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Ex-governors call for two-party system



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After 9 hours' grilling...

El-Rufai to be charged to court tomorrow

By Boco Edet

AGENTS of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) yesterday grilled former Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Nasir el-Rufai for over nine hours at its headquarters in Abuja. The grilling centered around what EFCC was his failure to account for N32 billion proceeds accrued from the sale of federal government houses and lands during his four year in office.

It was the first time since 2007 that EFCC laid its hands on the ex-minister, who was in self-exile for more than two years and only returned to the country last Saturday. After he spurned several invitations by the agency,

EFCC declared the former minister wanted in 2008.

He was released on administrative bail at a few minutes past seven yesterday evening and was told to appear before a Federal High Court in Abuja tomorrow, where charges have been filed against him and 11 others.

“It was the first time since 2007 that EFCC laid its hands on the ex-minister

El-Rufai, who was given a 10am appointment, arrived at EFCC headquarters a few minutes to the hour in a black Mercedes Benz Jeep with Registration

Number BB 417MKA, clad in white caftan and spotting a red cap. He acknowledged the presence of journalists with a wave and was ushered in to meet EFCC's Director of

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PHOTO: FELIX ONIGBINDE

FORMER FCT Minister Nasir el-Rufai (middle) departing from the premises of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission in the company of the commission's operatives in Abuja yesterday.

2011: Shekarau endorses Takai

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

THE political temperature in Kano State in the run up to the 2011 elections was raised several degrees yesterday when Kano State Governor Malam Ibrahim Shekarau threw his weight behind his

Commissioner for Local Governments Alhaji Salisu Sagir Takai to fly the ruling All Nigeria Peoples Party's (ANPP) flag in next year's polls.

Shekarau had received and addressed thousands of ANPP supporters who paid him a visit at the government house to sup-

port Takai's gubernatorial bid. He said the gathering implied that ANPP in the state is united, saying there is no doubt that the party will win the 2011 general elections.

Although Malam Shekarau refrained from saying he endorsed Takai's candidacy, he received the party men enthusiastically

and he repeatedly chanted, "Kano sai wa?" [who will rule Kano?] and the crowd kept jubilating and shouting, "Sai Takai!" [only Takai].

Shekarau also thanked them for their support and urged them to be law abiding. He said

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Obasanjo fires back at CAN



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Business

RMAFC chairman and 24 others will vacate office on May 12, after completing their tenure **27**

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The PDP yesterday asked AC to face its own problems instead of asking Ogbulafor to resign **49**

Inside Today's Daily Trust

Obasanjo fires back at CAN

From Nahimah Ajikanle, Lagos

FORMER President Olusegun Obasanjo yesterday said leaders of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) need counselling and deliverance.

Obasanjo was reacting to assertions by the Christian leaders on Monday condemning him over his comment that even Jesus Christ cannot conduct a free and fair election in Nigeria.

The former president spoke to journalists at the Presidential Wing of the Murtala Muhammed Airport in Lagos.

Obasanjo said, "God will deliver them too because they also need deliverance."

The former president who was dressed in a white striped Jacarde with a tan brown gold striped cap kept reporters waiting while they sought his opinion on the state of the nation but only commented

on CAN's reaction to his comment.

On the speculations that he was backing Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to contest in 2011, he simply laughed, turned his back and asked, "Do you see me backing Good luck? Is he on my back?" He boarded a black jeep with registration number C914-EKY and was driven away. He was on his way to Ghana but was asked to change his aircraft.

The Christian Association of Nigeria had Monday condemned former President Olusegun Obasanjo over his recent comments that even Jesus Christ would not be able to conduct undisputed and credible elections in Nigeria.

CAN said it was unfortunate that a person of the former president's standing who had benefited immensely from the wonders of God would blaspheme the Lord Jesus Christ.

Commissioner directs closure of 2 schools

THE Delta State government has directed the immediate closure of two private schools in Arhagba-Okpe and Ogwashi-Uku in Okpe and Aniocha South Local Government Areas respectively.

Mrs Juliet Agoba, the Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, gave the directive yesterday while monitoring the ongoing WAEC senior certificate examination in the local government areas. Agoba said that the closure of the schools -- Deeper Knowledge Secondary School, Ogwashi-Uku and Arhieru Secondary School, Arhagba-Okpe, was because "the schools operate in un-conducive environment".

She explained that the schools had no students in junior school one to three and senior schools one and two, yet they had more than enough students in SS III, describing the schools as miracle centres.

Agoba added that the era of impunity was gone and advised those interested in running private schools to ensure that they complied with the rules as stipulated by the ministry.

The commissioner said it was wicked and criminal for anybody who valued education to keep children in an unhealthy environment as places for educational pursuit.

She therefore, directed the proprietress of New Hope Secondary School, Ogwashi-Uku and the principals of Igun Secondary School, Igun and Arhagba Secondary School, Arhagba-Okpe, to furnish her office with their schools' registers. This, she further said, was with a view to explaining the discrepancies in the enrolment sheets for SS II and SS III. (NAN)



MINISTER of Petroleum Resources Mrs. Diezani Alison-Madueke (2nd left) declaring open the Nigerian stand at the offshore technology conference in Houston, Texas, USA yesterday.

Three injured in Lagos NURTW fracas

From Benjamin Auta, Lagos

THREE persons including one of the factional leaders of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) were injured in Mushin, Lagos State yesterday over a battle for superiority at Post Office bus stop in the area.

Reports said the faction headed by one Kamoru Akano and the other by one Toba who is also a land speculator clashed when drivers refused to support Toba over his right at the Post Office bus stop.

Mr Kamoru Akano who tried to interfere was macheted by one of the factional members which caused the fight.

This led to a free for all and one person was shot in the buttocks while others sustained injuries. Passersby and motorists were not spared as windscreens of cars were also smashed by hoodlums who took advantage of the situation at the area. Confirming the incident, the police spokesman in the state, Mr. Frank Mba said only three persons were injured in the fracas as the police also recovered a pump action rifle.

Police kill dreaded Ondo armed robber

From Adewale Giwa, Akure

THE police in Ison, headquarters of Ose Council Area of Ondo State yesterday killed one Kola, an armed robbery suspect popularly known as "Oddiah".

Several other people sustained various degrees of injuries in the ensuing fracas.

Daily Trust gathered that the deceased, was reportedly killed by the police during a gun duel

between him and the police when they invaded his hide out after he was fingered in a robbery case involving a popular woman in Ison, called Madam Titi or "iron lady".

Sources said the woman was robbed of a large amount of money and other property by a gang of armed robbers in her residence on Monday and she later reported the case at the Ison Divisional Police office and named

Kola as one of the suspects. But, in an attempt to arrest Kola yesterday, he allegedly opened fire on the police while the police officer retaliated and killed the suspect during the ensuing gun duel.

The situation aggravated when a notorious group in the town called "One million boys" launched an attack on Madam Titi, accusing her of using the police to intimidate suspected political opponents under the

guise of robbery attacks. The group set ablaze two houses belonging to the parents of Madam Titi, beat her up and drove her siblings out of the town.

Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) of the State Police Command, Adeniran Aremu, who confirmed the incident to our correspondent in Akure, said the command was on top of the situation.

Kogi implements whitepaper on crisis in Ebiraland

THE Kogi State government has commenced the implementation of the white paper on the crisis in Ebira land, the Commissioner for Information Dr Tom Ohikere has said.

Ohikere told newsmen in

Lokoja yesterday that the move was to find a lasting solution to the crisis in the area.

According to him, government has commenced the banning of masquerade outing in Ebira land in line with the recom-

mendations of the white paper.

The law banning masquerades came into being during the first civilian administration in the state. Ohikere said government had equally granted permission for the setting up of a vigilance group

to check questionable movements and behaviors, especially in Okene and other suburbs. He said names of identified persons who were behind the crisis had been submitted to the security agents for necessary action. (NAN)

Ex-govs want two-party system

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

FORMER state governors visited the National Assembly yesterday calling for the scrapping of the so many political parties and a revert to the two-party system.

Ten former governors, under the banner of Former Governors Forum (FGF), told the Deputy Senate President and chairman of the Constitution Review Committee Senator Ike Ekweremadu that "The present multiparty system is too unwieldy to be able to promote a self-sustaining democratic polity."

The former governors were received by Speaker Dimeji Bankole at the House of Repre-

sentatives.

The former governors include: Alhaji Adamu Aliero (Kebbi), Dr. Peter Odili (Rivers), Senator Ahmed Makarfi (Kaduna), Prince Abubakar Audu (Kogi), Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu (Nasarawa) and Senator Kabiru Gaya (Kano).

Others are: Senator Ahmed Sani Yarima (Zamfara). Former Lagos State Governor Bola Tinubu was represented by Senator Olorunnimbe Mamora. Former Edo State Governor, Lucky Igbinedion is chairman of the FGF.

Former Akwa-Ibom State governor Obong Victor Attah who spoke on behalf of the governors said "A two-party system offers a superior form of electoral democracy."

"The PDP has become the only dominant national party because of the inability of other parties to grow beyond their regions or states.

The present system where most parties in the country do not exist beyond their registration certificates does not create an effective opposition, which is the bedrock of democracy," he added.

The forum lauded the position of the Senate on independent candidacy saying it will enable candidates to contest elections under clear and reasonable conditions.

They however frowned at the Senate's proposal allowing for cross carpeting saying "Besides its destabilizing tendencies, the abuse of the process of cross-

carpeting is creating a crisis of confidence within political parties. It is destructive and bad for party politics for a candidate that is sponsored by a political party to wantonly and whimsically dump that party to pursue selfish and personal interest in another party," the governors added.

The former governors called for a "modified open ballot system with all the attendant processes which was used during the 1993 elections considered as one of the most free, fair and credible elections in the history of elections in this country. The present open secret ballot system is susceptible to manipulation by riggers."

Responding, Ekweremadu

said the FGF was late in declaring its position on the constitution amendment, saying "I wish your visit had come earlier."

On the two-party system being canvassed by the former governors, Ekweremadu said "It is against the constitution which guarantees freedom of association."

At the House of Reps, Speaker Dimeji Bankole told the former governors that the House is considering reducing the number of political parties in the new electoral Act under review.

He disclosed that, the legislators are working to amend the Electoral Act to correct the impression that "election should be a do, or die affair."

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE



PEOPLES Democratic Party chairman Vincent Ogbulafor (centre) arrives at the Federal High Court, Abuja, yesterday.

FG to withdraw case against Ribadu today

By Atika Balal

THE Federal Government will today withdraw a case of non declaration of assets it instituted against former Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Nuhu Ribadu.

Ribadu was asked to appear before the Code of Conduct Tribunal (CCT) in Abuja for allegedly failing to declare his assets as required by the Code of Conduct for public office holders.

Three sittings ago, former Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF) Adetokunbo Kayode orally applied to withdraw the case but the acting Chairman of the tribunal Justice Murtala Sani advised the prosecutor to formalise the application for withdrawal for proper documentation at the next sitting of the tribunal.

Dr. J. O. Olatoke had told the tribunal that his application for withdrawal had nothing to do with a new application Counsel to Ribadu intended to file before tribunal seeking that the case be struck out.

He said withdrawal of the case was the decision of the former AGF who on assumption of duty as AGF reviewed the cases on ground and directed that it should be withdrawn.

Judiciary workers' strike stalls Ogbulafor's trial

By John Chuks Azu

THE trial of the National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Prince Vincent Ogbulafor and four others, over alleged corruption was yesterday stalled by the strike action embarked upon by judiciary workers.

Prince Ogbulafor arrived at the FCT High Court Abuja, presided over by Justice Ishak Bello, around 0915hrs in company of the party's Publicity Secretary Prof Rufai Alkali met a barricaded court premises following the industrial action.

The PDP chairman, who looked calm and composed at the court premises, severally asked one of his legal counsels, Amaechi Nwaiwu (SAN), "I hope I have responded to the court's summon?" to which the lawyer nodded in agreement.

Ogbulafor described the strike action as "very unfortunate," and insisted that he would not resign except he is found guilty.

Also billed for arraignment along with Ogbulafor on a 16-count charge by the ICPC for allegedly awarding fictitious contracts worth N104 million are: former Secretary of the National

Economic Intelligence Committee (NEIC) Emeka Ebilah and former Director of Budget Implementation in the Federal Ministry of Finance Emmanuel Bosah. Others are Henry Ikoh and Jude Nwokoro.

Ogbulafor was alleged to have used his position as state minister for special duties and head of NEIC, set-up to verify debts owed local contractors, and connived with the other accused persons to float three fictitious companies, with which they perpetuated the fraud.

Meanwhile, judiciary workers under the aegis of Judicial Staff

Union of Nigeria (JUSUN) are protesting the non implementation of the Consolidated Judiciary Salary Structure (CONJUSS) which they said was earlier agreed upon with the government.

Publicity Secretary of the union Marwan Mustapha said N21, 000 minimum wage, rehabilitation of courts nationwide, allowances as part of pay package, and pension scheme are some of their demands earlier agreed upon with the government on October 22, 2009. He said the strike will continue indefinitely until the issues raised are resolved.

Iwu to hand over to Kaugama today

By Abbas Jimoh

THE former chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Prof. Maurice Iwu will formally hand over today.

It is however unclear to who the former INEC chairman will hand over to. There were however reports that Iwu will hand over to INEC Commissioner, Information and Publicity, Barr Phillip Umeadi Jnr while others say the

commission's secretary Abdullahi Kaugama will take over.

Iwu was asked to proceed on terminal leave by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan.

A source told our reporter last night that Kaugama, the Chief

Administrative and Account officer of the commission, should take over in acting capacity.

The National Commissioner Information and Publicity of INEC, Barrister Phillip Umeadi Jnr. has assumed office as the act-

ing chairman of the commission, on the grounds that he is the most senior officer in the commission.

Barr Umeadi had also claimed that Iwu did not hand over to him because he (Iwu) was not comfortable with him as his acting successor.

Buhari: I resigned from ANPP reluctantly

By Abbas Jimoh & Abdulmutallib Abubakar

GENERAL Muhammadu Buhari said he reluctantly left the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) because the party's leadership was fond of observing the rules of the party in the breach to the disaffection of the followers.

Buhari, former Head of States and presidential candidate of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), spoke yesterday in Abuja at the formal launching of the four-

point agenda of the Congress of Progressive Change (CPC) and the first expanded National Executive Committee (NEC) of the party. "I must say that I left ANPP, reluctantly because important decisions that should go through the right processes were taken without recourse to the party rules. I couldn't cope with that," he said.

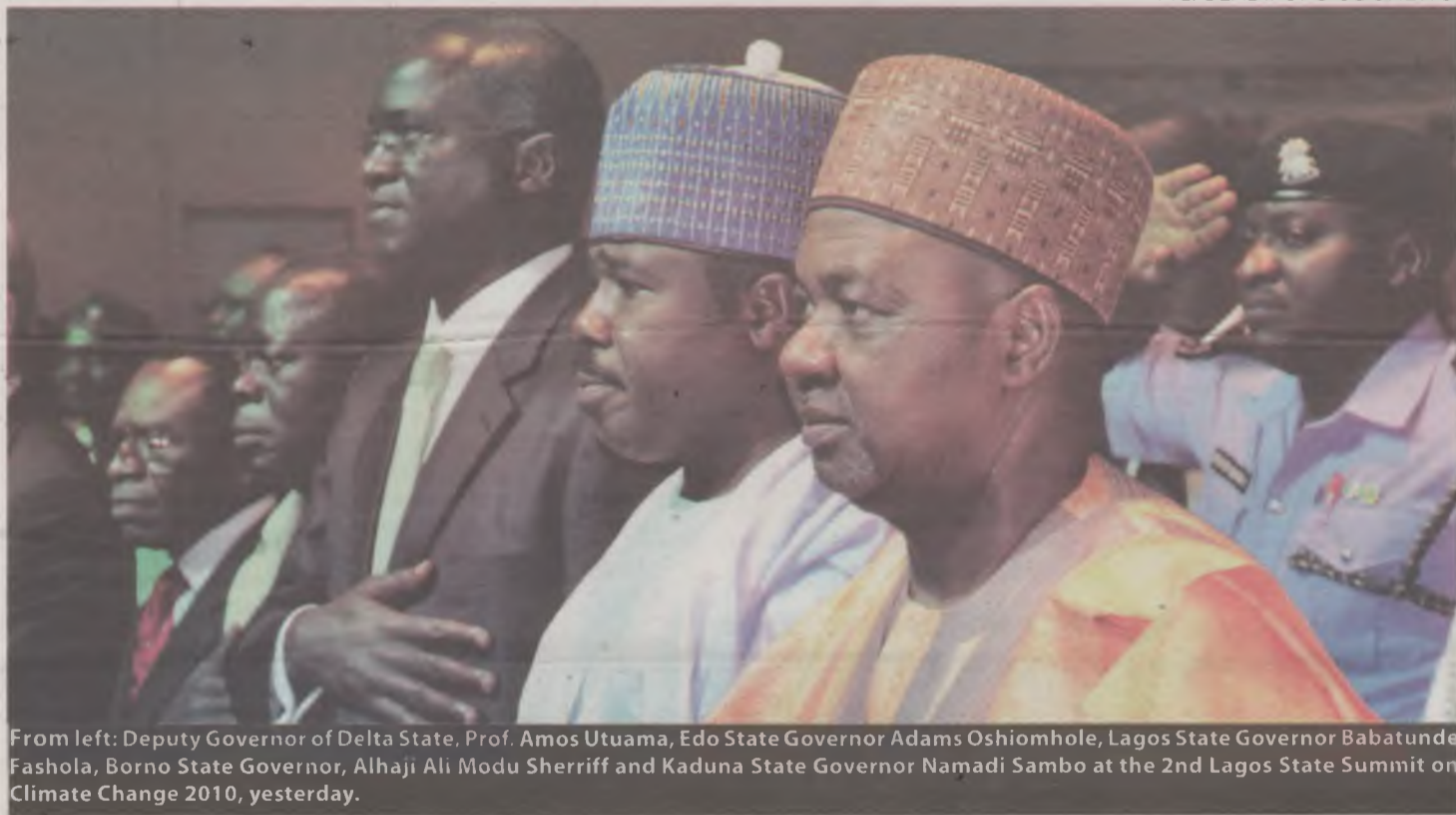
Buhari said he would never compromise on discipline, adding that he wants to be president to restore sanity back to the system, adding that 2011 elections must be free and fair.

"Having served as a military administrator of a state, Minister of Petroleum, Head of State and Chairman of Petroleum Trust Fund (PTF), I am into politics on peoples demand and to address injustice. I hate system being subverted. I don't like indiscipline and I like when systems are being respected," he said. Buhari, the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the CPC, assured members of the party that the leadership would be guided strictly by the party's constitution and warned members of the party that they should prepare for service as there is no

money to be shared in CPC.

National chairman of the party Senator Rufai Sani Hanga, in his speech, called on all pro General Buhari movements, groups and associations to formerly fuse all their activities into the mainstream of CPC in order to have synergy and clear focus. The four-point agenda of the party are institutional reform and strengthening; Infrastructural development and rehabilitation; economic reform and diversification; and provision of adequate security and enhancement of social service to the citizenry.

PIC: OLADIPUPO ODUNEWU



From left: Deputy Governor of Delta State, Prof. Amos Utuama, Edo State Governor Adams Oshiomhole, Lagos State Governor Babatunde Fashola, Borno State Governor, Alhaji Ali Modu Sherriff and Kaduna State Governor Namadi Sambo at the 2nd Lagos State Summit on Climate Change 2010, yesterday.

UN endorses Nigeria's peacekeeping centre

By Misbahu Bashir

THE United Nations has approved the Nigerian Army Peacekeeping Centre (NAPKC) in Jaji, Kaduna State, as global training centre.

The Director of Army Public Relations Brigadier General Chris Olukolade said an Accreditation Certificate for the centre will be presented to the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Lt Gen Abdulrahman Bello Dambazau in New York tomorrow at an occasion being put together by the UN Headquarters.

He said the accreditation which represents a formal endorsement of the quality of training in the NAPKC will qualify the Centre to manage the UN's training activities and efforts in the promotion of peacekeeping all over the world.

Nigeria is the first country to be accorded such recognition and it stands to receive assistance in terms of logistics support for its training programmes.

The NAPKC is now empowered by the UN to train potential peacekeepers at the expense of the requesting countries.

The NAPKC at present runs structured peacekeeping courses for Military Observers, Command and Staff Operations Skills, Train-the-Trainers, and Pre-deployment training for officers and soldiers as well as other courses.

Since its inception as the Peacekeeping Wing (PKW) of Infantry Centre and School in 2004, the centre has trained over 13, 000 Nigerian Army Officers and soldiers for various peace support missions across the globe.

Nigeria is currently the fourth largest troops contributing country to UN peace support operations all over the world.

NUJ barred from N/Assembly over FOI bill

By Turaki A. Hassan

THE Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) was yesterday prevented from getting access into the National Assembly to protest the non-passage of the Freedom of Information Bill (FOI).

Speaker Dimeji Bankole waited for the NUJ entourage at the arcade in vain and left for his office and later delegated Rep Abike Dabiri-Erewa (AC, Lagos) to meet with the NUJ national president Comrade Mohammed Garba outside the main gate to the complex. Rep Dabiri-Erewa said that the House was now more committed to the passage of the FOI bill as more members are now better informed about the relevance of the bill which is to deepen democracy.

"The Speaker was ready to meet and receive the NUJ personally. He had been waiting for you and he had to delay the plenary for more than 15 minutes, he asked me to stand for him and gave the assurance that the parliament is now favourably disposed to pass the FOI bill.

Comrade Garba called on the lawmakers to pass the FOI bill, saying, "There was no reason for anybody to entertain fear that its passage will create problems for the nation or expose persons to any undue attack or scrutiny from the media. He said in countries where such laws exist, journalists are least in percentage of those asking for information. "Our plea therefore is for our lawmakers to take the bull by the horn, by passing this important bill into law in this legislative calendar," he said.

MDGs: Reps to sanction MDAs over N136bn projects

By Turaki A. Hassan

The House of Representatives said it will sanction Ministries, Departments and Agencies that fail to implement the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) projects approved in the 2010 appropriation Act.

Chairman House Committee on MDGs Rep. Saudatu Sani (PDP, Kaduna) said this during a meeting between the committee and the MDAs at the National Assembly in Abuja yesterday.

She lamented that with just five years to 2015 which is the target year given set by the United Nations (UN), Africa and Nigeria are lagging behind in the implementation of the projects despite huge monetary allocation by government.

"Any attempt to frustrate the implementation of projects and programmes of the MDGs will be sanctioned this year. We owe Nigerians a duty to serve them," she said.

"Over the past ten years, we had cases of MDG funds being returned to the federation treasury due to non-implementation of the budget at the end of each fiscal year as unspent funds. We cannot have unspent funds when our children are roaming the streets begging; when our children are out of school; when our pregnant women kept dying as a result of poor or non-availability of healthcare services. This is certainly unacceptable to the parliament," she added.

Senior Special Assistant to the president on MDGs Hajija Amina Az-Zubair was represented by Alhaji Imam Umar.

Constitution amendment: Senate raises harmonisation panel

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE Senate has constituted a seven-man panel to harmonise its position on amendment of the Constitution with that of the House of Representatives.

Both chambers have passed various amendments to sections of the 1999 Constitution and the House of Representatives is also expected to set-up a similar panel for the purpose of harmonization.

Senators in the panel are: Deputy Senate President Ike Ekweremadu (Chairman), Senators Victor Ndoma-Egba (Cross River), Mahmud Kanti Bello (Katsina), Mohammed Mana (Adamawa), Olorunimbe Mamora (Lagos), Abubakar Sodangi (Nasarawa) and Osita Izunaso (Imo).

The two chambers disagreed on issues of leadership in a 44-man Constitution Review Committee forcing each chamber to conduct the exercise independently

Nigerian Air force woos investors

By Misbahu Bashir

THE Nigeria Air Force has asked indigenous investors to establish aviation engineering industries in Nigeria.

Chief of the Air Staff Air Marshal Oluseyi Pitinrin made the assertion at a press briefing on 'Air Expo 2010' tagged 'Enhancing Nigerian Air Force capabilities through private sector partnership' in Abuja yesterday.

He said defence and aviation sectors can fully develop in Nigeria when indigenous industries that could excel precision engineering, aircraft manufacturing and maintenance are established. "The establishment of aviation engineering industries will reduce cost of aircraft maintenance done abroad as well as enhance the defence capabilities," he said.

He said the exposition which will hold between May 11 and 14 will feature the display of NAF aircrafts as well as unveiling of new ones.

Local and foreign industries will showcase their products in an exhibition while seminars and ceremonial parade will also be held.



FROM right: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Aliyu Idi Hong, representing Acting President Goodluck Jonathan with Togolese President Faure Gnassingbe at his second term inauguration ceremony in Lome, Togo on Monday.

PHOTO: FELIX ONIGBINDE

2011: Shekarau endorses Takai

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the party leadership will always protect their rights through ensuring that the mandate of the state is given to the people's choice.

Shekarau further reminded the supporters of the need to vote for credible candidates for all positions in the 2011 general elections. He also urged them to keep campaigning for general support for the party in the coming election and beyond.

Also speaking, leader of the delegation Alhaji Musa Illiyasu Kwankwaso who is the state's Commissioner for Rural Development pledged support to Takai's candidature by all commissioners in the state.

Present at the gathering were 31 out of the 44 local government chairmen of the state, who individually declared their support for Takai and said it was in obedience to the state governor.

Alhaji Salisu Takai has been a very close associate of Malam Shekarau for many years. He was a two-time chairman of Takai Local Government and Commissioner for Water Resources, before he was redeployed to Local Governments. His apparent endorsement by the governor yesterday was at the expense of the Deputy Governor Engineer Tijjani Mohamed Gwarzo, who is also interested in the top job. Other notable guber aspirants within the ANPP include the chairman of the Kano State Council of Ulama, Sheikh Ibrahim Khalil; Third Republic governor of the state Senator Kabiru Ibrahim Gaya, Commissioner for Science and Technology Dr. Bashir Galadanci, and Director General of the state Pilgrims Welfare Board, Sani Lawal Kofar Mata.

None of the other aspirants was present at yesterday's event.

Igali sworn-in as perm sec

By Mohammed S. Shehu

GODKNOWS Boladei Igali has been sworn-in as a Federal Permanent Secretary by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday in Abuja. Igali was Nigerian Ambassador to the Nordic countries of Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland.

Jonathan at the ceremony witnessed by Head of Service of the Federation Steve Orosanye and Water Resources Minister Obadiah Ando wished Igali success in his assignment and urged him not to relent in devoted service to the nation.

Igali was born on April 4, 1960 in Oporoma Town, Ijaw Local Government, Bayelsa State. He obtained BA History from the University of Port Harcourt in 1977, Masters in International Law and Diplomacy, University of Lagos in 1988 and PGD in Int'l Relations from the Diplomatic Academy in Islamabad, Pakistan in 1991. He also has PhD. in Politics and International Studies, from the University of Venezuela, obtained in 1998.

Danjuma-led c'ttee submits interim report

By Mohammed S. Shehu

THE retired Lt. Gen. T. Y. Danjuma-led Presidential Advisory Council yesterday submitted its interim report to Acting President Goodluck Jonathan during a closed-door meeting which lasted ten hours at the Presidential Villa in Abuja.

Receiving the report, Jonathan promised to take the report seriously and implement

key recommendations.

The council was inaugurated in March to advise the government on policy direction and implementation in areas of economy, security, infrastructure, power, electoral process, fight against corruption among others. Speaking to newsmen at the end of meeting, Danjuma said the recommendations were many and the committee needed time to present them properly.

"We looked at infrastructure, economy, social sector, security, anti-corruption, electoral reform, rule of law, civil service reform and power," said Danjuma, who declined to give insight into the recommendations.

On how they will ensure the implementation of the report, Danjuma said, "We in Nigeria are very good at formulating policies; it is always the imple-

mentation that is the problem."

The responsibility for implementation is the executive, we are advising the acting president and that question should be directed at Mr. President."

He said the acting president has promised the committee that those aspects of the recommendations that are implementable, would be implemented and that he would set-up committees to take actions.

El-Rufai to be charged to court tomorrow

Continued from page 1

Operations Steven Otitoju, who was heading the interrogation panel.

In the over nine hours' session with the operatives, el-Rufai was allowed to say his prayers within the premises of the Commission at 2.08pm, at 4pm and again at 7pm. His wife also brought lunch to him at 3.10pm.

Chairman of EFCC Mrs. Farida Waziri was not in the office up until the close of work at 6.00pm. Daily Trust learnt that she deliberately avoided her office so as not to interfere with the case. She was spotted at the State House, intermittently receiving phone calls from operatives who were updating her on the interrogation.

A senior official who did not want to be named said at the onset, el-Rufai refused to cooperate with investigators, insisting on

the presence of his lawyer, but after his request was granted he began to respond to questions.

His spokesman Muyiwa Adekeye said the ex-minister told operatives that the land matter is sub-judice as it is the substance of the Federal Government's case against him, a matter in which hearing continues before Justice Bello on Thursday, 6 May 2010. He also reminded the EFCC that he has sued the agency, the Federal Government and other parties over the often repeated N32 billion issue. He said El Rufai also obliged the request to assist the investigators with background on the sub-judice matters.

The spokesman said, "Mallam El Rufai looks forward to a robust defence of the spurious charges pending in a court. He will also vigorously advance the cases he has instituted against various parties, including Federal Govern-

ment agencies."

"The formal interview ended around 1.30 pm, after which El Rufai's former chief of staff fulfilled all the bail conditions. EFCC was still holding him as at 6.45 pm, pending final approval of the bail by the EFCC chairman," the lawyer said.

Another suspect in the investigation who was at the EFCC offices yesterday was the General Manager of Abuja Geographic Information System (AGIS) Ismaila Iro, one of the 11 accused persons, including el-Rufai, facing an eight count charge before a Federal High Court in Abuja bordering on abuse of office, corruption and gratification.

El-Rufai is also being investigated for allegedly allocating lands owned by the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) and Nigeria Postal Services (NIPOST) to his family members.

He returned to Nigeria last Saturday after having been on self-exile for nearly two years and said he intended to go into active politics.

The ex-Minister through his spokesman said yesterday the allegations the former minister's lawyer had said on Monday that the allegation of unaccounted funds against him had been reduced from N32 billion to N1.6 billion, but this was denied by EFCC's spokesman Femi Babafemi, who said the initial case had not been changed.

Also spotted at EFCC offices yesterday was sacked Oceanic Bank managing director Mrs. Cecilia Ibru, who went in at 11am, registered her presence at the security post and left ten minutes after. Daily Trust gathered it was part of a routine visit in connection with the ongoing trial involving her and other bank executives before a Federal High Court in Lagos.

EFCC probes fire at its Lagos office

From Benjamin Auta, Lagos

ECONOMIC and Financial Crimes Commission chairman Mrs. Farida Waziri has ordered a probe into a fire incident at the Lagos office of the commission yesterday.

A statement from the agency yesterday said after being briefed on the incident, the chairman said though not much damage was done, she had to ask for a probe of the incident to be able to establish the cause of the fire.

Three of the 13 offices occupied by the legal unit of the Ikoyi Lagos office were affected by a fire outbreak that reportedly started in one of the offices, a statement said.

"It is however gratifying that the fire was quickly put out through the prompt intervention of men of the fire service in Ikoyi before it could spread to other offices where sensitive case files are kept," it added and assured members of the public that case files were safe and secure.

The Legal Department of the Lagos Office was yesterday gutted by fire.

The fire according to sources started around 11:00am

after a power surge from the public electricity service.

The source mentioned that the fire only affected the legal department which has very important documents on prosecution of some highly placed Nigerians who are standing trial before the graft agency.

"The public power supply was interrupted at around 11:00am this morning and when they brought it back we saw smoke coming out of the Legal Department and we alerted the fire service who came to our rescue even though damages had been done," the source said. The source added that the department had been harbouring very important files, especially those of persons who are facing economic criminal trials in various courts in Lagos State.

Confirming the incident, the spokesman of the EFCC, Mr. Femi Babafemi, denied the report that files relating to prosecution of suspects were destroyed in the inferno. He said he received information from the head of department of legal service in Lagos that no file had been tampered with and that the situation was under control.

PIC: OLADIPUPO ODUNEWU



SMOKE billowing from the Legal Department of the EFCC office in Lagos yesterday.

How to stop corruption, by Belgore

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

CORRUPTION can only be eliminated in Nigeria if the fighting agencies are autonomous and headed by men of dignity, former Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN) Justice Alpha Belgore has said.

Belgore said in a public lecture in Katsina at the weekend that the country must rethink and reform its fight towards corruption, adding-

that Nigerians should forget the fight against corruption as long as the agencies are not headed by men of proven integrity or remain subservient to the government of the day.

"When you put persons of dubious character and ignorable past, we will be fighting shadows, and the net result is that a bad and corrupt leader can use them to haunt his enemies," he said.

Justice Belgore wondered why the EFCC and ICPC should be filled with policemen to investigate crime and corruption.

Corruption he said has remained a cankerworm in the Nigerian polity, thereby creating bad governance. "The more some remedying measures are put in place the more this dangerous malaise resurfaces somewhere," he said.

Governors' Forum c'ttee tasks Sokoto on internal revenue

From Abdulfatai Abdulsalami, Sokoto

THE Sokoto State government has been charged to improve its Internally Generated Revenue (IGR).

The Director General, Review committee of the Governors' Forum Dr. Asishana Okoro made the call yesterday after an assessment of projects executed by the administration of Alhaji Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko. Consultants of the forum also called on the government to

work towards improving the revenue base of the state. The committee explained that having looked at the state's 2009 budget, their conclusion was that the Internally Generated Revenue needed to be increased six times and that to fund the budget, the state needs to increase the IGR five times.

For capital and re-current expenditure according to them, the IGR should be increased four or five times, noting that the IGR is not suf-

ficient to pay personnel cost.

The state government was also advised to avoid delay in the issuance of certificates of occupancy and develop the Illela international market. These they pointed out would assist in the revenue base of the state.

The review committee urged the state to involve the private sector in the building of their market and the grazing reserve, adding that the state should be transformed from grass-root farming to commercial farming.

Niger to employ NYSC doctors

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

The Niger State government is to employ youth corps members now serving in the state as medical practitioners when they complete their service year.

This was contained in a statement by the Secretary to State Government (SSG) Dr Mohammed Kuta Yahaya in Minna yesterday.

He said the decision became necessary following the dearth of medical and paramedical personnel in the state, a situation which according to him has left the health sector in a few hands. He said for the state to properly position itself as a key player in the country's economy by the year 2020, it is imperative to reinvigorate the health sector. He said the state government was determined to ensure quality health care services in rural areas. He urged all ministries, departments and agencies in the state to consider the engagement of qualified corps members in the medical profession.

Imo NUJ demands special salary package

From Johnkennedy Uzoma, Owerri

A call has gone to all state governments across the country to institute special salary packages for journalists working in state owned media organizations.

Chairman of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Imo State Council, Chief Fidel Onyeneke, made the call while speaking at the World Press Day in Owerri yesterday.

He appealed to Governor Ikedi Ohakim of Imo State to inject funds into the state owned media organizations to ensure productivity.

Onyeneke who condemned a situation where some media organizations would employ journalists and allow them to look beggarly without salaries, said that such would no long be accepted by the council. He said journalists as major stakeholders in the society with power to mould the society should be given all necessary recognition to carry out their duties. He warned people who take delight in intimidating journalists to desist from such act, warning that any individual or organization that cannot pay journalists should not employ any at all.

He said the state council would soon set up a committee that would go to state, religious organisations and individuals who owned media organizations to find out if they pay journalists they employed. Onyeneke warned that any media organization that is not ready to comply should not be established in the first instance.

While advising journalists to go about their normal duties, he said the passage of the Freedom of Information Bill would enable free flow of information in the society.

The Director General, Imo Broadcasting Cooperation (IBC) Mr. Richard Asiegbu in his lecture blamed the people who are supposed to champion the cause of passing the Freedom of Information Bill for not doing enough.

He also blamed some of the institutions in the country for turning out half baked people as professionals in the media, adding that some of the acclaimed professionals were not found worthy in character and learning.

He appealed to some of the professionals to help the younger ones to grow. He condemned the incessant harassment and murder of media practitioners in the country, while calling on relevant agencies not to relent in fishing out the perpetrators.

Ibadan poly sacks lecturer over alleged extortion

From Yemi Bamidele, Ibadan

A lecturer in the Department of General Studies in The Polytechnic, Ibadan, Oyo State, Mr. Samuel Olajumoke, has been sacked over allegations of extortion and withholding of students examination scripts. A statement by the Registrar of the institution, Mr. Tosho Ayanwale, yesterday in Ibadan said the sack of Mr. Olajumoke was approved by the Governing Council of the institution. According to the statement, the lecturer in January this year allegedly received bribe from one of his students to boost the student's marks in his course. It added that before the decision to sack the lecturer was taken, the authorities of the polytechnic set up a three-man panel to give the accused an opportunity to defend himself. He added that the lecturer appeared before the Senior Staff Disciplinary Committee, but could not satisfactorily defend himself and as such, he was found guilty of the allegations.

The lecturer was said to have withheld the examination scripts of 18 students including the one that bribed him to destroy the evidence against him.

Senate asks Customs to re-instate Umoh

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE Senate has ordered the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) to re-absorb Mrs. Faith Umoh who was retired from service in 2008. The directive followed a resolution of the Senate sequel to a report of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions that investigated allegations of arbitrary retirement of Umoh, which revealed that she was a "victim of an old policy that is inconsistent and subject to abuse."

The Senate said the policy is not written and the retirement that took place on June 10, 2008 was abused given that some officers on the same grade with the petitioner (Umoh) were retired while others were left in the service.

The panel therefore recommended that "She (Mrs Umoh) should be re-absorbed into the Customs Service without loss of seniority so that she can continue to contribute her quota to national development."

Briefing newsmen after the session, Senator Bob Effiong who laid the petition on the floor of Senate said with the resolution Mrs. Umoh is to return to the Customs with full benefits as if "nothing had happened."

Effiong said the Senate resolution also takes care of other officers that suffered the same fate.

Navy arrests 10 oil bunkerers

By Shehu Abubakar

A 60-year-old Ghanaian Nelson Seanehia and nine others were among those paraded by the Nigerian Navy yesterday over illegal bunkering.

This followed the war against oil theft and piracy in the troubled waters of the Niger Delta.

Others arrested include the captain of the vessel 55-year-old Felix Ogogo, Yakubu Otun, Teko Peter, Augustine Elimofe, Tony Shube, Lucky Tonwe, Sunday Apou, Segun Agbeyegbe and Mogbeyi Teren.

They were arrested aboard an oil tanker vessel with International Maritime Organisation (IMO) registration number 703891 belonging to Golden Carrier Shipping Services at the entrance of the Forward Operating Base (FOB) Escravos, in the earlier hours of Saturday May, 1st.

Briefing newsmen at the Naval Base, NNS DELTA Commander, Commodore Henry Babalola, said after investigation the suspects currently detained in Naval police cell will be handed over to the police or the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC).

The Ghanaian confessed that the vessel they were in was on a mission to steal oil in Nigeria, adding that he has been in the business of illegal bunkering for years.

US envoy donates Islamic books to Nigerian school

By Aisha Umar Agaie

UNITED States President's Special Envoy to the Organization of Islamic Countries Mr. Rashad Hussain has donated Islamic books to Sunrise International School Abuja.

Ambassador Hussain said yesterday that the donation emphasised the importance attached to education by President Barack Obama as part of his administration's new engagements with Muslim communities around the world.

He expressed happiness on what he saw in the school and encouraged both the teachers and the pupils to do more.

Responding to questions from teachers, he said U.S President Barack Obama is not holding anything against Nigeria after December 25 incident involving 25-year-old Nigerian, Umar Farouk AbdulMutalab.

The head teacher of Sunrise International School Mrs. Rakiya Zubairu said she was happy that Amb Hussain, who has memorized the Quran, visited her school and was impressed with the teaching standard of both Islamic courses and other western education courses.



FORMER Managing Director of Oceanic Bank, Mrs. Cecelia Ibru, at the EFCC office in Abuja yesterday.

Fresh blow for Brown as Brits vote tomorrow

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, London.

BRITISH Prime Minister Gordon Brown received a fresh blow from his own party's candidate yesterday, hours before a general election that many opinion polls say the party will lose.

Labour Party's North-West Norfolk candidate Manish Sood delivered the latest blow yesterday when he described Mr Brown as the "worst prime minister" Britain ever had.

He told local media that he was launching a one-man crusade to reform the Labour Party that he accused the prime minister of ruining by pursuing policies that are "a total disaster" for the country.

"We have a prime minister stand-

ing close to the general election and things are going totally wrong and it's a real disaster," he said.

He also described Labour ministers as "corrupt" and the prime minister a "disgrace", adding that Mr Brown "owes an apology to the people and the Queen".

"We've to have more respect for the Queen... we've got to have more money for the NHS (National Health Service)... we've to come hard on the Labour Party," he said.

The party has distanced itself from his comments, describing them as "bizarre" and "dreadful".

Some observers say Mr Sood's criticism was meant to attract voters in his constituency that many regard as a safe Conservative Party's seat.

If it were not too late for replacement, some media outlets report, Mr Sood could have risked being dropped as the Labour candidate with this kind of criticism that many say could add to its woes.

Several opinion polls say Labour will be defeated by David Cameron-led Conservative Party; others even go as far as putting Labour in the third position, behind Nick Clegg-led Liberal Democrats, though not in terms of number of seats in the Parliament.

Some polls suggest that the Labour could stay in power with the backing of the Liberal Democrats.

The general consensus is that Britain will have a hung Parliament in which no single party gets an outright majority.

Electoral Reform: Reps reject option A4, e-voting

By Turaki A. Hassan

THE House of Representatives has rejected a proposal by its Ad-Hoc Committee on the review of the 1999 constitution which recommended that the 2006 Electoral Act be amended to provide for open ballot system in the 2011 elections.

The House which resumed consideration of the Deputy Speaker Usman Bayero Nafada-led Committee voted against the introduction of the open ballot system popularly known as option A4.

Section 54 subsection 1a and b of the Act under review reads "voting at an election under this Act shall be by open secret ballot."

The option A4 was used in the annulled June 12 1993 Presidential election which was believed to have been won by the presidential candidate of the defunct Social Democratic Party (SDP), late Chief M.K.O Abiola.

In the new sections passed by the lower legislative chamber, independent candidates must deposit a non-refundable 10 percent of the maximum election

expenses for each elective office with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

Section 96 subsection 2 of the amended Act reads in part, "Notwithstanding subsection [1] [c] of this section, a person who scores one-third of the total votes cast in the election in which he is a candidate shall be refunded his deposit."

The lawmakers also prohibited the use of electronic voting machine in any election. The amendment continues today when the green chamber resumes plenary session at 2pm.

Appeal Court sacks PDP Rep

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE Court of Appeal in Kaduna yesterday sacked a member of the House of the Representatives representing Sabon Gari Federal Constituency in Kaduna State, Alhaji Mohammed Sale, of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and declared the All Nigeria Peoples Democratic (ANPP) candidate, Alhaji Garba Datti Mohammed, as the winner of the April 2007 election.

Delivering judgement, Justice Muhammad Lawal Garba said based on the total votes cast, the PDP candidate, Alhaji Sale, was not the winner of the election. He directed the Inde-

pendent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to withdraw the certificate of return issued to the PDP candidate and give it to the ANPP candidate immediately.

The court held that of the total votes cast in the elections, the ANPP candidate got 26,834, while his counterpart from the PDP got 24,426 votes. It would be recalled that the election petition tribunal had earlier annulled the election and ordered a re-run election in nine units where election was not conducted during the April general elections. But in his judgement, Justice Garba said there was no need for the re-run.

"Having scored the highest vote out of the votes cast in the election, the ANPP candidate is hereby declared the rightful

winner of the Sabon Gari federal constituency," he said.

Counsel to the PDP candidate, Barrister Joseph B. Daudu, said as a lawyer, he accepts the judgement since the Court of Appeal is the final arbiter. Addressing newsmen after the judgement, the ANPP candidate said the judgement had reaffirmed his confidence in the judiciary, saying it had clearly shown that the judiciary is the last hope of the common man.

"Although, we have pursued the case for three years, we know that the judiciary has done it best. The major problem is with INEC, for conducting a very bad election and for declaring people who did not win election as winners," he said.



SENATE President David Mark, greeting a patient, Hajiya Maimuna Ibrahim, during his private visit to the National Eye Centre in Kaduna, yesterday. With them are the Chief Medical Director of the centre Dr. Godwin Ochechi (left) and Chairman, Board of Directors Dr. Emmanuel Kabe.

PIC: NAN

JTF alert on Bayelsa bomb explosion

THE Joint Military Task Force in the Niger Delta region is on a security alert after the bomb explosion in Yenagoa, the spokesman of the team said.

A bomb exploded on May 2 in Yenagoa while a second bomb was discovered in a Mercedes Benz 190 car parked in hotel on May 3.

The JTF Spokesman, Lt.-Col. Timothy Antigha, told newsmen on telephone in Port Harcourt yesterday that the task force had received information on the bomb explosion.

"We have received reports on the bomb explosion but

we believe it is within the purview of the police to handle such matters. We also believe the police have the capacity to deal with such situations," he said. Antigha said, "JTF men and personnel are on ground in the state and other parts of the Niger Delta guiding sensitive facilities and platforms in the area. Our men are alert to their responsibilities in the region. But we believe that the police have the capacity to handle the bomb explosion in Yenagoa. We will continue to play our role in ensuring security of lives and property in the region. (NAN)

Nasarawa moves to sanitise public service

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE Nasarawa State government is set to sanitize the public service by ensuring that ghost workers are fished out of the system.

As part of its efforts at achieving this, a committee was set up last year by Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma to carry out a staff audit with the view to ascertaining the actual staff strength in the state.

The chairman of the committee Garba Adamu who is also the Auditor General of

the state told our correspondent yesterday that already some people who entered the service illegally had been discovered. He said some military pensioners were also discovered on the payroll of the state government as permanent and pensionable workers.

Adamu who described discoveries made by the committee as "worrying", said the illegality had been going on for long. He hoped that the ongoing exercise would sanitize the system.

New houses for traditional rulers in Shagari

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

DISTRICT and village heads in Shagari Local Government Area of Sokoto State are to get new houses worth over N70 million.

The chairman of the local government area Alhaji Abdullahi Maigwandu

Jaredi who spoke to journalists yesterday said traditional rulers were important to the society and deserved befitting accommodation. The council chairman said the District Head of Shagari and that of Dandin Mahe would get houses worth over nine million naira each while eight village heads are to

get houses worth over N6 million each. Jaredi said the housing projects for the traditional rulers are on-going and would soon be completed. He said 10 dispensaries are also being built in the local government area at N99 million. Similarly, the council is embarking on a N90 million electrification

project at Marake, kesoje - Aggur and R/Alkali extension, he added.

On the 30 housing units in the local government, he said about 18 had been completed. He also assured the people of the determination of his administration to ensure that they get basic social amenities.

More Boko Haram suspects get bail

From Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

TWO more suspected members of the Boko Haram sect, Bashir Mohammed and Tijjani Bukar Usman, have been granted bail. One other suspect, Alhaji Bukar Gaji, had earlier been granted bail by Justice Abdullahi Yerima Sanya of the High Court 9 in Maiduguri, Borno State.

They are among the 77 persons standing trial over homicide which is punishable with death as provided for in Section 221 of the Penal Code, as well as arson, which is punishable with life imprisonment.

According to court papers obtained yesterday, the suspects were granted bail on April 26, 2010 by the presiding Judge, Justice Gana Alkali Wakil in the sum of N100,000 each with two sureties who are residents in Maiduguri.

The bail applications were granted following the inability of the prosecutors to provide any incriminating evidence against them. A member of the group, Ibrahim Adamu Ali, had earlier died of "febrile illness", a typical high fever related ailment at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH).

Hearing on the case continues on May 26, 2010.

Group cautions Jonathan, PDP on Obasanjo

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Muslim Congress (TMC) yesterday called on Acting President Goodluck Jonathan and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to be wary of former President Olusegun Obasanjo.

The group also said the former president should be advised to reduce his comments on national issues and shun the "King Solomon" status he had assumed.

Speaking to our correspondent in a telephone interview yesterday, the Amir of the congress, Mallam Luqman Abdurraheem, condemned the former president's comment on the personality of Jesus Christ and free and fair election in Nigeria, saying it was misguided.

"The Muslim Congress (TMC) joins Nigerians to condemn the comment credited to the former president at the weekend, that even Jesus Christ cannot conduct a free and fair election in Nigeria.

By this comment, Obasanjo's belief in Jesus Christ is questionable and doubtful. A Muslim cannot make such statement about any prophet, as doing so will be tantamount to iniquity and unpardonable apostasy," he said.

Kogi exco distracting us - SSCE candidates

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

CANDIDATES writing the on-going Senior Secondary Certificate Examination in Kogi State yesterday said the presence of members of the state executive at examination centres was distracting them. Some of the candidates who sat for the Geography examination yesterday at the Crowder Memorial College, Lokoja, described as

unnecessary, the monitoring of the examination by government officials.

"They do not have to supervise the examination for us to shun malpractice.

What they are doing only shows that they are admitting that students in Kogi State engage in examination malpractice. Is it only in Kogi that the rate of examination malpractice is high?", one of the candidates asked.

But the Chairman of the Academic Staff Union of Secondary Schools in the state, Ranti Ojo, dismissed the students' allegation, saying the supervision by government officials frustrated their plans to cheat.

"I expected them to react to issues like, why their teachers have not been paid for almost one year and why the government has refused to recruit more teachers", Ojo said.

Man, 24, entices girl, 3, with biscuit to rape her

From Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

A 24 year old man, Haruna Samaila, in Maiduguri, Borno State, has been arraigned in court over the rape of a three year old girl after enticing her with biscuits.

At the resumed hearing of the case yesterday, three minors including the victim who testified in camera said Samaila showed them biscuits with the promise of giving some to them if they followed him into an uncompleted building around Bulunkutu, a densely populated area of Maiduguri. Our correspondent also learnt that the girls alleged that on getting there, he grabbed one of them and raped her. A medical report signed by Dr Ahmed Tijjani of the Specialist Hospital, Maiduguri addressed to the Divisional Police

Officer (DPO) of Bulunkutu which was tendered in court noted that bruises were found around the girl's private part. The police told the court that the suspect had in his statement admitted that he raped the girl, but said the act was committed in the house of one Hussein in Bulunkutu. He was alleged to have said he had gone in search of a pot to prepare some traditional medicine before he met the girl, forced her to the ground and raped her. He was said to have added that the screaming of the girl alerted a woman, who subsequently alerted other neighbours who rescued her and took him to the police station.

The presiding judge, Justice Patum Haruna Ngadda of the Borno State High Court 10 adjourned the case till May 26, 2010.

Jos Task Force inaugurates court martial panel

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Special Task Force (STF) set up by Acting President Good Luck Jonathan to restore peace in Plateau State has inaugurated a court martial panel to try members of the task force who behave contrary to the rules and regulations of the force during the operation.

The court which was inaugurated yesterday at the 3rd Armoured Division, Rukuba Barrack in Jos has nine members and it is to be headed by Colonel Abel Okpeki while Lieutenant Benard Okoriye is to serve as the Judge Advocate. Commander of the STF Major General Sale Maina said the court became necessary in view of the military rule which stipulates that any member of the

force who acts contrary to the rules and regulations be tried by a court martial.

According Maina, the court will commence sitting with five accused persons whose cases have already been investigated, saying other cases which were still under investigation would be entertained by the court upon the completion of investigation.

"The court is not a kangaroo court, a court martial is a well organized military judicial system. We have the president, members and a qualified lawyer who is called a Judge Advocate, whose duty is to ensure that the law is followed to the latter.

The leadership of the court to ensure that a thorough job is done and that justice is done", he added.

Kano Federal High Courts shut

From Abdulgafar Oladimeji, Kano

FEDERAL High Courts in Kano were yesterday sealed off by members of the state chapter of the Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria in protest over the non implementation of the Consolidated Judiciary Salary Scale by the Federal Government.

The executive members of the state chapter of the union led by their state chairman, Comrade Rabiu Abdul, besieged the Federal High Court complex on Gyadi Gyadi court road and prevented people from going into the courts.

Speaking to journalists, Comrade Rabiu Abdul said, "Our National Executive Council on April 10 2010 in Karu, Abuja, after the appraisal of the nationwide strike by JUSUN condemned in totality the unwillingness of the Federal Government to

issue a circular for the implementation of CONJUSS. The responses by most state governments have been impressive, but the Federal Government has remained silent on the matter. We have sealed off the entrance points to all Federal High Courts in Kano and this will continue indefinitely until the government responds or as may be otherwise directed by our national secretariat."

The National Executive Council of the judicial workers union in a resolution on April 10, 2010 resolved to shut down all Federal High courts in the country on May 3, if the government failed to implement the CONJUSS. Public Relations Officer of the state chapter of the union Comrade Aliyu Suleman said,

"The closure of Federal High Courts in Kano is indefinite, until the Federal Government yields to our demands.

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PIC: MISBAHU BASHIR

CHIEF of Air Staff Air Marshal Oluseyi Pitinrin addressing journalists on the forthcoming Air Expo in Abuja, yesterday.

Engineering, technology lecturers tasked on research

By Maureen Onochie

LECTURERS of tertiary institutions in the field of Engineering and Technology need to improve on their research method so as to advance the nation technology, Chairman of Education Trust Fund (ETF) Board of Trustees Dr. Musa Babayo has said.

Babayo, who was represented by Barr Chukwue-meka Ekweremadu, an ETF board member representing South-East geopolitical zone, made the call during a Research Methodology Workshop for lecturers of Engineering and Technology at the Federal University of Technology Owerri, Imo State.

He said the workshop was an avenue to address some value-added activities to create the enabling environment to support scientific enquiry.

"An essential component of this enabling environment is expanding the capacity of you, especially the post-graduate students, in understanding and applying the appropriate Research Methodologies in diverse researches,"

he said.

Executive Secretary of ETF Prof. Yakubu Mahmud, represented by Alhaji Umar Mari, an Assistant Director of Project Management Department, urged the lecturers to get abreast with modern trends in the research world because the nation is in the era of reforms where things are changing at an alarming rate.

Also speaking, Vice-Chancellor of Federal University of Technology Owerri Prof. Celestine Onwlliri urged all the participants to make good use of the workshop adding that the outcome will translate into greater productivity, efficiency and effectiveness.

Alhaji Umar Mari, an Assistant Director of Project Management Department, urged the lecturers to get abreast with modern trends in the research world.

NITEL workers protest nonpayment of salary

By Atika Balal

AGGRIEVED employees of the Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) and MTEL yesterday stormed the Ministry of Information and Communications protesting the non-payment of salary for over 25 months.

The workers, under the aegis of the National Union of Postal and Telecommunications Employees (NUPTE), who claimed they are owed salary arrears and other entitlements carried placards reading "FG revive NITEL, is this Privatization or Paralization?" "Madam you are a mother your children are dying do something, we are starving please pay us."

The National President of the union Alhassan Sunday

described the non-payment of salaries for 25 months as the highest act of dehumanization against the nations' rebranding initiatives.

He said "They made this organization to generate revenue to the extent that some agencies in this country were being paid from the reserved fund of NITEL; today these workers do not know their fate, the infrastructures of this organization are decaying by every minute."

He said since 2006, when NITEL was privatized its workers that were meant to earn a life pension, were given a 5 years pension bail out. In a letter written to the acting president, the union urged the government to take drastic measures to redress the situation, noting that the workers who have put in their entire

lives into the organization are dying and starving.

"The families trapped in this pathetic situation have starved and died from easily preventable diseases, their children's education has been disrupted as well as the peace in their family all because of the deplorable economic situation they have found themselves."

Addressing the protesters, Information and Communications Minister, Dora Akunyili assured them that their case will be presented to the Acting President and will receive adequate attention.

She said they should return next week for a response to their letter. An estimated sum of N15 billion is expected to settle the outstanding salaries of the 3500 NITEL and MTEL workers.

Group alleges plot to unseat Ogbulafor

By John Chuks Azu

A group known as PDP National Stability Forum yesterday said some 'disgruntled politicians' are plotting to remove the National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Prince Vincent Ogbulafor from his position.

Coordinator of the group Ikenga Imo Ugochinyere told journalists at the premises of the FCT High Court, Maitama after the stalled arraignment of Ogbulafor and four others that, "A news conference was

planned at the Nicon Luxury Hotel by the plotters who style themselves as 'reformers' where communiqué will be issued demanding the immediate resignation of the PDP chairman on moral grounds since he is facing corruption charges in court."

Ugochinyere, who said they were at the court in solidarity with the national chairman, added that "An interim chairman will then be appointed after Ogbulafor's resignation while he will be remanded in Kuje Prison pending the date

of adjournment"

He asked Nigerians to guard the country's democracy because "these cowards want to destabilize all institutions of democracy. They should know that the party cannot be stampeded. The national chairman cannot be forced out of office."

Meanwhile, the news conference earlier planned for yesterday by the PDP Reform Forum was shelved by the organizers, who gave no immediate reason for shelving the event.

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Bishop condemns alleged killings in Imo

PLEASE don't blame the cattle-rearers unjustly if you are not sure. This is a long distance from Sokoto or even Jos. I don't think anybody would be so reckless as

to be killing Ibo people in the heart of Ibo land. These accusations could be putting the lives of real and innocent cattle-rearers at risk. If it did happen you can

be sure it was not done by cattle-rearers but by mercenaries who are not even Nigerians disguised as cattle-rearers just as happened in the Sudan and is happening in

Jos as we speak. Again if it really did happen we would not be hearing about it through a complaint raised by an Arch-Bishop for the Ibo people would have

defended themselves and their property and the news would be different.

Effiong
ukonln@yahoo.com

El-Rufai faces EFCC today

MY fear is that the EFCC is just a toothless bulldog otherwise, by now El-Rufai should have been in custody minutes after his return to the country for his alleged refusal to honor an earlier invitation extended to him by the agency in 2008. In any case, we hope and pray that the man will be charged appropriately. And we also pray that there should not be a plea bargain.

Lamara Garba Azare
lamaragarba@yahoo.com

I will love if Mal. El-Rufai will humble himself and honor the EFCC invitation. It is then that we will know whether he has a case to answer or not.

Abdullahi Ibrahim
giriabdul@yahoo.com

El-Rufai, Allah is with you so entertain no fear and face the EFCC. After all we are all going to face Almighty Allah one day. We know you tried your best in restoring the master plan of the FCT which no other minister of the FCT had done before and none still has after your departure.

Usman Bande
usmanbande01@yahoo.com

The present government and El-Rufai have made their arrange-



EX-FCT Minister Nasir El-Rufai

ments already before the latter stepped into this country. There's nothing these agencies will do to him. They are just deceiving Nigerians and at the same time deceiving themselves. Imagine, how can someone who is wanted pass all the security operatives on his way into Nigeria? It is after all that that the EFCC is saying they are inviting him. It is very sad for country and our democracy.

Zanna Baruwa Gashua
bukar.zanna@yahoo.com

He has finally come and if those allegations are true then let the EFCC prosecute him, otherwise he should be set free. You are welcome back home.

Engr. Baba Shehu

ibnabubakar@gmail.com

When those that did their jobs well are not appreciated, how do you expect others to do well? The result is clear before and after El-Rufai in FCT. I have no doubt that you are going to clear your name with the EFCC and make us proud again. Please do that quickly.

Ojo
ojo_nigeria@yahoo.com

Malam Nasir El Rufai remains the only person to have served Abuja very well. As we can all see, no one has done better since he left. The city is looking dirtier by the day and the transport system is getting worse. Thank you El Rufai.

Please let him serve the nation.

Yahuza Musa Mshelia
yahuzamusa@yahoo.com

This is all a ploy to make us believe that Malam Nasir is being investigated. Very soon, we will be told he is free of all allegations. This attitude of selective justice undermines our quest for national growth and development.

Abubakar Tanimu Umar
whatlegacy@yahoo.com

El-Rufai's case is more political than truth-finding. He is one of the new generation that want to make Nigeria great. Indeed we want him as president in 2011.

Alkasim Wudil
alkasimhussien@yahoo.com

Malam Nasir el-Rufai will now finally have his day in court. He returned to the country over the weekend from self-exile and boasted that he had returned home to clear his name of the charges filed against him by the EFCC. Someday, sooner or later, Ibori too will return in the same boastful manner. It is only a matter of time, and all depends on the man calling the shots from Aso Rock...!

Pita
justpita@yahoo.co.uk

Federal workers suspend strike action

WHY do labor leaders always welcome a new Government with strikes? Always asking for increased pay is an act of irresponsibility on the side of the labor. What will be the fate of the other millions of Nigerians who are not in the public service? Labor should have protested poor service delivery, lack of infrastructures, poor health care systems, bad road networks, the lingering security lapse, irregular electricity, absence of potable water etc. If really they want to improve the welfare of the working class, they should have gone on strike demanding improvement of the living condition of the generality of the populace and not for a fraction of the country's population. Please let the NLC change tactics and approach? What is the percentage of the Nigerian civil service compared to the teeming populace? We must be honest to our selves. Labor has allowed corruption to thrive and yet they are calling for increased wages. I will suggest a general strike to press for the prosecution of all corrupt people.

Lamara Garba Azare
lamaragarba@yahoo.com

Rep Ndume: Jonathan has mortgaged Nigeria's future

IT is indeed a shame on our leaders that they always resort to foreign loans in order to service our system. For God's sake, what is the rationale behind the collection of the loan in order to finance a budget deficit? Sometimes our bureaucrats are not sincere with the Nigerian populace.

However, since the damage

has been done, I will passionately appeal to the Dr. Goodluck Jonathan to be sincere in the utilization of the borrowed money because posterity will not forgive him if he does not do so. May God almighty bail us from the bondage of unpatriotic leaders, Amen.

Lamara Garba Azare

lamaragarba@yahoo.com

Ndume is talking politics because Nigeria had been mortgaged already more than two decades ago. What difference does it make now?

Michael Abakporo
michaelabakporo@gmail.com

Group commends Jonathan over Iwu's sack

WITH all due respect to the Acting President, sacking Mr. Iwu was a wrong move. We are convinced that Iwu was just

used and dumped by the ruling party.

We need credible electoral reforms. This can only begin

with the fear of God in our hearts.

Abubakar Tanimu Umar
whatlegacy@yahoo.com

Senatorial aspirant flays age limit

AS our legislators fight to make the National Assembly a home for the sick and elderly, our country is taking that shape as well. We must

remember that during the great war of the 18th century, England wasn't led by a stick-supported, 'grey-haired,' wisdom-filled 80

year-old man, but by a 24 year-old William Pitt.

Pane ibrahim
raheempane@gmail.com

NBA honours Amaechi

AMAECHI, you are gradually turning into another Peter Odili. Try and stay focused. I know it is not easy to keep your head together with all the politics of 2011 going on, but be true to Rivers state and continue with the development projects in the state. That way, you wouldn't need any 'godfather' to ensure a second tenure for you.

Preye
preyeaganaba@yahoo.com

Guards Battalion moved to Jaji

MAY Allah help us all. I hope we are not about to go back to our painful experiences under military rule.

Abubakar Tanimu Umar
whatlegacy@yahoo.com



FORMER President Ibrahim Babangida

Fulanis back IBB's presidential ambition

ALHAJI Dodo, please be informed that you are only speaking your mind, and not the minds of all Fulanis.

Yakubu
malala930@yahoo.com

I am a Fulani man and the Fulani tribe would not support IBB. This chairman is deceiving IBB because most of the Fulani in Nigeria support Atiku Abubakar more than they do any other person in this country. Please don't raise IBB's issue again.

Ahmed Raji
ruwos06@yahoo.com



By Yima Sen

2011: The president Nigeria needs

A little over three years ago when I asked my teenage daughter to write on what kind of President Nigeria needed, the result was a very interesting essay. According to her, Nigeria needed a self-less, firm, incorruptible and dynamic leader. She mentioned three names: Donald Duke, Nasir El-Rufai and, shockingly, me.

My daughter did not mention Umaru Musa Yar'Adua at all. And I did not blame her, because the man was hardly known to Nigerians, not the least my daughter.

Anyway, I was very unfair to her because I took her article and buried it inside mine, which was in support of Yar'Adua, and sent it to the *Daily Trust* newspaper which kindly published it. At that time, I was working in a communication think tank group which enthusiastically supported Yar'Adua.

I never ever changed my views on the man despite his baffling contradictions. I supported Yar'Adua because as somebody who had shown interest in socialism, he would not steal like the average post-modern Nigerian politician.

I am not now looking for a socialist President for Nigeria. There is no Nigerian who can seriously contest for this highly commoditized position and be socialist. So I would be happy to settle

So what kind of President do Nigerians need in 2011? According to Richard Sklar's thesis of developmental democracy

for a liberal social democrat, who is at least not scared of socialists.

However, I wish the Americans would listen to some of us and realize that products of the Bretton Woods, Ivy Leagues and neo-liberal frameworks cannot change Nigeria, regardless of whatever sophistry, pedantry and power-point exuberance they exhibit. These people cannot fight corruption and develop Nigeria. The best they can give us is due process, liberalization and barren growth theories. They are not responsible for achievements in Egypt, Ghana, South Africa, Rwanda or Tanzania. Leftish influences built these countries to the respectable levels accorded them internationally. And there were leaders behind all of these achievements: Gamal Abdul Nasser, from Kwame Nkrumah to Jerry Rawlings, Nelson Mandela, Paul Kagame, Julius Nyerere, and in other places: Leopold Sedar Senghor, Patrice Lumumba, Eduardo Mondlane, Amilcar Cabral, Samora Machel, Robert Mugabe, the Kabilas, Muammar Gaddafi, Murtala Muhammad, Thomas Sankara and others. The builders of modern Africa have all been leftists.

So ideologically speaking we should settle for a social democratic President who will be nationalist and patriotic enough to build on the best pro-people policy positions which are available in Yar'Adua's 7-Point Agenda, which can

be enlarged to ten points to include Poverty Eradication, Value Reorientation/ Anti-corruption, and a Globalization-conscious foreign policy. This ten-point programme would be enough to land Nigeria into the twenty top economics of the world by 2020, if properly implemented. We have analyzed Nigeria enough; this is the time to change it. Ditto for the rest of Africa, which formulated the Lagos Plan of Action, and the New Partnership for Africa's Development. The United Nations development system has also given us the Millennium Development Goals.

Since a programme for the development of Nigeria already exists, and we need policy consistency and implementation maturation, no presidential candidate should delude us with any quackery that has been produced by Nigeria's millions of "experts".

For example, especially for General Ibrahim Babangida's ears, there is nothing like "true federalism" anywhere in the world. Federalism, popularized by the United States, is practiced in the different countries that operate it as they define it. And there are successful unitary states, even in Africa. Some countries in the world choose to be confederate, which led to a civil war in the United States. If he wants political theory he should try a class analysis of the *lumpen militarist* thesis.

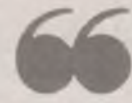
As critical social scientists and policy analysts, we know what Nigeria needs. This is 50th year of Nigerian independence. We have matured intellectually and learnt our lessons so we do not need social and political imperialism. Before the industrial revolution, Europe was not ahead of Africa or the rest of the world. Going by the monogenetic theory of evolution, humankind and its civilization emanated from the Great Rift Valley's Olduvai Gorge in the Swahili nation countries of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. It was a British archaeologist who made the discoveries and advanced the thesis.

Europe and its Diaspora used its industrial revolution and subsequent technological advancements to subdue the world economically, politically and socially. The fight-back, partly ideologically (Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and China) and partly technologically (Japan and South Korea) helped a lot. Then the whole configuration of power in the world changed with one super power which is tempted not only to police the world but to bully it, after glasnost and perestroika.

Johann Galtung predicts that the United States will shrink from empire back to its republic in 2020. That is clearly their business. Mine is Nigeria and Africa.

So what kind of President do Nigerians need in 2011? According to Richard Sklar's thesis of developmental democracy, we can modify democracy to meet our development priorities. If we have a principle of rotation and zoning for now, then it means that the north of Nigeria should produce the next President. This could be so unless those who argue that the south of Nigeria should take the next four years and grant the North another eight years from 2015 win the debate.

Sen has worked as analyst in the Presidency and the UN.



By Alhassan Danjuma

Akwe Doma, an assessment

The emergence of Alhaji Aliyu Akwe Doma as Governor of Nasarawa State in 2007 was in many ways a watershed in the political history of the young state. As most indigenes of the state know, Alhaji Aliyu Akwe Doma has been a veritable flag-bearer of the leadership class of the people of the area, even before the creation of Nasarawa State. It was his outstanding political pedigree that made him the Deputy Governor of the old Plateau State under Chief Solomon Lar. His abiding interest in the progress and development of the people of what is now Nasarawa State was thus quite evident in terms of ensuring spread of dividends of democracy as well as remaining a dependable ambassador of his people throughout his tenure. His legacy both as a responsible political leader and a seasoned administrator and bureaucrat endured such that he was the peoples' favourite choice in the 1999 elections. What thwarted the wish of the people was a distasteful twist of fate which became such an albatross on the neck of the usurper that he couldn't wait to return power to Aliyu Akwe Doma in 2007.

It is to the credit of Governor Aliyu Doma that he wasted no time in girding his loins having realized that his predecessor's sheer opportunism and inexperience took a heavy toll on the fortunes of the state and people. No sooner had he assumed office than he launched an ambitious 13-point agenda that targeted all the crucial development needs of Nasarawa State for immediate attention and necessary action.

This proved to be a herculean task, not the least because in the preceding eight years, the state had been in what

It was his outstanding political pedigree that made him the Deputy Governor of the old Plateau State under Chief Solomon Lar

is best described as decadent paralysis caused by mindless squandering of the state's resources. The frustrated citizens of the state had resigned themselves to perpetual stagnation of life as they lost all hope in government. Little wonder that even when their liberator was on ground, they needed to see him action to shake off their pessimism.

Relying on his wealth of experience as an astute political leader and a seasoned bureaucrat, Governor Doma set to work without the usual media razzmatazz deployed by many other governors to embellish their performance. Governor Doma's preference for being a silent achiever rather than a pompous pilferer has obviously paid off as he savoured the more rewarding popular applause from impressed citizens everywhere he went on his current "meet the people" tour. In Karu and Panda local government areas he got instant endorsement for a second term

from the ecstatic folks and their traditional rulers who witnessed the first fulfilment of a politician's campaign promise in Governor Doma's execution and virtual completion of the Gitata-Panda-Karu road project. This project will not only open up the resourceful rural areas in the northern part of the state, but also link them to the FCT with all the attendant economic potentials. The governor was also on site at the reconstruction works on the long-abandoned Karshi-Takalafiya road where he declared his determination to ensure the timely completion of all similarly neglected but strategic rural roads.

Governor Doma recalled other projects which had been executed earlier without fanfare such as comprehensive primary health care centres, provision of boreholes, rehabilitation of school furniture, supply of vital agricultural inputs and loans to peasant farmers under the Badakoshi and Fadama III agricultural schemes and support to Zimbabwe farmers for boosting large scale commercial agriculture in the state. In other areas during the tour, he promised to collaborate with the Federal Government for speedy completion of the Nasarawa-Gadabuke-Toto electrification project while assuring the people that the electrification project and upgrading of the comprehensive health care centre would be pursued to realization.

Similar scenes are bound to be witnessed throughout the governor's tour in view of the even spread of development projects adopted as a guiding principle of his administration. However, even before the tour, Governor Doma has been quietly making his mark in impressive areas of human endeavour. He has won the hearts of the up-coming generation by assigning cabinet positions to several of them and his recent nomination of a member of the new-breed generation, Labaran Maku for federal ministerial appointment underscored this fact. It gladdened the hearts of many soccer devotees in the state when Nasarawa FC was not only resuscitated but boosted to defeat Mighty Jets of Jos in their first outing recently. This was attributed by team captain Stephen Moga to Governor Doma's approval of the settlement of all outstanding salaries and allowances of the players and officials. The Lafia Stadium is also slated for expansion and rehabilitation soon according to the new Sports Commissioner Danlami Awaje.

An objective review of Doma's achievements, especially those being highlighted by popular acclaim during his on-going assessment tour of his administration's projects throughout the state, will acknowledge his commitment to making a tangible difference in good governance for progress and development in a state with an appalling history of arrested development and dashed hopes.

Perhaps this should not be surprising however considering the governor's vast experience as a seasoned civil servant and bureaucrat as well as his devotion to politics of responsibility and grassroots connectivity.

Danjuma, a community youth organizer, wrote from Akwanga, Nasarawa State.



By Tunde Asaju

Between persecution and prosecution

The wicked are doing their worst. The witches have killed another illustrious son? No. It has nothing to do with Lagos obituary lir. It has everything to do with political persecutions. Eh-ehn, who is being persecuted?

Several people. For one, see how they are vilifying Vince Ogbulafor, the man with the cherubic face who is incapable doing any evil. Why are they crucifying a man who was brought in at an opportune time to do a good job and who has delivered? Why persecute him instead of reward him? Saint Ogbulafor is a rare gem, if you put communion in his mouth, it will not melt. Hu-um?

Yes. And now they want him to go and stand in the dock, like a common criminal. This country tires me.

Every accused must have his day in court to prove his innocence, I don't understand your protest, and there is no statute limitation for criminality.

Nonsense. The alleged offence was committed in 2001. Why have they been looking all these years? Why now?

Why not now? Better late than never.

I know you will take sides, just wait until it's your turn.

My turn for what? I am clean, the only offence I remember having committed is stealing *dadawa* from my mother's kitchen as a kid, and the prosecution witness is dead.

Nonsense, your hands are not clean. What about those young girls you chase after, just wait until one parent complains to NA, TIP.

Nonsense, my culture allows me to try as many until I find a suitable one. For as long as I am not accused of rape, I am covered by the law.

Don't play Yerima's card here. Since you said there is no statute of limitation for criminal offences, then all those childish pranks played in secondary school can still be exhumed and turned into skeletons in your cupboard.

Nonsense, you can't scare me.

You think so, well, I can scare you.

I am an unsung hero. If I had money to go on self-exile, would have returned to a hero's welcome like someone I know. NAPTIP will get you.

They can't get Yerima, so how can they get me? I didn't marry a teenager, my wife was a full-grown consenting adult when I married her, besides, and there was no NAPTIP when I was a bachelor.

Your matter reminds me of the dilemma of the toad who requested that when matters get to where they talk about tails, he should be exempted, because he lost his own as a tadpole. Nobo should waste resources trying a man, whose religion protects, let leave that to God. And if a man was not caught when he was committing an offence, he should be counted lucky and not prosecuted. Shuuuu? Which kind of society would that be? It is only a man who lies that calls the heavens to be his witness. This country will not condone criminality.

You better watch your mouth. Just because you have a medium does not exempt you from persecution, I hope you know that. There are repercussions you know?

Are you threatening me? I take threats seriously these days as journalists are now endangered species.

Then, stop running your mouth anyhow about things you do not know.

What kind of society is this where truth is detained and veracity is on exile? Truth is detained in a country where villagers and round thieves and straight men are threatened with ostracism.

It's understandable; one man's hero is another man's villain. You media people don't know that the parameters have changed. A thieving governor is a hero provided he distributed his loot to benefit his people like Robin Hood; ministers have discovered that nepotism is a virtue and would tend to revoke other people's lands in favour of their family and friends instead of empowering the enemies, what is wrong with that? Watch your mouth, you mouths that run with verbal diarrhoea should remember that detestable charges are exorbitant fees.

Nonsense, what is happening is political manoeuvring, pure and simple. It's the idea of 2011.

This is why you nosy parkers should keep away from it all.

Excuse me, we only inform the public.

Well, those who want their secrets kept will always find ways to protect themselves from your nosy embarrassment. You pushers should know when the rules have changed.

Journalists are persecuted, but thieves are prosecuted.

The prosecuted live and remain somebody's hero while the persecuted die for their courage!

(tundeasaju@yahoo.co.uk)

Your Letters

Send your letters to letters@dailytrust.com

Religion and human rights

Religion is fundamental in the life of every individual. Some people choose to live without a religion that guides their life, while others think of religion as just a name and inheritance without a practice.

True religion encompasses all human endeavours with the belief of the existence of another world in which accountability of this world will lead one to either everlasting peace and happy life or

a traumatic, horrific life.

Human right is one aspect that is taken care of by true religion which doesn't require human rights activist to fight for it, since it is ordained by the creator and will bring all to book, in this world or in the hereafter. This is true belief.

It is a wonder therefore that human right has become a single entity out of the entire man's beliefs and endeavours in this world that even tends to supersede his interaction with his creator which may cause him the loss of entire happiness in the next world. What was accepted by the creator through his messenger documented in his holy books

can never contradict human right except if some people decide to be ignorant and they will account for the ignorance or their want to gain political benefit, but politics need to be played within its four walls without extending to people's belief.

Lastly, it should be known to the so-called human/women rights activists that no time shall human right which is one part of a whole should overtake religion, which is the whole.

Mustapha Mustaph Umar,
Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, ABU, Zaria (mustaphaum@yahoo.com)

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Haba PDP Gombe

HOW can you be so undemocratic as to state that any candidate that used posters to campaign in the state would be expelled from the party? Posters are the general trend during campaigns and the same approach was used during the 2003 and 2007 elections. Why is it different now? May we need a reform in Gombe PDP also!

AHMAD, MG, 08037861783.

How now, Madam Rebranding?

PROF Akunyili should realise that you don't demand respect from people; your deeds command respect or disrespect from people. She should ignore the BBC's "Welcome to Lagos" documentary. Nigeria should focus her gusto on development and prosperity issues. NTA should do some documentaries to expose the UK's halitosis! No country has a monopoly of vilification. I'm sure there're shanty towns in the UK also! What is imperative is action and not ranting!

MAARUF Ibem, Abuja, 08034537022.

Losing focus

IT'S morally offensive hitting at characters like Obasanjo, while we are in league with those who made him what he has become: El-rufa'i, Ribadu, etc; glorifying them amounts to praising him!

08055790054.

The other side of the coin

PLEASE ask Senator Sani and his defenders that marrying a 13-year-old is not the only *sunnah* the prophet left. He also married Khadija when she was 15 years older than him. How many of them have the stomach to follow this particular *sunnah* of Muhammad.....sheer hypocrisy.

YUSUF Abdullah, Dutse, 08036176776.

Vision 2020

THE year 2020 is fast approaching, yet the economic indices and GDP are far from encouraging. Our security is at its lowest, electricity yet to achieve any meaningful impact, and food security is relegated to the background. Perhaps 'miracle' is the yardstick for the vision we expect.

MUSA A. Saleh, 08035819225.

Up you, Chief Servant

DR Babangida Aliyu is right; Nigerians should be more concerned with electing credible candidate who can deliver the dividends of democracy and improve the standard of living of the average Nigerians irrespective of religion, ethnicity or where he comes from.

MUAZUM Alkali, 08039636268.

Re: Chief Iwuanyanwu tells Ogbulafor not to resign

PLEASE Usman Faruk should leave the Igbo alone. Like the Israelites, God will liberate the Igbo one day so that the likes of Usman Faruk will have Nigeria to themselves.

BEN Ike, 08033152407.

A different picture

OTUKPO in Benue is one of the fastest growing cities in Nigeria. It's disappointing that *Daily Trust* could be interested only in pasting negative photographs of the town.

ONAJI Success, Jos, 07031592772.

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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Poverty in the land

In the midst of expanding government spending, and in spite of the recent announcement of an impending increase in the wages of civil servants, there is no mistaking the fact that the vast majority of Nigerians barely eke out a living. Basic necessities of life, taken for granted in other societies, some of which are poorer in aggregate terms compared with Nigeria, are almost becoming a luxury for the average citizens, many of who have no access to a decent living. Rather than improving, the public power supply is declining. The cost of transportation, in major cities and other towns, is high and is often arbitrarily fixed by the operators to the great discomfort of commuters. Workers' wages, even with the new announcement, are generally poor and cannot sustain many households. Millions of Nigerians are unemployed and millions more who were employed are now jobless because many industries have collapsed due to lack of power and other factors. The multitude of poverty alleviation schemes has not relieved the condition.

Most of our roads are bad and some are simply impassable. Citizens die everyday because of the terrible state of these roads. AS if these are not enough already there is no security of lives and property in any part of the country. The whole nation is under siege from bandits, kidnappers, assassins, ritual killers and other Forms of violent crimes.

Our health institutions are few and grossly inadequate to cater for the health needs of a population as large as ours. And in spite of their fewness, they are not adequately staffed and provisioned to take care of those who choose to patronize them. This accounts for why many of our rich public officials choose to go abroad for medical attention. It is amazing that this awful situation we have painted exists in a country that is the sixth leading producer and exporter of crude oil in the world. On paper, Nigeria is a wealthy nation; in reality, its citizens are some of the poorest on earth. The disparity in wages and income in the country is scandalous. We have some of the world's wealthiest people; and some of its poorest.

Year in year out, people hear of vast amounts of money in trillions of naira budgeted for various projects at the federal, state and local government levels ostensibly meant to improve the quality of their lives. Our foreign reserve which was about 7 billion dollars a few years ago has been severely depleted. It is now in the neighbourhood of 3 billion dollars and below. What is more, the various tiers of government ravenously feed on the excess crude account without any thought for the rainy day.

No one would question these expenditures if they translated into better life for traumatized Nigerians. But instead of things taking a turn for the better, the quality of life of the average Nigerian is steadily regressing.

The amazingly huge amounts of money spent by various governments do not impact the lives of most Nigerians, because these funds end up in the pockets of corrupt politicians and other government functionaries, and their foreign consultants and contractors. The state of affairs in our country is simply unacceptable. Something urgently should therefore be done to ameliorate the hardship of the citizenry. Even the legendary resilience of Nigerians, their capacity to endure the kind of hardship that others can easily buckle under in other places, must have elastic limit. Governments must take heed it does not snap.

What to do? Our governments should ensure that all companies and firms that have potential for massive job creation, but which have collapsed, should be assisted to revive. The textile industry is number one on this list. There must be a deliberate programme to bail out such industries to get long-term funds cheaply and easily. We have in the system a lot of dangerously idle funds. Efforts should be made to direct such funds to generate productivity. Effort must be stepped up to end corruption in government business. The bulk of consultancy and contract jobs should be reserved for local firms which will employ local labour to execute jobs. This is one way we can ensure that the bulk of the wealth of the nation circulates internally to the benefit of all citizens. We must also do something about income distribution to address the wide gulf in income among the population. The poverty among Nigerians must be truly alleviated.

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Yarima: Not in this day and age

Timawus Mathias

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It was the sound of murk, the report that former Governor of Zamfara State and now Senator, Alhaji Ahmed Sani, Yariman Bakura had made a wife out of a 13-year-old-Egyptian girl. At first my reaction was - oh well, that's one of those common occurrences in my part of Nigeria. I have a stupendously rich fuel black market friend whose perverse nature makes him unable to physically relate with his wives once they are delivered of a child. He divorced the child-wives soon after they had a child and he married another virgin girl child soon after.

I have also researched into the VVF problems of Northern Nigeria for a tv documentary, and have come to rationalize the phenomenon of under aged girls being forced into marriage, especially to older men as an issue that can not be affected as long as our cultural tenets and beliefs prevail. But then in any case, the current incident became topical only because the Press gave it prominence, rather than for moral chastisement of Senator Ahmed Sani.

Marriage to girls of the age of Ahmed Sani's Egyptian Live Barbie is a common practice in all of the North even though the elite now shun the practice. Incidentally, none of those elite who engage in this practice will give their girl-child of that age away to a marriage!

In truth, in many parts of the North, poverty has caused many parents to succumb to the lunatic lusts and pressures of perverse rich men to accept such demeaning situations as "selling" their pretty underage children to appease the heartless whims of the well-off. But Ahmed Sani, the man who introduced Islamic Law (Sharia) in State governance in Nigeria, and ran Zamfara State for 8 years under the pretext of institutionalizing that revered system is supposed to be an example of moral high standing. Certainly, he is supposed to be a beacon of light and progress in this bankrupt world. In Nigeria, there is no moral platform and yardstick. When you have money, the society with all its socio-cultural and religious norms, simply bows to your whims and appetites.

It is especially more agonizing when God's scriptures are used to try to render the act right, when even in the eyes of sinful mortal man, such perversion is despicable and must be more so before God. Ahmed Sani, who is presently the Senate Minority Whip in response to mounting pressure has reportedly said that his home state Zamfara has not domesticated the provisions of the Child Rights Act and is therefore not bound by the provisions of the act. This is arrant nonsense. Ahmed Sani publicly swore by the Holy Qur'an to protect, defend and uphold the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. In his perversion now, has he forgotten that he performed this binding solemn act?

It is leaders like Ahmed Sani

that pollute the healthy minds of truly pious believers with misinterpretations of the holy word to justify and satisfy their narcissistic lusts. On the Shari'a and the Qur'an, Senator Ahmed Sani ruled Zamfara State for 8 years without redeeming the people of the State from the shackles of poverty, hunger, and disease, and God knows that the resources of the State were not fully directed at these debilitating maladies. The essence of Shari'a is to stamp out all vices from governance and ensure that leaders commit themselves to providing succour for society. You do not hear praise for Sani in Zamfara on account of significant infrastruc-

sleep. "God forbid bad thing".

When Zamfara elite who opposed Ahmed Sani tried to stop his second term bid in 2003, one of their arguments to the people of the state was the abysmal failure of Sani's government to meet the state's needs in potable drinking water.

But Yarima defeated them hands down, when leaders campaigning for him admonished the people to go for the water of heaven that perpetually quenches thirst! This was to be the benefit of Yarima's Sharia rule! Of course Sani won a second term and still waxes strong in today's impoverished Zamfara State.

In his honeymoon abode in Cairo, Egypt, (*gafiya ta ja rakumi*) our Senator is basking in wealth that is obviously "haram" to lay claim to abidance by Qur'an injunctions! When and how much was his last *Zakkat*? He should say

But Ahmed Sani, the man who introduced Islamic Law (Sharia) in State governance in Nigeria, and ran Zamfara State for 8 years under the pretext of institutionalizing that revered system is supposed to be an example of moral high standing.

tural development brought about specifically because Shari'a law was applied in the State.

The reported dowry he paid, if true, could sink more than a number of wells and more than a few boreholes which to me makes him liable to investigation and judgement under Sharia law. We recall the small felon Jangedi who, during Sani's tenure, gave up his arm as stipulated by Sharia law because he pleaded guilty to stealing.

We also recall that Nuhu Ribadu, the former EFCC chair, on the floor of the Senate described the case of Sani's watch over Zamfara State as blatant and "naked looting, looting, looting". The times have changed and Nuhu Ribadu's camels of corruption now sit in the Legislature and freely traverse the corridors of power passing through the swivel-door eye of the Nigerian needle. Some of them even hold the reigns of power to the chagrin of their meek opponents.

In Nigeria, it is the norm for the "big men" to sit on a heinous social, political or economic crime and claim precedence and honour. Many treasury looters blindfold the system and without shame, flaunt their ill-gotten wealth, brandishing powers that the blood money has helped them acquire, very much to the frustration of the common folk. The poor wear the foul smell of their farting as perfume and dance to the music of their rumbling overfed tummies and the all night snoring of their tormented

so that his earnings, well-known to God may also be known to us tempted mortals.

The age at which a woman may be married by any man has not been specified. Religion emphasizes that the woman must have reached puberty, but the determining factors for this puberty have been cocooned into the so called ability to make sound judgement and left to society to determine! Even as many women at age 40 are incapable of sound judgement, a man marries or makes a woman out of a 13 year old only out of banal lust and perversion, against moral tenets and the fear of God.. But then, the spirit of the age is banal! Priests sodomising children in church, a 64 year old woman marrying a man of 25 years, a man married to over 80 wives, and is accepted by society; a spiritual master, *Boko Haram* and condemned Reverend Chris, sleeping with the wives of the parish, innocent children torn from their mothers' loving arms and killed on suspicion of witchcraft, men sleeping with dogs and pigs - the world has gone really up side down.

But life goes on because women groups particularly from the North have not risen against the evil that men do - with a loud and unified voice of refusal. The consternation of some organs of the media, the condemnation of Ahmed Sani and the reaction of the Senate, women groups and non governmental organizations is in deed a healthy development.

www.fidelitybankplc.com

Agric Finance - From our point of view

At Fidelity Bank we're supporting small, medium and large scale agricultural establishments through our AGRI-NIGERIA project. We believe that resuscitating this sector will provide food security, employment as well as export revenue for the country. This project allows beneficiaries to acquire fixed assets, machinery, fertilizer, and other agricultural materials on individual, joint, or co-operative bases. Loans are available over convenient tenures at low payback rates. The objective of this nationwide initiative is to provide farmers with project funding through four schemes:

- Fidelity Cooperative Union Facility
- Fidelity Agric Lease Facility
- Fidelity Self Help Group Facility
- Fidelity Agric Trust Fund



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For further information about the AGRI-NIGERIA Project, please call 08034739163 today

Welcome Message

As you arrive Port Harcourt on Friday, May 7, 2010
for the historic commissioning of:

- 1) 750 Meter quay/berth at Federal Ocean Terminal Onne (FOT 4,5 & 6)
- 2) 570 Meter quay/berth at West African Container Terminal Onne (WACT Jetty)
- 3) 376 Meter quay/berth at Federal Lighter Terminal Onne (FLT 4)
- 4) Ports Standardization Projects.

As well as Foundation stone laying for future projects(Phase 4); We wish to state that these projects indeed prove the success of Public Private Partnership(PPP) in the development of Nigerian Maritime sector.

INTELS NIGERIA LIMITED & WEST AFRICA CONTAINER TERMINAL NIGERIA LIMITED are proud to be associated with the projects.

You are welcome.

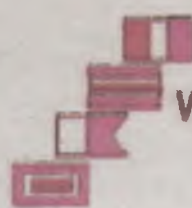
We wish you a happy stay in Rivers State

His Excellency,
DR. GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN, GCON
Ag. President & Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces

MANAGEMENT



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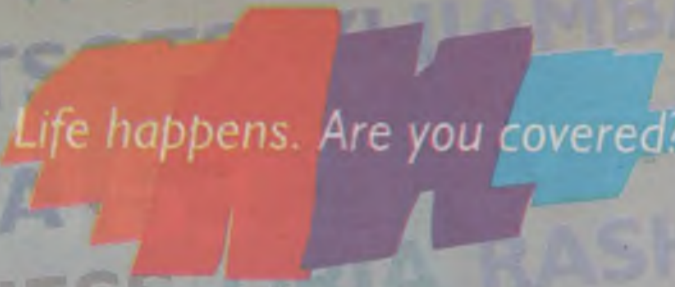
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2nd WEST AFRICAN TRADE FAIR

THEME:
Reinvigorating, Existing, Cultural, Social and Economic Ties

Details of participation at the 2nd West Africa Trade Fair schedule on 22nd May to 5th June, 2010

COST OF SPACE TYPE	RATE
Open space (outdoor)	N1,500 per sqm
One space (Indoor)	N5,000 per sqm
Shell scheme (outdoor)	N5,000 per sqm

Please note that, minimum space is 30sqm while additional space is in multiple of 10sqm.

COST OF UTILITIES:

Electricity	RATE
6sqm-30sqm	N12,000
31sqm-90sqm	N22,000
91sqm-150sqm	N35,000
151 and above	N50,000

COST OF SPECIAL DAY
N200,000

Please kindly indicate your interest through this email: lacc@kano.com.ng or call 07180451708 for more enquiries.

Date: 22nd May-5th June, 2010
Venue: Kano Trade Fair Complex, Zoo Road, Kano.

SIGNED:
Bashir Sa'ad Ibrahim
Deputy Manager Admin
For: Director General

Organized By: Kano Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture
In Collaboration With: FABA FALABI



LAGOS UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL

PRIVATE MAIL BAG 12003, LAGOS, NIGERIA

RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAMME

Applications are invited for admission into the Postgraduate Residency Training Programmes of the Lagos University Teaching Hospital.

Training is available in the following disciplines:

(a) Anaesthesia	(k) Paediatrics
(b) Child Dental Health	(l) Psychiatry
(c) Clinical Pathology	(m) Restorative Dentistry
(d) Haem. And Bld. Trans.	(n) Radiation Biology and Radiotherapy
(e) Medical Micro and Parasitology	(o) Surgery
(f) Medicine (Physics)	(p) Ophthalmology
(g) Morbid Anatomy	(q) Otorhinolaryngology (ENT)
(h) Obstetrics & Gynaecology	(r) Family Medicine
(i) Oral Pathology/Oral Biology	(s) Community Health
(j) Oral & Max. Surgery	(t) Radiodiagnosis

GENERAL REQUIREMENT:
Applicants should have at least one year professional experience and must be fully registered with Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria. Evidence of having completed NYSC is mandatory. Success at the Primary Examination of either the West African Postgraduate Medical College or National Postgraduate Medical College will be an advantage.

METHOD OF APPLICATION:
Application forms can be obtained from the office of Chairman, Medical Advisory Committee in the Directorate of Clinical Services and Training on payment of non refundable fee of Ten Thousand Naira (N10,000.00) in Bank Draft or cash payable to the Lagos University Teaching Hospital.

The full name and address of the applicant must be boldly written at the back of the Bank Draft.

For applicants applying by post, requests for application forms must be accompanied by self addressed and stamped foolscap envelopes.

Applications should be addressed to:
CHAIRMAN, MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
LAGOS UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL
P. M. B. 12003, LAGOS.

CLOSING DATE OF APPLICATION:
Completed application forms in duplicate, together with photocopies of relevant certificates and credentials must be submitted to the above address not later than two weeks from the date of this publication.

The Departmental Examinations/Interviews would hold on 14th July, 2010.
While the Management interview would hold on 4th August, 2010.

PROF AKIN OSIBOGUN
CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR

NORTHERN CONSORTIUM UNITED KINGDOM (NCUK)

in conjunction with

ZAMANI COLLEGE KADUNA

invites applications from suitable candidates for the
NCUK International Foundation Year (IFY)
scheduled for September 2010.

The NCUK International Foundation Year (IFY) is a one-academic year, modular programme for **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS** wishing to enter one of the NCUK partner universities for an undergraduate course in September 2011.

JOS
11th May 2010
2.00 - 5.00 p.m.
@ The Crest Hotel,
Old Airport Road,
Jos.

KANO
13th May 2010
2.30 - 5.30 p.m.
@ Tahir Palace Hotel,
Nassarawa, Kano

NCUK 11 Partner Universities:
Bradford, Huddersfield, Leeds,
Leeds Metropolitan, Liverpool, Liverpool John Moores, Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan, Salford, Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam.

Entry Requirements for the NCUK IFY at Zamani College:

- 6 SSCE credits at C5 and above
- Credits must include English and Mathematics
- Willingness to work

Public presentations will be held for interested students and parents in Kaduna, Jos and Kano when **Dr Terry Jeyes, Deputy Chief Executive of NCUK**, will be available for on the spot discussions.

Candidates wishing to apply for the NCUK IFY should bring with them their SSCE results/SS1-3 reports.

KADUNA
8th May, 2010 (11.00a.m-2.00p.m)
& 12th May, 2010 (3.00 - 6.00 p.m.)
@ Zamani College, Malali, Kaduna

For all enquiries, please contact:

Mrs J. Mohammed Principal (0805 648 0340)	or Mr O. Shingyu Vice Principal (0802 917 0280)	or Mrs I. To-Anadu School Administrator (0703 568 2002)
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ZAMANI COLLEGE 1 Waziri Maccido Road, Off Isa Kaita Road, Malali, Kaduna



NIGERIAN ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADAMAWA PLAZA, PLOT 1099, 1ST AVENUE, CBD, P.M.B. 136, ABUJA

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION AND TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF GOODS

1. INTRODUCTION

The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) is desirous to undertake the following projects:

1. Supply of Computer Software and Hardware
2. Supply of General Office Equipment

Consequently, the NERC wishes to invite reputable and competent companies for pre-qualification and tender for the projects as stated above.

2. ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE

Interested and competent companies wishing to carry out the above job must have necessary competences and possess the following:-

- a) Certificate of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission
- b) Company's current Tax Clearance Certificate issued by the proper authority and reflecting the true turnover of the company in any tax period
- c) VAT Registration Certificate
- d) Comprehensive company profile reflecting executive capacity with addresses, mobile phone numbers and e-mail contacts
- e) Evidence from the company's bankers as to its financial capacity to undertake the project if awarded. In addition prospective bidders shall be required to demonstrate that they are financially capable to provide any service which they may be offered following this general qualification
- f) A sworn statement that the company is not in receivership or about to be in receivership
- g) Accompanying sworn affidavit of disclosure; to disclose clearly if any of the officers (or related persons) of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) or Bureau for public Procurement is a former or present Director/Chairman of the company and that the company does not have any Director/Chairman who has been convicted in any country for any criminal offence relating to fraud or financial impropriety.
- h) Verifiable documentary evidence of similar and other jobs successfully executed within the last three years. Such evidence shall be in form of valid and verifiable letters of award of contract(s), contract agreement and completion certificates or Interim Payment Certificates where such services(s) is still in progress
- i) A sworn Affidavit that the company is not a replacement for a hitherto tax defaulting company
- j) Submit evidence of having fulfilled all obligations with regards to pensions and social contributions as provided in the Pensions Acts 2004

3. COLLECTION OF BID DOCUMENT

Interested and competent contractors wishing to participate in the above job should collect the Bid document from the Procurement Unit, 1st Floor, NERC, Adamawa Plaza subject to the presentation of evidence of payment of a non-refundable fee of N10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira Only) for each project. Firms tendering for more than one project must submit separate documentation for each.

4. SUBMISSIONS OF TENDERS

The submission will be in two separate envelopes

- A. The General Requirements should be submitted in a sealed envelope boldly marked at the top left corner: "Prequalification for... (Indicate the project title)"
- B. Financial bid should be submitted in a sealed envelope boldly marked at the top left corner: "Financial Bid for the Procurement of ... (Indicate the project title)"

The two envelopes sealed should be inserted in a larger envelope boldly marked "TENDER FOR.....(Indicate project title)".

All submissions must be received at the Commission's Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Adamawa Plaza on or before 11.00 am Tuesday June 15th, 2010 and addressed as indicated below

The Administrator
Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission
Adamawa Plaza, Plot 1099, CBD, Abuja

OPENING OF TENDERS

Bids will be opened on the 15th June, 2010 in the presence of general public and representatives of bidders who choose to attend at 12:00 noon in the Commission's Hearing Room 1st floor, Adamawa Plaza, Abuja.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

- 1) The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission reserves the right to verify claims made by any contractor
- 2) Presentation of falsified information such as turnover figures on Tax Clearance Certificate etc will lead to automatic disqualification
- 3) Tendering false documents is an offence and will lead to disqualification.
- 4) Winning bids will be selected in accordance with the procedures as set out in the 2007 Public Procurement Act 2007
- 5) Nothing in this notice shall be construed to be commitment on the part of the NERC.

SIGNED
MANAGEMENT



NIGERIAN ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADAMAWA PLAZA, PLOT 1099, 1ST AVENUE, CBD, P.M.B. 136, ABUJA

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

This request for Expression of Interest is for the execution of vital consultancy projects that will aid the Commission in her core activities

The projects required are:

- 1: Engagement of Health & Safety Inspectors and Investigators
- 2: Development of Regulatory framework for the creation/operation of Power Consumer Assistance Fund
- 3: Advisory Services on Strategic review and follow-up services for 2010 Management Retreat
- 4: Engagement of Inspectors for Review of Successor Companies Accounts
- 5: Engagement of Financial Management Consultant including development of Internal Audit Manual
- 6: Engagement of Consultant for Electricity Performance Monitoring Framework

A more detailed Term of reference (TOR) shall be provided alongside with the Request for Proposal (RFP) and will be sent to firms that will be shortlisted for the assignment.

1. ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE

The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission now invites eligible Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the above services. Interested consultants must provide detailed information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services as provided for in the Procurement Act. The information must also include

- (a) Core business area of the organization and years of experience with brochure
- (b) Description of similar assignments executed and that are verifiable, references that can attest to successful completion of similar jobs and experience in similar conditions
- (c) Appropriate key personnel available for the assignment
- (d) Certificate of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission
- (e) Company's current Tax Clearance Certificate issued by the proper authority and reflecting the true turnover of the company in any tax period
- (f) VAT Registration Certificate
- (g) Comprehensive company profile reflecting executive capacity with addresses, mobile phone numbers and e-mail contacts
- (h) Evidence from the company's bankers as to its financial capacity to undertake the project if awarded. In addition prospective bidders shall be required to demonstrate that they are financially capable to provide any service which they may be offered following this general qualification
- (i) A sworn statement that the company is not in receivership or about to be in receivership
- (j) Accompanying sworn affidavit of disclosure; to disclose clearly if any of the officers (or related persons) of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) or Bureau for public Procurement is a former or present Director/Chairman of the company and that the company does not have any Director/Chairman who has been convicted in any country for any criminal offence relating to fraud or financial impropriety.
- (k) Verifiable documentary evidence of similar and other jobs successfully executed within the last three years. Such evidence shall be in form of valid and verifiable letters of award of contract(s), contract agreement and completion certificates or Interim Payment Certificates where such services(s) is still in progress
- (l) A sworn Affidavit that the company is not a replacement for a hitherto tax defaulting company
- (m) Submit evidence of having fulfilled all obligations with regards to pensions and social contributions as provided in the Pensions Acts 2004

Interested Consultants may obtain further information from the Procurement Unit of the Commission as from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm Monday to Friday at the address stated below.

2. SUBMISSION OF EOI

Expressions of Interest (EOI) must be submitted in three (3) hard copies and one electronic copy on CD on or before 11.00 am, Tuesday, May 25th, 2010 with the inscription on the Top left side of the envelopes: "Expression of Interest for Consultancy for..... (state the project title)". Late submissions will be rejected. EOI must be submitted at the Commission's Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Adamawa Plaza and addressed as indicated below:

The Administrator
Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission
Adamawa Plaza, 2nd Floor
Plot 1099, 1st Avenue, Off Shehu Shagari Way
CBD, Abuja

The EOI will be opened on 25th May, 2010 in the presence of general public and representatives of firms that expressed interest who choose to attend at 12: 00 noon in the Commission's Hearing Room on the 1st floor of Adamawa Plaza.

3. IMPORTANT NOTICE

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures as set out in the 2007 Procurement Act and the Procurement Procedure Manual for Public Procurement in Nigeria January 2008. Consultants expressing interest in more than one project should submit separate documentation for each.

SIGNED
MANAGEMENT

CORRUPTION IS KING!

Let us stop pontificating on virtues and morals in leadership positions in present-day Nigeria and instead (go on) to admit the stark reality of the unflattering, self-inflicted tragedy of our nation.

It is not that we have been fortunate thus far, to have decent and altruistic persons in sacred offices of Government in this nation, it is simply that Nigeria has been unfortunate to have, as KING over her, CORRUPTION itself, these past 45 years. Therefore the citizens ("citizenship" is inappropriate in this context, rather it is serfdom) are subjected to rightless existence; not even the basic of human rights, like water, social justice and electricity are available to them because they appear to have willingly surrendered their basic freedoms to KING CORRUPTION.

We will not today shout ourselves hoarse chronicling the ills and the widespread sufferings, daily consummated by the Nigerian people, but rather we would reiterate the urgent need for the few, perceptive and liberated Nigerian minds to undertake a natural duty of rousing themselves to depose KING CORRUPTION NOW, in order to spare the nation and indeed the entire sub-region of a great calamity.

■ PIUS OKIGBO REPORT ON THE EXCESS CRUDE OIL WINDFALL

Not long ago, the Pius Okigbo Report detailed the extensive stealing of the country's oil revenue windfall, by the then impostor in government who declared himself "President" with pervasive powers. In addition to his theft of a substantial tranche of the cash, he also appropriated the entire oil resources of the nation, giving them out, like personal property at will, to friends, cronies and irresponsible bootlickers, while simultaneously hawking them to foreigners and pocketing the huge proceeds.

After him came a succession of his type right through to the contrived facade of a democratic dispensation in 1999 through to the present time.

■ CHARADE DEMOCRACY

King Corruption is ALL so imperial in the land that even in a charade democracy, the Nigerian people are disenfranchised; although they go to the polls on polling days, their votes never count: it's all a waste of their time. Consequently, both the Executive and the legislative branches of governments are invariably monopolised by persons from one and the same party, in some cases up to 95% of their membership, in a so-called "multi party system." What a facade!

We have highlighted these several times that even the deaf and the dumb have heard us, which fact ironically seems to have given some dubious comfort to KING CORRUPTION that the people can never organise to confront him, let alone dislodge or put him apart.

■ THEY SOLD THE COUNTRY'S ASSETS CHEAP TO FOREIGNERS AND TOOK HEFTY BRIBES

Hmm! Today, while the nation is still reeling under the spectacle of the uncertainties of 2 presidents in office, a logical consequence of KING CORRUPTION'S unbridled activities and of the serious internal contradictions that have mortally chewed his intestines, yet, another of his

multifarious felonies against our nation is exposed. Though we have said "there shall be an Interim Administration in Nigeria before the next elections", but KING CORRUPTION, in a grand self delusion still believes he can continue as before; after all, the people are there for his ride, and with a mischievous support from some foreign governments, he believes he can still wield his abracadabra over Nigeria and yet again ram 2011 down the throat of the nation. Recall that we warned you, he had a different agenda of not bothering to do any elections, but simply to amend the constitution and award itself term-elongation across the board.

■ HALIBURTON LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS PROJECT

The Haliburton bribery scandal among many others, involving KING CORRUPTION, has been festering for sometime, but KING CORRUPTION reckons, he has it all under control. It is noteworthy to observe that the Americans have since dealt with their own nationals involved in this crime, by jailing them. No thanks to the people, but all praise and Glory belong to the CREATOR, THE GOD OF JUSTICE. For what has been hidden are beginning to unravel.

The details of the Haliburton Scandal, kept in wraps for a long time are now in the public domain. The DAILY INDEPENDENT, (of all newspapers) last week-GOD moves in a mysterious way - blew the cover off the hidden REPORT. The Report had been compiled after an extensive investigation by a formidable array of a no-nonsense, incorruptible Nigerian men and women, led by Mike Okiro including, Mrs. Farida Waziri, representatives of the National Security Adviser, State Security Service etc.

The REPORT listed Obasanjo, Abdulsalam, Abacha, Atiku, Dan Etete, Ernest Sonekan, former Inspector General of Police and member of Jonathan's PAC, Muhammed Yusuf, Don Etiebet and lesser civil servants and technocrats involved one way or the other in the bribery saga. There are many other cases of plunder and looting by these fellows and others, still hidden.

Well, the disclosure may shock some people in this pitiable country, but please remember we have for more than 30 years been drumming it to your ears that we need to sweep out the rats and the mosquitoes that are sucking the nation's blood dry!!

Now hear the Daily Independent on the matter..... "It is to the eternal shame of the nation that on the eve of the 50th anniversary of its independence from British colonialism, the Halliburton list of infamy was like a compilation of Nigeria's contemporary who is who. It is even more disturbing that almost two thirds of those on the list have been bestowed with one national honour or another. It presents a graphic illustration of the devaluation of the national ethos.

The roll call included four former heads of state and two wives, as well as former governors and ministers. As the Daily Independent's Report summed it, 'indeed the top echelons of the country's political and military establishments, including technocrats, have been indicted by the United States law enforcement officials over the N27billion Haliburton bribery scandal.' It speaks volumes about the nature of the society we have become that

the report did not set off a major political earthquake. Nigerians have reached such a state of anomie that they appear to have become shockproof. This is a shame, because it is precisely the response that the alleged perpetrators of these acts want: a bored and indifferent public looking on while they, the perpetrators, get on with the job of defrauding the exchequer.

They should not be allowed to get away with it. Even given the present depraved conditions of Nigerian public finance, N27billion is quite a staggering figure. The magnitude of the amount involved is best appreciated when translated into opportunity cost N27billion worth of lost investments in schools, healthcare facilities, roads, bridges and so forth. Many countries in Africa simply do not have the hard currency equivalent of this figure to play around with. Even by the abysmal and irresponsible standards the nation has set for itself, we should not just shrug our shoulders in helplessness. It's time for a fight-back to the mounted."

"It says a lot about what this country has become that the Okiro Report on the Haliburton scandal was sent to President Yar-Adua as far back as May last year, with not even a perfunctory comment to the public by the Presidency."

Need we say more about the urgent necessity of the revolution, by which only, we can terminate, once and for all, the long reign of KING CORRUPTION, if we are to avoid a national doom of unpredictable proportions. Again, do you not now see the need for the establishment of a regime of Peoples' Courts to dispense Justice.

Although, we assert that there are a few impeccable individual Nigerian Judges, yet, we emphatically deny the capacity and capability of the Nigerian judicial system to serve the ends of Justice. We speak authoritatively. Thus we must have an Interim Administration in this nation BEFORE any elections are undertaken. The task before the INTERIM ADMINISTRATION will be enormous. We can however list some of the core tasks as:

(1) Dealing a death-blow to KING CORRUPTION.

(2) THE CONSTITUTION MUST have to be reviewed to put the nation on a proper Federal Foundation. There is abundance of wealth in each and every zone of NIGERIA. KING CORRUPTION was born out of, and indeed is the offspring of over centralisation of power at the centre. He, in turn produced his own children in the various state executives, legislatures and others.

(3) WE MUST DEVOLVE autonomy to the six or eight or ten zones of the nation, as the case may be. This would call for a sovereign National Conference.

(4) THE CIVIL SERVICE would be restructured.

These are but a few of the urgent tasks that must be addressed. And Nigeria does possess her own truly patriotic children capable of meeting these challenges in an Interim Administration. ■

NATIONAL INTERVENTION GROUP

E-mail: info@nationalinterventiongroup.com
www.nationalinterventiongroup.com

DR. TUNJI BRAITHWAITE
 Founder.

INTERNATIONAL



MORE than 100 protesters and opposition MPs, surrounded by police, demonstrate near the parliament building.

Angry Egyptian workers camp outside parliament

MERVAT Rifai, a 34-year-old mother of three, has like dozens of other civil servants and labourers been camping outside Egypt's parliament building for weeks demanding better working conditions.

She, like her fellow campers who have made the pavement their home, is determined not to leave until her voice is heard. Rifai left her children with family and neighbours in her small town in the Nile Delta governorate of Beheira to join the sit-in.

"They totally ignore our claims. But we will stay here, because after all this I refuse to go home empty handed," said Rifai, who works for an organisation affiliated to the agriculture ministry.

For more than a month she and her fellow demonstrators have occupied the pavement in front of the People's Assembly 24 hours a day, sleeping on the ground and using the ablution facilities of a nearby mosque.

"Our salaries are somewhere between 60 and 95 Egyptian pounds (11 and 18 dollars) a month," Rifai lamented.

The parliament building, in the heart of Cairo, has for several weeks also become the focal point for dozens of impromptu protests by Egyptians confronted with unemployment and the high cost of living.

State employees, workers struggling since the privatisation of their factories, and disabled Egyptians demanding respect for their rights have demonstrated tirelessly in front of the building.

The protests and sit-ins, which the police have so far tolerated, reflect

the profound social malaise in a country where, despite five years of economic reform, nearly 40 percent of the population live around the poverty line.

The discontent has not yet led to the wider civil disturbance that rocked the nation in the 1970s, with the phasing out of subsidies on food prices, or the strikes that affected Egypt's industrial regions in 2007 and 2008.

But inflation at around 10 percent, price spikes and a shortage of certain basic goods, including household gas, diesel and beef, have heightened the sense of exasperation felt by swathes of Egyptians already struggling to make ends meet.

On March 30, a court asked the government to agree to a new minimum wage, which has been fixed at 35 Egyptian pounds (6.3 dollars) a month since 1984. On Sunday, several hundred protesters gathered outside government offices in central Cairo, amid a heavy police presence, to demand a minimum monthly wage of 1,200 pounds (216 dollars).

Egypt's state minister for economic development Osman Mohammed Osman has indicated that a minimum stipend of 450 pounds (82 dollars) a month is being considered.

Among those staging a protest in front of parliament are employees of an Egyptian company that manufactures telephones who have gone unpaid for four months. The Masara company was privatised in 2000 and has since suspended operations.

Homages paid to Moroccan critic and philosopher

HOMAGES have been paid to Mohamed Abed Al-Jabri, the Moroccan Islamic philosopher, critic and political ideologue for a socialist opposition party, who died in Casablanca this week.

"He was at once an intellectual critic of Arab-Islamic thought, a political man, and the thinker for the Socialist Union of Popular Forces", political commentator Mohammed Tozy told AFP on yesterday.

"From the basis of his reading of two Arab thinkers, Ibn Khaldun and Averroes, he adopted a critical approach in his analysis of Arab thought", said Mohammed Darif, specialist in Islamic trends in Morocco.

Al-Jabri's thinking focused on the problem of "how to read and reread Arab-Islamic writings without making the facts sacred?", Darif added.

Born in 1935 in Figuig, southeastern Morocco, Al-Jabri studied in Syria and completed his thesis in 1970 on the history of Muslims according to Ibn Khaldun (1332-1406).

Al-Jabri had been a founding member of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces in 1975, and quickly became one of its key thinkers, but he took his distance in the late 1980s.

Islamic group to distribute food in Somalia

AN official with the Organization of Islamic Conference says the group plans to reopen its office in war-ravaged Somalia after nearly 17 years.

The group's director of humanitarian affairs, Fuad Ali Al-Masna'i, says the aim is to provide aid to hungry Somalis whose humanitarian situation is deteriorating due to the withdrawal of the U.N.'s food agency early this year. He said Monday that the office would open soon, but did not give a date.

Nearly half of Somalia's 7 million people depend on food aid.

The militant group al-Shabab barred the World Food Program from distributing food in areas under its control.

Cote d'Ivoire checkpoint bribes cost '\$300m'

UP to \$300m (£200m) is paid in bribes at checkpoints in Cote d'Ivoire each year, a business leader says. "Every Ivorian today... has been asked to pay at a road-block," Chamber of Commerce President Jean-Louis Billon told the BBC. He blamed "mafias"

operating within both the army and the former rebel New Forces, who still control northern Cote d'Ivoire, for the extortion racket.

The two sides agreed to share power in 2007 but elections have been put back.

Checkpoints remain com-

mon on both sides of the country which has been divided since rebels took up arms in 2002.

Cote d'Ivoire used to enjoy the highest living standards in West Africa but the political unrest has badly affected the economy.

Mr Billon told the BBC's Focus

on Africa programme that the total amount paid in such bribes may be up to \$600m (£400m).

This would be equivalent to more than 2% of the country's economy.

Mr Billon said he was quoting a study by the World Bank.



NATIONAL BUREAU
OF STATISTICS



CENTRAL BANK
OF NIGERIA



NCC
NIGERIAN
COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in collaboration with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), will conduct the 2009 Annual Socio-Economic Survey nationwide, from May 3 May 23 2010.

The overall objective of the survey is to collect socio-economic statistics, personal workers' remittances and data on Information and Communications Technology (ICT). These data would facilitate:

- The production Gross Domestic Product (GDP),
- Compilation of the Current Account section of the Balance of Payment (BOP) and
- Generation of ICT indicators.

These statistics would assist in monitoring the economic performance of the country.

The general public is therefore requested to assist the enumerators in the field to achieve the objectives of the survey.

Please note that failure to cooperate with the enumerators is punishable under the Statistics Act of 2007, the CBN Act of 2007 and the Communications Act of 2003.

Thank you.

Dr. George Adewoye
Director of Real Sector &
Research Planning & Research
Commission Household Statistics Dept.
National Bureau of Statistics

Sani I. Doguwa, PhD
Director of Statistics
Central Bank of Nigeria

Dr. Henry Nkemadu
Policy, Economic Analysis and
Nigerian Communications

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Zoning: A Clarification On A Collective Opportunism

Governor Sule Lamido's answer to the question of the rotation/zoning policy of the PDP at the Interactive Session requested by and granted the journalists on the entourage of the Honourable Minister for Information and Communication to the commissioning of NTA Hadejia and Gumel stations in Jigawa State on Friday, April 30th, 2010 is extracted and published independently here so as to correct the distortion in the popular media which presented His Excellency as blindly or chauvinistically insisting on the dogma of zoning. Apart from the media reports so far having omitted the rich background of the zoning arrangement that Governor Lamido provided in answering the question, it also represented the governor as if replying former President Obasanjo's recent comments in New York on the issue. Hence, the need to reproduce that answer as given by His Excellency.

The point is also to show that historically, Sule Lamido has a consistent position on the political context of zoning. And this can be ascertained from the book, *The Populist Factor in Nigerian Politics*, published in 1995 and in which he said on (page 126): "....And because of the loss of faith, of trust in each other, all these deals would be put down in the constitution. All these because there has been a distortion of national values. So, in relating to each other, there is no faith. The next man needs to be concretely assured before he agrees with you. He creates support in local interest making zoning, a reactionary thing before, to acquire high political profile. You now feel safer if an Idoma NPN president is there even though you are progressive whereas it should have been that you feel safer if the man you trusted politically is there. A Kano man never felt happy on account of Shagari because he couldn't see his political pedigree in him. All these things have been destroyed. And to move forward, for the purpose of self discovery and restoration of trust in each other, this rotational thing has to be put there. As a safeguard to move forward, we have to have it".

Elsewhere in the same book, he also said, *inter alia*,

"The Yorubas feel it was the caliphate that did it and the average Southerner says, "if the Yorubas are damned, who are we". There is no way you can debunk this that IBB was doing his own thing. They see the North in concert. If you try to explain, they can see the point but they will tell you, we agree it was Babangida who annulled June 12, but let's have the guarantee that we are also entitled to produce a president. If you say no, they say okay you are not serious. So these guarantees are just necessary to assure each other that we actually have a political destiny and it has to be guaranteed".

In other words, whatever Lamido says about zoning now is in the context that, in deeply divided multi-ethnic societies like Nigeria, democracy cannot be based solely on a free-wheeling majoritarianism. Hence the transformation of the principle of zoning from a conservative, NPNish idea in the Second Republic to the sole political shopping list of, particularly Southern Nigerian elite like the respected Dr. Alex Ekwueme at the 1995 Constitutional Conference and eventually a nationally settled conflict management therapy for Nigeria's diversity.

But, if in 2010, Nigerians feel they have overcome the basis for zoning and rotation of power and are now comfortable with merit, who is Sule Lamido to question such



Alhaji Sule Lamido
Governor, Jigawa State

collective opportunism? This is the point in this clarification and it goes as follows: "Sir, my name is Paul Obi. I write for *Thisday* newspaper. You are a strong and a formidable member of the People's Democratic Party, PDP

Lamido: What am I?

A strong and formidable member of the PDP

Lamido: (General laughter) Okay, go ahead

There is controversy surrounding the rotational Presidency in the country, that it should rotate between the regions which is embedded in the PDP constitution. What is your position on that and if the status quo remains, will you run?

Well, thank you for this question because I think it is very important. Now democracy, although universal, when it comes to application, it is supposed to understand peculiarities and, therefore, work towards those known peculiarities. Nigeria has a very rugged history and sometimes when it comes to national affairs, even you as were growing through primary days through the university, you have this wonderful sense of friendship between your various friends in the hostels, Hausas among Yorubas, in schools, in the universities. As you are growing and you are being molded, you grow as Nigerians, you like each other but somehow after you graduate and you go in to life, somewhere you begin to find these cubicles where you begin to fit yourselves in to it and that is the danger.

..... In the PDP's wisdom, reflecting on how Nigeria has fared in the last 49 years, first under democracy then the interregnum under Gowon and then the Shagari's administration, the Buhari/Babangida coup. There was interregnum for a number of years, and then the return to democracy under Babangida, the June 12, after June 12, Abacha and what have you! A number of things were becoming very glaring and we said that we wanted to be really honest to ourselves: that while we cherish democracy but then, it can not be a wholesale democracy, it has to be able to address our peculiar needs and in 1999, Nigeria was thoroughly injured with wounds pouring out blood ... (inaudible)... and to be able to rescue Nigeria from this kind of terrible slide, we said, fair enough, Nigerian political leadership is very important. Nigerians were more concerned about their own son being there than any other thing else.

So, in 1999 and I am being very honest to you, the issue was not about power, (electricity), it was not even about agriculture or even the economy as a program. The issue was giving Nigeria the political leadership which first, should give self confidence to its various components as a country because you need peace and stability for other things to be achieved and in 1999 Nigeria was thoroughly Balkanized along various emotions and sentiments. So the issue, first and foremost, was political leadership.

Before you talk about the leader, they said, you Hausa, you the northerners, you have been around and by that monopoly, you are reducing others as equal Nigerians. We have been through June 12, and after June 12, it was your son and it is the same thing: Babangida for June 12, after Babangida, it was Abacha, after Abacha, Abdulsalami.

.... The PDP in her own wisdom, because it was a formation of leaders that had very clear understanding of the Nigerian's history, such that they were honest and courageous to come up with a program or the mechanism to be able to assuage other Nigerians, pacify them and comfort them, let them feel they are equals. So, we said let us rotate. We (in the party) gave power to the south, but even then, it has to be from a particular area. We took it to the South-West.

So the rotation is very important. Now, the country is coming out of its own injury, we are becoming very stable, so you may want to retract or renounce but then, at least, let it go through the whole hug. So, as far as I am concerned, by virtue of my global experience, I am a nationalist but then the nation has to be there for me to be the nationalist. And so, any thing which will keep Nigeria united as a mechanism, I will accept it and therefore the philosophy of rotation under the PDP which is a very mature party, a party of matured people, of leaders, I think we should vote for it.

Though this does not stop any body from aspiring or contesting outside the zone. You could see in 1999, even those parties like APP and AD adopted zoning. You see, AD after their convention where Olu Falae emerged as a candidate for the AD, APP after their convention where Ogbonaya Onu emerged, these are two different parties of different constitutions but also they realized that they were operating on the Nigerian soil which has a peculiar situation and therefore Olu Falae was collapsed, Onu was collapsed, the convention which was sacrosanct, which is the highest authority, had to be collapsed and they had to bring Shinkafi and Onu, they now brought somebody from the South-West, and that brought about Falae and Shinkafi.

Now we must never lose sense of history before arriving at where we are today. If, in 1999, if these parties had to cave in under an extreme necessity or doctrine of securing Nigeria, that means PDP was right and it will remain right and I am sure Nigerians do understand and so it is a matter of honor for PDP to stand by this particular arrangement.

The other part of the question is whether you will run?

I am already a governor here. So, I have no any particular inkling to be anything else".

Still on the rotationally Presidency, over the night, I stumbled on an interview granted by Obasanjo on the issue of the rotational presidency. He said there was never any arrangement like that and that Goodluck Jonathan has every right to contest for the 2011 election. Is it not a contradiction?

You see, to be honest, I haven't seen the interview you are talking about. I have not seen it and I don't know on which level I can trust you. Number two, if you are talking based on the provision of the Nigerian constitution, it is perfect. The Nigerian Constitution is very clear on the issue and, therefore, to that extent, he is right but then again, political parties have got their own peculiar arrangements for which they can win votes and you are free to come with anything which you think can make you capture power. That's all.



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

P.M.B 42, GOMBE

HEALTH SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT –II
OPP. OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, GOVT. HOUSE ROAD, GRA GOMBE
(World Bank Assisted Project)

Our ref: HSDP-II/ADM/30/VOL.1
Our ref:

Date: 5th May, 2010

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

COUNTRY: NIGERIA
PROJECT: GOMBE STATE HEALTH SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT II
PROCUREMENT OF FURNITURES
CREDIT NO. 4522-UNI
IFB NO. GMS/HSDP/II/NCB/GDS/01/2010
DATE: 5th MAY 2010, CONTRACT NO. HSDP/II/NCB/GOOD/01/2010

1. This invitation for Bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in This Day Vol. 14 No. 5092 of 1st April 2009
2. The Federal Government of Nigeria has received financing from the world bank towards the cost of Gombe Health System Development Project II, and it intends to apply part of the funds toward payments under the contract for procurement of Furniture, GMS/HSDP/II/NCB/GDS/01/2010
3. The Gombe Health System Development Project II now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the procurement of Furnitures as listed below:-
LOT 1. FURNITURE (PHC Complex)
Bid security: at least 3% of the bid price

LOT 2. FURNITURE (Staff Quarters) Bid security: at least 3% of the bid price

4. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the world Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits (current edition), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Bidding Document.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the address below:-
Gombe State Health System Development Project II
Opposite office of the Accountant General
Government House Road, G. R. A Gombe
Gombe State.
Tel: 072-221714, 222574, 08023505673, 08037678198
Email: gmshsdp 2@yahoo.co.uk
From 10:00 am prompt
6. Qualification requirements include: a copy of the company profile containing details of personnel and equipment, magnitude of jobs done in the last five years and the company must be duly registered and incorporated with appropriate legal body.
7. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Ten Thousand Naira only (N 10,000.00) or (\$75.76). the method of payment will be certified Bank draft or cash. Cash payment shall be paid to Gombe state Health System Development Project II Account No. 215430000346901 at Gombe Branch of Fin Bank Nigeria Plc. The document will be collected by hand or send by courier services on request.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before 10:00am, 2nd June 2010. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of bidders representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at 10:00am as indicated above for each lot.
9. All bids shall be accompanied by a bid security as indicated above for each lot. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below:-
Gombe state Health System Development Project II Conference Hall, Opposite Office Of The Accountant General, Government House Road, Gombe Gombe state of Nigeria by 10:00am on 2nd June 2010.

The Project Manager,
Health System Development Project II,
Opposite office of the Accountant General,
Government House Road,
G. R. A Gombe, Gombe state
Tel: 072-222574, 221714, 08036867992, 08023505673, 08037678198
Email: gmshsdp 2@yahoo.com

Alh. Mohammed Audi Waziri
(Project Manager)



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UMRAH AND HAJJ 2010, VISA (FOR UMRAH) AVAILABLE NOW

INSTALMENTAL PAYMENTS ACCEPTABLE FROM 1ST APRIL. 2010

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PACKAGE:

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PROCESSING FEES, TRANSPORTATION FROM JEDDA TO MAKKA -
MADINA-JIDDA, PLUS 4 STAR HOTEL IN MAKKA AND MADINA
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|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| i) ETHIOPIAN AIRLINE | - TAKING OFF FROM ABUJA |
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| iii) SAUDI ARABIAN AIRLINE | - TAKING OFF FROM KANO |
| iv) EMIRATE AIRLINE | - TAKING OFF FROM LAGOS |

3. AVERAGE COST OF A RETURNED TICKET TO JEDDA (ECONOMY) IS BETWEEN:

N330, 000 AND N360, 000.00 (BUSINESS CLASS) IS ABOUT
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4. INSTALMENTAL PAYMENTS FOR UMRAH AND HAJJ 2010

THOSE MAKING INSTALMENTAL PAYMENTS FOR UMRAH AND
HAJJ, SHOULD NOTE THAT LAST YEAR (2009) PACKAGES WERE AS
FOLLOWS:

- i) UMRAH (STANDARD) FOR RAMADHAN, N450,000 WHICH
MAY OR MAY NOT BE REVIEWED THIS YEAR.
- ii) HAJJ (STANDARD), N650,000 WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE
REVIEWED THIS YEAR.

5. INSTALMENTAL PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE THROUGH THE FOLLOWING BANK ACCOUNTS:

- i) ZENITH BANK: BAITIL-ATIQ UMRAH & HAJJ
ACCT. NO: 6211603571
- ii) SKYE BANK: BAITIL-ATIQ TRAVELS & TOURS,
ACCT. NO: 1041770016891

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES CONTACT:
BAITIL-ATIQ TRAVELS AND TOURS, PLOT 500B,
AJAM/ PLAZA, TAFAWA BALEWA WAY, BEHIND OPEN
UNIVERSITY, AREA 3, GARKI- ABUJA.

TELEPHONES: 08033109675, 08033119009, 08069744429, 08035434860,
07062159943, 08032050010



PEOPLES' DEMOCRATIC PARTY

KEBBI STATE CHAPTER

Email: pdpkebbi@yahoo.com

CONCERNED PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEMBERS OF KEBBI STATE

WHO WILL SAVE KEBBI PDP FROM DAKIN GARI?

1. We members of the above concerned group worried by the bitter fact that ever since the present Kebbi State's Governor Sa'idu Nasamu Dakingari was forced on the Peoples Democratic Party as its governorship candidate in 2007 and subsequently foisted on the entire state as its governor by Adamu Aliero, his predecessor in office, Kebbi has never been the same. The former Governor Mohammed Adamu Aliero might have done so in good faith believing Dakingari just the way Shakespeare's Julius Ceaser wrongly took Brutus for a gentleman on whom he built an absolute trust. For as Ceaser discovered the traitor in Brutus very late in the day, so also Aliero is now coming to face the reality that there is no art in the word to read the mind's construction in the face. As a fact, Aliero dragged Dakin Gari unto the states' political arena just a couple of weeks after the latter's resignation from the Nigeria Customs Service. And when Aliero, the generally acknowledge father of Kebbi politics was moving over to the PDP at the end of his tenure, he dragged Dakingari along and eventually ensured his emergence as governor. Unfortunately, three years afterwards, not only Aliero but the entire people of Kebbi state are feeling the sharp pangs of Dakingari's policy. On behalf of the people of Kebbi, we call on Adamu Aliero to own up and apologize to the people for his error of judgment in picking the wrong guy for the job.
 2. We are also worried that since his emergence as governor, Dakingari has relented no effort in sowing the seed of discord by so spreading mischief within the PDP and turning it consequences into personal gains. For instance, in a blind desperation to meet a fundamental condition for his continued marriage with the daughter of President Umaru Yar'adua. As if this is not bad enough, he engaged in a tireless campaign and spendthrift to confuse the states' PDP members and stir them against the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan whom he regards as personal enemy.
 3. It is equally an undisputable fact that the Kebbi people are a law-abiding and peace-loving lot. Unfortunately, this character trait too is reversing.
 4. Having met solid structures for the development of the state, Dakin Gari set out to destroy them all by first sacking the 21 elected local government executives and then unconstitutionally creating what he calls Development Area Councils. By this action he has deliberately enlarged the number of local councils from 21 to 47 which he manipulates for purposes of self-enrichment. He then recalled the sacked elected council chairmen and placed them in charge of caretaker committees so he can exact maximum undue control over their decisions.
 5. Dakingari must also be held responsible for the present hitch in the state having entrenched an alarming rate of financial indiscipline and discord among party members as a result of his personal disregard for party regulations and directives. He unilaterally and against the party's immediate and long-term interest dissolved the party's executive committee and appointed his cronies in their place at the expense of counter directives from the National Working Committee. This is not surprising because he has been known to publicly boast that he is now beyond reproach by virtue of his being the President's son-in-law.
 6. Part of Dakingari counter-productive measures to the PDP is his stubborn refusal to summon a meeting of stakeholders in the state to discuss and fashion out solution to common problems confronting the party in particular and the state in general.
 7. Worst of all is perhaps the bitter fact that Dakingari has imported thuggery into the hitherto peaceful political atmosphere of Kebbi state leading to an increasing level of insecurity due to rampant cases of attacks by armed political thugs.
 8. Given this dark scenario which grows darker with every passing day, it is now an obligation on all well-meaning PDP members to press for an urgent redress in order to avoid disappointment in the coming elections.
- We therefore call on His Excellency, the Acting President, Dr. Goodluck E. Jonathan, the National Leadership of our great party, the PDP and well-meaning religious community and party leaders to press on Dakingari to accept the supremacy of the party and restrain himself within the party norms or quit!

Signed:

Alhaji Saidu Musa Bagudo

Hajiya Talatu Gwandu

Mal. Yakubu Kamba

BUSINESS

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RMAFC: Tukur, 24 others complete tenure May 12

By Idris Ahmed

THE chairman of the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) Engineer Hamman Tukur and 24 other Federal Commissioners of the Commission will vacate office on May 12, after the completion of their two-term tenures.

Tukur and the affected Commissioners would have spent 10 years each by next week. They were appointed in 2000.

Three other Commissioners will also complete their two tenures by September. They are; Alhaji Ahmed Iliyasu (Bauchi), Alhaji Salihu Jega (Kebbi) and Alhaji Omokayode Anjorin (Lagos).

"It is from these Commissioners that the most senior will be asked to act as the Chairman till a new one is appointed", a source at the revenue office told our reporter.

About nine other Commissioners will have their appointments renewed after spending the first tenure of five-years, *Daily Trust* learnt.

The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and other enabling laws empower the Commission to: monitor the accruals into and disbursement of revenue from the Federation Account; review, from time to time, the revenue allocation formula and principles in operation to ensure conformity with changing realities.

The Commission was also empowered by the Constitution to advise the Federal, State and Local Governments on fiscal efficiency and methods by which their revenue is to be increased

It was to also determine the remuneration appropriate to political office holders and discharge such other functions as may be conferred on the Commission by the constitution or any Act of the National Assembly.



CHAIRMAN, RMAFC, Engineer Hamman Tukur

By statutory provisions the Commission is a member of the Federation Account Allocation Committee, Local Government Joint Accounts Allocation Committee, Joint Tax Board, Commission on Ecological Fund, and National Council on Statistics.

The enabling laws also empowered the Commission to demand and obtain regular and relevant information, data or returns from any Government Agency including the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation; Nigerian Customs Service, Federal Board of Inland Revenue, Central Bank of Nigeria, and the Federal Ministry of Finance.

BRIEF

Ecobank says 2009 pre-tax loss widens

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

NIGERIA'S Ecobank said yesterday its full year pre-tax loss widened to N5.94 billion from N898 million a year earlier. But gross earnings rose 9 percent to N59.9 billion in the same period, the bank - a subsidiary of pan-African bank Ecobank Transnational Inc (ETI) - said in a filing to the Nigerian Stock Exchange. The bank also said that it has tighten its loan process to ensure that only genuine investors have access to credit facility as it secured operating licenses in Dubai and China.

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) on intervention in the nation's banking sector had attributed the near collapsed of the sector to incessant granting of loans without cogent collateral, 60 per cent of which went into capital market and oil and gas sector. As a result, CBN had few days ago directed banks not to accept shares as collateral anymore. The managing director of Ecobank Nigeria Plc, Jubril Aku said in Lagos that the bank has tightened its noose to ensure that only genuine investors with strong commitment can secure credit facility from the bank.

STOCK MARKET INDEX

Date:	Tuesday, May 4, 2010
Index:	26,837.03
Deals:	6,668
Volume:	500,301,467
Value:	N 3,913,608,811.01
Cap.:	N6,491,218,324,699.11

TRUST INDEX

Inflation	11.8%
GDP	6.68%
Budget	N4.6tr
Ext. Reserves Acct	\$40.3bn
Excess Crude Acct	\$3.9bn
Poverty Ratio	54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	6%
Banks	24
Oil Price	\$84.3 a barrel
Power Supply	3,700MW
Oil output per day	2.6mbd
Broad Money Supply	N11,010,063.6m
Credit to Private Sector	N10,037,422.5m
Inter-Bank Rate	1.2000%
Treasury Bills	2.02%
Deposit Rate	7.51%
Prime Lending Rate	18.06%

S/N	NAME	STATE	EXPIRING DATE	S/N	NAME	STATE	EXPIRING DATE
1.	Hamman Adama Tukur		12th May 2010	20.	Chief John Mankilik	Plateau	"
2.	Barr. Chukwuemeka Wogu	Abia	"	21.	Engr. Isa Gaidam	Yobe	"
3.	Elder(Dr.) Effanga O. Inyang	A/Ibom	"	22.	Alh. Mohammed E. Enagi	Niger	"
4.	Mr. Sam Nebe Agumadu	Anambra	"	23.	Major. Gen. Orho Esio Obada	Delta	"
5.	Mr. Richard I. Asema	Benue	"	24.	Amb. Mohammad Jabbi Maradun	Zamfara	"
6.	Chief Dr. P.A. Nwankwo	Ebonyi	"	25.	Dr. Aliyu Bakha Kwali	FCT	"
7.	Chief Dr. Tom Ulok	Edo	"	26.	Alh. Ahmed Iliyasu	Bauchi	Nov. 2010
8.	Prince Adebisi Aledejana	Ekiti	"	27.	Alh. Salihu Jega	Kebbi	"
9.	Mr. Emmanuel O. Nnamani	Enugu	"	28.	Alh. Omokayode Anjorin	Lagos	"
10.	Amb. Sa'idu Mohammed	Gombe	"	29.	Barr. Frank Owhor	Rivers	More years to go
11.	Sen. Mohammed D. Alkali	Jigawa	"	30.	Alh. Aliyu Mohammed	Sokoto	---
12.	Alh. Yakubu Shehu	Kaduna	"	31.	Mr. Polycarp Azige	Nasawara	---
13.	Amb. Kabiru Rabiu	Kano	"	32.	Alh. Umar Abba Gana	Borno	---
14.	Alh. Abu Gidado. OFR	Katsina	"	33.	Rev. Fagboyegun Ajibola	Ondo	---
15.	Mr. Ignatius Amodu	Kogi	"	34.	Mr. Emmanuel Teri Vahyala	Adamawa	---
16.	Sen. Ahmed Baba Zuruq	Kwara	"	35.	Mr. Gangun Useni	Taraba	---
17.	Chief Adebayo Adeyemi	Ogun	"	36.	Mr. Nimitenbofa Dambo	Bayelsa	---
18.	Otumba Oladeji Ariyibi	Osun	"	37.	Dr. Casimir Anyanwu	Imo	---
19.	Sen. Ayantayo Ayandele	Oyo	"	38.	Mr. Bolaji A. Anani	C/Rivers	---

CBN EXCHANGE RATES			
28/4/2010	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.2802	0.2902	0.3002
DANISH KRONER	26.2418	26.3307	26.4196
EURO	195.3914	196.0533	196.7151
POUNDS STERLING	224.5443	225.3049	226.0655
RIYAL	39.3627	39.496	39.6293
SDR	222.3745	223.1278	223.881
SWISS FRANC	136.2093	136.6707	137.132
US DOLLAR	147.61	148.11	148.61
WAUA	222.2943	223.0473	223.8003
YEN	1.5546	1.5599	1.5651

Bureau de Change Rates	
BUYING	
Dollar	N151
Euro	N204
Pound	N234
SELLING	
Dollar	N152
Euro	N206
Pound	N236

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



Star Feature

When Ham made

The Tuk-Ham festival held recently in Kwoi, Kaduna State. **Sunday Williams** was present and covered the colourful event.

IT was a stunning 3rd of April, in Kwoi, headquarters of Jaba Local Government area in Kaduna state, as all the sons and daughters of Ham, together with visitors both from within and outside the country, trooped to the LEA Primary School Ngarshang for the 2010 Tuk-Ham cultural festival, which was adjudged to be one of the best in recent times.

The Tuk-ham festival is an annual event that celebrates the Ham (Jaba) rich cultural and traditional heritage, through music, dance and cultural expositions.

It brings together the best of dance, music, cultural displays, competitions, symposia and beauty pageants, from the Ham

community.

The traditional Ham cultural heritage takes its roots from the ancient Nok civilization which dates back to about 500 B.C, as evidenced by the discovery of the clay terracotta in Nok, and surrounding villages in Ham land.

Daily Trust learned that the Tuk-Ham cultural festival was hitherto celebrated by the Ham people as an ancestral religion, dating back to about 900 BC.

The main essence of the festival is to thank the Almighty for the past harvest season, and pray for the rains, as well for a bumper harvest in the forthcoming farming season.

As early as 9 am, the LEA Primary School Ngarshang, venue of the event, was filled to capacity, with dignitaries and the locals struggling for vantage positions, in order not to miss a glimpse of the dance and pomp that characterizes the event.

The essence of the festival was best captured by the Chairman of the occasion, one time Chief of Army and Defence staff, who is a son of the soil, General Martins Luther Agwai, when he said: "today is not a day for speech making, but for us to relax and enjoy our rich cultural heritage."

No sooner did he take his seat after the arrival of the Kaduna state Governor, Namadi Sambo, his deputy, Patrick Yakowa and their entourage, than the different contingents began to file out for the march past.

The event came to climax when some selected cultural



HUNTERS dance during the festival.

This museum is not only of interest to Kaduna state and Nigeria.

dance groups took to the stage, displaying different kinds of dance skills, to the admiration of

the guest and the entire crowd.

The high point of the dance session was when the Minister of state for power, Architect Nuhu Somo Wya went to the stage, not only to personally identify with the activities, but to display some dance skills with the traditional hunters dance group from his district.

The event turned dramatic when the state governor, Namadi Sambo, his deputy and other top state officials, all joined the minister on the stage, in admiration of the cultural display.

Little wonder that the Governor in his speech said: "The Ham people are noted for their industry and culture, which is at the heart of Nok civilization which dates back to about 500 BC. Kaduna state is proud to have such people who are known the world over for their historical relevance, that has assisted our peo-

ple in the ages past, and which still remains potent today."

He said in recognition of the significance of preserving the rich historical heritage, the



"THE main essence of the festival is to thank the Almighty for the past harvest season, and pray for the rains."



IAMSA: This Ham masquerade was present du

...merry

PIX: SUNDAY WILLIAMS



The government is going to ensure that the museum at Nok town, is developed to international standard. This museum is not only of interest to



ring the event.

Kaduna state and Nigeria, but also to the international community which has demonstrated a strong desire to help internationalize the events, and further popularize the terracotta, so as to be a basis for improvement of the tourism industry in Nigeria," he said.

The Governor recalled that about a year ago, he travelled to Germany with the Kpop Ham, where they exposed the rich cultures among the Ham people.

He added that they are also looking at the possibility of visiting the international gallery in the United Kingdom, so as to display the Ham rich culture.

Governor Namadi said tourism is an industry that helps to generate income and employment opportunities in many countries of the world, adding that countries such as Egypt, Israel, Kenya and many others, to a large extent depend on tourism as their major income earner.

In his own message, the Kpop Ham, His Royal Highness, Dr. Danladi Gyet Maude, said the Ham people with their neighboring Chiefdoms, are particularly happy, because there has not been a spillover effect from the disturbing situation in Plateau state.

To his subjects, the Kpop Ham expressed his appreciation for being able to form a National Development Association (HAMDA) for the first time with all elections successfully held, as he advocated at the 2004 Tuk-Ham cultural festival.

"Once again, I congratulate all elected officials. May I warn here however, that your responsibility is that of spear heading development of Hamland, and you should not be seen as competing with your district and village heads, in the administration of their various districts."

He urged the association not to concern itself with physical development only, but to embrace the challenge to tackle the disturbing youth unemployment in the area, in order to reduce youth restlessness that often threatens security.

"What I am saying is that the association should make contacts, whenever possible, to get these youth employed, either by government, private organizations, or create conditions for them to be self employed," he said.

He appealed to his subjects, who are mostly farmers, to gear up for the rainy season and take advantage of the state government's fertilizer initiative, which involves the private organiza-



"CULTURE, after sports, plays a very vital role in promoting unity."

tion, apart from the state and local government usual supply, to ensure that they purchase the product when the time comes.

He thanked the state governor for his efforts towards making easy availability of fertilizer to farmers, and for the efforts to link the ginger farmers in the area directly to consumers overseas.

In his speech, Jaba Local Government Chairman, Barister Suleiman said instead of being a centrifugal factor among nations, culture today promotes peaceful coexistence among human beings.

He said as political activities peaked for the 2011 elections, "may I plead that all should use our rich cultural heritage of love peace even in political discussions and pursuit."

The Chairman appealed to the state governor to construct some feeder roads that will link neighbouring villages to Kwoi town and other environs, in order to boost the economic activities of the area.

As the activities for the 2010 Tuk-Ham cultural festival came to an end, some of the visitors and natives that spoke to *Daily Trust* expressed their satisfaction for the organization of the event.

For Hon. Godfrey Ali Gaya, Member Representing Jaba/Zangon Kataf in the House of Representatives, this year's Ham day is a big plus compared to last years, both in terms of the calibre of people, and the organizational arrangement.

As a Ham son, he has this to say, "I'm very proud because this is a day that every other Ham son from different parts of the world seek to come home, so it has created an avenue for the formal coming together of Ham sons and daughters, with a renewed friendship, brotherhood, and zest to work for the good of Ham land."

Hon. Gaiya said culture after sports plays a very vital role in promoting unity, as evidenced by the crowd that turn out from different parts of the country and beyond to enjoy the good-

ness of Ham cultural display.

"If people can come from far and wide just to be part of this kind of cultural celebration, I think that will be a tonic that we need to appreciate each other as a nation. Our difference is in our diversity, and the more people come to appreciate the way you are and learn about you, the more they respect and tolerate you. So I think this kind of festival will augur well for peace and harmony in the country," he said.

Also speaking to *Daily Trust*, a tourist from Hungary, Andras Csicseri who was busy with his camera, said he learned about the event through the internet.

"As someone who believes and delights in learning about different cultures, especially in Africa, I have no regrets being here because I'm impressed with the displays," the tourist said.

So I think this kind of festival will augur well for peace and harmony in the country."



ANOTHER dance group performs.

Business

SIM card registration: A policy dead on arrival?

By Zakariyya Adaramola

HAJIA Folake, who runs a small restaurant in a shack in Abuja's Jabi Motor Park, has lost count of number of telephone lines she has used since Nigeria's mobile telephony took off in 2001. She has never done a 'SIM swap' or 'Welcome Back', a system that allows mobile phone users to keep their numbers even when they lose their phones.

In a country where a subscriber could simply buy a new SIM (Subscriber Identity Module) pack on the streets, going through the hassle of doing a 'SIM Swap' or 'Welcome Back' just does not make any economic sense – it costs more money and the red tape involved does not make things any easier either.

"What I do whenever I lose my phone is just to rush to the market and obtain another GSM line and phone," Folake says.

"I simply don't have the time to start going to GSM operator's office to retrieve any lost line and I certainly can't spare the extra cash."

But she does not know that starting 1 May 2010, SIM Packs will no longer be available on Nigerian streets. Or so, the government hopes. Under a new SIM Card registration policy, the state-owned telephony regulator, the NCC hopes to compile a database of all mobile phone users in the country by ensuring that new subscriptions, starting 1 May 2010 supply key information about themselves before new phone lines could be sold to them.

And that is only a part of the problem.

"Are they saying that we are not going to buy SIM cards in the market again? Folake challenged, irritation evident in her voice. "Why did they say that? I don't think the plan will work because a lot of us are not aware and we have not been told anything to that effect by the government," she said.

For Abdullah Adamu, 38, a roving date trader in Abuja, the only item of literature in his entire house in Kubwa, a suburb on the Western outskirts of Nigeria's capital, is the user's guide leaflet that came with his mobile line when he bought it a few years ago. He is neither able to read nor write.

Apart from her name and, probably, her home and shop addresses, Mrs Beatrice Andrew, who runs a roadside bean cake restaurant in Abuja's Area one, does not have any form of legal identification document.

She has not been given her national identity card even though she registered for it some years ago. And she does not believe that as a Nigerian, she ought to have her data registered by the government, anyway.

Folake, Adamu and Andrew are

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC)'s new SIM card registration scheme, which seeks to make registration of all SIM cards in the country compulsory before activation effective from May 1, may not see the light of the day given the telecoms operators' attitude towards it and the subscribers' lack of awareness.



MANY Nigerians are not aware of the SIM cards registration

only three out of, probably, millions of other Nigerians who may find it difficult to comply with the new government directive that all SIM Cards be registered in the country, with effect from May 1, 2010, for the simple reason that they may not be able to supply any valid identification documents to be able to register for the new scheme as being demanded by NCC. This is apart from the fact that most Nigerians mobile phone users are not even aware of the new SIM registration scheme.

NCC, in December last year, directed all telecoms companies operating in the country to put all necessary arrangements in place for the smooth take off of the SIM registration, which is aimed at improving security in the country. It said valid identification documents like E- Passports, corporate/company or work place identity cards that contain Pension Identification /Tax Numbers, student ID cards from recognized institutions as well drivers' license issued by the Federal Road Safety Commission, (FRSC) and E-Tax cards, would be required for those seeking registration of their SIM cards.

But since December when the commission announced the new scheme and pegged the deadline for registration on March 1 and later shifted it to May 1, many subscribers believed that NCC has done virtu-

ally nothing to raise awareness on new scheme and how it would be carried out.

"With effect from May 1, 2010, all new SIM Cards in Nigeria must be registered before activation" the NCC said in a statement earlier in March. "The NCC, in exercise of its regulatory functions as provided for by the Nigerian Communications Act (NCA) 2003, wishes to inform the general public and all the relevant stakeholders that arrangements have been concluded for the commencement of registration of all SIM Card Holders in Nigeria.

"The registration process will include the capture of the photograph and biometrics of the subscriber. Proxy registration shall be restricted to the direct families of persons seeking registration. The Commission has directed all telecom operating companies to put all necessary arrangements in place for the smooth take off of the exercise."

What this means is that all prepaid SIM cards would be mandated to have their ownership details registered with the network operators, starting last weekend. The registration process, according to NCC, commenced last Saturday and expected to last for another six months. After the period ends, non-registered SIM cards will be shut out of Nigeria's mobile networks.

NCC said further "The SIM card registration is in line with com-

plaints that the commission had gotten that mobile phones are used to aid crimes and government has instructed the commission to adopt a mode to help stop crime."

"Nigeria does not have an effective database and that is why we think six months is enough to cover the six geo-political zones in the country and even get to the local government areas," the commission said.

But *Daily Trust* gathered that the SIM cards registration scheme may suffer hitches as most Nigerian telecoms subscribers have none of the documents NCC requires for the SIM registration. Also, many subscribers are not aware of the new directive and those who are aware do not know how to go about it. While others who are learned fear that the new measure may be misused by the security agents to invade their privacy in the name of 'national security'.

Also, subscribers and the telecoms operators are pessimistic about whether the process will be well conducted. While some are saying the country is not ripe for that, many other believe the scheme may be marred by corruption. They say public officials may see the new scheme as an avenue to pilfer government funds.

Telecoms operators believe the scheme will reduce their revenue as the sales of SIM cards will now be regulated. *Daily Trust* investigations reveal that the plan seems not to go down well with some telecom operators, who although appreciated the NCC plan as a good development in the telecom sector, but expressed fears that the implementation would cut down SIM sales. There are concerns too that the scheme would cut down the volume of calls that would have originated from the sales of those SIM cards.

Apart from an operator, all other GSM companies have done nothing in respect of the NCC new SIM regime. The operator, *Daily Trust* can reveal, has called almost all its subscribers to ask for their data in readiness for the SIM registration. Other telecom operators who spoke to *Daily Trust* in confidence say they generate a lot of money from direct sales of SIM cards on the streets and express fears that such hawking would stop with the implementation of SIM card registration, as Nigerians would no longer want to patronize the street SIM hawkers for fear that they might not be able to activate the lines.

With SIM card registration, they

said, the authorized dealer who sells SIM cards will have to get security details of every buyer and forward such details to the operating company who must register the details against the SIM card before activating it. This, they said, will limit their sales as the process seems too cumbersome for Nigerians who seem always in haste to get things done.

Daily *Trust* gathered that operators have already begun clandestine moves to scuttle the SIM registration scheme. They have made several efforts, including pressuring the Senate Committee on Information to convince the NCC management to discard the new scheme. They are also trying hard to buy over some industry experts to their side with the hope that they could lobby for them. They believe that once they get these people on their side, they can together confront the NCC on why it should drop the idea.

"Our experience in this industry has shown that operators always resist anything that will cost them extra money, even when they believe in it and they believe that it is necessary because they are always looking at the bottom line, they want to maximize their profit," Acting Executive Vice Chairman of NCC, Engr. Stephen Bello told newsmen last week.

"The same thing happened [when we introduced] per second billing. We have been on this thing and we have given enough time to get ready, all the issues have been discussed, we have had many meetings so the issue of publicity we are addressing it immediately so we are maintaining our stand that SIM card registration will start on the 1st of May unflinchingly."

Bello concedes that some of the concerns of the operators were valid and as a result, the NCC was allowing a three-month transition period for them to deal with any issues arising from the implementation of the new policy.

Daily Trust gathered that the new scheme has been intended purposely to track down criminals bent on using phones to commit crimes.

The process will provide a database of market information of mobile phones technology in the country thus ending arguments as to which operator is the real market leader. It will also help combat phone theft because it will be easier to trace the SIM-card and the phone.

Whether this would turn out to be another failure remains to be seen as the entire process seems not to have been thoroughly thought-through. Most of Nigeria's 78 million mobile phone users do not understand it and others just couldn't be bothered to sign up for it.

Business

PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE



FROM right: Managing Consultant, VSL CONSULTING Mr. Ubadigbo Okonkwo, Guest of Honour, Executive Director, Bank of Industry Ltd Alhaji Mohammed G. Alkali, Manager, Nigerian Export-Import Bank and Principal Consultant, VSL Consulting Mr. Eric Mbanefo, during the opening ceremony of a workshop on Credit Appraisal and Monitoring for Development Finance Institutions held in Abuja, recently.

First Bank to form group holding company

FIRST Bank Plc said it plans to form a listed holding company which will own the bank and its subsidiaries to comply with reforms to the sector planned by the central bank.

Chief Strategy Officer Onche Ugbabe said the bank would likely be de-listed to be replaced on the stock exchange by the group holding company. He gave no timeframe.

"The group holding company will be the listed entity and will be 100 percent owner of the

bank, as well as of the other subsidiaries," Ugbabe told an investor conference call.

Central Bank Governor Lamido Sanusi has said he intends to do away with the universal banking model and separate banks' core lending business from more speculative capital market activities -- such as stockbroking, asset management, private equity and venture capital.

First Bank is one of Nigeria's first lenders to clarify how it

plans to comply with the central bank's reform agenda. Others have said they plan to spin off subsidiaries but have not yet given details.

Chief Risk Officer Remi Odunlami said First Bank was targeting 10 percent growth in its loan book this year, with the focus on long-term credit.

"We have a liquidity ratio of 45 percent which means we have excess liquidity and that will be channelled to loans," Odunlami told the call. (Reuters)

Court convicts one over fake tax clearance

By Atika Balal

AN Abuja Federal High Court has convicted a man found guilty of conspiring and counterfeiting a Companies Income Clearance Tax Certificate.

Frederick Sunday and one other Chucks Onyeabor appeared before the court to answer to a 5 count charge proffered against them by the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS).

Both men are alleged to have conspired to issue counterfeits of Companies Income Tax Clearance Certificate to two different people for N30,000 each.

They are also alleged to have forged the signature of one Akinfenwa J.A, a tax controller at the FIRS, Abuja for the verification of a purpose related to the issuance of the forged Certificates.

Frederick, who pleaded guilty on all 5 counts, has been sentenced to one month in prison for Count 1 or an option of N5, 000 and two months in prison for the other four counts or an option of N15, 000 for each count.

Earlier counsel to Frederick, CPS Maloka had asked the court to temper justice with mercy as his client was a first time offender and has profusely expressed regret for his actions.

The court however granted bail to Chucks Onyeabor who pleaded not guilty to all 5 counts.

Even though Prosecutor James Binang opposed to the application for bail on the grounds that there is a likelihood that more charges will be filed against Onyeabor, Justice D.U Okorowo said the court is allowed to grant bail to an accused person when the offence

committed is not capital offence.

Justice Okorowo granted him bail in the sum of N100 million with two sureties in like sum. One of the sureties must be a director with the federal civil service. The sureties must be guaranteed by Counsel to the accused.

One of the sureties must also own a landed property within the jurisdiction of the court, certificate of which shall be verified and confirmed by AGIS and original deposited to the court. The sureties must also deposit two passports each with the court.

While granting an application made by the Prosecutor for accelerated hearing, Justice Okorowo adjourned to May 5 and 7 for trial. Meanwhile he ordered that Onyeabor be remanded in prison custody until his bail conditions are met.

Tax professionals laud restrictions on tax consultants

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

THE Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN) commended the National Economic Council's directive that states and local governments discontinue the use of tax consultants or collectors, most of whom are best described as contractors.

The circular seeks to empower the States' Boards of Internal Revenue and Local Government Revenue Committees to carry out their statutory duties in line with the laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

In a letter addressed to the Acting President, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan and signed by its president and chairman of council, Prince R. Kunle Quadri, a copy made available to newsmen, CITN noted that the decision "has given the political backing to our Institute's insistence that the only way to bring out the best in the tax administration is to professionalize the tax system by ensuring autonomy for the tax authorities."

It also said "professionalized tax administration that is fully autonomous would not only attract the right calibre of staff and equipment but would also translate to increase in Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) which would in turn enable the states to be less dependent on the Federal Government for the delivery of dividends of democracy."

It said that Tax Consultants are best engaged in other areas such as manpower training; installation and maintenance of information technology facility; conduct tax enumeration of tax payers; and updating and codification of tax laws.

They can also be engaged on data gathering (not assessment and collection) where the service would not be able to meet up with the number of taxpayers; and conduct complex tax audits rather than routine and simple tax audit. The Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria therefore calls on the States' Executives to observe the tax laws to the letter in their administration of tax.

...To inaugurates society for women in taxation

By Idris Ahmed

THE Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN) will inaugurate the Society for Women in Taxation (SWIT) tomorrow, a sub-unit of CITN designs to encourage participation of more women in taxation.

SWIT is an arm of CITN with special focus on the professional abilities and achievement of women in taxation, the pioneer National Chairperson of SWIT Mrs. Justina Okoror said at a press conference yesterday in Abuja.

She said that in Nigerian society those affected most by tax policies are women who most times are at the lowest point of the economic ladder.

"It is therefore important that they must have a voice and be heard loud and clear on issues that affects them in this sector. Indeed tax governance in Nigeria must be made to be friendlier toward the female gender", she said.

Private sector demands immediate disbursement of textile funds

By Sunday Williams

THE Organized Private Sector (OPS) has called for the immediate and transparent disbursement of the N100 billion textile funds as well as N500 billion facilities for the real sector and power development.

They also want the government to intervene in terms of assessing the N200 billion Guarantee Scheme for Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

This was made known when the group met with the minister of Commerce and Industry Senator Jubril Martins Kuye in Abuja, a statement from the Chief Press Secretary to minister Udo Akpan said.

The group pleaded for the abrogation of Cargo Tracking Fees introduced by Nigeria Port Authority (NPA).

The Organized Private Sector also requested for the government's intervention on the Bank of Industry (BOI) stringent conditions for accessing their facilities especially on the Machinery Financing Scheme and advocated for specialized Bank for Small and Medium Scale industries.

They enumerated their challenges to include power, rail and road transport. Other problems includes access to funds, influx of foreign goods and sub standards products, multiple taxations, high port charges, cargo tracking levy, high lending rate, inadequate arrangement for the campaign for Patronage of Made in Nigeria Products among others.

The minister of Commerce and Industry Senator Jubril Martins Kuye said that most of the challenges that are facing the sector do not reside with his Ministry. He said the ministry has to interface with other Ministries and agencies of government such as ministries of finance, petroleum and power, the Nigerian Customs Service to solve the problems.

Business/International



A suspected pirate skiff is seen in the sea near Somalia's northern port town of Bossaso, June 16, 2009.

Somali pirates hijack Yemeni cargo ship

SOMALI pirates have seized a cargo vessel off the coast of Yemen, and are believed to be holding the crew of nine Yemeni sailors, Yemen's Defence Ministry website said yesterday.

The Yemeni ship was captured by the Somali pirates after setting sail from the Yemeni port of Mukalla on its way to the port of Aden, the Interior Ministry said, without saying what the ship was carrying or when it was seized.

Yemen's coast guard said it had information indicating that the vessel was being held at a northern Somali port. The coast guard was now making efforts to get the ship released, said the Defence Ministry website.

Heavily armed Somali pirates have increased their attacks in recent months, making tens of millions of dollars in ransoms by hijacking ships in the Indian Ocean and the strategic Gulf of Aden, through which an estimated 7 percent of world oil consumption passes. (Reuters)

Guinea opposition says Vale iron deal invalid

GUINEA'S opposition will not recognise last week's \$2.5 billion purchase by Brazilian mining giant of iron ore assets if it wins an election due in June, a prominent Guinean opposition figure said yesterday.

Mamadou Bah Baadikko, president of the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) in Guinea, also said a 2006 oil

production sharing contract signed with U.S.-listed Hyperdynamics Corp was also invalid.

"We consider these accords null and void," Baadikko said in a telephone interview from Paris, arguing that in each case the assets had originally been distributed to the private sector in conditions that were not trans-

parent.

Guinea is due to hold an election on June 27. It is being run by a caretaker government after soldiers who seized control of the West African nation in December 2008 agreed in January this year to hand back power to civilians. (Reuters)

S/Africa's jobless rate at 25.2% in Q1

SOUTH Africa's official jobless rate rose to 25.2 percent of the labour force in the first quarter of 2010, from 24.3 percent in the fourth quarter, a report showed yesterday.

In its latest quarterly Labour Force Survey, Statis-

tics South Africa said the total number of unemployed people stood at 4.31 million in the three months to March.

It said the number of employed people fell by 171,000 people to 12.803 million.

The expanded definition

of unemployment, which includes people who have stopped looking for work, increased to 35.4 percent from 34.2 percent, with 153,000 people giving up looking for work in the first three months of 2010. (Reuters)

Sub Saharan Africa recovery strengthens: World Bank

SUB-SAHARAN Africa will grow by up to 4.2 percent in 2010, after expansion of 1.7 percent last year, helped by booming telecoms and commodity sectors, a senior World Bank official said yesterday.

Earlier World Bank forecasts projected growth of 3.8 percent this year before reaching 4.6 percent in 2011.

Every country needs to reform all important sectors of the economy.

"The continent is now focused on the rebound for growth and should be posting between 3.8 to 4.2 percent in 2010," Obiageli Ezekwesili, the bank's vice president for Africa, told Reuters.

"But she cautioned the reform of key economic sectors would be pivotal to increasing global competitiveness and sustaining higher growth rates.

"Essentially, policy reform related improvements will be the sine qua non for sustaining the growth, so every country needs to reform all important sectors of the economy," Ezekwesili said in an interview in the Ugandan capital

Kampala.

She said many of the region's economies would benefit from boosting private sector involvement in key sectors.

"Reform your agriculture sector, reform your energy sector, reform your financial services, reform your transportation sector, deregulate certain aspects of the economy where there's lack of private sector activity and then you would really raise opportunities for growth."

Investing in the agricultural sector's productivity would have a positive impact on the broadest section of the region's population, she said. (Reuters)

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Business/International

BP shares hit seven-month low after oil spill

BP shares have hit a seven-month low as concerns grow about the cost of cleaning up a massive oil spill off the Louisiana coast in the Gulf of Mexico.

Shares fell 25 pence, or 4.3 percent, to 550.6p in early trading. They have now plunged more than 15 percent since the explosion on the rig two weeks ago.

Yesterday, the company said it had started drilling a new relief well to stem the flow of oil into the sea.

BP has admitted full responsibility for cleaning up the spill. It has refused to accept blame for the accident, however, as the failed equipment that caused the explosion were owned and operated by drilling firm Transocean.

Transocean shares have fallen more than 20 percent since the explosion. BP has said it will pay for the clean-up operation, but observers expect the company to ask for compensation from Transocean.

BP said the new well would intercept the existing well and permanently seal it.

It added the drilling is estimated to take three months. "At the same time, we are continuing with our efforts to stop the leak and control the oil at the seabed, to tackle the oil offshore, and to protect the shoreline through a massive effort together with government agencies and local communities," said BP's chief executive Tony Hayward. (BBC)

Russian investors open first Uganda gold refinery

UGANDA yesterday opened its first gold refinery, hoping to tap into processing the precious metal from neighbouring producing countries.

The refinery, established by Russian-owned Victoria Gold Star Limited, has a capacity to process 1.2 tonnes of raw gold per month, the company's managing director told Reuters.

Yuri Bogoroditskiy said the company was attracted to Uganda because of its location and relative political stability.

"Uganda is at the centre of the producers of gold: eastern DR Congo, Tanzania, Rwanda and Kenya," Bogoroditskiy said.

"When we considered this to the fact that Uganda has a stable political system and supportive investment policies then we decided it was the best country to establish the refinery."

The east African economy's mineral industry is underdeveloped, characterised by small scale miners mainly involved in gold and cobalt, the leading mineral exports.

Earnings from the resources reached a high of \$88 million in 2007 before slumping to \$52 million in 2008.

The country exported 1.66 tonnes of gold in 2008, earning \$35 million from 3.56 tonnes and earned \$75 million in 2007, according to a 2008 government report.

The government welcomed the new refinery and called on miners, goldsmiths and mineral dealers to support it.

66 The country exported 1.66 tonnes of gold in 2008, earning \$35 million from 3.56 tonnes and earned \$75 million in 2007.



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Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
ADSWITCH PLC	5	2.00	270,000	539,497.00
CAPITAL OIL PLC	9	0.52	132,905	66,452.50
SECTOR Totals				
AGRICULTURE				
FTN COCOA PROC. PLC	30	0.96	1,483,294	1,423,962.24
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	32	0.86	547,699	468,968.85
OKOMU OIL PALM COY PLC	54	16.75	2,593,404	43,439,517.00
PRESKO PLC	7	7.79	53,750	399,375.00
SECTOR Totals				
AIR SERVICES				
AIRLINE SERVICES & LOG. PLC	50	4.12	1,369,000	5,642,960.00
NIG. AVIAT. HAND. COY PLC	53	12.65	254,411	3,218,299.15
SECTOR Totals				
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
R. T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	21	5.98	375,247	2,227,803.64
SECTOR Totals				
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	203	9.67	18,010,754	171,456,826.13
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	117	2.40	7,019,172	16,170,445.20
DIAMOND BANK PLC	95	8.40	5,657,817	46,460,897.78
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	106	5.23	3,371,366	18,100,253.51
FIRST CITY MON. BANK PLC	36	8.11	5,050,941	40,578,575.16
FIDELITY BANK PLC	121	2.98	8,462,168	25,217,260.64
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	487	14.37	7,622,880	109,540,785.60
FINBANK PLC	50	0.63	4,800,917	3,023,287.71
GTBANK PLC	510	18.23	18,842,054	347,981,343.52
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	30	9.43	1,326,050	12,504,651.50
INTERCONT. BANK PLC.	56	1.71	731,051	1,250,037.21
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	90	1.89	2,346,883	4,378,503.71
BANK PHB PLC	55	1.42	1,442,092	2,045,295.54
SKYE BANK PLC.	146	7.87	8,729,102	67,687,044.95
SPRING BANK PLC	11	0.98	430,053	422,561.98
STERLING BANK PLC	30	2.03	930,181	1,888,267.43
UNT. BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	207	12.35	24,045,196	296,958,170.60
UNION BANK OF NIG. PLC	109	5.91	648,471	3,840,702.78
UNITYBANK PLC	32	1.08	7,195,846	7,558,425.70
WEMA BANK PLC	32	1.15	8,337,672	9,581,397.41
ZENITH BANK PLC	377	15.36	85,650,146	1,321,562,361.24
SECTOR Totals				
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	111	22.00	3,241,6037	1,470,957.20
BENUE CEMENT COY PLC	67	64.62	497,044	32,140,104.22
CEM. CO. OF N/NIGERIA PLC	47	20.18	1,299,368	26,221,246.24
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	74	41.16	1,906,262	77,629,888.00
SECTOR Totals				
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC	20	8.33	125,758	1,011,094.53
CHEM/ALLIED PROD. PLC	12	31.15	31,914	1,043,587.80
DN MEYER PLC	18	5.27	475,613	2,506,480.51
SECTOR Totals				
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC	8	4.04	147,345	585,673.80
PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	32	30.66	211,091	6,460,697.41
TRANS. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	38	0.51	3,063,622	1,542,428.65
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	42	52.82	249,845	13,196,420.40
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	48	27.50	435,880	11,781,717.14
SECTOR Totals				
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	34	8.37	235,046	2,063,703.88
JULIUS BERGER NIG. PLC	21	53.01	42,125	2,318,763.50
MULTIVERSE RES. PLC	8	0.50	3,035,000	1,517,500.00
SECTOR Totals				
FOOD/BEV. & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	15	42.42	1,379,673	58,644,719.60
BIG TREAT PLC	54	0.83	4,143,910	3,680,840.31
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	100	24.79	1,926,696	46,948,419.42
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	276	22.82	6,852,348	156,369,601.36
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	107	19.59	1,640,425	31,979,830.70
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	76	71.20	646,013	46,100,941.05
HO/WELL FLOUR MILL PLC	34	8.55	655,083	5,589,074.75
NATIONAL SALT COY NIG. PLC	11	8.88	147,172	1,306,887.36
NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC	31	34.63	628,983	22,255,320.68
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	43	314.00	71,221	22,453,518.79
N/NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC	13	37.19	106,568	3,963,263.92
TANTALIZERS PLC	5	1.18	140,000	165,200.00
UNION DICON SALT PLC	1	4.67	3,400	15,878.00
UTC NIGERIA PLC	5	1.45	163,419	236,957.55
SECTOR Totals				
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	26	1.62	998,978	1,531,887.86
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	78	3.00	3,602,308	10,804,561.31
GLAXOSM. CONS. NIG. PLC	22	21.89	414,412	9,071,478.68
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	28	7.98	132,766	1,053,299.18
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	9	3.24	110,954	341,738.32
UN/DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	30	0.75	7,722,163	5,791,622.25
SECTOR Totals				
HOTEL & TOURISM				
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	24	2.40	734,378	1,805,070.00

SECTOR Totals				
INDUSTRIAL/DOM. PROD.				
ALUMACO PLC	2	8.57	3,000	24,450.00
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	8	10.73	144,586	1,516,633.43
NIG. ENAMELWARE PLC	1	45.32	60,000	2,719,200.00
FIRST ALUM. NIGERIA PLC	1	0.51	2,000	1,000.00
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	17	6.50	108,680	719,322.92
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	5	0.52	103,500	53,875.00
SECTOR Totals				
INF. & COMM. TECH.				
CHAMS PLC	13	0.84	1,338,630	1,124,449.20
STARCOMMS PLC	56	2.12	13,390,577	27,305,415.36
SECTOR Totals				
INSURANCE				
AICO INSURANCE PLC.	47	1.47	4,142,231	6,089,079.57
CONTINENTAL REINS. PLC	15	1.42	1,650,000	2,342,250.00
CORNERSTONE INS. CO. PLC	12	0.78	2,423,546	1,890,365.88
CUST/ALLIED INSUR. PLC	9	3.55	3,197,317	11,944,350.35
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	3	0.50	75,014,000	37,507,000.00
GREAT NIG. INS. COY PLC	5	0.50	550,000	275,000.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	19	0.80	1,394,681	1,094,274.80
GUARANTY TRUST ASS. PLC	48	2.75	8,195,941	22,342,446.23
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	2	0.50	60,000	30,000.00
CONS. HALLM. INS. PLC	14	0.50	2,038,609	1,020,924.50
INT. ENERGY INS. COY PLC	72	0.61	19,637,575	11,807,823.51
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	42	0.50	8,129,150	4,112,950.57
LAW UNION & ROCK INS. PLC	28	0.57	4,222,357	2,524,458.20
MUTUAL BEN. ASSUR. PLC	44	0.52	6,533,084	3,449,623.68
N.E.M. INS. CO. (NIG.) PLC.	31	0.59	4,436,683	2,616,522.97
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	15	1.14	1,305,000	1,494,000.00
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	4	3.81	15,500	61,995.00
SOV. TRUST INSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	115,000	57,500.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	57	0.54	9,407,253	5,072,503.15
STAND. ALLIANCE INS. PLC	19	0.56	569,640	324,944.80
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	9	0.80	422,159	337,727.20
UNITY CAPITAL ASSUR. PLC	1	0.60	2,000	1,140.00
UNIVERSAL INS. COY PLC	2	0.50	50,000	25,000.00
IN/CONT. WAPIC INS. PLC	8	0.97	175,040	162,551.60
SECTOR Totals				
MARITIME				
JAP/OIL & MAR. SERV. PLC	53	1.62	1,013,739	1,642,257.18
SECTOR Totals				
MEDIA				
DAAR COMMUNIC. PLC	44	1.09	453,850	472,854.00
SECTOR Totals				
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ASO SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	93	0.51	25,040,174	12,930,806.18
RESORT SAV. & LOANS PLC	6	0.50	2,413,000	1,206,500.00
UN/HOM. SAV. & LOANS PLC	30	0.93	2,542,936	2,312,865.16
SECTOR Totals				
OTHER FINANCIAL INST.				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC.	6	0.93	1,574,174	1,463,981.82
D/CAPIT. MAN. & TRUST PLC	2	2.02	1,500	3,030.00
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	12	0.76	276,614	217,124.62
SECTOR Totals				
PACKAGING				
NIG. BAG MANUF. COY PLC	51	3.18	817,619	2,600,028.42
BETA GLASS CO. PLC	1	15.20	10,000	144,400.00
NAMPAK NIGERIA PLC	4	6.01	50,000	285,500.00
SECTOR Totals				
PETROLEUM (MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	58	40.60	138,833	5,623,760.46
BECO PETROL. PROD. PLC	25	1.63	757,834	1,235,710.72
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	15	69.79	18,706	1,370,588.62
CONOIL PLC	32	53.33	254,413	13,614,394.67
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	32	7.60	1,245,166	9,492,265.94
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	8	175.99	27,869	4,659,696.80
OANDO PLC	166	120.00	1,056,201	127,240,148.31
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC 20	195.00	86.370	17,589,421	21.00
SECTOR Totals				
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	24	9.46	258,224	2,503,068.64
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	12	7.50	303,000	2,272,500.00
SECTOR Totals				
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROP. DEV. CO. PLC	20	24.91	566,115	14,045,668.15
SECTOR Totals				
REAL ESTATE INV. TRUST				
SKYE SHELTER FUND	1	100.00	1,000	100,000.00
SECTOR Totals				
ROAD TRANSPORTATION				
ASSOCIATED BUS COY PLC	11	1.10	189,890	208,181.00
SECTOR Totals				
TEXTILES				
UNITED NIGERIA TEXT. PLC	1	1.42	1,150	1,633.00
SECTOR Totals				
THE FOREIGN LISTINGS				
ECOBANK TRANSN. INCORP	50	19.02	3,649,591	70,424,599.96
SECTOR Totals				
OVERALL Totals				

What is Buy-In
If a broker fails to deliver securities sold to another broker on the settlement date, the receiving broker may buy the securities at the current market price of the stock and charge the delivering broker the cost difference of such a purchase.

Googl

GAINERS	
UACN	2.51
UAC-PROP	1.18
CADBURY	1.18
DANGFLOUR	1.08

LOSERS	
CONOIL	2.80
FLOURMILL	2.79
ENAMELWA	2.38
NNFM	1.95

DIGEST

Are your headaches caused by flat feet?



RACHEL Smith: Suffered headaches, bunions and back pain

COUNTRY walks or strolling through Central London used to be Rachel Smith's favourite way of relaxing at weekends. But then the 37-year-old began to suffer 'wild headaches' that forced her to go home and lie down in a darkened room. 'The headaches would come on almost every weekend,' says Rachel, a senior local government manager. 'I'd take painkillers, but usually the only thing that helped was to lie down. It was very frustrating. I'm young and active, but all I could do was go to bed and wait for the pain to ease.' It was only when she sought help for a back problem that the unexpected source of both her back pain and headaches was identified: Rachel's feet.

Like one in five adults in the UK, Rachel has flat feet. While most sufferers experience no real problems, Rachel is one of the many thousands who suffer headaches and other problems as a result of the effect that flat feet have on your posture.

'With every step we take, we load our body weight through our feet,' explains Rina Bimbashi, a podiatrist at the London Foot & Ankle Centre. 'If you have flat feet, you are likely to be rolling in with each step, so your muscles are working harder and longer to keep your body stable.'

'This can set off a chain reaction, from the calf muscles up the leg to the knee and thigh, through to the abdomen and lower back. Consequently, you have poor posture and very tight, over-worked muscles.'

Poor posture is linked to approximately one in four severe headaches, says Dr Mark Weatherall, a neurologist at the Princess Mary Migraine Clinic at Charing Cross Hospital, a leading specialist centre. 'Our feet are what ground us, so if someone has severely flat feet then the whole body is likely to become out of kilter. 'Severe posture-related headaches or migraines are triggered when the brain is unable to process all the signals it is being sent.'

'For some people, the trigger

“Our feet are what ground us, so if someone has severely flat feet then the whole body is likely to become out of kilter”

may be an overload of sensory signals from lights. For others, it may be connected to poor posture.

'The muscles in all parts of the body are constantly sending information to the brain about what they are doing, and signals from overloaded muscles can disturb the brain. The brain then releases chemicals which cause blood vessels around it to expand and become inflamed - and it is this process that causes the throbbing

pain.' Dr Weatherall says that as many as 170,000 Britons will be suffering a severe headache on any single day, with many of them posture-related. In fact, headaches are not the only problem caused by the structure of the feet, says Rina Bimbashi.

Other problems include 'mystery' back, knee and pelvic pain. 'Many patients have seen a succession of health professionals who have focused on the particular area where the pain is felt, rather than the mechanics of the whole body,' she adds.

Martin Klinke, consultant orthopaedic surgeon at the London Foot & Ankle Centre, explains: 'there are three characteristics of flat feet. the obvious feature is that the arch is very low, or there is no arch at all. The heel also rolls inwards, while the top of the foot rotates outwards.'

'People may have one, two or all three of these features of flat foot, with different degrees of severity.' For many people, flat feet run in the family and the condition is obvious from childhood. others may be born with lax ligaments, causing the foot increasingly to roll inwards, so that over time a flat foot develops.

Whatever the cause, it seems it's those who have a small degree of flat feet who are particularly at risk of headaches. 'This is because they are continually loading their weight in the wrong part of their foot, putting pressure on the tendon which runs down the side of the ankle and along the centre of the foot,' says Mr Klinke.

Beautiful women can be bad for your health, according to scientists

MEETING a beautiful woman can be bad for your health, scientists have found. Just five minutes alone with an attractive female raise the levels of cortisol, the body's stress hormone, according to a study from the University of Valencia.

The effects are heightened in men who believe that the woman in question is "out of their league".

Cortisol is produced by the body under physical or psychological stress and has been linked to heart disease.

Researchers tested 84 male students by asking each one to sit in a room and solve a Sudoku puzzle. Two strangers, one male and one female, were also in the room.

When the female stranger left the room and the two men remained sitting together, the volunteer's stress levels did not rise. However, when the volunteer was left alone with the female stranger, his cortisol levels rose.

The researchers concluded: "In this study we considered that for most men the presence of an attractive woman may induce the perception that there is an opportunity for courtship.

"While some men might avoid attractive women since they think they are 'out of their league', the majority would respond with apprehension and a concurrent hormonal response.

"This study showed that male cortisol levels increased after exposure to a five-minute short social contact with a young, attractive woman."

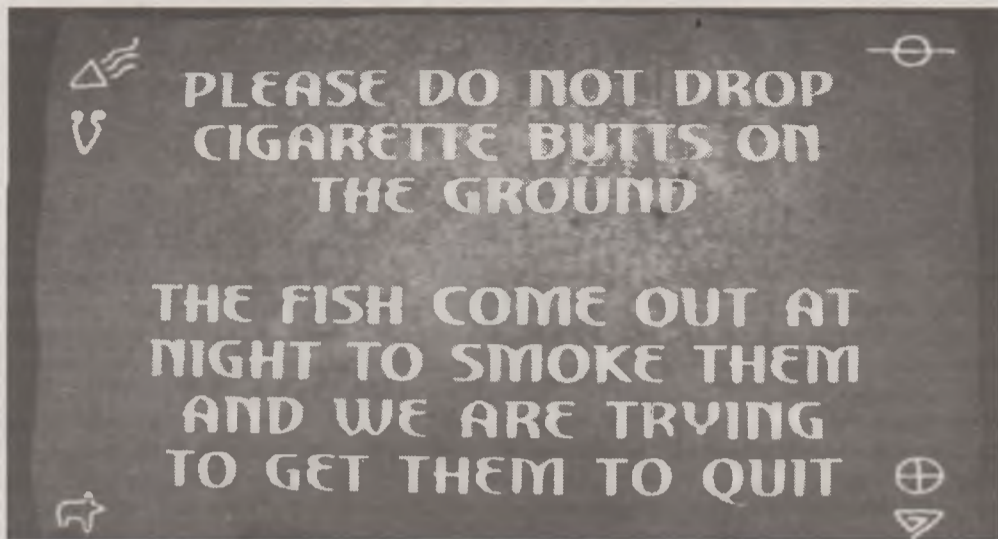
Cortisol can have a positive effect in small doses, improving alertness and well-being. However, chronically elevated cortisol levels can worsen medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, hypertension and impotency.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk



ACTRESS Angelina Jolie is regularly voted the world's most beautiful woman.

Sign Language



Who lights the butts for them?
 Photo location: Paradise Island, The Bahamas, by Marcella Banas
 Culled from www.signspotting.com

SPELLBOUND

A witch must have cast an evil "spell" upon our typesetters because some of these famous names are not quite accurate. Can you identify the name in each numbered group that is spelled incorrectly, and also supply its proper spelling?

1. Mark Chagall, Mahatma Gandhi, Cleveland Amory
2. Steven Spielberg, Sidney Poitier, Marlo Brando
3. Ronald Raegan, John Travolta, Mikhail Baryshnikov
4. Edna St. Vincent Millay, Areatha Franklin, Patrick Henry
5. Shelly Winters, Liza Minnelli, Madame Chiang Kai-shek
6. Charles Darwin, Michael Douglas, P.G. Woodhouse
7. Andre Aggassi, Vasco da Gama, Anne Morrow Lindbergh
8. Terry Hatcher, Kate Winslet, Henrik Ibsen
9. G. Gordon Libby, Brigitte Bardot, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar
10. Neal Simon, Shirley MacLaine, Haile Selassie

SOLUTION TO PASSING THE LETTER BUCK

**"He who hesitates
 could find himself
 many miles from the
 next exit."**

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.

142

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

Solution to Sudoku 141

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

News Extra

Gaddafi: Switzerland is a 'Mafia' state

... It should be divided up among France, Germany and Italy

Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi was quoted on Monday as saying that Switzerland is behaving like a criminal organization and it is involved in money laundering, assassinations and terrorism.

In the latest installment of a long-running dispute between the two nations, Muammar Gaddafi called Switzerland a 'Mafia' state and repeated a previous call for it to be divided up among France, Italy and Germany, according to the interview published by German news weekly Der Spiegel.

'Switzerland is a state that stands apart from the world community,' the respected Hamburg-based magazine quoted him as saying.

Gaddafi said Switzerland was a haven for large scale money laundering, where laws allowing assisted suicide are used as a cover for the assassination of rich foreigners with Swiss bank accounts.

Der Spiegel quoted the Libyan leader as saying: 'Switzerland claims the people in question wanted to commit suicide. But in truth it was a means of getting hold of their money.'

He offered no evidence for this claim.

The magazine also said the Libyan leader accused Swiss authorities of carrying out an 'act of terrorism' by arresting his son Hannibal Gaddafi two years ago on suspicion of beating up his servants in a Geneva luxury hotel. He was later released and charges were dropped.

'The way they treated Hannibal proves that Switzerland doesn't respect any laws,' Gaddafi was quoted as saying.

Swiss officials couldn't immediately be reached for comment, but Gaddafi's accusations risk

Gaddafi said Switzerland was a haven for large scale money laundering

inflaming tensions between Switzerland and Libya that erupted after the son's arrest in



MUAMMAR Gaddafi has labelled Switzerland a criminal state that uses assisted suicide laws to cover up assassinations

July 2008. The two countries have been engaged in a diplomatic tit-for-tat since the incident, culminating in Libya's arrest of two Swiss businessmen and the withdrawal of all investments from Switzerland.

Bern, in return, tried to prevent high-ranking Libyan officials from obtaining visas

to Europe until forced to back down by Italy and other European countries with strong economic ties to the North African nation.

One of the Swiss businessmen, Rachid Hamdani, was allowed to leave Libya in February after 19

months detention. The other, Max Goeldi, was sentenced to a four-month prison term which ends in June.

Human rights group Amnesty International has called the charges against Mr. Goeldi a form of political revenge and criticised the length of his pre-trial detention.



MOUNTAIN idyll: But according to Muammar Gaddafi Switzerland is a hotbed of money laundering, assassination and terrorism

News Extra

Is this the man behind the Times Square car bomb attack?

...Pakistani-American arrested at JFK airport trying to flee to Dubai

- Three men removed from a New York to Dubai flight
- Man arrested is an American citizen of Pakistani origin
- Suspect 'bought car to transport bomb into Times Square in Connecticut'

A Pakistani man believed to be behind a failed car bomb attack on New York's Times Square was arrested yesterday while trying to leave the U.S.

Faisal Shahzad, 30, is being held in New York after he was identified by customs agents at John F Kennedy International Airport. He was stopped before boarding an Emirates Airlines flight to Dubai, according to officials.

The airline yesterday revealed that three men were removed from a New York to Dubai flight due to depart Monday.

It is currently unclear whether the men were on the same flight that Shahzad was trying to board.

'Emirates can confirm that its flight EK 202 was called back by the local authorities prior to departure. Three passengers were removed from the flight,' the airline said in a statement.

'Full security procedures were activated, including the deplaning of all passengers and a thorough screening of the aircraft, passengers, and baggage. Emirates is co-operating with the local authorities.'

Shahzad had recently returned from a five-month trip to Pakistan, where he had a wife. He is an American citizen with an address in Shelton, Connecticut.

The suspect bought a sports utility vehicle, a 1993 Nissan Pathfinder, from a Connecticut man about three weeks ago and paid cash, detectives said.



SHAHZAD'S former home in Shelton, Connecticut. The American citizen of Pakistani origin is due to appear in a Manhattan federal court later yesterday.

The U.S. attorney's office for the Southern District in Manhattan will handle the case and Shahzad was scheduled to appear in court yesterday on formal charges, but those charges were not made public.

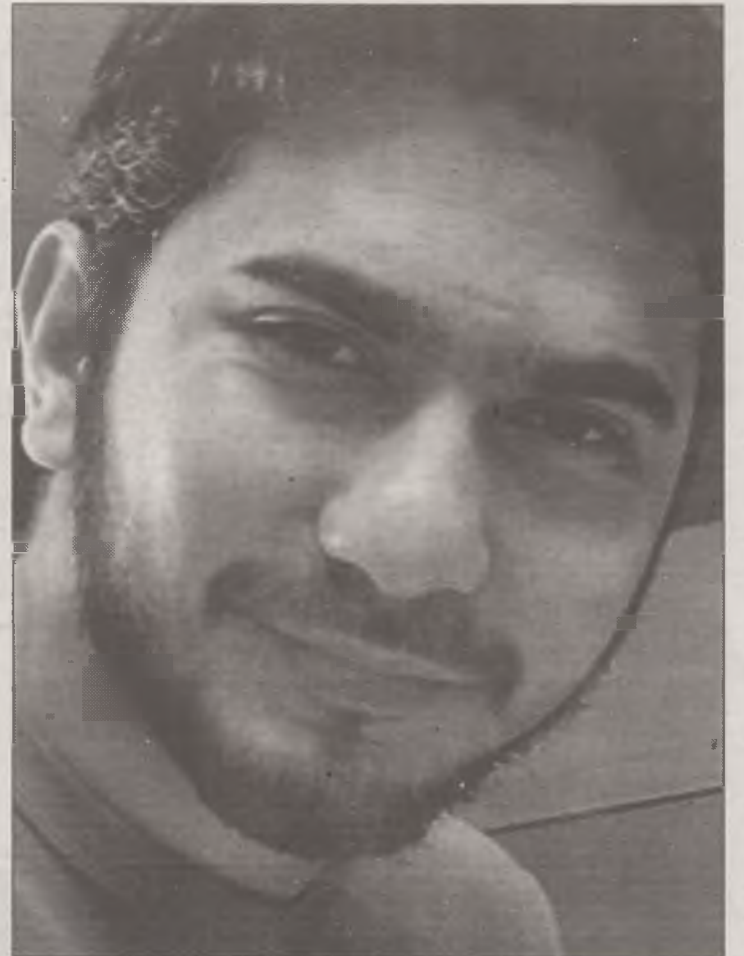
FBI agents searched the home at a known address for Shahzad in Bridgeport, Connecticut, in the early hours of yesterday morning, said agent Kimberly Mertz.

Authorities removed filled

plastic bags from the house, which is in a mixed-race, working-class neighbourhood of multi-family homes in Connecticut's largest city.

A bomb squad came and went without entering as local police and FBI agents gathered in the cordoned-off street.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said America 'will not rest



ACCUSED: Facebook pictures of a man that ABC News identifies as the Faisal Shahzad arrested yesterday in connection with the Times Square bomb car bomb attempt

“Shahzad had recently returned from a five-month trip to Pakistan, where he had a wife. He is an American citizen with an address in Shelton, Connecticut”

The vehicle identification number (VIN) had been removed from the Pathfinder's dashboard, but it was stamped on the engine, and investigators used it to find the recorded owner.

“The discovery of the VIN on the engine block was pivotal in that it led to the identifying the registered owner,” said Paul Browne, chief New York Police Department spokesman. ‘It continues to pay dividends.’

The US attorney's office in Manhattan will handle the case. It was not clear if additional suspects were being sought.

Officials say the SUV's registered owner, whose name has not been released, is not considered a suspect in the bomb scare.

until we have brought everyone responsible to justice,’ suggesting additional suspects are being sought. The bomb in the vehicle could have produced ‘a significant fireball’ and sprayed shrapnel with enough force to kill pedestrians and knock out windows, police said.

The SUV was parked on a street lined with restaurants and Broadway theatres, and full of people out on a Saturday night.

News Extra

US shows its nuclear hand

... 5,113 active nuclear warheads - and 'several thousand' more retired



U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton addresses a conference at the United Nations headquarters in New York. Later she told reporters that it was in the nation's interests to reveal its nuclear stockpile



STOCKPILE: The U.S. has revealed an arsenal of more than 5,100 strategic and tactical nuclear weapons, such as the Trident II missile

The United States has 5,113 nuclear warheads and 'several thousand' more retired warheads awaiting the junk pile, the Pentagon said in an unprecedented accounting of a secretive Cold War arsenal.

The Obama administration disclosed the size of its atomic stockpile going back to 1962 as part of a campaign to get other nuclear nations to be more forthcoming, and to improve its bargaining position against the prospect of a nuclear Iran.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, addressing a United Nations conference on containing the spread of nuclear weapons, told reporters: 'We think it is in our national security interest to be as transparent as we

can be about the nuclear program of the United States.'

The figure, which the U.S. previously regarded as top secret, includes both 'strategic' long-range and 'tactical' short-range weapons.

The Pentagon said the stockpile of 5,113 as of September 2009 represented a 75 per cent reduction since 1989.

A rough count of deployed and reserve warheads has been known for years, so the Pentagon figures do not tell nuclear experts much they did not already know.

Hans Kristensen - director of Nuclear Information Project, Federation of American Scientists in Washington - said his organisation already had put the number at around 5,100 by reviewing budget estimates and other documents.

But Mr Kristensen said the importance of the announcement was the precedent it set, adding that the U.S. 'is no longer going to keep other countries in the dark.'

Mrs Clinton said the disclosure 'builds confidence' that the Obama administration was serious about stopping the spread of nuclear weapons and reducing their numbers.

However, the administration was not revealing everything.

The Pentagon figure released yesterday includes deployed weapons, which are those more or less ready to launch, and reserve weapons. It does not include thousands of warheads that have been disabled or all-but dismantled. Those weapons could, in theory, be reconstituted, or their nuclear material 'repurposed'.

Estimates put the total U.S. arsenal range between 8,000 and slightly more than 9,000 - but the Pentagon will not give a precise number.

All the president's emails

In a unique experiment in democratic transparency, Barack Obama - a BlackBerry owner, and the first American president to use email while in office - has agreed to copy G2 in on his otherwise highly confidential electronic communications. Each week, we present a selection from recent days:

To: White House Staff Subject: facebook

I'd like to thank everybody who felt the need to bring to my attention the fact that there is a Facebook group with more than a million members, all praying for my death. You've really made my day. Fantastic. Thanks again. There is also, I notice, a Facebook petition group calling for the original page's removal, which is gaining members fast. I don't think we should get involved officially, but if anyone wants to join the petition group - hey, it's a free country. BHO

To: Hillary Clinton <secretary@state.gov> Subject: Re: third UK debate

Yeah, I had to watch at least some of it, because Gordon sent me an email right after asking what I thought his best lines were. It's like watching cricket: amazingly dull, and impossible to tell who's winning. To be honest, I don't like the idea of having a "special relationship" with any of them. After the election let's see if we can get the new guy to drop that expression. We can call it "the convenient alliance" or "the suitable arrangement" or something. Barack

To: BP Group CEO Tony Hayward <tony.hayward@bp.com> Subject: Re: disaster management

Tony: Let me assure you the federal govt is making every effort to keep your oil spill off our country, but ultimately that oil is your responsibility, and your problem. As president I will make every effort to ensure this does not become some kind of offshore Katrina for which you will be blamed. The buck stops with me, and then I invoice you. Hope that's clear. Barack

To: VPOTUS <joe.biden@whitehouse.gov> Subject: Re: Whatever you say, chief!

Thanks Joe, but you've joined the wrong Facebook page. How's that gonna look, you praying for my death? See up in the top left-hand corner where it says "leave group"? Click on that, and then turn off your computer. You shouldn't be social networking during office hours anyway. B
Culled from guardian.co.uk

“ The figure, which the U.S. previously regarded as top secret, includes both 'strategic' long-range and 'tactical' short-range weapons



DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE NIGERIA

Announces

FORUM ON FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA (FGN) BONDS FOR NIGERIANS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

OBJECTIVE

*To enlighten Nigerians in the Diaspora
and other investors on the benefits of
investing in FGN Bonds*

DATE
May 8, 2010

VENUE
The Westin Hotel in the Galleria,
5060 West Alabama Street,
Houston, Texas

TIME
6.00p.m.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**NIGERIA: CURRENT REFORM MEASURES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE NATION'S MACRO - ECONOMY**

BY

Mr. Olusegun Olutoyin Aganga
Honourable Minister of Finance

PRESENTATION

BENEFITS OF INVESTING IN FGN BONDS

BY

Dr. Abraham Nwankwo
Director-General, Debt Management Office

HOST

Prof. Adebowale Adefuye
Ambassador of Nigeria to the United States of America

Collaborating Institutions

- Central Bank of Nigeria
- Nigeria Stock Exchange
- Securities and Exchange Commission
- Primary Dealer Market Makers (PDMMs) in FGN Bonds

Signed

Debt Management Office
www.dmo.gov.ng

Attendance is strictly by invitation

For further information, contact:
Mr. Daniel Williams adexoji@msn.com +1-713-363-1570 or
fgnbonds-nigeriansindiaspora@dmo.gov.ng

Be a part of building a better Nigeria by investing in FGN Bonds!

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Reps to convene national urban summit

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE House of Representatives is to convene a national urban summit in collaboration with the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development and other stakeholders in the second quarter of 2010.

This was contained in a speech delivered yesterday by Chairman House Committee on Urban Development, Hon. Abdullahi Umar Farukh when Members of House Committee on Urban Development visited the Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Mr. Nduse Essien in Abuja.

Farukh stated that the Summit is intended to identify

urban development problems with a view to evolve concrete and pragmatic solutions to identifiable constraints to urban development.

He added that a sub-committee of the House Committee has been constituted to oversee this event.

"The scope of coverage and modus operandi of the summit have been defined by our committee. Your Ministry is required to nominate two representatives to serve in the National Technical Committee on the Summit. We will also appreciate full support of the Ministry towards the realization of this goal.

"We are also emphatic on the review of the Constitution to give prominence to Urban and Regional Develop-

ment planning particularly as it concerns roles of different levels of government. It is our considered view that urban planning should be in the Concurrent Legislative List. It is very necessary to obtain the support of all stakeholders on this," he said.

He added that, "it is our hope that this singular act will lay to rest all controversies surrounding the implementation of the 1992 Urban and Regional Planning Law. We support the preparation of the national physical development plan documents to translate economic development policies into spatial form. We would lend our weight to back the document with the enabling legislation to ensure its implementation."

FCTA to tackle workers housing woes

By Nasir Imam

FEDERAL Capital Territory (FCT) Minister, Senator Bala Mohammed, has promised to seriously look into the growing housing problems of workers in the territory with a view to ameliorating them. Speaking when the leaders of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), paid him a courtesy call at the weekend, he said the housing programme of the FCT Administration has been strengthened in a bid to deliver more affordable houses for workers and other residents of Abuja.

Responding to the request by the leader of the delegation who is the Chairman of FCT chapter of the NLC, Comrade Zakari N. Adams, for assistance to overcome workers' housing problems in the territory, Bala Mohammed promised to implement policies and programmes that would help to ease the accommodation crunch within the shortest possible time. According to the Minister, it is shameful that a large number of workers in the federal capital still lack access to decent and affordable housing at this age.

Earlier, the leader of the delegation, Comrade Adams had outlined the workers request before the Minister, which included the allocation of a big piece of land for the development of "workers village" since most workers are unable to access public mass housing mass housing.



ITALIAN designer Alessio Pappa lays in his creation at the 49th Milan International Furniture Fair in Rho. More than 2000 exhibitors take part in The 'Salone Internazionale del Mobile' (International Furniture Fair) and the International Furnishing Accessories Exhibition.

Ceded land to FCT: Niger demands 25% share from FG

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE governor of Niger state, Dr Muazu Babangida Aliyu has called on the Federal Government to pay up promised 25 percent budget share for states that lost parts of their territory to the creation of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

He made the call at Suleja during the Jama'a forum meeting held yesterday where he said that Niger state and other neighbouring states that have contributed land to create the FCT are entitled to an earlier agreed share of 25 percent.

He lamented a situation where he stated that after ceding 80 percent of Suleja to the creation of the FCT, Niger state is yet to get any of the promise earlier made by the federal government.

He said that instead of the town to develop as it should be, it has degenerated as a slum, a mere residue of rejects from the federal capital Abuja, adding that the situation has made the place a haven for criminals.

He said that the proximity of Suleja town to the nation's capital makes it imperative to provide the necessary infrastructures that will make it a twin city rather than a slum to the

federal capital.

Aliyu therefore disclosed that the state and indeed all the others that ceded part of their territory will articulate and present their case to the Acting President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan demanding for the 25% budget share of the FCT which was agreed to be given for the development of the states.

Governor Aliyu also directed the Commissioner for Local Government, Barrister Abdullahi Bawa, to tell the Nigeria Army on moves by the state to assume ownership of the Old Army Barracks, Suleja.

Rural electrification for Nasarawa/FCT border community

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

ARA, one of the communities at the Nasarawa State/Abuja borders, was at the weekend, handed electricity with the commissioning of the N81 million project by Governor Alliyu Akwe Doma, linking the people on the national grid.

Ara, a bustling community at the edge of the famous Ara rocks, was promised electricity since the old Plateau State days - close to 20 years ago, but the project remained only a pipe dream for the people as one administration or the other

looked away from the proposal, while the exploding population continued to face untold hardship.

But the administration of Doma, last year, initiated and awarded the contract for the project, which saw the linking of the community on the national grid after electricity was tapped from Nasarawa township, several kilometers away.

Governor Doma told the people during the commissioning that Speaker of the Nasarawa State House of Assembly, Musa Ahmed Mohammed had sought his permission to initiate the project as part of his constituency development

effort. He said the speaker's plan came as a spur to him, leading to the collaborative effort which saw Ara with electricity at the weekend. The occasion was the ongoing "Meet the People Tour" which has taken the governor to several local government and development areas, so far.

Speaker of the state assembly, Ahmed Mohammed, who hails from Nasarawa, commended the governor's commitment to rural transformation, just as he urged the people's support for the administration to spur further development.

Property



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HOTLINE: 07041632079

SON wants inspection of buildings

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

PROFESSIONAL bodies in the nation's building and construction industry have been enjoined to partner with the relevant state authorities on joint spot inspection teams on all buildings under construction.

Director-General of Standards Organisation of Nigeria, Dr John Akanya, who gave the charge in his official reaction to the Saturday building collapse of the Kairo mar-

ket, Osodi, Lagos, aid the development was necessary so as to forestall the growing incidence of building collapse in the country.

He reiterated that one of the great challenges confronting the nation is in ensuring that only certified building materials are used for and qualified professionals are involved in building and construction in order to ensure necessary quality assurance.

While calling for the diligent prosecution of all those who may be involved in the activities leading to the collapse of the Oshodi mar-

ket building, Akanya craved for the re-opening of all earlier cases to ensure that they are brought to book to serve as deterrent to others.

"It is noteworthy and commendable the recent efforts of some of the professional bodies like the COREN and Nigerian Institution of Surveyors in undertaking public enlightenment programs to educate consumers and stakeholders at large on the status of their members. I wish to call on all others within the sector to do same and go

further to ensure that only their accredited members are involved

in the construction and supervision of buildings in Nigeria.



It is noteworthy and commendable the recent efforts of some of the professional bodies like the COREN and Nigerian Institution of Surveyors in undertaking public enlightenment programs to educate consumers and stakeholders at large on the status of their members.

Kwara varsity, GTB to build N500m film village

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Kwara State University (KWASU) has received a promise of 500million naira from Guarantee Trust Bank (GTB) Plc to establish a N500 million film village for the enhancement of visual arts performance in the university.

The Dean, School of Visual and Performing Arts of the institution, Professor Awam Amkpa, disclosed while speaking with newsmen shortly after the formal presentation of a photo exhibition organized by KWASU held at Kwara Hotels.

Amkpa, who said that the initiative of setting up the film

village is through public-private arrangements, revealed that the first private sector to partner with the University in this direction is Guarantee Trust Bank with a promise of 500million naira.

He said that the buildings to be used for the film village would be erected in June and by August this Year, the village would begin full operation.


He informed that the facilities that would attract the film practitioners would be provided in the film village, which would make the institution and its students gain influence in the industry.

The Dean also disclosed that the department of Visual

Arts is going to be practiced-based, saying that international professionals would be invited to work with the institution in order to actualize its dreams.


Also speaking, the Head of Department of Performing Arts Professor Ahmed Yerima who said that the idea of setting up the film village was to generate revenue for the institution, saying that the institution could not continue to be dependent on the people.

He also said that since the village would be well equipped to stand the test of time, professionals in the film industry would be able to come to the institution for film shooting which he said would earn it money.



IMMIGRATION OFFICERS WIVES ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (IMMOWA)

Nigeria Immigration Service Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport Road, Sauka, Abuja



THE IMMIGRATION OFFICERS WIVES ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (IMMOWA)
cordially invites

**The general public to the formal inauguration ceremony
of her Association and 1 Billion Naira Fund Raising for IMMOWA Secretariat**

<p>Date</p> <p>Thursday 6th May, 2010</p>	<p>Venue:</p> <p>Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Conference Center, Central District, Abuja</p>	<p>Time:</p> <p>10:00am prompt.</p>
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GUEST OF HONOUR
Her Excellency,
DAME PATIENCE GOODLUCK JONATHAN
Wife of the Ag. President Of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

CHIEF LAUNCHER,
ALH. ALIKO DANGOTE
Chairman/CEO Dangote Group

Mrs. Phoebean Ifeadi
National Secretary

Mrs Priscilla Udeh
National President

Property



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HOTLINE: 07041632079

'Land use decree unjust to Nigerians'

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

THE National President of the Nigeria Institution of Surveyors, Dr. Olusola Atilola has described the Land Use Decree as an unjust law, which had deprived majority of land owners their right to access such for productive ventures, including farming.

He noted that the Decree had become an archaic law, as even countries like China had adopted the method of giving lands

to their original owners, which has contributed immensely to the growth of the country, in the last 30 years. Atilola, who spoke at a news conference in Abeokuta, ahead of the National Conference of the body therefore urged the Federal Government to look into the Decree in order to create growth for the country's economy.

According to the NIS President, "Land Use Decree is an unjust law. It has disenfranchised our grandparents of their

land to farm and create food for the country. Even in China, they are giving the land back to the people and their economy is multiplying. We are working towards removing this obnoxious law."

Atilola emphasized that land should go back to their original owners, "with adequate compensation at the most market value. A situation whereby land is not being used because of there is title to it is killing our economy."

Nigerian architects decry infiltration of foreign firms

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

THE Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA) has decried the infiltration of foreign architectural firms into Nigerian market.

The Lagos state President of NIA Architect Tunji Bolu said in interactive session with the media during its 50th anniversary celebrations in Lagos that the foreign firms get accounts that can be handled by indigenous architects.

He said to make Nigerian architects more competitive in the face foreign competition; he noted that architectural trainings would be improved in all schools offering architecture in Nigeria.

He also noted that the Institute is positioning Nigerian architects to be among the 20 world best by the year 2020, keying into the vision 20:2020 of the federal government.

He said architects are fundamental to the success of the Nigerian vision and Nigeria cannot achieve the vision without working in concert with local architects.

He said going forward, the Institute will deliver a truly Nigerian architect that would be indigenous and will be symbols of Nigeria internationally just like Japan, China and other countries.

On the spate of building collapse in Nigeria, the architects said they are just one aspect of a total building and most times, the building engineers and other persons involved in the building process may not abide by their designs and specifications just to cut cost.

On the challenges bedeviling the Institute's members, the architects listed lack of clients, ineffective legislation that does not compel people to seek professional impute from architects before any building is erected or any adjustment is made to a building.



MY CONSTITUENCY LEGACY



Constituency legacies are those humanitarian projects initiated, implemented and bequeathed to the deserving communities as related to our elected political office holders. As the nation draw closer to another elective year, it becomes imperative that lawmakers will be taking inventory and account for the stewardship of services they rendered to uplift the well being of their people. As it affects the state and federal lawmakers, quite a good number have demonstrated kindness and generosity vis-a vis their electioneering promises. They are trailing the blazing of good representation through provision of constituency projects and contribute to debates, bills and other sundry issues of national importance.

To celebrate our National Assembly representatives, **Media Trust Limited**, the publishers of *Daily Trust*, *Weekly Trust*, *Sunday Trust* and *Aminiya* newspapers, is packaging a special project on the above subject [MY CONSTITUENCY LEGACY]. The aim is to applaud and highlight the contributions of individual lawmaker who has demonstrated kindness to his/her people. Given the foregoing, federal lawmakers are invited to participate in the project as a way of showcasing their contributions [Constituency projects] executed to the admiration of their various constituencies.

For participation/enquiries, please contact :

Leke Adelere on 08059100282

Lilian Tanimoi 08052377534.

The date of publication is from Monday, May 17 to Saturday, May 31, 2010.

Thank you as we anticipate your participation.

Management

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TRUTH IS A BURDEN

Property



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EYE ON ABUJA

WITH Umar Shuaibu
umarshuaibu1@yahoo.com

Fraudsters and advanced sophistication

THE more effort is made by the authority and well meaning citizens to check the menace of land racketeering, the more new methods were devised by the criminals for cheating on innocent and unsuspecting citizens, at the same time creating more confusion in the system. As a result of advanced sophistication of land racketeering, and due to the fact that the amount of money involved is usually very large, these days before making transaction on any land in Abuja one must go well beyond the normal search in the AGIS by exploring all other avenues and leaving no stone unturned before releasing his money. Otherwise after investing ones fortune, he will experience the worse shock of his life when despite the confirmation of the search report from the authority prior to the transaction, he became embarrassed by another party much later, perhaps at the point of transferring the ownership to another party, seeking building plan approval or even after successfully obtaining the approval while on the actual construction.

Prior to the establishment of the AGIS the worst fraudster in the city was one 'Engineer Success' very crafty in forging certificates of occupancies for Abuja plots, using different names than the real person the authority allocates the plot to, and then sold to unsuspecting buyers. A simple search on the status of the plot and the real owner in the land registry prior to the transaction shall reveal the authentic owner, one would then know whether he is dealing with the right or wrong party, and then make him decide on whether to continue the transaction or halt.

The recertification exercise and the establishment of the AGIS by the computerization of all land records in order to ease all those processes was seen as the solution to all these unwholesome behaviors, it really checked the likes of

'Engineer Success', but that solution creates other sets of dangerous fraudsters than the ones previously known. For it is no longer forging certificates and using different names, but cloning from the system by those with that privilege information and maintaining the names on the allocation and selling to plot buyers without the knowledge of the real owner.

The implication is that when the innocent buyer goes for search of the genuine owner, made possible by forging his signature from the plot's file records, the report by the authority will not show any contradiction there by confirming the authenticity of the allocation; without the slightest knowledge that the rightful owner is not even aware that his plot is being sold, the unsuspecting buyer will go ahead and conclude the transaction by paying the huge amount, at times amounting to his fortune. For these clandestine and criminal operations to be made possible there must be connivance of persons with access to the software, with the first suspects certainly being the dishonest staff, or rather fraudulent persons that worked within and now out of the service.

It could be recalled that the AGIS started its activities as a private organization with many casual staff given unrestricted access to land information. To be fair to the initiators it was certainly not meant to allow the pilfering of the land records for fraudulent activities but to check them. However, such activities should purely be handled by the civil servants the authority employed for such. The land department and its staff were made redundant and all issues to do with land activities were handled by the AGIS as a private organization even before the amendment of the FCT Act, culled subsidiary legislation that attempt to make the AGIS an agency of the FCTA in order to legalize its activities, the procedure frowned at during the senate probe. Prior to that, the engagement of

AGIS as a private company to undertake such sensitive public service function is certainly a crime no matter the reasons advanced as necessity.

The fact is all the FCT ministers have interest in lands allocation and depending on their disposition, to garner a lot for themselves and their cohorts, or to ensure justice and equitable distribution, they choose the suitable staff and make enabling policies. Just as the present minister set up a committee to curb the increasing activities of fraudsters, so did Dr. Modibbo found it a matter of necessity, which culminated into a full blown probe involving the Senate, restoration of the powers of the lands department and the appointment of the Director of Lands and those deemed capable of making him achieve his objectives. The result was the discovery of more than one thousand fake allocations with their roots traced to these dubious casual staff of the AGIS. With these so called staff now at large who then can guarantee the safety of the land information in their possession? As many times they got arrested for forgeries they got bailed without being charged to court and allowed to continue duping others. This must be the major area Senator Dansadau led committee is to concentrate on so long as it wants to succeed in its assignment.

Whatever effort was made by the Modibbo administration in sanitizing the lands administration has been thrown to the winds by Senator Aliero, without any caution or decorum, but naked greed for grabbing as much as possible. It went up to the extent of Aliero appointing his personal assistants as members of the Land Use and Allocation Committee and officially releasing a memo to that effect. Thus apart from the casual AGIS staff now at large creating havoc with the land records, could these not be the new entrants into the dastardly business?

Doma to renovate health centre

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

GOVERNOR Aliyu Akwe Doma of Nasarawa State has promised to renovate Umaisha community primary health care centre in Toto Local Government Council of the state.

Doma made the promise last Wednesday during the continuation of his "Meet the Peoples tour" in Toto local government council of the state, assured residents of the community that in the next two weeks, he will direct a contractor to commence renovation of the health centre.

According to him, the community primary health care centre after its renovation will be equipped with drugs and other health facilities in order to enhance people of the community easy access to health care delivery services without stress.

The governor however said that his decision to embark on "Meet the people tour" was to thank the people of the council for their massive support given to him during the election and to also ascertain the council chairmen's effort in providing democratic dividend to their electorates.

He noted that since the assumption of his administration in office, the state has embarked on construction of roads, schools, agriculture and other infrastructural development across the state.

He expressed satisfaction with the various projects executed by the chairman of the council, Alhaji Ibrahim Isyaku Opkanaki, noting that god almighty will continue to give the state strength, financially and morally in order to continue to provide more dividend of democracy to the people.

PIC: Abubakar SADIQ



GOVERNOR Aliyu Akwe Doma(c) cutting the tape to commission the newly completed Gadabuke Council Development Secretariat, during his meet-the-people-tour in Gadabuke last Wednesday.

Customs building handed over to NPA

From Sunday Ejike Benjamin, Lagos

A new ultra-modern building that will provide office accommodation to officials of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) has been completed and handed over to the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA).

The building, which was constructed by APM Terminals Apapa, will serve as facility for physical inspection of containers as well as related administration of customs operations at the terminal.

Managing Director of APM Terminals Apapa Limited, Mr. Martin Dirks, who handed over the new facility to the Port Manager of Lagos Port Complex,

Apapa, Mr. Joshua Asanga, said construction of the ultra-modern building was a further demonstration of his company's commitment to fulfilling its own part of the bargain in its 25-year port concession agreement with the Federal Government.

He said the new building will address various logistics and infrastructural challenges confronting customs officers at their present location.

"Today, inspection of containers takes place in the yard - away from the old customs administrative building. It also means that each container occupies a container footprint for average of 18 hours but with this new building

here, all those factors are eliminated while working environment and safety is increased significantly," Dirks stated at a brief ceremony marking the official handover of the building to NPA.

The Port Manager of Lagos Port Complex Apapa, Mr. Joshua Asanga, who received the keys to the building, commended APM Terminals for always setting the pace and upping the bar in port operations.

He promised to ensure timely movement of customs operatives into the new facility.

The old customs building will be demolished and its space converted to a stacking area as soon as it is vacated.

CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513
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Robbers pretending to be PHCN staff, attack bizman

By Ogechi Ohalee

BUT for providence, a businessman, Mr Patrick Enweaka would have been found dead yesterday in his apartment at 3rd Avenue Gwarinpa Estate, Abuja, when five men pretending to be officials of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) accosted him.

Enweaka while narrating his experience said he heard a knock at his door at 5 am and opened it after hearing a response that those at his door were from PHCN.

"Four persons at the door introduced themselves as PHCN

officials showing identity cards, documents and demanded for my electricity bills," he narrated.

He said when he turned around to get the bills, he felt a machete blow on his head and fought back for survival, shouting for help.

"My attackers used machetes to almost cut one of my hands off during my struggle," he added.

Our reporter saw the victim in the midst of his relations and church members, who were rejoicing on his survival.

The victim's head and hand had been stitched at a hospital, while he was at Gwarinpa Police Station to make his statement.

Reacting to the incident, the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of Gwarinpa, Mr Dalhathi Balarebe Imraia, a chief superintendent, said the five-man gang's intention was to threaten Patrick Enweaka with a poisonous injection so that he signs a five million naira cheque for them but unfortunately the man fought back courageous.

"Good Samaritans that heard the victim's scream informed a police patrol team, who arrived at the incident scene on time and rescued the situation," the DPO said.

He said the man could have been killed if not for the early

intervention of the police, adding that the police were able to arrest one of the suspects, who gave useful information about other members of the gang.

The police officer disclosed further that the gang's leader is a graduate of Unijos, while others are undergraduates and advised FCT residents to be their brother's keeper, saying that if neighbours had helped the victim, his injuries wouldn't have been so bad.

The arrested suspect, Victor Adinnu, told City News that one KC, who served the businessman in the past complained to the gang that he was not well settled after

his service years and life is difficult for him.

"Ekene hatched the plan of injecting the victim with blood in order for us to get five million naira from him but things went out of hand when other gang members decided to act contrary to our initial decisions by hitting the victim with a cutlass," he lamented.

He maintained that the plan was hatched at Galadinma and Gwarinpa respectively but could not tell where KC lives.

According to him, the injection was not poisonous and he was promised a million naira after the operation.

Police arrest motorcyclists for flouting restriction

By Hussein Yahaya & Usman A. Bello

POLICEMEN at Dutsen-Alhaji junction Monday night arrested commercial cyclists, popularly called okada riders for operating in the area after the restricted time for their operations.

The FCT Administration had earlier restricted their operations from 6 am to 8 pm daily within satellite towns in the city.

Monday's police operation which started at 8.30 pm took the cyclists unaware as the lucky ones fled on sighting the police team to evade arrest.

Eyewitnesses said about four motorcycles were impounded and taken away by policemen.

Cyclists spoken to said they are aware of the restriction but were not expecting the police to carry out their action that night.

When contacted, the Divisional Police Officer of Dutsen Police Station, Richard Oigiangbe, said the law banning the operation of commercial cyclists at night is still on course.

He however said he would confirm the arrest from his men but added that the decision banning cyclists operation at night is to reduce crime in the area and appealed to residents to co-operate with the police.



WORKERS during the May Day celebrations at the weekend.

PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

Judicial staff strike paralyses court activities

By Hussein Yahaya, Romoke W. Ahmad, Ibraheem A. Fatai & Usman A. Bello

JUDICIAL activities at magistrate and area courts in the Federal Capital Territory were yesterday hindered as a result of strike action embarked upon by members of the National Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria.

Most courts visited by our reporters had their gates locked, while staff stood at the entrance discussing in groups.

Judicial staff that arrived

early to work at Magistrate Court, Karu, were briefed of the strike by some executive members of the union.

The story was the same at Karu Upper Area Court and Magistrate Courts, Wuse Zone 2 and Zone 6.

Speaking on the development, the union's National Treasurer, Yahaya Muhammed Turaki, said the union is demanding for both increment and harmonisation of salaries, adding that the union will call off the strike

when their demands are met.

Members of the union who spoke with our reporters said they will co-operate fully with their union leaders until their demands are granted.

As a result of the strike, suspects, who were brought to court by police prosecutors and prison officials, had to be returned to detention.

Some of the suspects wept openly, while others prayed for a quick resolution of the strike so that they get bail before their trial begins.

N/Assembly approves N362bn FCT budget

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE National Assembly has approved N362 billion as expenditure for the Federal Capital Territory during the 2010 fiscal year.

Presenting the report of the Senate Committee on FCT yesterday, Senator Abubakar Sodangi (PDP, Nasarawa West) said both chambers of the National Assembly have passed same figures in the budget hence there won't be need for harmonisation.

Breakdown of the budget indicates that the FCT Administration is to spend N39 billion on personnel cost, overhead expenditure is to get N29 billion while the balance of N293 billion is for capital projects for the FCT.

The budget shows that the Engineering Department of the FCT received

the highest allocation of N115 billion, followed by the Satellite Town Infrastructure Department N35 billion and Transport Secretariat N64 billion.

Other projects added in the budget are provision of adequate water supply to FCT residents, road construction linking satellite towns, rehabilitation of old districts and provisions of security gadget to security agencies.

Meanwhile, acting President Goodluck Jonathan has forwarded three tax reform bills for consideration by the National Assembly.

In a letter read by Deputy Senate President Ike Ekweremadu, the acting President requested amendment and consolidation of the Personal Income Tax bill 2010, the Customs Excise Tariffs bill 2010 and the National Sugar Development Council bill 2010.

'Abaji PDP can't suspend Sidi Ali'

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE Abaji Area Council chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) lacks the power to suspend Senator Adamu Sidi Ali from the party, Chairman of the Wuse ward chapter of the PDP, Mr. Bartholomwe Anekwe said yesterday.

Reacting to claims by Abaji PDP chairman that Sidi Ali is suspended for alleged anti-party activities, Anekwe said the senator was registered at the Wuse Ward of the PDP and not in Abaji.

According to him, "We are not aware of the suspension of the senator and if he is to be suspended from the party it has to come from the ward executive and I was not consulted on any matter in that regards."

The Wuse ward chairman said his ward never suspended the senator from the party.

On the allegation of anti-party activities being levelled against the senator, Anekwe said the ward executives are not aware of such activities by the senator.

"When I read it in newspapers, I only said the people peddling the allegations don't know what they are saying and to correct all these, I want to say that the distinguished senator is registered in Wuse, which is in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) and not in Abaji," he added.

He said Sidi Ali remains a loyal member of the party and has been supporting the party in all its activities saying "He was even given an award because of his contribution to the party. We in

Wuse and majority of the people in AMAC and the FCT see him as a pillar in the party."

Anekwe said Article 21(5) of the PDP Constitution is clear on the issue of allegations of anti-party against a member saying "A decision taken against a house member on anti-party activity without giving the person an opportunity to defend him or herself shall be null and void."

On the recent criticism of Sidi Ali by some PDP area council chairmen, Anekwe said the party leaders may have some personal axe to grind as the senator has been performing and there is no reason for them to criticise him.

He explained that Sidi Ali remains the only lawmaker representing the FCT to have sponsored people oriented bills in the

National Assembly, adding that indigenes have the FCT University of Science and Technology bill and the Resettlement, Compensation and Rehabilitation Board bill in the Senate."

Speaking to *City News* on the matter, Chairman of Gwagwalada PDP, Alhaji Usman Mohammed Giri said the meeting held to ratify the suspension of Sidi Ali could not agree on the matter.

"We were called to Garki to sign a letter that would be sent to the National Secretariat suspending the senator but we refused and the letter was not signed," Giri said.

He said it is wrong for the AMAC PDP chairman to brief the press on behalf of all of PDP area council chairmen when they did not agree with the position.

Man arrested over forged cheque

By Gladys Ogechi Nworgu

A middle-aged business man who sells cement at Gurku area of Mararaba was on Friday arrested for allegedly being in possession of an Intercontinental Bank forged cheque at the bank's Mararaba branch.

A witness in the bank alleged that the man was nabbed while attempting to withdraw the N300,000 with the cheque.

The witness said the man told the bank cashiers that the cheque was given to him by one John E. Akpan, but when the Akpan was contacted on phone, he denied given the suspect a cheque for N300,000 but said he gave him one for N150,000 and wondered how the figure changed.

Bank customers who witnessed the incident called for proper prosecution of the suspect because of the rampant cases of frauds in banks.

A customer, Moses Patrick, while narrating his ordeal, said he was once duped in a bank of N150,000, while Joy Monday, another customer, lamented that she lost N400,000 in a bank fraud.



A fallen PHCN pole at Bakassi road, Mpape, on Sunday.

Bailed suspect re-arrested by EFCC officials

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A 62-year-old man was on Friday picked-up by officials of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) few minutes after he was released on bail from Keffi Prisons.

Sylvanus Enenche Okoh of Karu village Abuja was arrested by the EFCC officials over a N90 million land scam allegation.

The suspect, who was first arraigned before Karu magistrate court last Wednesday, was granted bail but before the bail could be effected, EFCC operatives got in touch with Prosecutor Bulus Samuel and told him the suspect was needed for questioning in other cases order than the one the police charged him for.

The prosecutor was instructed to keep the EFCC informed immediately after the bail condition is met and the order was obeyed as the accused was arrested from the prison gate.

The prosecutor said the accused is now in EFCC custody facing another charges, adding that the action will not stop his own prosecution at Karu magistrate court.

PHCN manager counsels staff against corruption

By Hamisu Muhammad

THE Business Manager of Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) Wuse II Unit, Engr. Toba Abayomi, yesterday urged staff to shun corruption if they want to project a good image for the com-

pany in the eyes of their customers.

He stated this during the inauguration and awareness campaign of the unit's Anti-Corruption and Transparency Committee (ACTU).

Engr. Abayomi reminded the staff of what corruption has done

to the growth of this nation and urged them to join hands in educating other workers on its dangers.

Executives inaugurated into ACTU Wuse II committee included Sulyman Jafia as chairman, while Doris Nwoko is the

secretary. Other members are Muniru Abubakar, Francis Mar-yam and Ishaya Audu.

In his acceptance remark, ACTU Chairman, Sulyman Jafia, said the fight against corruption is a step in the right direction by the management of Abuja Electricity

Distribution Company, especially in spreading the campaign to the company's sub units by establishing business units.

He assured the staff of the unit that the committee will discharge its duties diligently without fear or favour.

Court urges women to reconcile before today

By Romoke W. Ahmad

AN Abuja Upper Area court sitting at Karu has adjourned judgment in a witchcraft accusation case for today if both women fail to resolve their differences.

Judge Issa Alhaji Yahaya said he gave the women the opportunity to

settle their differences out of court since the case is a family issue, adding that it would be better if the issue is resolved within them without court interference since witchcraft allegation cannot be proven in a law court.

The petitioner, Janet Babatunde, had earlier told the court that Mrs.

Rhoda Makafi made some nasty statements to her saying that her son is going to die after she might have finished with his mother, who is her rival.

She said they met again at Dogondutse village in Nasarawa State, where the woman accused her of what she had no knowledge of and

also accused her mother of being responsible for the death of her son, who died not quite long ago.

Janet stated that Rhoda's accusation were defamatory and urged the court to award her N1.5million for defamation.

Rhoda while defending herself denied the allegations and said she

cannot remember having any confrontation or problems with Janet.

"I don't know anything about what she is saying because I have never had problems with her and when I lost my son, I didn't accuse any one for the death, so I wonder why I should be accused of what I know nothing about," she said.

2 men deny receiving stolen goods

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

TWO young men have denied receiving stolen goods from a convicted laptop thief, Adamu Sani, who was sentenced by the same court for stealing two laptop computers.

Nnamdi Umeh and Franklin Ifeanyi Ibe were arrested this month by the police for allegedly receiving two stolen laptop computers from the convicted thief.

Police prosecutor Abu Okpanachi had earlier informed the court that on April 17, Adamu Sani, whom he described as a specialist in stealing laptop computers and other valuables from people's car, confessed to the police that the accused persons always received goods stolen by him.

"He made a confessional statement that both of you are receivers of his stolen items, such as laptops, thereby committing an offence punishable under Section 317 of the Penal Code," the prosecutor said.

He stated further that the second accused person, Franklin Ifeanyi Ibe, was sent by the convicted thief to remove his car containing some stolen laptop computers and two locally-made master keys.

"You have bargained to buy each of the two stolen laptop computers for N30,000, which prompted you to go for the removal of the car at the scene of the crime," the prosecutor further alleged.

According to the prosecutor, Nnamdi was arrested by the police while attempting to remove the convict's car from the bank premises, where it was abandoned.

When the charges were read to the two accused persons, they denied the allegations and requested for bail. The prosecutor did not object to their applications.

In his ruling, Chief Magistrate Ademuyiwa Oyeyipo granted each of the accused persons bail in the sum of N200,000 with a reliable surety.

He also ruled that the sureties must produce evidence of payment of taxes for three years and reside within the court's jurisdiction.

The case was adjourned to May 12 for hearing.



A sachet water hawker at Nyanya recently.

Sachet water sellers decry low business

By Zainab Shehu

SACHET water sellers at Nyanya, Abuja, yesterday complained about low sales of their products due to the raining season and incessant harassment by officials of the Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB).

Haruna, a seller, said during the hot weather, sachet water hawkers made profits but with the coming of the raining season, the profit margin has dropped because demand is no longer high.

"During the hot weather, I sold between fifteen to twenty bags daily but today, if I sell up to four bags, I thank God," he lamented.

Another hawker, Mallam Barau said he sells over 20 bags daily and the profit used to purchase more as well as sustain his family.

"The sales today are low and

I pray that government assist us with something else to do," he added.

The same problems were stated by Gladys, Danladi, all sachet water hawkers, who called on government to empower them in other business ventures.

Bwari residents list demands for chairman-elect

BY Hussein Yahaya

RESIDENTS of Bwari town in the Federal Capital Territory yesterday presented a list of demands to the chairman elect of Bwari Area Council of the FCT, Mr. Peter Yohanna.

They advised him to prioritise his administration's policy in order to address the prevailing challenges facing residents of the area.

Some of them spoken to yesterday urge the incoming council administration to urgently address water problems by constructing more boreholes and ensuring that water from Usma Dam get into the town.

Mr. Isah John, a resident, appealed to the chairman elect to take the advantage of Usma Dam's closeness to the town to explore ways in solving water

problem once and for all.

Hajia Sa'adatu Ismail, a fish seller in the area, appealed to the chairman elect to as a matter of urgency purchase transformers and distributes them to various communities in the council so as to reduce incessant power outages in the area.

Other residents called on the new administration to provide the necessary facilities in public schools for pupils to compete

favourably with their counterparts in private schools.

They also advised the incoming council boss to pay more attention to rural farmers to boost food production in the area.

Mr. Peter Yohanna of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) won the April 10 council poll in the area and he is expected to take over from the Isah Dara led - PDP government very soon.

A D V E R T O R I A L

2011: Goodluck Jonathan, Please Make History!!

When providence beckoned on Your Excellency, to steer the ship of the Nigerian state out of turbulent waters, many had their doubts. At the time, the nation was indeed at a crossroads, facing enormous existential challenges, particularly brought about by President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua's ill-health.

Today, thanks in large part to Your Excellency and the resilience of the Nigerian people, we have managed to stem the tide. We have averted a constitutional crisis, calmed down the polity and begun a process of reforming the nation.

On the international scene, we have regained our respect in the comity of nations as signified by the warm reception accorded you in the United States and the de-listing of Nigeria as a "country of interest" to the US war on terrorism.

All these noble achievements are attributable to your dedication, patriotism and level-headedness, a feat that has set you on the path to make history.

The people-oriented agenda of your administration, as you have personally

enunciated, i.e. electoral reforms and credible elections in 2011, the reform of the power and energy sectors, the consolidation of the gains of the amnesty and the rehabilitation of the Niger Delta region, are all noble ideals that will guarantee you an enviable place in the Nigerian Hall of Fame.

This is why we join other well-meaning Nigerians who are calling on you to stay the course and refuse to succumb to the deceitful plot by desperate political opportunists to drag you to contest the 2011 presidential election.

The time-tested zoning formula of your party, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), has ensured peace, justice and political stability in the country since 1999, and has become its defining feature as well as the *raison de'tre*.

It is therefore most incumbent upon you and all lovers of Nigeria not to defy but defend this laudable zoning arrangement by ensuring that the North completes its tenure.

So, Your Excellency, please, make history:
DON'T RUN!

Signed

NIGERIA SUPPORT GROUP

Inside Politics

Alkali to AC: Ogbulafor won't step aside

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) yesterday asked the Action Congress (AC) to "face its own problems" instead of calling on another party's leader to step aside.

AC on Monday asked PDP chairman Vincent Ogbulafor to vacate his office on moral grounds to face the pending corruption charges against him.

Ogbulafor, along with four others, is facing a 16-count charge of fraudulent payment of N104 million for non-existent contracts, charges he dismissed as politically motivated. He was charged to court by the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC).

PDP National Publicity Secretary Rufa'i Ahmed Alkali said AC should address the "illegal" actions being perpetrated in the two states it controls—Lagos and Edo.

He said the party should

resolve the issues surrounding the creation of "illegal" local government areas in Lagos and the removal of speaker of the Edo House of Assembly because he was not a member of AC.

"AC has enough problems on their head. They should go and put their house in order. Let them leave PDP alone. First of all, they should remove the elephants on their heads before they should think of removing specks on other people's eyes.

"The two AC-controlled states of Lagos and Edo have committed sufficient illegal activities that should put them on trial. In Lagos, they created new local governments that are not recognized by the constitution and they are using money from the federation accounts to finance them. In Edo, the Speaker of the Edo State House of Assembly was removed just because he is not a member of AC. What kind of people are these? Physicians, heal thyself," Alkali said.



VINCENT Ogbulafor, PDP Chairman

Ekiti: 6,000 policemen deployed from 5 states

MORE than 6,000 policemen from five states have been deployed to Ekiti State to beef up security for today's judgement on the governorship election dispute, spokesman for the state police command Mohammed Jimoh said yesterday.

Jimoh, who did not name the states, said the personnel, comprising riot policemen, were drawn from neighbouring state commands.

The tribunal is due to deliver judgement in the case filed by Action Congress (AC) candidate Kayode Fayemi against the election of Governor Segun Oni of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the April 25, 2009 re-run election.

Jimoh said "our men have been deployed to guard public facilities in the state to ensure their safety." He assured residents of adequate protection of lives and property during and after the judgment.

Fayemi is contesting the re-run election in six wards -- Ifaki Wards I and II, Orin/Ora Ward, Usi Ward in Ido-Osi Local Government Area and Ipoti Wards A and B in the Ijero Local Government Area. (NAN)

SNG charter for review today

By Muideen Olaniyi

ACTION Congress (AC) National Secretary Usman Bugaje will today present a review of the Save Nigeria Group (SNG) charter to the political class in Abuja.

A statement by Yinka Odumakin and Salihu Lukman said the charter was part of the group's objectives of what they called unblocking the minds of Nigerians, giving back their voices and

awakening them to take back their sovereignty.

"For a long time, politics has been reduced to only the interests of the political class with no reference anymore to the issues that affect the day-to-day existence of the people. All the talks and fights going on in the political space are not about the people but about the political ambitions and seizing of power for selfish motives.

"All that is about to change as the SNG is poised to saturate the entire country with the

paradigm shift, starting from the Federal Capital Territory to the geo-political zones and then all the states of the federation," the statement said.

Convener of the SNG Pastor Tunde Bakare would be giving a keynote remark during the national flag off of the charter which would have political parties, civil society groups, opinion leaders and various strata of the society in attendance.

IBB to bishops: Don't pollute religion with politics

By Abdulsattar A. Abubakar

FORMER military president Ibrahim Babangida has said that the tendency of Christian groups waging a "campaign of calumny" against him for declaring his presidential aspirations amounted to polluting religion with politics.

A number of Christian groups, including the Methodist Bishops, have voiced their opposition to Babangida's aspiration on the grounds that he annulled the June 12, 1993 election, adjudged to be the most credible ever.

But Babangida's spokesman Kasim Afegbua said in a statement in Abuja yesterday that "the Bishops got it all wrong."

"If the bishops and members of the PFN Youths wing are against General Babangida because he is a Muslim, we wonder whether a Christian aspirant can get into Aso Rock Villa by just Christian votes,"

he said.

"We are better off as one united country with cross fertilisation of ideas, cultures and viewpoints than this descent into religious sentiments. This dimension is unhealthy and unworthy, of our humanity.

"As bona fide citizen of this great country, General Ibrahim Babangida, just like every other aspirant, has the right to contest election into any office in the land. And as a presidential aspirant, the entire country is his constituency, Muslims and Christians inclusive."

Afegbua said Babangida has Christian friends across the country, and that when he was president he opened up bilateral relations with Israel to enable Nigerian Christians perform pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

"Any Nigerian, who tries to play out religious sentiments and get too deeply involved in the politics of the nation, will be missing the point," he said.

Aminu: I'll ensure Adamawa PDP crisis is resolved

ONE of the central figures in the Adamawa PDP crisis, Prof. Jibril Aminu, has said that he would ensure that the crisis was resolved.

"I will ensure that a meeting is convened to resolve the issues," Aminu, who represents Adamawa Central Senatorial District, told newsmen in Yola on Monday.

He said, "There is crisis in the party in the state which has to be resolved. The party is so large and therefore, opposition has emerged within the party which Medan Teneke, Umar Ardo and a host of others are angry and have now formed factions.

"That is why former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, one of the

founders of the party, is capitalising on it and causing turmoil in the state. Whenever there is any problem in the party, you meet and talk it out and reach a resolution, but that has been neglected."

He blamed the crisis in the state over lack of forum by the party officials, where stakeholders could sit and discuss issues and mend fences. "I cannot remember when last the stakeholders of the party met to discuss issues affecting the party in the state. However, I will not hesitate to use my precious time to ensure that all grey areas are resolved before the 2011 elections," he said. (NAN)

Iwu: Youths commend Jonathan

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Nigerian Youths League (NYL) has commended Acting President Goodluck Jonathan for removing chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Maurice Iwu.

President of the group, Olumide Alli, said yesterday in Abuja: "It is a gross display of naivety and moral deficiency that despite all the hue and cry by Nigerians and the international community over the 2007 general elections, this man still aspires to continue."

He said Jonathan had clearly shown to Nigerians that he had the will and intent to entrench democracy in the nation. "Our goal is also to see how Nigeria would uphold true tenets of democracy, where a free and fair election is one of the cardinal principles. Also to see who would take Nigeria out of the woods, especially at this trying period," Alli said.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

ASSOCIATION OF LAND & ESTATE OWNERS LAGOS/OGUN

The General public is hereby notified that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES

1. Alhaji Chief Mutairu Owoeye
2. Chief Alani Adebayo
3. Mr. Femi Adebayo
4. Chief Aloshe Mutairu
5. Alhaji Lateef Gbadamosi
6. Mr. Lukman Bakare
7. Alhaji Sarafa Bello
8. Mr. Olatunji Julius
9. Chief Babalola Thompson
10. Chief Nurudeen Asade

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

1. To Eradicate Hologalism in Land sales.
2. To prevent the public from falling into wrong hands when purchasing land.
3. To foster the unity among members.

Any objectives to the registration of the above association should be forwarded to the registrar general corporate affairs commission, Maitama Abuja within 28 days of its publication.

Signed

Secretary

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that original certificate of occupancy (C of O) with no. BA/15532 and plot no. 246/DP/31 BAUCHI, belonging to one FADIMATH ABUBAKAR ABDULLAHI of BABALA AZARE BAUCHI STATE is missing effort made to trace the said C of O proved abortive.

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the general public that the original conveyance of Provisional approval in respect of the below plots:

1. Plot No. 511 about 1600m² layout Gwarimpa District bearing Haanongon Achiatar
2. Plot No. H245 about 1000sqm Kubwa Extension 111 (FCDA Scheme) bearing Munkwala Olawale
3. Plot No. H244 about 1000sqm Kubwa Extension 111 (FCDA Scheme) bearing Alhaji Usman
4. Plot No. H247 about 1000sqm Kubwa Extension 1 (FCDA Scheme) bearing Raheed Gbadamosi
5. Plot No. H246 about 100sqm Kubwa Extension 111 (FCDA Scheme) bearing Tajudeen.

All belonging to deceased Group Captain Shekarau, got lost. All efforts made to trace them proved abortive. If found please return to the undersigned. AGIS and general public take note.

Signed

Sankay Daniel Shekarau
Federal Government College Kaduna.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly CYNTHIA EBERECHI UGOAGWU, now wish to be addressed as CYNTHIA EBERECHI OPARAH. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly BAHAGO GAJERE, now wish to be known and addressed as MR SHANG RUMAH DANIEL. All former documents remain valid. Karu Local Government and general public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS IBEZIM NGOZIKA AGAPE, now wish to be addressed as MRS. NDUKANMA AGAPE NGOZIKA. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly called ADEYINKA OSAGBEMI, wish to be known as ADEYINAK AHMED BALA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly called MISS JABAR SURURAT YETUNDE, now wish to be called MRS. AYANBIYI SURURAT YETUNDE. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

I, formerly addressed as MISS TANIMOLA OMOYEMI LILIAN, now wish to be known as MRS MANN OMOYEMI LILIAN. All former documents remain valid. The general public should note.

I, formerly MISS ATUMAKA JULIET MNENA, now MRS JOHNSON ATUMAKA JULIET. All former documents remain valid. General public note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS ATARI MARTHA ATIN, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. ATARI MARTHA ERIK-TOBI. All former documents remain valid. First Bank of Nigeria and the general public take note.

I, formerly MISS MUHAMMED BILIKIS, now wish to be known as MRS MOMODU MUSTAPHA BILIKIS. All former documents remain valid. The general public take note.

I, formerly MISS MICHAEL TOYIN BAMITALE, now wish to be addressed as MRS STEPHEN OLUWATOYIN BAMITALE. All former documents remain valid. NSCDC and general public take note.

I, formerly MISS OGBODO SIVIAN ENERIAKPOZE, now wish to be addressed as MRS SIVIAN KINGSLEY IBOH. All former documents remain valid, and general public take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as MISS OLUWASEUN FUNMILAYO AGBEDE, now wish to be addressed as MRS OLUWASEUN FUNMILAYO OLAFUSI. All former documents remain valid. General public and Institutions should please take note.

I formerly known as Miss. JOYCE NGUUNGWAN YAJI, now wish to be Mrs. JOYCE NGUUNGWAN YAJI-AGUNBIADE. All former documents remain valid. The general public take note.

I formerly known as Miss. ELIZABITH UNAZI, now wish to be called Mrs. ELIZABITH ADEFILA. All former documents remain valid. The general public should take note.

I formerly known as AMINA ALI GONIRI now addressed Mrs. MINA BABAGANA MONGUNO. Former documents remain valid. Ramat Poly, NYSC and public to note.

I formerly ABUBAKAR THLAMA now MWADA MUTAH. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I formerly MISS BLESSING AKOREDE ONAYOMAKE, now wish to be called as MRS BLESSING AKOREDE GABRIEL OGBOGU. All former documents remain valid general public should take note.

I, formerly known as MISS NWAWELOVELYN OZIOMA now wish to be known and addressed as MRS IWUOHA KANAYO LOVELYN OZIOMA. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly A'ISHA SULEIMAN, now wish to be known as MRS. A'ISHA SULEIMAN SA'ID. Former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly known as SANGORINDE OLUWASANJO MATTHEW, now wish to be known as DAVID OLUWASANJO MATTHEW. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly MISS CHIDINMA GRACE AGWULONU, now called MRS. CHIDINMA GRACE OKPOKORO. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS TOLULOPE OLUSHOLA OSENI, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS TOLULOPE OLUSHOLA YUSUF. All former documents remain valid. The general public should please take note.

I, formerly known as MISS NWAWELOVELYN OZIOMA, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS IWUOHA KANAYO LOVELYN OZIOMA. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.



NATIONAL VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE VOM Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TENDER

The National Veterinary Research Institute Vom, Plateau State in its bid to utilize the 2010 Capital Appropriation, hereby invites reputable Contractors who have experience in the execution of the under listed projects to submit Pre-qualification and Commercial Bids.

A. Procurement of Specialized Input for Vaccine Research and Development -

LOT 01 2010: Supply and Installation of Equipment for Microbiology, Histopathology, Parasitology, and Clinical/Chemical Pathology Laboratories, in Central Diagnostic Vom.

LOT 02 2010: Supply of Reagents, Chemicals, Media and Biologics for Vaccine Research & Development.

LOT 03 2010: Supply and Installation of Laboratory Equipment for Bacterial Vaccine Research & Development.

LOT 04 2010: Supply and Installation of Laboratory Equipment for Viral Vaccine Research & Development.

B. Special Research Programmes

LOT 05 2010: Supply of Reagents, Chemicals and Media for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Project

LOT 06 2010: Supply of Reagents, Chemicals and Media for Brucellosis Surveillance Vaccine Project

LOT 07 2010: Supply of Reagents, Chemicals and Media for Rabies Cell Culture Vaccine Development and Production Project

LOT 08 2010: Supply of Reagents, Chemicals and Media for African swine fever Project

LOT 09 2010: Supply of Reagents, Media and Kits for Avian Influenza Project

LOT 10 2010: Supply of Reagents, Chemicals and Media for Multivalent Vaccine Research and

Development

C. Development of Effective Diagnostic and Control Measures for Bovine Tuberculosis

LOT 11 2010: Supply of Reagents, Chemicals, Media and Kits for Tuberculosis Project

LOT 12 2010: Supply and Installation of Equipment for Bovine Tuberculosis Project.

2. SUBMISSION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

Contractors should submit their Pre-qualification Documents in **SEQUENTIAL ORDER** as Listed Below, alongside their Commercial Bids.

i. Certificate of Incorporation with the Corporate Affairs Commission.

ii. Current Tax Clearance Certificate for the past three (3) years from Federal Inland Revenue (FIR)

iii. Value Added Tax (VAT) Registration Certificate for the past three (3) years.

iv. Evidence of financial capability (Audited Accounts) for the past three (3) years.

v. Bank Accounts details and letter of Reference from a Bank indicating evidence of accessibility to credit facilities must be submitted.

vi. Verifiable evidences of past job experience in similar projects of interest in the last five years indicating the contract value and evidence of satisfactory job performance.

vii. Comprehensive Company Profile including the Curriculum Vitae of key personnel.

viii. Tenderers are to submit both soft and hard copies of the pre-qualification submission.

ix. The financial tender documents must be submitted in duplicate.

x. Proforma Invoice/Price List from the manufacturer should be attached to every tender document.

xi. Companies are allowed to bid for a maximum of five (5) Lots only.

xii. Interested bidders are to collect Tender documents from the Secretary Tenders Board on payment of a non-refundable Tender Fee of Twenty five thousand Naira (N25, 000.00) only per LOT. A copy of the receipt must be attached to EACH Commercial Tender Document as evidence of payment upon submission.

xiii. **Pre-qualification documents (spiral bound) and Commercial Bid Documents must be supplied for each LOT in two parts consisting of (a) Pre-qualification Documents (b) Commercial Bid Documents.**

xiv. **The two documents (a and b above) must be placed in two (2) separate envelopes, each appropriately labeled and sealed and placed in a larger envelope for submission, marked "TENDER 2010" NATIONAL VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, VOM, PLATEAU STATE on the left-hand corner indicating the LOT NUMBER and addressed to:**

**THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
NATIONAL VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
P. M. B. 01, VOM
PLATEAU STATE**

The Tender Documents must be submitted to the Office of the Executive Director not later than 12.00 noon on **17th June, 2010**. Tenders Documents will be opened on the same day **17th June, 2010** at 1:00 pm at Dermatophilosis Conference Room of the Institute.

xiv. The name of the Company should be indicated on the reverse side of the envelope.

Signed

M. M. Makoshi (Mrs.)
Secretary Tenders Board,

National Veterinary Research Institute, Vom.

SPORT

Algeria coach
picks Mansouri
as captain

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LEBON James of Cleveland Cavaliers tries to get a shot off around Kendrick Perkins of Boston Celtics during Game Two of the Eastern Conference semi finals playoffs in Cleveland, Ohio on Monday. Boston won the game 104-86 to tie the series 1-1.

FIFA blames NFF for hotel woes

FIFA Secretary-General Jerome Valcke yesterday declared that Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) officials chose the cancelled hotel as the team's base camp for the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

"I'm amazed when I see reports that give the feeling that we were responsible when Nigeria was responsible for doing the wrong choice," Valcke told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Johannesburg.

He said they were responsible for the choice and should be blamed for it.

He spoke on the sidelines of FIFA's commencement of distribution of tickets to stadium construction workers in South Africa in fulfillment of the soccer body's promise.

He, however, expressed delight that the problem had now been solved.

Sports Minister, Alhaji Ibrahim Bio, last week led a delegation to South Africa to inspect the New Hampshire Hotel in Balito, near Durban, following persistent reports that it was sub-standard.

In spite of the media reports, the NFF had insisted that the hotel

was good but Bio discovered the inadequacies of the hotel, leading to its cancellation.

The delegation opted for the Protea Waterfront Hotel in Richards Bay.

The change cost Nigeria 125,000 dollars in penalty for breaching its arrangement with hotel management.

"I want to make it clear that the first choice was made by Nigeria based on a hotel that was not even part of our list.

"They chose a hotel which was not an official hotel signed or determined by FIFA and then

they complained after and now they have booked a FIFA hotel or MATCH hotel or whatever you want to call it.

"Now they are fined and it's good they have agreed to pay the penalty.

"If you're going somewhere, you rent a place and few weeks before you use the room you say finally I am changing, you pay a penalty whoever you are," Valcke said.

The FIFA scribe said though there were some minor things to be tidied up by South Africa, all was set for the world soccer fiesta.

He said that organising the World Cup was not easy but South Africa had pulled its weight in preparing for the tournament.

Valcke said there was a lot Africa had to offer by hosting the World Cup for the first time.

"Africa is the most mysterious continent, a place where you can always discover something.

"You never understand Africa but you will always enjoy to discover something in Africa.

"That's what Africa can give to the world and at the end of the 64 matches, it will be the best," he said.

South West endorses Lulu, others

FOOTBALL administrators in the South West geo-political zone of the country Monday night in Oshogbo, Osun State unanimously endorsed Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) President Sani Lulu Abdullahi for a second term in office ahead of August elections.

Also endorsed are NFF Board members, Amanze Uchegulam, who is the First Vice President and Taiwo Ogunjobi, the Chairman of NFF technical committee.

This followed earlier endorsements by stakeholders at the North West, North East and South East geo-political zones

At the meeting that took place in the residence of Osun State FA vice chairman, Ganiyu Olaoluwa, all chairmen and secretaries from Ogun, Ondo, Oyo, Lagos and Ekiti as well as chairmen of Premier League clubs, namely, Gateway, Sunshine and 3SC were present.

All stakeholders at the meeting expressed satisfaction with the NFF's leadership and the achievements of the present board.

Lulu and Uchegulam were on Tuesday honoured with special awards by Osun chapter of Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN).



LULU

Kogi promises adequate funding of sports

GOV. Ibrahim Idris of Kogi has pledged to sustain his commitment to sports development through adequate funding and provision of sporting facility for sportsmen and women in the state.

Idris said this at the closing ceremony of the week-long 2nd Kogi State Sports Festival held at the Lokoja township stadium on Monday.

Idris, represented by his deputy, Mr Philip Salawu, said sports would continue to receive his administration's attention through adequate funding and the provision of facilities for training and sponsorship of athletes to national and international events.

He said the government was determined to complete the state ultra-modern Olympic-size stadium in Lokoja to provide modern training facilities for hosting sports competitions in the state.

The governor reiterated his determination to sponsor qualified teams from the state to represent the country at international championships.

He commended the organisers of the festival for their excellent organisational ability, and urged other stakeholders to ensure early preparations of athletes for the Garden City games coming up in October in Port-Harcourt.

Also speaking, the Commissioner for Youth and Sports, Mr Henry Ukubile, appealed to the governor to place the athletes on monthly stipends as incentives to prevent them from being lured to other states.

Ukubile also reminded the governor of pending trip of the state Under-14 Boys and Girls Handball teams, billed to represent Nigeria at the World Youth Handball Championship in Sweden in June.

Twenty out of the 21 local governments in the state participated in the festival.

Ankpa local government topped the medal's table with 38 gold, 23 silver and 19 bronze followed by Okene with 31 gold, 14 silver and 18 bronze, while Ibaji came third with 30 gold, 23 silver and 25 bronze.



IDRIS, Kogi State governor



Tiger Woods chips to a green during a practice round prior to the start of the Players Championship at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, yesterday.

EAGLES WORLD CUP HOTEL

House c'ttee may query NFF

FACTORS that led to Nigeria paying 125,000 dollars as fine on the dumped Super Eagles base camp are set to be examined, as the House Committee on Sports will invite the NFF to explain its role in the fiasco.

Committee member, Godfrey Gaiya stated in an interview with *brilafm.net* that the NFF would be held accountable for the development and served a hint that the officials would soon be invited to defend themselves.

"I expected whoever was responsible to have gone to the place and be sure that it meets the standard expected for the boys. We should not take rash decisions like this.

"Nobody would be happy losing such money and our duty is

to oversee everything and ensure nothing goes wrong.

The sports committee of the house will definitely be interested and see what we can do to invite those who are involved and give an explanation to Nigerians," he

assured.

Meanwhile, soccer critic Godwin Dudu-Orumen has described the decision of NFF to book sub-standard accommodation for the Eagles as unacceptable.

The ex-CAF legal commit-

tee member told *brilafm.net* that NFF president, Alhaji Sani Lulu Abdullahi and his board members should pay the \$125,000 fine over late cancellation of the Eagles' camp base.

"I don't know how we got ourselves to that point. But, when the officials went to get a venue for the Eagles and did not go along with the coach, I complained at that time. "I said it was like putting the cart before the horse. Now, I have been proved right. It is just so because we don't have anyone experienced enough to pick a camp for the team.

"Maybe they should ask Lulu and his men to pay the fine from their purse and stop using tax payers' money to cover up their misdeeds," Dudu said.

Maybe they should ask Lulu and his men to pay the fine from their purse

11 Nigerian athletes for Youths Olympics

By Orkula Shaagee

AT least eleven Nigerian athletes have qualified for the maiden edition of the Youth Olympic Games slated for Singapore next August.

Disclosing this in a chat with Trustsports Abuja yesterday, the Nigeria's Chief of Mission to the games, Mrs Hauwa Kulu Akinyemi said the athletes are drawn from badminton, tennis,

wrestling and weightlifting.

She explained there are four qualifiers each in tennis and badminton, two in wrestling and one in weightlifting. She however said the qualifying competition for representatives in athletics would hold in Dakar Senegal on May 15.

Speaking further, Mrs. Akinyemi the National Sports Commission plans an education camp for all qualified athletes before the games.



AFOLABI

Afolabi 'heading' to glory

AHEAD of next season, Austrian Bundesliga champions Red Bull Salzburg will be hoping to acquire more aerial power after Nigeria international Rabi'u Afolabi netted five goals for the champions through powerful headers this season.

According to the official website of Salzburg, officials believe that with more aerial power in front of goal, they will again be running away with the league crown for a third season in a row.

Salzburg have scored 11 goals through headers this season more than any other team in the league. Red Bull Salzburg's strength in this area has improved dramatically since the winter break.

In the autumn the champions struggled to head the ball into the net but their strength in the air could now prove a crucial part in securing a back-to-back league championship win with Afolabi their most dominant player in the air.

"The champions want to acquire more heading specialists such as Rabi'u, who of course headed the equaliser against Rapid Vienna and equally got the third goal against Wiener Neustadt through a powerful header last Friday," according to the website.

The Nigerian's fifth goal in the Austrian Bundesliga was also the fifth with his head.

Red Bull Salzburg top the table, maintaining a six-point lead over Rapid Vienna with three rounds of games to go.

Boxing boss banks on wild card

AFTER leading six boxers to the World Youth Boxing Championship in Azerbaijan but failed to pick a slot for the Youth Olympics in Singapore, National Amateur Boxing Federation is making a last effort to feature in the event.

NABF president, Rotimi George-Taylor said in an interview with *brilafm.net* that the body in charge has been urged to apply for a wild card and says there

are strong indications that Nigeria's application would be granted.

"We have not qualified through the competition, but we have done excellently and we shocked the organizers.

"They were shocked that Africa has come of age and said we should consider applying for a wild card to give us something about going to the Singapore Olympics," he explained.

Golfer Davis shows that honesty is best policy

Matthew Syed (Times of London)

A rather remarkable thing happened during the sudden death play-off at the Heritage Classic in South Carolina on Sunday evening. Brian Davis, an English golfer in with a real chance of winning his first title on the PGA Tour in the United States and with a million-dollar cheque up for grabs, called a two-stroke penalty on himself.

Davis had knocked his approach into a hazard adjacent to the 18th green, where his ball found a playable lie amid the debris. He then flicked a loose reed on his backswing, something that is deemed illegal according to the rules, as he played the ball to within 30 feet of the flag.

Although the officials did not see the infringement, and it was not picked up by television commentators at the time, Davis immediately alerted the referee. In doing so he obliterated any chance of becoming only the second Englishman — after Sir Nick Faldo — to win the event, one of the most prestigious tournaments in America.

Now, I don't know about you, but I find this profoundly uplifting. Sure, the rule itself is a bit of an ass, but that makes it even more gratifying that Davis was not prepared

Football has, to a very large extent, lost its sense of shame

to breach it.

He gained no advantage from flicking the reed and did not do so intentionally, but neither did he turn a blind eye to his own infringement. "It was just one of those things," Davis said. "I had to call it and I did. That is what makes our sport so special."

Davis is surely right there. While many of us dislike the snobishness of some golf clubs and deplore the conservatism of many within the sport's establishment, it is impossible to look with anything



JIM Furyk, left, shakes hands with Brian Davis at the Heritage Classic in South Carolina, United States on Sunday.

other than admiration at its culture of honesty.

The idea that the players police their own behaviour, with the officials there to offer rulings, is not only part of the fabric of the game, but also central to its long history.

Towards the climax of the 1925 US Open, Bobby Jones — perhaps the most influential of golfers — nudged his ball while setting up for a shot out of the rough. He immediately notified the marshals, but because neither they nor the gallery had seen the ball move, the decision was left to Jones. The American called a two-stroke penalty on himself and went on to lose the tournament by a stroke. Commended for his honesty after the event, Jones said: "You may as well praise a man for not robbing a bank."

Jones's words echo down the decades not merely as an expression of an urgent moral truth, but also as a warning. For the flipside of golf's commitment to moral probity is an equally strong commitment to condemn those who fail to live up to its commendably high standards.

During the Indonesian Open in March 2005, Colin Montgomerie replaced his ball, which was near to a greenside bunker, in

a more advantageous position after an overnight delay. It was spotted by his fellow players but not by the tournament director and has haunted the Scot ever since. Not least when Sandy Lyle, twice a major championship winner, described it during a press conference at the 2009 Open Championship as "a form of cheating".

We may glimpse an answer by looking at football, a sport that causes many of us to get angry when an opposition player dives in the box but rarely when an offence is committed by one of our own. Where was the moral outrage, for example, when Michael Owen dived to win penalties against Argentina in 1998 and 2002? There was no condemnation either from his teammates or from England fans. Is it any wonder, then, that footballers so often attempt to get away with anything they can?

Consider, by contrast, what would happen in the Ryder Cup if Luke Donald, say, surreptitiously kicked the ball on to the fairway from the rough. This would be a rule violation no less flagrant than a footballer diving in the box, but it would not just be the Americans who would be outraged, but Donald's own fans, his team-mates, his captain and his friends. The culture of

golf not merely eulogises honesty but condemns dishonesty, even when committed by a team-mate or favourite player.

What this tells us is that morality is not so much an individual endeavour as a collective one. It is not merely the punishment that deters cheating — a yellow card for simulation, disqualification for failing to call a penalty on oneself — but the human consequences. The cold shoulder from one's peers, the whispered conversations in the dressing room, the sidelong glances from fans; in short, the sense of shame.

Football has, to a very large extent, lost its sense of shame. Players wink at their team-mates after they have hoodwinked the referee and are doubtless applauded when they get back to the dressing room. Cricket is threatening to go the same way, what with the depressing tendency to appeal without cause, to claim catches that did not carry and to insult opponents in a way quite contrary to its ethos.

But, on Sunday, Davis showed us the consequences of a culture that takes the high ground. A culture that repudiates the nihilistic idea that winning is everything and the rest is for suckers. A culture that puts probity before partisanship.



SAFINA

Holder Safina slumps at Italian Open

DEFENDING champion Dinara Safina slumped out of the Italian Open in her first match yesterday with a 6-4 6-7 6-1 loss to Romanian Alexandra Dulgheru.

The third-seeded Russian, who has missed most of the year's action with a back injury that she says has not yet completely healed, got off to a sluggish start on clay made heavy by rain, going 4-0 down.

Safina, who had a bye to the second round along with the other top seeds, pulled level at 4-4 only to surrender the initiative immediately, skewing an easy volley wide to lose serve on the way to conceding the first set.

She eventually claimed a topsy-turvy second set on a tie-break before crumbling in the decider.

World number one Serena Williams will make her return to action against Swiss Timea Bacinszky later on Tuesday, having been out of action with a knee problem since winning January's Australian Open.

Venus Williams, also back from an injury layoff at the warm-up tournament for the French Open, cruised into the third round, beating another Swiss player, Patty Schnyder, 6-2 6-2.

Italy football dispute becomes national case

ITALY is the land of divisions: Left vs. Right; North vs. South; Religious vs. Secular.

In football, perhaps no division is as bitter as the one between fans of the two Rome teams, AS Roma and Lazio. Now, a dispute between the two over a crucial match Sunday has spilled into politics and become a national case.

On Sunday, Lazio lost 2-0 at home to Inter Milan, the club that is locked in a fight with Roma for the Serie A title. Lazio fans packing the Stadio Olimpico cheered, happy

to have hurt Roma's chances to win the title. Lazio drew accusations of being unsportsmanlike and handing Inter an easy victory in order to deliberately hurt Roma.

A Lazio victory would have kept Roma — which had won the day before — atop the standings. The loss put Inter on top again, with a 2-point lead with only two games to go.

Comments on Monday ranged from "farce" to "shame" to "embarrassing."

"Inter: It's easy that way," said

Rome daily Il Messaggero. "Lazio surrenders without a fight."

"Surreal Match," wrote La Gazzetta dello Sport in a front-page editorial.

"Those who love sports, not just football, cannot celebrate in seeing Lazio's quiet obedience to its fans, who wanted it to lose," Italy's largest sports daily wrote.

The status of the two teams is very different this season: Roma is a contender for the scudetto, battling neck-and-neck with four-time defending champions Inter; Lazio

is fighting to avoid relegation to the lower division.

However, Lazio got to have a say in the fight for the title.

Untouched by the criticism, Lazio fans celebrated in the stadium when Inter scored. They showed banners that mocked Roma, with one saying: "Scudetto: Game Over." Some even celebrated in the streets of the capital, the way fans do when their team actually wins.

Roma president Rosella Sensi said she "would be ashamed to win that way." Inter president Massimo

Moratti brushed the controversy aside, simply saying: "It's a problem between Roma and Lazio, it doesn't concern Inter."

But he did concede: "The crowd was completely with us and that was a very odd situation."

Football in Italy has a strong political dimension, and this latest dispute has transcended sport.

Politicians were quick to react Monday, and for once their opinions didn't follow the traditional left vs right divide — but rather their football allegiances.

Cruyff: I'm glad Mourinho is not Barca coach

HONORARY Barcelona president Johan Cruyff has lashed out at Inter coach Jose Mourinho, saying he is glad he doesn't coach the Catalans.

Perhaps Cruyff is still annoyed after Inter reached the Champions League final at the Blaugrana's expense. And he has taken a swipe at the reportedly Real Madrid-bound Mourinho.

"Some years ago he [Mourinho] could have been the coach of Barcelona. And, now, after some time, I can say that I am happy that he doesn't coach our team," Cruyff told La Gazzetta dello Sport as reported by Tuttomercatoweb.com

Mourinho spent time at Barcelona as one of the late Sir Bobby Robson's assistants whilst he learned the trade.

And recent reports in both Spain and Italy have claimed he could leave Inter for Real Madrid if he wins the Champions League later this month.



CRUYFF

Galliani: Pato will stay at Milan

MILAN chief executive Adriano Galliani has reiterated that Brazilian striker Alexandre Pato is going nowhere. Several reports have suggested in recent weeks that the Serie A giants will look to cash in on the 20-year-old this summer.

And the Corriere dello Sport alleges this morning that Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich has lined up a mega-bid to take the ex-Internacional man to Stamford Bridge, where he would reunite with former Milan boss Carlo Ancelotti.

But Galliani told La Gazzetta dello Sport: "I'm 100 per cent sure that Pato will remain here. Milan will not put their best players up for sale."

Giovinco wants clarity over Juve future

SEBASTIAN Giovinco is set to hold a meeting with Juventus and ask them for clarity over his future.

Following the arrival of Diego last summer and Antonio Candreva in the winter, Giovinco has found it hard to break into the first team. He has played 19 times this season, 12 of those have been substitute appearances, with just one goal to his name.

It's not war, we must not be nervous - Mancini

Manchester City boss urges stars to hold their nerve

MANCHESTER City manager Roberto Mancini has urged his players to hold their nerve in the Eastland's cauldron this week when they slug it out with Tottenham in what is being billed as a €30million match.

The two sides are separated by just a point in the race for the fourth Champions League spot.

for the club.

"But there is no pressure. It is not a war.

"We are in the Europa League next season. Now we have a chance to do more. We have worked for a year to get into this position.

City's chances, though, have been dealt a blow after Mancini

"We have worked for a year to get into this position"

with the winner of today's clash likely to earn the lucrative place at Europe's top table.

City were soundly beaten by Spurs earlier in the season in a match which sounded the death knell for previous boss Mark Hughes.

Defeat again at the City of Manchester stadium would likely signal the end for Mancini too.

"We must not be nervous," he said. "We must concentrate 100% because it is an important game

confirmed Joleon Lescott, who is recovering from a hamstring injury, will miss the last two games of the season.

But Mancini does expect the former Everton centre back to be fit in time for the World Cup in South Africa.

"Joleon will not play in the last two games," he said. "I hope Joleon will be fit for the World Cup.

He has another 14 days after the Premier League season finishes."



Nail-biting stuff... Roberto Mancini was brought into Manchester City to secure Champions League football.

Inter face Roma for Italian Cup title

INTER Milan, seeking to become the first Italian club to win a treble, can claim the first of the trophies today when it meets AS

"There's still plenty of time for that, so I think we'll be able to stay focused"

Roma in the Italian Cup final.

Inter is also battling Roma for the Serie A title, holding a two-point lead with two games remaining, then will face Bayern Munich in the Champions League final May 22 in Madrid.

"It's going to be a battle, a very difficult game, and I hope our team has the necessary desire to do well," Inter president Mas-

simo Moratti said, adding that he doesn't believe the squad is distracted by the Champions League. "There's still plenty of time for that, so I think we'll be able to stay focused."

Roma has added motivation after watching its city rival Lazio virtually lie down to allow Inter a 2-0 win Sunday, with Lazio fans delighting in their team's loss because it dented Roma's title ambitions.

Roma executive Gian Paolo Montali called the Lazio-Inter game "one of the worst events in Italian sports." However, he pointed out that Inter was not at fault.

"They didn't have anything to do with it," Montali said. "Inter is a great team, and they're in the final of the Champions League. If Inter plays a great game we'll be the first to admit their superiority."

Roma president Rosella Sensi said she would have been "ashamed to win that way" if she were Inter, to which Moratti

responded that "it's a problem between Roma and Lazio, it doesn't involve Inter."

Roma beat Inter 2-1 in their last meeting in Serie A, and the clubs have already met in the Italian Cup final three of the past four years, with Roma winning twice and Inter once. Roma is attempting to break a tie with Juventus and win its record 10th title overall, while Inter is chasing its sixth Italian Cup.

Inter coach Jose Mourinho must find a replacement for center back Lucio, who will miss the match with a right leg muscle problem. Veteran defender Marco Materazzi is a possible selection.

Roma will have home-ground advantage, as the final will be played at the Stadio Olimpico.

Coach Claudio Ranieri rested captain Francesco Totti and Luca Toni for a half each in a win over Parma on Saturday, freshening them for the final, and also has Mirko Vucinic to choose from in attack.



TOTTI, Roma playmaker

36 Days
To Go



COUNT DOWN TO SOUTH AFRICA 2010



TORRES

Torres could miss start of World Cup

FERNANDO Torres faces a race against time to be fit for Spain's opening match at next month's World Cup, according to Liverpool's new head of sports medicine and sports science, Peter Brukner.

The 26-year-old striker's recovery from a second operation in three months to repair a torn meniscus in his right knee is going well, but the club do not want to rush his rehabilitation and jeopardise his availability for the start of next season.

However, with the European champions' World Cup campaign just over a month away Brukner accepts a balance has to be struck as the player is desperate to feature in South Africa.

"He's doing well and he's certainly tremendously committed to his rehab, as are the staff here, and if anyone can recover from an injury, he can," said Brukner.

We're anxious not to hurry him along too much

who will head to South Africa with Australia before returning to take up a permanent role at the club's Melwood training ground.

"You can't be absolutely certain of anything but at this stage, if he continues to progress the way he is, he should be fit to play at some stage during the World Cup. Whether he'll be fit for the first game or not is uncertain."

Brukner added on Liverpool's website: "We're anxious not to hurry him along too much because we want the long-term benefit, but we're aware he's got the short-term goal of playing in the World Cup."

"Hopefully we can get a compromise between those two where he plays in the World Cup and he's fit and well for Liverpool next season."



YAZID Mansouri will lead Algeria at the World Cup in South Africa.

Algeria coach picks Mansouri as captain

LORIENT midfielder Yazid Mansouri has been selected as Algeria's World Cup captain.

Coach Rabah Saadane selected a 25-man preliminary roster Tuesday and must cut down to 23 by June 1.

Algeria opens against Slovenia on June 12, then plays England six days later and closes the first round against the United States on June 23. It has warmup matches at Ireland (May 28) and against the United Arab Emirates in Nuremberg, Germany (June 5).

Several Algerians selected are teammates of players in the U.S. national team player pool: defender Madjid Bougherra (midfielders Maurice Edu and DaMarcus Beasley on Glasgow Rangers); midfielder Riad Boudebouz (forward Charlie Davies on Sochaux); and midfielder Karim

Matmour (midfielder Michael Bradley on Borussia Moenchengladbach).

Just four players are based in Algeria: three goalkeepers and defender Abdelkader Laifaoui. Seven players are with French clubs.

Defender Nadir Belhadj has not played since March 20 because of a hamstring injury, and Bougherra has been sidelined since April 18 due to a strained calf.

The squad:

Goalkeepers: Fawzi Chaouchi (ES Setif), Lounes Gaouaoui (ASO Chlef), M'bohi Rais Ouهد (Slava Sofia, Bulgaria), Mohamed Liamine Zemamouche (MC Alger)

Defenders: Habib Belaid (Boulogne, France), Nadir Belhadj (Portsmouth, England), Madjid Bougherra (Glasgow

Rangers, Scotland), Rafik Halliche (Nacional Madeira, Portugal), Abdelkader Laifaoui (ES Setif), Carl Medjani (AC Ajaccio, France), Djamel Mesbah (Lecce, Italy) Anther Yahia (Bochum, Germany)

Midfielders: Djamel Abdoun (Nantes, France), Riad Boudebouz (Sochaux, France), Adlane Guedioura (Wolverhampton, England), Fouad Kadir (Valenciennes, France), Medhi Lacen (Racing Santander, Spain), Yazid Mansouri (Lorient, France), Karim Matmour (Moenchengladbach, Germany), Mourad Meghni (Lazio, Italy), Hassen Yebda (Portsmouth, England), Karim Ziani (Wolfsburg, Germany)

Forwards: Rafik Djebbour (AEK Athens, Greece), Abdelkader Ghezzal (Siena, Italy), Rafik Saifi (Istres, France).

Lippi mum over Totti return

IMPATIENT Italy fans must bide their time to find out if Francesco Totti will make a remarkable comeback at the World Cup, coach Marcello Lippi said on Tuesday, predicting a similar wait for news over his own future.

The Roma captain and striker, 33, retired from international football after Italy's 2006 World Cup triumph but has recently left the door open to a return if he is fully fit.

"Totti? Wait until May 11, when we need to send the list of 30 players to FIFA. You will see," Lippi told a news conference during a two-day Italy training camp in Rome.

"I don't have plans to visit Roma but there is also the telephone. Or even email," he smiled.

The provisional 30-man squad will be whittled down to 23 for the June 11-July 11 tournament in South Africa, where the holders meet Paraguay, New Zealand and Slovakia in Group F.

Totti has suffered a string of injury problems in the last year but is back fit for Roma's Serie A title run-in and has scored 12 league goals this term.

His return would give Italy much-needed creativity following recent lacklustre results but walking back into side having not contributed to qualification could rattle with players who then miss out on a starting berth or a squad place.

Totti, along with Roma team mates Daniele De Rossi and Luca Toni, were excluded from the 29-man training squad because their side face Inter Milan in the Italian Cup final on Wednesday.

Villarreal forward Giuseppe Rossi is also missing because of club action in Spain but Lippi said the 23-year-old "remains in my notebook".

Speculation is rife that Lippi will step down after the World Cup but the coach has steadfastly refused to outline his plans, saying Italian federation president Giancarlo Abete should announce the news before the tournament gets under way.

"Abete knows what I will do. He will reveal it," Lippi said.

Drogba delays hernia surgery

CHELSEA striker Didier Drogba will delay hernia surgery until after the World Cup.

The Ivory Coast forward has been troubled for months with the problem and was set to go under the knife next week, but has decided to put back the operation in order to avoid the risk of missing the World Cup.

"I will play in the World Cup and then I will see after what I will do, but I won't have the surgery now, in two or three weeks - no I won't," he said.



GALLAS

Gallas: I will be fit for mundial

ARSENAL'S France defender William Gallas has insisted he will recover from a calf injury in time for next month's World Cup.

Gallas picked up the injury in the Champions League quarter-final first leg game against Barcelona in March, with coach Arsène Wenger saying at the time that Gallas's season with the club was over.

"I will be ready for France," Gallas told French daily Le Parisien. "Had it not been possible to recover I would have pulled out. Right now, I feel good and ready for France."



LIPPI

THE WEDNESDAY COLUMN

Mohammed Haruna

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Yarima's abuse of religion

Roughly 10 years after he pioneered the contentious Sharia criminal law as governor of Zamfara State, Senator Ahmed Sani, *Yariman* Bakura, is back in the headline news. This time he has provoked controversy by his recent marriage to an allegedly under aged Egyptian girl in Abuja. And as was the case last time the controversy has, so far at least, generated more heat than light.

On the one hand, the vast majority of newspaper pundits, human rights organizations and not a few of his legislative colleagues, many, if not all, of them sworn enemies of his "political Sharia," have charged him with cradle snatching and called him all manner of names. Yarima, many of them have said, should be sacked from the Senate at the least. Better still, some have said, he should be prosecuted for violating Section 21 of the Child Rights Act of 2003 which provides for up to five years jail for anyone found guilty of violating the law.

On the other hand, many an imam who made the issue the subject of their *khutbah* in mosques last Friday in Kaduna and elsewhere during the Juma'a prayers, have rallied behind the senator. They all seemed to agree with his counter-charge that his critics have merely been hiding behind his so-called cradle snatching to ridicule Islam. After all, he said, he has not violated any of Allah's injunctions on wedlock nor has he violated any of the traditions of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) on the same subject.

In his interview in the *Daily Trust* of April 29, for example, the senator said in effect he did not care to be judged by Nigeria's Constitution and laws that he once swore as governor, and now as senator, to uphold. "*Whatever the Qur'an and the hadith of the Holy Prophet authorizes,*" he said, "*I try my best to live up to it. Whatever they forbid I try my best not to do it. These are the guiding rules of my life. So if anyone decides to judge me according to rules other than those prescribed by Allah and the Holy Prophet, then he is wasting his time, because they are not my guiding principles.*"

The senator said pretty much the same thing in his widely quoted interview with the *BBC Hausa Service* mid last week.

Technically the senator and his supporters are right that he has not violated any Islamic injunctions in marrying a girl-child. He has denied that she is 13, as has been widely claimed, but he would not say how old. Press enquiries about her age at the Egyptian Embassy in Abuja have drawn a blank. Even then it is almost certain that she is below the so-called age of consent - 18.

The Qur'an has a long list of what women a man can marry and what women he can't. The list does not include girls under 18. Indeed Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) married A'isha at the age of seven, some say six, and consummated the marriage at nine.

If this sounds scandalous in this day and age it is because we have come to believe that women mature only at 18. Nothing can be more fallacious. The almost universal choice of 18 as the age of consent has little or no scientific basis. Eighteen may be the age the bone structure of a girl is assumed to be fully developed to withstand the rigours of childbirth, but in Islam, as in most other beliefs and cultures, a girl is considered mature both physically and psychologically when she starts to menstruate. Most do so well below 18. And many can, and do, bear children safely at well below that age.

Eighteen as the age of consent is essentially a Western concept. Yet as last week's London *Economist* (April 24) pointed out in an article on British education, four in every 100 British girls under 18 get pregnant every year. For all we know the figure for Nigeria is worse. Yet it is a safe bet that Yarima's critics who take their cues on ethics mostly from the West see nothing wrong with such a phenomenon. If they do the fact is that they have never raised as much hell about under age sex, even that outside wedlock, as they have since Yarima's wedding to his Egyptian girl-child.

Therefore Yarima and his supporters do have a point

when they accuse at least some of his critics of hypocrisy.

This, however, is as far as I would go in defence of the senator. Technically he may not have breached any Islamic injunction in marrying a girl-child, but the issue here is not merely technical. It is also moral in at least two aspects.

First, the context of the marriage. It seems certain that he divorced one of his four wives so as to marry the Egyptian and still keep within the limit of four allowed by Islam. The poor local child was reportedly in form two in a secondary school when he married her and kept her out of school. She had a child for him at the time he divorced her. Islam, unlike, say, Catholicism, condones divorce as a last resort but unequivocally forbids it just to marry another woman or just for the hell of it, which amounts more or less to the same thing.

In this sense Yarima's controversial marriage was as dubious technically as it was immoral.

Second, there is the apparent immorality of the cost of the wedding. In Islam, my *malam* friends say, there is a minimum bride price but there is no ceiling. When, according to one of them, Umar, one of the first four successors of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), tried at one time to fix a modest ceiling for bride price because he thought its size was making it difficult, if not impossible, for men to marry, he was successfully challenged by a woman who reminded him the prophet never set any ceiling.

Technically speaking, therefore, Yarima did no wrong by paying 100,000.00 dollars or roughly 15,000,000.00 Naira as bride price. Here again, however, the devil is in the context.

Islam unequivocally condemns and forbids profligacy and enjoins modesty and restraint in whatever a Muslim does or says, especially when, like Yarima, he is a leader or considers himself a role model.

Paying a bride price of 15,000,000.00 Naira in a country where the vast majority is said to live on less than a dollar a day is certainly worse than profligacy. It borders on the criminal. And that was not the only cost. Because Egypt, even though a Muslim country, forbids marriage of any girl below 18, Yarima reportedly imported at least 30 of the girl's relations into Abuja for the wedding. That must have cost another, possibly bigger, bundle.

Whatever the imams and Yarima's supporters may say, his controversial marriage to a girl-child, not for the first time, is essentially an abuse of religion for personal pleasure. It is hard, if not impossible, to defend completely.

Re: Adenaike - a Musketeer at 70

Your column of Wednesday April 21 on Felix Adenaike at 70 was brilliant and a master piece. In that write up you wrote that "*Jose had cause to catapult Osoba who had no university degree to the Editorship of Daily Times, then the flagship of Nigerian Journalism. The graduate editors in the stable, some of them Osoba's seniors didn't like it.*"

First none of his contemporaries then other than Prince Henry Odukomaia was his senior in terms of entry into journalism. Osoba was appointed Editor Lagos Weekend in Mid 1969 at the same time that Prince Odukomaia became Editor of *The Daily Times*.

Educationally, Osoba obtained a Diploma in Journalism after a course of full time study at University of Lagos in 1965 organized by the International Press Institute.

In 1967 he bagged the Fellowship Certificate of the Commonwealth Press Union after a course of study in the UK, part of which took place at Oxford University and Thompson Foundation in Cardiff.

Osoba spent a full academic session 1970/71 in the Department of Journalism at Indiana University Bloomington USA.

He capped his academic career with a full academic year 1974/75 as a post graduate Nigerian Fellow at the famous Ivy League Harvard University in Cambridge Massachusetts USA. Nieman Fellowship is a top rated Post-Graduate Programme for few American journalist.

Osoba is the first Nigerian to obtain the Nieman Fellowship Certificate in Journalism for Harvard University.

Sola Lawal, Senior Special Assistant to Osoba as Governor of Ogun State

SPORTS REPORT



JOSE Mourinho

Mourinho refuses to commit himself to Inter

Mourinho has refused to commit himself to staying at Internazionale beyond the end of this season, saying he cannot give any guarantees about his future. The Inter manager has been linked with a move to Real Madrid this summer, while previous comments that he would like to return to Eng-

land sooner or later led some to speculate that he might consider the Manchester City or Liverpool jobs should they become available.

"I cannot say it is 100% that I will stay at Inter next season," said Mourinho, speaking at a press conference ahead of tomorrow's Coppa Italia final against Roma. "In football you can never say this sort of thing."



SPURS manager Harry Redknapp

Pressure on Man City - Redknapp

Tottenham boss Harry Redknapp says his side is under no pressure ahead of Wednesday's visit to Manchester City.

A win will put Spurs in the Champions League, but if City triumph they will be favourites to secure the final spot.

"At the start of the year we all felt if anyone was going to break in to the top four then it was going to be Manchester City," Redknapp said.

City boss Roberto Mancini has said the game gives them his players a chance to "change the history of the club."

Victory for Spurs at Eastlands will guarantee them at least fourth place in the Premier League, and a first appearance in the Champions League.

