having any misunderstanding with the NBC, saying since they started operation some years ago, they had maintained cordial relationship with the commission.

Accidents claim 10 in Sokoto

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto.

TEN people died in separate accidents in Sokoto between December 18, 2009 and January 3, 2010.

The Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety (FRSC) Sokoto State Mr. Christopher

Ademoluti who confirmed this at the weekend in Sokoto said 38 casualties were recorded of which 28 were injured and 10 died.

He said out of 16 vehicles involved in the crashes, 10 were private, five commercial and one

a government official vehicle. Mr. Ademoluti said the FRSC rescue team carried out 13 separate rescue operations. He added that the state command of the FRSC impounded 94 vehicles and arrested 115 traffic offenders.

He however said the number of road crashes recorded in the state during this year's yuletide was low compared to previous years.

He called on motorists to ensure that they obey all road traffic rules and regulations.

Yar'adua's absence: PDP says Jonathan doing well

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) yesterday lauded the way Vice President Goodluck Jonathan has been piloting the affairs of this country in the absence of the ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

PDP National Publicity Secretary of the party, Prof. Rufai Ahmed Alkali who hailed the Vice President berated the controversy being generated by the opposition over Yar'adua's health.

Alkali said: "People are sitting down outside and defining the dos and don'ts of government. The reality

of it is that we are operating a system and so far to our knowledge, there has been no evidence of breakdown of this system.

"The Vice President is there as the Vice President of this country and he has done extremely well in the past few weeks since the President travelled outside the country. All these issue of what should be done or what should not be done is the prerogative of government," he stated.

He however advised the opposition to take time to look into the achievements of government instead of focussing of loopholes alone.

Yar'adua spoke to Mark on phone — Aide

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

PRESIDENT Umaru Musa Yar'adua did speak to Senate President David Mark on phone last week, Special Adviser to the Senate President Mr. Kola Ologbondiyan said yesterday.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* on phone last night, Mr. Ologbondoyan said Senator Mark himself confirmed that he had a chat with the president the same night Yar'adua spoke with Vice President

Goodluck Jonathan and Speaker Dimeji Bankole.

He said "The Senate President confirmed that he spoke with President Yar'adua just like the VP and the Speaker but I don't have details of what they discussed."

There has been controversy on whether or not President Yar'adua who has now been away in Saudi Arabia due to ill health for 49 days actually spoke with some top government officials as claimed.



VICE President Goodluck Jonathan (sixth from right), his wife Dame Patience Jonathan (fifth from right), Senate President David Mark (second left), Minister of Defence Godwin Abbe (second right) and Service Chiefs shortly after an interdenomination service in Abuja, yesterday.

Terror list: Senate upbraids Soyinka

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

SENATE yesterday condemned Prof Wole Soyinka's comments on its position on the classification of Nigeria by the United States as security, saying the renowned literary icon missed the fact of the matter.

A statement signed by Chairman Senate Committee on Information and Media, Senator Ayogu Eze (PDP, Enugu North) said it never gave a 7-day ultimatum for the US to reverse its decision to put Nigeria on its list of terror watch.

Prof. Soyinka has described the position of the Senate as absurd which the Senate describe as unfair as he failed to go through the media reports.

According to the Senate statement "The comment by Prof. Wole Soyinka referring to the Senate position as being absurd is most unfortunate because I had expected that being one of the captains of the literary ship in Nigeria,

he should have read the entire comment from the Senate before casting aspersion on the institution for something that did not happen at all.

"It is wrong for those the Senate holds in high esteem to attack its reputation and seek to rubbish its actions without justification. I am constrained to observe that Prof. Soyinka is gradually falling into this group of Nigerians who offer opinions hastily without first obtaining all the sides to an issue.

"I wish to restate that the Senate rejects this obnoxious classification which was done without due consultation with relevant authorities in Nigeria. On resumption we are going to weigh in on the matter, with a view to finding a solution to it."

Senator Eze reiterated the stance of the Senate on the matter saying "When the senate resumes next, it will engage all its diplomatic and legislative gears to bring about this reversal."



PRESIDENT Umaru Musa Yar'adua

McCain opposes civilian rights for terror suspect

THE Nigerian man who attempted to blow up a commercial jet outside Detroit on Christmas Day should be tried as an enemy combatant in a military court, a leading Republican Senator said yesterday.

Senator John McCain, the Republican nominee for president in the 2008 election, said it would be a mistake to try Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, 23, in a civilian court where he would "get lawyered up" and be afforded the right to withhold damaging information.

"To have a person be able to get lawyered up when we need

that information very badly, I think betrays or contradicts the president's view that we are at war," McCain told CNN's State of the Union with John King. That person should be tried as an enemy combatant," McCain said. "He's a terrorist."

The U.S. civilian justice system affords some protections not afforded by some military courts.

Abdulmutallab is accused of attempting to ignite explosives in his underwear on a December 25 flight from Amsterdam to Detroit. He was subdued by other passengers after trying to ignite it.

Remembrance Day: FG to reposition Armed Forces

VICE President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday reiterated the need to reposition the Nigerian Armed Forces to be abreast with modern challenges of warfare if Nigeria must maintain its status as a major player in the African continent and globally.

The Federal Government also promised to cater for the welfare of members of the Armed Forces as well as the families of the fallen soldiers who have paid the supreme sacrifice for the nation at various military operations within and outside the country.

Vice President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan said this at the Interdenominational Church Service to mark this year's Armed Forces Remembrance Day Celebration which held at the National Christian Centre, Abuja.

Jonathan said: "We want to express profound appreciation

to families of members of the Armed Forces who paid the supreme sacrifice in defence of our nation. Aside those who passed on, others were separated from their loved ones for long weeks and months to answer the call of national duty. It is not even easy for soldiers to see their colleagues fall besides them from a bullet."

"From the days of the First World War till date, Nigerian soldiers have paid great sacrifices in peacekeeping operations around the world. Even during the Civil War, we lost so many men who paid the supreme sacrifice to keep Nigeria one and defend the Nigerian territory," the vice president said. During these times, some have lost their husbands, their wives, their brothers, and their sisters. Hence, we are here today to remember their gallant efforts, and we pray that God will give these

families the fortitude to bear the pain of losing their beloved."

"As a Government, we will work with the Chief of Defence Staff and the other Service Chiefs to ensure that the welfare of the Armed Forces is adequately taken care of. This, Government must do."

The VP said though government is facing a lot of challenges, presently, with the commitment and prayers of all Nigerians, "we shall succeed as a nation."

In his sermon, Rev. Fr. Willy Ojukwu, who is the Chairman of the FCT chapter of the Christian Association of Nigeria, expressed confidence that in spite of the smear on Nigeria's image as a result of the action of terror suspect, Farouk Abdulmutallab, God will make Nigeria a great nation, adding that the incident is a wakeup call for Nigeria to such challenges.

Yar'adua can't continue in office – Mega Summit

By Abbas Jimoh

THE opposition Mega Summit Movement (MSM) yesterday in Abuja said President Umaru Yar'adua has been incapacitated by his ill-health and therefore unfit to continue in office.

MSM Head of Secretariat, Olawale Okunniyi, said the group agrees with Nigerians that the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)-led government is setting a bad precedence for the country with its poor handling of the matter on the president's

health.

"We observe that President Umaru Yar'adua is unable to govern the nation any longer due to critical health challenge that has kept him incommunicado for 49 days now. However, due to the bankruptcy of the

PDP regime, his Vice, Goodluck Jonathan, who is constitutionally supposed to act in his absence, has been prevented from acting for him by a tiny but powerful cabal, bent on hanging to power unlawfully to pursue exploitative agenda".

The summit urged Nigerians to tighten their belts and "organise for a radical change to stem the chaotic trend foisted on us by the vindictive cartel of power hijackers in PDP, which is determined to punish them for not voting for PDP in 2007."

Nafada's mother dies at 85

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

HAIJIYA Aisha Bayero Nafada, mother of the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Usman Bayero Nafada, died Saturday at the age of 85.

Born in 1925, the late Aisha died after a protracted illness at about 11pm on Saturday at the Arab Contractors Hospital in Cairo, Egypt.

Her remains are expected to arrive today through the Aminu Kano International Airport in Kano for onward conveyance to her home town in Gombe for burial same day, according to Islamic rites.

The late Aisha is survived three children namely Hauwau, the eldest; Ibrahim and Usman Bayero Nafada. She was described as God-fearing and devout Muslim.

Nafada's mother died barely one month after his only daughter Aisha, named after his mother, died after a brief illness in Abuja at the age of seven.



LATE Hajiya Aisha Bayero Nafada



FROM left: House of the Representatives Deputy Minority Whip Suleiman Kawu Sumaila, Kano State Governor Ibrahim Shekarau and member, Kano State ANPP congress election caretaker committee Alhaji Habibu Mohammed Dukawa, at the ANPP Kano State congress election in Kano yesterday.

Amaechi: FG water projects fail in Rivers

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

RIVERS State Governor Rotimi Amaechi said all Federal Government water projects in the state under the Niger Delta Basin Development Authority (NDBDA) have failed.

Speaking when he received members of Senate Committee on Water Resources at the government house in Port Harcourt, Amaechi said the huge investments made by federal govern-

ment in various water projects in the state have not resulted into improved water supply.

He said "Do they (NDBDA) still exist? I've asked my people to do an audit of the place and give me a report so that we take it over and give our people water; Rivers State is in need of water; because the essence is to give water.

"You go for local government tour you see one small abandoned project NNDC-not water.

"You see one giant Water

project Niger Delta Basin Development Authority then one small tiny one by the local government chairman but no one has water.

"They are not even working at all. If we can all agree, we can put the money together and see that this thing works. We have directed that they do a census of these water projects in the State to confirm their status."

In the same vein, Ebonyi State Deputy Governor Prof. Chigozie

Ogbu told the Senate Committee that the federal government water projects in the state under the Imo-Anambra River Basin Development Authority have not contributed to water needs of the people.

Explaining the factors militating against completion of some of the projects, Project Manager of the Amechi-Awkunanaw water project in Enugu State, Engr. Mike Nwachulwu blamed poor funding for delay in completion.

Customs decorates 4 new comptrollers

By Yunus Abdulhamid

THE Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) yesterday decorated Tahir Musa, David Agbaje, Sunny Okpurhe and Mainassah Jatau with the new ranks of Assistant Comptrollers General.

While decorating the former Comptrollers, the Comptroller-General of Customs Abdullahi

Dikko said their elevation was sequel to the vacancies created by the recent statutory retirement of Assistant Comptrollers-General.

He charged the promoted officers to double their efforts in the new responsibilities.

Customs spokesman Wale Adeniyi told Daily Trust that Tahir Musa, who joined the Customs as an Assistant Super-

intendent in 1982, is now ACG (Enforcement and Drugs).

David Agbaje, who also joined the service in 1982, has posted to the Human Resource Department as ACG (Staff College).

ACG Sunny Okpurhe, the new Coordinator for Zone 'B,' joined the Customs in 1979, while Mainassah Jatau had

served as Area Controller in FCT, Sokoto, and Kirikiri Lighter Terminal Commands.

Meanwhile, the Comptroller-General of Customs has expressed the gratitude of the Service to the Comptrollers recently retired by the Nigeria Customs Service Board urging them to take their retirement in good faith.

Trade Union demands credible information on Yar'adua

By Francis Okeke

TRADE Union Congress (TUC) yesterday urged the Federal Government to map out a strategy whereby a single agent of the state will speak to Nigerians on the current state of health of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua and his whereabouts.

A press statement signed by TUC's President General Comrade Peter Esele said speaking with a single official voice would allay the fears of Nigerians on the health of President Umaru Yar'adua and also eliminate the confusion that has trailed his departure for medical treatment to Saudi Arabia since November

last year. Esele said "since we presently live in a confused state with the whereabouts of our president unknown, the interview granted by the Foreign Affairs Minister, Ojo Maduekwe, to the British Broadcasting Cooperation (BBC) on the president ailment has raised further questions that have made us to doubt the vari-

ous statements emanating from almost all federal government agencies."

In recent interview, Maduekwe told the BBC that, as far as he knew, the president was conscious and was recovering in hospital.

The statement added that "the issues surrounding the president's health cannot be divulged

from the current happenings. To respond on behalf of the state, a single agent of the state outside the presidency should be in the fore front and not the current disjointed situation in which statements are fired from Information Minister, Foreign Affairs Minister, Attorney General, Senators Etc."



PHOTO: AFOLABI SOTUNDE

CHINESE Foreign Minister Jiechi Yany at the Hilton, Abuja on two-day visit to Nigeria recently.

FG urged to invest in education

By Abbas Jimoh

THE federal government has been urged to massively invest in education to as a panacea to the myriad socio-economic problems confronting the country.

An Abuja based insurance broker Alhaji Muhammed Sabiu Umar made the call in Abuja at the 7th anniversary of the Al-Habibiyah Society of Nigeria founded in January 6th 2003 in Abuja.

"We have derailed in number of areas, this is because we didn't have the right education especially over the years; there has been a collapse in the education sector, which have lead to the collapse in the moral uprightness of the society and that also lead to collapses in other areas of the socio-economic life of the country.

Unless we do the right things and get our acts straight, it is going to be very difficult and herculean; but it is possible; others have done it successfully, so we can do it," Alhaji Umar said.

On why he choose to enrol at the Al-Habibiyah Academy for Arabic and Quranic study at the age of 60, he said that searching for knowledge knows no barrier and that it is never late to learn especially knowledge that is both useful for the earthly life and hereafter.

Senate debates Yar'adua tomorrow

Continued from page 1

get support of up to one-fifth of senators to see the motion through. Briefing newsmen on the matter recently, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Information and Media Senator Ayogu Eze (PDP, Enugu North) said the president has not violated any rule by staying outside the country for over a month on medical grounds as the Constitution does not stipulate the number of days which he could not spend out of the country.

He said, "The Constitution as it is now did not specify the number of days that the president must not stay out of the country. There is not part of the Constitution that made such pronouncement."

Soyinka, Ojukwu march against Yar'adua

Continued from page 1

are Prof. Pat Utomi, Pastor Sarah Omakwu, Mr. Femi Falana, Olawale Oshun, Dr. Tunji Abayomi, Mrs. Ayo Obe, Mallam Naseer Kura, Dr. Joe Okei-Odumakin and Uche Onyeogocha. Engr Buba Galadima and Hajia Naja'atu Mohammed both confirmed to *Daily Trust* yesterday that they will be participating in the rally.

A statement signed by Mr. Fred Agbeyegbe, Engr. Galadima, Mr. Yinka Odumakin, Mr. Osita Okechukwu, Mallam Tanko Yunusa and Mallam Salihu Lukman said the rally, which will start from Unity Fountain, near Transcorp Hotel, Central Busi-

ness District, Abuja, will terminate at the National Assembly Complex.

They said the protest will also serve as an avenue to ask the government to tell Nigerians President Yar'adua's whereabouts, to demand for respect of the constitution regarding Yar'adua's ailment, to demand for a Sovereign National Conference, as well as to kick against the attempt to criminalise all Nigerians over the attempted plane bombing saga.

They said the march is part of the campaign against the 10 'pov-erties' in Nigeria, including poverty of ideas, performance, hope, honour, resource, mind, regard, spirit, commerce and environ-

ment.

According to the organizers, Nigeria can only know justice, peace and progress when her citizens will work for it.

The rally which was expected to hold in London tomorrow, has been shifted to Friday after a meeting between the Metropolitan Police and the Save Nigeria Working Group because of expectations that Nigerians in London will turn out en masse.

However, Police Public Relations Officer for the Federal Territory Police Command DSP Moshood Jimoh told *Daily Trust* yesterday that the group has not sought for permission to hold the rally. A police source in Abuja

also said the police are not aware of plans to hold the rally. "Apart from a group that held a rally in Abuja last week, no any group or individual sought police permit for a public rally," the source said.

He said the police have the right to permit or stop a public gathering and determine when such gatherings could be held. He said the police would not allow any group at the moment to hold a rally, no matter the intention. "At this period, the police want to always discourage rallies and protests and I don't think the group will be allowed by the police even if they request for the permit," he said.

Chevron cuts oil flow after attack

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

FOLLOWING the attack on oil installations at Makaraba in Delta State by unknown gunmen, Chevron has shut down some of its productions in the area.

In an email, Chevron confirmed the attack and said it had led to the production shut in of

about 20,000 barrels a day from the platforms supplying the pipeline.

The US oil major said the causes were still being investigated. But the main rebel umbrella, the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, which is seeking better revenue distribution for the region, said

militants had sabotaged the pipeline. MEND said it had sanctioned, but not carried out the attack, adding that it would decide on or before January 30 if it ends a ceasefire.

The incident is "a second warning shot" after it claimed a strike last month on a facility operated by a Royal Dutch Shell

PLC venture, MEND spokesman Jomo Gbomo said. A string of MEND attacks early 2009 largely contributed to the shutdown of about one million barrels a day of Nigerian output which fell below 1.6 million barrels a day. But following the militants' ceasefire and an amnesty that led to the disarmament of most field command-

ers, production rose to 1.98 million barrels a day in November, according to the International Energy Agency. But as the illness of President Umaru Yar'adua slows down government initiatives, the former militants say the Delta's lack of development could reignite widespread violence in the Delta.

MEND tasks Abbe, FG on amnesty

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

THE Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) has criticised the Minister of Defence retired Gen. Godwin Abbe over his handling of the amnesty programme. MEND spokesperson Jomo Gbomo said in an email at the weekend that General

Abbe rather than encourage the government to address the core issues as demanded by them, he was still inaugurating committees.

He said Friday's attack by gunmen on the Chevron Makaraba pipeline in Delta State exposed the vulnerability of the oil industry infrastructure and vowed to continue with the fight.

'Why Kogi removed council treasurers, directors'

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

TREASURERS and directors in the 21 local government areas of Kogi State were removed because they had completed their terms of four years, the Chairman of the state Civil Service Commission Mr Emmanuel Otega has said. HE added that the affected officials were appointees whose tenures could be pre-determined.

He however said any

of them found worthy could be reappointed for another four-year tenure, saying under no circumstances would any political appointee be allowed to serve more two terms of eight years.

He directed all personnel directors in the local government areas to ensure that the vacuum created by the action did not disrupt the operations of their respective councils.

CHR flags off campaign against maternal death

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

THE Community Health and Research Initiative (CHR) has started campaigns against maternal mortality in Tudun Wada Local Government Area of Kano State.

The acting Director of CHR, Mr Abdulhamid Abdullahi Bagara at the weekend in Kano said they embarked on the campaign to make people aware of the issues surrounding maternal health.

He said the programme was to sensitize people on the need to seek antenatal care and also influence government's decisions on maternal health.

Mr Bagara commended the community for sup-

porting the campaign, saying their decision to complement government's effort would go a long way in reducing maternal mortality in the area.

While calling on local government council to address the issue of inadequate health workers, he said only two female health workers attend to the villagers. The Chairman of the council Dr Ali Hamza Burum-Burum lauded the initiative of the group, saying his council would give its maximum support to their activities.

He said since most of the maternal deaths occurred in the rural areas, the local councils should improve their commitment to the cause.



FROM left: Speaker, Kaduna State House of Assembly, Alhaji Hassan Jumare, Governor Namadi Sambo and Chief Executive of AFDIN, Alhaji Dahiru Mangal, at the inauguration of Mangal Plaza in Kaduna on Saturday.

Kidnappers of NNPC official's wife nabbed

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE State Security Service (SSS) in Kaduna State has arrested kidnappers of the wife of the General Manager, Hospital Services of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Mrs. Adeola Bako.

The suspects are Fidelis John (26) of Unguwan Boro and Uchena Okoh (26) of Karatudu in Chikun Local Government Area of

Kaduna State. Two of the suspects are still at large.

Parading the suspects before newsmen alongside the kidnappers of three year old Zainab, the Assistant Director Operations of the Kaduna Command of the SSS Barrister Brown Ekwuoba said Mrs. Bako was kidnapped by a four-man gang. He said some villagers of Kakau where the woman was taken sighted the victim with two of her

abductors in a bush and raised alarm. According to him, the village head of the community, Musa Fada, mobilized people and they confronted the suspects.

"Two of the suspects tried to escape, but one of them was overpowered and arrested while the victim was rescued. They handed over the suspects to us in the command," he said.

Ekwuoba said the suspects had since confessed

to the crime and that they would be charged to court with the two suspected kidnappers of Zainab Murata. It would be recalled that the command arrested one Nureni Mohammed last Saturday while collecting N 800,000 as the balance of the N1 million ransom he demanded from the parents of Zainab Murata. All four suspects interviewed by our correspondent blamed the devil for their action.

Ekiti ex-commissioner dies in auto crash

A former Health Commissioner in Ekiti State Dr Sola Babalola died on Saturday in an auto crash, Babalola, who was the Chairman of Ekiti Hospital Management Board (EKHMB), died along Ikere-Ise/Emure road, during a multiple accident that involved his official car and other vehicles at about 5 p.m.

Aged 60, the deceased was a health commissioner during former Governor

Ayodele Fayose's administration. He hailed from Iro-Ekiti in Gbonyin Local Government Area of the state. The remains of the former commissioner, who was said to have died on the spot, had been deposited at the University of Ado-Ekiti Teaching Hospital mortuary.

In his condolence message, Governor Oni described the deceased as "a fine, responsible gen-

tleman par excellence who will be missed by the state and his party, the PDP for his diligent contributions."

Oni, who said the death was a "a great loss to the medical profession", prayed for the family to have the fortitude to bear the loss. The Chief Medical Director (CMD) of the University of Ado-Ekiti Teaching Hospital, Dr Patrick Adegun, who confirmed

that Babalola's corpse had been deposited at the hospital's morgue, described the deceased as one of the best medical practitioners in the state.

"He was one of those people that supported the course of the teaching hospital in the state. He was a sound minded person, gentleman and appreciative. Above all he was a wonderful man", Adegun added. (NAN)

PIC: NAN

Senate rejects N2.3bn for dormant rice mill project

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE Senate has rejected proposal by the Imo-Anambra River Basin Development Authority for allocation of N2.3 billion in the 2010 budget for the rehabilitation of an abandoned rice mill at the Lower Anambra Irrigation Project in Omor, Anambra State.

Management of the river basin could not convince members of

the Senate Committee on Water Resources on oversight function to the project site to make funds available in the budget for rehabilitation of the rice mill which broke down since 2004.

Speaking at the event, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Water Resources, Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw (PDP, Cross River South) blamed the management of the irrigation project for failing

to put the rice mill into to optimal use.

The management of the rice mill, purported to be the biggest in West Africa, failed to attract local farmers to process rice at the mill and spend all Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) without adequate maintenance of the rice mill.

Briefing senators on the state of the rice mill, Managing Direc-

tor of the river basin, Engr. C.A. Uzoho said contract for rehabilitation of the rice mill was awarded in 2004 at the cost of N1.3 billion but that due to poor funding it could not be completed.

He said the project is to now gulp another N2.3 billion due to variation in the original contract sum, saying "We have problem with farmers because they don't like bringing their rice for mill-

ing here. They prefer to go to private mills outside the irrigation project."

Not satisfied by the explanation, members of the committee resolved that since the local rice farmers who were the target of the rice mill are no longer interested in processing their crops at the mill "There is no need for allocation of another N2.3 billion for rehabilitation."

Civil defence counsels Nigerians on development

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) has urged Nigerians to contribute their quota towards the economic and political development of the country.

Commandant General of the corps Dr. Ade Abolurin said Nigerians should also imbibe the principle of humility and integrity as peace loving to ensure national development.

"If Nigerians will work together as one irrespective of tribe, religion, sentiment and whatsoever, the nation will be better," he said and warned them against deviant and nefarious acts capable of tarnishing the country's image.

On the just concluded screening exercise for the intake of junior carder personnel into the Corps, he thanked God that there was not life lost in spite of the crowd.

He said applicants who are not successful this time "should see it as fate and remain patient till when such an opportunity will be granted by the government again."

FG assigns 13 firms to develop gas for Power

By Hamisu Muhammad

THE Federal Government has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with 13 private gas investors to carry out accelerated gas development projects at various on-shore fields in the Niger Delta Region.

Petroleum Resources Minister Rilwanu Lukman said at the signing ceremony in Abuja that government is targeting over 250 mmscf/day to be realized within 12-18 months.

He said the project is very strategic to federal government in meeting the gas obligation.

The companies are: Colechurch, Gas For Development, Global Energy Refining, Ibeto Group of Companies, Octopol and Petrolog Nigeria Limited. Others are Process & Industrial Development Nigeria Ltd, Tricity, Turan oil - Seven Energy Consortium, Westcom, Gerfin and Remington.

The Minister expressed belief that when the projects commence, they should provide the much needed intervention in addressing issues on job creation, poverty alleviation as encapsulated in the Vision 20-20/20.



EFCC Head of Media and Publicity Mr. Femi Babafemi (right) with the two suspects Hamza Hadu (middle) and Mohammed Usman both secondary school leavers, who tried to extort N15 million from the PDP National Financial Secretary Alhaji Tukur Mani, in Abuja yesterday.

TUC tasks police on religious fundamentalists

By Francis Okeke

TRADE Union Congress (TUC) yesterday urged the Nigeria Police Force to commence the prosecution of all people who have contributed or participated in any of the myriad religious crises that have rocked the country over the years.

A press statement signed by TUC's President-General Peter Esele, which condemned Nigeria's listing by the United States on its lists of "security risk states," charged the Inspector General of Police Ogbonna Onovo and other security agen-

cies to clamp down on religious fanatics.

He called on "governments at all levels, especially the northern governors to take the issue of security of lives of our citizens very serious, as between 2008 and now over a 1000 innocent souls were lost during senseless religious riots."

According to Esele, "the matter is even made worse because not a single person has been prosecuted nor is there any evidence to show that the various security agencies have learnt any lesson from all these killings and riots."

"Congress demands that the Inspector

General of Police (IGP) Ogbonna Onovo, and all security forces should arrest, re-arrest, and prosecute all those identified to have participated in any way in religious riots that have become the order of the day in the northern states of the country."

"Fundamental religious sects such as Boko Haram, the Taliban and Al-Qaeda styled groups that have gained foothold in Nigeria, thereby making Africa's most populous country a theatre of sectarian violence should be identified and flushed out," the statement added.

Women ministry to immortalise Maryam Babangida

By Akor Ojoma

NIGERIAN women will immortalise the late Mrs. Maryam Babangida for her pacesetter role in the socio-economic and political development of women in Nigeria and Africa as a whole, Women Affairs and Social Development Minister Mrs. Salamatu

Hussaini Suleiman has said.

According to a statement released by the ministry in Abuja, the Minister made this known when she led a delegation of Nigerian women to Minna, Niger State, to commiserate with former Military President General Ibrahim Babangida over the death of his wife.

Mrs. Suleiman said the late Maryam through her Better Life project, encouraged the formation of many women cooperatives, establishment of cottage Industries, Women Development Centres and Social Welfare Programmes targeted at women development across the States of the Federation, including the

grassroots where the bulk of women reside.

Responding, the first daughter of the late First Lady and wife of Zamfara State Governor, Hajiya Aishatu Aliyu Shinkafi, urged women in leadership position to continue the good work her mother started as that will be the best way to honour her.

Braithwaite calls for interim govt

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

DUE to the long absence of President Umaru Yar'adua, a new political group, the National Intervention Group (NIG) led by Dr. Tunji Braithwaite has called for an interim administration for Nigeria before 2011.

In his address, Braithwaite called for an interim national

government to be led by either the Senate President David Mark or the Chief Justice of the Federation Justice Alloysius Katsina-Alu.

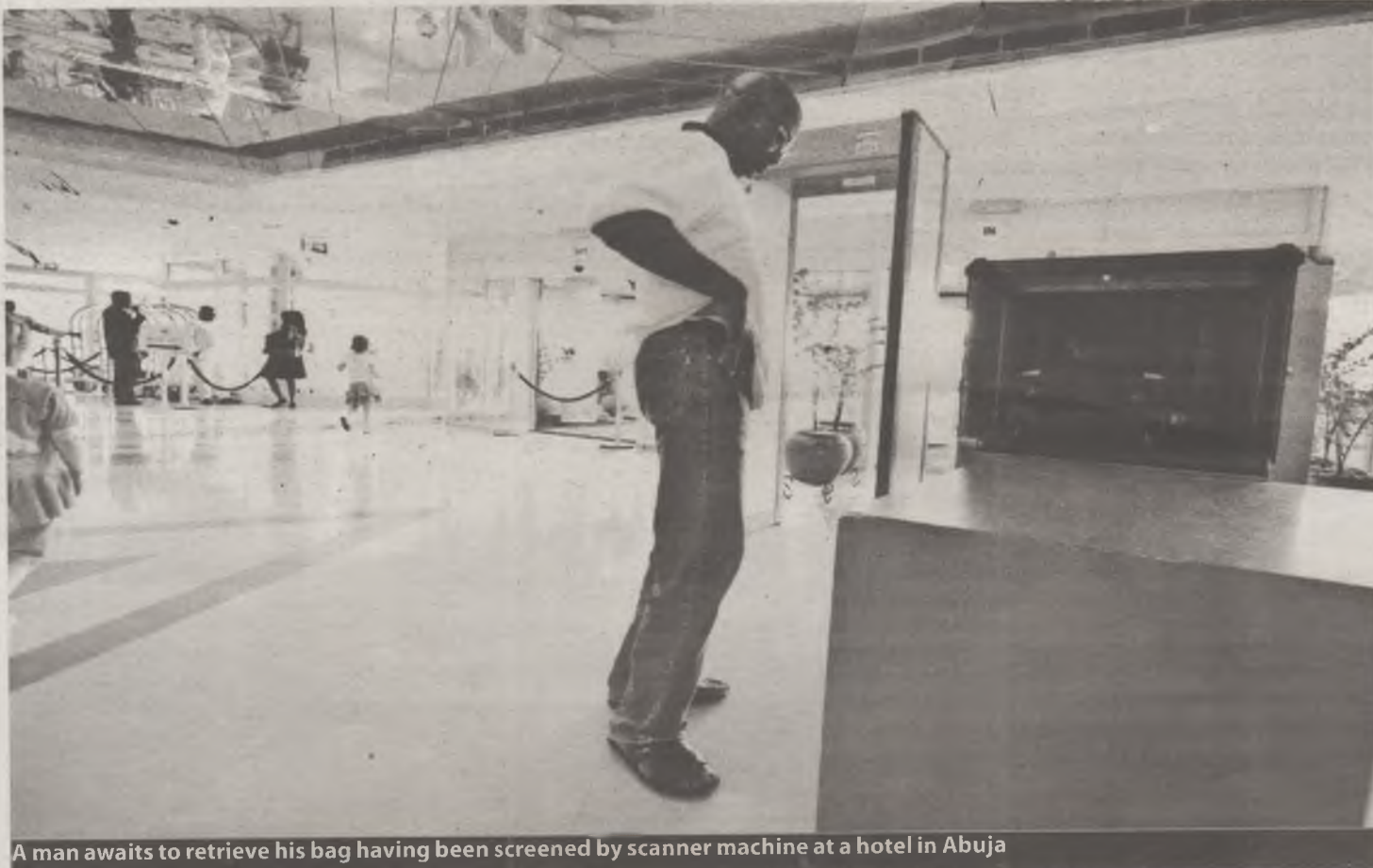
The group at a media briefing in Lagos at the weekend said the idea had become inevitable for the purpose of rescuing the country from what the group called impending disintegration of Nigeria. Braithwaite who was

accompanied by some members of the group during the briefing argued that what had been happening in the country since President Yar'adua left the country about 50 days ago was no way near democracy. He said the interim administration should be the administration to organize and conduct genuine, free and transparent elections in 2011 or

shortly thereafter, depending on how quickly its sole mandate of cleaning up the nation is accomplished.

Speaking on the present governance situation at the federal level, the founder and leader of National Advance Party (NAP) argued that the question begging for answer in the country today is; "who is administering the nation

and on whose behalf is that being done?" He noted that with the way the country has been run in the absence of the president, there has been anarchy in the country, adding that the constitution which is the supreme law of the country was being steadily sabotaged and eroded by a group of people in the corridors of power whom he described as impostors.



A man awaits to retrieve his bag having been screened by scanner machine at a hotel in Abuja

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE

Kebbi budgets N75.6bn for 2010

From Ismail Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi

THE Kebbi State government has announced a N75.6 billion budget for the 2010 fiscal year.

The gross recurrent expenditure for the year 2010 budget is estimated at N23.5 billion, a slight increase over the 2009 recurrent expenditure of N22.7 billion while the capital expenditure is estimated at N52.04 billion.

The administration also announced the placement of embargo on media publicity in this year's budget.

While presenting the budget tagged 'A better Kebbi State Today' to the state House of Assembly Thursday, Governor Saidu Usman Dakingari said the 2010 budget was premised on the need to urgently overcome the immediate socio-economic challenges facing the state to quickly address the unemployment and poverty problems among the people. N21 billion naira was estimated for the economic sector with transport being allocated N12.9 billion. Agriculture was allocated N4.4 billion power supply N2 billion, forestry N1 billion while Commerce, Finance and Cooperatives got N337 million, Livestock and Veterinary Services N220 million and manufacturing N170 million.

Information received the lowest vote of N250 million.

Health got the highest vote of N6.7 billion while education trails it with N4.8 billion. Science and Technical education received N2.7 billion while social development got N435 million.

NERFUND invites applications for MSMEs funding

THE National Economic Reconstruction Fund (NERFUND) will from this month commence receipt of applications and disbursement of funds to support the establishment of Micro, Small and Medium scale Manufacturing Enterprises (MSMEs).

The Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Fund Malam Baba M. Gimba has therefore urged the investing public who have bankable proposals for establishment of micro, small and medium scale

enterprises to forward such proposals for consideration and possible funding.

A statement from the Head, Corporate Affairs of the Fund Dahiru G. Ali yesterday said NERFUND is still in existence and performing its statutory functions as stipulated in the NERFUND Act, Cap. 254, 1990 Laws of the Federation, and would be partnering with SMEDAN and the NDE to stimulate the rapid setting up of micro, small and medium

scale manufacturing enterprises (MSMEs).

"It is true that there was a lull in the operations of the FUND right from the inception of the present democratic dispensation. This was as a result of the stalemate that attended the protracted reform of Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) but which has since culminated in the merger of NIDB and NBCI to form the Bank of Industry (BOI).

Following the conclusion of

that merger, the Federal Government has reversed the stalemate", Ali said.

NERFUND was established in 1989 as an apex institution to help catalyze the development of SMEs. Such SMEs must be wholly Nigerian owned and engaged in the business of manufacturing, mining, quarrying and industrial support services among others. It has so far disbursed \$130 million and over N3 billion to 266 projects, out of which 224 have fully repaid their loans.

Cleric cautions Dakinagari against frequent trips

From Ismail Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi

AN Islamic preacher in Kebbi State, Mallam Mohammed Abubakari Zouro, has cautioned Governor Usman Dakingari over what he described as his frequent travels outside the state, saying if the state must develop, he must be around at all times to turn things around.

Zouro who decried the frequency of the governor's travels outside the state during a Juma'at prayer in Birnin-Kebbi at the weekend, said Dakinagari should endeavour to stay at home to take charge of the responsibilities of governance

that was bestowed on him by the people who elected him.

He said the people had faced hardship in recent times and this could be taken care of if the governor stayed at home whenever there is no need for him to travel to Abuja or outside the country.

He emphasized urgent need for him to evolve a people-oriented government to justify the hope the electorate had in him before electing him as governor.

The cleric posited that a servant leadership was a global desire for promoting effective, accountable and transparent governance in developing democracies.

Therefore, he noted, the concept of leadership is to reduce poverty, eradicate official corruption, strengthen government at all levels and entrench sustainable development and as well as global peace and security.

Zouro also pointed out that it was necessary for the governor to recommend and adopt a leadership model that emphasizes stewardship to the people, pointing out that a servant leader has no monopoly of wisdom but involves people by creating an enabling environment for all to realize their full potentials.

Police decry indecent use of vehicles, party offices in Zamfara

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

THE Zamfara State Police Command has observed a trend in the use of cars, political party offices and uncompleted buildings for fornication and other immoral acts within Gusau metropolis.

A statement from the command signed by the Public Relations Officer ASP Lawal Abdullahi said the arrest for such offences were now on the increase

in Gusau town. The latest was the attempt to arrest a man and his partner last week while having fun in a dark spot but both fled, abandoning their car.

The command said as a measure to check such immoral behaviour, it had strategized its operational abilities to arrest and prosecute such offenders. It also warned the general public to desist from such indecent acts or face the wrath of the law.

Traditional ruler charges polio victims on campaigns

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

THE District Head of Ajingi District in Kano State and member of the National Committee on Immunization Alhaji Wada Aliyu has called on polio victims in the state to sensitize people on the disease, saying their participation in the campaigns would yield positive results.

Aliyu who said this at the commissioning and distribution of wheel chairs donated by the Rotary Club of Nassarawa in Kano at the weekend said people would listen more if victims of the disease campaigned on the need for immunization.

Governor of the club Kazim Mustapha said the gesture was part of the club's activities to better the lives of citizens, especially the disabled.

Mustapha commended the state government for its cooperation and appealed for more cooperation. Kano State Governor Ibrahim Shekarau commended the Rotary Club for the gesture and assured that polio victims and other disabled persons would be taken care of by his administration.

IDB to spend N81m in Yobe

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

THE Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is to spend N81.2 million on agriculture in some communities in Yobe State. Mallam Abba Jumbo, the Water Facilitator of the Agricultural Development Programme (ADP) in the state who spoke at the weekend in Mata Kusum Village in Gaidam Local Government Area said the intervention would include nine different areas including construction of one micro earth dam, one livestock pond, six direct pumping facilities, five tube wells and water pumps, 20 wash boreholes and pumps, four cooling shades, three rural markets and 16 kilometre feeder roads.

He also announced the distribution of N5.5 million as soft loans to ten different associations.

He said the loan was provided by the federal, state and the affected local government areas as well as the Islamic Development Bank. Jumbo however maintained that the N81 million intervention was provided by the IDB alone and was not a loan. The state Commissioner for Agriculture Alhaji Musa Maina Dumburi who commended the IDB for the gesture urged the benefitting communities to make good use of the facilities and empower themselves.



SRI Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse (centre) takes part in a religious ceremony in the Nallur Kevil Hindu temple in the northern town of Jaffna yesterday. Rajapakse visited Jaffna to campaign during his bid to win the second term as the Island's president in the election to be held on January 26.

Bauchi NULGE calls off strike

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

THE Bauchi State chapter of the Nigerian Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE) has called off the strike it started Thursday to protest the state government's appointment of treasurers for the 20 local government councils.

The state government had last month appointed treasurers for the 20 local government councils from the state civil service, an action

NULGE objected to and gave the government a two-week ultimatum to rescind its decision. The ultimatum expired Thursday and the union started the strike. But the government invited officials of the union for negotiations and on Friday, agreed to rescind its decision which led to the suspension of the strike. Addressing newsmen shortly after the agreement was reached, the state's Head of Service Alhaji Ibrahim Abdulkadir said government appointed the treasurers

in the interest of the state, not for any hidden agenda. He said after listening to NULGE, the two parties agreed that the appointments and postings be withdrawn and that the Local Government Service Commission should recruit the treasurers. The state Chairman of NULGE Comrade Adamu Mudi who called on his members to return to work said the union objected to the appointment because due process was not followed.

Military pensioners caution board against impostors

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

THE Kano State chapter of Retired Army, Navy and Airforce Officers Club of Nigeria (RANAO) has cautioned the Military Pensions Board against fake pensioners when

implementing the 2003 and 2007 increments for ex-service men.

Speaking with *Daily Trust* on behalf of the club in Kano yesterday, the group's Publicity Officer retired Captain Yusuf Abdulmalik advised that the records of the 2009 verification

exercise be used in paying the arrears.

Abdulmalik said the ex-service men were happy with the Federal Government for capturing the 2003 and 2007 increments in the 2010 budget. He urged the government to release the funds so that payment could commence.

Rivers names varsity after late ambassador

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

THE Rivers State government has decided to name the state University of Education, Rumuolumeni (RSUOE) after the late Amb. Ignatius Ajuru, saying it was their way of thanking him for his contributions to the development of education in the country. Governor Amaechi disclosed the decision at the funeral service of late Chief Ajuru at Alimini, Isiokpo, headquarters of Ikwerre

Local Government Area. Governor Amaechi said he was personally touched by the death of Chief Ajuru who he described as a man of character and peace.

He noted that Chief Ajuru stood by him throughout his struggle to actualize his mandate when others abandoned him to his fate, saying he was a dependable ally who stood for what he believed. Governor Amaechi consoled the family of the deceased and asked them to take solace in the fact that he lived a life worthy

of emulation.

The Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Prince Vincent Ogbulafor said Ajuru would be remembered for his good services to the nation as Ambassador to Gabon and Ukraine, and as member of the Peace and Reconciliation Committee. He prayed God to give the family the fortitude to bear the loss. It would be recalled that late Chief Ignatius Ajuru was murdered on December 20, 2009 at Obehie, Abia State.

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



Fuel scarcity a national shame —FG

AS if they have not said that before! What I expected him to say is that they have failed once again and for that reason he will tender his; every other things has been said over and again.

Aji Isuwa Suleiman
suleimanaji@yahoo.com

I am really highly impressed with the way the government took this issue of fuel scarcity seriously. This is a welcome development. My suggestion is that this matter should not be only discussed in meetings and everybody walks away. It should be put into practice for us to believe in what the government is saying about the issue of fuel shortage in the Nigeria.

Abubakar Chika Maru
abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com

Is it now he is talking of shame? Where was he when Mrs. Clinton made the same observation about our beautiful country lacking in purposeful leadership? I think it is better to look for the bold way out rather than engaging in double talk on this issue.

Aboki
agaboki@yahoo.co.nz



CBN Governor Sanusi Lamido

CBN issues fresh guidelines to banks on lending

...A good way forward. Banks should reciprocate this gesture from the government by being more sensitive to the needs of the people like supporting Agriculture, Health, Education, Transportation and power. Tax-payers money is being used to support them at this time that they need it direly.

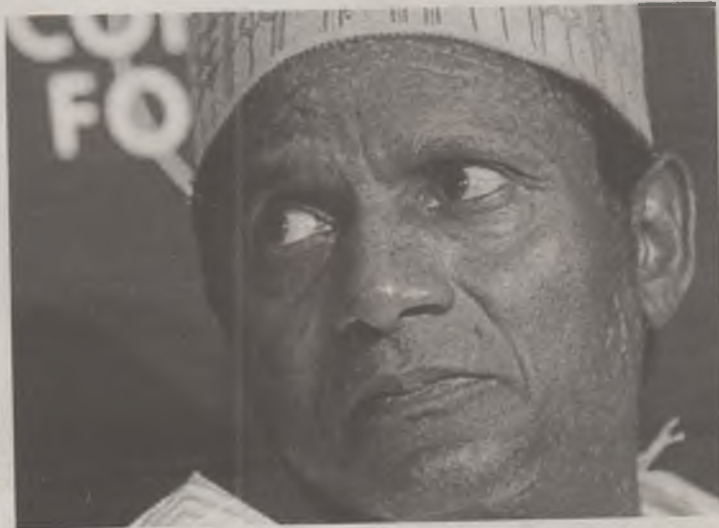
Mohammad Lawal Shuaib
smohammadlawal@yahoo.co.uk

This is great. Thank you for laying the foundation and financial infrastructure for Nigeria's economic growth. We have paid too much lip service in the past and thereby enthroned financial terrorism and executive 419.

...Once again well done. Everybody cannot be the president of Nigeria but we can all do our bit in our small space.

Chris Ogbekhiulu
krisogbe@hotmail.com

Budget: 'Yar'adua's signature was forged'



PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua

I hate to believe that the President's signature was forged. I am trying as much as possible to suspend my imagination that this could happen. No please, not at that level. I have always believed that the management of information regarding our president's ill health has been very poor. This has led to wild speculation and cheap blackmail.

Ibrahim Auwalu
ibrauwal@yahoo.com

My fellow compatriots please hear me well: Nigeria is ruled by a gang. Remember that even the way Yar'adua was "elected" was dubious, so to forge the signature of the President is not hard to imagine. Why is Kazaure asking that the person who is contesting should verify? Is the budget signing not usually a ceremonious event? Where did he sign? Who was there, when and why? Why wasn't there a camera at the very least, so as to dispel all these questions and allegations? May Allah heal Mr. President.

Engr. Baba Shehu
bashuhu@yahoo.com

Where exactly are we heading to in this country? It is very pathetic that the citizens of this country have got no faith in her leadership. Where will our SAVIOUR come

Yemeni govt says: Al-Qaeda got Farouk in UK

THE U.S did not say that Nigeria is a terrorist country. Even the other nations listed under the "extra scrutiny" profile were not termed terrorists as such. It is simply that the U.S is not satisfied with the security measures and processes at our airports. On account of that, therefore, Nigerians travelling to the U.S will face extra searches.

This may be for U.S's domestic reasons and partly because U. F. AbdulMutallab is a Nigerian and transited from Nigeria. Other reasons include the apparent denial of the young man by our government. No one recognized him and the agony his family faces. Not one Nigerian official thought of

from in the midst of this chaos. Only God will help us.

Dumebi
dumebi@gmail.com

Who signed or who can sign the supplementary budget is not the Nigerian's problem. What is of importance to us is what will improve our lives.

Mohammed G. Ribah
mgribana@yahoo.co.uk

What is all the hide and seek that the government is playing with the citizens of this country? If the president is incapacitated they should say so. After all he is a human being like any other person. Please let the leaders do the right thing and let us move on. This is a new year and we should not allow the problems of last year to spill into it. We are only ridiculing ourselves before the whole world.

Samira
sdegoshie@yahoo.com

We the masses have the right to know our president health condition. Look at Cuba - a communist, not a democratic state - they showed a video footage of Castro on his sick bed; the military government of Guinea has also said their president cannot be in office soon.

providing the suspect with legal counsel as a bona-fide Nigerian. On top of that the U.S knew that their government gave us four full body scanners and apparently, these scanners were used only by the NDLEA and there was no acknowledgement of that!

I believe the U.S is right. We should look in and put our house in order for the rest of the world to have confidence in us.

Muhammad Nalya
naiyamd@yahoo.com

This avoidable incident would have been nipped in the bud had America acted on the complaints of the father of the accused Nigerian. This is a pointer that Nigeria

For God's sake why not Nigeria?

Awwal Kako
kakoledion@yahoo.com

I only have a question to ask: Is President Yar'adua still alive? Please prove it.

Silver
blackprince6767@yahoo.com

I think there are two ways of solving this issue. The president should himself address the country and confirm publicly that he signed the budget or those that said it was forged should prove it. What we are interested in as Nigerians has nothing to do with the grudge between the political elite.

Please let us be.
Ifeyinwa Ochife
send2ify@yahoo.com

I think what the CNPP Lawyer is saying is right. Why would the Political class treat Nigeria so low by taking such a vital document to a foreign land? This has never happened in any country in the world. Nigeria is not setting good records. If Yar'adua respects the law as he preaches, he should write to the House that he is on medical leave and Jonathan should take over pending when he comes back from his trip. We should stop deceiving ourselves. I hope to see Him (the President) back well and sound, but when he comes back, he should go and rest. He has tried.

Omovie
james.cal56@yahoo.ca

How can we believe that the president who is on a sick bed signed the supplementary budget himself, when Nigerians don't even know where he is hospitalized and the hospitals claim that the president is not with them? Please, Mr. Vice President tell us the truth behind the signature before the general

public start losing faith in government officials.

Abubakar
bakarcbg@hotmail.com

They scanned and pasted the signature on the supplementary budget and told us that the President "has signed"! All those involved must be charged for e-crime and yahoo-yahoo!

Eletta
bolajieletta@yahoo.com

Even without Yar'adua, we can make it.

Umaru Marusman
umarumarusman@yahoo.com

If there is this serious allegation of forgery of Mr President's signature, it is not the Vice President who should confirm but Mr President himself, since there are claims that he spoke with the Vice President and Senate President.

This is very ridiculous. A president is sick and people are playing politics with it just because some of them somewhere stand to gain financially. Yet in every corner of this country, there is a mosque or church.

Muntuwa Gabbai
dan_anita2008@yahoo.com

It is said "He who asserts, must prove". It is now left for those contemplating that the President's signature was forged to prove their case with clear evidence.

Yusuf Mohammed Abubakar
bigdonmachas@yahoo.com

Politics aside, I don't think it really matters who signed and who did not. It will be of greater benefit if you devote this attention towards the proper implementation of the budget.

Kamal Babangida
kamalbj82@yahoo.co.uk



UMAR Farouk AbdulMutallab

does not in any way support or condone terrorism. It is therefore unfair and disturbing to use a single case of an individual to label a country of 150 million as a

terrorist nation. Citizens of other countries, including Americans and Britons, have been arrested for grievous offences around the world, and only such individuals have been held accountable. Why should the entire population of Nigeria be made to bear the brunt of America's security lapse capitalized upon by the al-Qaeda and executed by a vulnerable Nigeria?

Dola Martins
dolamartins@yahoo.com

Whether Faruk was linked with Al-Qaeda in London or Yemen is not the case now. All we are praying for is for justice to be done.

Yahaya Ibn Idris Abu
ibnidrees@gmail.com



By Uche Anichukwu

Dear brother Obama, think again

Greetings from Nigeria. I hope your family and God's own people are enjoying the winter?

We currently have hamattan – the closest to winter we have in Nigeria. It usually falls into the Sallah, Christmas, and New Year holidays. It should have been cold, breezy, and enjoyable. Mark my words, "should have been". It really was, but that was until our countryman, your fellow African, Faruk Mutallab attempted to unleash a horrid terror mankind, not just the US. I am sure you must have seen many African-Americans, fellow Africans, even Nigerians, and many Moslems on the flight manifest.

But the background of the would-have-been victims wouldn't have made any difference to an average Nigerian. *Aah!* You attended any African burial? You would have noticed we love even our enemies at death; and sometimes,

"I am sure you must have seen many African-Americans, fellow Africans, on the flight manifest"

we literally cry even more than the bereaved. You would have noticed that just like John Donne, we feel diminished by any man's death; that we never tend to know for whom the bell tolls, as it is seen too tall for all. But at least I am sure you are very much aware of the opprobrium that greeted and still trails Faruk's alleged intents. It has been one of those few incidents that all levels of governments, political parties and actors in Nigeria, irrespective of their ethnicity and faith are united in their opinions. The Nigerian press too has been so unsparing in pounding Faruk's alleged conduct.

But dear Big Brother, that is exactly one of the points that have been missed by your administration in handling the Farouk matter. Faruk had long been lost to this nation. He is biologically Nigerian, but socially alien. I dare say, even if only to reiterate mummy Dora Akunyili's assertion, that Faruk acted outside of Nigerian influence and character. Faruk could not have imbibed suicidal instincts in Nigeria. Human blood is one thing an average Nigerian is nurtured to hold sacred. Thank God for my late headmaster-father and also for my retired teacher-mother. They sure didn't accumulate millions of naira for us, but they thought us, among others, that a good name is better than silver and gold; that human blood is and must be held sacred; and to love our neighbours like ourselves. Growing up in my village was interesting. A typical African parent would be the first to blow the whistle on a child's bad tendencies. That was exactly what Alhaji Mutallab, Faruk's father did by reporting to the US Embassy, a vital piece of information which, as you rightly admitted, your security network didn't handle properly. But our

parents needn't be there round the clock for us to be disciplined. Even a total stranger who saw a child misbehave would simply cut a cane from a nearby tree and flog the nuisance out of the errant child's head and the child's parents would be the happier for it. Unfortunately, Faruk grew up mostly in an environment where corporal punishment is anathema; he later drifted into wrong hands in territories of misguided religious zealots.

Our ethno-religious riots and the killings that result? Unfortunate! But note, people only get killed in such mayhems; none would commit suicide. An average Nigerian savours life. We all believe in heaven, but would be happier to be captured alive, like Elijah, than to die before heading there. A Nigerian may not have the good things of life you take for granted in God's Own Country, but prefers to hope and pray. Big Brother, you may readily point to so many instances of commercialised kidnapping, armed robbery, oil bunkering and militancy in the Niger Delta, advance fee fraud, drug peddling, political assassinations, etc.

Indeed, there are deviants. I don't want to dwell on the fact that such unscrupulous elements are not restricted to Nigeria or that even God's Own Country is not immune from such elements. Highly condemnable as these crimes may be, though, if you look closely, you would see these are crimes people engage in with the hope of going scot-free and benefitting from them. But if Faruk's bomb detonated successfully, he would have been the first to be splintered into pieces. A Faruk with a typical Nigerian mentality would not have embarked on a mission he knew he would not live to enjoy the proceeds – filthy though it is.

Brother, these are exactly why we were shocked over your decision to list us among "countries of interest" in your "terror watch". Yes, we knew you were going to react to Faruk's clearly un-Nigerian act, and justifiably so. You have the duty to protect the life and interest of the US and its citizens. But to put Nigeria in the same basket as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Somalia etc. is, to say the least, highhanded, humiliating, and an unfair payback to the Nigerians who have all risen in condemnation of Faruk's action. Imagine the psychological impact of being singled out for unsavoury special treatment at airports and of strangers giggling inwardly as they watch on their monitors, the nakedness of every Nigerian passing through the full body scanners that are now being installed as per your directive. Imagine what trauma it would mean for my one-month-old son growing up to learn that he was already classified with citizens of nations where bomb-carrying is the norm and dangerous arms and ammunitions are auctioned like fairly used wears at a Nigerian "bend-down-boutique" for a crime his parents and grand parents would not commit even at gunpoint.

Your brother, Uche Anichukwu,
ucheanichukwu@yahoo.com



By Hajiyaye Liman

Of campaign slogans

On a good day, we make it to Daura in four hours from Kaduna.

This Saturday morning, to make it in time for a wedding however, we decided to start earlier than usual. We were all in the car by 6, and ready to go. The town was just waking up when we left Kaduna. Because none of us was an early bird, except for the driver, we all snuggled to the corner of our seats, trying to be as comfortable as possible to catch some more sleep.

Those that could went back conveniently as soon as we took off while I struggled, without succeeding, to join them. I looked through the window and watched the scenery, bill boards, cars and *mai kosai* (bean cake fryer) on the road side. These scenes were similar as we passed from 'unguwa (ward) to unguwa' on our way out of Kaduna.

Being in a democratic dispensation, another common feature was how billboards, road signs and sides were adorned with posters of politicians pasted over them or paint used to scrawl their names over any surface.

Hajo, who was accompanying me on this trip, it seemed, was also having trouble going back to sleep. And I remarked, "it appeared most of these politicians have names, special names their followers coin either to praise them, humour them or just to blow their masters' trumpets". Talking of blowing trumpets, I noticed a shrewd poster that read "Waye?!" (Who is

"How ironic, "little" a tumbin giwa?" Hajo asked. "Dan hakin da ka raina..." I swiftly cautioned her"

it?!), a top the person's picture, the answer followed beneath it, "Wazirine!" (it is Waziri). "Sai mai gaskiya!" referring to the reputed disciplinarian and trustworthy former Head of State.

Hajo agreed and added "it is like politics has always been with such names and tags". She had come across quite a few of those names while reading Mallam Tanko Yakasai's autobiography. "Yeah" I answered. "It was there one comes across one of his contemporaries, the late Mallam Mudi Spikin and imagined him an orator. We came across "Uba Hitla" (Hitler) and imagined him stern and firm. I hear there is Uba "leader". We then had the great Gambo Sawaba who had the party's slogan attached to her name till she breathed her last. Even party thugs were not left out, thus, one came up as "Barau kwallon shege!" (Barau rascal)

During campaigns, on any clear wall you'd see someone paint "sai somebody" in praise or hope for his hero's victory. We've seen an Igbo, Yoruba and Hausa Yerima depicted on rocks and walls. Painted

are names such as "Mairago!" Hassana exclaimed. Our discussion had woken her up. *Mairago* was a politician reputed to be generous in giving out gifts of rams. "Kama kasa!", obviously not grounded enough for the SAK (Shekarau, a kori Kwankwaso) whirlwind. "Sai Mikati", with whom you can't miss the *alqibla* (ka'aba direction); "Sai Baba mai mangwaro", the wise one who gave out mangoes instead of cash. "Sai general", for the numerous soldiers transforming to civilians just to lead us; "sai Mallam", "sai Sas", "sai Gas", "sai Bullet", "Sai Mama". We kept reeling such names off our heads, of course, each with an accompanying anecdote.

Hajo's favourite was "Piapia". With him, all contenders are cockroaches; onçe he's out, it's all over for them. Hassana told us of "Namaliya" who is going to flow everywhere with his good work I hoped, otherwise "zaa sha mopping!" (We'll mop till we drop!). I had just closed my mouth when Murtala, who was driving, chipped in, by observing that "Namaliya" eventually had a contender for his seat called "Bakan gizo" (rainbow). How apt, I thought.

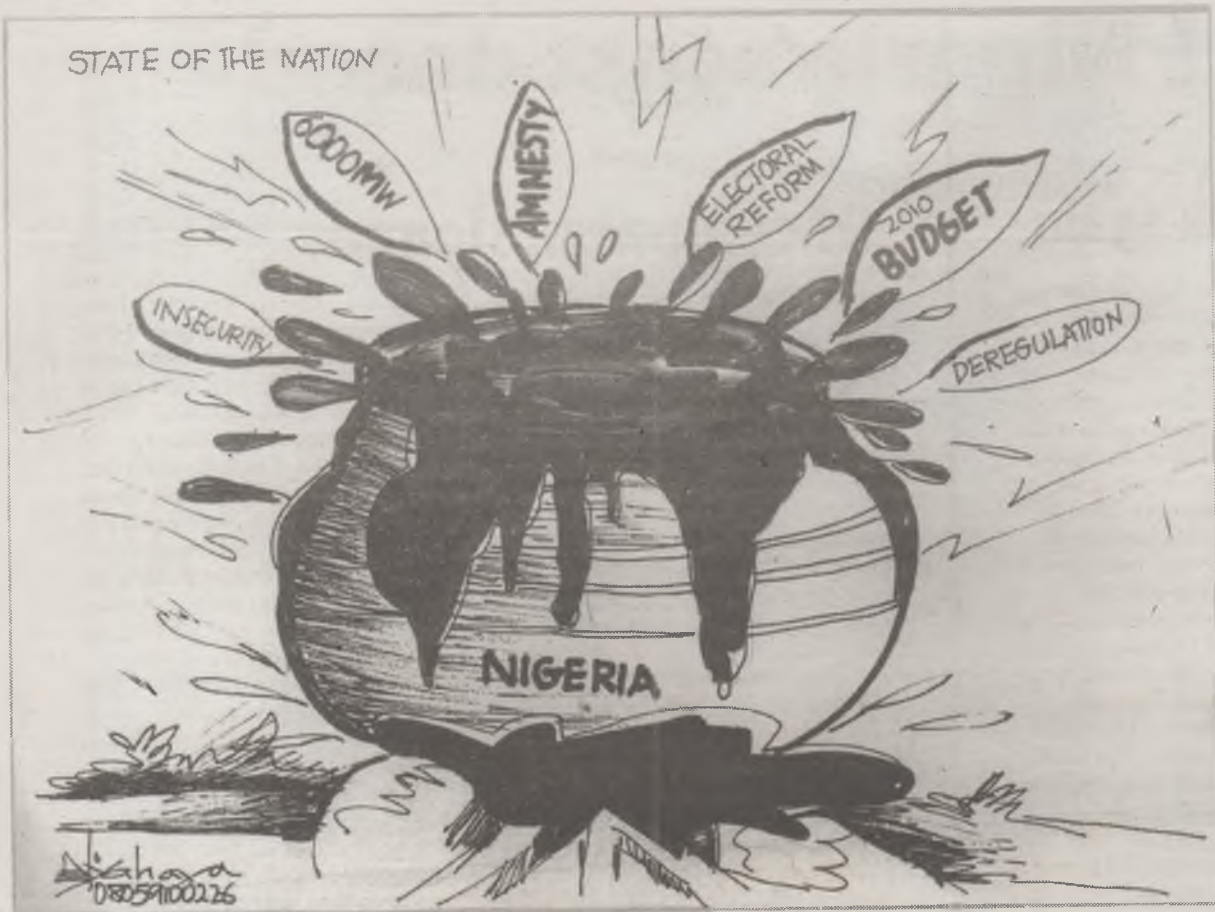
"Daram!" Hajo started and "Dam! Dam!" we completed it for her; this surely was for a sitting governor" No shaking!"

"Sai Giant!" was the last we saw before leaving Kaduna, so you can imagine our amazement at seeing "sai little!" as we entered Kano. How ironic, "little" a *tumbin giwa*?" Hajo asked. "Dan hakin da ka raina..." I swiftly cautioned her.

As we drove on, a story was told of how in Daura, a light skinned gentleman had been our representative and his followers had gone round chanting "sai mai kyau!" (handsome). And for four years we had "mai kyau" representing us. And that was the "reign" of *mai kyau*! When it was time for re-election a dark skinned fellow contested and some mischievous supporters changed the slogan to "ba ma son ci ka ruga, (an expression akin to hit and run), because "mai kyau" was hardly visiting his constituency. "Sai horror!" And for another term of four years, "horror" went on to represent us and so literarily would that be the "reign" of horror? I asked.

We were now approaching Karkarku (K3) and noticed a lot of cars, a collection of people, shouting, singing, hanging from doors and windows of cars and buses. "Politicians!" Murtala said. They had posters on their doors 'Sai Kosasshe!' they were shouting; we looked at each other and burst into laughter. It was like it had been stage-managed specially for us. "Sai Kosasshe!" we kept hearing from all angles, some in true Daura parlance shouted "hey *Kohyahhe!*" As we passed by his car, I couldn't resist a peep: lo and behold! Kosasshe truly looked like "a koshe yake" or rather "a *Kohe yake!*" (Well fed).

Liman is of 86 Katuru Road, U/Sarki GRA, Kaduna (maumarzuq@yahoo.com)



Your Letters

Is Faruk Mutallab a terrorist?

Faruk Mutallab is now a household name internationally. He is being accused of attempting to blow up an American passenger aircraft last Christmas. Most of our commentators have already written to condemn his action, that what he did was not in our character, but alas! nobody cared

to ask this simple question; is Faruk a terrorist, what is terrorism; what causes it...?

To the best of my knowledge, the term "terrorism" has a conflicting characterization, or rather undefined. Logicians argue that one cannot pass a judgment on something unless one has a clear conception of it, because the unknown and undefined cannot be judged. I always wonder why the then Soviet union, for instance, views Palestinian violence as legitimate armed struggle, but Afghan resistance as terrorism. United States on the other

hand describes Afghan violence as legitimate armed struggle, but condemns Palestinian resistance as terrorism.

I came to realize that different states or individuals use different terminologies to describe the same acts and actors of violence. Labels now become weapons to influence and even manipulate domestic and international public opinion. Therefore, let us have an objective definition of terrorism before we call Faruk a terrorist.

Ahmed Rasheed Makarfi, 3, Tudun Wada Makarfi, Kaduna state.

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Gov Danbaba Suntai

PROTECTION of lives and properties of your people is one of cardinal focus of government. That was why, right from inception of your administration, you said No to political thuggish conduct. But I wonder why some LG Chairmen are using thugs to achieve their aims and your government sit by and watch; please take action now.

AMINU Mayos, 08033985279.

Rebrand medical sector

OUR hospitals are a death zone; rather than providing medical services, the personnel never show sympathy for their patients. All they are after is money, not 2 save people's lives, as if they are not human. Their attitude brings death to thousand Nigerians every day, who otherwise would have survived. Government should do something on this to save the lives

of her citizens.

HARUN A. Imam, Malali, Kaduna, 08038226335.

Dead or alive

NIGERIANS have the right to demand and be told what the present condition of President Yar'adua is. This 40-something days of dribbling us has gone too far; we are not kids please.

07060557816.

Where are the 'news breakers'?

CNN, BBC, VOA, Al-Jazeera, Sky news, etc; no breaking news on the health of President Yar'adua?

08032889621.

Out of character

THE attack on Togo's national team to the Nations' Cup tournament in Angola is a disgrace to Africa. South Africa should take care it does not spill over to the Mundial there.

ALIYU Sani Kurmawa, Kano, 08029035374.

A word for Sardaunan Kano

MALAM Shekarau should please suspend his presidential ambition, and pave way for the man who is the only one capable of tackling of Nigeria's current travails: Gen. Moh'd Buhari. Support him as he supported Shekarau in 2003.

ABUBAKAR Garba, A.T.B.U Bauchi, 07067806861.

Wrong

I disagree with the notion that the US was right to list Nigeria as a den of terrorists. On the contrary, the US is the no.1 terrorist nation considering its atrocities in Vietnam, Granada, Libya, Iran, Iraq, etc. What happened was a policy failure, not a system failure as Obama wants the world to believe.

M. Gujbawu, Maiduguri, 08036060568.



By Suraj Oyewale

Faruk: What a message!

The bloody Ekiti re-run, the Boko Haram, Hurricane Sanusi, the Eagles-inflicted national hypertension, the exit of Gani, a President-at-large, we thought we had seen it all and had started taking stock for the better-wished-away 2009, few days to its end.

But alas, we had not seen anything! Suddenly came the botched Fahrenheit 12/25, sparked by enfant terrible Faruk Umar Abdul Mutallab, son of wealthy banker and immediate past Chairman of First Bank of Nigeria Plc, Dr. Umaru Abdul Mutallab.

For the wrong of reasons, Faruk put Nigeria's name in global limelight, the level of which only our football has been close to fetching us. Now being described as the 'Nigerian terrorist', 'Nigerian failed bomber', 'Nigerian terror bomber' and other nomenclatures, the 23-year-old Engineering graduate of the prestigious University College, London, suddenly became the 8th most searched name on Google and overtook the likes of Kanu Nwankwo, JJ Okocha, Wole Soyinka as the most popular Nigerian ever. What a sad way to earn popularity.

Faruk Mutallab's case is very saddening and as a Muslim myself, it beats my wildest imagination how such a young man could do that. From the internet postings of Faruk and what family members, friends, school mates in Lome and London, and people that know him in Kaduna have said of him, Farouk's case is purely a case of misguidance and overzealousness.

Here is a young man that has everything one would crave for - wealthy family, best of education and above all, good looks. Most silver spoons have the tendency to misbehave, with womanizing and drug addiction their common transgressions. For this reason, I personally admire young children of the rich that try to toe the path of piety and religion in the face of intoxicating family affluence. Rather than flashing around his parent's posh cars in the streets of Abuja, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina and even London, as is common with silverspoons up there, Farouk took to religion at an early stage of his life, trying as much as possible to avoid women, partying, clubbing and socializing within limits. These are good deeds ordinarily untypical of wards of the super rich, but doing so without guidance, the young man easily fell prey of religious zealots and went into the extreme. What a pity!

I read *ThisDay's* Yusuph Olaniyonu's New Year's Day column, and these statements almost got me crying for Faruk: "...after reviewing the portrait of Abdulfarouk which has emerged from information so far pieced together about the young man, I became convinced that he is brilliant, well behaved, quiet and serious-minded.....he was interested in his religion but lacked proper guidance". After reading Faruk's internet postings, this is exactly my own thoughts too on Faruk. Unfortunately that misguidance has taken him to the peak of ignominy.

I am not an Islamic scholar, but I have read the whole Qur'an and authentic Islamic texts several times; and I have never come across a passage where killing innocent souls or oneself is sanctioned in Islam. If anything, both are strongly condemned in Qur'an and *Hadiths*. It therefore worries me when some of my Muslim brothers perpetrate such fiendish acts in the name of Islam.

Granted that the United States may not be the best of our friends in terms of policies and actions, especially with the support for Israel over Palestine and the unjust invasion of some Muslim territories, I honestly believe some of us Muslims overdo the resentment for United States. Yes, innocent lives may have been killed by American troops in Islamic nations, that, to me, is still not a justification for suicide bombing or any other form of exterminating innocent lives. In Islam, methodology is as important as intention. A well-intentioned action may be spoiled by wrong methodology. Pray, were the 278 Delta airline passengers and the 11 crew members the ones guilty of oppressing Muslims?

There are millions of Muslims in America, some citizens, some foreigners. Tens of Muslims have been elected or appointed into government positions in America. Current President Barack Obama has, through his actions and speeches, shown that he is also a friend of the Muslims, despite the risks that come with that in American politics. What more!

I congratulate the American government for the averting of what could have been a sad reminder of 9/11, I rejoice with the 278 passengers and 11 crew members of the Detroit-bound Delta airliner for being alive to tell their story, I pity Faruk for being misled into such dastardly act, I sympathize with the Abdul Mutallab family, I empathize with the government and good people of Nigeria for this global opprobrium we are currently facing courtesy of Faruk's misguided act, and lastly, I sympathize with the good Muslims across the globe as we prepare for a renewed FYM (Flying While Muslim).

Oyewale wrote from Dideolu Estate, off Ligali Ayorinde Street, Victoria Island.

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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09-6726241, 6715364

New policy on mobile phone SIM cards

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) last month announced that new subscribers in the nation's mobile telephone system must be registered before their subscriber identification module (SIM) cards can be activated. According to a statement by the NCC, the new rules will take effect from March 1, 2010. The Commission's statement provided no reasons why it is taking the measure at this time in the global system for mobile (GSM) communication that has been in operation without the rules since inception in 2001. It only stated that it was exercising its powers to do so under the Nigerian Communications Act (NCA) 2003.

It assured all the relevant stakeholders that arrangements had been concluded for the commencement of registration of all SIM card holders in Nigeria as from that date. According to the NCC, new subscribers who are required to register their SIM Cards must produce valid identification documents for the process to be concluded. These must be one of the following: e- passport; corporate/company or workplace identity card that has pension identification /tax numbers, etc.; student ID cards from a recognized institution; a driver's license issued by the Federal Road Safety Commission; e-tax card.

It added that the registration process would include the capture of the photograph and biometrics of the subscriber. Proxy registration would be restricted to the direct family members of persons seeking registration. It is amazing that the legal framework of the NCA did not include provision requiring the registration of subscribers and SIM cards before licences were issued to the service providers in the first place. The government and the communication policy planners should have recognized such a necessity. However, we think that this new measure, though late in coming, is a welcome development.

Given the phenomenal increase in the subscriber bases of the GSM service providers in the country, the security implications of allowing the status quo to persist become clear. Although there are privacy issues that may be involved, we hope that the NCA will be amended to address them. It is common practice, especially among unscrupulous persons, to buy a SIM card at any corner shop or bus stop, use it to achieve some nefarious acts, and then discard the card, without fear of being traced or traceable. We have seen how kidnappers, for instance, frequently use mobile phones to lure their victims and conduct ransom negotiations. Unmasking such criminals has thus been difficult task for the security agencies when the SIM cards used in the phones are not registered.

Even in countries with more advanced technology like the United States and Britain, and with vast populations like India, SIM cards are not on sale on demand as they are here in Nigeria.

In those countries, with little variations in each of them, potential subscribers must produce identification documents and register with the internal security departments before they can purchase and activate their telephone numbers. That way, whatever goes wrong increases the possibility of locating the probable source of the problem. The NCC should intensify its enlightenment campaign programme to educate Nigerians about the importance of the SIM card registration exercise. It should also introduce proposals to amend the NCC Act to guarantee that the privacy of subscribers will not be compromised, and that information provided during the registration exercise would not be used unfairly to their disadvantage, unless through the intervention of the courts and only for law-enforcement purposes. We note that the NCC statement was not clear about how to encourage existing SIM card holders to be part of the registration exercise. However, in order to assure that it succeeds, we suggest that the various service providers should be asked to encourage their subscribers to register existing SIM cards online, provided they comply with the requirement to produce authentic identification documents.

We observe also that the National ID card is missing from among the NCC requirement for valid documentation for the registration exercise. Is the National ID card not recognized for this purpose? The NCC should clear the air on this. The exercise is a good programme that we recommend subscribers cooperate with in order to make it a success.

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Nigeria's lost decade

Gain time, Gain Life, What greater time than loss of time?

Issa Aremu, mni

issaaremu@yahoo.com

The time honoured thought has it that Time is money. The earlier known citation was credited to Benjamin Franklin in mid 18th century, precisely 1748. But in ancient civilizations, the proverb about the value of time is long dated. *Owuro lojo*, (*procrastination is test of time!*), goes the Yoruba version. Students of economic history can even appreciate the significance of *time as money* better: when monetarization of value from a day's work at a spinning mill, to say a sexual act at-you-guess-where was reduced to one common denominator: money! So if time was money, time was obviously everything. Today, the true measure of the strength and weaknesses of nation-states is DEVELOPMENT. Unarguably time equals development. Indeed and in truth, *Time is Development*. Conversely lack of (or mis-use of time) equals underdevelopment. By all account, Nigeria regrettably lost the last decade (1999-2009) to poor governance, mass factory closures, underdevelopment, corruption and mass poverty and now terrorism smear. Development in real terms of capacity utilization, mass employment and value addition eluded Nigeria in the past decade. With persistent power failure, non-realization of modest target of 6000 mega watts and belated official apology, divestment and investment relocation to Ghana and Angola, achievements in the last decade fall unpardonably bellow huge resources officially appropriated for development which did not take place.

The urgent challenge today is how Nigeria and Nigerians must win this decade (2010-2020). At the recent 80th birthday celebration of the *Ooni*, Oba Sijuwade, the Primate of the Anglican Communion, Most Rev. Peter Jasper Akinola spoke the mind of development conscious Nigerians when he hit hard at non-performing office holders who came three hours late to an anniversary. He reportedly told a stunned congregation that "politicians who pilfer the nation's resources while majority of Nigerians were still wallowing in poverty will suffer for it, including their children up to the fourth generation." Well said! But even at that, if the Ife guests had been punctual at that singular function, that gathering was far from being about national development agenda. Almost the same time in honour of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates Dubai promptly gathered the whole world at the dazzling launch of the \$1.5 billion Burj Dubai, known as Burj Khalifa! The launch was intended to be the latest grand statement announcing Dubai's further emergence on to the world stage. That building started from 2004 and finished in 2010, less than a decade. In

Nigeria we assume notoriety for wasteful outlandish private weddings, funerals, chieftaincy tittles auctions and all that are private vanities. We are commonwealth shy and development blind.

Ten years is significant in the life of any serious nation. The first UN Development Decade was launched by the General Assembly in December 1961. It called on all member states to intensify their efforts to mobilize support for measures required to accelerate progress toward self-sustaining economic growth and social advancement in the developing countries. With each developing country setting its own target, the objective would be a mini-

progress and development.

Until recently time was of essence in Nigeria's governance and development. The struggle for independence decisively took place within a decade between 1940's to 1950's. In between this short span, Nigeria produced three constitutions which eventually led to independence in 1960. It is a sad commentary. 50 years after independence, the country's political class lacked the necessary consensus to implement 1999 constitution to the letter much less successfully amend the constitution. The first decade after independence would go down as the decade of unprecedented growth and development. Until the unfortunate military intervention in 1966, three regional governments as well as the central government led by Prime Minister Tafawa Balewa had



In Nigeria we assume notoriety for wasteful outlandish private weddings, funerals, chieftaincy tittles auctions and all that are private vanities. We are commonwealth shy and development blind.

laid solid foundation for Nigeria industrial development with unprecedented consistent growth rate of 12%, that beat the UN target rate. The first, second and third development plans, established industrial estates, first generation universities and diversified economy. Nigeria was plunged into unfortunate, civil war in which as many as one million died. But after the war in 1970, Nigeria initiated unprecedented reconciliation in Africa, again less than a decade. Muritala regime further demonstrated that it is not how long but how focused and purposeful. That regime served for 7 months that witnessed activist governance strong leadership character and the radical reforms in domestic and foreign policies.

It is what we have done before. Nigeria must make this decade a win-win one with uninterrupted power supply, functional manufacturing sector, uninterrupted university calendar and full employment. We already missed vision 2010, we dare not lose out on vision 2020, again less than a decade from today. Nelson Mandela in 2003 told South Africans at anniversary that "It is now ten years since the fall of apartheid government, and we cannot blame apartheid for being tardy. By this stage we should have overcome being late all the time". Mandela's admonition has proved useful for South Africa. SA beats us to host FIFA soccer tournament in 2010 (despite the historic fact that we helped to liberate South Africa, less than two decades ago). What is good for South Africa is even better for Nigeria. Time is development.

A decade cannot therefore be overstated in the life of a nation serious and committed to

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CONDOLENCE



LATE ALHAJI TUKUR UMAR DANGALADIMA
(Iyan Birnin Magaji)

On behalf of myself, the entire staff, emirs and chiefs and local government chairmen in Zamfara State, i wish to register our heartfelt condolences over the death of the immediate past Commissioner, Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs and Commissioner of Water Resources, Alhaji Tukur Umar Dangaladima [*Iyan Birnin Magaji*] to the Executive Governor of Zamfara State, Alhaji Mahmud Aliyu Shinkafi, State Executive Council, family of the deceased and the entire people of Birnin Magaji local government.

May Allah grant him Aljanna Firdausi, Ameen.

Signed by:

ALHAJI ISIYAKA MUHAMMAD ZURMI

Commissioner Ministry for Local Government
and Chieftaincy Affairs, Gusau, Zamafara State



INTERNATIONAL

Music stars drum for peace in Sudan

DRUMMERS from Pink Floyd, Radiohead and The Police joined other musicians at the weekend to drum for peace in Sudan as part of an international campaign to press world leaders to prevent more bloodshed in Africa's largest nation.

The Sudan 365 campaign calls "on global leaders to take urgent diplomatic action over the next 365 days to prevent all-out conflict returning to Sudan," a statement by the organisers said.

It came as Sudan quietly marked the fifth anniversary of the North-South Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) which ended a devastating 22-year war between majority Muslim north Sudan and the mainly Christian and animist south.

The CPA also paves the way for Sudan to hold its first general election in 24 years in April ahead of a key referendum on southern independence in 2011. Celebrity drummers took part in a "beat for peace" film featuring a drum-roll starting in the war-ravaged nation "and being picked up and passed like a baton between drummers in over 15 countries" -- including Brazil, Egypt, France, Japan, South Africa and the United States.

The drummers included Radiohead's Phil Selway, Stewart Copeland of The Police, Nick Mason of Pink Floyd, as well as Egyptian musicians Yehia Khalil and Mohammed Munir and Ghana's Mustapha Tettey Addy. Nine organisations including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the US group Save Darfur joined efforts to organise the campaign along with the drummers.

In London, around 150 people gathered outside Prime Minister Gordon Brown's Downing Street office, drumming loudly and calling for peace in Sudan. "I wanted to be involved in this project because I think music is such a powerful way of bringing people together," Selway was quoted as saying. "Hopefully this film will show that together people can make a huge noise and through this film I hope people's focus will be brought back to what is happening in the Sudan over this very important next year," Selway said.

Five years after the end of the north-south civil war, the political situation remains tense between the two sides while south Sudan continues to be rocked by bloodshed and deadly tribal clashes.

The United Nations mission in Sudan said on Saturday it was concerned over a flare-up of violence in southern Sudan that has cost at least 150 lives over the past two weeks, mostly in inter-tribal bloodshed.

Angola: Cabinda separatist says more attacks possible

A pro-independence leader in northern Angola says the attack on Togo's soccer team on its way to an international tournament was sparked by frustration that could lead to more violence.

In a telephone interview

yesterday, Tiburcio Tati Tchinguob, minister of defense in the self-declared Federal State of Cabinda, denied responsibility for the January 8 shooting that killed an assistant coach and spokesman for the Togo-

lese team and the Angolan bus driver. He says his group had no objection to the African Cup of Nations tournament, which started later yesterday, but he was concerned about possible further attacks.

"The tournament can go on, but we are worried about security," Tchinguob said.

Togo's team said yesterday they are withdrawing from the tournament for security reasons.



THE attack took place in the oil-rich enclave of Cabinda in Angola



SHOCKED Togo players comfort each other after the bloody attack on their bus



ANGOLAN police escorts the bus carrying Ghana's soccer team, after three people were killed when the Togo national team bus came under fire as it travelled through a section of Angola plagued by separatist violence.

Algerian security forces kill 10 militants

ALGERIAN security forces have killed 10 Islamist rebels in an ambush, state radio reported yesterday. The security forces, acting on a tip off, ambushed the insurgents at the weekend in the region

of M'sila, 400 km (250 miles) east of Algiers, the radio report said. It said that a "large quantity" of weapons had been seized during the operation.

Insurgents operating under

the name al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb carry out sporadic bombings and kidnappings in Algeria, though the level of violence has subsided dramatically in the past few years.

Officials say that they have killed or captured hundreds of the insurgents while many others have been persuaded to lay down their arms, leaving only a small hardcore of active fighters

International

Yemen ready to dialogue with al-Qaida

YEMEN'S president said he is ready to open a dialogue with al-Qaida fighters who lay down their weapons and renounce violence, despite US pressure to crack down on the terror group.

The United States has complained in the past that Yemen struck deals with al-Qaida fighters and freed them from prison after they promised not to engage in terrorism. Some later broke those promises and are now believed to be active in al-Qaida's offshoot in Yemen.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh vowed that his government is "determined to stand up to the challenges" of al-Qaida and that

his security forces will track down as many al-Qaida fighters as possible among those who refuse to stop violence. But he left the door open for negotiations.

"Dialogue is the best way ... even with al-Qaida, if they set aside their weapons and return to reason," he said in an interview with Abu Dhabi TV aired at the weekend. "We are ready to reach (an) understanding with anyone who renounces violence and terrorism."

The Obama administration says al-Qaida in Yemen has become a global threat after it allegedly plotted a failed attempt to bomb a U.S. passenger jet on

Christmas Day.

Washington has dramatically beefed up counterterrorism funds and training for Yemen to fight the terror group, and last month Yemeni forces carried out its heaviest strikes in years on al-Qaida strongholds.

But Saleh's government has been weakened by the multiple wars and crises in the impoverished, fragmented nation. Mistrust of the United States is widespread among the population, as is Islamic extremism. So the government is wary that an overly harsh assault on al-Qaida — especially with overt American help — could raise opposition.

Hundreds of al-Qaida fighters, foreigners and Yemenis, are believed to be sheltered in Yemen's mountainous regions where tribes angry at the central government hold sway. Yemenis in the group have tribal links that make it difficult for security forces to pursue them for fear of angering the well-armed tribes.

The regime has also struck alliances with hardline Islamists to ensure their followers' support. In a prayer sermon on Friday, Sheik Abdul-Majid al-Zindani, one of the country's most prominent clerics, railed against U.S. pressure to fight al-Qaida, accusing Washington and the United

Nations of seeking to "impose an international occupation of Yemen."

The U.S. has labeled al-Zindani "a specially designated global terrorist" for alleged links to al-Qaida. But he is a close ally of Saleh, and the government denies he is a member of the terror group.

One al-Qaida sympathizer, Ali Mohammed Omar, warns that "any movement against al-Qaida will lead to the fall of the Yemeni regime," because it will be stretched between counterterrorism, its ongoing war against Shiite rebels in the north and secessionist turmoil in the south.

Abu Dhabi sheik in torture trial found innocent

A member of the United Arab Emirates ruling family being tried in connection with the videotaped beating of an Afghan man was cleared of all charges yesterday. Presiding judge Sheik Mubarak al-Awad pronounced Sheik Issa bin Zayed Al Nahyan "innocent" of all charges in a UAE criminal court in the oasis city of Al Ain.

The case has drawn intense scrutiny not only because Sheik Issa is half brother of the Emirati president, but also because the graphic beating was videotaped.

The tape surfaced last year in a U.S. lawsuit by Issa's former business associate, Texas businessman Bassam Nabulsi. He is suing Issa for millions of dollars he claimed he was owed for various business deals.

The tape shows a suspect, identified as Issa, viciously beating a man said to be the Afghan worker in an empty stretch of the desert. The defense alleged Nabulsi had the torture filmed in order to blackmail Issa. The victim, identified as Afghani grain dealer Mohammed Shapoor, survived the beatings.

The defense argued that Sheik Issa was left disoriented and impaired by a combination of dozens of drugs, including medicine for heart and back conditions. The list of drugs was submitted to the court, but not made public.

Last month, a forensics expert put on the stand by the defense testified that the mixture of drugs could cause "anger, suicidal tendencies, depression, aggression and loss of memory."



AN Israeli border police officer kicks a Palestinian demonstrator during a protest over a disputed water well in the West Bank village of Deir Netham near Ramallah.

Israel blames Palestinians for impasse in talks

ISRAEL'S prime minister yesterday accused the Palestinians of holding up the Mideast peace process, after Washington's Mideast envoy suggested the U.S. might impose sanctions on Israel to press it to make additional concessions.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's comments appeared to reflect concern that Israel is being perceived as the reason for the yearlong deadlock. U.S. envoy George Mitchell is expected in the region later this month in his latest attempt to bring the sides back to the negotiating table. Mitchell alarmed Israeli officials by suggesting last week that the U.S.

could use financial pressure to extract new concessions from the Israelis. "Under American law, the United States can withhold support on loan guarantees to Israel," Mitchell told PBS interviewer Charlie Rose, noting that the previous administration of George W. Bush had done so. But he quickly added that he preferred persuasion to sanctions.

Under the Bush administration, Israel received billions of dollars in guarantees, which are U.S.-backed loans with favorable interest rates. In 2003, the U.S. whittled down the guarantees because Israel built part of its separation barrier inside the West

Bank, rather than completely along it on the Israeli side. The threat dominated Israeli news-casts and prompted Netanyahu's office to issue a statement pinning the blame for the negotiations logjam on the Palestinians.

"Everyone realizes that the Palestinian Authority refuses to renew peace talks, while Israel took significant steps to advance the process," the statement said.

The Palestinians have refused to restart negotiations with Israel until Netanyahu freezes all settlement construction in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, areas they claim for an independent state. Israel captured both areas

in the 1967 Mideast war.

Netanyahu has imposed a 10-month slowdown on new construction in the West Bank in a bid to draw the Palestinians back to negotiations. But the order does not include east Jerusalem, the Palestinians' would-be capital. Israel claims all of Jerusalem as its capital, and Netanyahu has said he would not agree to divide the holy city.

Leila Ghannam, the acting governor of Ramallah, confirmed the plan to name the square after Dalal Mughrabi, but said the national Palestinian leadership had nothing to do with the decision.

International

Sri Lankan president woos Tamils

SRI Lanka's president yesterday took his re-election campaign to the Tamil heartland of Jaffna for his first visit to the peninsula since troops crushed separatist Tamil Tiger rebels in May.

Mahinda Rajapakse vowed to step up reconstruction efforts in the former war zone and promised speedy re-settlement of tens of thousands of Tamil civilians displaced by last year's bloody

offensive against the rebels.

"The president moved about freely and spoke with the civilians," his spokesman Chandrapala Liyanage said. "He also met with Hindu and Catholic leaders who

thanked him for removing travel restrictions to Jaffna."

Rajapakse's visit follows a similar campaign trip to Jaffna by his main rival, former army chief Sarath Fonseka, ahead of the election

on January 26.

The minority Tamils, who constitute 12.5 percent of the country's 20 million population, could be decisive if the majority Sinhalese vote is split.

Both Rajapakse and Fonseka, who was the main military architect of the Tigers' defeat, are members of the Sinhalese majority and both look on the community as their vote base. Fonseka's supporters said new government concessions to the Tamils were no more than an "election gimmick".

The opposition People's Liberation Front (JVP), which backs Fonseka, said Rajapakse had released 713 Tamil Tiger suspects on Saturday in a desperate bid for votes.

"There is no transparent basis for the release," JVP spokesman Anura Kumara Dissanayake told reporters. "We want to know on what basis they are still holding over 11,000 people in custody."

The army announced that 713 out of 12,000 Tamil Tiger combatants in detention were released at a ceremony attended by the president in the northern district of Vavuniya at the weekend.

The Tigers, who had fought for a separate Tamil homeland since 1972, were defeated by government troops eight months ago when the military killed guerrilla leader Velupillai Prabhakaran. Between 80,000 and 100,000 people were killed in nearly four decades of ethnic bloodshed.

The United Nations estimated that 7,000 mainly Tamil civilians perished in the first four months of last year before the fighting eventually ended. Rajapakse called the presidential election two years ahead of schedule in a bid to benefit from public acclaim for his government's victory over the Tigers.



SRI Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse (L) officially frees an unidentified former Tamil Tiger combatant in the northern district of Vavuniya, yesterday.

UK reporter, US Marine killed in Afghan blast

AN explosion outside a small village in southern Afghanistan claimed the life of a veteran British war correspondent, officials said yesterday. It was the British media's first casualty in the conflict. The blast, which also killed a US and an Afghan soldier with whom *Sunday Mirror* journalist Rupert Hamer was traveling, brings the number of reporters who have died in Afghanistan since the Sept. 11 attacks to 18, according to figures kept by the

New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists.

"Tragically it was a matter of time," former British forces commander Col. Richard Kemp told Sky News television. "Our journalists, the same as other journalists, our British journalists deploying on operations with forces in Afghanistan or Iraq face exactly the same risks as our soldiers face out there."

Hamer, 39, and photographer Philip Coburn, 43, were accompa-

nying a U.S. Marine patrol Saturday when their vehicle was hit by a makeshift bomb near the village of Nawa in Helmand, the Defense Ministry said. An U.S. Marine was also killed in the blast, the ministry said, as was an Afghan soldier. Coburn was seriously wounded in the explosion but remains in stable condition, the military said. Four U.S. Marines were also left badly hurt. No further detail was provided on their condition.

The past year has been par-

ticularly deadly for those fighting the war and those covering it. Canadian journalist Michelle Lang died late last year while embedded with Canadian troops in Afghanistan. An Afghan translator for *The New York Times*, Sultan Munadi, was killed in September when during a rescue operation.

The *Sunday Mirror* said that Hamer and Coburn had flown to the region on New Year's Eve and were embedded with the

American military. Their trip was to have lasted for a month, the paper said. Both were veterans of reporting from conflict zones. It was Hamer's fifth excursion to Afghanistan, while Coburn had previously reported from Afghanistan, Iraq and Rwanda.

"He was extremely good at getting news, and he really understood the armed forces," Newton Dunn told the BBC. "And was never afraid to go out to places like Afghanistan or Iraq."

Man arrested after acid attack in Hong Kong

POLICE arrested a man early yesterday after two bottles of corrosive liquid were hurled into a crowd at one of Hong Kong's famous tourist spots, officials said. At least 30 people were injured in the city's latest acid attack.

The victims, including children and tourists, were all treated at local hospitals for burns and other injuries and released. The liquid was thrown on them Sat-

urday night near Temple Street, a densely populated district known for its outdoor shops and restaurants in the city's Kowloon area. Hong Kong has seen a series of similar attacks since December 2008 that have injured more than 100 people. The suspect has not been formally charged, and the investigation is ongoing, Mak said. She did not say if he was also suspected in other attacks.

Video links Pakistan Taliban to deadly CIA bombing

IN a video broadcast after his death, the Jordanian suicide bomber who killed seven CIA employees sits cross-legged on the floor next to the new chief of the Pakistani Taliban, confirming the group was behind the brazen attack in eastern Afghanistan.

Yet multiple insurgent groups have claimed responsibility for the bombing, and a senior Pakistani militant told *The Associated Press* that al-Qaida and Afghan Taliban fighters were also involved in one

of the worst attacks in the U.S. intelligence agency's history.

The suicide attack inside the CIA base — which the bomber said was meant to avenge the death of the former Pakistani Taliban leader in a CIA missile strike — could prompt the U.S. to further pressure the government of Pakistan to crack down on militants who operate on both sides of the Afghan-Pakistani border. U.S. missile strikes against targets on the Pakistan side already are on

the rise.

Seven CIA employees and a Jordanian intelligence officer were killed Dec. 30 when the suicide bomber detonated his cache of explosives at Camp Chapman, a tightly secured CIA base in Khost province, a dangerous region southeast of the Afghan capital Kabul.

Defending his agents, CIA Director Leon Panetta said the bomber was about to be searched before the blast occurred.



NATIONAL ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL DALA - KANO

INVITATION FOR APPOINTMENT INTERVIEW

The following candidates that applied for appointment to various positions advertised in the Daily Trust and Vanguard Newspapers of 21st October, 2009 at the National Orthopaedic Hospital Dala Kano are hereby invited for the recruitment exercise on the dates indicated below:

* WEDNESDAY 27th JANUARY, 2010

TIME: 10.00am

Asst. Chief Admin. Officer

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Garba Mohd. B.	Kebbi	2.	Mohammed Abdullahi Yerima	Kano
3.	Abubakar G. Hussani	Gombe			

Resident Doctors

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Akwada Obioma R.	Abia	2.	Dr. Ikechi Oereke	Abia
3.	Dr. Memeh Kelvin Onyeka	Delta	4.	Dr. Ismaila A.O	Kogi
5.	Dr. Essien Uto Ifioke	Akwa-Ibom	6.	Dr. Afolabi Anthony	Ondo
7.	Dr. Ayeni Folajuwon B.	Ekiti	8.	Dr. Arojuaraye Soliudeen	Oyo
9.	Dr. Agbedo Desmond E.	Edo	10.	Kassim Anthony Nakolo	Delta
11.	Dr. Ayinde Ayobami Musliu	Oyo	12.	Bashir M. Adebayo	Ogun
13.	Dr. Umar Abubakar Ibrahim	Kano	14.	Dr. Neku Richard	Cross River
15.	Dr. Kabiru Salisu	Kaduna	16.	Dr. Sale Mansur Ashafa	Kano
17.	Dr. Sani Abdullahi Tsoho	Kano	18.	Dr. Wasiu Oseni A.	Osun
19.	Dr. Odunze Samuel U.	Imo	20.	Dr. (Mrs) Zanaib Odunanye	Kogi
21.	Dr. Bello Mohammed	Kano	22.	Dr. Oloye Ernest A.	Edo
23.	Dr. Kabiru Bello	Katsina			

Medical Officer

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Abdulrazak Mohammed	Kano	2.	Dr. Omofere A. J.	Edo
3.	Ameh Abel Abu	Benue	4.	Dr. Ogbiti Mark I.	Edo
5.	Kassim Abdulmumini Maikudi	Kogi	6.	Dr. Siyaka Otaru Suleiman	Kogi
7.	Dr. Palmer Henry O.	Delta	8.	Dr. Oseji Florence O.	Delta
9.	Dr. Ridwan Ayodeji Salawu	Oyo	10.	Dr. Okitipi Eyitemi	Delta
11.	Dr. Zubairu Asimau	Nassarawa	12.	Dr. Oluwatoyin Folake Oke	Osun
13.	Dr. Zuhairu Usman Danjuma	Kano	14.	Dr. Lamidi Kehinde	Kwara
15.	Dr. Ayinde Ayobami Musliu	Ogun	16.	Dr. Mue Amaju	Delta
17.	Dr. Macheal A. Olagbenro	Osun	18.	Dr. Ovanshe E.O	Kogi
19.	Dr. Alhassan A. Sharif	Kano	20.	Dr. Aremu K. Suleiman	Kwara
21.	Dr. Suleimon Kazeem O.	Kwara	22.	Dr. Akut Daniel	Kaduna
23.	Dr. Olaoye Remilekun	Kwara	24.	Taiwo I.A.	Ogun
25.	Akeem Mohammad Kogi		26.	Dr. Mrs Taiwo N.A	Ogun
27.	Uthman Kazeem Abimbola	Osun	28.	Dr. Peter Otaro	Kogi
29.	Dr. Nakkana Usman N.	Kogi	30.	Igboayaku K. Ntloomchukwu	Imo

Principal Confidential Secretary

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Obomeile Mutalib Osikhena	Edo	2.	Immanuel Nda El-Shaddal	Kogi
3.	Moses Roseline Aina	Delta	4.	Yawale Musa Mato	Yobe

Executive Officer Admin.

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Ijeleh Eremona Friday	Kogi	59.	Fatima Aliyu Kogi	
2.	Agber Agwaza	Benue	60.	Daramola Peter	Kogi
3.	Salihu Suleiman	Kano	61.	Aleshinloye Mashood Kunle	Kwara
4.	Pwol Steven Chai	Plateau	62.	Audu Momoh	Kogi
5.	Cecilia Lyop Davou	Plateau	63.	Ibrahim Oguogbole	Nassarawa
6.	Emmanuel Luka Daloyop	Plateau	64.	Rukayya Mu'azu	Kwara
7.	Yunusa Yahaya Muhd	Kogi	65.	Abdulrazak Abdulganiyu	Kwara
8.	Damulak Chinmu K Stephen	Plateau	66.	Risikat Hussain Bolawe	Kogi
9.	Yakubu Muhd	Niger	67.	James Adepemi	Kogi
10.	Abu Adams	Benue	68.	Balogun Sherifat	Kwara
11.	Miss Monica Yongu	Benue	69.	Abdullahi Idris Suleiman	Kogi
12.	Akwai A Adisan	Plateau	70.	Ibrahim Emmanuella	Kogi
13.	Victoria Ivom	Benue	71.	Yusif Kabiru Magaji	Kano
14.	Jongshwan shtinan	Plateau	72.	Mu'ayyad Adamu	Jigawa
15.	Hannah Benson	Nassarawa	73.	Abdu brahim	Kano
16.	Paul O. Ianyetan	Kogi	74.	Hudu Tijjani Dahiru	Kano
17.	Mohmud Adamu	Kogi	75.	Salisu Nasiru	Kano
18.	Abdul Eyiro Yakubu	Kogi	76.	Abubakar Muhd	Kano
19.	Lawal Hassan A.	Kwara	77.	Nasiru Baba Kwali	Kano
20.	Micheal Arokoyo	Kogi	78.	Ahmed Abubakar Ma'aruf	Kano
21.	Abubakar Isahochiba	Kogi	79.	Muhd Wada	Kano
22.	Sulaiman O. Alhassan	Kogi	80.	Hadiza Musa Iiyasu	Kano
23.	Vrengdang Caleb Dasar	Plateau	81.	Yusuf Muhd D/Zungura	Kano
24.	Abubakar Bello Dabai	Katsina	82.	Umar Sani Yola	Kano
25.	Jamilu Muhd	Kano	83.	Hussani Baffa	Jigawa
26.	Sunusi Ibrahim Na'ibi	Kano	84.	Aminu Abdulaziz	Kaduna
27.	Bello Tafida	Kaduna	85.	Mahmud G. Aliyu	Kano
28.	Mustapha Sani Yakasai	Kano	86.	Alau Samuel Audu	Kaduna
29.	Salisu Ali Harazimi	Kano	87.	Sunusi Ya'u Jibrin	Kano
30.	Sani Aito Danbatta	Kano	88.	Ibrahim Bashir Muhd	Kano
31.	Isyaku Abubakar Saiahuudeen	Kano	89.	Baffa Shehu Adamu	Kano
32.	Nasir M. Bichi	Kano	90.	Abubakar Rabi Aliyu	Kano
33.	Salisu Sani D/Hassan	Kano	91.	Rabi Sani Daba	Kano
34.	Bashir Hamisu	Jigawa	92.	Mohammed Lawan	Kano
35.	Nura Hashim Usman	Kano	93.	Yahaya Sani Kaduna	Kano
36.	Sabiu Ahmed	Kano	94.	Audu Hussaini Bawa	Nassarawa
37.	Auwalu Dahir Ahmed	Kano	95.	Abdul kadir Aminu	Kano
38.	Ahmad Abubakar	Zamfara	96.	Basiru Muhd. Almajiri	Katsina
39.	Umar Mohammed	Kogi	97.	Hassan Sani	Kano
40.	Aminu Rabi U.	Kano	98.	Yusif Abubakar Bashir	Kano
41.	Bashir Kawu	Kano	99.	Auwalu Abdullahi	Kano
42.	Abubakar Muhammed Nafiti	Kano	100.	Lubabatu Kabir	Kano
43.	Kamaludeen Aminu	Kano	101.	Haladu Garba Nuhu	Kano
44.	Owolabi Adijat	Osun	102.	Mustapha Bello Abbas	Kano
45.	Ahmed Sani	Kaduna	103.	Abdullahi Mohammed	Kano
46.	Jonathan Bakoma Samaila	Kaduna	104.	Sa'id Hussaini	Kano
47.	Ngazi J. Ubanzeh	Imo	105.	Nwankwo Deborah Obianuju	Anambra
48.	Okoh Faith Nneka	Delta	106.	Anyanwu Ijeoma Glory	Imo
49.	Etemi Idorenyin Edem	Akwa-Ibom	107.	Florence Onyediri	Imo
50.	Adegabye A Adeniyi	Osun	108.	Augustine Onyekwere Oluoma	Imo
51.	Ojutayo Lutifat Olayemi	Lagos	109.	Akure David S.	Kogi
52.	Salami Abdulganiyu	Oyo	110.	Alao Richard Abajomi	Oyo
53.	Shoroye Iyabode (Mrs)	Ogun	111.	Ramson Temitope Abisola	Ogun
54.	Maryam Bako Sa'udu	Lagos	112.	Olarinde Shakirat K.	Kwara
55.	Oguntola Oluwole	Oyo	113.	Kayode Femi Esuruso	Ogun

56.	Mbonu Solomon Uzo Dinma	Imo	114.	Sabdat O. Audu	Kogi
57.	Olawale J. Olufemi	Oyo	115.	Suleiman Abdulkareem	Zamfara
58.	Yetunde Araba	Ogun	116.	Mohammed Ali	Kano

Executive Officer Accounts

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Aminu Idris Muhammed	Kano	2.	Ibrahim Mu'azu Shuaibu	Kano
3.	James Toba Badiru	Kwara	4.	Haruna Usman Adamu	Kano
5.	Hafsat Kehinde Mustapha	Kwara	6.	Ali Isa Umar Kano	
7.	Sunday D. Abuh	Kogi	8.	Mustapha Suleiman	Jigawa
9.	Yakubu Muhammed Gambo	Kogi	10.	Muzammitu Jibril	Kano
11.	Musa Raimi Ojo	Kogi	12.	Muzakkir Rabi	Kano
13.	Adetoye Bosede Funmilayo	Kwara	14.	Yahaya Hassan Katsina	Katsina
15.	Khalil Ajana Yusuf	Kogi	16.	Abdullahi Zakariyya	Kano
17.	Sara Usman	Kwara	18.	Mohammed Isah	Gombe
19.	Aminu Ahmed Adamu	Kano	20.	Shehu Aliyu Usman	Kano
21.	Nura Iiyasu Garba	Kano	22.	Ibrahim Mohd Abdullahi	Kano
23.	Bashir Iiyasu Yahaya	Kano	24.	Adamu Aliyu	Kano
25.	Ibrahim Idris	Katsina	26.	Tijjani Ibrahim	Kano
27.	Saisu Mudi Tahir	Kano	28.	Hamisu Garba Mohd	Kano
29.	Bashir Tahir Mohammed	Kano	30.	Bello Musa Yakasai	Kano
31.	Iiyasu Abdullahi	Kano	32.	Nwundu Stella C.	Imo
33.	Musa Mohd Ishaq	Kano	34.	Ono Mary Jane	Enugu
35.	Nura Tijjani Abdullahi	Kano	36.	Esther Amao Olajumoke	Oyo
37.	Idris S. Muhammed	Kano	38.	Waliyat Oladele Miss	Osun
39.	Sadiq Sani Sadiq	Kano	40.	Adepoju Funmiola Rachael	Oyo
41.	Rabi M. Haruna	Kano	42.	Bukola Olayemi Okeremi (Mrs)	Osun
43.	Mahadi Datti	Kano	44.	Justina Joshua	Akwa-Ibom

Senior Dietician

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Hauwa Adebayo	Borno			

Nurse Tutor

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Dyges E. Obadiah	Kaduna	2.	Olorukooba Halima Abiola	Kwara
3.	Dauka Itimi J.	Kaduna	4.	Eluwa Chinma Grace	Abia
5.	Olajide Emmanuel Temitayo	Kwara	6.	Sani Ahmed	Kano
7.	Mba Chioma Judith	Imo	8.	Hauwa Bashir	Kaduna

Imaging Scientist

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Ekpo Ernest Usang	Cross-River			

Pharmacist

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Onwuchuruba I. Hilary	Imo	2.	Patrick Paul Pama	Kaduna
3.	Tangshak Zuman	Plateau	4.	Peter Emmanuel N.	Nassarawa
5.	Ndiukwu Felicitas Chibugo	Anambra	6.	Anyanwu (Mrs.) Mubo Oluseun	Kogi
7.	Imam Tawakkatu Tahir (Mrs.)	Kogi	8.	Ungo Kore Hussain Yahaya	Nassarawa
9.	Mustapha Kasim	Bauchi	10.	Isibor Okhai	Edo
11.	Abubakar B. Abiola	Kwara			

Physiotherapist

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Ibrahim Chiroma Muhd	Kano	2.	Mr. Mmone Jude	Anambra
3.	Uwaezoake Juliet	Anambra	4.	Ikeukwumere Ngozi	Abia
5.	Fasanya Oladotun	Oyo	6.	Oritsemajemite Rita Oshevire	Delta
7.	Adekunle Kolawole	Ogun	8.	Abdullahi Yakubu Muazu	Kano
9.	Oladiji Josiah O	Ogun	10.	Muhd Mukhtar Ismail	Kano
11.	Ahmed Haruna Umar	Nassarawa	12.	Adamu Ahmad Adamu	Kano
13.	Nwabufoh Jane Nwanneka	Anambra	14.	Mukhtar Nasiru Bashir	Kano
15.	Hajara Asabe Umar	Kogi	16.	Chuma George Odika	Anambra
17.	Sani Abdullahi Usman	Katsina			

* THURSDAY 28th JANUARY 2010

TIME: 10.00am

Senior Internal Auditor

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Aminu Lawan	Kano	2.	Ishaaku Obadiah	Plateau
3.	Samuel A. Peter	Edo	4.	Sani Saidu	Kano
5.	Rabi U. Adekola	Osun	6.	Bature Musa D.	Plateau
7.	Dauda Mohd	Kano			

Senior Public Relation Officer

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Rabi Mohammed Inuwa	Kano	2.	Bello Abubakar	Katsina

Auditor I

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Muhammed Abubakar	Kano	2.	Sani Kabiru Said	Niger
3.	Akinpelu John Olawale	Ogun	4.	Oyfe N. Lazarus	Nassarawa
5.	Otogo James Akanyi	Cross River	6.	Hamisu Ali Yakasai	Kano
7.	Nura Ahmed Ishaq	Kano	8.	Abubakar Sagir K.	Kano
9.	Gaksewa G. Gothus	Plateau	10.	Hamisu Muhd Garko	Kano
11.	Fatima M. Kawu	Kano	12.	Fatima M. Kawu	Kano
13.	Muhd. A. Lawan	Kano	14.	Aisha Maiwada	Kano
15.	Jamilu Salisu	Kano	16.	Adejimi Abosede O.	Kwara
17.	Adamu Muhd Adam	Jigawa	18.	Musa Ali Kudi	Kogi
19.	Manwan Julian Hosea	Plateau	20.	Felicitas Chris O.	Enugu
21.	Madaki Hamza Yahaya	Kano	22.	Abubakar Yahaya	Katsina
23.	Zubairu Saidu Sani	Kogi	24.	Samuel C. Brown	Bayelsa
25.	Mr. Memuda Ismaila	Kwara	26.	Salamat Ibrahim	Kogi

Admin. Officer Legal

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Sherifat Agbeke Adenuga	Kwara	2.	Tajudeen Adeleke Salawudeen	Kwara
3.	Ali Abba Hassan	Kano	4.	Jamilu Mohammed	Kano
5.	Amina Umar Hussain	Kano	6.	Kabir Abdullahi (Esq)	Kaduna
7.	Dauda Chui Ali	Borno	8.	Mrs Zainab Ishaq Muhd	Kano

Continued on next page...

INVITATION FOR APPOINTMENT INTERVIEW (Cont'd)

Medical Lab. Scientist

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Ozioko Fabian C.	Enugu	2.	Nancy Chabba	Kaduna
3.	Adile Nnamdi	Anambra	4.	Anyanwu Stanley O.	Imo
5.	Shehu Musa	Adamu Kano	6.	Adama Solomon	Niger
7.	Tijani Tafida Usman	Plateau	8.	Blessing Adakole	Benue
9.	Usman Aliyu Danaji	Kano	10.	Anyanwu Ugochukwu O.	Imo
11.	Bobmanuel Chimaroke Echeonwu	Abia	12.	Muhammed Hassan A.	Ondo
13.	Alagbe Rhoda	Oyo	14.	Ganiyu Lukman O.	Osun
15.	Ejoh, Ojongojong	Cross - River	16.	Chinyere V. Obiejemba	Anambra
17.	Uche Rita Uwakwe (Mrs)	Enugu	18.	Amusa Olubumi	Ekiti
19.	Usman Yusuf	Plateau			

Accountant II

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Mensah Ade Francis	Ondo	2.	Aminu Musa D.	Kano
3.	Obaje Grace Ali	Benue	4.	Jamilu Sani Abdullahi	Jigawa
5.	Fatima Haruna	Kano	6.	Oladokun Olanrewaju	Ondo
7.	Abulkadir Ibrahim Nasidi	Kano	8.	Umar Idris Abdullahi	Kano
9.	Sule Momodu Rafatu	Edo	10.	Leke Davies Ogunbemi	Kogi
11.	Gbadamosi O. Mathew	Edo	12.	Jamila Maiwada	Kano
13.	Ibrahim Uthman	Oyo	14.	Shehu Musa Kabiru	Kano
15.	Danladi Abdullahi Muhammed	Kano	16.	Abdullahi Olanrewaju Adam	Kwara
17.	Mohammed Mamuda Ibrahim	Jigawa	18.	Umoru Aliyu	Kano
19.	Umaru Hussien Omeiza	Kogi	20.	Oseni Istaka Aedayo	Kogi
21.	Abdulmalik Mikoad	Kano	22.	Kabiru Abubakar	Kebbi
23.	Garba Isah Balarabe	Kano			
24.	Tume B. T.	Benue			
25.	Jibrin Isa Muhammed	Kano			
26.	Ali Kaseem Akinremi	Oyo			
27.	Akpowo O. Emmanuel	Delta	27.	Ozoh Helen Chinyere	Enugu
28.	Ojobor Walter Ejiofor	Enugu	29.	Omaka Ebube	Ebonyi
29.	Sale Mijine	Nassarawa	31.	Taylor Temitope	Ogun
30.	Tukur Nassarawa Ahmed	Kano			
31.	Sanni Gbanga Leo	Edo			
32.	Balare Yusuf Sani	Kano			
33.	Damsa Doosuir Igo	Benue			
34.	Shuaibu Ibrahim Ali	Kano			
35.	Yunusa Thomas	Kaduna			
36.	Aliyu Umar	Kano			
37.	Adam Shehu Ahmed	Niger			
38.	Assi Mfon Edet	Akwa-Ibom	41.	Yahaya Abdu Bichi	Kano
39.	Mustapha Abdullahi Kofar Naisa	Kano			
40.	Salisu Ibrahim Khalil	Kano			
41.	Autaseth Matiala	Plateau	45.	Okpe Okpe Joseph	Benue
42.	Ukeka Sunday Ochiabuto	Abia	47.	Arinze Peace	Enugu
43.	Alhassan Adamu	Gombe	49.	Suleiman M. Rabi	Jigawa
44.	Nneka Ngene Francisca	Enugu	51.	Abdul Temitope Othunene	Kogi
45.	Hussaini Yusha'u Adam	Kano			
46.	Mri, Stephen Nenge	Anambra			
47.	Nuhu Abdullahi	Kano			
48.	Oluwasegun Stephen Toluli	Kogi			
49.	Garba Muhd Aminu	Kano			
50.	Adamu Abdullahi Suleiman	Kano			
51.	Ali Suleiman Saidu	Kano			
52.	Ibrahim Woli Danlami	Nassarawa			
53.	Odiba Paul Opaluwa	Kogi	61.	Yusuf Muhammed	Kano
54.	Salisu Danlami Ishaku	Kano			
55.	Abubakar Aliyu	Kaduna			
56.	Nwaigwe Salome N.	Abia	65.	Abubakar Bello A.	Kaduna
57.	Akubueze Jane Frances	Imo	67.	Mohammed Mahmud Ibrahim	Edo
58.	Ibrahim M. Muinat	Kwara	69.	Ruafai Saleh U.	Kano
59.	Ismaila Adamu Isah	Kano	71.	Sherifat Adetunla B.	Gombe
60.	Adediji B. Toyin	Osun	73.	Umar Muhammed Suleiman	Kano
61.	Isah Yakubu Yar-gaya	Kano			
62.	Ahmed Tukur Gwadabe	Kano			
63.	Agu Nkiruka C. Mrs.	Enugu	77.	Zamzilu Adu Jibril	Kano
64.	Gata Musa	Kaduna	79.	Rachael Makolo Elejo	Kogi
65.	Igni Omavigho Anthony	Delta	81.	Nwaodu Stella C.	Imo
66.	Mustapha Tajudeen	Kano	83.	Ndukwu Juliana C.	Not Stated
67.	Muhammed Abdulkadir Tabari	Kaduna	85.	Auwali Musa	Kano
68.	Ikeionwu Chioma Mareen	Anambra	87.	Abdullahi Umar	Kano
69.	Owoh, Hossana Danian	Akwa-Ibom	89.	Allen Elizabeth Adiya	Benue
70.	Onah Anne Ifeoma	Enugu	91.	Abdulkadir, Abdulkadir Yau	Kano
71.	Sanusi Aliyu Muhammed	Kano			
72.	Salihu Abdulrahman O.	Kogi			
73.	Daniya A. Abdulazeez	Kogi			

Medical Social Worker

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Sadiya Umar	Kogi	2.	Suleiman Hussaini	Kano
3.	Ayuba Boyi	Gombe			

Store Officer

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Hassan Mohammed Umar	Kano	10.	Rabiu A. Ritwanu	Kano
2.	Aliyu Musa	Kano	11.	Adamu Baba Isah	Nassarawa
3.	Aliyu Yusuf	Kano	12.	Umar Mansur Aminu	Kano
4.	Bala Zakari	Kano	13.	Falodun Faruk Ruth	Kogi
5.	Muntari Musa Umar	Kano	14.	Mukhtar Abubakar	Gombe
6.	Sagiru Ibrahim Ismail	Kano	15.	Ibrahim Yahaya Agibah	Kano
7.	Abdullahi Hamisu M	Kano	16.	Mohammed Umar Abdullahi	Kano
8.	Aminu Shuaibu Muhammed	Kano	17.	Isiyaku Usman Ali	Kano
9.	Bashir Ibrahim Ahmed	Kano	18.	Mohammed Y. Usman	Kwara

Technical Officer

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Alhassan Ali	Benue	2.	Mathias Pius	Kaduna
3.	Ibrahim Aminu Ibrahim	Kano	4.	Jibrin Aminu J.	Kano
5.	Umar Mohd Bello	Kano	6.	Nura Ahmed I.	Kano
7.	Bashir Aliyu	Kano	8.	Abubakar Hatadu Idris	Kano
9.	Mustapha I. Muhd	Kano	10.	Abdullahi Salamanu	Katsina
11.	Hassan Sani I.	Kano	12.	Amos Oluwagbemiga	Kogi
13.	Dashe Nansel	Plateau	14.	Sayyadi Aminu Jibrin	Kano
15.	Akpudje David Kingsley	Delta	16.	Gambo George	Kaduna
17.	Danladi Umar	Kano			

Staff Nurse

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Kpanaki Joy Mainoji	Kogi	2.	Shuaibu Mustapha	Kogi
3.	Gushat Mosat Sylvanus	Plateau	4.	Shafa'atu Adamu Bikos	Plateau
5.	Khadijat Abdulkarim	Kogi	6.	Patience N. Egwa	Kogi

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
7.	Kayode Onunipa	Kogi	8.	Iortor Aondowase	Benue
9.	Tyohulugh Terhile	Taraba	10.	Usu Julius Lortoo	Benue
11.	O moyola M. Abiodun	Kogi	12.	Bitrus Sunday Pam	Plateau
13.	Ngomi Andrew Addamun	Plateau	14.	Olorunmaye Alice	Kogi
15.	Usman Ibrahim Mohammed	Niger	16.	Nyior Elihah Terhema	Benue
17.	Sarah Yakubu	Borno	18.	Adamu Muhd	Niger
19.	Samson Byasmun Matep	Plateau	20.	Ominisaye O. Peter	Kogi
21.	Ogebebe L. Agbo	Benue	22.	Oye Ozavis Ife	Kogi
23.	Baballe Tani Josephh	Plateau	24.	Joyce Jonah Ashubwick	Plateau
25.	Wetkur P. Albert	Benue	26.	Istifanus Adamu Makama	Nassarawa
27.	Adanu James Oluche	Plateau	28.	Bolaji A. Janel	Kogi
29.	Nafisat Suleiman	Kogi	30.	Adeyemi Veronica Titilayo	Kogi
31.	Audu Faith Onyijimoh	Kogi	32.	Alexander G Jongs	Paleau
33.	Ukerchi Denen Joseph	Benue	34.	Aju Nor Jorrafaga	Benue
35.	Bala Victor Dame	Plateau	36.	Atsaga S. Terhema	Benue
37.	Attah James	Kogi	38.	Numoh Rafatu	Kogi
39.	Regina Owoicho	Benue	40.	Agbo Ibrahim Jibrin	Nassaawa
41.	Avvan, Alexander Hos	Benue	42.	Muhammed Amina	Kogi
43.	Dakum Joseph Dauda	Plateau	44.	Momoh Joseph Jimoh	Kogi
45.	Dafiwani Ruth Titos	Plateau	46.	Akor Oduma	Benue
47.	Amoko Mercy Abiodun	Kogi	48.	Godiya Jesiel Yaduma	Adamawa
49.	Gift Frank Gbali	Borno	50.	Ali Shettima	Borno
51.	Amos Kamba	Borno	52.	Bawa Gan Tijani	Borno
53.	Umar Yusuf Walama	Borno	54.	Hassan Mamuda	Yobe
55.	Audu Ishaya Mwada	Borno	56.	Alheri Mecher Musa	Borno
57.	John D. Musa	Borno	58.	Madinat Ibrahim H.	Jigawa
59.	Hannatu Daniel	Kaduna	60.	Jemimah Bulus Zakaria	Kaduna
61.	Jibril Adamu Ibrahim	Kano	62.	Adamu Ahmadu	Kano
63.	Zainab Abdulrazak	Kaduna	64.	Ndang Fanny	Kaduna
65.	Rebecca David Van	Kaduna	66.	Ibrahim Musa	Kano
67.	Hadiza Isa Yunusa	Katsina	68.	Yahaya Ibrahim	Kaduna
69.	Shehu Sabiu	Kano	70.	Abdullahi Mohd Sani	Kano
71.	Amina Adamu Salisu	Kano	72.	Amina Shariff	Kano
73.	Aminu Nura Abba	Kano	74.	Habiba Haruna Mohd	Kano
75.	Bilki Bala Waziri	Kano	76.	Ahmad Kabiru Shehu	Kano
77.	Mohammed Sani Adamu	Jigawa	78.	Nasiru M. Isah	Kano
79.	Alhassan Ali Lawal	Kano	80.	Ibrahim Garba	Kano
81.	Yusuf Zubairu	Kano	82.	Yakubu Deborah C.	Kano
83.	Mohammed Kabir	Kaduna	84.	Mohammed Abdulaziz Aliyu	Kano
85.	Salisu Ibrahim Baba	Kano	86.	Saleh Abubakar	Kano
87.	Jamila M. Yakubu	Kano	88.	Fatima Mudi	Kano
89.	Maryam Ali Salisu	Kano	90.	Ala Muhammed	Jigawa
91.	Grace Joseph	Kaduna	92.	Ahmed I. Lawan	Kano
93.	Yusuf Hamisu	Katsina	94.	Monica James	Kaduna
95.	Mohd Sa'id Ismail	Kano	96.	Mohd Maude Dalhatu	Kano
97.	Zagi Grace	Kaduna	98.	Clara Sani	Kaduna
99.	Mohammed Salisu	Kaduna	100.	Abubakar Ibrahim Sale	Kano
101.	Rabiu Abdulrasheed	Katsina	102.	Ibrahim Mamuda	Katsina
103.	Kabir Musa	Katsina	104.	Suzan Butus Habu	Kaduna
105.	Rahmatu Suleiman	Kano	106.	Zinatu Salisu Mohd	Kano
107.	Ibrahim Yakubu	Kano	108.	Kabir I. Ibrahim	Kano
109.	Hadiza Abdullahi Abubear	Kano	110.	Prita C. Ekpo	Abia
111.	Ekemutalu Onyeka V.	Anambra	112.	Obiola Maryciaret	Imo
113.	Blessing Ekwon	Imo	114.	Chukwu Charity U.	Imo
115.	Agulanna Lilian N	Imo	116.	Precious Ugwoegbuleni	Imo
117.	Geogelina K. Chimezie	Imo	118.	Lilian Okonkwo	Anambra
119.	Ani Lizzy Nkechi	Enugu	120.	Ezaji Francisca	Imo
121.	Obi C. Juliana	Anambra	122.	Nwachukwu Comfort	Abia
123.	Nneka Linda Madueke	Imo	124.	Ofudo Blessing Francisca	Enugu
125.	Kuru Eunice	Rivers	126.	Oliyia Madu	Borno
127.	Dunu Linda C.	Imo	128.	Linda C. Eze	Imo
129.	Agwuobi Kelechi	Imo	130.	Ezema Promise	Enugu
131.	Christian Nzeeko	Abia	132.	Agwuobi Chikaodi	Imo
133.	Okonkwo Florence A.	Enugu	134.	Ehimare Paul Isaac	Edo
135.	Maduabuchi Victor Chidi	Enugu	136.	Enene Harrison Aninze	Anambra
137.	Aloysius O. Okeke	Anambra	138.	Egwudiamla Chinedu Richard	Anambra
139.	Odengbo Sandra N.	Enugu	140.	Ugwuegbu Udoka G.	Imo
141.	Ugbebor A. Iwekosi	Delta	142.	Patrick Okwunre Amadi	Delta
143.	Henrietta U. Okpala	Delta	144.	Nwaoboli N. Theresa	Delta
145.	Uchechi B. Awazieama	River	146.	Okiokio Doris Efe	Delta
147.	Mary Clement O.	Delta	148.	Akesa Solomon U.	Cross-River
149.	Adeshiyun Mary O.	Oyo	150.	Amina Ali Ewegbuma	Edo
151.	Tope Akinlusi O.	Ondo	152.	Adekunle Esther	Kwara
153.	Abdulreem Saleem	Osun	154.	Bakare T. Alamu	Oyo
155.	Elizabeth Emmanuel Adeola	Osun	156.	Emmanuel Mary Mayawa	Ekiti
157.	Sarah Olayinka Awolola	Osun			
159.	Timothy D. Jatau	Plateau			

Nursing Officer II

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Ukende John Freeman		2.	Nwosu Geraldin A.	

SATURDAY 30th JANUARY, 2010 TIME: 10.00am

Asst. Director of Nursing

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Mrs. Bolanle O. Awonusi	Lagos			

Consultants Plastic Surgeon

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Dr. Dafiewhare O. Rex				

Chief Accountant

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Adeolu Sotonwa	Ogun	4.	Mohammed Sani Abdulwahab	Kano
2.	Adeleke Olugbenga	Osun	5.	Mohammed Sani Hudu	Kano
3.	Mua'zu Shitu Shanono	Kano	6.	Yusuf Abubakar	Kano

Chief Prosthetics & Orthotics

S/N	Name	State	S/N	Name	State
1.	Jafar M. Damau	Kaduna			

Please note that candidates are requested to come along with the original copies of their practicing licences where applicable and academic credentials. They are also to make arrangements for their transportation and accommodation.

The venue of all the appointment exercises is the New Ultra Modern Lecture Hall/Auditorium of the Hospital.

For further enquiries visit www.orthopaedicdata.org or call: 08060292871

Signed:
M.K. Abdulkadir
FOR: MEDICAL DIRECTOR

International

US denies any plane entered Venezuelan airspace

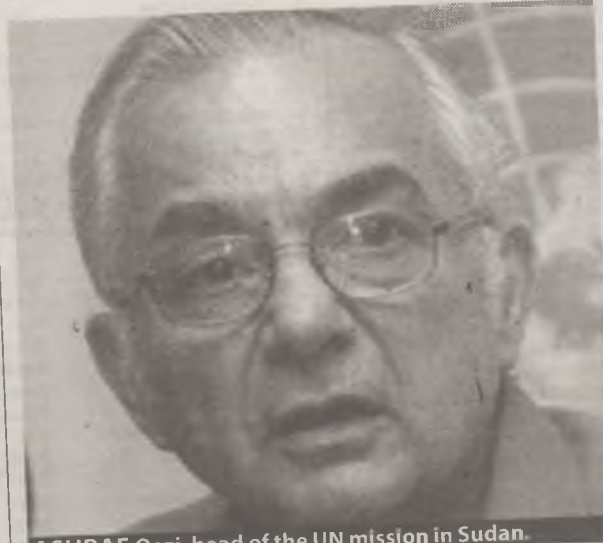
THE United States is denying a claim by President Hugo Chavez that a US military plane entered Venezuelan airspace. Chavez said the plane was met by his military's F-16s and escorted out of Venezuelan airspace.

The president is calling it a provocation by the US, saying the P-3 plane had taken off from the Dutch Caribbean island of Cura-

cao and twice entered Venezuelan airspace. A spokeswoman for the US Southern Command in Miami denied it.

Air Force Tech Sgt. Shanda De Anda said at the weekend that "no U.S. aircraft entered Venezuelan airspace."

She said the U.S. does not fly over another nation "without prior consent and coordination."



ASHRAF Qazi, head of the UN mission in Sudan.

UN 'concerned' over flare-up of violence in south Sudan

THE United Nations is concerned over the flare-up of violence in southern Sudan that has cost at least 150 lives over the past two weeks, a senior UN official said at the weekend.

Ashraf Qazi, head of the UN mission in Sudan, urged the south's regional

government "to investigate these incidents and to redouble their efforts to help de-escalate the rising wave of violence in southern Sudan."

Clashes between rival tribes over cattle raids in the southern state of Warrap claimed at least 140 lives around the turn of the year, a UN official in southern Sudan said earlier this week.

"The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) today expressed concern over the escalating violence in southern Sudan over the past couple of weeks where over 150 people have been reportedly killed and many more injured and displaced," said Qazi in a statement.

"UNMIS sent a team of peacekeepers to defuse tensions and help prevent reprisal attacks" in Warrap, he said.

"The team also has representatives of humanitarian agencies to initiate a humanitarian needs assessment on the ground especially for those who have been displaced due to the violence," he said. "Thousands have been reportedly displaced but these figures as well as those concerning the victims of the attacks still need to be verified."

Another 24 people were killed in clashes between civilian and southern Sudan soldiers in Lakes state in late December and early January, according to the UN mission.

"UNMIS offered to send peacekeeping troops to be present to help protect civilians during the rotations of SPLA companies that were involved in confrontations with civilian cattle-keepers" in Lakes, said Qazi.

He said UNMIS had helped to deliver government-provided humanitarian aid to Jonglei state after an attack in which several more civilians were killed.

Ten aid agencies warned in a report earlier this week that Sudan could plunge into fresh turmoil if the world community fails to salvage the North-South Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

The CPA -- which ended a devastating 22-year war between majority Muslim north Sudan and the mainly Christian and animist south -- entered its sixth year at the weekend.

The Questions?

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des Sols et le Développement
Agricole

BP 4483 Lome - Togo
Phone: (228) 221 7971
Website: www.ifdc.org

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

IFDC, an International Center for Soil Fertility and Agricultural Development seeks qualified candidates to fill the positions listed below. The vacancies are focused on providing support to agricultural policy improvements, providing improved agro-input linkages, and supporting on-going activities within IFDC Nigeria.

1. POSITION - PROJECT LEADER (ABUJA)

The Project Leader will have the overall responsibility of the day-to-day implementation of project activities focused on agro-dealer development. The Project Leader will be expected to develop a participatory system that ensures feedback from intervention sites to project operations and measures results and impact while at the same time ensuring effective project management.

Specific Duties

- o Oversee day-to-day functioning of the Project.
- o Oversee technical functioning of satellite offices and project supported agro-dealers.
- o Collaborate with other projects to ensure synchronization and harmony between various project interventions.
- o Interact with the project donor and deliver appropriate reports on a timely basis.
- o Collaborate with counterpart organizations and government officials on pertinent agricultural issues.

Experience/Qualifications

- o At least a Master Degree from a highly respected university in a relevant discipline or an equivalent training and background in agri-input related policy reform and advocacy;
- o Minimum of eight years of experience in a relevant field in West Africa, preferably Nigeria;
- o Proficiency in English, both written and verbal;
- o Proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint;
- o Ability to perform multiple tasks;
- o Excellent analytical, planning, and facilitation skills;
- o Effective interpersonal skills and ability to work in a multi-cultural environment;
- o Ability to interact freely with decision makers, farmer organizations and businessmen;
- o Ability and willingness to travel frequently.

The Project leader will report to IFDC's Agribusiness Program Leader.

2. POSITION - TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER SPECIALIST (ABUJA)

With funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IFDC is providing technical assistance through a five-year project for the implementation of major components of ECOWAS and UEMOA agricultural policies on agri-inputs. The project aims to contribute to the development of a sustainable and profitable agriculture in West Africa in order to reduce poverty and ensure food security. The project's activities focus on four areas of intervention, namely (i) facilitating the creation of a favorable policy and regulatory environment for the development of the agri-input markets, (ii) promoting innovations and stimulating increased agricultural inputs marketing and use, (iii) improving availability and access to technical and marketing information on agri-inputs; and (iv) improving Producers Organizations' access to agri-inputs.

The project component focusing on improving Producers Organizations' access to agri-inputs aims to strengthen their capacity through training and linking them with agro dealers. IFDC currently seeks suitable candidates for a position of Technology Transfer Specialist. The candidate selected will also work with members of the IFDC MIR Plus project and Agro Dealer Support Project (NADS) to develop programs that will contribute to the achievement of the objectives of these associations.

Specific Duties

- o Overall responsibility of the day-to-day implementation of the MIR Plus project's Strategic Objective No 4 (improving Producers Organizations' access to agri-inputs) and the NADS objective 4 (accelerating the transfer of technologies and agricultural practices by agro dealers to farmers through training, advice and demonstrations).
- o Provide technical assistance for the agronomic activities of State, Agro Dealers Association and Farmers' Organizations;
- o Oversee the association-supported technology transfer centers (TTCs) and supporting field days and training programs;
- o Provide yield and profitability analysis results from TTCs to member agro dealers as well as MIR Plus and NADS projects;
- o Collaborate with other agriculture stakeholders, ADPs, and private sector input suppliers in sourcing and transferring improved technologies;
- o Any other duties that may be assigned by the IFDC MIR Plus or NADS project leaders.

Experience/Qualifications

- o Minimum of BSc in agronomy or related fields.
- o 4-5 years proven field experience in agricultural technology transfer;
- o Excellent oral, written and inter personal and communication skills in English
- o Excellent ability to coordinate and foster good relationships with various private and public sector actors in the market chain.
- o Ability to design training and provide technical assistance to agro dealers and producers associations.

- o High level of initiative and enthusiasm.

3. POSITIONS (2) - DIRECTOR (KANO and TARABA)

The Agro-input Dealers Association (AIDA) in collaboration with the IFDC-Nigeria Agro-Dealer Support Project (NADS) are focused on encouraging agro-dealers to join the already established AIDA trade association and provide these associations with the organizational training to provide value-added services to their members and customers. Support will include the following: to advocating for policy reform, supporting access to finance, educating members, and generating revenue for financial self-sufficiency.

The Director will lead the team of specialists and experts employed by the association and coordinate their activities as the chief executive. This person will be the point person in building relationships with producers groups, input manufacturers, input dealers, public and private establishment and other stakeholders. He/she will run the day to day affairs of the association and ensure that all planned activities are done accordingly.

Specific Duties

- o Oversee staff and day to day activities of the Association.
- o Provide management and activity reports to IFDC Staff and the Association Board of Directors (BoDs).
- o Ensure smooth communication between staff, Association BoDs, members, potential members, government officials, input suppliers, and other stakeholders;
- o Ensure sound financial and membership records are maintained;
- o Work with BoDs and IFDC staff to develop an action plan for income generating activities with a primary goal of leading to the Association's sustainability;
- o Work with the Association staff to develop incentive based programs to ensure that members pay their dues in a timely manner;
- o Any other duties that may be assigned by the Board of Directors and/or IFDC officers.

Experience/Qualifications

- o High level of initiative and enthusiasm.
- o Minimum of Bsc in Public Administration, management and/or other job related fields.
- o 4-5 years proven experience in managing agribusiness development program/project;
- o Experience dealing with private sector agro-based organizations in the Northeast and Northwest preferred. Excellent oral, written and inter personal communication skills in English/Hausa including the ability to coordinate and foster good relationships with various private and public sector actors in the market chain.
- o Effective organizational skills, with the ability to coordinate information exchange and develop networking strategies.
- o Ability to coordinate staff functions, identify needs and design training to address staff deficiencies or improve their performances.

4. POSITION - AGRONOMIST (KANO)

The IFDC-Nigeria Agro-Dealer Support Project (NADS) is supporting the Kano State Agro-input Dealers Association (KASAIIDA) to improve member-businesses and private sector extension service provision between agro-dealers and farmers. The Agronomists will have a key role in delivering value-added educational programs and materials, establishing and managing demonstration sites, and assisting in other technology transfer efforts to agro-dealers. The person will also work with other team leaders to develop programs that will contribute to the achievement of the association's objectives.

Specific Duties

- o Oversee agronomic activities of the association (KASAIIDA);
- o Provide the Executive Secretary with activity reports on agronomic activities;
- o Oversee the association-supported technology transfer centers (TTCs) and accompanying field days and training programs;
- o Provide yield and profitability analysis results from TTCs to member agro-dealers;
- o Collaborate with other agriculture stakeholders, ADPs, and private sector input suppliers;
- o Any other duties that may be assigned by the Executive Secretary and/or the IFDC NADS Agronomist.

Experience/Qualifications

- o High level of initiative and enthusiasm.
- o Minimum of Bsc in Agronomy or related fields.
- o Minimum of 5 years work experience in agriculture with emphasis on field work;
- o Experience dealing with private sector agro-based organizations in Kano preferred.
- o Excellent oral, written and inter personal communication skills in English and Hausa
- o Ability to coordinate and foster good relationships with various private and public sector actors in the market chain.
- o Ability to design training and provide technical assistance to client firms and producers associations.

5. POSITION - COMMUNICATION OFFICER (ABUJA)

The Nigeria Agro-Dealer Support Project (NADS) is working to strengthen the four existing agri-input dealer associations (AIDAS). These AIDAS are focused on becoming business development service providers that provide value added benefits to their members (and potential members). The primary products these AIDAS are providing include Financial Access; Advocacy;

Communication; and Education (FACE).

The project-supported North Central Agro-input Dealers Association (NOCAIDA) is in need of a communication officer to assist in providing internal and external communication support.

Specific Duties

- o Work with the Associations' Communication Officers to develop short, medium, and long term strategies, work plans, and activities to create a communication network for member agro-dealers as well as a communication network for external audiences (farmer customers, donors, government bodies, and partners).
- o Promote association activities among the stakeholders through press releases, articles, promotional materials and others.
- o Oversee NADS communication interventions to partners, stakeholders, government officials, donors, and other stakeholders. Support the production of the FACE of Agriculture, a quarterly newspaper with focus on the agri-input sector that will initially be produced by the NADS Project.
- o Provide training, support, and oversight on gender awareness issues to the Association's Gender Officers.
- o Develop public relation materials that promote project interventions and success stories.

Experience/Qualifications

- o Minimum of first degree in Mass Communication or Journalism
- o 5 years proven experience in relevant field especially from public sector.
- o Ability to write good articles and journals.
- o Strong command of English is a prerequisite.

6. POSITION - AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (TARABA)

IFDC-Nigeria Agro-Dealer Support Project (NADS) in collaboration with the North-East Agro-input Dealers Association (NEAIDA) is working to encourage input dealers to be more effective and more efficient in service delivery to the region's farmers. To achieve this, NEAIDA wishes to employ the service of an Agribusiness Development Officer who will lead the membership drive, revenue generation and development of members clients through the use of interventions developed by NADS and its collaborating/implementing partners.

Specific Duties

- o Work with the NADS officers, experts and NEAIDA elected officers to develop membership drive strategy to enlarge the membership of the association
- o Mobilize the Agro-dealers in understanding the concept of trade association
- o Support activities of the other officers/executive of association and the provide support to bringing benefit to the members through FACE
- o In conjunction with the Executive Secretary draw short, medium and long term plan and strategy for the association
- o In partnership with the Business Development Officers, develop a business plan for the association
- o With the assistance of other officers and NADS experts, develop and implement a strategies that will make the association financially self sustaining and strategically sustainable
- o Assist in training the association's elected executive of on the best ways to manage the affairs of the association
- o Any other duties that may be assigned by the Executive Secretary and/or IFDC officers.

Experience/Qualifications

- o High level of initiative and enthusiasm.
- o Minimum of Bsc/HND in Mass Communication, Public Administration, Human Resource Management and/or related fields.
- o 4-5 years proven experience in community mobilization activities and a sound understanding of group dynamics.
- o Excellent oral, written and interpersonal communication skills in English and Hausa is a necessity.
- o Experience of dealing with private sector agro based group activities in the North Eastern states will be an added advantage.
- o Ability to coordinate and foster good relationships with various private and public sector actors in the input market chain.
- o Great organizational skills, with the ability to coordinate and develop group networking networking strategies.
- o Ability to design training and provide technical assistance to client firms and producers associations.

Application: Qualified applicants are invited to send an application consisting of a letter of introduction that outlines the applicant's educational background, relevant work experience, and major areas of professional interest, and up-to-date curriculum vitae including the name, address, telephone and e-mail contact addresses of three referees to the following email address:

Administration Department, IFDC-Nigeria,
e-mail: ifdcnigeria@ifdc.org

Copies of certificates and relevant documents are to be attached to the application. IN THE SUBJECT HEADING THE APPLICANT MUST STATE WHICH POSITION OR POSITIONS THEY ARE APPLYING FOR. Only short listed candidates will be contacted for interview. No phone calls are accepted. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, colour, religion or gender.

Deadline: January 15, 2010.



HEALTH REFORM FOUNDATION OF NIGERIA VACANCY

The Health Reform Foundation of Nigeria (HERFON) is a non-governmental organisation established in Nigeria in response to the deplorable condition of the health systems. The Foundation aims to promote, support, sustain and monitor the health sector reform in Nigeria. It does this through advocacy and capacity building for health reform, mobilising and coordinating the resources needed for health reform and collaborating with other partners. The Foundation receives its funds from members' contribution, development partners and Nigerian governments. It has its head office in Abuja, six zonal offices and thirty-seven State offices within Nigeria. The Abuja office now wishes to recruit self-motivated professionals to fill the following positions:

Project Officer

The candidate for this position will report to the Deputy Executive Secretary (Programme) and will be responsible for all Health system, Immunisation and HIV/AIDS programmes and projects of HERFON. This position requires a graduate in Medical sciences or health-related field. The candidate is required to have good understanding of Health system, Immunisation and HIV/AIDS systems. A good understanding of Nigeria's Health Sector Reform Programme would be an advantage. A good IT skills and previous experience in donor programmes is necessary. He/She should have good analytical skills and personal skills. This is a senior position in the organisation hence the candidate is required to have previous programmes experience with demonstrable competency and skills in project execution. He/She should have at least five years post graduation experience, two of which should be at the senior position in the Health sector. Experience in international programme would be an advantage. Our ideal person should have drive, energy and good personal appearance. Salary attractive.

Accountant

The candidate for this position should report to the Deputy Executive Secretary (Finance and Administration) and will be responsible for all the accounting functions of the organisation including payroll, monitoring and reconciliation of headquarter, zonal and state accounts; monitoring of project advances and ensuring compliance with financial instructions. This position requires a graduate of Management Sciences, with a professional qualification in accounting such as ACA, ACCA, etc. A good understanding of Nigeria's Health Sector Reform Programme would be an advantage. A good IT skills and previous experience in donor programmes is necessary. He/She should have good analytical and interpersonal skills. This is a senior position in the organisation hence the candidate is required to have previous accounting experience with demonstrable competency and skills. He/She should have at least ten years post graduation experience, five of which should be at the senior position. Our ideal person should have drive, energy and good personal appearance. Salary attractive.

Method of Application:

Applications should be submitted in the form of (1) an application letter for the desired position, and (2) a comprehensive CV stating, among others, candidate's full names, date of birth, state of origin, schools attended, qualifications obtained with dates, previous working experience with detailed job description, contact and location addresses, email address, names and addresses of two referees. These should be sent to us by email at recruitment@herfon.org. The 'subject' line of the email must be the title of the position being applied for. Applications not sent in this format will **not** be processed. All applications must be received within two weeks of this publication.



Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Plc OBITUARY

The Management and Staff of the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Plc regret to announce the death of



MR. GODFREY CLETUS TUMBWEM
AGED 31 YEARS

Which sad event took place on 30th December, 2009 in Abuja

BURIAL ARRANGEMENT

As arranged by the family

Until his death, he worked in the Abuja Factory.

He is survived by aged parents, brothers and Sisters

MANAGEMENT



THE PRESIDENCY

PANEL OF INVESTIGATION INTO THE JOS CRISIS OF NOVEMBER, 2008

Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation
Plot 22, Merit House, J.T. Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama-Abuja

RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

This is to inform the General Public that the Presidential Panel of Investigation into Jos Crisis of November 2008, will resume Public Sitting at the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, on Monday, January 11, 2010.

On resumption, the Panel is expected to receive oral submissions from various interest groups, including but not limited to the following categories of respondents;

- Plateau State Government
- Public Institutions
- Jos North Communities
- Humanitarian Organizations
- Political Parties
- Socio-Cultural Organizations
- Private Entrepreneurs
- Religious Organizations
- Individuals

Members of the Public who wish to attend the Public Hearings are hereby reminded to report to the Secretariat at NIPSS at least one hour before commencement of proceedings, each day. Similarly, accredited respondents and journalists are hereby reminded to come along with their identification cards.

COMMENCEMENT TIME : 10.00 a.m. daily
VENUE: Unity Hall, NIPSS, Kuru

Secretary
Announcer



Kainji Hydro Electric Plc

PUBLIC NOTICE

GENERAL PROCUREMENT NOTICE AND INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST/PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR 2010 FISCAL YEAR

INTRODUCTION

1. The Power Holding Company of Nigeria, Kainji Hydro Electric Plc wishes to notify the General Public on its need to procure Goods and Services in 2010 Fiscal Year. The Goods and Services are to be funded by Year 2010 Federal Government Budget Appropriation, Federal Government Intervention fund and Multi Year Tariff Order (MYTO).
2. The Company wishes to invite qualified and reputable Contractors to express interest for Category 'B' and/or apply for Pre-qualification for Categories 'A&C' in respect of each LOT of their interest.
3. The Goods/Materials, Services/Works to be procured are as Categorized below under the headings A, B & C.

A	PROCUREMENT OF MACHINE ELEMENT SPARE PARTS AND ASSOCIATES AUXILLIARIES	IMPORTANT INFORMATION
LOT1:	Heavy duty Oil for Turbine and Generator thrust bearings and transformer oil.	1. Only Technically qualified Companies will be allowed to participate in the competitive tender.
LOT2:	Digital Electronic Cards for Turbine Governor and Protection.	2. KHE Plc reserves the right to verify any claim made by any contractor.
LOT3:	High and Medium Voltage Switch gear, Transformers measuring instruments and associated auxiliaries.	3. All prospective Contractors should note that non-compliance with the requirements above will lead to outright disqualification.
LOT4:	Turbine parts auxiliaries and consumables.	4. This advert shall not be construed to be a commitment by KHE Plc, nor shall it entail the tenderer to make any claim(s) whatsoever by virtue of such tenderer having responded to this publication.
LOT5:	Water and Oil Pumps for various applications and ratings.	5. Pre-qualified Companies will be Required to make a non-refundable Payment of Forty thousand Naira (N40,000.00) only per lot, payable to Kainji Hydro Electric Plc. for the Bid Documents.
LOT6:	Spares Generator Stator Coils for the running units.	SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS
LOT7:	Air Compressors for various applications and ratings	The Pre-qualification Documents/Expression of Interest must be submitted in sealed envelopes indicating clearly the category and Lot No. as contained in this advert marked "Pre-qualification/Expression of Interest for 2010 Fiscal Year Procurement" at the left hand corner of the envelope, which must be submitted within Six (6) weeks from the date of this publication.
LOT8:	Special Equipment – Automatic Greasing Machine and Forklift.	These should be addressed and submitted to:-
LOT9:	Desktop Computers, Printers and their assorted Consumables.	THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, KAINJI HYDRO ELECTRIC PLC. PMB 1111, NEW BUSSA NIGER STATE
LOT10:	Provision for a Standby Diesel Generator set. 250KVA Sound Proof	MANAGEMENT
LOT11:	Supply of 32 Seater Staff Buses	
B	PROCUREMENT OF SPECIAL SERVICES	
LOT1:	Turbine throat ring and Runner chamber welding and grouting of Draft Tube Concrete Structure.	
LOT2:	Comprehensive Dam Complex Structure Inspection and Maintenance.	
LOT3:	Complete Rehabilitation of 864KVA Standby Black start diesel Generator and replacement of A/C Air Compressor.	
LOT4:	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of complete Alternator for 1.5MVA Standby Diesel Generator with excitation system.	
LOT5:	Construction and supply of equipment for weather yards upstream	
LOT6:	Construction of Fire and Safety Base Station and Maintenance of Fire Fighting Equipment.	
LOT7:	Internet facility LAN, and communication equipment i.e. digital telephone System, UHF and VHF radios. Industrial Public Address System.	
LOT8:	Establishment of Chemical Laboratory, purchase of Laboratory equipment and Chemicals	
LOT9:	Computerization of Main Stores and Close Circuit TV for CEO Office and Power House.	
LOT10:	Construction of Head Works Crane 70/38 Tons Lifting Beam	
LOT11:	Construction of Pressurized water pipe line and Complete Rehabilitation of Upper Lock water supply system to CEO's Office	
LOT12:	Rehabilitation of the Dam Crest Lift	
C	PROCUREMENT OF WORKS SERVICES	
LOT1:	Concrete block/Iron Fencing of Staff Clubs.	
LOT2:	Construction of Dwarf wall fence with Iron Burglary for Estate & Works Office Complex.	
LOT3:	Renovation of CEO Office Complex:- Fencing (Concrete/Iron), Main Gate construction, Renovation of Offices and Landscaping.	
LOT4:	Rehabilitation of CEO Office Access Road	
LOT5:	Construction of Power House Parking Yard	
LOT6:	Renovation of Senior Camp Schools (Primary & Secondary):- Provision of Security Gates and Fencing (Concrete/Iron)	
LOT7:	Renovation of 120Nos Beds Hospital Complex:- Fencing, Access Road and Landscaping.	
LOT8:	Renovation of Auto Vehicle Workshop Complex	
	CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY	
	Interested Companies should provide the following documents about their organization. These documents should include:-	
	? Evidence of company registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) or home Country Registration for International Bidders.	
	? Evidence of having successfully carried out similar Works/supply/Services in the past.	
	? VAT Registration Certificate and Tax Clearance Certificate for three (3) years (Original to be sighted) at the point of Opening.	
	? Company Profile including details of Key Staff to be deployed for project execution.	
	? Detailed Company Bank Account for six (6) months and Bank Reference Letter from a reputable Bank in Nigeria.	
	? Detailed list of Equipments owned to be hired by the Company (For Works)	
	? Evidence of Appointment as Agent or Representative.	



ADVERTISEMENT OF VACANT POSITIONS

The Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), with headquarters in Abuja Nigeria, is inviting applications from qualified citizens of the Community to fill the following vacant positions in the professional category:

1. Director of Parliamentary Affairs and Research - D1

Qualification

A first level university degree (Bachelor's degree) in Law, Social Sciences or Public Administration. The candidate should have a minimum of 12 years post-qualification working experience, five (5) of which should be in management of parliamentary affairs and procedural matters preferably in a national, sub-regional or regional parliament. Advanced university degree (Master's degree) in a relevant field with ten (10) years working experience will be accepted.

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the supervision of the Secretary General, the Director of Parliamentary Affairs and Research will:

1. Plan and coordinate the activities of the department of parliamentary affairs and research;
2. Organise and ensure a smooth parliamentary procedure, in particular:
3. Draft the reports of the sessions of Parliament;
4. Coordinate and supervise the activities of the units in charge of research and documentation, especially:

5. Prepare the preliminary draft of the annual activity report of the Parliament in collaboration with the other departments and units of the General Secretariat;
6. Prepare the preliminary draft of the annual activity programme of the Parliament in collaboration with the other departments and units of the General Secretariat;
7. Coordinate the drafting of the agenda and work programme of the sessions and those of the organs of Parliament;
8. Maintain relations between the Community Parliament and the national parliaments as well as with inter-parliamentary institutions;
9. Assist the Secretary General in discharging his duties i.e. in planning and implementing the activities of the organs of Parliament and consequently, carry out all other duties that may be assigned to him.

Salary Scale

The post of Director of Parliamentary Affairs and Research is on D1 of the ECOWAS Annual Salary scale, that is, UA33 751 - AU41 932.

2. Translator into Portuguese - P4

Qualification

A first level university degree (Bachelor's degree) in translation or its equivalent in a relevant field plus a post-graduate diploma or professional certificate in translation. The candidate should have a minimum of eight (08) years relevant post-qualification working experience.

Duties & Responsibilities

Under the supervision of the Reviser, the **Translator into Portuguese** will:

1. Translate documents and Parliament's official correspondences in a timely and faithful manner;
2. Any other duties as may be assigned by the Secretary General;

Salary Scale

The post of Translator into Portuguese is on P4 of the ECOWAS Annual Salary scale, that is, UA25 908 - UA30 180.

Eligibility

Application for each of the positions advertised will be restricted to citizens of ECOWAS Member States.

FRINGE BENEFITS

The following benefits will be extended to all positions in the professional category: in addition to basic salary, the monthly remuneration package will include post adjustment, transport, housing and dependency allowances. Other benefits attached to posts are education grant for up to 4 children, 80% refund of medical expenses for staff and dependents, provident fund contribution, and installation and separation allowances.

LANGUAGE

English, French and Portuguese are the official working languages of the Community.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Community citizens interested in any of the positions mentioned in the above vacancy announcement should submit an applicant file comprising of the following:

- Job Application;
- Photocopies of degrees/certificates and professional attestations;
- Curriculum Vitae.

Applications should be addressed to:

**The Honourable Speaker of Parliament, ECOWAS Parliament,
International Conference Centre
Area 11, Garki, PMB 576, ABUJA,
Federal Republic of Nigeria**

All applications must be received at the General Secretariat of the Parliament, at the latest, by close of business on 31st March 2010.

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536

For helicopter Flights to Anywhere in Nigeria call:

OAS HELICOPTERS
 Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport, Abuja
GSM: +234 803 446 3432
+234 705 666 9020
 Web: www.oas-helicopters.com
 E-mail: contact@oas-helicopters.com

FG pays marketers N41bn oil subsidy today

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Federal Government will today effect the payment of N41 billion being the balance of oil subsidy owed major oil marketers in the country for the second quarter of 2009.

The government owes the marketers the sum of N73.4 billion, Mr Abiodun Ibikunle, the Executive Secretary, Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA) confirmed this in a chat with newsmen at the weekend.

The PPPRA scribe said that the money had been approved for payment since Dec. 31, adding that the process of paying the marketers was concluded on Jan. 6.

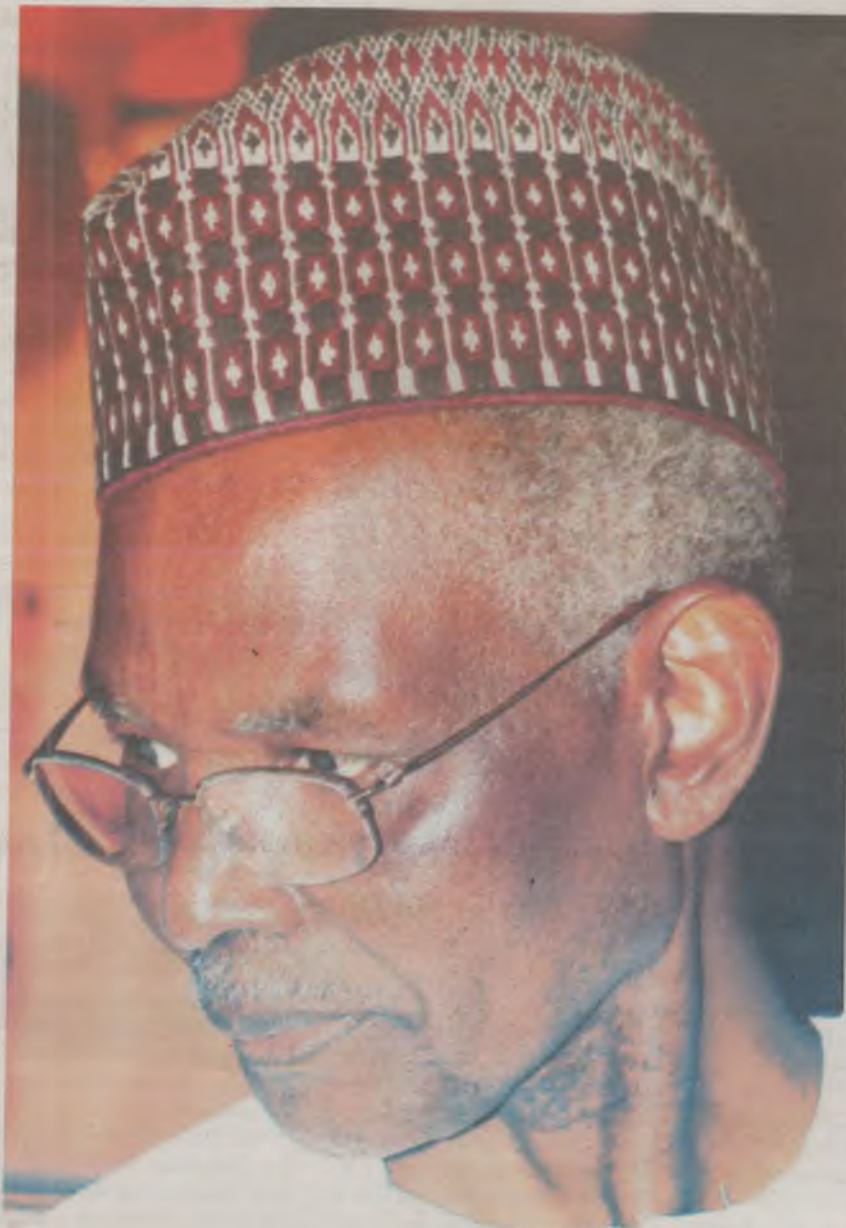
He said the last batch of the claims that came in December was being worked on for payment to ease the lingering crisis over fuel importation by the marketers.

Ibikunle said government had instructed the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) through the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA), to immediately release marketers funds to allow importation, adding that the development is a good measure to encourage active participation in fuel importation under the scheme of Petroleum Support Fund (PSF) in 2010. According to him: "The conclusion of payment was finalised at the stakeholders' meeting on Thursday with Mr Odein Ajumogobia, the Minister of State for Petroleum, to evaluate the recurring fuel scarcity."

"The focus of the meeting is to find lasting solution and to look at modalities in bridging the distribution gap created by the inability of the banks to finance the importation of petrol."

The Federal Government had last week paid N32.4 billion initial batch of the debt Chief Operating Officer of African Petroleum Plc, Mr. Tunde Falasinnu, who disclosed this in Lagos explained that the amount paid by the Government represents bills submitted by major marketers that participated in fuel importation during the second quarter of last year.

Meanwhile, marketers have expressed readiness to resume full



RILWANU Lukman, Minister of Petroleum

importation of fuel into the country as soon as the outstanding balance is paid.

Executive Secretary of Major Oil Marketers Association of Niger [MOMAN], Obafemi Lawore, who confirmed this at the weekend, however

lamented that his members are yet to secure import approvals and permits for the first quarter of 2010 from the Petroleum Product Pricing Regulatory Agency and the Department of Petroleum Resources [DPR].

FLIGHT SCHEDULE



Arik Air
 PH-Abuja: 08.45, 1212.50, 17.00 (Mon-Fri), 08.45, 17.30 (Sat), 14.40, 17.30 (Sun); Abuja-PH: 07.15, 11.20, 15.30 (Mon-Fri), 07.15, 16.00 (Sat) 14.40, 17.30 (Sun); Lagos-Kano: 12.20pm (Mon-Fri/Sun)
 Kano-Lagos: 02.35pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Abuja-Kano: 03:35pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Kano-Abuja: 05:20pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Abuja-Gombe: 11:10am (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun); Gombe-Abuja: 12.30pm (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun); Lagos-Yola: Lag-Abj 04:50pm, via Abj-Yola 06:45pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Yola-Lagos: Yola-Abj 08:40am, Abj-Lagos 10:20am (Mon-Fri/Sat); Lagos-Maid: Lag-Abj 03:50pm, via Abj-Maid 06:00pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Maid-Lagos: Miud-Abj 07:30am, via Abj-Lag 09:15am (Mon-Fri/Sat); Abuja-Sokoto: 11:10am (Mon-Fri); Sokoto-Abuja: 12:50pm (Mon-Fri) Abuja-Akure 02:10pm (Mon, Wed and Fri); Akure-Abuja: 08:50am (Mon, Wed and Fri); Lagos-Kwara: 07:30am, (Mon-Fri) 07.30, 03:50pm Sat 08:00am, 11:45am Sun; Kwara-Lagos: 4:10pm (Mon-Fri), 01:10pm, 05:30pm Sat 09:45am, 05:00pm Sun Abuja-Kwara: 03:25pm (Mon-Fri); Kwara-Abuja 01.30pm (Mon-Fri); Lagos-Jos: 09:05am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); Jos-Lagos: 11.00am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun) ABV-QOW 02:30pm (Mon-Fri), 11:30am Sat 03:20pm Sun; Lagos-Kaduna: 10:20am, 04:10pm (Mon-Fri), 10.20 (Sat/Sun); Kaduna-Lagos: 12:10pm, 06:00pm (Mon-Fri), 12.10 (Sat/Sun); Lagos-Warr: 07:30am (Mon-Fri) 07:30am, 03:50pm (Sat), 08:00am, and 11:45am (Sun)

Aero Contractors
 Lagos-Kad: 08.00am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Kad-Lagos: 09.40am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Lagos-Jos: 11.15am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Jos-Lagos: 13.15pm (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Lagos-Abj: 06.50; 13.30; 16.30; 19.45 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 12.30 (Sun) 16.45 (Sat). Abj-Lagos: 07.30; 13.30; 19.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30, 14.30; 19.30 (Sun) 18.30 (Sat); Lagos-Ben: 07:45; 11:00; 15:30; (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun) 12.30; (Sun); 15.30 (Sat).
 Ben-Lagos: 09.15; 12.30; 17.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 17.00 (Sat); 14.00 (Sun); Lagos-Cala: 13.15; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 08.30; 19.00 (Sun); Cala-Lagos: 14.45; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30 (Sun); Lagos-Enu: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 15.00 (Sun); Enu-Lagos: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat) 16.45 (Sun)

Chanchangi Airlines
 Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 10.00, 13.10, 15.30, 17.30
 Abj-Lagos: 08.00, 11.45, 13.40, 15.30, 17.00
 Lagos-Kad: 10.45, (on Fri), 17.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Kad-Lagos: 07.30 (Mon-Fri), 08.00 (Sat/Sun)
 Nigerian Eagles Airlines (Virgin Nigeria)
 Abj-Kano: 18.40 (Mon-Fri)/Sun
 Kano-Abj: 08.35 (Mon-Fri) /Sat
 Abj-Soko: 09:35, (Mon), 10:10 (Fri), 11:20 (Wed/Sun)
 Soko-Abj: 11.35 (Mon), 12.00 (Fri), 13:20 (Wed/Sun)
 Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 11.40, 14.00, 16.30, 17.00, 17.20; 18.30 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun), 8.00; 12.40; 13.10; 20:00 (Fri)
 Abj-Lagos: 07.00, 09.30, 10.30, 11.15, 16.15; 19.15, 19.25, 19:35 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 14:55; 15:15; 20:45 (Fri); 19:45 (Sun); 11:25, 13:35, 16:25 (Mon)

CBN EXCHANGE RATES			
	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.3048	0.3148	0.3248
DANISH KRONER	28.4713	28.5681	28.6649
EURO	211.9711	212.6916	213.4121
POUNDS STERLING	238.3167	239.1268	239.9368
RIYAL	39.2267	39.36	39.4933
SDR	230.6087	231.3926	232.1764
SWISS FRANC	144.1592	144.6492	145.1392
US DOLLAR	147.1	147.6	148.1
WAUA	230.0676	230.8496	231.6316
YEN	1.5916	1.5971	1.6025

BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES	
BUYING	
DOLLAR.....	N152
EURO.....	N220
POUNDS.....	N253
SELLING	
DOLLAR.....	N153
EURO.....	N222
POUNDS.....	N255

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

Stock Market Index
 Date : Friday, January 8, 2010
 Index: 21,658.69
 Volume : 399,141,264
 Cap. : N 5,188,585,008,990.00

Business/International

China 'overtakes Germany as world's largest exporter'

CHINA'S exports rose 17.7% in December, state media has reported, suggesting the country has overtaken Germany as the world's largest exporter.

The rise, compared to a year earlier, breaks a 13-month decline in trade as a result of the global downturn.

Xinhua said total exports for 2009 were \$1.2tn (£749bn), but total foreign trade over the year was down 13.9%.

Correspondents say the figures will lead to new demands from China's competitors that it devalue the yuan.

Last year saw a continuing decrease in China's trade as the global economic downturn led to a fall in demand for its products.

But in the last few weeks of the year, there was a far greater rise than forecasters had expected, with foreign exports reaching \$130.7bn, up 17.7% on the previous December.

China's General Administration of Customs (GAC) said exports overall in the year were \$1.2tn, down 16% from in 2008, while imports were 11.2% down from a year earlier at \$1.01tn.

The politically sensitive total trade surplus was down 34.2% to \$196.1bn, a fall of almost a third.

The figures suggests China will surpass Germany's export total



German Chancellor Angela Merkel

for the whole of 2009, although this will not be confirmed until Germany's full-year data is published in February.

A spokesman for GAC said the increase was "an important turning point" for the country.

"It is safe to say now that Chinese exporters have come right through the period of weakness," Xinhua quoted statistician Huang Guohua as saying.

The BBC's Chris Hogg in Shanghai says many of China's producers are low-cost manufacturers who assemble equipment such as i-Pods using foreign components.

The latest figures are being seen as an indication that those manufacturers have proved resilient in the downturn and are benefitting as their customers restock, says our correspondent.

But the figures are likely to lead to renewed complaints from China's trading competitors that its currency is undervalued, he added.

Led by the US, they say it is unfair that China has been able to make its goods cheaper by keeping the yuan weak, but Prime Minister Wen Jiabao has said China "will not yield" to foreign demands that it revalue the currency.

Beijing has long said that it will not allow the yuan to trade freely until its domestic economy was strong enough to pick up any resulting decline in exports.

The slowing decline in Chinese trade has also been taken as a sign that the country's stimulus package is working.

Beijing raised tax rebates on exports several times in 2009, increased tax refunds and improved export credit insurance. BBC.

US jobless rate put at 10 per cent

US employers unexpectedly cut 85,000 jobs in December, but the unemployment rate held steady at 10%, official figures have shown.

The number of job losses was surprising, particularly after November's figures had been revised.

The US Labor Department had initially estimated that 11,000 jobs were cut in November, but now says that the economy had in fact added 4,000 jobs.

For the economy I think the jobs report fits the picture that we have seen of a hesitant recovery.

I didn't think we'd see something like this until February. I thought we'd have more temporary workers, and the other job indicators we had seemed fairly positive," said Dan Cook from IG Markets.

The construction sector bore the brunt of the job losses last month, shedding 53,000 positions. In manufacturing, 27,000 positions were lost.

However, some sectors added jobs, with professional and business services companies creating 50,000 new positions.

Bruce McCain, chief investment strategist at Key Private Bank, said the latest data showed that getting employment back to normal levels would take some time.

"For the economy, I think the jobs report fits the picture that we have seen of a hesitant recovery," he said.

Unemployment levels in the US are at their highest for more than 20 years.

High unemployment is one of the toughest domestic challenges facing Barack Obama's administration.

The president has said that boosting jobs is the best way to tackle the massive US deficit, which stands at more than \$1 trillion (£621bn).

In December, Mr Obama outlined a job creation plan, including the proposal to wind up the Troubled Asset Relief Program (Tarp) and use the remaining money from the fund to help lending to small businesses.

Meanwhile, separate data from the Commerce Department showed that US wholesale inventories posted an unexpectedly strong gain in November.

Wholesale inventories rose 1.5%. Economists had predicted a 0.2% drop. BBC.

Zuma warns S/Africa's economic recovery to be slow

SOUTH Africa's President Jacob Zuma has warned his country's recovery from the global economic crisis will be slow.

Addressing tens of thousands of members of his governing African National Congress, he said there would be a lag in job creation following the recovery.

About one in four South Africans are jobless in Africa's largest economy, which entered

recession last year.

Mr Zuma also stressed the need for party unity as the country prepares to host the football World Cup this year.

"There are some indications that we may be recovering from the worst of the crisis but this recovery may be slow and perhaps even temporary," he said in his speech delivered in Kimberley, some 380km (236 miles) south-west of Johannesburg.

"It should also be expected that the creation of new jobs on a massive scale will lag behind the economic recovery," he said, speaking on the 98th anniversary of the creation of the African National Congress Party.

Mr Zuma has pledged that his party will create four million jobs by the end of 2014, although because of the downturn he has been unable to fulfil his aim of creating 500,000

new jobs last year. The South African economy officially went into recession for the first time since 1992 in May 2009, following a sharp slowdown in the manufacturing and mining sectors.

Only the construction sector has remained strong, bolstered by a huge programme of government investment ahead of the World Cup.

BBC.

Venezuela devalues currency

VENEZUELA'S President Hugo Chavez has announced that the national currency, the bolivar, will be devalued for the first time since 2005, by at least 17%.

The bolivar, whose rate is set by government decree, will be devalued from its current rate of 2.15 to the US dollar to 2.60 for "priority" imports. However, the bolivar will be worth 4.30 to the dollar, a 50% devaluation, for items considered non-essential.

Mr Chavez was under pressure to devalue to boost revenue from oil exports. The country is currently facing 25% inflation, as well

as reduced foreign earnings. However, the bolivar is far more devalued on the parallel, unofficial currency market where it trades at rates as high as six bolivars to a US dollar.

Food and health care imports, and the public sector will be able to take advantage of the lower of the two official rates. However, cars, chemicals, petrochemical and electronics will be charged at the higher rate.

President Chavez said that the two official rates would have the effect of "limiting imports that are not strictly necessary and stimulating export policy". BBC.



VENEZUELA'S President Hugo Chavez

“For the economy, I think the jobs report fits the picture that we have seen of a hesitant recovery, he said.”

Business

'Poverty rate has dropped in Nigeria'

By Jibrin Abubakar & Sunday Williams

THE man saddled with the responsibility of fighting poverty in Nigeria has told *Daily Trust* that poverty rate has dropped and that Nigerians are better off. Senior Special Adviser to the President and Coordinator of the National Poverty Eradication Programme Dr. Magnus Kpakol also said the illness of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua does not affect his performance.

He also disagreed that constant power outage and low performance of the economy generally have affected his war against poverty. He said the 6.90 per cent growth rate recorded in the preceding year further confirms that poverty rate is falling.

He said some of the programmes put in place by his office in 2009 including the Cash Transfer Programme (COPE) and the involvement of state governments have helped in the fight against poverty in Nigeria.

Daily Trust had reported that in 1980, 28% of Nigerians were poor; in 1985 the poverty ratio grew to 46% and dropped to 42% in 1992. In 1996, the ratio was 65.6%, in 1990 it was 70% and in 2004 it fell to 54.4%. He said the current poverty rate is less than 50 per cent and that Nigerians are richer.

He said though the actual data is collated by the National Bureau of Statistics which is expected to come up this year.

He said: "The poverty rate has drop because for example if you look at the economy, and look at what happens in say agriculture, you will realise that there is growth in the sector last year and that growth in output means something happened there. If you look across board, you will see that the overall GDP growth rate in the economy grew by about 6%. All of that growth took place in the non-oil sector where you have people getting jobs."

"If we manage to grow and the oil sector accounts for 30% of the economy and if close to 30% of the economy has decline and yet we were able to get 6% growth rate, it means that the other sectors had significant growth rate. So if you take that now and add to the consistency in the economic growth rate that we had since 2000, which help to bring the poverty rate from 70% in 1999 to 54.4% in 2004, and the momentum continues, then it is not unreasonable to believe that the poverty rate must have dropped more than 4 points between 2004 and 2009."

"If between 1999 and 2004, that is 5 years the poverty rate dropped 16 points, it is not unreasonable to think that in another 5 years, the poverty rate couldn't have dropped more than 4 points. As an economist, doing the back of envelop calculations, I know at the back of my mind that unless we change the yardstick that we use in measurement, the poverty rate will be under 50%."

Poverty rate is increasing — Economist

By Jibrin Abubakar

HEAD of Economics Department of the Ahmadu Bello University Zaria Dr. Mike Duru has said that poverty rate is rising in Nigeria.

Dr. Duru who spoke to *Daily Trust* on phone said the quality of lives of Nigerians is falling. He described as misleading equating rise in Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to fall in poverty.

Provisional data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)

indicated that real GDP grew by 8.23 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2009, up from 4.50, 7.22 and 7.07 per cent in the first, second and third quarters.

But the overall GDP growth for 2009 was projected at 6.90, up from 5.98 in 2008; hence the non-oil sectors remain the major driver of the economy.

Dr. Duru also said other indicators showing rising poverty level in Nigeria include: unemployment, inflation and fuel scarcity.

Reforms not addressing poverty – Economist

By Hamisu Muhammad

THERE are no indications that government reforms are addressing the rising poverty level of the country, an economist has told *Daily Trust*.

Dr Abdulsalam S.A of the Ahmadu Bello University Zaria said the country's economy has since entered a go-slow, saying the reforms have not had impact on the poor.

"Nigerians have witnessed many economic reform policies come and go, with little or no effect", he added.

Reacting to how the economy fared in 2009, he said the oil sector reforms which seeks to open up the downstream oil sector to private investment to improve efficiency seems to be the aspiration of the policy thrust of the present administration in 2009. However, this policy seems to have little or no appeal to the Nigerian population and labour unions.


"I have this reserved impression, since most economists will concede that there may be transitional challen-

ges for this reform despite its intended benefits to the economy and citizens in the long run.

"It is not a sacrifice that is worth making due to institutional rigidity and corruption. We had this same argument for telecommunication but we are still experiencing poor services, inefficiency, exploitation and the high cost of making calls and other associated services despite the assumed progress claimed in the sector".

On the infrastructure, he said Yar'adua's administration is not serious to address the problem, "I have never seen any country in the world that completely neglects decent infrastructural provision and still go ahead to privatize such a sector that constitutes the strength of the economy".

"I say this and want to be quoted anywhere any time that deregulation of the sector will not bring about the desired result that will make the sector arrive at efficiency and excellent outcomes. I would suggest that if we wait for this we will all be dead".



One Year Remembrance

We do not think of you as gone away but think of you as resting from the sorrows and tears in a place of warmth and comfort where there are no days and years.

You must be wishing that we could know today how nothing but our sadness can really pass away. We think of you as living in the hearts of those you touched and loved.

Mankami Ladi Wuyep
(1952 - 2009)

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WE LOVE YOU SO MUCH.

Air Marshal Jonah Domfa Wuyep (Rtd) CFR
For the family

Star Feature

'Flashing game' in the world of mobile telephony

The advent of mobile telephony in Nigeria has bred its own unique habits amongst users. 'Flashing' seems to top the list of such habits

By Tosin Omoniyi

FOR many it is a pastime, while for others it is harmless. For a select few it is sign of immaturity. Viewed from any angle however, it is fast gaining ground in the world of mobile telephony today.

Flashing is simply an act of dialing on ones mobile phone without any intention of connecting with the person dialled. When the number of the person is dialled and it rings, the button used for cutting communication on the mobile set, is pressed quickly, so that the person at the other end does get to pick the call. The receiver simply hears the ring tone on his or her mobile set, and this is cut short abruptly, before he or she can pick the call. In Nigeria today the trend is common amongst the young and the old, the rich and the poor and various segments of the society.

But why do people 'flash' rather than call, one may be tempted to ask. The answers range from the simplistic to the humorous, and in some cases edges towards the bizarre.

For Ini Asukwo, a saleswoman with a prominent pharmaceutical company located in the heart of the Area 11 section of Garki in Abuja, flashing is simply a reaction to the poor economic state of most Nigerians. She believes that given the dreary level of living of most Nigerians recharging their phones has become a task too enormous for not a few. She says 'the economic hardship most people face today is in direct correlation with the poor attitude of phone users. You will agree with me that if a person is financially independent, and is able to meet his or her basic needs, why would such a person decide to flash rather than call another. Recharging ones phone is a business that is fast becoming difficult for many today. That is why you will see a person persistently flashing you, so as to get your attention. We do not have to look down on such people, we should heap the blame on the faulty system we live under in present day Nigeria.' When asked if she engages in the act, she smiles demurely affirming that she rarely does this, but when she does flash it is for a reason. 'Whenever I want someone to come and see me at home, and I am still a long way from home, I simply tell the person that I will flash him or her whenever I get home. I do not have to call the person. I simply flash the line to alert him or her when I do get home. I do not see anything wrong with this,' she confesses.

For Mrs Adeniji Irantoluwa, a retiree from one of the ministries, flashing is simply a bad habit that has no justifi-



SOME people are just fond of flashing other phone users, credit or no credit.

cation. She says that the economic state of the country does not have anything to do with the trend. 'Some people are just fond of flashing other phone users, credit or no credit. Even if they have thousands of naira worth of credit on their

mobile sets, they would still flash you rather than call,' she enthuses. She then recalls a particular fellow retiree who was in the habit of flashing rather than calling, to find out vital information regarding payment of retirement benefits. She



You will agree with me that if a person is financially independent, and is able would such a person decide to flash rather than call another? Recharging one's phone is becoming difficult for many today. That is why you will see a person persistently flashing you. We do not have to look down on such people, we should heap the blame on the faulty system we live under in present day Nigeria.'

e phony



actually count the number of times she has called me on her mobile set. Nearly all the time she simply flashes me to find out any information she requires. It is that bad?

For Beatrice Onuoha, an industrial attachment student doing her beat in Abuja, flashing means different things to different people. While it may simply be a form of communication, for most, it could also serve as a means of bonding for lovers. She says that she usually flashes her lover several times a day just to show him that she still cares about him. She adds that it is a form of communication for her even when her mobile set is loaded with credit. 'I flash him a lot during the day, especially when I miss him. It does not mean that I am stingy.

He understands, and most times he simply flashes me back. It is a form of bonding for both of us. At times also when he sends me credit and I load the credit, I just flash him back to inform him that I have loaded the credit. This does not mean that I am stingy. A message that can be passed across by calling, can equally be passed across by simply flashing,' she opines.

Osolor Ehime is a youth corps member serving in the capital city. Her assertion is similar to Alege's. To her, flashing someone is a show of affection which reveals that the other person is always on one's mind.

She recently had a disagreement with her heartthrob. Interestingly, the face off was as a result of the reluctance of her man to flash her once in a while. She complains: 'Due to the nature of his job as a journalist, he is always busy with one assignment or the other, and hardly has time to call me. This I perfectly understand, and I am not too particularly annoyed. But what gets on my nerves is the fact that he would not even find time to just flash me. Flashing to me does not take time. Its simplicity goes a long way to show you that the person at least cares about you, and is probably thinking of you at the moment. I flash him whenever I miss him, and I believe he should also have me in mind too.'

Findings reveal that flashing is capable of causing annoyance for most people though they may not tell you, in order not to hurt your feelings. Others simply ignore you, even at moments when you finally decide to call. A respondent confided in the medium that whenever a friend of his calls, he does not bother to take the call. This is because the person would actually wait for him to pick the call and when he picks it, he simply drops it, and what he hears is only the dialing tone which shows that the caller has dropped the call. 'It actually gets on my nerves, I must confess. Ironically, he is someone I respect a lot and I find it hard to caution him, as this may hurt his self respect, and strain our relationship. So what I simply do is to ignore any call from him because I know what would come next. The other time he called me and I refused to pick the call, he was annoyed with me when next he saw me. He asked me why I did not pick his call.

I just apologized in order to avoid an altercation. I was actually tempted to blurt out my feelings, but I held myself in check,' he says.

A public affairs commentator, Sunday Adeniyi however offers an interesting insight into the reason behind the culture of flashing. He says he does not flash. He sees it simply as an act of irresponsibility, that should be seen as a social malaise, rather than a harmless pastime. He debunks the notion that the bad state of the economy is the principal cause of the trend. He points out that, 'it is a social vice that is only practiced by the uncouth. In civilized climes when someone flashes it is translated as a call for help. In other words, it means that the person is in danger and needs the help of whoever he or she is flashing. The person whose phone is flashed would not be doing anything untoward, if he or she approaches the police with information that the person who flashed may be in grave danger. And I can assure you that the security agents would take such information seriously. But what do we have here in Nigeria?

People have come to accept the trend as normal, just as other societal ills like advanced free fraud, internet fraud, official graft, immorality and what have you. It is unfortunate. The society which we live in is permissive of anything, and this is what accounts for uncivilized behaviours such as this.'

He adds with a twinge of humor: 'you can imagine the other time a friend of mine who I promised to link up with someone so that he would secure a sizeable contract, actually flashed my phone. I told him to call me so that I can give him the details of how to secure the contract, but rather than sacrifice a token to find out, he preferred to flash. Now what do you make of that? It shows that some people do not just care about the way others perceive their actions.'

Many do not share his view however. For this group of people, there is no harm in playing a little prank once in a while. Flashing offers the ideal platform to play childish games even at prime old age. A nurse, Adebisi Badejo, says that she uses it as a form of entertainment with her grown up children, whenever they delay in acceding to her requests.

She says that she flashes their phones consistently until they get tired and are forced to comply with her demands. 'I tease them by disturbing their peace on the phone. I know when they get tired of my constant flashing, they simply call back to inform me that they have not forgotten what they promised to do for me. If you do not do this with this young ones who have other things competing for their attention, they will just ignore you in old age. However I just do this as a form of entertainment, rather than to cause them harm. The irritation they feel but which they cannot reveal to me, is what makes the game all the more exciting,' she smiles sweetly.

Be that as it may, it is an undisputable fact that flashing is gradually gaining ground amongst Nigerians today. While many still frown at it, it is no doubt a fact that it is one of the few habits that make the advent of mobile telephony more interesting. Sadly, many more would easily as well disagree with this assertion, of course, with their own peculiar reasons.

“In civilized climes when someone flashes it is translated as a call for help. In other words, it means that the person is in danger and needs the help of whoever he or she is flashing. The person whose phone is flashed would not be doing anything untoward, if he or she approaches the police with information that the person who flashed may be in grave danger. And I can assure you that the security agents would take such information seriously. But what do we have here in Nigeria?”

fumes: 'even when she got paid and wanted to get a clarification from me, she still flashed my phone, rather than give me a call. It really got on my nerves, and I had to tell her a piece of my mind. But till date she is yet to stop the habit. I can

to meet his or her basic needs, why
none is a business that is fast becoming
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Business

Oil chiefs meet Wednesday

By Hamisu Muhammad

THE Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has concluded plans to convene a high level forum of all the key operators in the downstream sector of the oil and gas industry in Nigeria. According to the corporation's Group General Manager, Group Public Affairs, Dr Levi Ajuonuma, the meeting which is slated for 13th and 14th January, 2010, is to be convened to

find a comprehensive and lasting solution to the fuel supply and distribution challenges facing the downstream sector. The meeting holding in Lagos is expected to have in attendance stakeholders as the Pipeline and Products Marketing Company (PPMC, a subsidiary of the NNPC), the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), the Petroleum Products Pricing and Regulatory Agency (PPPRA), Major Oil Marketers Association of Nigeria (MOMAN), the Independent

Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN), Depot and Petroleum Products Marketers Association, (DAPMA). Other participants include Petroleum Tanker Drivers, PTD, National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers, NUPENG, Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN) Nigerian Navy, Nigeria Police, Nigerian Army, and other security agencies as well as the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and other operators in the

banking sector. "The NNPC had in the past few months adopted a number of strategies aimed at ameliorating the fuel supply and distribution challenges amongst which was the commencement of distribution of petroleum products from the Ore depot in Ondo state. Though the measures introduced by the NNPC have begun to yield positive results, it has become very clear that if all the stakeholders in the sector do not work together the problem would still linger".

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Business

Mass sack in banks

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

WITHIN the last two months, Nigerian labour market has not only swelled up by the increasing rate of sack workers in the nation's banking sector, it has started creating panic in the government circle. This is unprecedented in recent time. In two months, over 6,000 workers have been shown the way out, all in a bid to cut cost. Worse hit are the eight banks in which the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) injected fresh N620 billion lifeline.

Although CBN denied reports that it directed banks to cut down on their staff strength in order to remain stable, Lamido Sanusi had last week threw his weight behind their action, saying that banks are private companies.

"Let me make a few clarifications and I have made this before: the CBN did not direct banks to sack workers. The allegation is false," he stated.

He, however, put on record that "banks are private companies. They take their decision on engagement and disengagement of workers based on business imperatives".

According to him, if a bank has built up a high cost base because it thought it was making money and then it discovers that it was not making as much money as it was making because the loans are bad, it has to reduce its cost base.

He also revealed that some banks dealt with their in-house unions which signed off the cheques appropriately, while others are still engaging the unions.

"I do not think that it is the place of the regulator or government to tell a private sector bank how many staff it requires. A bank like Oceanic Bank was spending about N4 billion a month on salaries. Intercontinental Bank was spending over N4 billion a month on salaries.

"There are no performing loans earning money. The banks are paying huge interest on interbank line lines and paying interest on depositors' funds. They have costs of running their branches. They have to survive," he said.

Before then, the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Oceanic Bank International, John Aboh, had hinted that the financial institution embark on cost-saving measures to make it stay afloat.

According to him, the bank, under the cost rationalisation agenda, will ensure the right-sizing of the workforce, to fit revenue generating capacity, streamline branch expansion, eliminate poorly performing subsidiaries and investment in technology and project management methodologies, to introduce process automation in operations.

He explained that the situation the bank found itself today cannot afford it to maintain the current staff strength, stressing that once the bank stabilizes, it would first employ all its retrenched workers before admitting new ones.

Intercontinental Bank Plc, for instance, officially admitted to sacking about 1,339 workers, though it promised to recall some of the workers when its finances improve. Mahmoud Lai Alabi, its managing director, said: "As a matter of fact, we have advised all the affected staff to leave their forwarding addresses with the human resources department for possible recall as the need arises. I must also add that both management and staff of Intercontinental Bank

have made sacrifices on all generous and outrageous bonuses, all of which has since been suspended.

Alabi also absolved the CBN of any guilt in the recent sacks, saying that Intercontinental Bank's action was strictly the management's decision and was not a response to any directive from the Central Bank as is being speculated.

According to Alabi, none of the core staff of the bank was disengaged, adding that going forward, some of the non-core staff could be repositioned and properly aligned into the bank's outsourcing workforce without any reduction in their benefits.

"The exercise, which is part of the strategic plans to reposition the bank to profitability level, affected senior manager to executive trainee grades. This exercise was carried out with due consideration of a number of assessment criteria," Mr. Alabi he said.

But, the Federal government and labour unions last week kicked against the mass sack and directed the banks managers of 24 banks to recall the affected staff.

The Minister of Labour and Productivity, Prince Adetokunbo Kayode, at interactive session with the management team of CBN and three commercial banks namely, Intercontinental Bank, United Bank of Africa (UBA) and Oceanic Bank expressed dissatisfaction over the huge job losses in the nation's financial sector.

"We must keep people at work and if there is any adjustment in the banking sector as a result of the present global financial crisis, it must be done in accordance with the labour laws, if not it is not acceptable," he said.

He instructed management of the banks to dialogue with the respective labour unions to review the ongoing rightsizing exercise.

He said: "As long as the unions exist in banks, the management of the banks must discuss and dialogue with them before any action is taken on them. If it does not work that way, you can come to the ministry for our intervention and not after the sack. It is unacceptable to us."

He urged the banks to always comply with the due process and the labour laws in any action taken on workers adding that government had put modalities in place to ensure smooth relationship between the banks and the workers.

Though he acknowledged that pay cut cannot be avoided in the banking sector as a result of harsh environment and the present financial crisis, he however said the pay slash must be across the board and must be done in accordance with due process.

Speaking at the occasion, secretary general of Trade Union Congress (TUC) John Kolawole; head of Industrial Relations for Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Owei Lakemfa; national president of Association of Senior Staff of Banks, Insurance and Financial Institutions (ASSBIFI) Sani Lasisi accused the banks of ignoring due process in the mass sack.

They also said extant labour laws were abused in the exercise.

Kolawole said in line with due process, "issues like these must be discussed with the unions. We have discovered that nobody has done that. It automatically means that they did not obey the law. It automatically means that whatever they have done is null and void. If we cannot reverse, we must put a stop to it now and that no other exercise like that



CBN Governor Sanusi

will take place until due process is followed because I discovered that immediately you made that pronouncement, some banks rushed to send people out in anticipation that by the time they come here if there was going to be any difficulty they will say we've already done it."

Lakemfa pointed out that the CBN, through a circular, directed all the 24 banks to reduce their workforce by 30 percent and overhead after the injection of the N620 billion bail-out fund.

In their defense, CBN deputy governor, Sule Labaran, managing director of Oceanic Bank John Aboh and managing director of Intercontinental Bank Mahmoud Lai Alabi argued that the decision was done painstakingly but aimed at protecting the interest of shareholders.

Labaran said the apex bank at no time directed the management of the banks to sack workers, but noted that most of the banks including Oceanic Bank, Intercontinental Bank, Union Bank and two others were running at loss adding that 50 percent of their funds was used on operational cost.

"We never instructed the banks to lay off staff. When we injected money into the banks, what we did was to advise them to stabilize and meet the requirements expected of them. It will interest us if the banks follow due process. But the situation we are witnessing in the banks is unfortunate. If they are to retrench and remain stable, it is quite unfortunate; we only advised banks to focus on cash base because rightsizing is not on only staff but on the cost. What is happening in the banks today is unfortunate but understandable," he said adding that "CBN's focus is for the banks to be strong because we have supported them", he said.

THE sacks at a glance:

INTERCONTINENTAL Bank	1,339
OCEANIC Bank	1,500
UNITED Bank for Africa	46
UNION Bank	50
SPRING Bank	200
WEMA Bank	500
FINBANK	500
FIRST Bank	450
DIAMOND Bank	1,000

“As long as the unions exist in banks, the management of the banks must discuss and dialogue with them before any action is taken on them. If it does not work that way, you can come to the ministry for our intervention and not after the sack. It is unacceptable to us.”

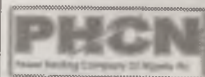
Business/Finance



APT Securities
Friday, January 11, 2010



STOCK Name	Prev Day Close	Open	High	Low	Price	Change	Deals	Volume Traded	Value
7UP	29.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	29.40	0.00	8	7,371	217,824.53
ABCTRANS	0.69	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.02	5	212,169	150,743.69
ACADEMY	5.67	5.40	5.95	5.40	5.95	0.28	24	283,815	1,613,258.38
ACCESS	8.00	8.04	8.11	8.04	8.11	0.11	181	11,993,339	96,927,696.00
AFRIBANK	2.75	2.88	2.88	2.80	2.88	0.13	78	5,375,682	15,374,480.00
AIICO	0.85	0.82	0.86	0.82	0.83	-0.02	162	13,992,386	11,686,505.00
AIRSERVICE	2.65	2.52	2.52	2.52	2.52	-0.13	1	72,500	182,700.00
AP	34.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.51	0.00	39	60,096	2,044,930.25
ASHAKACEM	12.78	12.80	13.30	12.78	13.30	0.52	68	1,004,078	13,107,981.00
ASOSAVINGS	0.63	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.03	15	242,203	159,853.98
AVONCROWN	7.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.65	0.00	1	187	1,359.49
BAGCO	1.57	1.57	1.62	1.55	1.62	0.05	676	1,295,841	2,026,640.25
BCC	46.00	46.01	46.50	46.00	46.50	0.50	28	467,004	21,508,636.00
BECOPETRO	2.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.41	0.00	6	95,000	217,550.00
BERGER	3.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.20	0.00	7	196,476	660,159.38
CAPOIL	0.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.58	0.00	12	429,052	240,569.12
CCNN	13.25	13.45	13.90	13.45	13.90	0.65	20	504,196	6,910,216.00
CHAMS	0.67	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.03	59	8,423,880	5,896,716.00
CHEVRON	69.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	69.79	0.00	4	2,200	161,194.00
CILEASING	2.43	2.42	2.42	2.40	2.40	-0.03	16	530,637	1,280,646.50
CONOIL	29.01	30.46	30.46	30.46	30.46	1.45	19	196,168	5,975,277.50
CONTINSURE	1.15	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	-0.05	2	153,500	168,850.00
CUSTODYINS	2.85	2.86	2.90	2.86	2.88	0.03	6	1,514,100	4,355,391.00
CUTIX	3.30	3.46	3.46	3.46	3.46	0.16	4	59,763	206,779.98
DAARCOMM	0.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.58	0.00	33	465,850	260,962.00
DANGFLOUR	11.97	12.00	12.56	12.00	12.56	0.59	331	17,638,587	217,914,672.00
DANGSUGAR	15.10	15.05	15.05	15.00	15.00	-0.10	88	2,468,140	37,054,968.00
DIAMONDBNK	7.38	7.31	7.40	7.31	7.40	0.02	68	9,918,164	73,262,400.00
DUNLOP	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	28	2,525,936	1,262,968.00
ECOBANK	10.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.10	0.00	1	6,666	63,998.60
ETERNAOIL	5.47	5.74	5.74	5.74	5.74	0.27	24	255,480	1,466,455.25
FCMB	7.47	7.47	7.74	7.35	7.50	0.03	60	5,452,440	41,665,480.00
FIDELITYBK	2.47	2.54	2.59	2.41	2.50	0.03	194	26,622,915	67,273,176.00
FIDSON	2.14	2.15	2.15	2.15	2.15	0.01	10	367,006	788,510.19
FIRSTALUM	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	2	9,400	4,700.00
FIRSTBANK	14.40	14.40	14.80	14.30	14.80	0.40	843	15,140,702	220,333,792.00
GLAXOSMITH	22.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.40	0.00	8	92,036	2,098,324.00
GOLDINSURE	0.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.87	0.00	1	25,000	20,750.00
GTASSURE	2.10	2.10	2.17	2.10	2.10	0.00	31	6,903,850	14,539,073.00
GUARANTY	16.00	16.00	16.08	16.00	16.01	0.01	354	15,906,131	254,898,912.00
GUINEAINS	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	2	58,500	29,250.00
HMARKINS	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	5	812,000	406,000.00
HONYFLOUR	8.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.09	0.00	19	48,100	405,528.00
IANSURE	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0	0	0.00
IBTC	7.35	7.45	7.45	7.45	7.45	0.10	31	335,729	2,489,987.50
IHS	4.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.24	0.00	1	40,000	161,200.00
INTERCONT	1.81	1.85	1.90	1.85	1.90	0.09	169	5,598,082	10,613,320.00
IPWA	1.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.38	0.00	1	2,000	2,640.00
JAPAUOIL	1.33	1.30	1.34	1.28	1.28	-0.05	140	4,516,517	5,905,759.00
JBERGER	26.56	27.49	27.49	26.00	27.47	0.91	40	899,334	23,949,318.00
LASACO	0.55	0.56	0.56	0.53	0.56	0.01	35	5,965,086	3,252,123.75
LAWUNION	0.50	0.51	0.51	0.50	0.50	0.00	18	10,097,772	5,050,726.00
LINKASSURE	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	1	10,000	5,000.00
LIVESTOCK	0.61	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.03	6	146,000	93,440.00
LONGMAN	9.03	8.58	8.58	8.58	8.58	-0.45	6	379,100	3,252,678.00
MAYBAKER	4.05	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	0.20	13	182,504	775,192.00
MOBIL	99.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	99.95	0.00	11	5,399	527,718.50
NAHCO	7.53	7.80	7.80	7.80	7.80	0.27	101	559,437	4,357,624.00
NEIMETH	1.50	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55	0.05	11	607,636	941,885.81
NESTLE	239.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	239.50	0.00	24	40,209	9,617,163.00
NIGERINS	0.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.97	0.00	4	78,575	73,074.75
OANDO	93.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	93.99	0.00	14	25,515	2,398,154.75
OASISINS	1.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.49	0.00	2	10,000	14,200.00
OCEANIC	2.03	2.13	2.13	2.13	2.13	0.10	74	6,058,760	12,905,159.00
OKOMUOIL	22.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.75	0.00	2	418	9,037.16
SKYEBANK	5.59	5.65	5.83	5.45	5.56	-0.03	153	11,054,476	62,649,648.00
STERLNBANK	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.32	1.34	-0.03	45	5,104,353	6,865,194.50
TANTALIZER	0.85	0.89	0.89	0.86	0.89	0.04	33	2,177,203	1,927,489.62
TOTAL	149.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	149.00	0.00	12	14,603	2,071,324.62
TRANSCORP	0.56	0.56	0.58	0.54	0.54	-0.02	57	11,742,655	6,687,849.00
TRIPPLEG	4.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.60	0.00	1	37,055	161,930.34
UNILEVER	20.05	21.05	21.05	21.05	21.05	1.00	39	1,444,705	30,355,558.00
UNIVINSURE	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	2	535,000	267,500.00
WAPIC	1.05	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.05	14	551,525	604,923.50
WEMABANK	1.08	1.13	1.13	1.07	1.11	0.03	69	4,284,471	4,776,136.00
ZENITHBANK	14.46	14.46	14.69	14.15	14.67	0.21	281	7,266,295	104,395,248.00



**POWER HOLDING COMPANY OF NIGERIA
YOLA ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY**

**INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF MANUFACTURERS/
CONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS FOR 2010 CAPITAL BUDGET**

The Management of Power Holding Company of Nigeria, Yola Electricity Distribution Company intends to execute some essential Federal Government funded capital electric power projects for 2010 financial year in line with the President's seven points agenda.

Interested, competent and reliable companies are therefore invited to express their intention to execute the project and or supply equipment and materials to our company through submission of pre-qualification documents.

EXPANSION

LOT 1: CABLES & KITS FOR NETWORK EXPANSION (UNDERGROUND HT & LT CABLES)

LOT 1A: Supply of various sizes of HT underground cables

LOT 1B: Supply of various sizes of LT underground cables

LOT 1C: Supply of various termination kits

LOT 2: CONSTRUCTION OF 33KV & 11KV OVER HEAD LINE

LOT 2A: Construction of 33KV & 11KV over head line at Yerwa b.u Maiduguri

LOT 2B: Construction of 33KV & 11KV over head line at Bulunkutu b.u Maiduguri

LOT 2C: Construction of 33KV & 11KV over head line at Yola b.u Adamawa

LOT 2D: Construction of 33KV & 11KV over head line at Jalingo b.u Taraba

LOT 2E: Construction of 33KV & 11KV over head line at Mubi b.u Adamawa

LOT 2F: Construction of 33KV & 11KV over head line at Damaturu b.u Yobe

LOT 2G: Construction of 33KV & 11KV over head line at Potiskum b.u Yobe

OPERATIONS

LOT 3: COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS

LOT 3A: Supply of Communication VHF Mobile Radio and 160AH Batteries (spares)

LOT 3B: Supply of Laptops and printers

LOT 3C: Supply of Plotter and A2 printer

LOT 4: REPLACEMENT OF ABSOLUTE SWITCHGEARS

LOT 4A: Supply of Schneider power pack, DC-DC Converter and 33kv circuit breaker (Horizon-control module)

LOT 5: PROVISION OF TEST EQUIPMENT

LOT 5A: Supply of 5KVmegger, 10KVmegger, Crimping machine(Hydraulic) and 3 phase Gen set (17.5kw).

LOT 5B: Supply of Special PC&M Van

LOT 5C: Standard PC&M tool box and current injection kid (secondary)

LOT 5D: Supply of fibre HT ladders

LOT 6: CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD STORE AT THE PROPOSED SITE

LOT 6A: Design of standard store

LOT 6B: Construction of standard store

LOT 7: PROVISION OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT VEHICLES & CRANES ETC

LOT 7A: Supply of 4x4 double cabin

LOT 7B: Supply of tyres and engine oil

LOT 8: PROVISION OF SAFETY TOOLS & KITS

LOT 8A: Supply of safety boots, rain coat, safety helmet, safety belt, fire coat and hand gloves.

LOT 8B: Supply of mechanical tool box, electrical tool box, and pull lift.

LOT 8C: Supply of LT fibre ladders.

MAINTENANCE

LOT 9: FEEDER PILLAR & RMUs

LOT 9A: Supply of lucy feeder pillars (not locally fabricated).

LOT 9B: Supply of RMUs (SF6) type and extension.

LOT 10: LINE REINFORCEMENT/REPLACEMENT (REHABILITATION OF O/H HT & LT LINES

LOT 10A: Supply of distribution materials.

LOT 11: REHABILITATION OF DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS/ SUBSTATIONS

LOT 11A: Rehabilitation of Distribution Substations at Jalingo Business Unit

LOT 11B: Rehabilitation of Distribution Substations at Mubi Business Unit

LOT 11C: Rehabilitation of Distribution Substations at Damaturu Business Unit

LOT 12: TRACE CLEARING

LOT 12A: Trace clearing for 33KV and 11KV lines at Bulunkutu Business Unit

LOT 12B: Trace clearing for 33KV and 11KV lines at Damaturu Business Unit

LOT 13: RECONDUCTORING

LOT 13A: Construction of 33kv tower for river crossing from Shinko to Hayin Gada Jimeta, Yola.

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Tender are required to submit the following information to be considered for pre-qualification:

1. Photocopies of certificate of incorporation/business registration in Nigeria.
2. Photocopies current company's tax clearance certificate for the last three years.
3. Photocopies of value added tax (VAT) registration certificate and evidence of VAT remittances.
4. Comprehensive company profile including details of the management and professional staff and company brochure with convincing proof of competence to undertake the job.
5. Evidence of technical, operational and managerial capabilities.
6. Evidence of financial capabilities of executing projects with certified statement from reputable bank.
7. Company's audited account for the last three (3) years.
8. Verifiable evidence of previous experience i.e. having successfully carried out similar work/supply in the last five (5) years.
9. Manufacturing companies must submit evidence of relevance manufacturing capability and facilities and SON and ISO certificates.
10. Construction companies should have a COREN registered Engineer as a Director.
11. Test certificate issued by well-known international standard test laboratory for manufacturers of equipment.
12. Sample of test report of manufactured equipment.
13. Evidence of payment into National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) for a company's employees.
14. Any other relevant document that will place the company on a comparative advantage.
15. All documents submitted will be subjected to verification from the relevant agencies.

SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

The pre-qualification documents should be duly signed by the company's Managing Director. This should be spirally bounded in two (2) copies and submitted in a sealed envelope indicating the LOT as contained in this advertisement and boldly marked 'PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR 2010 FGN CAPITAL BUDGET' at the left hand corner of the envelope, clearly indicating the name of the company, mailing address and GSM number.

NOTE:

- a) APPLICATION SHOULD BE PER LOT AND DOCUMENTS FOR DIFFERENT LOTS MUST BE IN A SEPARATE ENVELOPE CLEARLY AND BOLDLY LABELED AS INDICATED ABOVE.
- b) NO SUPPLIER WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR MORE THAN TWO (2) LOTS.

CLOSING DATE:

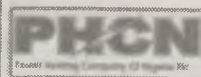
Pre-qualification documents must be delivered by hand or registered mail to reach the undersigned on or before 12.00 noon of Friday, 19th February 2010.

The Chief Executive Officer,
Power Holding Company of Nigeria Plc
Yola Electricity Distribution Company
No. 2 Atiku Abubakar Road,
P. M. B. 2076
Jimeta/Yola,
Adamawa State.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- a) The documents submitted will be opened on Friday 19th February 2010 by 2.00 pm at Yola Electricity Distribution Company Headquarters premises.
- b) Only Technically qualified, competent and successfully pre-selected contractors will be invited to bid for the relevant Lot.
- c) Yola Electricity Distribution Company shall not enter into any correspondence with any unsuccessful tenderer.

This advert shall not be construed to be a commitment on the part of PHCN, Yola Electricity Distribution Company nor shall it entail the tenderer to make any claim(s) whatsoever and/or to seek any indemnity from Yola Electricity Distribution Company by virtue of such tenderer having responded to this publication.



**POWER HOLDING COMPANY OF NIGERIA
YOLA ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY**

INVITATION TO TENDER

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Federal Government of Nigeria in its desire to further enhance Electricity Supply in the Country has granted approval to procure Distribution Transformers for reinforcement of Electricity Supply infrastructure in Yola Electricity Distribution Company (YEDC).

Consequently, Yola Electricity Distribution Company now invites tenders for the supply of the Distribution Transformers for this purpose.

2.1 SCOPE OF WORKS

i. Supply of 500KVA, 11/0.415KV Distribution Transformers

ii. Supply of 500KVA, 33/0.415KV Distribution Transformers

iii. Delivery to be completed within two (2) weeks from the date of issuance of Works Order. Location of delivery is as specified under each lot.

Transformers will be supplied on the basis of lot as shown below:-

LOT	DESCRIPTION	500KVA, 33/0.415KV	500KVA, 11/0.415KV	TOTAL
LOT 1	Supply of 16Nos Distribution Transformer for use at Yerwa Business Unit, Maiduguri	6	10	16
LOT 2	Supply of 14Nos Distribution Transformer for use at Bulunkutu Business Unit, Maiduguri	5	9	14
LOT 3	Supply of 14Nos Distribution Transformer for use at Yola Business Unit, Yola	5	9	14
LOT 4	Supply of 12Nos Distribution Transformer for use at Jalingo Business Unit, Jalingo	4	8	12
LOT 5	Supply of 11Nos Distribution Transformer for use at Damaturu Business Unit, Damaturu	3	8	11
LOT 6	Supply of 10Nos Distribution Transformer for use at Mubi Business Unit, Mubi	3	7	10
LOT 7	Supply of 9Nos Distribution Transformer for use at Potiskum Business Unit, Potiskum	3	6	9

Bidders may bid for more than one Lot.

3.1 ELIGIBILITY OF PRODUCT

- Only transformers from European markets are eligible to be supplied under this procurement invitation.
- Make of Transformers to be supplied must have been in PHCN Network for not less than 5 years.
- Transformers not supported with shipping documents will not be eligible for procurement.
- Transformers not sighted at the bidder's warehouse will not be ordered.

4.1 SPECIFICATION

The transformers to be supplied should be suitable for use in PHCN network as stated in 3.1 above.

5.1 REQUIREMENT OF TENDERERS

- A copy of Certificate of Incorporation of the company in Nigeria.
- A copy of Company profile including among others organizational structure and key professional staff, manufacturing capacity where possible, copy of Company and equipment Brochure should be submitted.
- Evidence of having successfully carried out similar supplies and location of such within the last five years.
- Test certificate issued by well known International Standard test laboratory for manufacturers of Distribution Transformers.
- Sample of Test Report of Manufactured Equipment
- Current Company Tax Clearance for the last three years.
- Current VAT Registration Certificate and evidence of VAT remittances
- Evidence of financial capability from a reputable Bank.
- Warehouse to be inspected before issuance of Works Order
- Any other relevant information or document(s) that will place the company on a more competitive advantage over others.
- Shipping documents to be enclosed in the bid to be submitted.

NOTE: Yola Electricity Distribution Company will carryout verification of all claims by bidders. Hence all necessary Authority and guarantee for verifications must be submitted.

6.1 SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENT

Interested Applicants should submit their financial bid documents and those stated in 5.1 above in sealed envelopes indicating the Lot and marked "Tender for Supply of Distribution Transformers". Name and mailing address of the Tenderers Company shall be clearly marked on the envelope(s). The documents must be delivered by hand to reach the following address:

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
YOLA ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY
NO. 2 ATIKU ABUBAKAR ROAD, JIMETA-YOLA
ADAMAWA STATE, NIGERIA**

Two sets (original and a copy) plus soft copy are to be submitted. All information shall be provided in English Language. Submission of tenders shall close at 12.00 noon 19th February 2010.

This advertisement shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of YEDC Management nor shall it entitle responding Contractors to seek any indemnity from YEDC by virtue of such Contractors having responded to this advertisement.

**SIGNED: MANAGEMENT
YOLA ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY**

Gone to be with the Lord

With profound gratitude to God Almighty for a life full of monumental accomplishments, the families of

ESO ARCHIBONG

of Obutong in Calabar Municipality in Cross River State.
and

**SOKARI DISRAEL BOB-MANUEL,
CHIEF KALA DOKUBO ORUGUTA
MBIERIYIEKOTA ASARI**

of Abonema in Akuku-Toru Local Government in Rivers State
announce the death of our Son, Husband, Father,
Nephew, Cousin and Brother.

MR. FRED OKON ESO ARCHIBONG

BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Monday 11th January, 2010 Service of Songs

at Tafawa Balewa Square (New Hall)

Time: 5:00pm

Tuesday 12th January, 2010 Service of Songs

by FEGOCOWOSA

at No. 27, Glover Road, Ikoyi Lagos.

Time: 5:00pm Prompt

Wednesday 13th, January, 2010 Service of Songs

at his Residence, No. 4, King Faisal Street, Off Gimbiya Street,
Off Onitsha Crescent, Garki Area 11, Abuja.

Time: 7:00pm

**Friday, 15th January, 2010 Wake Keeping Service/
Night of Tributes**

at The African Club, 63, Calabar Road, Calabar.

Time: 7:00pm

Saturday, 16th January, 2010 Lying in State

at The African Club, 63, Calabar Road, Calabar.

Time: 8:00 - 10:00 am

Commendation Service

at First Baptist Church, 115, Ekpo Abasi Street,
by CRUTECH Gate, Calabar,

Time: 10:00am

Interment follows immediately after the service

at Hawkins Cemetery Extension - Eyo Ita axis.

**Entertainment of Guests follows immediately
after interment**

at The African Club, 63, Calabar Road, Calabar

Sunday, 24th, January, 2010 Thanksgiving Service

at First Baptist Church, 15 Port Harcourt Crescent Off Gimbiya Street,
Garki Area 11, Abuja

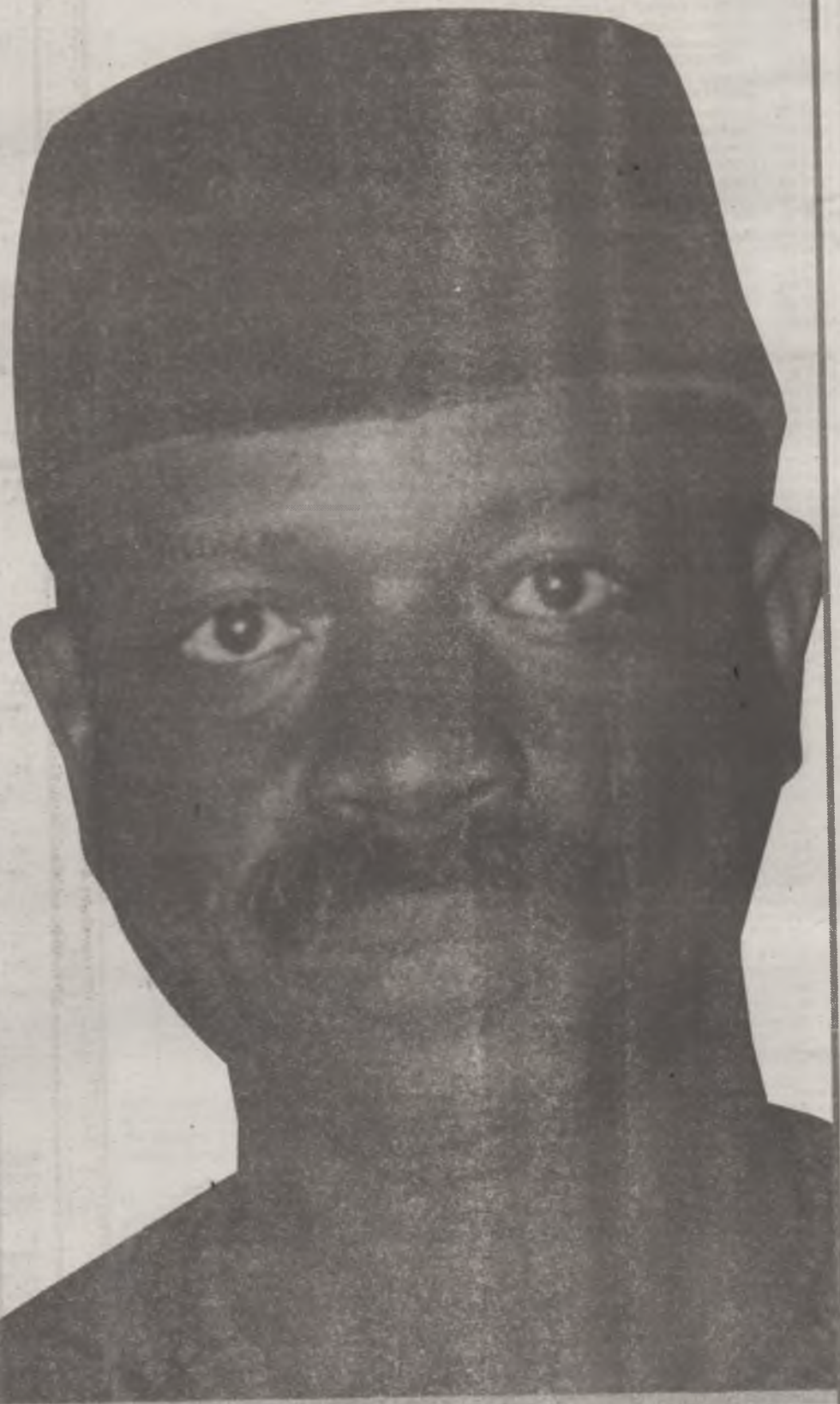
Time: 10:00am

May his Soul Rest in Perfect Peace. Amen

**Dauda N. Iliya
National President
FEGOCOWOSA
08034080059**

Late Fred Okon Eso ARCHIBONG
(Bolingbo Sha)
July 1, 1959 - Nov. 28, 2009
FGC Warri Jan. 1971 - June 1975

**Maureen Akpofure - Awobokun
Lagos Branch Chair
FEGOCOWOSA
08029671615**





BUDGET OFFICE OF THE FEDERATION
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE

**INVITATION TO TENDER FOR INSURANCE
UNDERWRITERS AND BROKERS FOR GROUP
LIFE ASSURANCE**

Introduction:

The Budget Office of the Federation (BOF) wishes to invite tenders from duly accredited Insurance Underwriters and Brokers for the Group Life Assurance Policy of its workforce.

Requirements for Group Life Assurance Underwriters

1. Insurance Underwriters seeking to be selected for the Group Life Assurance policy of the BOF must satisfy the following conditions:
 - (a) Evidence of registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission
 - (b) Copy of current NAICOM Licence
 - (c) Evidence of having met the Consolidation Requirement
 - (d) Evidence of Professional Indemnity
 - (e) Evidence of Office in Abuja
 - (f) Copy of NAICOM's approval of Annual Returns and Accounts for the underwriting year
 - (g) Copy of Tax Clearance Certificates for the past three years
 - (h) Company profile, which should include CVs of six (6) key management personnel
 - (i) Copy of VAT Certificate and evidence of remittances
 - (j) Company's audited financial reports for the last three years
 - (k) Verifiable evidence of similar jobs successfully done in the past three years
 - (l) Bank reference
 - (m) A signed declaration by the Chief Executive Officer that the company settles and will settle all genuine claims promptly

Requirements for Life Assurance Brokers

2.
 - (a) Evidence of registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission
 - (b) Copy of current NAICOM License
 - (c) Copy of NCRIB Certificate
 - (d) Copy of Company's Tax Clearance Certificate for the past three years
 - (e) Evidence of payment of tax by Chief Executive Officer of company for the last three years
 - (f) Company profile, which should include CVs of key personnel
 - (g) Company's audited financial reports for the last three years
 - (h) Verifiable evidence of similar jobs successfully done in the past three years
 - (i) Bank reference
 - (j) Evidence of Office in Abuja
 - (k) Evidence of current Professional Indemnity Cover
 - (l) A Statement signed by the Company's Chief Executive Officer of its staff strength and location address

Submission of Documents

Tenders are to be submitted not later than 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 25th January, 2010, and the bids will be opened by 12.00 noon of the same day, at the BOF's Conference Room, 2nd floor, Old Block, Federal Ministry of Finance, Abuja. The documents/bids should be in sealed envelopes, and boldly marked "Bid for Group Life Assurance-Underwriters" or "Bid for Group Life Assurance-Brokers", respectively. Bids received after the deadline will be rejected. Submissions should be addressed to:

The Director-General
Budget Office of the Federation
Federal Ministry of Finance
Central Business District
P.M.B. 251
Garki - Abuja

SIGNED
DIRECTOR-GENERAL



**KOGI STATE COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (KGCSDA)**
ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANTS FOR BASELINE SURVEY.
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
Contract No: KGCSDA/BS/CQS/001.

1. The Kogi State Government of Nigeria has received a credit from International Development Association (IDA) towards the implementation of Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the consultancy services for baseline survey in all communities and the twenty one (21) participating Local Government Areas (LGAs) across the three (3) Senatorial Districts of the State. These are Kogi, Lokoja, Ijumu, Yagba/West, Kabba/Bunu, Mopamuro, Yagba/East from Western: Adavi, Ogori/Magongo, Okene, Ajaokuta, Okehi, from Central: Ankpa, Ofu, Olamaboro, Igalamela/Odolu, Dekina, Bassa, Omala, Idah and Ibaji LGAs from the East.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The baseline survey is to be conducted to ascertain the socio-economic status of participating communities, and will serve as baseline for a comparative impact assessment of project performance at the end of the project life.

3. SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT.

The consultant is expected to visit all 21 participating Local Government Areas in Kogi State and supply the following general information:

- Name of LGA and Communities and existing CDAs/CBOs
- Distance of Community to the LGA Headquarters and State Capital.
- Population of Community disaggregated into gender/Adult /Children/ethnicity/religion.
- Occupation (cropping pattern, crops, yield, domestic animals like sheep, goats, cattles, and others)
- Available infrastructures (schools, health centres, water supply, markets, electricity, etc).
- Average household size (family) disaggregated into gender/adult/children.
- Sources of household income/economic activities.
- Identify (if any) vulnerable groups (orphans, leprosy, charity homes, etc).
- Others

Please send request to kgcsdanigeria@yahoo.com for detailed TOR

4. DURATION

The survey is expected to be concluded within eight (8) weeks.

5. KGCSDA hereby invites eligible firms to submit Expression of Interest for the assignment. Interested firms MUST provide detailed company profile showing experience and competence relevant to the assignment.

6. Please note that the cost of EOI and negotiation of the contract are not reimbursable as direct cost of the services.

7. A firm will be selected under Consultant Qualification selection (CQ) Method and procedures, in accordance with the policies of IDA detailed in the Guidelines - Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers which can be found at the following website: www.worldbank.org/procure.

8. Familiarity of Consultant(s) with the zones of the state is very crucial in this assignment.

9. The expression of interest with one(1) original and two(2) other copies in properly sealed envelope must be delivered to:

The General Manager,
Kogi Community and Social Development Agency (KGCSDA),
Oba Michael Olabayo Housing Estate, Behind C Division, Nigeria
Police Station, Ganaja Road, P. O. Box 202, Lokoja - Kogi State not
later than 25th January, 2010 by 12.00 Noon clearly marked at the top
left corner - "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR BASELINE CONSULTANT"



KADUNA ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY

4th, 5th, 6th, 7th Floors NAGWAMATSE House,
Ahmadu Bello Way, Kaduna.

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE UNDER LISTED PROJECTS

Introduction: The Federal Government of Nigeria has made budgetary proposal in the 2010 financial year to procure, repair and upgrade existing electricity infrastructure in the country in order to improve energy efficiency and further enhance service delivery to the people in line with Mr. President's 7 point Agenda.

Consequently, the Kaduna Electricity Distribution Company (PHCN) hereby invites interested and competent Manufacturers, Manufacturers Representatives and Contractors with relevant experience in electrical works and the supply of electrical equipment to tender for the supply of the following under listed projects, under the 2010 FGN Capital Budget.

EXPANSION

LOT KD1: CABLES AND KITS FOR NETWORK EXPANSION (UNDERGROUND) HT AND LT CABLES

- LOT KD 1A** Supply of HT Cables
- 500mm² x 1 core 33KV Cable
 - 500mm² x 1 core 11KV Cable
 - 150mm² x 3 core 11KV Cable

LOT KD 1B Supply of L.T. Cables

- 500mm² x 1CLT Cable
- 300mm² x 1CLT Cable
- 150mm² x 4CLT Cable

LOT KD 1C Supply of Heat Shrinkable Kits

- 240 – 500mm² X 1 Core 33KV Termination Kits (Indoor and Outdoor)
- 240 – 500mm² X 1 Core 11KV Termination Kits (Indoor and Outdoor)
- 120 185mm² X 3 Core 11KV Termination Kits (Indoor and Outdoor)
- 120 – 185mm² X 3 Core 11KV Straight Through Joint Kits

LOT KD 2: CONSTRUCTION OF 11KV AND 33KV OVERHEAD LINES ASSOCIATED WITH INJECTION SUBSTATION

- LOT KD 2A** Supply of 8.5 and 10.04M Reinforce Concrete Poles
- LOT KD 2B** Supply 11 KV and 33 KV Overhead line Materials
- LOT KD 2C** Supply of 150mm² Aluminum Conductor
- LOT KD 2D** Construction of 11KV and 33KV Lines

OPERATIONS

LOT KD 3: DESIGN AND COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD COMPANY STORES

LOT KD 3A Design and construction of a standard company warehouse and stores in Kaduna.

LOT KD 4: PROCUREMENT OF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEM

- LOT KD 4A** Supply of:
- VHF Base Radio
 - Walkie-Talkie Radio
 - Vehicular Mobile Radio

LOT KD 5: RETROFITTING OF 11 KV AND 33KV CONTROL PANELS

LOT KD 5A Retrofitting Of 11kv Panels

LOT KD 6: PROVISION OF TEST EQUIPMENT

- LOT KD 6A** Supply of:
- Megger Insulation Tester, Model S1-5010

- 5KV and 10KV Megger Insulation Resistance Tester, Model MIT520/2 and MIT 1020/2
- Megger 5KV Calibration Box Model CB101

LOT KD 7: HEAVY EQUIPMENT VEHICLE, CRANES ETC

LOT KD 7A Supply of 2No. 15 Tons Lorry with 5Tons Crane (1718 Mercedes Benz)

MAINTENANCE

LOT KD 8: FEEDER PILLARS AND RMU

LOT KD 8A Procurement of feeder Pillars and RMU

LOT KD 9: OVERHEAD HT AND LT LINES

- LOT KD 9A** Procurement of 11KV and 33 KV Line Materials
- LOT KD 9B** Procurement of L.T. Line Materials
- LOT KD 9C** Procurement of Concrete Poles
- LOT KD 9D** Rehabilitation of 33KV Lines
- LOT KD 9E** Rehabilitation of 11 KV Lines
- LOT KD 9F** Rehabilitation LT Lines

LOT KD 10: REHABILITATION OF DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS/ SUBSTATION

- LOT KD 10A** Supply of Drums of Transformer Oil
- LOT KD 10B** Supply of 11KV and 33KV Lighting Arrester
- LOT KD 10C** Supply of 11KV and 33KV 'D' Fittings
- LOT KD 10D** Supply of 33kv Gang Isolators.
- LOT KD 10E** Repair of Distribution Transformers

LOT KD 11: TRACE CLEARING OF 33KV, 11KV AND L.T. LINES

- LOT KD 11A** Trace clearing of 33KV Lines
- LOT KD 11B** Trace clearing of 11KV Lines and L.T. Lines

LOT KD 12: 11KV AND 33KV RECONDUCTORING

- LOT KD 12A** Procurement of 150m² Aluminum conductor
- LOT KD 12B** Procurement of 11KV and 33KV Galvanize Cross-Arm
- LOT KD 12C** Procurement of 11KV and 33KV Pin Insulator
- LOT KD 12D** Reconductoring of 33KV Lines
- LOT KD 12E** Reconductoring of 11KV Lines
- LOT KD 12F** Reconductoring of L.T. Lines

3. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT (DOCUMENTS)

Interested Companies are required to submit Three (3) copies of Bids with specific chapters, paginated and separated by dividers in the same order as set out here under A & B.

A. Mandatory Requirements.

- Evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC). Copies of Certificate of Incorporation and Memorandum and Articles of Association should be submitted.
- Evidence of compliance with the Pension Reform Act 2004.
- Evidence of audited accounts and tax clearance Certificate for the past 3 years.

- Evidence of VAT registration and past VAT remittances.
 - Evidence of payment of non-refundable fee of N30,000 for collection of bid documents.
 - All relevant information concerning physical addresses, Telephones, (GSM) fax, e-mail addresses of the company and its Representatives.
 - Bank Reference.
 - A sworn Affidavit affirming that none of the Directors of the Company was ever convicted in a court of Law and that no staff of KEDDC has pecuniary interest in the company.
 - Any other relevant document that will place the company on a Comparative Advantage.
- B Technical Details**
- Proof of available office, resources, warehouse, equipment, facilities etc.
 - Technical expertise/ resume of key Officers to be involved in the project execution.
 - Details of relevant verifiable experience of similar projects. (Please attach copies of transaction documents including project completion Certificates).

COLLECTION OF BID DOCUMENTS

Bid documents, both Technical and Financial, can be obtained from the Secretary Management Tenders Board, Kaduna Electricity Distribution Company, 4th Floor, Nagwamatse House, Ahmadu Bello Way, Kaduna on evidence of payment in Bank draft of a non-refundable bid fee of N30,000.

SUBMISSION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

Three copies of Technical and Financial proposals must each be SEPARATELY submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked as "Project Name, Technical and Financial Proposals" and addressed to:

*Chief Executive Officer,
PHCN Kaduna Electricity Distribution
Company
4th Floor, Nagwamatse House
Ahmadu Bello Way, Kaduna.*

Please Note:

- Returning of bid/Tender documents should only be done within working hours
- In all correspondence, please quote the reference number on the bid document.
- This advertisement shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of KEDDC, nor shall it entitle the Tenderer to make claims what so ever and or seek any indemnity from KEDDC by virtue of such Tenderer having responded to this advert.
- Tender documents, shall be opened at 10:00am at the Conference room of Kaduna Electricity Distribution Company 6th Floor, Nagwamatse House, Ahmadu Bello Way, Kaduna, on March 5, 2010.
- Late submission will not be entertained, please.

Signed
Management.

THE SENATE CONFIRMATION OF MR. UKURA AS NEW AUDITOR-GENERAL FOR THE FEDERATION IS A TRIUMPH FOR DUE PROCESS, DEMOCRACY AND NIGERIA'S QUEST FOR GREATNESS.

Section 86 sub-section 1 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria states thus:-

"The Auditor-General for the Federation shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Federal Civil Service Commission subject to confirmation by the Senate". The office of the Auditor-General for the Federation has been with out a substantive leader for over eight months and as a result created an unwarranted vacuum which has apparently caused this Nation a sub standard and misrepresented Audit Report of its income and expenditure items especially as it affects the 2008 Annual Audit Report which was hastily and shabbily submitted to the National Assembly by the current most senior Director in the office (Mr. G.F. Ogunnsina.)

Mr. Ogunnsina has in the last two months been unofficially in charge of the office of the Auditor-General after having spent six months in an acting capacity since the 18th of May 2009 as allowed by the Constitution, it is therefore an aberration for the extra two months he is currently enjoying in same capacity and this practice is contrary to section 86 sub-section 3 of the Constitution which states thus:-

"Except with the sanction of a resolution of the Senate, no person shall act in the office of the Auditor-General for a period exceeding six months".

It is against this backdrop that the Senate should be allowed to urgently carry out its constitutional responsibility by confirming Mr. Ukura, the nominee of Mr. President whose credentials have been screened and was physically subjected to rigorous interview by both the Civil Service Commission and the Senate Committee on Public Accounts in line with the Constitutional provision of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

A lot of falsehood have been fed to the good people of this Country ostensibly to garner support for the two current Directors and who are all South-West indigenes, Mr. Ogunnsina and his deputy Mr. Osonuga regarding their qualifications and their capacity to provide effective leadership to the office of the Auditor-General. Mr. Ogunnsina obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography with only an honorary certificate of Association on National Accounts of Nigeria without any successful written examination similar to the Chieftaincy titles of today which are merely paid for. Such certificates lack competitiveness for a professional post of the Auditor-General for the Federation. His position in an acting capacity to date has been a total failure exemplified by the watery and unprofessional contents of the 2008 Annual Audit Report completely characterised by lack of Value for Money Audit Report or Performance Audit Report that he has submitted to the National Assembly.

Why should Billions of Naira be appropriated to various Ministries, Departments and Agencies by the National Assembly where as the contents of the Annual Audit Reports on these MDA's from the office of the Auditor-General have always been that of unretired advances of less than one Million Naira and Audit certification of jobs not completed but fully paid to the contractors such as the Enugu recurring Ecological contracts that were awarded for so many years and full payment made to the contractors, yet it has been discovered that these jobs were not actually executed as can be attested to by the distinguished Senators who were on a retreat in Enugu State late year 2009. To imagine that the office of the Auditor-General certified all the payments to these Ecological contractors is more worrisome and inimical to Nigeria's march towards greatness.

The question currently on the lips of all Nigerians is, where is the technical competences of the leaders of this office in all of these? Apparently, if a leader in a professional office such as the office of the Auditor-General for the Federation is devoid of the knowledge to effectively interpret or analyse financial statements of Government organisations for the fact that he does not know it, whatever is submitted to him as Financial or Performance Audit Report is acceptable to him. One particular local parlance states that, when the head is rotten, the rest part of the body is equally rotten and that is the current status of the office of the Auditor-General for the Federation.

Mr. Osonuga who also hails from the South-West, a Director and equally doubles as the deputy Auditor-general, is certainly not a degree holder or a graduate of any university as claimed in the publication of NIGERIAN Tribune of Tuesday 15 December, 2009 on page 42. Mr. Osonuga is a product of a polytechnic institution and should not be misconstrued to mean a University product by any standard. The limit of career progression of polytechnics graduates in the Civil Service Structure of Nigeria is very clear. However, because Osonuga was presented by the past successive leadership of the Auditor-General's office for whatever reason, to the Civil Service Commission for promotion over the years, he moved up the ladder to the Directorate cadre irrespective of whether he passed the professional examination or not since professional examination is usually set and marked by Directors within the office, there is the possibility for a compromise. No peer review mechanism in place to check standards.

It may interest you to learn that it was his brother, Mr. Ogunnsina, the current unofficial acting Auditor-General that actually marked the professional examination's script of Osonuga and in the process the later obviously passed the promotion examination to the post of a Director which he currently holds to the detriment of his senior (for two years) in the service that was not promoted, i.e. Mr. E. Hechukwu, who hails from the South-East. Why should anyone put the blame on the Civil Service Commission for Mr. Osonuga's elevation to the post of a Director when it was indeed his brother Mr. Ogunnsina who actually masterminded the entire process in his favour.

It must be categorically stated here that there is no where in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in which a mention is made, that appointment to the post of Auditor-General should be made from within the office of the Auditor-General. I challenge Mr. Taiwo Adisa, the publisher of the misleading Tribune article of 15th December 2009, page 42 with the caption 'Issues as FG appoints new Auditor-General' and indeed the entire disciples of Mr. Ogunnsina to publish the section of the Constitution which compels the Civil Service Commission to make recommendation of the post of Auditor-General from within.

In the same vein, I equally challenge Taiwo Adisa, to also publish the section of the Constitution which makes it mandatory for the Civil Service Commission to route its recommendation of candidates for the post of Auditor-General through the Secretary to the Federation and Head of Service of the Federation. Nigerians are now wiser and we can not continue to do the wrong thing which has led us to where we are today. In the spirit of rebranding Nigeria, this Country can no longer afford to toy with issues that will enable her attain greatness, one of which is the appointment of the new Auditor-General for the Federation.

At this point in our history as a Nation, what should be paramount in a decision making to such an all important post is Excellence, Merit, Due process and international best practices, which for all practical purposes was a reflection of the Report forwarded by both the Civil Service Commission and the Senate Committee on Public Accounts in the choice of Mr. Ukura by Mr. President.

The facts about how candidates were screened leading to the recommendation of Mr. Ukura is conspicuously evident and available at the Civil Service Commission. It is also available in the Print media where advertorial were placed in about two National News papers of 12th May 2009 with 'THISDAY' Newspaper inclusive.

At this juncture, I strongly want to offer my sincere advice to Taiwo Adisa and his likes to hence forth, desist from misrepresenting facts capable of subjecting hard working and sincere Nigerians who are honestly carrying out their Constitutional mandate to unwarranted embarrassment. For instance, the Senate Committee on Public Accounts under the dynamic and effective functional leadership of Distinguished Senator Ahmed Lawan whose committee by the provision of the Constitution is saddled with the responsibility of screening candidates forwarded by Mr. President for the post of Auditor-General came under unconstructive criticism in the said misleading Tribune publication of 15th December, 2009. This unfortunate incident should be condemned by all well meaning Nigerians.

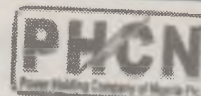
For all practical purposes, the track records of Senator Amhed Lawan, a PHLD holder with a wealth of knowledge speaks volume, and we are all proud of him especially, since this is not his first time he has been faced with the challenge of screening a Nominee for the Post of Auditor-General. He did it objectively in the past and we are confident that, in conjunction with his very serious minded team he will apply similar yardstick in the current exercise. Whatever petition there is, ill motivated or otherwise, could not have been beyond the reach of the public accounts committee to investigate before the submission of its report to the committee of the whole for consideration. Besides, the public Accounts Committee is an embodiment of highly qualified gentlemen whose judgement should not be unduly questioned.

It must be crystal clearly stated also that Auditing is a standard practice all over the world, be it at the State or Federal Service, preparation of accounts are the same at both levels and there fore appointment of a qualified person of a state background to the Federal Service does not pose any problem, so long as such a person is a professional accountant and a trained Auditor with good judgement of Financial interpretation of Government Income and Expenditure accounts with the view to ensuring probity and accountability in all its ramifications.

It was further and falsely reported in the same Tribune publication under review, that the candidature of one Mr. Joseph Ajiboye, a South-West and former Auditor-General for the Federation was rejected by the Senate under the leadership of Senator Anyim Pius Anyim. If such a report was true, how come was same Mr. Ajiboye appointed as the Auditor-General after the tenure of Mr. P.N. Akubu-Eze had expired under former President Obasanjo's watch? It is on record that he was appointed the Auditor-General at the very period Taiwo Adisa claimed in his report that he (Mr. Ajiboye) was rejected by the Senate.

Taiwo Adisa's misleading publication also attempted to whip-up tribal sentiments with the view to stalling Senate confirmation of Mr. Ukura. He started by criticising appointments of Tiv people into Federal service made from Benue state and later digressed to that of the Senate President, Distinguished Senator David Mark. It is indeed, sheer ignorance and mischief to infer that David Mark current post of Senate president was an executive decision. Besides, we were all leaving witnesses to former President Obasanjo's appointments into the Federal service during his tenure when the South-West dominated the financial sector of this Country, hell was not let loose. Why now? By the grace of the Almighty God, the voice of reason of Nigerians typified in the choice of Ukura shall prevail over all the TAIWO ADISAS of this country.

Hassan Mohammed
Abuja.



KADUNA ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY

4th, 5th, 6th, 7th Floors NAGWAMATSE House
Ahmadu Bello Way, Kaduna

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR PROCUREMENT OF DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS

PHCN/KDEDC/CEO/PRO/VOL 11 /2009

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Federal Government of Nigeria in its desire to further enhance electricity supply in the country has granted approval to the Company to procure Distribution Transformers for upgrading, replacement and relief maintenance of electricity infrastructure within the coverage area of the Kaduna Electricity Distribution Company.

Consequently, the Kaduna Electricity Distribution Company now invites tenders from interested and competent Manufacturers, Manufacturers Representatives, and Stockists for the supply of various capacities of Distribution Transformers.

2.0 SCOPE OF WORKS

- Supply of 500KVA, 11/0.415KV Distribution Transformers
- Supply of 500KVA, 33/0.415KV Distribution Transformers
- Lead time of Delivery is two (2) weeks from the date of issuance of Works Order.
- Location of delivery is stated against each lot.

The project is expected to be executed on lot by Lot basis as shown below:-

LOT	DESCRIPTION	500KVA, 33/0.415KV V	500KVA 11/0.415KV	300KVA 33/0.41 5KV	300KVA, 11/0.415 KV
LOT 1	Supply of 13 nos Distribution Transformer for use at Doka Business Unit in Kaduna.		4		9
LOT 2	Supply of 15nos Distribution Transformer for use at Kawo Business Unit in Kaduna.	2	3	3	7
LOT 3	Supply of 13nos Distribution Transformer for use at Makera Business Unit in Kaduna.		3	2	8
LOT 4	Supply of 16nos Distribution Transformer for use at Barnawa Business Unit in Kaduna.	1 of 4	4	3	8
LOT 5	Supply of 14nos Distribution Transformer for use at Zaria Business Unit in Zaria.		2	2	8
LOT 6	Supply of 15nos Distribution Transformer for use at Samaru Business Unit in Zaria.	2	3	2	7
LOT 7	Supply of 13nos Distribution Transformer for use at Kafanchan Business Unit Kaduna.	2	2	2	7
LOT 8	Supply of 12nos Distribution Transformer for use at Gwiwa Business Unit in Sokoto.	1	3	2	6
LOT 9	Supply of 13nos Distribution Transformer for use at Marina Business Unit in Sokoto.	1	4	1	7
LOT 10	Supply of 9nos Distribution Transformer for use at Yelwa Yauri Business Unit.	1	2	1	5
LOT 11	Supply of 15nos Distribution Transformer for use at Rigasa Business Unit Kaduna.	1	4	2	8
LOT 12	Supply of 12nos Distribution Transformer for use at B/Kebbi Business Unit.	1	4	2	5
LOT 13	Supply of 12nos Distribution Transformer for use at Gusau Business Unit Zamfara.	1	3	2	6

Interested Bidders may choose to bid for multiple lots.

1.0 ELIGIBILITY OF PRODUCT

- Only transformers with European specifications are acceptable under this procurement.
- Transformers not supported with shipping documents will not be eligible for this procurement.
- Transformers not sited at the bidder's warehouse will not be ordered.

2.0 SPECIFICATIONS

The transformers to be supplied should be suitable for use in PHCN Kaduna area network as stated in 3.0 above.

3.0 TENDER REQUIREMENTS

- Acopy of Certificate of Incorporation of the company in Nigeria.
- Company profile including, among others, organizational structure and key professional staff, relevant manufacturing capacity where necessary, copy of Company and equipment Brochure should be submitted along side bids.
- Evidence of having successfully done similar supplies and respective locations in the last five years
- Test certificate issued by well known International Standard test laboratory for manufacturers of Distribution Transformers
- Sample of Test report of Manufactured Equipment
- Current Company Tax Clearance for the last three years.
- Up dated VAT Registration Certificate and evidence of VAT remittances in the last five years.
- Evidence of financial capacity. (Please submit Companies Bank statements in the last one year).
- A team of inspectors, from KDEDC is to inspect the Warehouse(s) where the transformers are being ware housed before any Works Order is issued.
- Shipping documents to be attached to bid.
- Sworn affidavit affirming that information being provided by bidders are correct and that no staff of PHCN Kaduna Electricity Distribution Company has any pecuniary interest in the company.
- Any other relevant information that will place the bidding company on a comparative advantage over others

6.0 COLLECTION AND SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

Interested Applicants are therefore, advised to collect bid documents on payment in Bank draft of the sum of N30,000 Only payable to Kaduna Electricity Distribution Company. Completed bid documents are to be submitted in sealed envelopes indicating the Lot and marked "Tender for Supply of Distribution Transformers". Name and mailing address of the Tendering Company shall be clearly marked on the envelope(s). The documents must be delivered by hand at the following address:

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
KADUNA ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY
4th FLOOR NAGWAMATSE HOUSE, AHMADU BELLO WAY KADUNA.**

Two sets (original and Copy) plus soft copy are to be submitted. All information shall be provided in English Language. Submission of tenders shall close at 12:00noon 14th February 2010.

Please Note:

- Kaduna Electricity Distribution Company shall verify all claims by bidders. Hence all necessary Authority and Guarantee for verifications must be submitted along side the bids.
- Returning of bid/Tender documents should only be done within working hours.
- In all correspondence, please quote the reference number on the bid document.
- This advertisement shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of KDEDC, nor shall it entitle the Tenderer to make claims what so ever and or seek any indemnity from KDEDC by virtue of such Tenderer having responded to this advert.
- Tender documents, shall be opened at 10:00am at the Conference room of Kaduna Electricity Distribution Company 6th Floor, Nagwamatse House, Ahmadu Bello Way, Kaduna, Six weeks from the date of this publication.
- Late submission will not be entertained, please.

Signed
Management

Movement for a Better future

Building People. Securing The Future

No. 15 New Jos Road, Kofan Doka, P.O. Box 405, Zaria. Tel: 08099282770
movementfbf@gmail.com

ACCOUNTABILITY AND THE 2011 CHALLENGE IN KADUNA STATE

As citizens of Kaduna State, members of the Movement for a Better Future (MFBF) have committed themselves to leading vanguard for democratic change and enthroning a culture of transparency and accountability in the management of public resources. As the 2011 approaches, the jostle for political leadership has already commenced with Gov. Namadi Sambo leading the way through his Daram Dam Dam Campaign.

More than two and half years into the life of the Namadi administration give enough time for assessment of the performance of the administration. During the period, the state has received unprecedented revenue from the federation account that can move the state into one of the developed states of the federation. Below, we present to you records of what the state and the 23 Local Governments received between June 2003 and November 2009.

LGAs/State	Jun 03 - May 07	May 07- Dec 08	Jan-Nov 09
B/Gwari	4,069,312,839.35	3,306,700,903.08	4,712,427,701.61
Chikun	4,678,336,599.91	3,563,219,909.27	5,058,636,391.21
Giwa	3,431,346,353.38	2,818,813,746.28	4,607,631,638.33
Kajuru	2,834,607,721.30	2,189,155,116.20	3,140,778,436.57
Igabi	4,820,940,198.24	3,761,050,377.96	5,380,412,755.87
Ikara	3,054,885,247.10	2,373,519,656.11	3,372,855,422.30
Jaba	3,305,559,264.59	2,743,835,624.58	3,108,542,853.93
Jema'a	3,207,791,245.49	2,430,595,547.20	3,937,947,669.80
Kachia	3,563,442,274.67	2,966,179,543.46	4,253,105,391.23
Kaduna North	4,669,224,794.05	3,212,905,417.16	4,496,906,231.07
Kaduna South	5,105,192,806.13	3,359,380,559.33	4,869,975,479.26
Kagarko	2,980,433,693.52	2,521,471,138.16	3,635,730,371.90
Kaura	2,852,824,600.82	2,350,280,730.78	3,285,672,654.00
Kauru	2,892,111,799.54	2,468,752,578.85	3,516,609,857.25
Kubau	3,646,375,849.28	2,877,239,834.59	4,019,650,769.32
Kudan	2,678,053,921.60	2,035,732,736.82	2,757,479,528.54
Lere	3,988,778,018.83	3,096,709,692.07	4,421,735,772.30
Makarfi	2,903,771,392.11	2,170,257,261.12	3,085,787,445.35
Sabon Gari	3,548,693,147.57	2,699,025,759.33	3,841,877,384.00
Sereja	2,646,574,989.49	2,189,332,293.94	3,117,661,361.76
Soba	3,509,759,896.71	2,874,562,964.35	4,117,986,182.60
Zangon Katal	3,531,512,708.90	3,021,420,839.78	4,335,456,480.98
Zaria	4,171,158,472.79	3,284,310,487.34	4,805,142,743.83
Total	82,090,687,835.34	64,314,452,717.76	92,880,010,523.01
State Government	90,269,022,397.15	66,998,432,715.84	28,051,605,360.78

- From these records, our 23 Local Governments have received N157,194,463,240.77 between May 2007 and November 2009. This is almost doubled what the 23 LGAs received between June 2003 and May 2007, which N82,090,687,835.34.
- The state government has received N95,050,038,076.62 between May 2007 and November 2009. This is almost N5 billion in excess of what the last administration of Gov. Makarfi received between June 2003 and May 2007.
- How has the state government and all the 23 Local Governments utilized these funds?
- Were these monies used to promote public welfare or embezzled, mismanaged and stolen by public officials?
- Can we in anyway justify these resources through identified physical infrastructures and services delivered to citizens of Kaduna?

As citizens, we demand accountability in lines with provisions of the 1999 constitution.

We call on all citizens to be vigilant and never allow public officials to intimidate us into submission.

The race for 2011 MUST be based on trust, honesty and competence!

NO ACCOUNTABILITY, NO DARAM DAM DAM!!!!

This message is from the Movement for a Better Future, Kaduna
2011 Mobilisation Committee

FOR SALE

OFFICE BLOCKS ON LARGE
EXPANSE OF LAND
TITLE: C OF O

AT **KADUNA**

5, NBC ROAD, KADUNA
and
29, DEGEL ROAD, KADUNA

AT **KANO**

2, BANK ROAD, KANO

AT **JOS**

8, BANK ROAD, JOS

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT
VICTOR: 01-7402114, 08052304609

CALL TO GLORY APPRECIATION



On 28th November, 2009, Margaret departed this world during a trying period for family and friends. We sincerely show our appreciation to all who stood by us emotionally, materially and otherwise. The unending list includes the following:

Late Mrs Margaret J Giyan
(22-10-1971 - 28-11-2009)

- Board of Governors, Management and staff of the Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Keffi
- Institute of Human Virology, Nigeria
- Medical and Dental Consultant Association of Nigeria (MDCAN), F.M.C, Keffi branch
- Nigeria Medical Association (NMA), Nasarawa State
- C.A.N, Keffi LGA
- Officers and Men, FRSC, Keffi Unit Command
- The Emir of Keffi
- Hon & Mrs. D.T Sango
- Distinguished Senator Dantong Gyang
- Women Fellowship, COCIN, RCC, Abuja and LCC Keffi, Virtuous Women, COCIN LCC, Keffi
- COCIN RCC, Abuja, COCIN LCC, Keffi
- Students, School of Accountancy, Jos
- Staff, and Students, Baptist High School, Jos
- Sokoga Academy, Keffi
- Management and Staff of Fin Bank Plc, Keffi, Diamond Bank Plc, Keffi and Unity Bank Plc, Keffi
- COCIN LCC, Kwakwi, RCC Ganawuri
- ONAIWI Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd, Keffi
- Relations, Friends and Well wishers at home and abroad, too numerous to count.

We were all in it together-one big family!

May the Almighty God bless you beyond measure.
Amen

Note: Funeral already took place on 5th December, 2009.

Signed
Dr. Giyan J.N (Husband) for the family.

DIGEST

Young widow gives birth to 'miracle' twins 20 months after husband died from cancer

NEWBORN twins Ruby and Chaise Bowen are a living memory of their father, Gavin - who died nearly two years ago. Mr Bowen was just 22 when he decided to have his sperm frozen before he began a course of chemotherapy for a rare form of cancer.

He and his widow Kelly had decided that they wanted to have children but had been warned the treatment could affect his fertility. Sadly, the chemotherapy failed to beat the cancer. The couple married in April 2008, just two days before Mr Bowen lost his fight for life.

Yesterday his widow spoke of her joy at deciding to carry on with the IVF to give birth to daughter Ruby and son Chaise on New Year's Eve. Mrs Bowen, 25, said: 'I feel it is a wonderful gift which Gavin has given to me, even though he is not here with us. "The twins are doing very well. I wish Gavin could see them but we are doing fine at the moment." Mr Bowen, who was unemployed, was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma, a rare cancer which affects the bones, after complaining of a pain in his groin in June 2006.

Doctors warned treatment could affect his chances of becoming a father so the couple decided to have his sperm frozen. But the cancer had spread to Mr Bowen's lungs and the couple decided to get married at their home in the village of Caerau, near Maesteg, South Wales. Two days later he died.

Mrs Bowen said yesterday: 'Before he passed away, we decided we wanted a brother or sister for Shay, but he passed away too soon. "After he passed, I thought, "I am going to continue to do it". However, two rounds of treatment failed to make her pregnant - and she only conceived on the third and final attempt.

She said: 'I was worried when two tries of IVF didn't work. "But I decided to give it one more try and became pregnant."

Mrs Bowen found out she was pregnant last May, just weeks after the first anniversary of her husband's death, and was delighted when doctors broke the news she was expecting twins. She said: 'I knew that it would have been a big possibility, because they planted two fertilised eggs and there's a one in three chance of twins. "We've been through a lot but this is the best start to the New Year we could hope for. It is like a miracle."

The twins arrived nine days early, at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend, Ruby Grace at 5lb 12oz and Chaise Gavin at 7lb 10oz. Their birth recalls the case of Diane Blood, who won a legal battle to have her dead husband's baby.



KELLY Bowen, of Caerau, South Wales, with twins Ruby and Chaise

Women with full lips 'look younger'

WOMEN who have plump full lips look younger than their years, scientists have said. It is something devotees of collagen injections and silicone implants have long believed, but now research has backed their theory that a bee stung pout can belie their true age. Even if the woman in question has wrinkles, eye bags, sagging jowels and greying hair, a rosy and firm set of lips will make them appear younger. 'However, there is little women can do naturally to keep the youthful

appearance of their lips because that is determined by genes rather than outside factors such as sun damage.

David Gunn, a research scientist at Unilever, which funded the international study at seven universities, including St Andrews, told The Sunday Times: "When we identified people who looked young for their age, we were struck by the difference in their lips.

"It is a feature that is strongly genetically determined and relatively easy to measure."

The findings confirm the accepted idea of beauty, typified by actresses from Marilyn Monroe to Scarlett Johansson, who have both been noted for their seductive pouts. The lips of both men and women reach their fullest in early adulthood, but then start getting thinner between the age of 30 and 40. The study analysed the faces of 102 pairs of white Dutch female twins aged 59-81 and 162 individual British white women aged 45-75. It found that wrinkles, sun damage and age

spots were equally influenced by both genetic and environmental factors, but the development of a receding hairline, greying hair, and most markedly "lip height" was determined by genes. There was a more than sevenfold variation in lip thickness among women over 60. The pink part of the thinnest lips measured just 3mm from the top of the upper lip to the bottom of the lower lip, while the fullest lips among the over-sixties measured 2.2cm.

Culled from Telegraph.co.uk

Sign Language



What's the world coming to?

Photo location: Front of pianoshop, Palo Alto, California, by Jitze Coupe-rus

Culled from the telegraph.co.uk

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.

61

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

EASY CROSSWORDS

49

ACROSS

- Parts of speech (abbr.)
- Oil cartel acronym
- ___ de plume
- Marshy soil
- Radio tuner
- Solemn tear
- "___ Man" (1984 film)
- Group of facts
- Word in MPH
- Exclamation of woe
- Absurd
- Divider
- Wordless actor
- Regret
- Tells a tall tale
- Play divisions
- SAT org.
- Lies
- breadbox crumbs
- Onesies, for short
- Haiku or ode
- Actor Karraa
- Maple's fluid
- Is troubled
- John Quincy ___
- Impostor
- FBI agents (hyph.)
- One (Ger.)
- Swedish rock group
- Stride easily
- '50s initials
- Witty remark
- Landl of tennis
- Perceive
- Alter vows (2 wds.)
- Unchanged
- Demand as one's due
- Wine-exporting valley
- "Closer" actor Clive
- Insignificant
- Know-it-___
- Teacher's group (abbr.)
- ___ school
- Ford product
- Lunch and dinner
- Capri, e.g.
- Type of type (abbr.)
- Famed ladies' man
- Trolley, to Paddington
- Drinks daintily
- Student's challenge
- West of Hollywood
- Baghdad resident
- Lunch spots
- FBI employees, for short
- Assistant
- On bended ___
- Spaces between teeth
- Baby flower
- Life (prefix)
- Actress Grier
- WSW's opp.

DOWN

- Rainy mo.
- Barely passing grade
- ___ beetle
- Fur neckpiece
- Probability relative
- Actress Zadora
- Have hunch

Solution to Easy Crosswords

48

M	P	H		A	B	E	T		P	A	W	N
A	H	A		L	O	G	O		O	M	E	N
N	I	P		O	N	O	R		L	I	T	E
		P	L	O	D			N	B	A		
T	H	I	E	F		P	A	R	R	I	E	S
H	O	N	G			I	D	O		N	A	T
E	R	E		B	E	L	O	W		S	S	A
I	D	S		A	Y	E			S	T	E	R
R	E	S	A	L	E	S		P	E	A	L	S
			M	L	B		M	E	A	L		
O	A	H	U		R	I	O	T		L	B	S
I	S	I	S		O	G	R	E		E	A	T
L	A	D	E		W	O	K	S		D	D	S

Solution to Sudoku 60

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

News Extra

Detroit bomber 'singing like a canary' before arrest

President Barack Obama is under fire over claims that the Christmas Day underwear bomber was "singing like a canary" until he was treated as an ordinary criminal and advised of his right to silence.

The chance to secure crucial information about al-Qaeda operations in Yemen was lost because the Obama administration decided to charge and prosecute Umar Farouk Abdul Mutallab as an ordinary criminal, critics say. He is said to have reduced his cooperation with FBI interrogators on the advice of his government-appointed defence counsel.

The potential significance became chillingly clear this weekend when it was reported that shortly after his detention, he boasted that 20 more young Muslim men were being prepared for similar murderous missions in the Yemen.

The lawyer for the 23-year-old Nigerian entered a formal not guilty plea on Friday to charges that he tried to blow up a Detroit-bound airliner on December 25 – even though he reportedly admitted earlier that he was trained and supplied with the explosives sewn into his underwear by al-Qaeda in the Arab state.

"He was singing like a canary, then we charged him in civilian proceedings, he got a lawyer and shut up," Slade Gorton, a member of the 9/11 Commission that investigated the Sept 2001 terror attacks on the US, told *The Sunday Telegraph*.

"I find it incomprehensible that this administration is treating terrorism as a law enforcement issue. The president has finally said that we are at war with al-Qaeda. Well, if this is a war, then Abdul Mutallab should be treated as a combatant not a criminal."

Abdul Mutallab could have been held and interrogated in military custody under existing US legislation before a decision was taken whether to charge him before a military tribunal or a civilian court, according to Michael Mukasey, the last Attorney General under President George W Bush.

Mr Mukasey argues that it was crucial to gain intelligence from him immediately as details about locations, names and other plots is subject to rapid change. For the same reason, he dismissed the argument by John Brennan, Mr Obama's chief counter-terrorism adviser, that investigators will garner valuable data during any plea-bargaining talks.



UMAR Farouk Abdul Mutallab

"He certainly should know that the kind of facts that Abdul Mutallab might be expected to know have a shelf life that is a lot shorter than the plea bargaining

that Mr Obama has deliberately avoided using terms such as "war" and "terrorism" during his first year and initially described Abdul Mutallab as an "isolated



ABDUL Mutallab met with cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, left, who exchanged emails with the U.S. Major alleged to have killed 13 soldiers at Fort Hood



process," he wrote in the *Wall Street Journal* last week.

Mr Obama announced a series of steps designed to "connect the dots" by tackling the failures in intelligence that meant Abdul Mutallab was not identified as a terror suspect and the activities of the al-Qaeda affiliate in Yemen were not seen as a threat to the US homeland.

He also declared: "We are at war against al-Qaeda". The bold statement was welcomed by conservative critics who believe

extremist". But they also say that the administration has demonstrated a lack of vigilance by downplaying threats and that charging the former London college student as an attempted mass murderer rather than a terrorist gives off dangerous mixed signals.

Dan Goure, a national security analyst and Pentagon adviser, said that the Obama administration's philosophy and approach was fuelling the

intelligence imbroglio.

"There is a strategic disconnect between the different parts of our government which are currently engaged in very different conflicts," he told *The Sunday Telegraph*. "Not everybody is at war and no amount of connecting the dots is going to deal with that issue."

"The president has finally acknowledged that we are at war, the military certainly knows it's fighting a new kind of war, the intelligence community is not sure whether we're at war and is keeping its head down and the justice and homeland security departments are treating terrorism as a crime and do not think we're at war at all."

The missed clues about Abdul Mutallab and the terror plot came less than two months after the Fort Hood massacre committed by Maj Nidal Hasan, a Muslim officer about whom numerous red flags were missed. Both men were in contact with Anwar al-Awlaki, a radical American-born preacher now based in Yemen.

And just five days after Christmas Day, a suicide bomber killed seven CIA operatives in Afghanistan after he was brought on to a US base without screening to meet agents who believed he was about to spill the beans on al-Qaeda's top leaders.

The three incidents have caused a fresh crisis for the US intelligence community more than eight years after the Sept

2001 suicide attacks highlighted glaring weaknesses in how America's 16 different spy agencies operated.

The bipartisan 9/11 Commission, of which Mr Gorton, a lawyer and former Republican senator, was one of 10 members, recommended a radical overhaul. At the heart of the shake-up was the creation of the National Counterterrorism Centre (NCTC), drawing experts and analysts from sometimes competing agencies, under the auspices of the new Office of Director of National Intelligence (DNI).

The new offices were intended to force the disparate US intelligence world to share information and, in Mr Obama's words, "connect the dots".

But Mr Brennan's investigation into the Christmas Day attack singled out the NCTC and the CIA for blame.

For although the new apparatus is much better at collecting information, it also seems to have been overwhelmed by the sheer volume of data now available. So when Abdul Mutallab's father reported his concerns about his son's radicalisation to the CIA station chief at the embassy in Nigeria, his name was added to more than 550,000 already on the Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment (Tide) database at the NCTC.

But despite multiple other clues accumulating inside the system – including electronic intercepts by the National Security Agency (NSA) referring to an airline plot, an unnamed Nigerian and an Umar Farouk – his name progressed no further through the system.

Both agencies have been ordered to improve their analysis work and establish responsibilities for who should be picking up the pieces so that another Abdul Mutallab does not fall through the cracks, with potentially catastrophic circumstances.

It is this mess that Mr Obama is now starting to tackle – if belatedly, according to some critics. "This was not a failure of intelligence, this was a failure to act on the intelligence that we had," said Mr Gorton.

"The president has been mugged by reality and he's reacted positively. If only they were not trying Abdul Mutallab in a criminal court."

PIC: AP

News Extra

Immigrant riot in Italy

... 37 injured after series of beatings by white youths

Violence broke out in southern Italy Saturday as hundreds of migrant workers, most of them Africans, went on a rampage in retaliation to two of their number being shot and three more beaten with iron bars by white youths.

Authorities reporting at least 37 were wounded in the ensuing clashes, including 18 police officers and five migrants, as the violence reached its second day in the coastal town of Rosarno in Calabria.

The riots in the region were sparked off when two migrants were wounded by pellet fire two days ago, starting the cycle of violence, said a top police official, Renato Cortese, in the regional capital.

The simmering racial tension was then exacerbated when two more migrants were shot in the same location, an unoccupied factory which serves as sleeping quarters for African workers in the hamlet of Laureana di Borrello 6 miles from Rosarno.

“The rioting began after Thursday's shooting, in which two men - one from Nigeria, the other from Togo - were lightly injured

In retaliation, the immigrant farm labourers went on a rampage and fought pitched battles with the police.

Police reinforcements were being sent in the next hours, likely during the night, with the exact number still being decided, the Interior Ministry said.

Officials at Santa Maria degli Ungheresi Hospital in the nearby town of Polistena said one of the migrants beaten by metal rods had surgery for a kidney injury and another was treated for an eye socket injury, and the third wounded in the attack was taken to another hospital for brain surgery.

The rioting began after Thursday's shooting, in which two men - one from Nigeria, the other from Togo - were lightly injured.

The foreigners angrily blamed that shooting on racism, and groups of protesters stoned police, attacked residents and smashed shop windows and cars.

Friday, angry migrants, mostly from African nations, some armed with metal bars or wooden sticks, scuffled with police and residents in the streets of Rosarno.

Other residents were holed up in their homes, state radio reported, and schools and shops were shuttered.

Terrified, she fled with her



THE abandoned factory turned into a dormitory by migrant workers in Rosarno, where several of them were attacked by white youths



IMMIGRANT workers take part in a protest demonstration in Rosarno, Italy, after a night of rioting that was sparked by an attack on African farm workers by a gang of white youths.

family, and the assailants set her car afire, she said.

With television cameras rolling in the streets, some residents shouted that they wanted the migrants to leave the town.

An exact number of arrests was not available because the clashes were continuing, although they were 'under control', said the paramilitary Carabinieri.

Agazio Loiero, the governor of the Calabria region, told Sky TV said that the violence was 'unacceptable' but the migrants had been 'strongly provoked'.

The combination of ethnic strife and organized crime has sparked violence before among migrant communities in southern Italy. In 2008, migrants rioted in the Naples area after six Ghanians were murdered in a gangland-style shooting blamed on the local Camorra crime syndicate.



AN immigrant argues with a resident during the protest

News Extra



TWINKLE Dwivedi

Indian girl cries tears of blood

pints of it seeped through her eyes, nose, hairline, neck and soles of her feet.

Spontaneously

Dr George Buchanan, a leading haematologist who has worked in Britain, travelled to India to look into the startling case.

The teenager from Lucknar, Uttar Pradesh, has been suffering the frightening episodes up to 50 times a day for the last three years. She said: "I bleed from my eyes, my hands, my head, from everywhere. From my ears, nose and eyes as well."

"It doesn't hurt when the bleeding starts. But it makes me tired and sometimes I have headaches."

Dr Buchanan, an American paediatric blood specialist, visited Twinkle's family at the Jaslok Hospital in Mumbai where he observed her bleeding.

He said: "I've never seen a case of someone who bleeds spontaneously from their scalp or their

palms, or read about it in medical history.

"I was interested to see if I could help Twinkle."

The doctor was called to the family's hotel room to witness bleeding which began from her hair parting.

He was shocked to find no signs of cuts, bruising or redness.

Dr Buchanan said: "It doesn't

He was shocked to find no signs of cuts, bruising or redness

Tests show she may have a mild form of a clotting disorder, which means her platelets do not stick together properly. But this is not enough to explain the spontaneous bleeding.

Dr Buchanan is also investigating whether Twinkle or her mum cause the bleeding themselves.

Twinkle, a Hindu, said: "I am not causing this. Why would I want to make myself bleed?"

"I don't want to be like this. I want to go to school and have a normal life."

The unlucky girl has missed at least two years of education after two schools banned her from classes because of the bleeding.

The mysterious case of Twinkle's bleeding is fully examined in a new BodyShock documentary next week.

It also shows Twinkle's family visiting a local mystic, being examined by a Christian bishop for stigmata, and bathing in the River Ganges.

This is the girl who has baffled top doctors because she spontaneously BLEEDS from her pores up to 50 TIMES a day.

Twinkle Dwivedi, 14, has strange disorder which means she loses blood through her skin without being cut or scratched.

Terrified Twinkle has even undergone transfusions after

seem physically possible for blood to seep through intact skin.

"But I saw no signs of cuts or bruising anywhere on her body."

Dr Buchanan and his team carried out a series of tests including cutting Twinkle's skin to time how quickly the bleeding stops.

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PROPERTY

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'Public Procurement Act hinders infrastructural devt'

By Nasir Imam

IF Nigeria must witness any meaningful infrastructural development that will lead to the attainment of the Vision 2020, the National Assembly must begin the process that will lead to the abrogation of the Public Procurement Act.

The Public Procurement Act, according to the Coordinator of

Abuja Infrastructure Investment Company (AIIC), Farouk Sani, has been militating against investment in the country as a result of the processes and the time involved in picking investors.

Speaking with our correspondent in Abuja at the weekend, the AIIC Coordinator, whose agency is charged with the promotion of infrastructural

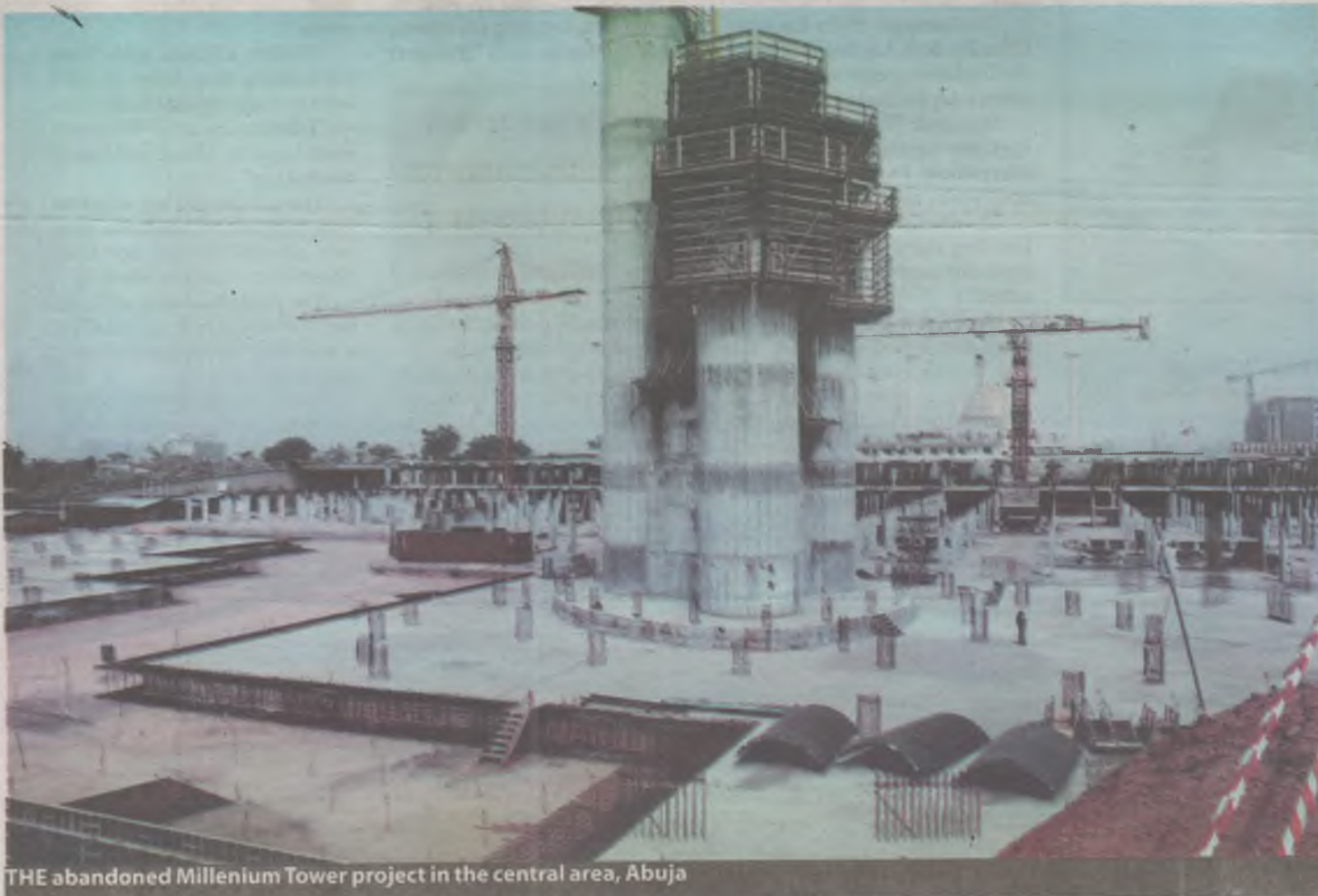
investment in FCT, stressed that the PP Act was a case of over-legislation by the government when it was enacted adding that no meaningful development can take place in the country with the continuous existence of the Act.

His words: "There is no society that is desperate for infrastructural development that can use the Public Procurement Act

as a catalyst for solution. Public Procurement Act can only be relevant in a system that is stable and has infrastructure. For instance, if you go to the United Kingdom, they can afford to use because they have advanced infrastructure, the United States of America can afford to use it because they have developed infrastructure but countries that are yearning for infrastructural

development cannot use it".

While lamenting that the process does not guarantee the selection of best investors with both technical know-how and financial muscle, Sani who said only best proposals emerge at the of the process added that PP Act is only workable in countries with advanced infrastructure but not Nigeria that is yearning for infrastructural development.



THE abandoned Millennium Tower project in the central area, Abuja

A/Ibom to build 2,000 houses

THE Akwa Ibom State government has said it is planning to build 2000 houses in the state.

According to its Ministry of Housing and Urban Renewal, the State government is poised to build 1000 units of the houses in Uyo, and 500 for Eket and Ikot Ekpene Senatorial Districts.

The Commissioner there, Emmanuel Enoidem, added that the government, working in liaison with the Federal Housing Authority and the Federal Mortgage Bank, is targeting 10,000 houses in the State before the end of its tenure. This commends itself to all other States that are yet to start this kind of programme. Local governments must do so too.

In addition, according to reports, wife of the State Governor, Mrs. Unoma Akpabio has, under her Shelter Support Programme of her Family Life Enhancement Initiative (FLEI), built no fewer than 13 four-bedroom bungalows to helpless widows and blind men cut across various local government areas of the State. Only the homeless can fully appreciate what that State's first lady has done.

According to its Ministry of Housing and Urban Renewal, the State government is poised to build 1000 units

Nigerians want reduction of high cost of building materials

By Hussein Yahaya

A cross section of Nigerians resident in the Federal Capital Territory [FCT] Abuja have called on the federal government to take a more proactive action on the high cost of building materials in the country.

Most of them specifically decried the high prices of cement, nail, roofing zinc and wooden

materials. Alhaji Ismail Iyanda, a public affairs analyst, observed that government have not been paying much attention on how to check the incessant price hike on the building materials, adding that such neglect have been affecting ordinary Nigerians in one way or the other.

He noted that for the land reform policy of the present Administration to achieve its

desired objectives, government must be interested in what goes on in the building sector.

A banker, Mr. Kayode Ajagun, wondered why the prices of cement, roofing zinc and nail keep increasing despite the fact that most of them are being produced locally and charged relevant government ministries to look into the ugly development.

Another resident who gave

his name as Chinedu, said the high cost of building materials is now taking its toll on the tenants as most land lords now hike their house rents on the pretext of high cost of building materials.

A survey by our reporter shows that a bag of cement of any product now sells between N1,800 to N2,000 while a bundle of convectional roofing zinc now sells for N9,000 to N10,000.

German firm begins mapping for Greater P/Harcourt

A German firm, Ferner Kundung GMBN, last week kicked off the completion of the geographic image mapping of Rivers State to enable engineering design of the utility provisions in the Greater Port Harcourt City planned by the Governor Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi administration to commence.

Although officials of the Greater Port Harcourt City

Development Authority led by its Administrator, Dame Aleruchi Cookey-Gam inspected the "Ortho-Photo mapping aircraft" in Port Harcourt, they could not say how soon the completion of the mapping would be completed.

They cited weather as a determinant of how soon they would complete the exercise but Dr. Sylva Opusunju said that the mapping actually started from

the Dr. Peter Odili regime but did not cover all parts of the state, especially the southernmost and northernmost parts.

He explained that to have proper data and plan without mistakes on the facilities that the city would have, there was need for full information and data, especially as the city covers many local government areas in the state.

"Without the proper data, it will be difficult to site the sewage and power water facilities without making mistakes. Sometimes, unless there is total mapping, the coordinates might even fall outside the state, so we had to ensure that the total imaging and mapping of the state was completed before engineering designs can be done", he said.

A statement from the Devel-

opment Authority about the commencement of work on the city called for developers to partner with them in the construction of over 30,000 housing units in the Phase 1 of the city.

Cookey-Gam said they were ready to advance incentives to such developers to the extent that there was a ready market of their houses as the state would take a set number from those completed.

PROPERTY

FERMA begins work on Lafia-Shendam road

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

AT last, the job to seal up the yawning potholes along Lafia-Shendam Road which links Nasarawa with Plateau and Taraba States, has commenced with the return of the contractor to the site. The Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) contractor was given a marching order to return to site after he

abandoned the job only a week after the contract was awarded. But the contractor flouted the directive of the FERMA in Nasarawa which was also acting on a directive from the agency's board chairman, Engr. Abdulkarim Kure who was in Lafia in the last weeks of 2009.

Engr. Kure who was in Lafia for a weeklong retreat, gave a score card of the agency's jobs

especially within Nasarawa State, saying FERMA has been excellent in terms of delivery of quality jobs and quick response to failing roads. The former Niger State governor however expressed dissatisfaction with the pace of work on the N182 million Lafia-Shendam Road which was awarded to Firinvest Ltd on September 9.

Kure, who upon inquiries, learnt that the contractor aban-

doned the job after he cut out potholes to about 40kms, said the agency must take proactive measures against Firinvest Ltd.

Acting on a directive from the board chairman, FERMA's Chief Maintenance Engineer (CME), Engr. Useni Musa gave the marching order to return the contractor to site within the same week.

But Firinvest Ltd, the contractor handling the worsening

road looked the other way while the damages on the road continued to cause accidents of devastating magnitude.

By Friday morning, however, Daily Trust observed men of the construction company diverting the usually thick traffic along the road to commence the job. The job dug out the potholes earlier on cut out, preparing for the sealing.

Kebbi earmarks N100m to boost tourism

THE Kebbi State Government says it has set aside N100 million to upgrade the Argungu International Fishing and Cultural Festival and boost tourism.

Gov. Saidu Dakingari of Kebbi announced this in Birnin Kebbi, while addressing a public gathering.

He said that the fund was aimed at attracting the private sector to the festival as recommended by the organising committee of last year's festival.

"We need to stop paying lip service to developing and upgrading the tourism and eco-system and we required to involve the private sector to further exploit our tourism potentials.

"I expect the state's Tourism Development Board to properly channel the fund for tourism marketing and target corporate organisations," he added. (NAN)



GOV. Saidu Dakingari



PIC: ABUBAKAR SADIQ ISAH

CHAIRMAN of Gadabuke Council Development Area of Nasarawa State, Mr Benjamin Musa Belodu (centre) speaking with the site engineer during his inspection tour of Nakuse bridge under construction... recently.

Youth forum lauds Gadabuke LG on projects

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE youth solidarity forum in Gadabuke council development area of Nasarawa State, have commended the chairman of the council, Mr. Benjamin Musa Belodu, for executing meaningful projects in the area.

The forum's chairman, Malam Haliru Yahaya, who made the commendation last Friday during the forums courtesy visit to the council boss in his office, expressed and satisfaction with

all the ongoing projects being executed by the chairman.

He stated that the youth forum which has been in existence a couple of years ago has been monitoring the effort of the council especially in the area of provision of social amenities and infrastructural development in various communities of the council.

He noted that the present administration has focused on viable projects that have direct bearing on the lives of people of

the area, saying the construction of bridges, sinking of bore-holes, renovation school structures, and provision of drugs in various health centers, which he said are testimonies of the chairman's gesture.

The forums chairman therefore assured the council chairman of its continuous support and cooperation in order to enhance peace, progress and development of the council.

"Infact we have seen your effort in transforming the council

through provision of meaningful projects that has direct bearing on the lives of the people. And the forum is assuring that it will continue to be in supportive of your policies and programmes" he said.

Responding, the council chairman, Mr. Benjamin Musa Belodu, thanked the forum the visit to express their appreciation for the council's effort in executing meaningful projects for residents of the area, noting that the visit has shown how associative the youth are with the council.

'Livestock routes reduce farmers, herdsman conflict in Yobe'

From Hafiza Idris, Damaturu

THE manager of the Yobe State Livestock Development Project, Dr. Mustapha Gaidam, says following the establishment and development of stock routes across the state in 2009, incessant fighting between farmers and herders was controlled throughout the cropping season.

Gaidam said with the establishment of clearly defined bounda-

ries, cattle rearers now use designated routes to graze their animals and therefore have no trouble with farmers.

According to him, "the hitherto incessant conflicts between livestock farmers and crop farmers in the rural areas did not occur last year following the development of stock routes by the state government".

He said with the recent develop-

ment and continued support from various stakeholders; livestock farming can effectively fight poverty and unemployment.

Gaidam added that "The unique species of cows, sheep, goats and camels that are rich in meat and dairy production have the potentials of turning around the economy of the state positively".

Daily Trust reports that over 85% of adult population in Yobe is

farmers. "Every household in the state is engaged in small scale livestock farming with the capacity for improvement to commercial farming and we are working hard to provide the technical knowledge and other inputs to fight unemployment and poverty with livestock farming" Gaidam said.

Dr Mustapha Gaidam pointed out that the mass livestock vaccination, the development of fodder

banks, grazing reserves and stock routes by the state government last year had attracted livestock farmers into the state.

He expressed optimism that the provision made in the 2010 budget of the state for the construction of veterinary clinics, mass vaccination as well as, small ruminant breeding and cattle fattening will improve the economic potential of the people.

PROPERTY

FCTA butchers want meat shop

THE Association of Butchers in the FCT has appealed to the FCT administration to provide its members with a meat shop to facilitate the sale of their products in hygienic environment.

Mr Bidemi Olaniran, the association's Deputy Secretary, who made the appeal yesterday in Abuja in an interview, explained that meat sold in unhygienic environment could have adverse effect on the health of consumers if necessary remedial measures were not put in place.

"The business of selling meat is expected to be a clean business.

"Selling meat in a general market will not allow for proper sanitary procedures, because markets are not built in a way that can promote such procedures," he said.

Olaniran also urged the FCT administration to use the fee collected as livestock tariff to provide necessary facilities that could boost the operations of members of the association.

NAN reports that the associa-

tion had on Jan. 4 embarked on a two-day strike to protest the increase in the amount paid as tariff for slaughtering a cow from N200 to N800 by FCTA.

As a result of the protest, the FCTA had reduced the tariff from N800 to N600.

Olaniran said the association had agreed to pay the new tariff.

He, however, urged the FCTA to justify the fee by providing its members with facilities that would enhance their operations.

The union leader said inves-

tigations conducted by the association revealed that abattoirs in some cities, such as Lagos, Ibadan, Onitsha and Kano were provided with necessary support and facilities by government.

"In addition, they have free vehicles for transporting meat to the market and other facilities, such as water and cold rooms.

"The butchers association in those states also have the advantage of sharing a reasonable percentage of the revenue collected as tariff with the government." It

is unfortunate that in the FCT, we don't enjoy such facilities, even though we have been paying the tariff with pain.

"We sincerely appeal to Alhaji Adamu Aliero, the FCT Minister, to come to our aid and provide similar facilities," he said.

Olaniran announced that the association planned to professionalise the trade this year.

He said only those with at least School Leaving Certificate and are not below 20 years would be allowed to practice as butchers.

Jigawa agric institute begins soil survey

JIGAWA State Agricultural Research Institute has commenced soil survey and analysis across the 27 Local government areas of the state, aimed at complementing the state government efforts towards making fertilizer available to

peasant farmers.

The Director-General of the Institute, Alhaji Mahmud Da'u Aliyu who disclosed this in Dutse said that the institute is determined to impart the modern scientific approach for profitable and productive farm-

ing on the state's farmers, and called on farmers and stakeholders in the state agricultural sector to accept any meaningful scientific innovations on how to give agriculture a boost.

On the soil survey, Mahmud Aliyu explained that the result

findings which will be obtained through the use of locally available materials will tell the fertility status of the soil in all the 27 councils in the state, so as to determine the type of fertilizer needed for crops in each local government.

The institute is determined to impart the modern scientific approach for profitable and productive farming

Is the Abuja Film Village project going comatose?

By Nasir Imam

TWO years after the composition of the Abuja Film Village International (AFVI) Ltd, Abuja residents have seen nothing on ground to confirm that their dream of having an entertainment spot in the federal capital will come true.

The Abuja Film Village International (AFVI) Ltd, a Public Private Partnership (PPP) initiative of the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) under the then FCT Minister, Aliyu Modibbo Umar, is envisioned to make the city of Abuja, and by extension, Nigeria, a one-stop shop for entertainment and film making.

All on a singular site, the AFVI Ltd will establish the very first of its kind ultramodern filmmaking and entertainment village in Abuja. This is a place where filmmakers from Nigeria and from all over the world are expected to throng, for Pre-Production Planning, Production, Post production, and the Premiering of their films.

But till date, the site, situated along the Abuja Airport road remains vacant as the contractors have not yet mobilised to site, while the fully developed Arts and Culture Centre, Area 10, and the recently constructed Silverbird Cinema are fully operational.

Having the Nigeria film industry as the main focus of the AFVI Ltd, to bring it to world class standard, the AFVI Ltd as a major entertainment and production company, said it proposes to build infrastructure for film, music, radio, and television broadcast, as well as providing state-of-the-art technology for extensive film and television services.

In 2008, AFVI Ltd proposed a partnership with the renowned



SEN. Adamu Aliero



MR. Segun Oyekunle, MD AFVI

world class entertainment company, the Landmark Entertainment Group of California. The company came to Abuja and did a visual presentation to the FCT Minister, who was represented by the Minister of State, Chief Chuka Odom.

At the occasion, MD/CEO of Abuja Film Village International, Mr. Segun Oyekunle, said Tony Christopher, President Landmark Entertainment Group, USA, decided to head the presentation delegation to Nigeria himself because of his belief in the total programme, the high economic and social impact that Abuja can make on Nigeria and the African subregion.

AFVI Ltd also said it intends running workshops for all skill areas in filmmaking, especially for screenplay writers, actors and actresses, directors and assistant directors, producers, directors of cinematography, camera operators, still photographers, gaffers, entertainment lawyers etc.

But two years down the lane, Silverbird Cinema, Abuja, a project

started about the same time with AFVI, has already opened its entertainment centre, located in the central area of Abuja, with several cinema halls.

Unfortunately, while it aims to raise the professional know-how of the Nigerian film industry in all its ramifications, through its function as a production company, without any take-off in sight, how could AFVI seek to improve on the film industry's capacity to earn more at home and generate foreign exchange from abroad.

In line with the objectives of the AFVI as film producers, it had said it had concluded plans to co-produce its first film; a docudrama entitled Seeds of the Nationhood: the Sokoto Caliphate Story by Sadiq Balewa.

Since filmmaking is an all-encompassing business, impacting various businesses, such as film equipment and material rental and purchase, catering, transportation, costume (i.e. tailors/designers), hospitality/hotels, security, and the health sector, invariably, almost all sectors of the society will benefit

economically.

Also, worthy of note is that Abuja has become a film producer's delight with many Nollywood producers and directors producing their films in the federal capital city, therefore the question to ask is how has the AFVI impacted on all these.

The FCT Administration, under the leadership of Sen. Adamu Aliero, should ensure that a thriving production company, which is one of the roles AFVI Ltd was set up to play and the combined small-scale business activities translate into a huge business gain through creating meaningful and gainful employment for the teeming Nigeria populace.

The Special Adviser, Media, to the MD AFVI, Hajia Salamatu Yusuf, a seasoned journalist, should ginger her boss to make effort to see that all the media hype given to FCT residents about the goodies to come with the establishment of AFVI, does not go down the drain.

She ought to tell Abuja residents about the so called script writer's workshop proposed by AFVI, which many have been looking forward to, is it for real, or is it such a tall order to organise just a workshop?

In line with AFVI Ltd's development plan is the attraction of tourism with the unique architectural design of its infrastructure, and the establishment of a world class entertainment community anchored on an Amusement and Theme Park. This is to be built by the best builders of amusement parks and holiday resorts in the world.

The AFVI dream is a lofty one that is capital intensive. As such, it requires great funding which it

intends to access locally through private sector investment, and internationally by reaching out to international investors and donor agencies. These partnerships will enable AFVI Ltd to realize its various and multi-faceted components. With the lofty initiative of the FCTA coming on the heels of the President's 7-point agenda and his vision 20-2020, which includes wooing investment from private corporate entities both locally and internationally, and by creating the right ambience for investors, the AFVI Ltd is a major vehicle of achieving this lofty vision.

Spelling out its functions amongst many, in succinct and clear terms, the AFVI seeks to complement, rather than compete with other establishments in Nigeria whose components may be similar to those of the Film Village. Moreover, Nigeria with its over 140 million people population will need to be well-served way into the future with several facilities for its ever expanding film industry.

A corporate entity that believes in environmental friendliness, AFVI says the concept of a green zone is envisioned for the Film Village, which will run on conventional energy, as well as other alternative sources of energy such as solar energy and Hydro-Electric Power.

Obviously the AFVI Ltd dream is astonishing and would require huge investment to make the dream a reality. However, with its slogan of 'if we can dream it, we can do it', it is doubtful whether this conviction is not merely a theoretical exercise, and coupled with the present lackadaisical approach to the whole project, it is also doubtful whether this lofty dream can ever be realized.

IT WORLD

Hotline:08050498518

Zinox to give access to 750,000 e-books

Stories from Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

ZINOX Technologies Limited has concluded plans to launch Nigeria Reads, an initiative designed to revive the reading culture in Nigeria.

Nigeria Reads from Zinox Computers is inspired by the company's exclusive affiliation to the World e-Books Library, which gives this nation direct access to over 750,000 e-books and documents embedded in every Zinox Computer and enabled by a Zinox e-Card, renewable annually at a subsidized rate of N5,000.00 only.

The Head of the Zinox e-Books Project, Mrs. Loretta Agbakoba told journalists in Lagos that Nigeria Reads is built on the fear

that Nigeria would hasten to a failed state if urgent steps are not taken to instill or restore a reading culture among Nigerians.

She noted that the educational system in Nigeria has been consistently undermined by elaborate planning and inadequate funding; regular strikes and disruptions of the academic calendar; policy somersaults occasioned by the unpredictability of political successions; the exceedingly high cost of school fees outside the public schools system, which is generally seen as unstable.

Mrs Agbakoba said that the race for ill gotten wealth has become a major preoccupation that distracts today's Nigerian from the somber culture of reading. Other distractions include

television and video games, the internet, e-games and the colossal setback that is called power black out. She noted that the problems that hinder reading in Nigeria are many and are central to the under development of the nation. Therefore, any attempt to return Nigeria to the path of greatness envisioned by the nationalists must begin with this plea to turn Nigerians back to reading.

Looking beyond Nigeria, the e-Books boss said the world today is talking about the imminent rise of China, India, Russia and Brazil. These are nations that devoted huge resources to education and are today reaping the results of a literate, confident, and productive citizenry. A recent study revealed that the Chinese child

spends three times as much time on his academics than the American child. It would be interesting to compare the Nigerian child to the Chinese in terms of reading.

Mrs Loretta Agbakoba declared that Nigeria Reads would partner with Governments, corporate persons, educational institutions, parents and other stake holders to equip the citizenry to access the vast reading resources, over 750,000 e-Books, embedded in the World e-Books Library.

In addition the e-suite contains 1,280 interactive educational games, 4,000 Computer Science e-books, 5,000 Maths interactive activities, 12,000 Classic Literature e-Books in PDF, 23,000 Audio books in MP3 downloadable, plus simulation

tools in the Sciences and Teacher Lesson Notes, Worksheets and Classroom Articles.

She urged Governments and education stake holders to take advantage of the Zinox initiative to ensure that every school, every teacher, and every child has access to these e-books. These e-books have solved two major problems associated with reading – availability and cost of books. Access to the e-books suite is gained by the purchase of a Zinox e-learning card, which is renewable yearly.

The card costs less than 2 standard textbooks. This e-suite is the main tool that Nigeria Reads would use to restore a reading culture in Nigeria. Nigeria Reads would be launched in the six geo political zones of the country.

LG Mobile rewards customers with N3m

LG Electronics (LG) has rewarded its customers, who participated in its Christmas promo, with over N3million and various house hold electronics appliances. LG, in its 1st raffle draw of the Christmas Bonanza which took place in Lagos last Thursday, gave away products such as Flat Panel TVs, Airconditioners, Refrigerators, Home theatre Sound systems, Microwave ovens and DVD Players as well as N3 million cash money.

The Promotion which began from the 7th of December 2009, according to the company, is aimed at affiliating the brand with the festive season by giving consumers the opportunity of not just winning LG branded products but also qualifies them for a raffle draw where cash prizes could be won.

Speaking during the raffle draw, General Manager, LG Electronics, West Africa Operation, Mr. Steve Koh, explained that LG saw the Christmas celebration as another opportunity for the electronic giant to once again bond emotionally with consumers. He said, "We recognize the power of love in the lives of our consumers which makes us respond to their yearnings thereby creating an emotional bond with Nigeria".

Some of the winners who emerged from the 1st raffle draw were; Joy Ehidimen, Akuma Daniel and Gift Nwannebu who won a sum of N100,000 each while Fabiyi Olawunmi, Agbo John, Mary Ichakanu and Samuel Chukwu went home with 29" LG TV sets. Winners of LG Airconditioners, Refrigerators, Home theatre Sound systems, Microwave Ovens, DVD Players and Mobile Phones also emerged during the raffle draw. In the second raffle draw to take place next month, more winners would emerge as three consumers would walk away with N1m each as well as other consolation prizes. All LG Phones ranging from the latest BL40 Chocolate Phone, BL 20, KS660 nicknamed Bi-Sim, KF500 popularly called cookie, GD900, KM900, KM335, KS360, GW300 to GB110 and KP105 are backed up with a One year Pan African Warranty and distributed by LG Electronics' Authorized distributor for mobile phones, First Choice Mobile Care Limited. Miss Joy Ehidimen expressed her gratitude to LG Electronics for giving her the opportunity of winning N100,000 which she disclosed was the first time in her life of participating in a promotion and emerging as a winner.

ICT Awards to honour best practices

ORGANIZATIONS and individuals who contribute the most to put Nigeria and Nigerians in the global information and communications technologies (ICTs) map in 2009 would be honoured in the first quarter of this year with the Beacon of ICT awards. The awards were instituted by Communication Week Media Limited, publishers of Nigeria Communications Week, a weekly ICT newspaper covering e-business, broadcasting, courier, computing, telecom, ICT career, and any other ICT business.

Ken Nwogbo, editor of the newspaper said that the awards are free and have been designed primarily to recognize government and business organizations as well as individuals for their creativity and excellence in the application of ICTs and solutions to provide efficient and high-quality services to Nigerians.

Awardees, according to him, will be chosen by Nigerians who recognize and appreciate the guiding lights of the organizations and individuals as well as the symbols of hope they raise.

He said voting lines for the various categories opened since November 2, 2009 and will close 6 pm, Monday, March 15, 2010.



Hannah Ehidimen receiving the N100,000 cash prize on behalf of Joy Ehidimen at LG Award in Lagos recently

Etisalat offers subscribers bonuses on recharge

ETISALAT is offering new and existing subscribers on its Easy Starter and Easy Cliq packages bonuses on every recharge made on the network in a new bonus on recharge promo where every subscriber who recharges on the network would get a percentage bonus.

The promotion, which ends on January 31st, according to the company, came on the heels of the recently concluded "Talk for Free" promo which offered subscribers free talk time for every paid minute on the Etisalat network during the festive season.

The Bonus Recharge promo is designed to offer subscribers the opportunity to get bonus airtime for every recharge they make on the Etisalat network. Every time they recharge to the tune of N200, N500 or N750, subscribers will instantly be credited with a 10% bonus with a 10-day validity period while subscribers who recharge with N1000, N2000 or N5000 recharge will get a

15% bonus and 15-day validity during which they can use the bonus to call any network.

Explaining the details of the promo, Etisalat's Chief Marketing Officer, Wael Ammar, said that every customer is a winner each time they recharge and talk on the Etisalat network. According to him, "the more customers recharge their phones, the more bonus they get. They can then use the bonus to make calls to any network of their choice in Nigeria." Subscribers get SMS alerts each time they recharge their phones informing them that they have been credited with the appropriate bonus. Airtime recharges of between N200 and N750 attract 10% bonus and 10-day validity while recharges over N1000 attract a 15% bonus and 15-day validity for its usage.

Mr. Ammar explained further that while the bonus is cumulative, the validity is also renewable. This means that a subscriber recharging

with N200 will have 10 days bonus validity in the first instance. If the same subscriber recharges with another N200 on day 5 of the 10 day validity period, his/her validity on the cumulative bonus account will be renewable based on the validity of the latest recharge (10days). According to the CMO, "the bonus airtime can be used to call any local network, both on-net and off-net. It can however not be used on outgoing international calls, calls made while roaming nor can it be used for SMS or Data Service."

Wael Ammar disclosed that the promotion is one of Etisalat's numerous ways of consistently rewarding customers for their loyalty and patronage while encouraging better business and family relationships; "The customer has always been at the centre of our business. So we have designed the current promotion in such a way that every subscriber on the network is a winner."

IT World

Internet phone gadget unveiled

THE company behind the magicJack, the cheap Internet phone gadget that's been heavily promoted on TV, has made a new version of the device that allows free calls from cell phones in the home, in a fashion that's sure to draw protest from cellular carriers.

The new magicJack uses, without permission, radio frequencies for which cellular carriers have paid billions of dollars for exclusive licenses.

YMax Corp., which is based in Palm Beach, Fla., said this week at the International Consumers Electronics Show that it plans to start selling the device in about four months for \$40, the same price as the original magicJack. As before, it will provide free calls to the U.S. and Canada for one year.

The device is, in essence, a very small cellular tower for the home.

The size of a deck of cards, it plugs into a PC, which needs a

broadband Internet connection. The device then detects when a compatible cell phone comes within 8 feet, and places a call to it. The user enters a short code on the phone. The phone is then linked to the magicJack, and as long as it's within range (YMax said it will cover a 3,000-square-foot home) magicJack routes the call itself, over the Internet, rather than going through the carrier's cellular tower. No minutes are subtracted from the user's account with the carrier. Any extra fees for international calls are subtracted from the user's account with magicJack, not the carrier.

According to YMax CEO Dan Borislow, the device will connect to any phone that uses the GSM standard, which in the U.S. includes phones from AT&T Inc. and T-Mobile USA. At a demonstration at CES, a visitor's phone with a T-Mobile account successfully placed and received calls through the magicJack. Most

phones from Verizon Wireless and Sprint Nextel Corp. won't connect to the device.

Borislow said the device is legal because wireless spectrum licenses don't extend into the home.

AT&T, T-Mobile and the Federal Communications Commission had no immediate comment on whether they believe the device is legal, but said they were looking into the issue. CTIA — The Wireless Association, a trade group, said it was declining comment for now. None of them had heard of YMax's plans.

Borislow said YMax has sold 5 million magicJacks for landline phones in the last two years, and that roughly 3 million are in active use. That would give YMax a bigger customer base than Internet phone pioneer Vonage Holdings Corp., which has been selling service for \$25 per month for the better part of a decade. Privately held YMax had revenue of \$110 million last year, it says. AP



GOOGLE phone

Google apologises to Chinese writers over book flap

INTERNET giant Google has issued a public apology to Chinese writers and admitted that it scanned books under Chinese copyright for its Google Books digital library project.

A copy of the January 9 statement by the Asia-Pacific head of Google Books, Erik Hartmann, was posted on the website of the Chinese Writers Association, one of the groups leading accusations against Google, on Sunday.

Hartmann also appeared on Chinese state-run television on Sunday acknowledging the practice of scanning books had angered Chinese writers. "Through the discussions and communications of recent months, it is our understanding that our communications with Chinese writers have not been good enough," Hartmann's written statement said. "Google is willing to apologise to Chinese authors."

According to the China Written Works Copyright Society, tens of

thousands of books by hundreds of Chinese authors have been added to Google Books, the US giant's project to digitise books and post them online. The project has also raised objections from authors and publishers in the United States, France, Germany and elsewhere.

The China Written Works Copyright Society is in talks with Google to try to resolve outstanding copyright issues and agree terms for compensation, but Chinese writers have so far refused Google's offers. On December 29, well-known Chinese fiction writer Mian Mian launched the country's first civil lawsuit against Google, seeking 61,000 yuan (8,900 dollars) in damages for scanning one of her novels. Hartmann's statement promised Google would scan no more books without authorisation from Chinese writers but made no new offers, while expressing a desire to resolve the dispute by March.

Next version of Nexus will be enterprise phone

Google Incorporated executive Andy Rubin said on Friday that the next version of the Nexus One phone, which was made by HTC Corp, will be for enterprise users and might have a physical keyboard.

Such a device could potentially pose a competitive threat to BlackBerry maker Research In Motion, which has a strong position in the enterprise cellphone market. Rubin, the brains behind Google's Android operating system, made the comment during an interview with Wall Street Journal's Walt Mossberg at an event hosted by the newspaper.

The comment followed Google's announcement earlier this week that it would sell phones direct to consumers via its website. Reuters



A magicjack

Google becoming 'giant monopoly' — German minister

INTERNET search engine Google Inc is becoming a "giant monopoly" like Microsoft and could face legal action if it does not become more transparent, Germany's justice minister said.

In an interview with weekly magazine *Der Spiegel* Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger said she was concerned the firm's accruing too much power

and information about citizens via programs like Google Earth and Google Books.

"All in all, what's taking shape there to a large extent is a giant monopoly, similar to Microsoft," the minister said.

"My initial response is not to ban something or stop something. But I do want to create more transparency and ensure

that users know what is going on with their data," she added.

"I think the companies have an obligation here, and a lot of things ought to be improved. If that doesn't happen soon we may have to take action as legislators."

A liberal member of the business-friendly Free Democrats (FDP), Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger also served as justice

minister between 1992 and 1996, when she stood down in protest about moves to allow the state more scope to snoop on citizens.

A spokesman for Google in Germany said offering users full transparency was central to how the company operated and that it was constantly working to make improvements in this realm. Reuters

I think the companies have an obligation here, and a lot of things ought to be improved

CITY NEWS



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Two die in Kwali auto crash

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

TWO persons lost their lives, while two others sustained serious injuries Friday morning in a ghastly motor accident that occurred at Awawa village, along the Abuja-Lokoja highway.

An eyewitness said the accident happened when a Honda Civic car with registration number CHS

810 RBC, veered off the road while on top speed and crashed into a tree, leading to the death of two occupants in the vehicle, while the other two occupants sustained serious injuries.

Abaji Unit Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Mr. Joseph

Ojerinde, blamed the cause on over speeding and said the two

corpses were deposited at University of Abuja Teaching Hospital's Morgue, while the injured are at Abaji General Hospital.

He further disclosed that 11 passengers were also injured in another accident that occurred at Manderwgi village, near Abaji town on the same day.

The unit commander said the accident happened at around

6:05 am and involved a Mercedes Benz truck with registration number XF 939 KMC that had a head-on collision with a DAF truck with registration number XE 274 JME.

According to him, the accident was caused by a broken down tanker truck that was loaded with fuel and stationed at the centre of the road.

"The driver of the broken down tanker failed to put a caution sign and after the accident, the tanker was impounded and taken to the unit command, while the driver and his conductor are on the run," he added.

He said all the 11 passengers that sustained various degrees of injuries are at Abaji General Hospital undergoing treatment.

...Another 2 injured in auto crash at Ahmadu Bello way

By Tosin Omoniye

TWO persons including an elderly woman were at the weekend injured when two vehicles collided along Ahmadu Bello way, in Garki, Abuja.

An eye witness said the accident occurred when a red Honda 'ME' edition car with registration number AR 702 RSH was trying to veer into the road leading to Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) when a red Vectra 201 car with registration number BC 90 FST slammed into its rear side causing massive damage.

The witness said the driver of the Honda car was rushed in an unconscious state to a hospital, while our reporter observed an elderly woman from the other vehicle lying in pains on a pavement close to the accident scene before she was taken to the hospital in a fire service van.

The accident which occurred around noon, caused traffic jam for several hours with a combined team of policemen, fire service and civil defense officials struggling to clear the wreckage of the vehicles from the highway, as the injured were rushed to the hospital.



AN accident scene at Manderegi village, near Abaji where 11 persons sustained injuries on Friday.

Okada rider accused of vandalising accident vehicle

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

A 22-year-old commercial cyclist (popularly called okada rider), Bello Mohammed was last Thursday arraigned before an FCT magistrate court in Gwagwalada Area Council for allegedly vandalising an accident vehicle at Kwali, along the Abuja-Lokoja highway.

The court learnt that the accused and two others allegedly went to an accident scene in Kwali to steal from a dented vehicle.

Prosecutor Sunday Okedi said one of the commercial cyclist's accomplices was on

the run, while the other, Bala Idris, is a minor that was cautioned and discharged.

He said Mohammed was arrested following investigation carried out by policemen at Kwali

after the arrest of minor. The accused pleaded not guilty to a two-count charge and requested for bail.

Magistrate Mohammed Zubairu granted him bail in the sum of N20,000 with a surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction.

The case was adjourned to January 20 for hearing.

Kwali PDP members protest over 'imposition of candidate'

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

MEMBERS of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) at Kwali Area Council, Friday protested against a plot by the state secretariat of the party to impose a vice-chairmanship candidate on them for the forthcoming area councils election slated for April 10.

The large number of protesters, who were in their hundreds, drove in convoys of vehicles with motorcycles from Kwali town to Radio House Gwagwalada.

Alhaji Bako Hausa, an elder of the party at Kwali, said the state secretariat has no power to choose a vice-chairmanship candidate to run with the chairmanship aspirant during Kwali Area Council election.

According to him, a candidate

for such position had earlier been chosen by the council chapter of the PDP, after wide consultations among party leaders, executive, youth and others stake-holders.

"Shortly after the PDP primaries, we sat down and unilaterally choose Alhaji Barua

Zangana, a Bassa man by tribe that hails from Kundu Ward as a running mate to the incumbent chairman, Mr. Danlami Saleh Yebu," he said.

He said the agreement reached at the meeting was that because the chairmanship candidate is a Gwari by tribe, a Bassa man should be chosen as the vice.

The party elder said they were surprised to hear about a plot by the state secretariat of the party to impose Alhaji Usman Jiya as the

vice-chairmanship candidate, adding that the such plan be shelved in order not to cause confusion or crisis in the party.

He disclosed that strategies on how to ensure success in the area council election has already been mapped out.

Another protesters, Mr. Umaru Audu, said the planned action of the state

secretariat of the party could cause problem and advised officials there to always consult with the council branches of the party before taking actions that affect them.

Placards carried by the protesters read: "We say no to Gwagwa Alhasan change," "We want Zangana as vice-chairmanship candidate," "The wish of the people is Zangana."



OVER filled waste bins at Area 1, Abuja.

PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

Corps members protest country's listing as terrorist state

By Lami Sadiq

ABOUT 50 corps members serving in Abuja, Friday took to the street to protest the recent listing of Nigeria among the terrorist countries in the US watch list.

The match was spearheaded by members of the rebranding community development group and saw the protesters carrying placards that read 'Nigeria, good people, great nation'.

The corps members trekked from the old parade ground to the American Embassy.

One of the corps member, Miss Chidiogor Ezekwele, said even though they were denied entrance into the embassy by secu-

rity operatives, they were allowed to read out the letter they had written to United States President, Barack Obama.

She explained that the content of the letter stated that Nigeria was not a terrorist country, as Faruk Mutallab, the terror suspect, was not trained in Nigeria but abroad and that the boy must have been brain washed since his past record showed he was highly disciplined.

She said Nigeria deserves a fair hearing before being listed as a terrorist country, adding that Mutallab himself should have been protected by the Nigerian government since he is still a citizen of the country.

Hawker accused of attempted rape

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar, Hussein Yahaya, Usman A. Bello & Romoke W. Ahmad

A 25-year-old street hawker, Akim Jamio, was on Thursday arraigned before an Abuja Area Court for allegedly attempting to rape a 12-year-old girl (names withheld).

Prosecutor Emmanuel Edet told the court that the girl got missing at Area 3 and the accused pretended to be assisting her to find her way back to Wuse market.

He said at Area 3 junction, the accused after assaulting the girl, forcefully removed her black skirt from her body in an attempt to perpetrate his evil act before the

girl was rescued after an alarm was raised.

The prosecutor said during police investigation, the accused confessed to the offences, which are punishable under Sections 263, 264 and 95 of the Penal Code Law.

The accused pleaded not guilty and Judge Umar Kagarko released him on bail and adjourned the case to March 29, 2010 for hearing.

In another case, a 38-year-old supplier was recently arraigned for alleged breach of trust, cheating and intimidation.

The supplier, Nnamdi Ogbona, was accused of receiving N1.4 million to roof a house by one

Uche Alagboso but failed to complete the work.

Prosecutor Stephen Emogan told the court that the accused committed the offence at Karu site in September 2009, adding that the accused negotiated for the aluminium roofing contract before it was given to him.

He said both parties agreed on N1.3 million and the accused given part payment of N1.2million to execute the job with another N100,000 as balance payment before he abandoned the job half way.

"At the police station, he wrote an undertaking to finish the work if the complainant gives him an

additional N100,000 and the money was given to him but he still failed to complete the job," the prosecutor added.

The accused pleaded not guilty when the charges were read to him and requested for bail, which was not objected to by the prosecutor.

The prosecutor told the court that the three-count charges are punishable under Sections 312, 322 and 396 of the Penal Code Law.

Magistrate Garba Salisu granted him bail in the sum of N1 million with one surety, who must be a civil servant of not below grade level 10.

The case was adjourned to January 27, 2010 for hearing.

Aliero to ban Keke NAPEP's operation

By Nasir Imam

IF feelers from the office of the FCT minister are anything to go by, Keke NAPEP's (commercial tricycles) operation in Abuja city centre will soon be banned.

FCT Minister, Senator Adamu Aliero, said the activities of Keke NAPEP operators in the metropolis are fast becoming a source of concern for the administration, as they cause traffic problems through wrong parking.

The minister noted that the tricycles would only be allowed to operate in satellite towns and less developed areas of the FCT, where taxis are less prevalence.

Speaking through the Director of Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB), Dr. Abubakar Yabo, the minister stated that the FCT Administration can no longer condone the activities of Keke NAPEP operators, which he noted has made a mess of government's efforts to keep Garki 2 clean.

"Keke NAPEP which replaced Okada in Abuja, would be allowed to operate in Gwarinpa, Apo, Kubwa and other satellite towns where Abuja painted taxis has less presence because they have become a nuisance in Abuja metropolis," the AEPB boss stated.

He said the FCT administration has awarded contract to provide access roads to the environmental protection dumpsite in order to facilitate the effective evacuation of refuse in the city.

The FCT Administration last week contracted 20 contractors to clean-up the 20 districts of the Federal Capital City.

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Court orders reopening of Peace Corps headquarters

By Abubakar Yakubu

AN FCT High Court has ordered the reopening of the headquarters of Peace Corps of Nigeria, which was recently sealed by the police in Abuja.

Justice Othman Musa Friday ruled that the status-quo of the applicant, Peace Corps of Nigeria be restored and maintained, pending the determination of a motion on notice filed by the organisation.

It will be recalled that the FCT Police Commissioner, Mr John Haruna, sealed off the headquarters of Peace Corps of Nigeria on October 1, 2009, alleging that it is an illegal association.

The National Commandant of the organisation, Chief Dickson Akor filed a suit before an Abuja high court challenging the orders of the inspector-general of the Police to seal the premises of

the organisation.

The organisation had prayed the court to give an interim injunction restraining the police from molesting, harassing, intimidating and bullying members and volunteers of the organisation pending the determination of the motion on notice pending before court.

Also the group prayed for an interim mandatory order directing the inspector-general of police and his officers to strictly maintain the status-quo that existed before the invasion of the organisation's head office at Gwarimpa, Abuja on October 1, 2009, pending the determination of the motion on notice.

The court however ordered the respondents to maintain the status-quo prayed by the organization, pending the hearing of the motion on notice.

The case was however adjourned to January 20, 2010.

ANPP, AC align for Kuje council poll

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE Action Congress (AC) and All Nigerian Peoples Party (ANPP) Friday formed an alliance at Kuje for the on coming area councils' poll slated for April 10.

The alliance meeting which was held at Kuje town hall on Friday, had in attendance about 2,600 members of the AC and its executives, a former FCT ANPP Senator, Alhaji Usman Jibrin Wowo, FCT ANPP Chairman, Alhaji Abdulmalik Usman, former chairman of Kuje, Mr. Samuel Etsu Lanto.

Chieftain of the AC in Kuje, Mr. Samuel Etsu Lanto, said the decision by the AC to join forces with the ANPP, is for power to be wrestled from the PDP in the forth coming council election at Kuje.

He said since 2007, when PDP under the leadership of Mr. Danladi Etsu Zhin took over power in the council, most residents of the council have been subjected to hardship,

poverty and diseases, adding that no meaningful projects was carried out to touch the lives of the people.

The AC chieftain informed residents of the area that politics is not a religion that one must remain stacked to, noting that he was an ex-member of the ruling PDP right from its formation in 1999 until 2007, when he decided to join the AC to contest the chairmanship position in the council.

While receiving the AC members, the FCT ANPP Chairman, Alhaji Abdulmalik Usman, expressed happiness with their decision to join the ANPP, nothing that since the formation of ANPP in 1999, ANPP is the only party that has ruled Kuje for eight years and provided democratic dividends to its people.

He noted that ANPP has its manifesto that protects the interest of electorates in all spheres of human endeavours and urged the new converts to devote their energy and time



PIC: ABUBAKAR SADIQ ISAH

FCT Chairman of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) Alhaji Abdulmalik Usman (left) presenting membership cards to the chieftain of Action Congress, during an alliance meeting of both parties at Kuje on Friday.

in order to create a formidable platform that will wrestle power from the ruling PDP.

Reacting, former FCT ANPP senator, Alhaji Usman Jibrin Wowo, expressed delight at the alliance and said govern-

ance is all about people and not about noise making without good result, adding that the people of Kuje have discovered that the only party that can bring succour and comfort is ANPP.

Gwagwalada council boss calls for peace

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

CHAIRMAN of Gwagwalada Area Council, Alhaji Zakari Angulu Dobi, Thursday urged youths in the council to shun every act of violence, especially in the forth coming area councils election in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Angulu, who made the call while speaking to news men, urged the youths not to see politics as a do-or-die affair.

He said the era of violence during campaigns and elections have gone, adding that good leader do not emerge in an atmosphere of violence.

He likened the recent call by youths in the council for an automatic ticket to be given to him by his party as a call to service from God, stressing that the voices of youths and elders in the council might be from God.

"In my own case, since youths and elders in the council have tested my administration and are still calling for my coming back, I see it as a call from Allah," he said.

He noted that as a public figure he is bound to be insulted by any body, and urged his supporters not to see such insult as an offence but an avenue to enlighten the opponents on the need for them to give him their supports.

The council boss called for peace and harmony among residents of the council in order to give room for peace, progress and development.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR POLICY AND STRATEGIC STUDIES, KURU, P.M.B. 2024 Bukuru - Plateau State, Nigeria

INVITATION TO TENDER

In compliance with the Public Procurement Act 2007 (as amended), the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies Kuru invites interested competent and reputable contractors who wish to tender for approved projects in its 2009 Capital Budget. Comprehensive details in respect of the projects are as follows:

- | A. PROJECT TITLE | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. | Supply and Installation of Underground Cable | LOT 1 |
| 2. | Drilling of Borehole | LOT 2 |
| 3. | Supply of fully equipped Ambulance | LOT 3 |
| 4. | Flooring/Landscape of Power House | LOT 4 |
| 5. | Extension of Water/Electricity to Laundry | LOT 5 |
| 6. | Rehabilitation of Old Admin Block | LOT 6 |
| 7. | Installation of VSAT for Research Dept | LOT 7 |
| 8. | Supply of Computers/Accessories for Research Dept | LOT 8 |
| 9. | Supply of Project Pick-Up for Research Dept | LOT 9 |
| 10. | Renovation/Furnishing of Research dept | LOT 10 |
| 11. | Supply of Printing Materials | LOT 11 |
| 12. | Consultancy Research Services for: | LOT 12 |
| | i. Human Trafficking in Nigeria | |
| | ii. Militancy & Piracy in Nigeria | |
| | iii. IPP: Challenges & Prospects | |
| | iv. Global Economic Crisis | |

B. TENDER REQUIREMENTS

1. Company profile showing:
 - i. Traceable Registered premises of company.
 - ii. Evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission
 - iii. Evidence of financial capacity to handle work (bank reference)
2. Preceding 3 years Tax Clearance Certificate (2006, 2007, 2008)
3. Evidence of registration with National Institute, Kuru.
4. Evidence of payment of non refundable Tender fee of N20,000.00 to National Institute Kuru for each project.
5. For LOT12 Prospective Consulting firms are to collect a "General Organizational Profile" form which is to be submitted along with the bid.

C. SUBMISSION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

The Tender documents should be enclosed in sealed envelopes and write clearly from the top left hand corner "INVITATION TO TENDER 2009 CAPITAL PROJECT: LOT ...". All documents should be submitted two weeks from the date of this advertisement and not later than 12:00 noon thereof, while document will be opened on the same date in the Institutes' Unity Hall. Late submission of tender documents will not be entertained. All submissions are to be addressed and forwarded to:

The Director General
National Institute, Kuru
P.M.B. 2024, Bukuru
Plateau State.

Prof Danfulani Ahmed (Dsc), (FITCr)
Director General

NIGERIAN LAW REFORM COMMISSION



LETTER OF INVITATION TO ATTEND A WORKSHOP ON LAW DEVELOPMENT AND THE COMMISSION'S 30TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Commission, in pursuance of its mandate under section 5 of the Nigerian Law Reform Commission Act, Cap N118, Laws of the Federation 2004, is holding a National Workshop on Law Development with a view to identifying some areas of our Laws requiring reform and also to mark its 30th year anniversary. We are pleased to invite you to participate in this National Workshop, taking place as follows:

- Date:** - Tuesday 12th & Wednesday 13th January, 2010
Venue: - New Chelsea Hotel, by Metro Plaza
 Central Area, Abuja
Time: - 9.30 a.m Daily

2. Participants at the Workshop will be expected to take active part in the discussion of the various topics that will be presented and offer their contributions for the reform of the aspects of the laws identified as defective or inadequate for the purpose they are meant to serve.

Signed

Mrs. Abimbola Coker
Secretary to the Commission
Nigerian Law Reform Commission
Federal Secretariat Phase III (Tower J)
4th & 5th Floors C & C Building
Central Area, Garki - Abuja

Inside Politics

Yar'adua: 'Northern interest' all gimmick – Naja'atu

Hajiya Naja'atu Mohammed, a foremost woman politician of northern extraction, is saddened by the confusion in Nigeria's leadership which has been created by the health condition of President Umaru Yar'adua. In this incisive encounter with *Daily Trust*, she talks on the 'lies' of men close to the President, saying the inevitable is around the corner. Excerpts:

By Suleiman M. Bisalla

Nation of lions led by donkeys

I think there has been more heat, than light. As often the case in the conduct of our public affairs, the elites have been lying to themselves, refusing to face the hard facts. Instead, the key actors in the drama have all buried their heads in the sand, while strategically positioning themselves for the political endgame, notably within Yar'adua's charmed circle and the PDP machine.

However, one thing seems to me plain enough: the Yar'adua presidency is slowly but inevitably crawling to an end, or effectively in its denouement. He may well bounce back in office, but he would not be in power. Either way, the interest of the greater good will suffer immeasurably.

This prospect, perhaps more than any other, should agitate us intensely given the lamentable failure by our key leaders (be they democratic, traditional, or religious and active or semi active) to call a spade by insisting in plain and vigorous terms that constitutional propriety be allowed to take its course in our collective interest. By this failure, they have time and again demonstrated to anyone who doubted that ours is a country of lions being led by donkeys, a nation that seems content with mediocrity and failure.

Yar'adua's grave error

No one can say with confidence how the wrangling over the missteps by Yar'adua and his crowd would play out. Suffice it to say that one key issue seems to me clear enough: our president has gone on AWOL. President Yar'adua is an employee who is paid by the Nigerian people and accountable to them via the National Assembly. He is perfectly entitled to go on leave whenever and wherever he so chooses, and for however long without seeking anyone's permission whilst he lawfully remains as President. He is also invested with the authority to exercise the powers of his office wherever he may be in the course of his duties.

But then, what Yar'adua is not entitled to do and cannot lawfully do is to vacate his duty post to attend to his private needs without notify the National Assembly. Our constitution does not envisage and has not provided for a President to exercise the powers and functions of his office whilst on vacations, functions that can only be fully performed whilst he is at the desk. No judge worthy of the name could possibly miss the import of Yar'adua's grave error.

Who is afraid of Good-luck?

The cat is out of the

bag, and what has long been known to a select few is now the worst kept secret in town: President Yar'adua does not trust his Vice enough to hand over power to him, even if only for a few weeks. It may well be Yar'adua that has good reasons to feel that way, fearing that his Vice President is either not capable or sensible enough to properly handle the affairs of our country in his absence. But that arrogant belief is founded on the fallacious assumption that President Yar'adua himself is doing magnificently well.

It seems to me closer to the truth that the Yar'adua clique is hunted by its own delusion, as well as by a compulsive urge to protect its fief from unwelcome intrusion. If so, they have only made it all the more likely that Vice President Jonathan will be his own man, surrounded by his own men and women when the inevitable comes to pass.

When Nigerians see President Yar'adua's economic guru, Dr. Tanimu Yakubu, on TV telling them he has been in regular contact with the President who has been telling him to pass on messages to Ministers and other high officials, you get to know just how really the Yar'adua machine works and who operates it. Such brazen clique can only serve as a model and justification for a Jonathan presidency, when it comes on stream, to trade the same path, which can only aggravate Nigeria's ethno-regional rivalries and tensions.

Misplaced priorities, double standards

Courtesy of Dr Yakubu, Nigerians have also been told of a President Yar'adua's number one priority as he struggles to get back to good health.

As This Day of 6 January 2009 reported, Dr Yakubu said: "In my discussion with him, he (Yar'adua) directed me to get the Attorney-General to intensify lobby for the passage of the anti-terrorism bill by the National Assembly which the president forwarded to the Senate and the Federal House of Representatives early October. He said that he would like it to be the first bill he assents to on his return to Nigeria."

Clearly, in the wake of the Umar Farouk Mutallab's US misadventure, Yar'adua would be right to feel concerned about getting his anti-terrorism bill onto our statute books. However, for a president who in his entire time in office has presided over a country in virtual darkness and grinding poverty to first seek to pander to American policy priority is, to say the least, grossly lamentable.

And then, just as revealing, it was under the watch of Yar'adua that Muslim radicals from his own part of the country were summarily gunned down on the streets and in police custody for daring to resist police excesses and iniquities.

It is also the same president that

has been palling with murderous militants that have hijacked an otherwise legitimate struggle for development in the Niger Delta, just as he seeks to buy off their opposition with billions of naira into the bargain.

Worse still, it's the same president's men who now brutalize our sensibilities by daring to pretend that they are the true defenders of northern Nigerian Muslim interests.

Whose North, what interest?

There have been lots of lies about northern interest. First let's identify which north, and then whose interest? The northern interest they are talking about is the interest of a handful of elites in the north that has governed this country from the 1960s to date.

From Tafawa Balewa to Yar'adua, northerners have ruled this country for close to 40 of our 49 years of independence. So if they are talking of northern interest, the question is what have they got to show for these years that they have been in leadership? Since they have reduced themselves to northern Presidents on northern leaders, what have they got to show as in their stewardship to the north? The north today is most backward. When it comes to poverty, education and infrastructural development, the north is worse off than any section of this country. So whose north are they talking about? They are only talking about the north which stops at their pocket, their wives and their children, no more, no less.

If that is the case, then there is no justification for them to talk about northern interest. It's all a gimmick; it's all a smokescreen. But the problem is that it whips up a lot of sentiments, especially Hausa-Fulani/ Islamic sentiments. Now if you start to whip up such sentiments, you find a lot of crisis in your hands. The gullible poor that have not benefitted from the misrule of those champions can decide to start behaving unruly, destroying things and killing each other and then there will retaliation in the south. This is our fear. But these people do not seem to see anything beyond their noses. Therefore I believe that these so called northern rulers must be exposed. They must be seen as they really are; a bunch of thieves and rogues that neither have the interest of the country at heart nor that of the north they are claiming to be leading.

What they appear to be saying is that the north has not completed its term, which term, whose north? President Umaru Yar'adua did not come as President of the north but as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. When Obasanjo decided that power should shift to the north, there were presidential aspirants that came up from other geopolitical zones, including the south. But Obasanjo decided that they had a



HAJIYA Naja'atu Mohammed

kind of gentleman agreement that this time is the turn of the north; mark you nobody knows who the gentlemen are, whom they agreed for and who gave them the mandate to so decide. That was not discussed and it is not in the constitution of Nigeria. Pseudo democracy does not exist in our constitution. We all have equal opportunities so the question of power shifting to the north for northerners is not true. It's a lie. If northerners feel they have the majority of votes, let them mobilise and win every election. But we know today that elections do not even count. Therefore they want to usurp power on a Plata of gold so that they will continue to use the north to exploit Nigerians.

Secondly, the constitution is explicit on the fact that in the event that the President is incapacitated or dead, the Vice President takes over. When Obasanjo brought the weakest link (Yar'adua) nobody protested. They should have objected if they knew they were that powerful and they really had the 'northern interest' at heart. They accepted him without protest. When Buhari went to court, they shouted and abused him that he should not go to court against his brother, a Katsina man. Even while they were in court, Yar'adua was rushed out of this country for medical treatment. And then, most of the judges that are in that court are northerners, but they didn't deem it fit to annul a flawed election. They allowed Yar'adua to continue... democracy by court order like some people say. Didn't they see all the signs that he was not well enough to govern? You will recall that he was rushed abroad during his campaign but they accepted him.

They're liars, Jonathan should take over or quit

The natural thing to do as provided for by our constitution is for the Vice President to sit in for his boss. If he (Yar'adua) is on sick leave, he didn't write to tell anybody that he is on sick leave and has handed over to anybody. But we know that because he was critically ill when he left, he couldn't have been able to do it. Now the natural thing to do is for Jonathan to take over governance. Whether we want it or not that is what must happen. They can't continue to lie. All the characters we have around the President are self-serving. But I believe it is partly the fault of the Vice President. Why would any adviser or the Minister have more powers than the Vice President of Nigeria? These lies must stop and Jonathan must take up his responsibilities. If he doesn't want to take up the responsibility, for God's sake, let him resign like they said. You remember that they started by saying that if Yar'adua should resign, Jonathan should also resign, is that not irresponsible? Of course, the ministers know that they are only buying time. How can he (Yar'adua) under this circumstance (As he was flown abroad) send any letter to the national assembly? They are only lying to the poor man? The man is there battling with his health for, God's sake. They have no pity or compassion on him; instead they are taking advantage of the situation to lie against the poor man. And I believe while they are telling this lies, they are also trying to sort out amongst themselves who would be Jonathan's Vice President when the ultimate finally happens.

Inside Politics

Hashim may return as Kano ANPP chair

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

THE chairman of the Kano State chapter of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), Alhaji Sani Hashim Hotoro, is set to return as the party's chairman in the state congress as early indications yesterday put him at a distant margin ahead of his only opponent, Alhaji Sadiq Ibrahim Gwarzo.

Despite party's directive that all supporters, men and women, were free to contest for the posts, only the positions of chairman, Organising Secretary and Assistant Secretary were contested.

The position of the party's vice chairman was declared unopposed when the second aspirant withdrew to the current vice chairman Alhaji Gamoji shortly before the beginning of voting.

As at the time of filing this report last night, counting was still going on. Exit polls and feelers however indicate that Sani Hashim Hotoro was having an edge

over his only opponent.

"Sani Hashim was set to return elected, and there is no way he would not be elected. You can even judge that as the counting progresses," said a delegate from Rogo Local Government Area.

Screening of the delegates began as early as 9am yesterday, while the elections proper began at noon. Delegates from Nassarawa Local Government of the state were the first to cast their votes, with Kano State governor Malam Ibrahim Shekarau leading them.

In his remark during the congress, the chairman of the congress committee, Mr Awagana Ngala, said his committee would ensure that the elections were keenly contested in free, fair and open manner.

But a leading figure of The Buhari Organisation (TBO), Alhaji Ahmadu Haruna Zago, described the congress as charade, saying it defied the laid down procedures of the party for electing the state exco.

Aminu Baba betrayed us – DPP

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE Democratic Peoples Party (DPP), Plateau State chapter, has accused the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) candidate in the November 2008 local government election in Jos North Alhaji Aminu Baba of betraying them and other supporters.

The party stated this in reaction to media report quoting Alhaji Baba as saying that he decamped to the PDP in pursuance of the footsteps of his boss, former minister of state on communications Ibrahim Dasuki Salihu Nakande.

Deputy chairman of the party and candidate in the said election Abubakar Ateku Yusuf said yesterday,

when he visited *Daily Trust* office in Jos, that his party was in alliance with ANPP during the violence ridden election which claimed over 600 people.

The party's chieftain regretted that stakeholders in the election were still in mourning when Alhaji Baba took the unilateral decision to abandon his supporters and move to PDP, even though the protest that led to the killings was in support of his election.

Ateku said the people and history will never forget this betrayal and advised the electorate to, in future, open their eyes and watch for politicians who were in politics for selfish interest.

Anambra: PAN slams Labour Party over APGA petition

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Patriotic Alliance of Nigeria (PAN) yesterday condemned the Labour Party (LP) for petitioning the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) over the All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA) troubled candidature for the February 6 Anambra governorship election.

Labour Party had petitioned INEC to resolve the

leadership crisis and the tussle over the candidature of Governor Peter Obi and Hon Peter Ozodinobi.

In a statement jointly signed by Maxi Okwu, National Chairman of the Citizens Popular Party (CPP) and Chief Udumba Chukwudolue, National Chairman National Solidarity Democratic Party (NSDP), the group said that the Labour Party's action was intended to mislead INEC.

Andy Uba's de-registration: LP upbraids PDP

By Muideen Olaniyi

NATIONAL Chairman of Labour Party (LP), Chief Dan Iwuanyawu, has upbraided the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) over the reported de-registration of Dr. Andy Uba, the party's governorship candidate in Anambra State for February 6 election.

Iwuanyawu said the PDP's action portrayed it as the most inconsistent

and confused party in Nigeria as Uba, a former PDP member had earlier voluntarily resigned his membership on November 14, 2009, a development which was acknowledged in writing by PDP chairman of his Uga Ward Iin Agwata local government area of Anambra State.

The national leadership of the PDP had on Friday, in a letter, ordered the Anambra State Caretaker Committee to de-register Dr. Uba from the party's

official records at all levels.

Iwuanyawu said the latest action against Uba was done in bad faith, having fulfilled all legal obligations over his membership resignation from the PDP.

He said Labour Party has a copy of acknowledgement letter written by the Chairman of Andy Uba's ward in Agwaata Local Government area of Anambra state, Mr Raphael Eze Chukwu.



SASAKAWA AFRICA ASSOCIATION

SASAKAWA GLOBAL 2000-Nigeria

Job Vacancies

Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA), a non-profit and non-governmental organization with Regional Office in Addis Ababa, works to promote the development, demonstration and widespread adoption of improved food production and post-production technologies for smallholder farmers in Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria & Uganda. This is being pursued in partnership with government agricultural extension service, machine service providers and other stakeholders.

The project is implemented through five interrelated objectives, one of which is Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (ME&L) under Objective 5. The ME&L program will establish a knowledge system to monitor and assess impacts of technologies and project activities.

Objective 5 will be implemented at the Regional Level by the Thematic Leader supported by an Objective Coordinator from each country.

Job Description

ME&L Thematic Coordinator (MELTC)

Scope of Work

The Thematic Coordinator works under the supervision of the Thematic Director - ME&L (MELTD) and the Country Director (CD) and is tasked to:

- Lead the country ME&L operations, design tools and methodologies (qualitative & quantitative), data collection, analysis, etc.;
- Design and prepare training packages (leaflets, handouts, etc.) for use by other ME&L staff working with him/her and in the field (e.g. for survey enumerators)
- Work with MELTD to interpret data and write quarterly, bi-annual and annual reports;
- Assist MELTD to arrange and conduct annual internal evaluations
- Assist program staff as necessary
- Assist the MELTD by providing ME&L information

to the SAA project country director, managing director and other SAA staff.

- Any other assignments as assigned by MELTD and /or CD
- Salaries and benefits are attractive and negotiable.

Qualifications and Experiences

- PhD or M.Sc. in Economics, Agriculture, Social Sciences
- 5-10 years relevant experience in economics, research, management, Impact Assessment, M&E;
- Familiar with the some of the statistical analytical tools
- Excellent English (and/or French depending on the country of recruitment) required;
- Good interpersonal and coordination skills. Has proven initiative and leadership skills.
- Has the ability to write and edit technical reports in the local language and in English.
- Demonstrate competence in a variety of computer applications, including database, spreadsheet and word processing programs.
- Willing to do extensive field work. Driving experience is an advantage.
- Women are highly encouraged to apply.

Method of Applying

Interested applicants should forward their written applications, photocopies of their credentials and detailed curriculum vitae with full details of contact address (not P.O. Box) telephone numbers and e-mail address to The Country Director, Sasakawa Global 2000 Nigeria Project, No. 8 Kura Road, Off Magajin Rumfa Nassarawa GRA, Kano. The position applied for should be clearly indicated at the top left-hand corner of the envelope, which should reach the addressee within two weeks of the date of publication of this advertisement. Only shortlisted applications will be acknowledged.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

Public Notice

ABIGAIL ADIGUN CARE FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for Registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matter Act, No 1 of 1990.

The Trustees are:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Gabriel S. Ogunwole | 4. Pastor Oloyede Shegun |
| 2. Mrs. Hannah Ogunwole | 5. Pastor Sunday Olaye |
| 3. Mr. Iyanu Ogunwole | 6. Pastor Peter Orimolayo |

Aims and Objectives:

- To care for servants of God
- To care for widows and orphans, the destitutes and the disabled
- To raise spiritual and financial support for the needy
- To provide academic and vocational training for the less privileged

Any objection to the Registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama P.M.B 198, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

Emeka Aloha, Esq B.C Aloha & Co. 3rd Floor, Nagwamatse House, No. 48/50 Ahmadu Bello Way, Kaduna.

AUCTION! AUCTION! AUCTION!

On behalf of Pipelines and Products Marketing Company Ltd (PPMC). The General Public are hereby inform that, there is going to be a public auction Sales of its Obsolete materials (Spare Parts) Vehicles, caravans, Pipes, Compressors, Air Condition etc. scheduled as follows:

Date: 13th - January, 2010

Time: 10:00am respectively

Locations: PPMC Area office Port Harcourt, Aba, Enugu, Calabar and Gombe Area office, Jos, Maiduguri, Biu etc

For Port Harcourt Area Office:

- MOHAMMED GARBA DESESE & CO.
08036813077
- BLACKMAN RES.LTD
08033147923

For Gombe Area Office:

- NARAGUTA VENTURES
08030792006
- IBN ZAKARI
08034532702

CHANGE OF NAME

AFUAPE: I formerly known and addressed as **MISS GRACE OLUWADAMILOLA AFUAPE**, now wishes to be known and addressed as **MRS. GRACE OLUWADAMILOLA SAMUEL**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I formally called **SAMAILA SALAWU** now wish to be called **SAMAILA ALHAJI SALLAU**. All documents remained valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **MISS NGWU CHINWE EDITH**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS OBI CHINWE EDITH**. All former documents remain valid. National Hospital, Abuja, general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS OYEBANJI OLUWABUKOLA BOLA**, now wish to be called **MRS OLADELE OLUWABUKOLA BOLA**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **ERABOR OLUWAFUNMILOLA**, now wish to be known as **AYINDE OLUWAFUNMILOLA**. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

I FORMERLY **ILORAH EMMANUEL FRANCIS CHIEDOZIE**, NOW WISH TO BE ADDRESSED AS **EKWUEME EMMANUEL CHIDOZIE**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY AND GENERAL PUBLIC TO NOTE.

I formerly known as **Miss BIMBA ANNA HIRADI** now **MRS. ANNA HIRADI**. All former documents remain valid. First Bank and general public to note.

I formerly known as **OGECHI CALISTA OSUAGWU** now wish to be called **OGECHI CALISTA EJIKE**. All former documents remain valid general public take note.

I formerly **MISS EUNICE NGITA MISHELIA**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS EUNICE JAMES KIGBU**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC. University of Maiduguri and general public to take note.

I, formerly **ILAYI ADEMU** and **ILAYI CORNELIUS OKOLO** now **CORNELIUS LINUS OKOLO**. All former documents remain valid, public to take note.

I, formerly known as **ANN OKAFOR** now wish to be **ANN CHIDIMMA ANI**. All former documents remain valid general, public take note.

I, formerly **EVELYN MAFIANA** now **MRS PRECIOUS EVELYN CHINYE EZE**. Former documents remain valid. Public to Note.

I, formerly known as **MISS NSHOKIBE NKORIGHERE MOJAFU-EKPANG**, now wish to be called **MRS. NSHOKIBE JAMES OJIE**. Former documents remain valid. National Institute for Cultural Orientation and the general public to take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS PATRICIA CHIEDU NWANJI**, now wish to be called **MRS. PATRICIA CHIEDU OGENJI**. Former documents remain valid. General public to take note please.

I, formerly known as **MISS CHRISTIANA EDWARD** now wish to be addressed as **MRS MARTHA CHRISTIANA SULEIMAN**. All former documents remain valid. ABU-Zaria and public take note.

I, formerly **AJIBOYE KAFAYAT MOSUNMOLA** now wishes to be known as **MRS MUHAMMED MUSA-AJIBOYE KAFAYAT M.** General public note.

I, formerly known as **OKORO CLEMENTINS CHINYERE** now wish to be called **MRS OKAFOR CLEMENTINS CHINYERE**. All former documents remain valid. All-Midwest and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS DOOSHIMA MERCY ANIWEN** now want to be addressed as **MRS DOOSHIMA MERCY EYETAN**. All former documents remain valid. University of Jos, NYSC and the general public to take note.

I, formerly known as **HADIZA ABDULAZEEZ** now wish to be known as **HADIZA HUSSAINI**. All former documents remain valid, general public to take note.

I, formerly **CHRISTIANA AKPAN** now **CHRISTIANA PETER**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **SULE-ODU OLUDOLAPO MONSURU** now wish to be called and addressed as **SULE-ODU OLUDOLAPO SAMUEL**. All former documents remain valid, public to note.

I, formerly known as **DYENIYI ADERINSOLA FUNMI** wish to be known and addressed as **AGBOLA ADERINSOLA FUNMI**. GTBANK, ICAN and general public please note.

BAYT-UL HIKMA FOUNDATION

The General Public is hereby notified that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Aliyu Mu'd Hanth | President |
| 2. Abdul-Majeed Idris | Secretary |
| 3. Zakariyya A. Mikail | Vice President |
| 4. Bunyamin Suleman Unoakhe | |
| 5. Abubakar Dauda | |
| 6. Izuagbe S. Ibrahim | |
| 7. Muhammad Khaleed | |
| 8. Musah Mai-Riga | |

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE:

- Propagation of Islam.
- Enhancement and promotion of peaceful and harmonious co-existence of the entire humanity irrespective of social, economic and ideological variations.
- Improvement of the welfare of the less privileged and research into Islamic education.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B. 198, Maitama, Abuja within Twenty-Eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed,

BARR. JOHN O. ERAMEH,
Suite 300, Copper House,
Wuse Zone 5, Abuja.

CENTER FOR PEOPLES HEALTH, PEACE AND PROGRESS (3Ps)

This is to inform the general public that the above named organization has applied for registration to the Corporate Affairs Commission under part "C" Of the Companies and allied Matters Act 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- Cecilia Manka'a Esome (JP)
- Mr. Jacob Adewale
- Rev. Reuben Yaro Laulonji
- Barrister, Ifeoma Anwuta
- Mrs. Eme Young
- Godwin Ikide
- Hadiza K. Miner (ESQ)

AIMS:

- To promote the Health, Peace and Development of the family.
- To promote environmental Health, peace and Development in matters of Gender and Faith.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent off Aguiyi Ironsi Street Maitama, Abuja Within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED

SHEHU-MINER&Associates
(Maradun Chambers)

POVERTY REDUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Alhaji Sa'idu Usman | Chairman |
| 2. Professor Sani Mashi | Member |
| 3. Engr Mutaqtha Rabe Darna | Member |
| 4. Muhammad Lawal Zabairu | Member |
| 5. Mallam Aminu Ahmed | Member |
| 6. Alhaji Lawal Ibrahim | Secretary |
| 7. Mallam Nassiru Sulaiman | Asst Secretary |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To pursue the task of education and empowering the youth for better future.
- To collaborate with government agencies and all other relevant organisations for the purpose of empowerment and poverty reduction.
- To source for scholarship and provide support and awareness creation to the youth and other vulnerable members of the society.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, PMB 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

Secretary

KURA PROGRESSIVE UNION (KUPU)

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part 'C' of the companies and allied matters decree Act Cap. 59, Laws 1990;

Trustees are:

- Lawan Uba Kura
- Carba Yusuf Maitama
- Muhammad Balarabe Kiyari
- Sani Idris Kura
- Abubakar Lawal Abubakar

Aims and Objectives:

- To liaise with government and other organizations towards the development and progress of our society.
 - To support education and award scholarship
 - To curb away killer diseases e.g. Malaria, HIV/Aids e.t.c
 - To make our environment better and attractive and attractive.
- Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the registrar General Corporate affairs commission, wuse zone 5 Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

Barr. M. I. Khalil

GADUWA ESTATE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

This is to notify the general public that the above mentioned Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap 59, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990.

The Trustees are:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Dr. Aaze Thomas Adaba | -President |
| 2. Engineer Samson Okumuywa Oluseye | -Secretary |
| 3. Akindesha Modupe (Mrs.) | -Member |
| 4. Deacon Omatayo Adidu | -Member |
| 5. Ambassador Adereoni Ologoke Esan | -Member |
| 6. RT. Hon. Aminu Bello Masan | -Member |

Aims and Objectives

- To liaise between the Residents of the Estate and Ministry/Department responsible for Housing and Urban Development Matters and other relevant agencies/parastatals on matters affecting the residents of the Estate.
- To serve as a forum for articulating issues and ideas that are geared towards the promotion of unity, peaceful co-existence, well being and welfare of members as well as healthy development of the Estate.
- To serve as a forum for articulating and addressing issues relating to security, utility services (water, electricity and environment) as they affect the Estate.

Any objection to the proposed registration must be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja within 28 days of this Publication.

Signed:

Barrister Ephraim Ekandem

PUBLIC NOTICE

SURE CITY APOSTOLIC MISSION

This is to inform the general public the above named Mission has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

- Bishop Chukwumeka Richard Igbo
- Barr. Macmillan Okochukwu Igbo
- Emmanuel Chukwusom Igbo

Aims and objectives:

- Shall be committed to building and creating retreat environment for all Christians.
- Shall be involved in organizing interdenominational programs for Christians organizations.
- Shall establish training and leadership institutions for all Christian workers.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

Barr. Macmillan Okochukwu Igbo
08063549401

PUBLIC NOTICE

VACANCIES

Micropush, the pioneer Advocacy, Lobby and Strategy firm in Nigeria has urgent vacancies for the following category of persons:

- Legal Officers:** Candidates must have been called to bar with two year post call experience. Good knowledge of the workings of CAC and the National Assembly will be definite advantage. AGE: NOT more than 25 years.
- Journalists:** Candidates must possess a first degree in literary studies and must demonstrate aptitude for handling a print media house from the scratch. Ability to mix up with the high and mighty in the political, social, economic, spiritual and military establishments will be definite advantage. AGE: NOT more than 28 years.
- State Representatives:** Candidates, who must be graduates in any discipline, shall be in charge of the firm's affairs in any of the 19 Northern States plus Bayelsa, Ebonyi, Ekiti and Cross River States. You must be resident in the state you want to represent the firm in, and must demonstrate deep appreciation of the politico-economic dynamics of the area. AGE: NOT more than 30 years.
- Secretary:** Candidate must have a diploma in secretarial or computer studies. AGE: NOT more than 25 years.

Remuneration: Our aim is to groom young self-motivated and hard working entrepreneurs in Nigeria. Accordingly, the remuneration is very attractive but strictly based on performance.

Method of Application

Interested candidates should forward their application and detailed CV by hand or courier within two weeks of this publication to:

Micropush,
Suite B 314, DBM Plaza,
Newsketch Street, Zone 1, Wuse-Abuja
Visit www.micropushing.com for more information on Micropush.

VACANCY: Apply for Jobs

We have many vacancies. Looking for Microsoft Office Specialist for full or part time, Cisco/Microsoft & network technicians wanted. An overseas coy is looking to hire sales ladies and men for nationwide positions. Compensation is salary plus profit sharing & commission. To apply email CV with photo and letter to: US1HR@yahoo.com

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

The general public is hereby informed of the loss of original offer of Terms of Grant/Conveyance of Approval with Ref. No. MFCT/ZC/AMAC/LUE MF6497 dated Dec 1997 for plot: 2 hectre (MF6479) within Lugbe 1 extension in favour of Cecilia Kanu Chuchuma. All effort made to trace it proved abortive. If found please return to any nearest police station.

SPORT

Career twilight blues for Drogba, Kanoute and Kanu

Page 62



Angola, Mali share honours in the opening game

By Orkula Shaagee

THE 27th African Cup of Nations tournament kicked off in Angola yesterday on a resounding note, as host Angola failed to take advantage of first half lead to allow Mali rally round from 0-4 to an incredible 4-4 draw in Luanda.

It is one the tournament's greatest comebacks in history, as Mali scored two of their last goals in the last two minutes of extra time to salvage a point in the match that was watched by a capacity crowd.

The hosts opened scoring through Flavio Amado in the 36 and 42 minute, while Gilberto and Manucho increased the tally in the 67pen, Manucho 74 before the visitors opened their account with Seydou Keita's 79 minute shot.

Propelled by the Keita's opener, the Malians surged forward and were rewarded in the 88 minute when Frederic Kanoute headed in the second for his side, followed by Mustapha and Yatabare in the last two minutes of added time.

In one of the three matches lined up for today, one of the tournament's favourites, Ivory Coast will take on familiar neighbours Burkina Faso in a Group B opener whose intensity might be dampened by the Togolese tragedy. Composed of high calibre of players drawn from Europe's top leagues, the Elephants have

pulled wide attraction in recent years across Africa and beyond.

Also today, the Flames of Malawi will try a bowling over against their Algerian foes.

While Malawi might rightly be considered the weakest team in the group, the rating certainly won't perturb the Flames considering that their recent performances indicate that they are a side that revels in the underdog tag and often achieve their best results when they are overlooked or underestimated.

A good example of this is the fact that they emerged out of the second round of combined African Cup and World Cup qualifying as best second placers behind heavyweights Egypt and ahead of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Also, if you add to that the fact that they recently held title hopefuls Ghana and Egypt and AFCON warm ups then it is easy to understand that this team will hardly be awed when they face Algeria in Luanda today.

As at the time of going to press, it was not clear whether the Hawks of Togo will participate in the Nations Cup campaign after Friday's attack on its team left some member dead in the city of Cabinda.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Malawi vs. Algeria
Ivory Coast vs. B. Fasso
Ghana vs. Togo



ANGOLA'S Manucho (L) and Mali's Adama Tamboura fight for the ball during the opening match of African Cup of Nations football championships (CAN2010) between Angola and Mali yesterday

Galadima backs Togo's pull out

By Ibraheem A. Fatai

THE effect of the tragic shooting incidence that led to the loss of lives of four members of the Togolese football contingent to Angola will never allow the Togolese national team give their best in the ongoing African Nations Cup.

Making this statement yesterday in a telephone interview with Trustsports, erstwhile Chairman of the Nigerian Football Association (NFA), Alhaji Ibrahim Galadima, said the morale of the Togolese players are at a very

low ebb after seeing some of their colleagues being gone down by unknown assailants.

Describing the incident as very shocking, tragic and unfortunate, the Kano-born football administrator said the decision of the Togolese government to withdraw its team from the 27th edition of the African Nations Cup was the right thing to do under the circumstances it finds itself.

"The current frame of mind of the Togolese players, coaches and other officials is not conducive to playing championship of Africa Nations Cup magnitude. To play

good football, you need to be in a very good frame of mind, be psychologically and physically ready; anything short of that will never bring out the best in you.

"Withdrawing its team from the championship may be a very good decision, because if the team is left to compete, there is no way they can perform to their best. So, withdrawing the team is to prevent a disastrous outing. How do you expect players who wept over the death of their colleagues to play good football few days after the attack?"

"The shooting incidence may even affect the entire championship,

because everybody will start to feel insecure throughout the entire duration of the championship. Definitely, the government may have their reason for pulling out their team. The government has the responsibility to protect the lives of their citizens and do everything possible to make them save wherever they are," Galadima reasoned.

Galadima called on the Angolan government to strengthen security around players and officials throughout the championship, saying the responsibility of ensuring that no team or official is attacked lies on the government of the host.



ALHAJI Ibrahim Galadima



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES
FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 AREA II - GARKI, ABUJA

**INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS AND
 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST BY POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES**

The Federal Department of Agriculture of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources intends to execute various projects to process cassava, oil palm, cotton and cocoa into other value-added forms and hence increase demand for the crops and stimulate production. The implementation model for the cassava and oil palm factories is Build, Operate and Own (BOO); while the processing facilities for cocoa and cotton are direct purchases under Operate and Own (OO) arrangements. The Projects will entail: (1.) Civil works; (2.) Fabrication of equipment for processing of cassava and oil palm; (3.) Supply of equipment for cotton and cocoa.

SCOPE OF WORK

A. CASSAVA FACTORY

- LOT A1: Establishment of 3 units of cottage Cassava processing factories in Akwa-Ibom, Enugu and Imo State
 LOT A2: Establishment of 2 units of cottage Cassava processing factories in FCT and Nasarawa States
 LOT A3: Establishment of 2 units of cottage Cassava processing factories in Taraba and Benue States
 LOT A4: Establishment of 2 units of cottage Cassava processing factories in Cross-River and Rivers States
 LOT A5: Establishment of 2 units of cottage Cassava processing factories in Delta and Edo States.
 LOT A6: Establishment of 3 units of cottage Cassava processing factories in Lagos, Ogun and Oyo States.
 LOT A7: Establishment of 2 units of cottage Cassava processing factories in Ondo and Osun States.
 LOT A8: Establishment of 2 units of cottage Cassava processing factories in Kaduna and Niger States.
 LOT A9: Establishment of 2 units of cottage Cassava processing factories in Ekiti and Kwara States.
 LOT A10: Consultancy service for the civil works, installation of equipment and test-running for LOT A1 - A9

*EXPRESSION OF INTEREST BY POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES FOR COMPLETED CASSAVA PROCESSING FACTORIES IN THE STATED STATES.

B. OIL PALM PROCESSING FACTORIES

- LOT B1: Establishment of 4 units of cottage oil palm processing factories to specification in Ebonyi and Akwa-Ibom States.
 LOT B2: Establishment of 4 units of cottage oil palm processing factories to specification in Imo and Abia States.
 LOT B3: Establishment of 4 units of cottage oil palm processing factories to specification in Cross River and Delta States.
 LOT B4: Establishment of 4 units of cottage oil palm processing factories to specification in Edo and Ondo States.
 LOT B5: Establishment of 4 units of cottage oil palm processing factories to specification in Ogun and Kwara States.
 LOT B6: Consultancy service for the civil works, installation of equipment and test-running for LOT B1 - B5

*EXPRESSION OF INTEREST BY POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES FOR COMPLETE OIL PALM MILLS IN THE STATED STATES.

C. COTTON

- LOT C1: Procurement/Installation of two Premier 9000HVI Machines for cotton in Katsina and Gusau axis.
 LOT C2: Procurement/Installation of two Premier 9000HVI Machines for cotton in Ogun and Kaduna axis.
 LOT C3: Consultancy service for installation of equipment and test running for Lot C1 to C2.

*EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR COTTON HVI MACHINES IN LOT C1 TO C2 IN THE STATED STATES.

D. COCOA

- LOT D1: Fabrication/supply of 600 units of collapsible platform solar dryer (to specification for cocoa beans) for Ondo, Osun, Ogun and Ekiti States.
 LOT D2: Fabrication/supply of 600 units of collapsible platform solar dryer (to specification for cocoa beans) for Oyo, Edo, Delta, Kogi and Kwara States.
 LOT D3: Fabrication/supply of 600 units of collapsible platform solar dryer (to specification for cocoa beans) for Adamawa, Taraba, Akwa-Ibom, Cross River and Abia States.
 LOT D4: Fabrication/supply of 1900 units of cocoa fermentation boxes for Ondo, Osun, Ogun, Ekiti, Oyo, Edo, Delta, Kogi, Kwara, Adamawa, Akwa Ibom, Cross-River, and Abia States.
 LOT D1 to D4 will be sold through Cocoa Farmers' Field Schools.

E. SENSITIZATION, ADVOCACY & PUBLICITY

- LOT E1: Consultancy for sensitization, advocacy and publicity on the promotion of cassava and oil palm.
 LOT E2: Consultancy for sensitization, advocacy and publicity on the promotion of cotton and cocoa.

F. GENERAL

Detailed specifications will be included in the bidding documents for Civil Works equipment supply, fabrication, installation and test running.
 Interested Companies for Civil Works and Fabrication/Procurement of equipment are required to collect tender documents from the Office of the Secretary, Ministerial Tenders Board, Room 212, Area 11, Garki, Abuja, at the cost of N20,000 not later than two (2) weeks from the date of this advertisement.
 Completed Tender document, should be submitted with the following:

- Detailed Company profile including Curriculum Vitae's key professional key personnel.
- Certificate of Incorporation with Corporate Affairs Commission
- Current Tax Clearance with evidence of payment for the last three years (2006, 2007, 2008)
- VAT registration certificate with FIRS TIN
- Verifiable evidence of experience in similar jobs
- Letter of confirmation from a bank testifying the financial capability of the company
- Any other relevant information that will further confirm the competence of the company to carry out the job.

G. BENEFICIARIES

In addition to F (a, b, c and g) above:

- The beneficiary of the Cassava factories and Oil palm mill shall provide evidence for a minimum of one (1) acre of accessible land free from all encumbrances for the establishment of the factory building and installation of its equipment.
- Express interest in the factory or facility interested in by indicating the Village/Town/LGA/State where the factory/facility is to be located.
- Deposit 10% of the cost before commencement of operation.
- Successful beneficiary shall sign an agreement with the implementing Bank/Government on the Build, Own and Operate (BOO) arrangement and after the repayment period own the factories (Cassava and Oil palm) or the facility (Cotton and Cocoa).

The Bid documents for Civil Works and fabrication/procurement of equipment shall be submitted in two different sealed envelopes marked **TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL BIDS** respectively with job description and lot number as described above. The expression of interest by potential beneficiaries shall be marked "expression of interest" with the factories or facility interested in stated at the right corner of the envelope. All shall be addressed to: **The Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Water Resources, Area 11, Garki - Abuja.**

The documents are to be submitted at the Office of Secretary, Ministerial Tenders Board, Room 212, Area 11, Garki, Abuja not later than two (2) weeks from the date of this publication. The bid will be opened on the same day. Please note that only companies whose Technical Bids are acceptable will have their Financial bids opened.

USMAN M. ABDULLAHI
 Ag. Permanent Secretary



**FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION,
 ZARIA**

P.M.B. 1041, ZARIA, KADUNA STATE

(Office of the Registrar)

**INVITATIONS FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TENDER FOR:
 I. THE EXECUTION AND PROCUREMENT OF 300 KVA
 STEPDOWN TRANSFORMER AND
 II. PROCUREMENT OF LIBRARY MATERIALS OF E.T.F.
 YEAR 2007/ 2008 INTERVENTION PROJECT**

The Federal College of Education, Zaria hereby invites reputable and experienced contractors for pre-qualification and Tender on the projects below:

OBJECTIVE:

To extend power to the new Business Education Department and procurement of Library materials.

SCOPE OF WORKS

- Procurement and Installation of 300 KVA Stepdown Transformer Including concrete plinth, chainlink Fence, Energizing and Capital Contribution and associated cables to extend power to the Business Education Department.
- Procurement of Library Materials.

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Those interested in the pre-qualification and tendering process are required to submit comprehensive technical and financial information as follows:

- Evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission.
- Evidence of Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three (3) years.
- Company audited account for the last three (3) years.
- Evidence of Financial Capability and Banking support.
- Verifiable list and documentary evidence of similar jobs successfully executed with their locations within the last three years (include photocopies of letters of awards and practical completion certificates).
- List of names of key personnel to be involved in the projects stating their qualification and professional registration where applicable (Enclose photocopies of credentials).
- List of plants and equipment to be used for the projects.
- Annual turn-over of the company.
- VAT registration and evidence of past - VAT remittance.
- Originals of documents (a and b above) must be produced for sighting.

PURCHASE OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

Tender documents can be obtained from the Estate Department upon the payment of non-refundable tender fee of N10,000.00 to the Bursary Department.

SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION/TENDER DOCUMENTS

The pre-qualification and tender documents should be sealed and submitted in an envelope marked:

- PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TENDER FOR 300 KVA TRANSFORMER and
 - LIBRARY MATERIALS
- and addressed to:

**The Registrar,
 Federal College of Education,
 Zaria.**

To reach him within **six weeks (6)** from the date of this publication.

OPENING OF BIDS AND PRE-QUALIFICATIONS

Bidders/their representatives are invited to the public opening of pre-qualification and tender within **six weeks (6)** from the date of publication at 12.39 pm i.e. on 23rd February, 2010.

Notes:

- All pre-qualification documents shall be rendered in English Language and spiral bound.
- Fake/suspicious documents would be handed over to appropriate government agencies for necessary action.
- This advert shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of the College authorities nor shall it entitle any company to make any claim or seek indemnity from the College. The College shall also not be obliged to award the contracts to the lowest bidder or any bidder at all.
- Late submissions will be rejected.

Signed:
J. S. Danjuma
 Registrar

Eguavoen advises Eagles on how to beat Egypt

FORMER Nigeria international, Austin Eguavoen, has advised the Super Eagles to mark out Egypt to ensure victory in the Africa Nations Cup Group C encounter on Tuesday in Angola.

Nigeria is featuring in the 27th biennial African soccer fiesta which kicks-off on Jan. 10 in Angola alongside six-time winners, Egypt.

The Group C teams are to commence hostilities on Jan. 12 in the city of Benguela with the cracker between the Pharaohs of Egypt and the Shuaibu Amodututored Super Eagles.

Nigeria won the trophy twice in 1980 in Nigeria and 1994 in far away Tunisia, while the Black Mambas of Mozambique and the Squirrels of Benin have yet to lift

the coveted trophy.

Eguavoen told the *News Agency of Nigeria* (NAN) on Saturday in Lagos that the Nwankwo Kanu-captained side should disallow the North Africans the use of space to frustrate them.

"The Eagles should raise their game against the Egyptians tomorrow in Angola to secure a victory.

"Our boys should play as a unit to beat their opponents. They must be committed to prevent Egypt from scoring because that will spur them to come all out on Eagles.

"The Eagles should mark out their opponents to frustrate them. The North Africans get frustrated easily when they do not get the goals," Eguavoen said.



SUPER Eagles' Osaze Odemwingie against a Tunisian opponent during the qualifiers. He is expected to lead Nigeria's attack against Egypt tomorrow.

Adepoju upbeat after Zamfara win

3SC General Manager and Technical head Mutiu Adepoju, who led the team to a 2-0 defeat of Zamfara United last Saturday, says the win would ease some of the pressure on the team as they prepare for Wednesday's home cracker against Heartland FC of Owerri at the same venue.

"We worked hard for this game (against Zamfara), and we thank God that our prayers were answered at the end of the day. The difference between today's performance and previous ones was that everyone realized the importance of winning and this made us re-double our efforts.

"Although we could have scored more in view of the opportunities we created, but all the same we are happy claiming the three points at stake and the fans are the happier for it.

He echoed the feelings of 3SC supporters who have demanded for sustained momentum ahead of the upcoming midweek clash against visiting Heartland FC of Owerri at the same venue.

"Against Heartland on Wednesday we are targeting another win to improve on our league standing.

"It won't be easy playing a team of Heartland's calibre but there's a renewed zeal in the Shooting Stars camp that no opponent can withstand.

"And let me seize this opportunity to call on our numerous fans to come to the Stadium in their numbers to give us the support we need, and by the grace of God we shall not disappoint," he said.

Shooting Stars returned to winning ways with an inspiring 2-0 thumping of Zamfara United of Gusau in a rescheduled Week 11 Glo Premier League match the Liberty Stadium, Ibadan last Saturday.

Second half goals by Meshack Chukwubuikem and Dolapo Omotayo settled the deadlock and gave 3SC the maximum points and their first win in six consecutive matches.

Scores stood 0-0 at half time but a turbo-charged Oluyole Warriors turned on the heat in a second half blitz that saw the visitors beating the retreat.

Stars shot into the lead seven minutes after the restart when Meshack Chukwubuikem slammed the ball into the net after collecting a pass from Dolapo Omotayo.

Chukwubuikem would later turn provider when his pass was connected by Omotayo for the second goal on 77 minutes.

The victory was a relief of sorts for teeming fans of the former African kings who have had a torrid week in the wake of Phillip Boamah's sack and the heated speculations that followed.

A national sports daily even reported the "appointment" of Jossy Lad as the team's new head coach during the week.

The 3SC management would later debunk the story, branding it as a calculated effort at derailing the due process of hiring a tested hand to steer the team forward.

Athletics coach urges early release of funds by NSC

ISAAC Ikhaobomeh, an athletics coach has urged the National Sports Commission (NSC) to



SPORTS Minister Engineer Sani Ndanusa

release funds early to the sports federations to prepare for this year's international competitions.

Ikhaobomeh told the *News Agency of Nigeria* (NAN) in Lagos on Saturday that athletes selected to represent the country in competitions should also be given grants to enable them prepare.

"Many of these athletes are talented but are from poor homes, so they need financial motivation to give their best as they solely depend on their chosen sports for livelihood," he said.

Ikhaobomeh said that if money was released in time,

athletes would be focused as they knew that they would be celebrated and rewarded if they performed well in competitions.

The coach noted that athletics being an individual and group game in relay did not allow for partial judgment by officials as the winner is seen by all.

He called for sponsorship of grassroots programmes and athletes by corporate organisations, saying it would help to discover and nurture budding athletes.

Ikhaobomeh noted that athletics was going down and required urgent revival.

"By now we should do away with fire brigade approach in

preparing athletes for international competitions as they cannot perform magic without adequate preparation," he said.

Abulazeez Alli, who a grassroots athletics coach said government should always have a policy for rewarding successful athletes and ensure that it was implemented.

"If government fulfils its promise to athletes, it will go a long way to motivate them to do more and upcoming athletes will be encouraged," he said.

Alli said that without money and other incentives, athletes would seek for greener pastures outside the country where they would be better appreciated.



2010 AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS

Career twilight blues for Drogba, Kanoute and Kanu

DIDIER DROGBA

IVORY Coast's Didier Drogba recently announced that Angola 2010 will be his curtain call in the AFCON tournament. The 32-year-old Ivorian has been the best player to adorn his country's colours in the last decade and he will want to go out with a big bang, having never won Africa's most prestigious football tournament.

A silver medal in Egypt 2006 is the closest that the big man has ever come to winning. It was his missed penalty kick in the shoot-out that handed victory to the hosts on that occasion. The promise of victory was unfulfilled for the Ivorians at Ghana 2008, where they paraded a strong team but fell short, again to the Egyptians, in the semi final, this time a dismal 4-1 loss.

The 2006 African footballer of the year will hope to cap off a beautiful career with an African crown to emulate the 1992 team of Abdoulaye Traore. With two English Premier League and FA Cup winners' medals hanging in his trophy cabinet, can Drogba make Angola a happy hunting ground for the Ivory Coast and clinch the AFCON?

FREDERIC KANOUTE

Mali's Fredi Kanoute won



NWANKWO Kanu

the 2007 African footballer of the year award but has never won the AFCON tournament. The closest the Malian striker came to winning was in 2004 when his side finished fourth.

The 32-year-old will probably

be playing his last tournament and will hope to put an AFCON gold alongside the other medals he has in his cabinet. Twice UEFA Cup champion with Sevilla, as well as the Copa Del Rey, Kanoute has it all to play for this time to ensure



FREDI Kanoute

that he keeps his place in the legendary class of Malian footballers. Will his quest in Angola be successful?

NWANKWO KANU

In the same mould is Nigeria's captain Nwankwo Kanu, who has

had a very interesting career. The mercurial Kanu has won everything in football except the AFCON title, the closest being a silver medal finish in 2000 when Nigeria co-hosted with Ghana. It was his penalty miss in the shoot-out against Cameroon that ensured his country finished second.

The 33-year-old Portsmouth striker has already said he will be retiring from international football after this summer's World Cup. Retiring without an AFCON crown will make for a nagging hole in the palmars of a man who has survived life-threatening heart disease to still be on top of his game.

Winner's medals in the UEFA Champions League, UEFA Cup, Dutch League and Cup, English Premier League and FA Cup as well as Olympic gold and Under-17 world triumph in Nigeria's colours are some of the imprints left by the lanky forward. It would not be out of place for the two-time African footballer of the year to aim for an AFCON triumph to usher his way out of international football.

He will also be aiming to score his first goal at the Nations Cup in five appearances. Will Angola be good to him?

Togo government recalls national team

TOGO'S prime minister yesterday recalled the country's soccer team from the African Cup of Nations, accusing host Angola of failing to protect the players following a deadly ambush on their bus that killed three and injured eight.

The players themselves said they wanted to stay and compete in honor of the dead, who included their assistant coach, a team spokesman and the Angolan bus driver.

Togo Prime Minister Gilbert Houngbo said the players were still in a state of shock Sunday and were not secure. He said that Togo's presidential plane has been dispatched to Angola to take the team back to Lome.

An Associated Press reporter in Cabinda said an Air Togo plane was seen flying near the airport.

"Angola and the Confederation of African Football (CAF) have not taken adequate security measures to ensure the safety of the Togolese national team," Houngbo said.

On Saturday, the Togo government had also ordered the team to leave, but the Togo soccer team on Sunday confirmed that they wanted to play.

The Togo team was ambushed Friday in an attack blamed on mili-

tants fighting for the independence of Cabinda, a region of Angola cut off from the rest of the country by a strip of Congo. At least two players had gunshot wounds. The team's goalkeeper was flown to South Africa for emergency surgery.

"The players understood that they had to play to honor the dead," Confederation of African Football spokesman Kodzo Samlan told The Associated Press after speaking with the team.

Midfielder Alaixys Romao, who plays for French League 1 club Grenoble, told L'Equipe in an interview that the squad and officials met Saturday and elected to go ahead with the tournament, starting with their opening match against Ghana today.

"People died for this tournament, others were injured. We can't abandon them and leave like cowards," Romao reportedly said. "If we stay here, it's for them. But also so as not to give satisfaction to the rebels.

"Our government doesn't necessarily agree with us but we are determined to play in this competition. The decision was taken unanimously," he said.

Samlan-who is also secretary-general of Togo's soccer federation-said by telephone from Benguela,

Angola, that the team had voted to stay but were awaiting approval from the Togo government to remain.

"We still stand by our decision to demand the return of our national team from Angola. Nothing has reversed that decision," Houngbo said.

Togo captain Emmanuel Adebayor told local station Radio Ecclesia, "We are going to try everything to stay here and play in the tournament because we are very lucky to survive this attack."

However, he added, "We are children of the Togo and we will abide by the decision of our government."

With tournament officials declaring the tournament will start on schedule on Sunday, and with Togo's Group B matches to be played in restive Cabinda, the tour party was met there on Saturday by most of the top officials of the CAF, who implored Togo to stay.

CAF president Issa Hayatou said he'd received a guarantee from Angola Prime Minister Antonio Paulo Kassoma that security would be beefed up for all teams and at all venues.

The Angolan government built a new stadium in Cabinda for pool play in the African Cup.



EMMANUEL Adebayor escaped the attack unhurt

Sport Briefs...

Schwartzel wins Africa Open

CHARL Schwartzel, the highest-ranked player in the field, won the Africa Open by one stroke on Sunday. The world number 66 claimed his fourth European Tour title when he held off fellow South African Thomas Aiken after a closing six-under-par 67 secured a 20-under total of 272 at the East London Club. Aiken (70), chasing his first European Tour victory, had a chance to force a playoff when he was left with a 15-foot birdie putt on the par-four 18th but his effort drifted to the right.



CHARL Schwartzel

Mancini insists Veron bid was just a joke



ROBERTO Mancini

ROBERTO Mancini has laughed off claims that Manchester City made a bid for Estudiantes' midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron. Reports had previously suggested that the Citizens had made a £7 million offer for the former Chelsea and Manchester United playmaker. However, according to the Italian manager, while admitting he had spoken to the player about joining the club, the conversation had purely been in jest.

Cilic overpowers Wawrinka

CROATIAN Marin Cilic clinched a second straight Chennai Open crown on Sunday with a 7-6 7-6 victory over Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka. Second seed Cilic battled for two hours and 40 minutes to overcome the Swiss in a thrilling final to record his first win over the world number 21 in five meetings. Third seed Wawrinka, Beijing Olympics doubles gold medalist with Roger Federer, broke the big-serving Cilic in the eighth game of the first set to open up a 5-3 lead.



MARIN Cilic

Madrid to complete deal for Eduardo Salvio



EDUARDO Salvio

STRUGGLING Primera Division side Atletico Madrid are locked in negotiations with Argentine side Lanus over their attacking midfielder Eduardo Salvio, and hope to complete a deal this week. Marca comments that Los Colchoneros, who have suffered an uninspiring start to the season, want to conclude a deal for the promising 19-year old, who has two full international caps for Diego Maradona's Argentina side and is highly regarded in South America.

Berbatov set for knee surgery

MANCHESTER United manager Sir Alex Ferguson has revealed that striker Dimitar Berbatov might need an operation on the injured knee that kept him out of yesterday's draw at Birmingham City.

The Bulgarian was keen to play at St Andrew's, but it seems that the problem might be slightly more serious than was at first believed.

"He wanted to play with it but we felt we should try and get it sorted and get him fit again," Ferguson told United's official website.

"He may have to have an exploratory operation."

Meanwhile, Ferguson was also clearly annoyed at the sending off of Darren Fletcher for his second yellow card after a foul on Blues striker Cameron Jerome.

That meant that the Scot's plans to use debutant striker Mame Biram Diouf were badly disrupted.

"You won't see a softer sending off," Ferguson fumed.

"For a start, Darren's not that kind of player. It's a simple clip on the boy [Jerome], who actually stumbled. I think it was a terrible decision and it gave them some momentum.

"I'd hoped to put Diouf up front with Wayne [Rooney]. We know he can play alongside someone but to play on his own in his first game was difficult for him."

Ferguson was also disappointed to have collected only a point from the game, even though his side had overturned a one goal deficit to claim a draw.

"It's not really a point gained, but we can't argue with the result," he said.

"We were down to 10 men for the last part of the game, but in the first half we played absolutely brilliantly and dominated the match. It was a travesty to



DIMITAR Berbatov would undergo surgery on injured knee

go in 1-0 down after they scored with their first attack.

"We spoke about patience at half-time because 45 minutes is a long time. We've won so many games late on so we shouldn't worry about being 1-0 down,

we've faced that situation many times. I think the players did their job well.

"It was a sickener but it's important not to let your head go down. We kept battling away and deserved a point."

Wenger: Arsenal will not recall players from Nations Cup

ARSENAL manager Arsene Wenger maintains that he will not recall any of his players who have gone to represent their countries in the African Cup of Nations, following the attack on the Togo team bus in Angola.

The bus came under machine-gun fire after crossing the border of Democratic Republic of Congo and entering the Angolan province of Cabinda. Three lives were lost during the ordeal, leaving eight wounded.

But Wenger believes that the show must go on, and maintains that he will not recall Cameroon

international Alexandre Song or Ivory Coast midfielder Emmanuel Eboue.

"I do not believe you can just stop any competition at any incident, because that will reward people who provoke the incidents," Wenger said, according to the Press Association.

"That means any competition in the world will be stoppable at any time.

"The international federation has to make sure the security is good enough for the competition and maybe you have to leave it to some individual players that if they

feel scared then there is the possibility they could move out of the competition.

"I personally feel that the competition has to go on."

Wenger then touched on the political situation in Angola, saying: "Angola is a troubled country because there is political unrest and rebels fighting against the government, so it can be dangerous.

"I do not know well enough what happened [to the Togo squad], but it looks strange to me that the team travelled from Congo to Angola knowing there were rebels on the border."

THE MONDAY COLUMN

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Jigsaw puzzle's pieces

The year 2010 is supposed to be the official make or mar year for Nigerian politicians in the run up to the next general and presidential elections, but it has gotten off to an uncertain, tense, cloudy and rumour-filled start.

Remember that early last year, when some ministers, some state governors and some PDP national officers began what was clearly a premature campaign for his second term, Yar'adua stepped in at the PDP mini convention and said campaigns for 2011 weren't appropriate until 2010. Well, 2010 is here, but the President's hospitalisation since November 2009 and the extremely secretive manner in which his family and the government have handled the matter of his ill-health have been such that we no longer expect a normal year of electioneering this time around. The fate of 2011 politics now depends to a very large extent on Yar'adua's personal fate.

The most substantive thing heard by Nigerians on this matter was last week's testimony that Vice President Goodluck Jonathan received a phone call from Yar'adua, however briefly. If so, then it signalled a substantial improvement in the president's health. Even though reports at the weekend by NEXT newspaper, in particular, said the phone call was a ruse, it seems unlikely that Jonathan would tell the Federal Executive Council that he spoke to Yar'adua, as Information Minister Dora Akunyili said he told them, when he had not done so.

Now, if Yar'adua survives this illness and returns to the country, one of several things must happen. Number one, he could come back, resume his duties and say nothing about resigning. If however Yar'adua maintains a schedule even less active than the one he maintained before he went to hospital, or even if he simply maintains a pace equal to that one, pressure is likely to mount for him to quit.

On the other hand, if he were to show some visible improvement, some people may actually push for him to run for a second term, though that is very unlikely to happen. It is much more likely, assuming his health somewhat improves, that Yar'adua will try to complete his term in office, then drop out of the 2011 race.

If Yar'adua were to quit office now, on his own volition or under pressure, the biggest question of the 2011 race will be largely settled, because Jonathan will step into the presidency now and most 2011 aspirants in the PDP will be silenced. Jonathan will then almost certainly get the PDP nomination and, the way things are, will almost certainly win the 2011 elections as well, but first things first.

Even if Yar'adua agrees to quit now, how he chooses to quit will affect the PDP and Nigeria greatly. The firmest way to quit is to say what the American President Richard Nixon said in 1974, "I shall resign from the presidency effective 12 noon tomorrow. Vice President Ford shall be sworn-in at that hour." On the other hand, if Yar'adua sends a murky, IBB-like "stepping aside" message, then it could probably ignite a noisy campaign by his supporters for him to stay on.

Now, if Yar'adua decides to complete his current term but drop out of the 2011 race, then PDP and the country will be in for a very difficult time. The way PDP works, Yar'adua should then be able to handpick a successor, much like Obasanjo single-handedly picked him in 2006. Yet, it won't be easy for him, because while many Northern politicians will put him under great pressure to pick a Northerner in supposed continuation of PDP's power shift formula, Yar'adua should also expect great pressure from other quarters to endorse Jonathan.

If he is unable to resolve this problem without wrecking

the party, Yar'adua could play the ostrich and say, I will not do an Obasanjo, let the party go and choose. Such a scenario will unleash powerful forces within the PDP. Several governors who are just completing their second terms, notably Dr. Bukola Saraki and Alhaji Danjuma Goje, could be interested. Several men who finished their governorship tenure in 2007, notably Alhaji Ahmed Makarfi, Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu, Dr. Peter Odili and Chief James Ibori could be interested, as could some first term governors, perhaps Malam Isa Yuguda, Alhaji Sule Lamido or Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu. Then there are the non-gubernatorial hopefuls, the most powerful being General Ibrahim Babangida, but also General Aliyu Gusau and Alhaji Abubakar Rimi.

The smoothest path to 2011 for the PDP is if Yar'adua quits this year and Jonathan completes the term. Even then, some Northern politicians will try to push him out of the 2011 race but given the way PDP works, Jonathan should be able, despite his rather light political weight, to command the loyalty of the party national exco, governors and ministers and thereafter he cannot be defeated in PDP primaries.

Yet, Jonathan's rise to the presidency will entail a wholesale rezoning of the party offices, National Assembly leadership, and even some key Executive offices, such as SGE, Head of Service and the ones Yar'adua snatched for the North [GMD NNPC, Governor CBN and DG SSS], under the unstated premise that under Obasanjo, Southerners cornered them.

Now, how the presidential puzzle is settled will impact heavily on next year's gubernatorial races. Governors are the most potent political force in Nigeria after the president, but all the governors may not see eye-to-eye on this matter of 2011 jigsaw puzzles. First-term governors are deeply interested in stability, while second-termers may not mind an opening in the presidency.

National Assembly members will also be making their own calculations. 2007 was a disastrous year for the Assembly, when more than 80% of its sitting members were flushed out, usually at party primary level. This experience weighs heavily today on the minds of Senate President David Mark and House Speaker Dimeji Bankole, who are already campaigning for automatic party tickets for the current members in 2011. A National Assembly member's political situation is tricky because while he usually has some clout with the Presidency, for electoral purposes, he is completely at the mercy of a state governor.

Yet another jigsaw piece this year is that ministers, advisers, ambassadors and other powerful Executive Branch officers will be making political calculations of their own. Ministers hold powerful and lucrative offices, more lucrative than National Assembly membership but politically, they are rather impotent because they must do the bidding of the President.

A minister's political priority is usually to remain as minister and, somewhere down the road, to become a governor, vice president or president. The only available formula for this, in Nigeria, is blind loyalty to the president. Politically, the Presidency usually takes ministers for granted. A minister becomes more relevant in the ruling party set up only when the party does not have the governor in his state. This time around, the Yar'adua ministers think they deserve some political regard towards 2011 because they resisted all public pressure to invoke Section 144 of the Constitution and declare the president unfit for office. What is not certain is whether Jonathan inwardly regarded that as an act worth rewarding.

All these pieces of the jigsaw puzzle must begin to fall into place very soon.

SPORTS REPORT



GERMAN Denis

Napoli beats Sampdoria to maintain unbeaten run

Napoli beat Sampdoria 1-0 yesterday to extend its unbeaten run under new coach Walter Mazzari to 12 matches.

Argentine striker German Denis came on as a substitute in the first half and headed in the only goal in the 71st minute for fourth-place Napoli. After gaining only seven points in its

opening seven games, Napoli replaced Roberto Donadoni with Mazzari and hasn't lost since.

Inter needed an injury-time goal from Walter Samuel to beat last-place Siena 4-3 Saturday. AS Roma, which beat Chievo Verona 1-0 Saturday, is fifth, followed by Fiorentina and Palermo, who both won Sunday and have 30 points apiece.



EVER Banega

Valencia see off Xerez

Valencia cruised to a 3-1 victory at basement club Xerez yesterday to strengthen their hold on third place in La Liga.

Ever Banega set up Juan Mata for the opener in the 11th minute but Xerez netted a rare goal when Carlos Calvo scored after a sweeping counter-attack.

David Villa laid on Valencia's second for David Silva in the 33rd and Carlos Marchena charged through the middle in the 69th to make it 3-1 with a spectacular solo effort.

Valencia have 35 points from 17 games, three short of Real Madrid who were playing Real Mallorca at the Bernabeu.

Leaders Barcelona, with 40 points, visit lowly Tenerife in the late game.

Juan Rodriguez kept Deportivo Coruna in the hunt for a Champions League place next season with a fine turn and shot securing a 1-0 home win over Osasuna yesterday.

“Now, if Yar'adua decides to complete his current term but drop out of the 2011 race, then PDP and the country will be in for a very difficult time”