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DAILY TRUST

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RABI'UL THANI 11, 1430 AH

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Mecca mosques face wrong direction

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UK hikes visa price

The United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) has said the global fees for UK visa applications will be revised with effect from April 6 (today).

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As at Friday, April 3

TOP GAINERS

Symbol	Price(N)	Gain
NBC	21.00	+5.00%
AP	72.22	+4.99%
Oando	69.20	+4.85%

TOP LOSERS

Symbol	Price(N)	Loss
ETI	9.73	-4.98%
J/Berger	6.31	-4.97%
WemaBank	4.04	-4.94%

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NAIRA EXCHANGE RATE

	Selling	Buying
EURO	212	210
POUND	242	240
DOLLAR	172	170

Source: Muhammed Zazi Bureau de Change, Lagos

Palm Sunday tragedy

17 women perish in crash



Wreckage of a petrol tanker that collided with an 18-seater bus at the FRSC junction, Makurdi-Enugu road yesterday. All occupants of the bus died in the crash.

Photo: Hir Joseph

The Roman Catholic Church's celebration of Palm Sunday turned tragic in the early hours of yesterday when 17 women members of the Idoma Catholic community in Benue State as well as two men died when a speeding petrol tanker hit the 18-seater bus in which they were travelling. The accident occurred at the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) Junction along Makurdi-Enugu Road in Makurdi, Benue

From Hir Joseph, Makurdi

State. The mini bus belonging to Saint Peter and Paul Idoma Catholic Community with registration number AJ 528 MKD collided with the tanker with registration number AA 498 AKW (Plateau) which was conveying black oil from Jos. A witness said the bus conveying the church members was attempting to overtake another vehicle at the narrow junction.

Seventeen persons died on the spot while two others died later at the Federal Medical Centre (FMC) in Makurdi, where men of the FRSC on emergency services rushed them to.

Benue State Sector Commander of the FRSC Mr. Gbenga Oke confirmed the fatal accident. He said the accident occurred when the 18-seater bus tried to overtake another vehicle at the bend near the junction.

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Tukur urges states to shun power fund

By Idris Ahmed

State governors should use their states' contributions to the \$5.3 billion power project to generate independent power rather than donate the money

to the Federal Government, Chairman of Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) Engi-

neer Hamman Tukur urged at the weekend.

Tukur, who said \$698.75 million which is the 13 percent derivation meant for the mineral producing states should

be deducted from the \$5.3 billion before sharing the balance of \$4.7 billion, said if each state uses its own contributions for internal power, the problem would be solved.

"If you know the amount each state is contributing, you can imagine what they can do using it to generate independent and internal power in

Cont. on Pg. 5

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NEWS

LG presents N389m Appropriation Bill

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

The chairman of Isin Local Government council of Kwara State, Alhaji Wasiu Bamidele has presented an Appropriation Bill of N389 million for year 2009 to his legislative council. A break down of the Bill indicated that N282,300,000 was recurrent expenditure, while N335,700,000 was capital expenditure for fiscal year. The Council boss who presented the Bill Tagged: "Budget Re-positing" at Owu-Isin, headquarters of the local government at the weekend, stated that the Bill was aimed at consolidating on the developmental efforts put in place by his administration as well as maintaining his leadership position in the area of rural transformation in the nation. His words: "After serious consideration of the realities on ground particularly the current economic recession which pose a threat to 2009 budget and the three tiers of governance, we are determined to reposition in a way that will generate the confidence of the electorate. Our projection hinges on the believe that a total sum of N370million will come as grants from the federation accounts, while we expect a sum of N11million from the state government and a sum of N8million each from Internally generally Revenue (IGR) and Value Added Tax (VAT) respectively". He explained that due consideration were paid to those projects that are capable of enhancing the socio-economic and political development of the council area within the shortest possible time. The economic sector, Bamidele added, had been given utmost priority in this budget based on our understanding that the development of any society is largely determined by the economy.

Kwara makes common entrance compulsory for pupils

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

The Kwara State Ministry of Education Science and Technology says it is compulsory for all primary six pupils in both public and private schools in the state to be registered for the state Common Entrance Examination coming up on Saturday 9 May, this year. A statement from the Ministry added that in preparation for the examination, all private and public primary schools in the state are to collect entry schedule from the local government education secretaries in their areas. "This year's common entrance examination should be conducted on Saturday the ninth of May this year across the state", the statement stressed. It said there would be no make up examination and therefore enjoined parents, guardians and head teachers to prepare their pupils for the examination. It was also observed that the entry schedule should be returned to LGEA secretary office before next month.

Gombe prepares youths for self reliance

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Gombe

The Gombe State government has designed a plan to train youth in various trades and skills under the auspices of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for the purpose of making them self reliant. The Commissioner overseeing the Ministry of Youth and Student Affairs, Hajia Fatima Binta Bello disclosed this while on a tour of enlightenment over the proposed 1000 youths skill acquisition training in three local government areas of the state. According to her, the youths would be involved in 12 different trades, saying the skills acquisition programme consists of apprenticeship in computer, barbing, vulcanizing and cell phone repairs. Commending the state government on the proposed innovation of curbing the menace of unemployment, the commissioner urged the youths to avail themselves of the opportunity to acquire necessary skills in order to be self independent. She said when the programme takes off, all the selected participants would be qualified for some allowances while provision of working tools would be made available after the training to enable the trainees to start their businesses. In each of the three local government areas visited by the commissioner that included Nafada, Funakaye and Dukku, the chairmen were urged to select youths that have the zeal to participate in the programme, saying each of the LGAs had a provision of 55 slots.

Presidential aspirant urges action on states creation

A PDP Presidential aspirant in the 2007 election, Hajia Hadiza Ibrahim has urged the National Assembly to expedite action on the creation of more states before the expiration of their tenure. Speaking with newsmen in Lokoja, Hajia Hadiza said the call had become necessary to foster development and reduce complaints of perceived cases of marginalization especially

From Sam Egwu, Lokoja

among the minority tribes. Hajia Hadiza who is an indigene of Kogi State opposed the current agitation for state by the majority tribes in the existing Kogi State and urged the National Assembly to disregard such request. With particular reference to the agitation for Okura State, Hajia Hadiza said the Igala tribe which are in the majority have been



Members of the congregation of St. Kizito Catholic Church Parish, Kuje, Abuja, with their palm fronds being blessed by Reverend Father Collins Ekpe, to mark Palm Sunday, yesterday
Pic: Kennedy Egbonodje.

Akpabio backs FG on amnesty to militants

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

Akwa Ibom State Governor, Obong Godswill Akpabio has expressed support for President Yar'adua's planned amnesty deal to Niger Delta militants.

He described the amnesty move as the right step in the right direction. The governor who spoke to aviation correspondents yesterday in Lagos said; "This is a major step by the president. What the president is saying is that if you drop your arms and come out, he would say go and sin no more. So this is a great opportunity for total peace to come to the Niger Delta".

On the likely response by the militants, the governor said those who are fighting for genuine causes would seize the opportunity, while the criminal elements among them would remain in the trenches.

"Today, we have given them the carrot and those who are not criminally minded will take this opportunity, lay down their arms

and come out to dialogue with the government and resolve the issue" he said.

He declared; "for those who are criminally minded, we will meet them headlong, force for force. Nothing will change that because the job of government is to ensure that the populace live in peace. There is no way we can allow disobedience in the society."

He reiterated the call on Mobil to relocate its headquarters to the state where it (the oil company) carries out its major operations.

The governor argued that in every place throughout the world, an industry is sited close to where it has raw materials and that "the best place to have their headquarters should be where they are operating from."

He said the state government was investigating the oil company's alleged relo-

cation plan and that the state would report to the appropriate quarters if it is confirmed.

However, Governor Akpabio said the oil company had assured him that it would not close its operations in the state.

"Mobil has assured me that they are not relocation from Akwa Ibom. Taken the head quarters to Lagos is not the right thing to do," he stated

Economic crisis: Taraba suspends payment of NECO, NABTEB fees

From Fidelis Mac-Leva, Jalingo

The effect of the ongoing financial crisis in Nigeria occasioned by the global economic meltdown has forced the Taraba State government to suspend the payment of NECO and NABTEB registration fees for students of the state as it did in previous years.

The decision to this effect was taken during the

weekly executive council meeting of the state held at Government House Jalingo last week.

Secretary to the State Government, Barrister Ibrahim El-Sudi, who briefed journalists at the end of the meeting said government would henceforth handle the settlement of WAEC registration fees only.

"Parents and communities should now bear the responsibility of paying NECO and NABTEB registration fees for their children as the economic crisis has taken its toll on the finances of Taraba state", the SSG said.

Last year, the state government bore the cost of registration fees for WAEC, NECO and NABTEB for indigenes of the state which

gulfed the sum of N160million.

But the SSG explained that with the current financial crisis, the state government could only afford to pay for the registration of WAEC candidates with English Language and Mathematics, adding that the sum of N68million was approved by the state government for this purpose.

El-Sudi also disclosed that the state government had approved the sum of N105million out of a supplementary budget of N934.2million presented by the ministry of Water Resources for the expansion of the Jalingo Water Scheme. He said the amount was part of the N423.4million state counterpart contribution on the project with the African Development Bank, ADB.

NEWS

U.S. warns of possible attack on embassies in Nigeria

The U.S. Embassy in Nigeria warned yesterday a possible attack against diplomatic missions in Lagos, the commercial capital of Africa's biggest oil producer.

In a message to U.S. citizens living in Nigeria, the embassy said it had received reports of a possible strike against missions located close to the U.S. Consulate General in Lagos, situated in the exclusive Victoria Island neighborhood.

"U.S. Mission Nigeria has

received reports about a possible attacks against diplomatic missions in Lagos located on Walter Carrington Crescent," the message said.

Nigerian police increased their vigilance in the neighborhood and called on U.S. citizens to report any suspicious activity.

Nigeria is the world's eighth biggest exporter of crude oil which supplies the United States and China.

Militants in the southern Niger Delta, the heartland of its oil industry, have carried out

regular strikes against installations belonging to oil giants including U.S. firms.

The main militant group in the region, the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), dissociated

itself from the threat.

"Our struggle is a just one and our enemies are not the good people of America," it said in a statement.

The U.S. embassy message gave no details of the

nature of the reports it had received regarding the possible attack in Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation divided roughly equally between Christians and Muslims.

But it said that U.S. government facilities worldwide remained in a state of heightened alert because of the threat of violence against Americans and U.S. interests. (Reuters)

Ekiti: AC alleges plot to influence electoral commissioner

They are confused-PDP

The Action Congress (AC) has alleged the rival Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has now decided to resort to the use of soldiers as well as offering gratification to election officials to use an already written result in respect of the Ekiti governorship re-run election.

A statement issued yesterday in Lagos by the party's National Publicity Secretary, Alhaji Lai Mohammed said the PDP had assured the election officials that the whole idea of deploying the Army to Ekiti state for the re-run is to contain any fallout from the planned rigging.

However, the PDP's National Publicity Secretary, Prof. Rufai Ahmed Alkali, dismissed the allegations saying the AC is disorganised and confused.

"Please ignore AC and their rantings. They are disorganized and confused. From the look of things, these are cries of a drowning man. They can continue shouting but they will not change the course of history," he said.

The AC alleged that at the time of its statement pressure on election officials has not abated even when the said officials had expressed concern that the strategy to use an already written result to rig the re-run will be too dangerous to use given the tension in the state.

Other plans as highlighted by the AC included: Massive collection of voter's cards from AC supporters at 5,000 naira each; promise of a 250,000 naira micro-credit loan to small scale businesses and payment of 2,000 naira to voters have also been shunned by the good people of the state, hence the desperation to rig at all cost, having realised that AC will win a free and fair election on April 25th."

AC said the boast by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dimeji Bankole, at Igede Ekiti that the PDP will indeed deploy soldiers to the state for the election has shown the mindset of the PDP and its desperation to win Ekiti at all

cost. AC said though the trip to Ekiti by the President, his deputy and other PDP stalwarts at the weekend was a clear misadventure; it has indeed proved fortuitous that they all ignored wise counsel and embarked on the failed mission.

"Yes, everywhere they went, they were indeed met by the people of the state. But instead of a rousing welcome, the 'PDP stalwarts' received jeers from the people, who simply raised their placards, with the bold inscription 'rig and roast' for them to see.

"If there was any doubt in Abuja that the PDP has lost Ekiti, that doubt was erased after the weekend's visit, hence the resort to the last act of desperation which, however, the valiant, decent and principled people of Ekiti are ready to resist," AC said.

The April 25 re-run election in Ekiti will take place in 10 out of 16 local government councils representing 64 wards and 813 pooling units.

Vaswanis begin N162bn rice project in Nigeria

Popular Farms & Mills Limited, a subsidiary of Stallion Group owned by the Vaswani Brothers Sunil, Hareesh and Mahesh has commenced work on N162 billion rice project soon after it signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Federal Government.

The brothers are currently being investigated by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) for allegedly evading tax worth N3 billion naira on rice imported into the country in connivance with some top officials of Nigeria Customs Service.

The company had started work on the various aspects of the nation-wide agricultural projects in earnest in order to meet the challenging milestones.

The Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources, Dr. Sayyidi Abba Ruma signed the MOU with Popular Foods at a ceremony

attended by government officials and a high level ministerial delegation from Thailand.

Speaking before signing the MoU, Ruma noted that the one million hectare Commercial Rice Development project would not only help to make Nigeria self-sufficient in rice production, but would also make the country a net exporter of rice.

Ruma said that the project had the capacity to produce, by 2013, 1.5 million tones of rice per annum.

Sunil Vaswani, Chairman of Stallion Group, said the project would help jumpstart the agricultural sector in Nigeria and expressed appreciation to government for giving his company the privilege.

The project is expected to provide modern milling facilities to achieve self sufficiency and encourage use of fertilizer and other

By Tashikmah Hallah & Nasidi A Yahaya

committee has been extended to all the parties involved including Nova Finance and Securities Limited, Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE), Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Chairman and Chief executive of AP, Mr. Femi Otedola.

AP had in recent advertisement in the national



L-R: Group Executive Director, Marketing and Corporate Relations Martin Anyanwu, Bayelsa State governor Timipre Sylva and UBA's Divisional Head, Corporate Brand Felix Ideh at the AMAA 2009 Awards in Yenagoa, yesterday.

Reps commence investigation of AP share price

Regardless of the action taken by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the House of Representatives Committee on Capital Market said weekend it would investigate the alleged share prices manipulation of the African Petroleum (AP) Plc

Ahmed Aliyu Wadada Chairman Committee on Capital Market said invitation for appearance before the

dailies accused the President of Dangote Group, Alhaji Aliko Dangote in connivance with Nova Finance and Securities of alleged unwholesome and unethical practices of devaluing its shares.

"Our investigations reveal that in the last 8 weeks, there has been a premeditated and orchestrated "crossing" of AP Plc shares amongst similar entities owned by and controlled by either by Alhaji Aliko Dangote or Nova Finance and Security Limited. This unethical practice of "crossing" is perpetrated by nova Finance and security transferring or purportedly selling a minimum of 50,000 units of AP Plc shares which is the required minimum to drop the price on a daily basis", AP Plc alleged.

The NSE suspended Nova Finance and security from engaging in any activity at the capital market and slammed a daily fine of N500,000 on the company for violating rules and regulations of the market but cleared Dangote from the allegation by AP.

The issue of AP Plc, Wadada said has for long been under investigation by the committee, saying "now that AP has made these allegations against Alhaji Aliko Dangote and Nova Finance, we want the general public to know that the issue of AP has for long been on the table of the committee and we will soon commence investigation into the allegation regardless of the action taken against Nova by

improved inputs as well as the deployment of international best practices to optimise yields in rice farming under both corporate and contract farming models.

It was learnt that the company had also already commissioned its rice mill in Lagos and is about to commission its Kano rice mill while substantial financial commitments had already been made into the next phase of farming and milling equipment destined for other project locations.

NSE".

He ruled out the possibility of inviting Dangote, saying he was a third party who transacted with NSE on AP shares through a broker which was Nova Finance, adding "the allegation against him were via Nova finance, it is the vehicle he was alleged to have used to commit whatever he is accused of." Dangote has already been cleared by an NSE investigation of complicity in the scam.

He chided the regulatory agencies for the alleged suspicious and illegal manner the AP public offer and right issue was transacted.

"We ...received complaints that the underwriters to the offer refused to oblige to their underwriting agreement, at the completion board meeting not all the underwriters signed and none of the underwriters issued any instrument to back their underwriting agreement.

"There is also an allegation that two different prospectus were used for the offer. Some underwriters alleged that their underwriting amount was changed and that many alterations were made to the original prospectus which gave birth to another prospectus", he said.

He said regardless of Otedola's alleged threat to his life, the committee resolved to ensure that he responded to its invitation for it to unravel the veracity of allegations made by AP Plc and the ones against made against it by the underwriters

NEWS

FG to establish more Lassa fever diagnostic centres – Osotimehin

Federal government is set to establish more Lassa fever diagnostic facilities in the country, the Minister of Health, Professor Babatunde Osotimehin has said.

In a letter he wrote to all the state commissioners of health in the country, Professor Osotimehin

said "we are in the process of establishing more diagnostic facilities and also increase the level of awareness within our communities so that we can limit the spread and hopefully ensure that we do not have serious outbreak in the future."

He said states begin to play their roles in primary health care so that the disease can be avoided in the future. To tackle cerebral spinal meningitis, the minister explained that "the situation lends itself to easy control and the plan is to make the change from the current polysaccharide type of vaccine to conjugate vaccine which is more effective and provides protection for a long period of time of about ten years."

He said: "It is our desire that before the next outbreak of CSM, we would have vaccinated a large number of

By Idris Ahmed

people in the CSM belt to increase immunity and ward off any other outbreak in our country. The planning and execution of that will certainly be through the newly established Emergency Response Committee which has membership from the States and promises to be a veritable tool for coordinating our response to this and similar medical emergencies in the future."

The minister said polio situation in the country has improved compared to the situation last year. He said his ministry was still getting reports of new cases, adding that "it is rather worrisome that some of these cases are being reported in the states that have been polio free for a while."

He said: "The response and the organization of immunization programme has been intense and we believe that if we sustain the momentum, we will be able to make Nigeria polio free very soon. However, that requires the continuous engagement of all of us at both State and Local Government levels. I see the current efforts as a good forerunner to the re-

establishment in all States of the routine immunization programme which is a significant part

of Primary Health Care." The minister said that primary health care system can only be revitalized if

the state governments, through the offices of the commissioners, work with their local government

counterparts to ensure that health care is given priority at the community level.



Street hawking by children is still widespread on Abuja streets.

Pic: Felix Onigbinde

UK hikes visa fees

By Aisha Umar

The United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) has said that the global fees for UK visa applications will be revised with effect from April 6.

A statement by British High Commission in Abuja said "the cost of a student visa under tier 4 of the Points Based System (PBS) has risen from N22,770 to N33,350. This remains significantly below the cost to UKBA for processing these applications (over N57,000). The UK attracts an increasing number of foreign students each year, including from Nigeria and UKBA is keen to ensure this trend continues".

The statement said "an application for a five year visit visa will now cost N92,000 and a ten year N115,000. These visas are now priced according to their validity. Therefore an application resulting in the issuance of a ten year visa costs more than an application for a five year visa."

"The review is as a result of UK Government's annual review of fees for visas, immigration and nationality services which was recently agreed by the UK Parliament. UKBA's Operations Manager in Abuja (Jason Ivory) said the revised fees reflect the UK Border Agency's need to balance costs with a genuine commitment to keeping fees at fair and sustainable levels that promote the UK's position as an attractive destination for work, tourists and students", it stated.

ECOWAS condemns human rights violation in Guinea Bissau

By Aisha Umar

The Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has expressed concern about "the increasingly disturbing acts of lawlessness and human rights violations permeating the body politic of Guinea Bissau" and condemned the perpetrators.

A statement by the Commission said "on March 23 2009, elements of the Guinea Bissau armed forces detained Mr. Pedro Infanda,

a Bissau-based lawyer, for comments he had made to the press and physically assaulted him while in custody. Barely a week later on April 1, armed men in military fatigues attacked the Chairman of the Audit Court, Dr. Francis Fadol, at his residence allegedly for utterances attributed to him in the media."

It added that after assassinations of the former President, Joao Bernardo

Vieira, and the Chief of Staff of the General Armed Forces, General Tagme Na Waie at the beginning of March, "these acts represent a disturbingly growing pattern of impunity and complete disregard for the dignity of persons by the security forces."

The statement added "at a time when ECOWAS and the international community are working assiduously towards assisting Guinea Bissau to

stabilize the political, financial and security situation, these latest developments demonstrate an utter lack of patriotism and concern for the sufferings of the people of Guinea Bissau by those responsible.

ECOWAS wishes to remind the Government and security agencies of Guinea Bissau of their cardinal responsibility to uphold the rule of law and to reiterate its determination to ensure that impunity is punished".

Truck crushes two in Suleja

By Aliyu Yahaya

A truck killed two people and wounded six others along Suleja market road in Niger State on Saturday. An eye witness told *Daily Trust* that the two victims were a young girl who was trying to cross the road with her six year old sister, and a motor cyclist who was waiting for passengers at the market gate.

According to the eyewitness, the truck driver

lost control and skidded off the road, running over the victims who died instantly while the other six sustained different degrees of injuries. and were rushed to the hospital.

He said the truck's driver who attempted to run away was apprehended by an "angry mob" and handed over to a policeman, Corporal Egbinu Usman, of

the Suleja Police Station.

Confirming the incident, Corporal Usman who was at the scene of the accident said the truck driver was still in police custody while the injured persons were receiving treatment at the Suleja General Hospital.

Speaking also at the accident scene, the secretary to the Suleja Local Government, Mallam Aliyu Sa'idu described the incident as unfortunate,

saying the local government has already paid the medical bills of the injured persons and made transportation arrangements for the corpses.

The head of the Suleja Area Office of the Federal Road Service Corps FRSC, Sheriff Alhassan, who was on rescue mission with his men at the accident scene, lamented the incessant reckless driving and violation of road traffic rules and regulations by motorists.

NEWS

Ekiti: I didn't call for deployment of soldiers

-Bankole

The Speaker of House of Representatives, Dimeji Bankole yesterday denied calling for deployment of soldiers to Ekiti State for the forthcoming re-run election in the state, saying he was quoted out of context.

Newspaper reports weekend quoted the Speaker as calling for deployment of soldiers to the state in order to ensure election of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate's success in the election.

However, Bankole in a statement by his Special Adviser (Media) Kayode Akinmade said he was not stating an official policy of deployment of soldiers for Ekiti re-run election but rather restating the constitutional duty of government to ensure peace and security.

He said "The attention of the office of the Speaker, House of Representatives has been drawn to some newspapers publication on Sunday April 5, 2009 quoting Dimeji Bankole as announcing the participation of soldiers in the Ekiti Governorship Re-Run election. We wish to state that the goodwill message of the Speaker at the occasion, which was aired live on NTA Network, was taken out of context and the background to the campaign rally in some newspapers reports.

The statement added: "So Bankole was not stating an official policy of deployment of soldiers for Ekiti re-run election but rather restating the constitutional duty of government to ensure peace and security. He

By Tashikalmah Hallah & Nasidi A. Yahaya

was assuring the electorate of Ekiti generally that government will do everything to protect law abiding citizens and their votes including the possibility of deploying soldiers".

However a group, The Cross River Movement for Justice has condemned the statement credited to the Speaker as unfortunate saying a person of his calibre should not have engaged himself in such untoward statement.

It said: "We are hugely disappointed and indeed flummoxed that such an inflammatory, uncouth, despicable, reckless and thoughtless statement would come from a supposedly high ranking official such as Mr Bankole, who should ordinarily be a paragon of decorum, civility, comportment and sobriety.

They said instead for the Speaker to showcase achievements of his party in the state as yardsticks to call for their votes, he allowed prejudices and partisanship to becloud his logic and reasoning to degenerate to the level he came while addressing the rally.

"We call on the good people of Ekiti State not to balk to the subtle threat and intimidation of Mr. Bankole but to remain resolute to cast their vote for the candidate of their choice.

We believe that in the end the Will of the people shall prevail over the forces of fascism, militarism and backwardness", the group added.

Ekiti is central to us - PDP

By Muideen Olaniyi

The National Youths Leader of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Otunba Muyiwa Collins has said that the party would spare no effort to win the Ekiti State re-election which would prove the party's mettle in the South West geo-political zone of the country.

In an interview with journalist in Abuja, Collins said the party would mobilize over 100,000 youths to educate voters and give solidarity support to the party and its candidate in April 25 gubernatorial re-run election.

Collins stated that the party "would give the election all what it takes to win".

According to Collins, "the election would determine who is in control of Ekiti whether it is the former governor Ayodele Fayose who has been going round the state that he is in control, we would maintain peace but resist intimidation."

He however appealed to the people of Ekiti State to "be steadfast and vigilant as some elements would like to foment trouble on the election day."

17 women perish in crash

Continued from Page 1

tion. He said 17 persons died on the spot, while he received a report of two more deaths in hospital.

According to him, out of the 19 persons that lost their lives in the accident, 18 were in the 18-seater bus, with one of the four persons in the petrol tanker lost his life in the hospital. He said it was drizzling that morning, which made the road very slippery for vehicles. It was gathered that the Catholic women were traveling to Otukpo from Makurdi for a special conference with the Bishop of Otukpo Catholic Diocese, Dr. Michael Apochi.

At the mortuary of the Federal Medical Centre where the corpses were deposited, 17 bodies were deposited on the floor of the morgue for want of a place to accommodate them. City residents trooped to the medical centre in large numbers to catch a glimpse of the corpses, while at the scene of the accident, officers and men of FRSC cordoned off the area and diverted vehicular traffic to enable cranes remove the wreckage of the vehicles.

Tukur urges states to shun power fund

Continued from Page 1

stead of contributing to the Federal Government. I believe they should use their contributions to provide power in their states", he said.

Daily Trust gathered that already, the 36 state governors in the country are divided on how to spend the \$5.3 billion from the excess crude account approved by the National Economic Council (NEC) to revamp the power sector.

Sources said that there is fear that the money could be diverted and used to campaign for the next general elections unless the state governments are held accountable.

A presidency source said the question of who should control the \$5.3 billion fund generated controversy between the Ministry of Power and the management of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) which led to the sacking of the former managing director of PHCN, Engineer Bello Suleiman.

"And it is feared that this money, instead of it being used

for the purpose of power project may be diverted and used for something else, especially for campaigning. We want state governments to start something on power now so that people can hold them responsible if there is no power after the money is disbursed", the source said.

According to our source, only three out of the 36 state governors signed laws backing up their donation of money to the federal government for the power project while the rest agreed in principle, "and those who agreed in principle are thinking of backing out."

The source said: "Because of the controversy, the amount which was supposed to have been disbursed on April 1 was put on hold. This is to ensure that the money is not used to campaign for the 2011 elections. There are strong rumours that each level of government is planning to use the money for campaign starting from next year instead for the power generation that it was meant for." A document

Contacted for comment, the Director of Communications for the Catholic Diocese of Makurdi, Reverend Father Dominic Wanker described the accident as "a calamity that has befallen us, not only us as a diocese, but all Catholics in this world. He said it came at a time the faithful are preparing to enter the period of Easter celebration. Father Wanker prayed that the deceased will find eternal rest adding "we hope in the resurrection of Christ, and that they were on a journey to Otukpo to join the diocese there in the celebration of Palm Sunday leading to Easter ... they were on a journey of faith. The Director of Communication said all the 17 women are officials of the Idoma Catholic women nationwide who were on the trip for a meeting with the Bishop of Otukpo Diocese. "They were before this unfortunate calamity, members of all the parishes in Makurdi including Holy Ghost, St. Mary's, St. Theresa and so on", he added.

He said the Diocesan leadership has been meeting since the time the news of the accident came to it and that at the appropriate time, the church will come out with a statement.

from the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) shows that out of the proposed power project fund from the Excess Crude Account, Kano State is to contribute the highest amount of \$107 million, while Lagos and Katsina states are to cough out \$81.74million and \$81.29million respectively.

Bayelsa, Ebonyi and Gombe states are to contribute the least amounts of \$39.49million, \$43.76million and \$45million respectively. RMAFC said that 13 percent derivation for the mineral producing states which amounts to \$698million should be deducted from the \$5.3 billion before the rest is horizontally and vertically shared.

A document read: "Since the \$5.3 billion required for power is to be removed from the Excess Crude Account, it is only legal for the amount to be distributed vertically and horizontally to all the beneficiaries of the Federation Account including Derivation and other Special fund items.

"This is to ascertain the share of each from the \$5.3 billion deducted so that each state and local government would know exactly how much it is expected to contribute so that the state houses of assembly can legislate and authorize the executive to go ahead and contribute in raising the funds. This is because the executive cannot spend funds without the approval of the legislature, which is the position of the law."

The commission said it distributed the \$5.3 billion to all beneficiaries of the federation account based on the existing revenue formula and sent to all the states to enable them get the necessary approval from the assemblies so that they can legally contribute as required by the Federal Government. According to the document, the 774 local governments are contributing \$963.307 million while the share of the Federal Government and the thirty six (36) states is \$2.267 billion and \$1.249 billion respectively.



A woman rides her tricycle loaded with 100 polystyrene boxes through Guang-dong province, China, at the weekend. Photo: Skynews.com.uk

NEWS

Lion's share scandal: NCMM, Nasarawa govt didn't spend N18m

Nasarawa State government and the National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM) did not spend N18 million annually for the feeding of two lions under the care of the NCMM, the two authorities have said.

A newspaper (not *Daily Trust*) had reported that Nasarawa State government had arranged with the NCMM to spend N18 million on the two animals it inherited from the previous administration.

The report said the animals were procured by former Governor Abdullahi Adamu as part of security checks in Government House, Lafia but on assumption of office, the report said Governor Alhaji Aliyu Akwe Doma became uncomfortable staying with the animals in the governor's house and decided to transfer them to the custody of NCMM for keep at the National Zoological Garden in Jos.

But reacting to the allegation, the Nasarawa State government through the Director of Publicity and Media Affairs to Governor Doma, Ibrahim Adra said only the sum of N1.9 million has been budgeted quarterly for the upkeep of about 22 animals and 19 birds it inherited from the immediate-past administration in the state and not only two lions as reported.

Adra who spoke to *Daily Trust* on the phone said "This brought the total amount of expenses on the 22 animals to

By Mohammed S. Shehu, Abuja & Tahir Ajobe, Lafia

N7.6million per annum contrary to media reports that it spent between N18 to N20 million on the animals.

"The amount was expected to take care of the feeding, medication, water supply to the cages, periodic rehabilitation/re-enforcement of the cages, honorarium of zoo attendants and transport/logistics for purchase of feeds and sundry items.

Also reacting, the Director

General of the NCMM, Dr. Joseph Eboreime corroborated the Nasarawa state government, adding that no official of the commission was directly involved in the disbursement of the fund.

He said out of the N1.9m budgeted, the state earmarked N1.1m for logistic, N710,000 for feeding and N90,000 for three staff (N10,000 each per month) for the quarter.

He said, "Money doesn't in any way pass through the hands of NCMM top hierarchy officials as alleged, and

nobody 'feeds fat on the lion share.'

He said direct purchase of the animals' feeds and other

needs are done by designated Nasarawa State officials accompanied by staff of the Zoo, adding that the animals in their

custody included a pair of lions, hyenas, gazelles, monkeys, waterbucks, cheetahs, crocodiles, ostriches and other birds.

Minister assures youths on employment

By Francis Okeke

The Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Alhassan Bako Zaku has reiterated Federal Government's commitment to creating employment opportunities for Nigerian youths through Science and Technology.

Zaku made this known when

he received a delegation of National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) led by its Secretary General, Comrade Murtala Garba who presented him with an award of the "most outstanding leader and youths' role model (2008 to

2009)."

The Minister observed that the responsibilities of his ministry among others were to ensure that employment and wealth are created through relevant parastatals, adding that many projects embarked upon by the ministry would soon start yielding positive results in the lives of Nigerians.

He explained that the Ministry was planning to develop and promote indigenous technology that would be simple to operate by Nigerians, stressing that white elephant projects failed because of failure to address the issues of youths and grassroots concept.

He also commended the leadership qualities of the students saying they are leaders of tomorrow.

"We are looking at you as leaders of tomorrow: it is you people that we would handover to when the time comes," he said.

Group calls for increased funding for adult education

By Ruby Rabi

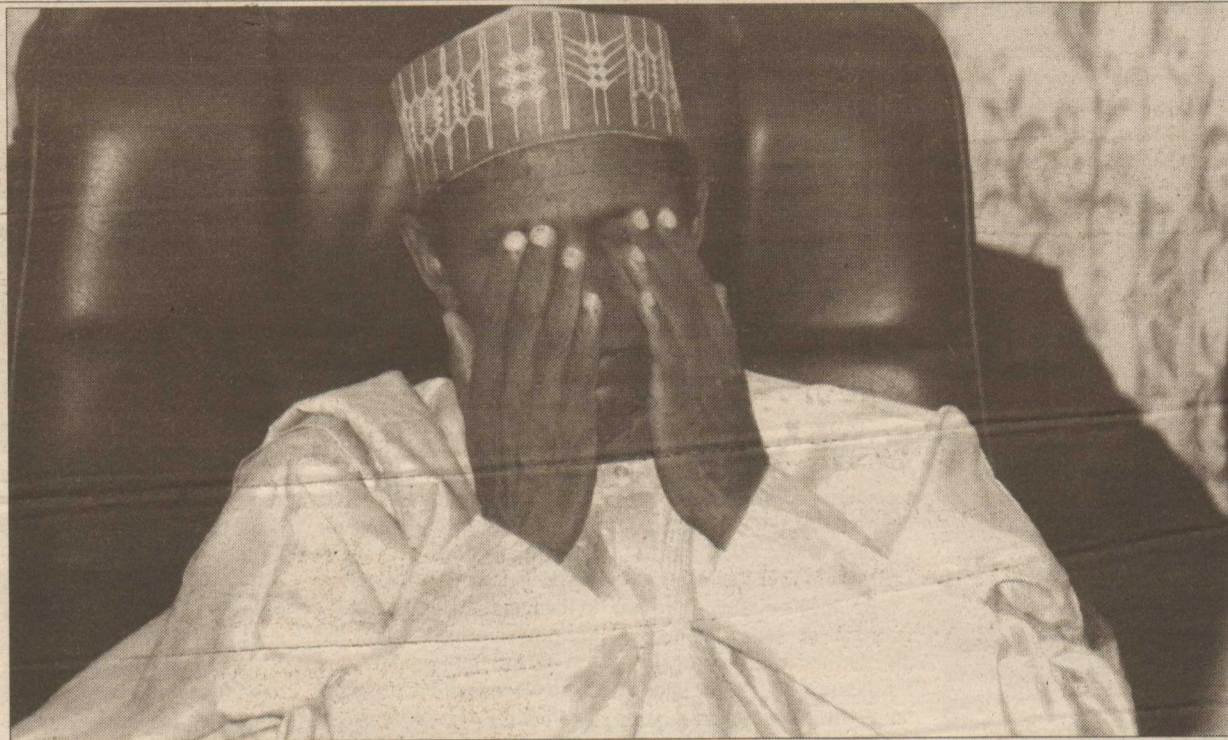
A Group known as the Nigeria Peer Review has called on the federal government to increase funding meant for Adult and Non-Formal education by 25% as a means of ensuring that the sector meet its MDGs goal come 2015.

This recommendation is part of the resolutions reached by the group at the end of its 2day validation workshop and handing over ceremony for peer review of adult and non-formal education in Abuja.

speaking to newsmen the Peer Review Coordinator, Prof. Ibrahim Bah Lalya explained that the funding strategies may need to be reconsidered especially with respect to the consolidated fund and a decision needs to be made as soon as possible.

he said, "The amount destined to non-formal education should be increased to an indicative proportion of 25%, between the years 2008 and 2015, to facilitate the attainment of EFA goals, which includes non-matric education, literacy/adult education and various other alternative programs such as the women centres.

According to him UBEC should be the recipient institution for the consolidated fund and its allocation of the funds to implementing agencies and should be based on the submission of programs and work plans.



President Umaru Musa Yar'adua praying at the Federal Executive Council meeting in Abuja last week. Pic: Felix Onigbinde.

Amnesty to militants: Sylva commends FG

Bayelsa State Governor, Chief Timipre Sylva, has thanked President Umaru Musa Yar'adua over last week's decision by the Federal Government to grant amnesty to armed militants in the Niger Delta who are willing and ready to lay down their arms in the interest of peace and development.

In a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Doifio Ola, the governor described the decision as patriotic, just, and above all, an answer to a Disarmament, Demobilization and Re-integration (DDR) plan he had presented to the federal authorities over six months ago.

At the heart of the DDR is a recommendation to adopt the

Bayelsa State's Government's triple "E" approach of Empowerment through Education, Engagement and Enforcement. Through this approach, the state government was able to divert many potential militants and even militants to more productive activities by empowerment through education while supporting the strict enforcement of the law and order, thereby deterring many criminal activities that could have occurred.

For Sylva, this new decision to grant amnesty to all militants who are ready to embrace peace is central to a political process that will put the final nail in the coffin of militant activities in the region. Coming shortly after the February 2009

meeting of the Ijaw Youth Council in Yenagoa which called for an end to all militia activities within three months in the state, and the rest of the region, Chief Sylva said militants will have themselves to blame if they refuse to reciprocate the federal government's kind gesture, and embrace the peace as the full force of fed-

eral law and might may be brought to bear on them.

According the governor, the Niger Delta is enjoying the best era of recognition in the nation's history in the President Umaru Musa Yar'adua administration.

"With a serving Nigerian Vice President from the region, a full-fledged Niger Delta fed-

eral ministry, and a couple of ministers from the Niger Delta, and now amnesty for those of our youths who had to carry arms, first in our names and later for criminal reasons, President Umaru Musa Yar'adua has demonstrated sincere commitment to resolution of the age-long Niger Delta problem," Chief Sylva said.

Uduaghan tasks citizens on rule of law

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin

The Delta State Governor, Dr. Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan yesterday tasked Nigerians on the need to uphold the principle of rule of law, saying that it is "the glue that holds the country and government together."

Uduaghan said it was based on that conviction that the State decided to connect with President Umaru Musa Yar'adua's cardinal principle of rule of law because the state shares in the vision of a law-based society.

The governor who stated this at the launching of the Annotated Laws of Delta State in Abuja said it is natural for Delta state to connect with President Umaru Musa Yar'adua's cardinal principle of rule of law because the state share in the vision of a law-based society.

According to him, his administration's focus and de-

termination in the execution of the three-point agenda of peace and security, human capital and infrastructure development are within the context of the rule of law, adding that the principle of the rule of law is the glue that holds the society and government together.

"Besides enhancing peace and security, the annotation of the Laws of Delta State helps to nourish the development of the core human capital of our state. I believe that the annotation project would provide the citizens of our great state with easy-to-understand version of our stature laws," the governor said.

Since its creation about 18 years ago, the state had been relying on the Laws of the defunct Bendel state, saying that the annotated laws of the

state comes in seven volumes covering all existing laws in force in the state.

"The annotation in these volumes defines, explain, analyse, compare, illuminate and comment on the Laws. The overall purpose is to save every Deltans from ignorance of the law. As ignorance of the law is no excuse. We hope to produce better Deltans and make Delta State the envy of States of Nigeria," the governor stated.

Also speaking at the launching, the Attorney-General of the State, Dafe Akpedeye (SAN) said that the project began during the administration of Chief James Ibori as the Executive Governor of the State and added that the zeal, enthusiasm and determination with which the present administration continued with it is a bold testimony of the need for continuity in government.

Drunk driving: FRSC starts BAC test

By Misbaltu Bashir

Officials of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) in Abuja said drivers suspected to be intoxicated or drunk would have their Blood Alcohol Contents (BAC) tested.

The Acting Corps Public Education Officer of the FRSC, Ayodele Ajadi said this weekend during the donation of a Modern Breathalyzer to the Commission by an organisation, Arrive Alive Road Safety Initiative in Abuja. He said the Breathalyzer will be used in detecting the alcohol

content level of drivers with a view to discouraging drunk driving.

He said drivers with high blood alcohol content are at increased risk of road accident and they must be discouraged from driving.

The totals of 18 officials of the Commission were trained by the organisation on the use of the modern Breathalyzers.

Drunk driving has been identified as a major cause of road crashes in the country which leads to the death rate.

NEWS

Security men assault Kogi Speaker

The Speaker of the Kogi State House of Assembly, Chief Clarence Olafemi nearly died in the hands of some security men at Chai Maigumari barracks along Kabba-Okene road, Lokoja yesterday. Olafemi, it was gathered, was on his way from Isanlu, headquarters of Yagba East Local Government Area, engaged in a near brawl with a retired army general where he went to attend a function when the incident occurred. Findings showed that the army general who entered the convoy of the Speaker on the high way from Isanlu around Bunu in Kabba-Bunu area was molested by the security of the Speaker, and the chief detail was said to have come out in defence of his boss. Not pleased with the

From Sam Egwu, Lokoja

way "an army general was molested by civilians", the retired general called men at Chai Maigumari, explaining how he was molested by the convoy of the Speaker. Sources said the Speaker was ambushed by the men at Chai Maigumari barracks. On getting there, he was flagged to stop and asked to explain how he dared embarrass a retired army general on the high way. *Daily Trust* gathered that the chief detail to the Speaker was dragged down from the Hummer jeep they were travelling in and the Speaker was seized by the

throat and his clothes torn. A statement by Special Ad-

viser on public communication and strategy, Phrank

Shaibu condemned the ac-

tion, saying in an era of de- cent living, people should not resort to such attitude.

Suswam suspends Ogbadibo LG chairman

Benue State Governor, Gabriel Suswam Friday suspended another local government chairman to pave way for investigation into a seven point allegation including his alleged failure to execute a single project since he assumed office in January of 2008.

Ogbadibo is one of the main Idoma speaking local government areas. Though blessed with a tourist attraction (EnUmabia Spring in Orokam) coal (Owukpa Mines), palm produce and

other cash crops, and popular gateway from the North through Orokam, Ogbadibo has been bedeviled with bad leadership and neglect from past administrations. The age-long Otukpa-Owukpa road through Orokam has only just been started by the Suswam administration after many years of neglect. Besides, there is hardly any meaningful government presence in the area.

Mr. Clement Agada's suspension followed a resolution recommending the measure from the state House of Assembly which acted on a resolution from the 13-member Ogbadibo council legislature.

The council legislature had on March 17, resolved and sought the state assembly to suspend the chairman. But Governor Gabriel Suswam who executed the recommendation had in May 2008 when he embarked on tour of local government

councils in the state, commissioned some toilets built by the council chairman as he equally praised him for living up to the expectation of the grass roots people of Ogbadibo. Suswam who was delegating the duty to suspend the chairman to his deputy, Chief Steven Lawani for the third time, also inaugurated the Vice Chairman of the council, Barr. Ameh Garuba to serve as chairman for the two months period the suspension is to last.

Christians celebrate Palm Sunday

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

Christians converged at the Saint Barnabas Anglican Cathedral, Sabo-Oke, Ilorin yesterday to celebrate this year's palm Sunday.

The event, which is a yearly religious event, saw the adherents in processions in their hundreds which lasted for about five hours.

The event is organized by the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Kwara state chapter to mark the triumphal entry by Jesus Christ into the city of Jerusalem about 2000 years ago.

CAN members who had thronged the Anglican Church premises at about 10am for the procession took time off to seek God's intervention on the current global economic recession. The chairman of the state chapter of CAN, Rev James O. Folaranmi in his sermon urged Nigerians to endure hardship to bailout the image of the country from the file of infamy. He asked: "As you participate in this year's Palm Sunday rally, what role will you play henceforth for the redemption of our dear nation Nigeria from the catalogue of problems confronting her? The problems include hunger, armed robbery, assassination, graft, unemployment, kidnapping and other vices. We need to make some personal sacrifices as Jesus did to uplift the downtrodden, the less privileged, the suffering masses. This could mean self-denial in order to help the needy.

Special Publication

ON 200 YEARS OF ADAMAWA EMIRATE

The Adamawa Emirate in North East of Nigeria, that was founded in 1809 by great scholars and spiritual leaders, will be celebrating its 200 years anniversary from April 10 to 12, 2009.

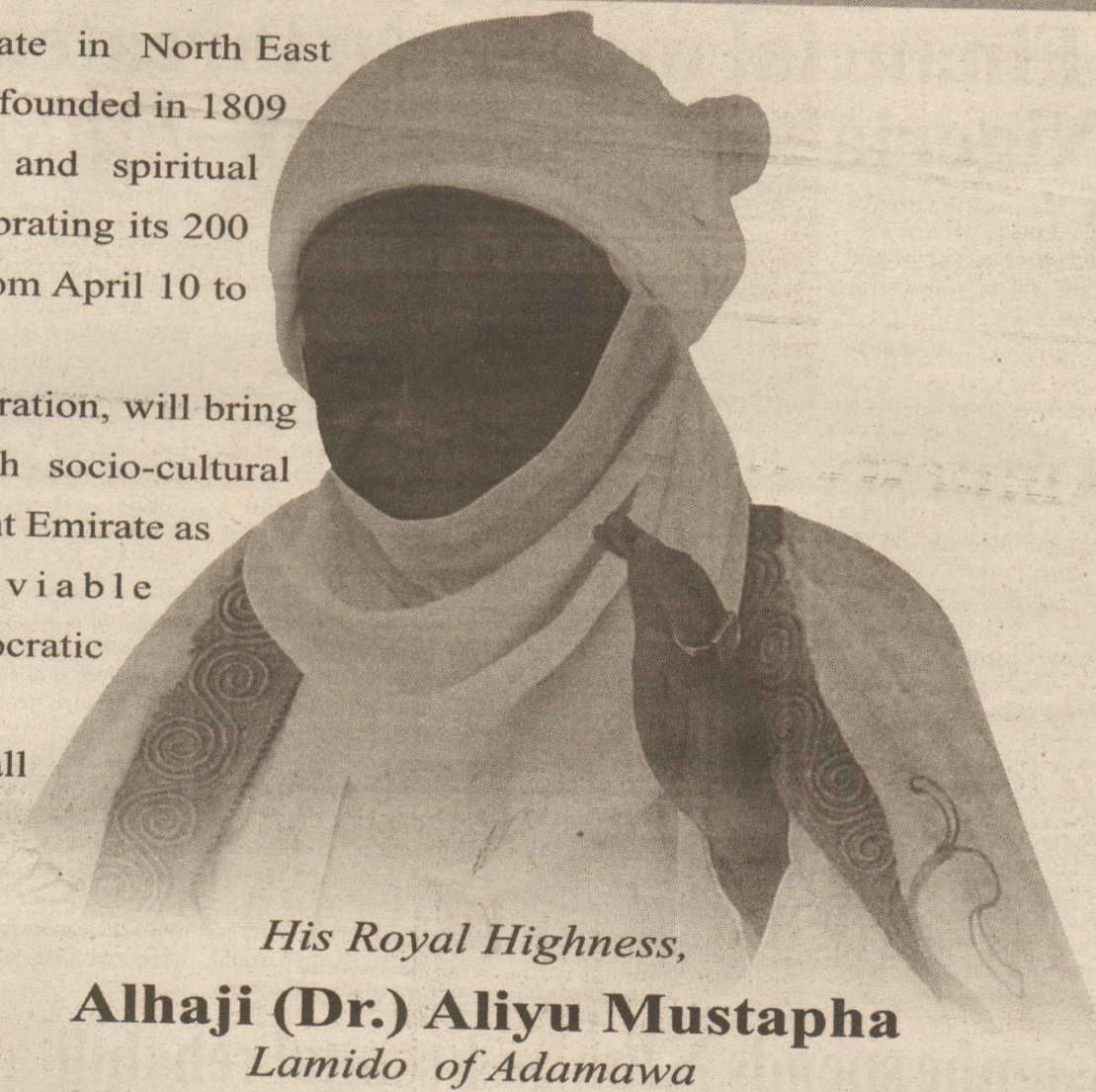
The three days celebration, will bring to the fore the rich socio-cultural heritage of the ancient Emirate as well as its enviable contributions to democratic governance.

We therefore invite all stakeholders who have contributed remarkably to the positive transformation

of the Emirate and the state at large, to take advantage of our widely read medium, *Daily Trust*, and felicitate with His Royal Highness, Alhaji (Dr.) Aliyu Mustapha, the *Lamido* of Adamawa, and the good people of Adamawa Emirate on this auspicious occasion.

Our special Bicentenary anniversary publication is scheduled for Saturday, 11th April, 2009.

For further inquires on participation please contact; Suleiman S. Abdullahi on 07030304053 or Lillian Tanimola on 08052377534



NEWS



From left: Senator Khairat Abdulrazaq Gwadabe, Prof. Dora Akunyili, Minister of Information and Hajija Aisha Muhammed Lawal, wife of late governor of Kwara State, Admiral Muhammed Lawal at the Alex Ekwueme Foundation lecture at the International Conference Centre, Abuja, recently.

Financial meltdown threatens Nigeria's development —Editors

The Nigeria Guild of Editors (NGE) says the current global financial meltdown is threatening the realization of the nation's development goals.

A communiqué issued at the end of the 5th All Nigeria Editors Conference (ANEC) held in Kaduna with the theme; "Vision 2020, Economic Growth and the Nigerian Editor" called on the Federal Government to be more proactive and take concrete steps towards stemming the possible impact of the financial meltdown.

In the communiqué which was jointly signed by Mr. Gbenga Adefaye and Barrister John Ndukauba, president and secretary of the NGE respectively, the editors said there was an urgent need to reduce the huge cost of governance in

From Ismail Mudashir,
Kaduna

the country so that the dwindling resources could be deployed to critical sectors such as power, education, roads and other infrastructure.

It noted that governance in the country was unnecessarily bloated, costly and ineffective and that the fixing of the power sector was a sine qua non to any form of meaningful growth and development in the country. The NGE recommended that the enthronement of quality leadership at the state level would invariably translate to the actualization of the nation's development efforts, particularly Vision 2020 and the MDGs.

It advised the Bureau of Statistics to come up with realistic population and other demographic

projection to accommodate future plans and developments in the country.

The conference also urged government to go beyond rhetoric in addressing the power sector and pragmatically find ways of stopping the flaring of gas in the Niger Delta and convert the gas into a necessary feedstock towards a sustainable power sector.

"We are calling for practical approach to issues of development in the Niger Delta through engagement and education of the youth, pursuance of aggressive physical development of the area by making the people feel the impact of resources got from their land," it said.

The conference while stressing that unfettered access to information would enable the media to be more

effectively drive the nation's development visions noted that journalists had been sidelined in the core issues of the electoral reform process of the country.

The communiqué called on the National Assembly to expedite the passage of the Freedom of Information Bill to enable the media hold the public office holders accountable, just as it tasked editors to be fully involved in the current electoral reform programme to ensure that election results are released to the media at the polling booth level to stem thuggery and rigging.

It further called on Editors to put their professional union, the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) to order as the strengthening of the NUJ will lead to more professional practice of journalism in the country.

13 states to benefit from UNDP programme

From Leye Adewumi, Akure

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is to partner with 13 states in the country to develop its technical level and infrastructure sustainability. The UNDP resident representative, Dr. Alberic Kacou who disclosed this when he led members of his team to the Ondo State Governor, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko at the weekend said the agency was committed to bringing development to African nations. Some of the states that will benefit from the UNDP programme are Ondo, Anambra, Adamawa, Rivers, Lagos and Bayelsa. Alberic who stated that the 13 states would benefit from the agency's seven country programme, pointed out that UNDP was ready to partner the selected states in the sustainability of risk management. He however stressed that it was not all the 13 states that would benefit in the UNDP cardinal programmes. Governor Olusegun Mimiko said his administration was ready to engage with UNDP in creative partnership to transform the state. Mimiko said his administration would soon engage the 4,000 volunteers to give the state a befitting and accurate data of the people residing in the state with a view to knowing their status. The governor added that the 4,000 volunteers would be paid some money to encourage them carry out the assignment with all seriousness. He also disclosed that his administration would introduce a free health programme for children under five and maternal health, seeking UNDP assistance to boost the free health policy.

Controller defends prison officers on bribe collection

From Ibrahim Muhammad, Yola

The Controller of Prisons, Adamawa State Command, Ado Muhammad has dismissed allegations that some prison officials in the state collect money from inmates or their relatives during prison visits. While reacting to an investigative report on the plight of the prison inmates in the state, he said "it is an offence to collect money from inmates or relatives during or after a visit". The controller said the Federal Government was repositioning the country's prison system to act as true agents of correction and reformation. He added that a systematic improvement on the physical infrastructure had commenced so that many of the cells reflecting colonial past would give way between now and 2011. According to him, the government was not leaving any stone unturned to see that the inmates were adequately catered for.

Mohammad noted that in spite the constraints been experienced prisons authorities in the state would not engage into illegal acts capable of damaging their refutation and they are working assiduously to discharge their duties diligently as president Umaru Yar'Adua has also increased the feeding fee of the inmates to N200, among other initiatives in the ongoing prison reform. He attributed prison congestion in Nigeria to the slow criminal justice system, adding that a larger percentage of the people in Nigerian prisons were those awaiting trial as it posed difficulties for the prisons authorities in planning for rehabilitation and empowerment of the inmates.

Ondo plans own rebranding project

From Leye Adewumi, Akure

In line with the commitment of Governor Olusegun Mmiko of Ondo State to involve everyone in his administration, a project that would re-brand the state and foster closer relationship between the government and the people of the state is in the offing. Speaking to Daily Trust yesterday, in Akure the Chairman, Project Implementation, Ondo State Development Initiative, Mr. Yinka Olatide Richard stated that the project would complement the efforts of government in developing the state. According to him, "the major package of the project is the rebranding of the state. This has to do with changing the minds of people towards governance because governance is a collective responsibility. If people are not carried along in governance, problem are bound to crop up, people are going to be sensitized to re-mould their attitudes. We will change them towards making their impact felt in their own little ways. We are going to do it in such a way that everybody, be you a student, artisan, trader, even unemployed will have responsibility contribute to his or her immediate community. I want to tell you that by the time the project is launched all the eighteen local government councils will be reached to ensure a closer and better relationship between government and the people at grass root," he said.

Gombe spends N2bn on hospital rehabilitation

Gombe State government has expended about N2 billion for total rehabilitation work on six general hospitals across the state in conformity with its electioneering campaign of bringing health care delivery system closer to the people.

Briefing the governor on the renovation project during an inspection tour at the Bojoga General Hospital, the Commissioner of Health Dr. Umar Isa said a complete renovation work was carried

From Aliyu M. Hamagam,
Gombe

out at the hospitals at the total cost of N 280 million each.

According to the Commissioner, N51.2 million worth of equipments were purchased for the hospitals which include hospital beds, mattresses, theater table, dental and laboratory equipments.

Other equipments to be supplied to the health facilities are wards and office furniture with standby

generator at the estimated cost of N9.4 million, adding that there was a proposal by the government to provide ambulance vehicle to each of the hospital.

He added that the renovation of the hospitals had cut across the three senatorial districts of the state in which Dukku, Zambuk, Billiri hospitals were fully rejuvenated as well as Kumo and Kaltungo general hospitals.

Hinting the governor on the scourge of Cerebra

Spinal Meningitis, the commissioner said, General Hospital Bojoga had 813 affected people that were admitted, treated and discharged while 42 patients were presently on admission.

While inspecting on Bojoga/Ashaka 1 kilometer road, Governor Danjuma Goje commended the quality of work carried out on the road and further promised to extend the road to link up the area with Ashaka village in Funakaye local government area.

NEWS

Kogi plans tourism boost

From Sam Egwu, Lokoja

The Kogi State government says it would boost tourism to improve the state's economy. Governor Alhaji Ibrahim Idris who made this disclosure in Malaysia said his administration was determined to develop the rich tourist attractions in the state. A statement issued in Lokoja yesterday by the Special Adviser to the Governor on Public Communication and Strategy, Phrank Shaibu, noted that the Chief Minister of Melaka, Malaysia, Datuk Seri Mohd Rustam praised Governor Ibrahim Idris for his interest in the development of tourism. According to him, the Chief Minister promised to send a delegation of tourist experts to assist in the development of tourism in Kogi State. He said the state has one of the best tourist attractions in the country if properly tapped, stressing that most nations in the world without abundant mineral resources had turned to develop tourism where rich nations come to spend their money. While describing the mission of the governor to Malaysia as very successful, Phrank Shaibu said the potentials of tourism on Mountain Patti, Confluence Beach, Omi Dam, Inikpi Statue and other ones would be tapped. On the governor's entourage were the Nigerian High Commissioner to Malaysia, Mr. Peter Enegebe, Kogi State Commissioner for Agriculture and Commerce and Industry.

Sokoto spends N22m on UME forms

From Abdulfatai Abdulsalam, Sokoto

The Sokoto State government says it spent about N22 million on the purchase of UME and direct entry forms which were distributed free to indigent candidates in the state. This was disclosed by Professor Gajam Von Ardo, the Special Adviser on Higher Education while speaking to newsmen shortly after monitoring the matriculation examinations at the weekend in Sokoto.

The adviser described as impressive, the turn out of the state's indigenes in the examinations, noting that it had never been like that in the history of the state. He further attributed the large turn out to the gesture of Governor Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko who bought and distributed about 7,000 U.M.E and D.E. forms free. He said the UME centres designated for the state were filled to capacity while five additional ones were approved by JAMB. Professor Ardo called on the state indigenes who sat for the examination to avoid concentrating their first choice on Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto only. "They should spread their choices to other Universities in Zaria, Kano, Jos and Maiduguri, among others," he urged. In his words, "the state government is ready to sponsor any candidate to any place of their choice" stressing that there is a limit to the number of students from the state who the U.D.U Sokoto could admit.

Nigerian tertiary institutions need more funding-Abubakar

From Hassan A Karofi, Kano

Higher institutions in the country need more funding to ensure success of the government's seven point agenda and the attainment of Vision 20-2020 of the present administration, chairman of the Federal College of Education Zaria council, Alhaji M. D. Abubakar has said. The chairman disclosed that his board would work hard to improve sources of funding programmes at the institution as part of efforts to make it a leading centre of education in the country. Alhaji M. D. Abubakar who spoke during the inaugural meeting of the board in Zaria over the weekend said his council would work to make the lecturers computer literate before the end of year 2009. He said the institution would work towards the success of the seven point agenda of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

Police launch manhunt for ritualist in Niger

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Mimma

The police in Niger State are on the of a man called Emeka for his alleged involvement in the removal of the eyes of 22 year old Miss Chinyere Uche in Suleja recently. Checks revealed that the girl who is believed to be a call girl was also violated sexually and her hair shaved by her assailant who dumped her in a pool of blood. The girl was said to have been picked from a suburb in Suleja town by the said Emeka who is currently on the run. Following a call by an unidentified caller, the Suleja Divisional Command acted quickly to pick the bleeding lady who was abandoned near the Niger Motel. Before police detectives could reach the place, the culprit had already disappeared with the removed eyes and hair from the girl who was then struggling to stay alive. Recounting what happened while recuperating in the hospital, she said a man called Emeka picked her from a night club that night from a military barracks at the outskirts of the town, and that person later attacked her. Meanwhile, the Police Public Relations Officer of state command, ASP Richard Oguche has promised to arrest the culprit.

Varsity lecturers slam re-branding project

From Hir Joseph, Makurdi

The two chapters of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) in Federal University of Agriculture in Makurdi (FUAM) and Benue State University also in Makurdi have slammed Professor Dora Akunyili's Re-branding Nigeria project, saying the Minister succeeded in packaging the same old, bad content for sale.

"Re-branding does not change the content, it only changes the label. It is like in pharmaceuticals - when you are re-branding, you simply change the label, but you can't change the product because any change in the content is to introduce another product", said the BSU chapter chairman, Mr. Raph Amokaha in an interview with Daily Trust in Makurdi yesterday.

The BSU chapter chairman of the union who rose from a joint press conference which was attended by the chairman of ASUU-FUAM, Mr. Daniel Amine as well as the BSU secretary and treasurer, Victor Igbum and Mrs. Member Genyi respectively, said Dora Akunyili only packaged "a country of same old corrupt politicians, fraudsters and election riggers with all manner of ills in the name of re-branding Nigeria".

He said re-branding the country does not change the image but only gives the

image another name which according to him "has same old, bad content".

The union leader therefore suggested that "the information minister would have done something like reformation of Nigeria with a focus on giving re-orientation to Nigerians especially those in public offices which includes her".

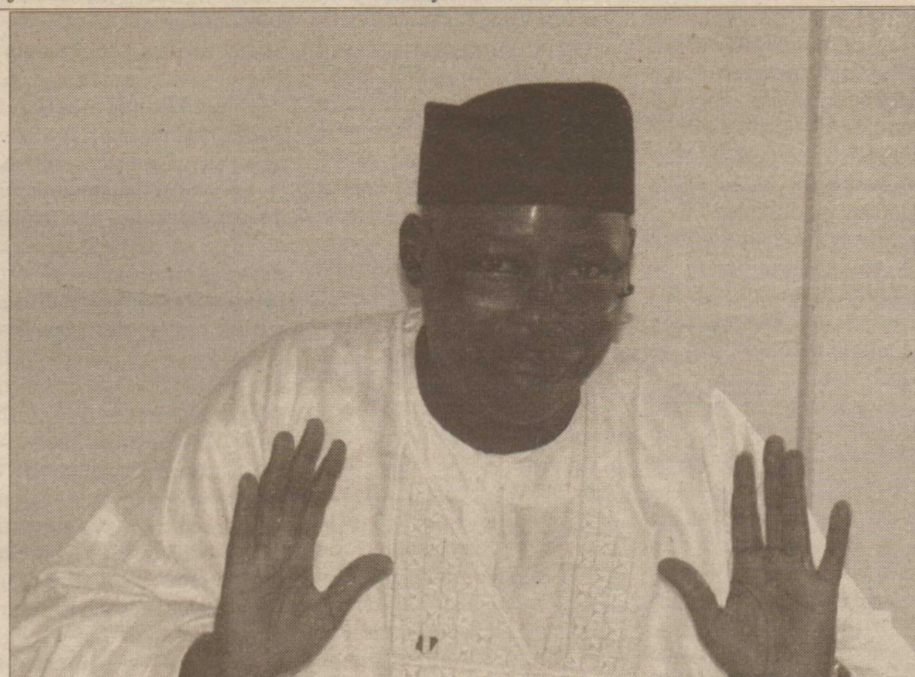
Also, the Treasurer of the BSU chapter, Member Genyi placed the responsibility to reform the country on the media, saying journalists have a cardinal

role to play the policy and decision making in the country.

She particularly said journalists could press on the Federal Government to implement the re-negotiated ASUU/FG agreement of 2001 she said would halt and reverse the infrastructure decay and brain-drain in Nigerian universities. The two chapters during the briefing which took place at the ASUU-BSU secretariat, called for intervention by parents and guardians, opinion leaders, leaders of civil societies, state houses of assembly and the National

Assembly "and all stakeholders' and well meaning Nigerians to prevail on government to be honourable and immediately sign and implement the renegotiated agreement".

ASUU said President Umaru Yar'adua had reneged on all the promises he made to it on his assumption of office in May 2007, which necessitated the suspension of the strike. The two chapters said government had continued to fail to satisfy minimum demands of the union, including the reinstatement of the Unionillorin 49.



National Chairman, Northern Patriotic Front, Alhaji Ali Abacha, the Media Trust Corporate Head Office, Abuja, on Thursday. Pic: Kennedy Egbonodje.

Taraba Civil Service Commission boss in EFCC net

From Fidelis Mac-Leva, Jalingo

Chairman of the Taraba State Civil Service Commission, Dr. Yuguda Kaigama, was arrested at the weekend by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission for allegedly conniving with a "fake" EFCC syndicate to defraud local government councils in the state of huge sums of money.

Kaigama is also the father of the member representing Bali-1 constituency in the state House of Assembly where Governor Danbaba Suntai hails from.

His arrest, Daily Trust learnt, followed the discovery that he connived with a fake EFCC syndicate that allegedly extorted millions of Naira from council chairmen in the state using official letters that bore forged signatures of Governor Danbaba Suntai. Using his official position as state Civil Service Commission chairman, Kaigama allegedly supplied dossiers on the assets and financial profile of all the council chairmen in the state to the fake EFCC syndicate. In turn, the syndicate posing as officers from the EFCC

headquarters Abuja was said to have confronted each of the chairmen with the dossier and threatened them with arrest and prosecution.

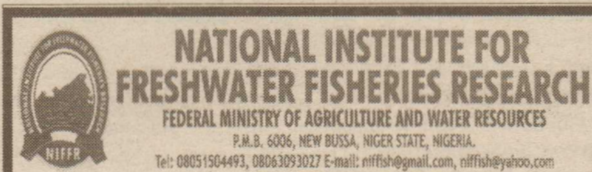
Apparently scared, the 16 council chairmen, with the exception of two, were said to have cooperated with the fake EFCC syndicate by releasing N3.5million in compliance with a forged letter which allegedly bore the signature of Governor Danbaba Suntai. Daily Trust gathered that luck ran out on the syndicate when two of the council chairmen [names withheld] refused to "cooperate" but rather reported the matter to the state governor. A terribly disturbed Governor Suntai was said to have immediately summoned a meeting with all the chairmen in the state last week during which the disclosure was made.

Taraba state Police command Public Relations Officer, Solomon Issa, confirmed the visit by EFCC officials to the state but denied knowledge of

Kaigama's arrest. Spokesman of Governor Suntai, Sylvanus Giwa also confirmed his boss's meeting with the council chairmen last week but denied knowledge of its agenda.

However, a top official of the North-East zonal office of the EFCC in Gombe who

wouldn't want his name in print confirmed the arrest, saying the matter was being investigated by the Commission's headquarters. At the state Civil Service Commission, Kaigama was not on seat as his subordinates feigned ignorance of his whereabouts.



With reference to the National Institute for Freshwater Fisheries Research (NIFFR), New Bussa advertisement in the edition of The Daily Trust of Monday, 23rd March, 2009 on "PRE-QUALIFICATION TO TENDER", notice is hereby given that the opening date scheduled for 13th April 2009 has now been extended to **Monday 4th May, 2009**.

Note: Registration with the institute is not a condition for pre-qualification as earlier stated.

All inconveniences arising from the change of date is regretted.

Signed
Executive Director

STAR INTERVIEW

Nigerian varsities are local, not unive

Professor Mahmud Yakubu is the Executive Secretary of the Education Trust Fund. He spoke to education correspondents recently, saying that the parastatal still has N20.8 billion yet to be accessed by the benefitting educational institutions. He complained that Nigerian universities have degenerated from the universal standard in terms of training, and disclosed that ETF will henceforth withhold allocations to institutions utilizing funds on their own unnecessary projects, among other issues.

For quite sometime now, there has not been any information from the ETF on what has been happening. What is happening in this parastatal?

By Ruby Rabi

This was mainly because we have stopped funding what I call tangential projects, which are projects outside our core area of mandates. For instance, the ETF was giving N850 million to the Ministry of Science and Technology for national science park and museum; N300 million to the Ministry of Transportation for the second Maritime Academy in Badagry, Lagos; N160 million to the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) for a national digital planning; \$3 million to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism for Nigeria-UNESCO memorandum of understanding (MoU). This is at a time when we did not have a single N200 million project standing in any university in Nigeria. So, fortunately for us, Mr. President vacated all the approvals and asked us to concentrate the resources on our core area mandates. That is why we were able to achieve what I just told you. By the time we did the budget, each university, for the first time took equivalent of over a million dollars, the highest ever allocation. Hitherto, it was just about N50 million.

In 1993, when the law establishing the Fund was passed, it was a decree under the military to become Education Trust Fund, instead of Higher Education Trust Fund. Here, we are supposed to fund every level of public education in Nigeria. It is impossible for us to make impact that way. We can't fund every level of public education in Nigeria from basic to secondary to tertiary. So the first instruction we had when we came in here was that we should exit basic and secondary education and concentrate our intervention effort at the tertiary level based on the original conception of the fund. And I'm sure you are aware that we took an amendment to the Federal Executive Council (FEC) which agreed to that and an executive bill is going to the National Assembly to amend the ETF Act, to enable us exit basic and secondary so that we can concentrate solely on tertiary level. Even the tertiary level has to be defined in terms of universities, polytechnics and colleges of education only. Now we fund the monotronics, single subject polytechnics, colleges of agriculture, colleges of theology and business studies, freshwater fisheries, forestry, veterinary medicine, water resources. At that level alone, we have over 60 educational institutions. So, there is little money going round, as a result of which we are visible. But I think there is need for us to make more impact than we have achieved. ETF was not originally conceived for the renovation of buildings or provision of computers. It was conceived to carry out revolutionary innovation in the education system. This hasn't happened. Now with the approval by FEC for us to exit basic and secondary education, the moment the law is enacted by the NASS, we will then concentrate on the tertiary level of education system. You probably would have noticed that our 2008 budget was the highest ever allocation to the beneficiaries.

Secondly, we looked at the system and we resolved that funding agencies can only succeed where the intervention is substantially high. If you are spreading the money around, you are not likely to achieve that. The two per cent profit from companies, which is the lifeline of the ETF collected by the Federal Inland Revenue Service, depends on the circumstance of our income, just like the structure of the Nigerian economy. In 2008, almost 80 percent of our income came from oil and gas sector. Whenever the price is favourable, we collect more, if it is not enough we collect less. But happily, in 2008, the telecommunication companies started paying after their five years tax holiday. The MTN paid last year; Zain, and I think even Globacom will come on stream next year. We expect banks now to begin to pay. So, all in all, it is only the oil and gas and the service sector that constitute the largest chunk of our income. With improved collections, and with good relations with the Federal Inland Revenue Service, we

will collect more and then we will be able to do more.

Under the circumstances, how adequate do you see your budget to your mandate institutions?

For the first time, as a feature of our budget, some amount of money has been allocated for staff training and development, I mean academic staff training. The only other time we intervened in that area was in 2005, where we gave each university about N1.7 million. I wonder what that amount will do to a university like Ibadan, or UNN or ABU in terms of development. Go to our institutions, and you will see a terrible culture of in-breeding where you have lecturers who did their first degree, second degree and even PhD in the same department and they rise from graduate assistant to professorship in the same department. The consequence is that our universities are no longer universal places of knowledge. They have become local places of knowledge. Some of us were attracted to the teaching profession because of the prospect of going overseas for postgraduate training. Most of the universities in Nigeria today are not in a position now to sponsor their staff. So we thought of that as part of our 2008 budget. Our vision and plan on the basis of that thought is consistent with our national vision of becoming one of the greatest economies in the world by the year 2020. We plan to export our academic staff, to add intellectual tradition outside Nigeria, and we also need to export them to other intellectual traditions within Nigeria so that somebody in Sokoto can go to Ibadan or somebody from Port Harcourt can go to Maiduguri for postgraduate studies. We made a provision of about N40 million for each university and we expect them to sponsor the academic staff to universities outside Nigeria as much as the money can accommodate. It is going to be a permanent feature of our subsequent intervention budgets. There are series proposals from the universities, the polytechnics and colleges of education. We have re-aligned the budget, and we shall convey to the institutions, what they need to do to access the intervention.

Another major problem area that we are addressing is the inability of many of our beneficiaries to access the intervention. When people complain that the system is underfunded, we understand the system is underfunded, but there is so much money lying in the ETF that a lot of beneficiaries are not able to access in billions. At the moment, there is about N20.8 billion of such intervention fund. This is mainly because the beneficiaries are not able to account for what they have collected earlier as a basis for accessing subsequent allocations. So what we have decided to do is to fast-track it. The Minister of Education, on behalf of the Board, has given approval for us to actually name and shame those who have a huge backlog of projects and monies to collect. You will see the number of universities, polytechnics and colleges of education that have huge amount of money that they are unable to access. At the SUBEB level, we have about seven states with over half a billion Naira that they have not accessed. ETF, unlike UBEC, does not require counterpart marching grant from the states. It is money gratis. So we felt that there is no reason why we should be keeping so much money and the money is losing value, yet beneficiaries are not accessing it. We have appealed to them. We came up with the policy of merging the interventions. For instance, we can take 2003, 2004 and 2005 merged and execute projects. Yet the funds have not been accessed as they should. This is why we will publish the names of the universities and other institutions that are in arrears in terms of accessing the monies to the tune of hundreds of millions in the newspapers. What we are going to do is to give them marching orders. If they fail to reconcile the projects by next month, and start accessing the monies by July, we will not consider them in our 2009 budget. So any beneficiary with huge arrears that is unable to start accessing by the first week of July this year will not be eligible for further allocation. In our 2009 budget, we will not consider those institutions. If the situation remains the same at

the end of this year, we will mop up all the monies these institutions have not accessed and plough them into our 2010

budget so that we can give the money to institutions that can access them. The condition is please account for what you have collected as a way of collecting more. It is one thing to get as much money into the institutions, but it is quite another for the beneficiaries to access and to judiciously utilize the money. So we are taking steps to ensure that the



Professor Mahmud Yakubu.

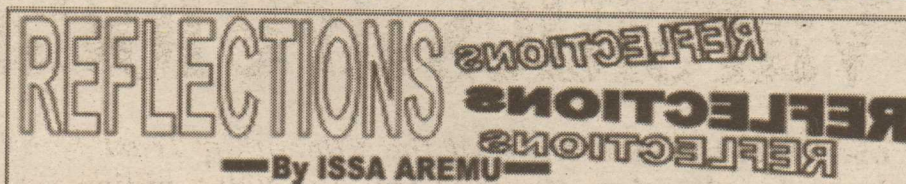
OPINION

G-20: Beyond Yar'adua's lamentations

"I must say that today is a sad day for me. And I think it should be for all Nigerians. When 20 leaders of the leading countries in the world are meeting and Nigeria is not there. This is something we need to reflect upon. We have the population, we have the potentials, we have the ability and capacity and we have the will, what do we lack? Is it the will that we lack?"
— President Yar'adua

Whatever history eventually attributes to President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, his presidency will certainly be remembered for having the notoriety of turning acknowledged weakness to some strength of some sort. His predecessor and benefactor, Mousier OBJ (no less than his historic partner in electoral malfeasance, Maurice Iwu), even at this hour, still insist that 2007 April polls were credible parading outworn academic argument that no election is perfectly conducted. Yar'adua sounded exception to the sickening official white washing/legitimization rule and held that the elections, (in which he was a beneficiary), were indeed flawed. This singular exhibition of character strength of naming it bad (even while ultimately profiting from it) explains the groundswell of relatively confidence of the citizens in President's later day controversial electoral reform.

The popular impression is that at least, President Yar'adua accepts as much that there is a problem and that once there is the will there will be some ways out anyway, one way being Justice Uwais formula. Last week, President Yar'adua, brought to the fore, once again, the capacity to call a spade a spade, and (not necessarily some



academic agricultural instrument).

At the PDP executive Council meeting, he reportedly acknowledged the shame of a nation which daily parrots the mantra of wanting to be a member of 20 industrialized countries of the world but was snubbed at the last week's historic London G-20 meeting called to frontally deliberate on the current global economic crisis. Yours sincerely can bet that at that party meeting, the president was again alone in naming it (and this time shaming it too) where he rightly indeed spoke the mind of millions of patriots who sadly watch the globalization train moving on without Nigeria. If the President is not leading a one man-orchestra, kindly show me any resolution at that party meeting reaffirming Nigeria's resolve to halt to current Nigeria's fast race to the bottom. On the contrary, the ruling party chieftains rose from Abuja meeting to converge on Ekiti state, not in anyway to add value to the sagging nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) through commissioning of new power plants but for *business-as-usual* partisan electoral campaign, shamelessly, two years after elections are presumed to be officially over.

Whatever the value we assign to the latest lamentation of the President about the state of the nation, we have been once again reminded by Yar'adua that Nigeria is far from developing much less to be reckoned as a

plausible developed nation, now or in the next 11 years, the legendry 2020.

Indeed a Gulf separates our wish and the reality of development. Witness the President: "*Honestly and sincerely to realise this potentials, potentials is nothing, unless it is realised. No matter the potential you have, unless you work on it, it will not be realised. We must realise it and lead the nation to realise it*".

The question is that how do we realise the potentials much talked about then? For one, the lamentation of the President ought not to be a flash occasioned by global shame arising from a global meeting in which Ethiopia and South Africa were warmly received and Nigeria was coldly denied invitation. Our lamentation about our seeming incapacity to cross the threshold of idle capacity, poverty and bad governance should be daily and indeed hourly. In addition the lamentation should be shared like a value and not made the sole burden of the President like a virtue. We need a critical mass of lamenters that must include those paid to actually lament and do something about the national decay, namely governors, ministers etc before we can truly name it *underdevelopment* and accordingly shame it with *development*. But beyond lamentations we must walk out talk, sorry, walk out of our lamentations. We do not need a G-20 meeting to know that ours

is a non-performing state. The point cannot be overstated; assuming Nigeria was extended an invitation to London G-20 meeting that does not make us less than what we are: intolerable poor rich nation! In any case, Yar'adua's predecessor attended endless G-8 meetings (weather beaten in both winters and summers as perpetual corridor observer with personalized photo-clips of world leaders to match) while power outages, poverty and misery afflict his 140 million compatriots at home.

The point here is that an extended invitation to Yar'adua does not make Nigeria less a nation in which no domestic value addition is not taking place, in which factories are closing on account of power melt down and prohibitive interest rates ruin enterprise. On the contrary, rubbing shoulders with the club of serious nations create a false impression that we are making progress when indeed we are at best stagnant and at worse on the reverse gear. President Yar'adua should take consolation in the invitation of 140 million Nigerians for him to fix power, reindustrialize the country, and get the unemployed to work, combat poverty and fight corruption. He cannot be sad if he delivers on the 7 point agenda promises. However if like his predecessor, OBJ his preferred charity begins from abroad, he does not need to go to London before he can learn from G-20. What took place at this historic meeting was an open knowledge: good governance through greater regulation of the market, commitment to get global economy to work again, get mass of unemployed to work, trillions of dollars stimulus plans and CERTAINLY not lamentations!

ISSA AREMU (issaaremu@yahoo.com)

The need for unity in Oke-Ogun

Where there is unity, there will be peace and tranquillity. In fact, all other developmental facilities will fall in place because everybody will continue to work in unity towards the concerned society. Unity is the bedrock of progress; it fast-tracks the development process. When disunity is the order of the day, the resultant effect is total negligence as the people of Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State are presently experiencing. Our major problem is lack of unity. Oke-Ogun constitutes the Northern Senatorial District of Oyo State: We speak the same language and dialect. Oke-Ogun Senatorial District has 10 local government area councils and is one of the biggest (if not the biggest) Senatorial Districts in Nigeria today. The district is so big enough to have a state of its own as far back as 1987 but due to disunity, the dream has been so elusive.

When the present Katsina State was created out of the old Kaduna State and Akwa Ibom State was created out of the old Cross River State in 1987, Oke-Ogun was supposed to have been created out of the old Oyo State. The two newly created states then got their aspiration accomplished courtesy of united common front and forceful agitation. We lost the chances of having a state because there was no unity among our leaders, who were so carried away with the issue of state capital location. The dream was aborted also due to the fifth columnist operating among our leaders, who pretended to be patriotic but in the real sense they are unpatriotic.

This same scenario is rearing its ugly head again. Things have started falling apart again and the centre may not hold. Approaching the authority where power lies has never been the problem but those entrusted with the assignment were disorganized. There was no sincerity of purpose, oneness or togetherness among our leaders. The majority of our people are very passionate and united when it comes to the issue of common aspiration but these are the bone of contention among our leaders. They destroyed one another on petty matters and the people become disillusioned and frustrated.

Our leaders have allowed enemies of

By Leke Adelere

progress to infiltrate their camps at the expense of the masses and the entire Senatorial District is at the receiving end. If Oke-Ogun will achieve any meaningful progress as far as state creation is concerned, the time is now. The leaders must put their house in order because followers have never had any problem. Egoism, unnecessary political bickering and host of irrelevant issues that should not have been given priority are always considered to be important.

Lack of unity among our leaders [elite, politicians and traditional rulers] who ought to have championed a common course that will bring a lasting solution to the suffering of our people in the District is the major fundamental problem. Our going at different directions like a herd of cattle without a shepherd should be confronted once and for all. This loophole has been allowed to exist for too long. This is what our so-called enemies have noticed and capitalised on to frustrate our dream for the creation of Oke-Ogun State.

Sometimes in November last year, the people of Oke-Ogun based in Abuja and its environs made a bold step to convey a meeting that would have chart a road map towards achieving a united front. The venue of that meeting was Ado Awaye in Iseyin Local Government, Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State. The expected attendance was turned to a charade. Even our revered Royal Fathers and political office holders who ought to have spearheaded the success of the meeting failed to attend. That gathering would have also mandated the house to constitute different committees such as Central Working Committee, Sensitization and Enlightenment Committee, Fund Raising Committee, Lobbying Committee and Youth Vanguard Committee all of whom will be reporting to the Central Working Committee. That effort was let go. The poor success of that meeting was still tailored to lack of unity, ego tripping and individualism tendencies.

When we reminisce on the past political experiences of our people since the beginning of the present democratic dispensation, the discovery and revelation will shock individuals to the marrow. Our so-called and purported

elected office holders from the area hardly say or show concern to the sufferings of their people. I dare challenge those politicians to give accounts of stewardship in the last ten years of the democratic dispensation. What have they attracted to Oke-Ogun, if not total negligence, abandonment and affliction? Our politicians prefer show-off at every ceremonies where they will display their affluence to the chagrin of those that care to notice them. Instead of sponsoring developmental programmes that will improve on the life-style of their citizens, our leaders' pre-occupation is to attend *owambes* where people will be hailing them as they spray fifty-fifty or twenty-twenty naira notes to prove their emergence as socialites. What an unfortunate scenario and unfortunate leaders. They go about fooling themselves as if there is no tomorrow but tomorrow is another day.

An adage says, 'the king whose reign is peaceful shall never be forgotten likewise he, whose reign is characterized with chaos, his name too shall never be forgotten'.

Enough of insinuations and all of that, political office holders from the area from National Assembly down to the Local Government level should lead by example, summon meetings and discuss the way forward for our people. Today, they are the leaders either through lawful or unlawful ways; they should lead by example while others follow. Our people have suffered untold deprivation and neglect for too long without any justification. This new chance of representing our agitation for the creation of Oke-Ogun State is another opportunity which politicians should pursue to a logical conclusion. People are ready and they must renew interest towards accomplishing that ultimate dream.

Our deprivations and neglect are so overwhelming. For instance, our roads are in state of disrepair. From Ibadan, the state capital to Iseyin or through Oyo to Idiko or to Ilaji, come to Iwere-Ile, Itasa, Iganna to Ado Awaye, Okeho, Ilero, Baba-Ode, Komu, Otu, Igbojaye, Okaka, Sepeteri, Tede, Kiishi, Ago-Are, Igboho, Oje-Owode, Shaki come back to the state capital, those who have been to the area in recent time will know what I am talking about.

We have been unjustifiably neglected by the both the state and the Federal Government. Our political leaders are not remorseful about the sufferings or rather prompting the authorities to come to our aid. They are busy playing politics with people's lives. This is not an exaggeration, governments or any of their agencies can undertake a visit to the area to confirm my claim. The much touted tarred road from Ado-Awaye to Okeho through Gbogaa, Ilua to Isemi-Ile is a subject of politics. We expect our elected representatives in the National Assembly to persuade the various committees concerned in the two chambers to visit the area as part of their oversight functions but nothing of such has ever happened.

On the area of health, it is an insult on the people of Oke-Ogun area that there is no single federal health institution in the entire area. Even the state government general hospitals are nothing but mere consulting clinics. The area is ravaged with epidemics and left at the mercy of few good Samaritans, yet we have government and elected representatives. How can they prove to be responsible to their responsibilities? If census of the most endemic and ravaging society with guinea worm disease is taking, the Yakubu Gowon Centre will reveal that, Oke-Ogun area is very prevalent with the epidemic courtesy of water-borne diseases. Our sources of water are prone to epidemics.

The same sad story obtains in the area education. There is no single federal education institution in the whole area of Oke-Ogun. Our story is so pathetic as it is unfortunate.

What we need right now is a collective responsibility that will champion the cause of our people to the point of realizing our dream of Oke-Ogun State. This is where, our political office holders especially those in Abuja and particularly, the National Assembly members come in. If there is any of them who wants to be reckoned with and desire to be people's leader, this is how to go about it, rather than seeking for notice at all cost. The idea Abuja Group of Oke-Ogun is championing should be looked at from larger perspective rather than from myopic and self-serving point of view.

Adelere wrote in from 13, Air Port Road, Lugbe, Abuja.

EDITORIAL

Going to the World Cup

Football remains of immense value to Nigeria's sense of worth. Like Brazil and many other countries it is easily the national sport to which a huge number of our youth are drawn to and from which not a few stars have been spawned. Periods of achievement of the national team create a sense of excellence and serve as a vehicle of unity, which is sorely lacking in our national life. In such moments there is an effervescent outpouring of celebration across the length and breadth of the nation. Essentially therefore football or if you will, soccer has attracted a lot of goodwill for the nation and could continue to do so, at much less cost than all the rebranding officialdom could contemplate. But that is if those administering the game appreciate its potential.

The final qualifying rounds of national teams for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa commenced last week. Nigeria played away in Mozambique and came away with a goalless draw, Tunisia in the same group with the Super Eagles beat Kenya 2-1 and so right from the onset making our qualification an uphill task. Many football enthusiasts have reasoned that with the stars on parade on the Nigerian side on the match day if Mozambique, clearly a football minnow on the continent, could not be subdued how on earth are we going to edge out Tunisia now sitting pretty on top of the group? This is hardly an idle concern. A similar thing happened four years ago when, as it were, a momentary lack of concentration led to the Super Eagles' defeat by their Angolan counterpart which eventually handed the ticket to Angola. The reason South Africa 2010 is of singular importance is that the tournament would be holding on the African continent for the first time, therefore there is a possibility of an African team winning the coveted trophy for the first time. That is a distinct possibility considering the mammoth support African teams would muster and the Super Eagles in full flight would surely be difficult to beat.

The challenge remains how the team would reach that level of preparedness-physically and mentally. The poor result in Mozambique owed largely to lack of preparation, with many of the players sauntering to camp a day or two to the match, leaving little time to practise strategy and game plan. These days when the game has progressed tremendously in many African countries a sloppy attitude could cost a team dearly. How does Nigerian salvage the quest to participate in the 2010 World Cup in South Africa? First, the assignment of qualification should not be left in the hands of the Nigeria Football Federation and the National Sports Commission (NSC) alone. A high powered body of experienced and dedicated individuals in the sport and other areas should be formed and charged with ensuring that the national team not only qualifies for the tournament but does everything in its power to win the cup. Left to the NFF and the Sports Commission the country could as well forget about the team's presence in South Africa in 2010.

The body so formed should now put up a full proof plan to execute the campaign to the World Cup and the quest to win it. This should include, if necessary, an overhaul of the team such that only the fit, the committed and those willing to take instructions handed down by the handlers are called upon to play and with a surfeit of players across the globe yearning to represent the country this should not be difficult. Some sensitization would have to be done to whip up patriotism in the team for it to realize the importance of what it is being called upon to do. Of course, this would mean attending promptly and generously to the welfare and other demands of the footballers as no one needs reminding that no grand preparation would achieve anything unless the wellbeing of the team is taken seriously. Well executed, the programme should be able to groom a team with the required spirit, mindset and discipline to qualify and represent the nation admirably in the 2010 tournament. Surely, the Mozambique flop is a wake up call to plan to take our place among football playing nations.



Your Letters

Daily Trust, Obasanjo and Atiku

On the front page of the *Daily Trust* newspaper of Tuesday March 31, 2009 was a story "Atiku begged me to return to PDP" which was attributed to former President Olusegun Obasanjo. Barely, 24 hours later, same paper reported on its front page Garba Shehu, the spokesman for Atiku Abubakar saying that the former President has called his boss to deny the said publication.

In order to set the records straight and maintain its integrity in the eyes of its numerous readers, *Daily Trust* subsequently published the full transcript of Obasanjo's comments. The denial which was attributed to Obasanjo by Atiku's spokesman looks like an obscure and a mask propaganda to shrink the backlash of that candid and

authentic publication.

Right from the beginning, the political animosity between Obasanjo and Atiku was not as a result of their belief in service delivery to the populace. Theirs was a manifestation of conflicts of personal interests above that of the country. From 1999 to 2003, they were two sides of the same coin. Atiku wanted to be President, and Obasanjo wanted life presidency. When it became evidently clear that none of them is ready to forgo his interest, they set the political landscape on fire. Atiku departed PDP and floated Action Congress (AC). Atiku led Nigerians to kill Obasanjo's tenure elongation dream. Obasanjo did all he could to scuttle (or at least stall it) Atiku's ambition to be president.

My curiosity is this: what led Atiku Abubakar to belittle himself before Obasanjo, knowing full well the kind of person Obasanjo is?

My belief is that anything that would require Obasanjo-Atiku working together again must be severely injurious to our national interest. For those who allowed themselves to be used to cause disharmony in the polity, this is a time to ponder over their stupidity. Nothing changes with our political class.

The major reason why Nigeria is heading towards a one party state is because none of the political actors could stay out of their comfort zone as a sacrifice. They want to be at the centre of activity with all its comfort. Atiku is proving to be unfaithful in his own

action. It is said that all organisms, including humans, are greatly influenced by the consequences produced by their own behaviour. It was the great American Philosopher, Thomas Paine who said that "The sublime and the ridiculous are often so nearly related that it is difficult to class them separately. One step above the sublime makes the ridiculous; and one step above the ridiculous makes the sublime again."

After reading the full transcript of Obasanjo's comment in the *Daily Trust* of Thursday, April 2, 2009, I am left with no doubt that Obasanjo did make those comments on Atiku. Over to you, Atiku.

Ibrahim Muhammad, JJ
9, Ibadan Street, Kaduna.
almuhaj2005@yahoo.com

Text us on 08059100257

Strike by PHCN?

We heard that staff of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) are reportedly proposing to go on strike. They have the permission of Nigerians to go ahead. No one will miss them.

Timothy, Lagos, 07031899928

Obasanjo and Atiku

Former President Obasanjo recently informed Nigerians that Atiku begged him to reconcile. Whatever version of the story Atiku will come up with, we his supporters have been disappointed.

Turaki, Kaduna, 07034907688

Atiku Abubakar should know that as far as Nigeria is concerned, he is "politically finished." He thought Obasanjo is somebody that can be trusted. It seems he has not learnt his lesson.

Hassan, Abuja, 08035046641

Attention, FRSC

For over two months now, a commercial bus went up in flames under the fly-over in Zaria. The burnt vehicle remains on the same spot without any attempt at evacuating it. Road safety should take note.

Bilal L. A/Samad, Katsina, 08067796055

Iwu and Adeleke

The chairman, Senate Committee on INEC, Senator Isiaka Adeleke is doing a good job defending Maurice Iwu. Ours is indeed a country that has been held hostage, but no doubt we will soon set ourselves free!

Abubakar Yusufu, 08069614000

To Dora Akunyili

What Professor Dora Akunyili needs to re-brand is the attitude of government officials, starting from members of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) and PDP governors. That way we would have "Good People, Great Nation."

Zainab Yaya Okofi, 08035900475

Don't dress us in borrowed robes by re-branding on TV, newspapers etc. Turn these things around and the country would be re-branded. Go to Benue and Lagos states and see re-branding in action.

Kpochi Donald, Katsina, 08036688981

Ribadu and Farida

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) was livelier under Nuhu Ribadu. Now we don't know what the agency is doing. Farida Waziri should wake up.

Usman Jafar, 08034853566

On the power probe

The Nigerian media should be the right agency to inform Nigerians and keep us up to date on the power probe. We want to get to the root of the problem. I commend the media on that and urge them to do more.

Idris Muhammad, Yobe, 08065285791

Security agents, wake up

Early this year, two customs officers on duty were reportedly killed at Jibia border. Again, on Saturday, March 28, 2009 same atrocity was committed at Bakori where an innocent citizen was killed burnt together with his car and buried him without his families consent, even his grave is now nowhere to be found.

Aminu Dalha U/Gini, Kano, 07030391418

Opinion

Israel on trial: Answers

I would like to thank Mr. Badmus M. Kura for his questions with respect to my column 'Israel on trial' in the *Daily Trust* [17/3/09]. Mr. Kura asked a total of six questions which, for the benefit of those who missed his letter, can be paraphrased as follows: Arabs and Jews are siblings, no be so? It follows therefore that they dwell in the same place, doesn't it? And when, for some reasons, one of them—the Jew left; can the other—the Arab stop them from returning? And why should the returnee be called a usurper? Since this is a conflict between siblings, others can only be onlookers, isn't it? And since Arabic language was exported to much of the Arab World, all this cry about Arab League and Arab unity is a farce, isn't it?

Starting with the last question, I will agree with Kura that Arabic language was exported to most of the states of the Arab World with the advent of Islam. The whole of North Africa was completely Arabised except for the desert Berbers, who accepted the religion of Islam without adopting Arabic language. From Mauritania through Sahrawi, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt to the Sudan, the people accepted both the religion and the language. In the Levant, which was half-Arabic before, the people became completely Islamised and Arabised, with the exception of Lebanon, a third of which adopted the language but not the religion. Iran, on the other hand, completely accepted the religion but did not adopt the language. The original Arabs were to be found only in the Arabian Peninsula [Saudi Arabia and Yemen], ancient Syria and the Gulf area.

But I cannot see the connection between this fact and the issue of the Arab League and Arab unity, because any set of people can create leagues and promote unity among their countries and between their peoples even if they don't speak the same language. Nigeria, for instance, is in league with countries of the West African sub region in ECOWAS; and has been searching for unity within the Organisation of African Unity, now the African Union, even though the people in the countries of the continent speak more than a thousand languages.

But if by 'farce,' Kura meant that the Arab League had been a failure, it would be difficult

By Adamu Adamu

to disagree with him. I think the Arab League is one of the most unsuccessful regional groupings the world has yet seen. I don't know of a single achievement of the league except that it has successfully prevented Palestinians from returning to Palestine. This may be difficult for Arabs and some Muslims to accept but it just happens to be the sad truth.

And as Kura said, Arabs and Jews are siblings—the latter descendants of Isaac [AS], the former of Ishmael [AS], both of them children of Abraham [AS], the patriarch of all monotheists and the epitome of sacrifice. But it was not accurate to say that they had always dwelled in the same place, because they hadn't. But if by Arab, Kura meant Palestinians, who, it should be noted, were originally Aegean Greeks, had always lived in the same land, this would be true at least from 1190 BC, when the Philistines settled in Palestine before the Jews came to found their kingdom.

But whether they had always lived together or not, people had the right to migrate and settle wherever they wished, and the original inhabitants should be gracious and hospitable enough to accept them, even if they were not returnees to the land.

Unfortunately, Kura's question on the right of a brother to have unhindered access to return home may actually work against his thesis; because it is the Zionist Jews of Israel that are preventing Palestinians from returning to the homes from which they were forced out starting from 1944 to date. Every Jew, even those who never had a home or roots in Palestine, as we saw in the case of the Ethiopian Falashas, Russian Jews, Ukrainians, including those who would be born tomorrow, could go and settle in Israel, but not the Palestinians who had been living there continuously for the past 3,000 years. As a result, there are currently, more than 6 million Palestinian refugees—homeless, stateless refugees—around the world; because Israel will not allow them return home. Kura is right here. These Palestinians should have the right to go back home.

But if by 'return,' Kura meant that in 1948,

Zionists from Europe should have been allowed to settle in Palestine peacefully, that's exactly what happened. They freely migrated and settled. However, after they started settling, they set up terror gangs, such as the Irgun and Stern gangs to which future Israeli Prime Ministers Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir respectively belonged. Their aim, which they executed to great effect, was to kill and frighten Palestinians off the land and assassinate British and UN Mandate officials who were not well disposed to the creation of Israel.

If, however, Kura was referring to the right of the Zionists and some of the Jews to return to Palestine after that long absence, two issues should be noted. One, the Zionists spearheading the return of the Jews to the Holy Land were themselves never native to it. They were Polish, Russian, Ukrainian, Czech or Romanian; and even their looks and features would show that they were Caucasian, not Eastern. This is because they had no connection to Palestine—ever; and so they couldn't possibly have had any recognizable right to return to it.

Their case—these European nationals who converted to Judaism and adopted the philosophy of Zionism and came to stake a claim on the soil of Palestine—is like the case of an Englishman who converted to Islam and emigrated to Saudi Arabia to claim 'his land,' because the religion originated from there. How can the profession of a religion entitle you to the ownership of other people's land? This is why they are called usurpers—those who came and, with the help of Western powers, took land that didn't belong to him by force—but Jews indigenous to Palestine must have equal rights with the Palestinians living there.

But after a stay of 60 years, even these Zionists would seem to have qualified for citizenship, the conferring of which, according to the Rabbis of the Neturei Karta, must be at the discretion of the Palestinians, the true owners of the land. At the moment they are just mere usurpers.

And, as I am sure Kura will agree, the right reaction to usurpation is not a two-state solution. If, for instance, some Americans came and occupied the Niger Delta, would Nigeria

complain to the United Nations Security Council to have them evicted; or would it request for the passage of a resolution for a two-state solution?

And two, even if we suppose that all the Jews and Zionists claiming rights over Palestine do have such a right; after these 3,000 years, its validity would be no more real than any decision by the Ooni of Ife and the Alaafin of Oyo to lead Yoruba people back to Saudi Arabia from where they said they originated, in order to reclaim it as their God-given land.

And if the Saudis proved as hospitable as the Palestinians were and accepted the Yoruba people; certainly, no reasonable and rational person would expect the Yoruba people to reciprocate by organizing terrorist gangs to chase away their hosts, and by establishing a state and setting up a Yoruba Defence Force to continue shelling, bombing and invading the remaining areas at will, as happened in Gaza recently.

As Kura said, the conflict in Palestine may be a battle between brothers. However, whether between brother or between strangers, a conflict is a conflict, in which one side is wrong and the other right; and others don't have the luxury to be indifferent onlookers, as Kura suggested. Man can't escape the responsibility of being a witness to fair dealing; because in any conflict, conscientious people must take sides with the truth and be there standing up for justice, whoever it is for or against. You cannot be a neutral observer when the right of others is being trampled underfoot. Silence is not golden here; it is yellow; and neutrality is just plain cowardice and a great aid to the perpetuation of injustice.

And for us writers, the world will probably be a safer place for us if we don't write the way we do, or don't concern ourselves with some of the issues we touch; but there is the weight of duty and the prick of conscience for those who believe they will one day account for what they do, say or write. So, it is better to wield this pen in defence of the truth, even if some powerful interests don't like it; because, in any case, there is truly no power except that of God.

Making Mr. President more voluble

Nigeria's foreign Affairs Minister, Chief Ojo Madueke, voiced President Musa Yar'adua's mind the other day. He said Mr President did not like the manner the new administration in the African nation of Madagascar came to power. The new regime had arrived the State House through the back door and Nigeria is not comfortable, the president had pointed out. As the leader of the most populous nation in African and a force to be reckoned with on the continent, it's a good thing the president spoke up on the situation in Madagascar. The problem however is that when the foreign affairs minister quoted the president as he did on an issue that bothered on legitimacy, lots of questions arose for the nation's leadership to answer. In fact, the morality of questioning the legitimacy of the government in another nation in the present situation Nigerians find themselves is the first thing that comes to the mind of any close observer. But first, some good things could be noted about the position of both the president and the minister.

That Nigeria's diplomatic bureaucracy in the past had not been forthcoming on major continental and global issues for which the nation's stance ought to have been made known is legendary. In fact, it was enough reason to wonder if the foreign affairs ministry existed in the first place. Much of the time, when other major nations made statements concerning an event that were of interest to global community, nothing was heard from the Nigerian end. Journeys that were tagged 'diplomatic' made by sitting ministers but which had nothing that showed the effectiveness of a well-oiled diplomatic machine were

By Tunji Ajibade

undertaken. It was as if there was no machine in that ministry in the first place. That appears to have changed. At least, with the sounds coming from the direction of the foreign affairs minister. Now Nigeria is making official statements on major world issues. It is taking definite position on matters that serious and well-organized nations pass swift comments on. The ministry has been doing this fairly regularly on issues that concern Africa more recently. For instance, none of the latest instabilities in the West African regions have passed without a comment from the foreign ministry. Mr President has even been made to host series of meetings of head of states in the West African region to resolves some major issues. The recent military coup in Mauritania had not escaped his bashing. All this says something about the man at the head of affairs in the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

The fact that the honourable minister has ensured that the foreign affairs arm of this administration is working is understandable. Chief Madueke is an individual who knows what he is doing. A highly opinionated and strong personality who is imbued with wisdom, the minister has been on the national scene for quite a while. He it was in the 1990s that canvassed that Nigerians, buy and ride bicycles. He even rode on a bicycle to one of the meetings of the Federal Executive Council to which he belonged during the first term of former President Olusegun Obasanjo. Having been at the centre for many years, the minister had seen some things that were not going the way they should with the nation image in the

international arena. Now he has the opportunity to do something about what is wrong.

When the president commented on Madagascar and some other issues that are of importance to Africa, the role played by the foreign affairs minister is important. It's the foreign affairs minister's duty to get the president air his view on the position of the nation on international issues. He has done his job creditably in this wise. Some ministers would have gone to bed without attaching any significance to the situation in Madagascar, not to mention asking the president what the policy stance of the country should be. Up to this time, some ministers may not even be aware that anything happened in Madagascar! This land had seen some shoddy handling of foreign relations in the past and this had contributed in large measure to the image problem the country suffers from. But the time has arrived for Nigerians to breathe a sigh of relief.

While the diplomatic wheel has begun to roll, some issues may still constitute a barrier to the effectiveness of the diplomatic machine in the foreign affairs ministry. That the president has for a while been silent on legitimacy issue as it has to do with nations reeling under illegitimate governments is a known fact. The circumstances surrounding the April 2007 elections that brought his administration to power is a reason. But this yoke needs not affect the role he plays on the international scene, especially Africa, much longer.

As a matter of fact, the President's should have been a more voluble voice on the international scene if he had come up with tangible efforts to deal with the mess that marred the last series of elections in this nation.

The delay in making the corrections has been too long. Now that the president appears to be doing something about giving the nation better electoral rules, the confidence of many close observers is no longer what it should be. Thanks to the tinkering his Federal Executive Council did to the report submitted by the Justice Uwais panel on electoral reforms. And no less thanks to the legislators in the National Assembly that have done all they could to stall the process of constitutional reforms that should help in the conduct of credible elections in the future. This is an embarrassing situation for people in this nation. Getting to reform electoral rules that everyone acknowledges is woefully faulty has become as Herculean a task as making electricity available by the agency that collects public fund for it.

The time is ripe for the current administration pull things together. The position statement on Madagascar made by the president and voiced by Foreign Affairs minister should not be a one off thing. It should be improved upon. Nigerians love to see their government becoming more relevant on the international scene. They also would like to have a Minister of foreign affairs who is taken as seriously as the American Secretary of State on the global scene. This has relevance for the respect citizens enjoy as well as the clout the nation has among the committee of nations. But much can only come out of the renewed energy at the foreign affairs ministry and the president can be more voluble on the foreign scene if the Yar'adua administration takes some measures that would boost its credibility.

Ajibade, a consultant writer, is based in Abuja. tunjioa@yahoo.com

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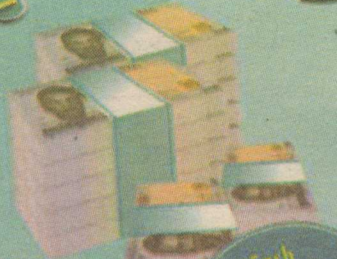
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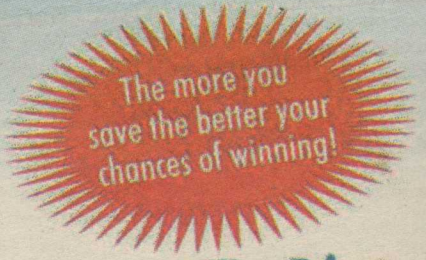


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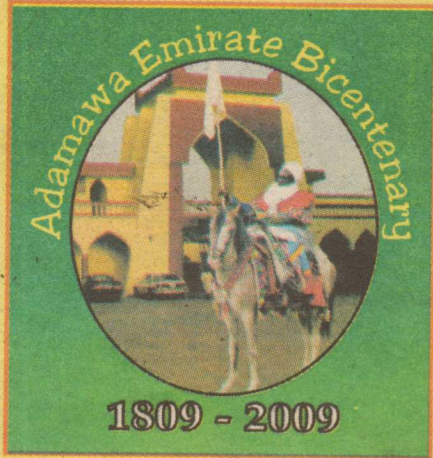
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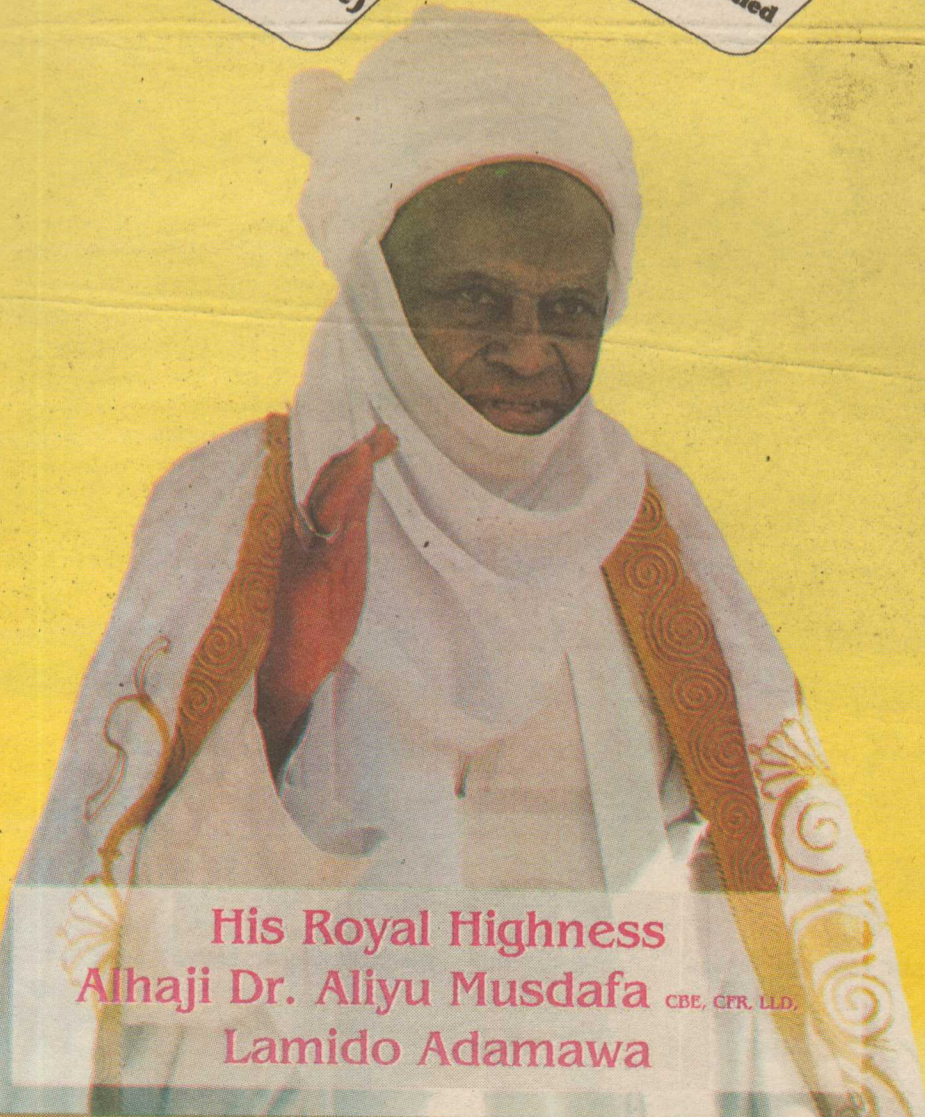
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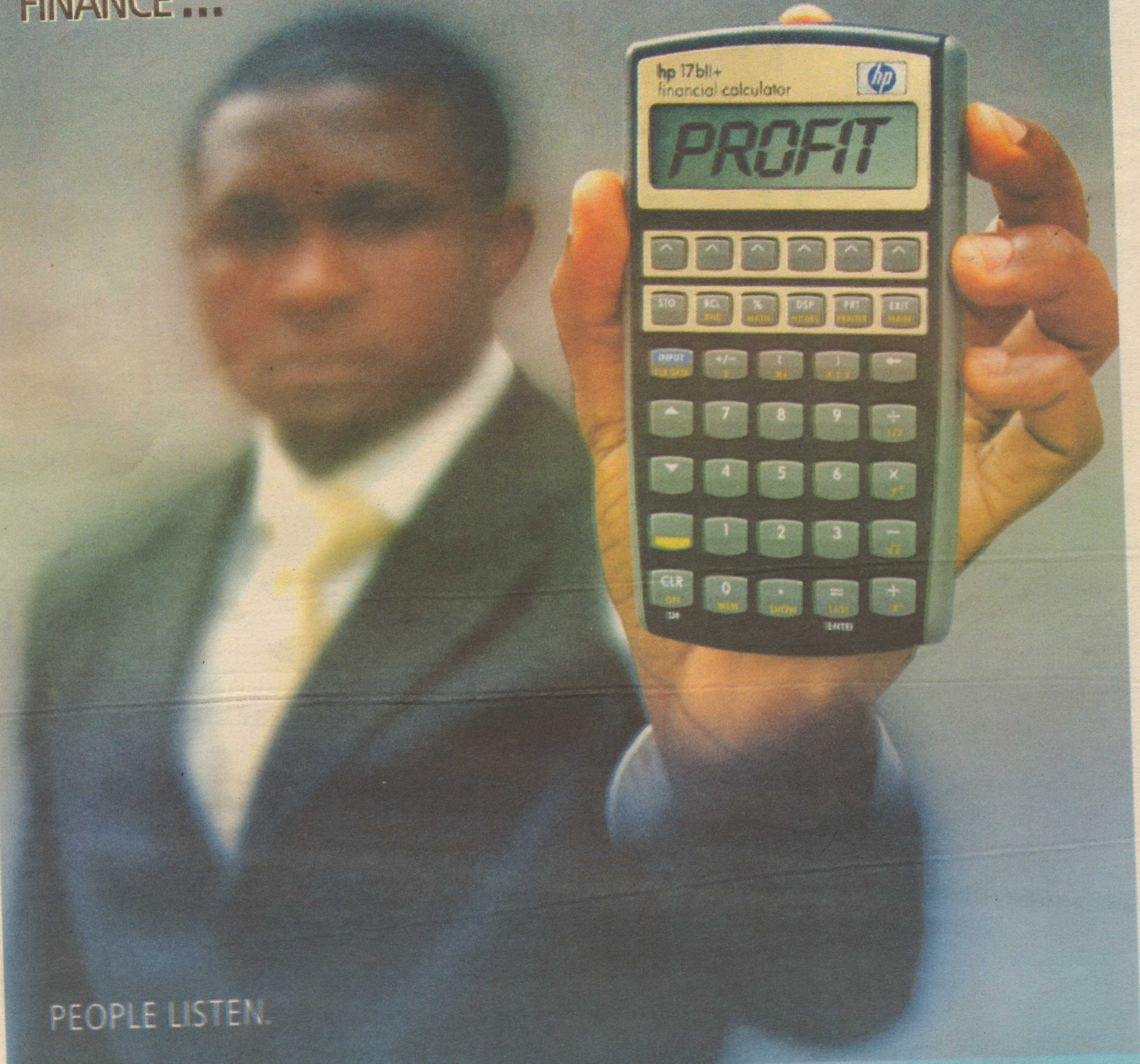
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 - b. Company profile, organisational structure and a list of professional staff including their resume.
 - c. Articles and Memorandum of Association.
 - d. Evidence of financial capability and contractor's audited accounts for the past 3 years, and financial standing with Bankers.
 - e. Detailed contractor's quality control and quality assurance procedures.
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 - h. Any additional information that will enhance the potential of the contractor.
4. **Submission of Pre-qualification Documents.**
The Pre-qualification documents must be in a sealed envelopes and clearly marked "PRE-QUALIFICATION OF TENDERS FOR THE IN-HOUSE CAPITAL PROJECTS AT THE NIGERIAN DEFENCE ACADEMY (NDA) KADUNA". They are to be addressed to the Commandant NDA and submitted to NDA Tenders Board Secretariat.
5. **Closing and Opening of Pre-qualification Submission.**
Submission of pre-qualification documents shall close at exactly Two (2) weeks from the date of this advert i.e. Monday, April 20, 2009 while all pre-qualification documents will be opened on 21 April 2009 at 1200 hours at the NDA Tenders Board Secretariat.
6. **Note:** This is not an invitation to tender. Only pre-qualified contractors would be eligible to collect bidding documents on payment of non-refundable fees.

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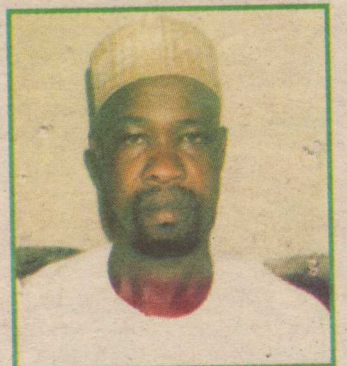
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AFRICA REPORT

ANC condemns Tutu's 'sacrilege'

South Africa's ruling ANC party has condemned Archbishop Desmond Tutu's criticism of the organisation, describing it as "sacrilege".

The archbishop warned ANC leaders this week that "they are not God" and "one day you will get your comeuppance".

The Nobel Peace Prize winner also said he was not looking forward to have ANC leader Jacob Zuma as president.

Mr Zuma is the strong favourite to become South Africa's next leader after elections on 22 April. His campaign has been marred by corruption charges stemming from an arms scandal.

Prosecutors are expected to make an announcement on Friday on whether to drop the charges.

"At the present time, I can't pretend to be looking forward to having him [Mr Zuma] as my president," Archbishop Tutu, seen by many as South Africa's voice

of conscience, told national radio on Thursday.

In separate public comments, Mr Tutu said: "For his [Mr Zuma's] own sake, I hope they are not going to have a political solution. "If he is innocent as he has claimed to be, for goodness sake, let it be a court of law that says so."

In response, the ANC said in a statement that the party was "increasingly disturbed" by the manner in which the former archbishop of Cape Town was addressing the issue before an announcement on whether Mr Zuma's trial would proceed.

"This is tantamount to him undermining the independence of the NPA [National Prosecuting Authority] and the judiciary which is unfortunate for a person of this stature," the ANC said.

South Africa's trade union confederation, Cosatu, also expressed concern that Mr Tutu "has allowed his passionate personal hatred of the ANC and its President Jacob Zuma to cloud his judgement".

Tsvangirai hit by second tragic loss

Zimbabwe's Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai has lost a two-year-old grandson just one month after his wife was killed in a road accident.

ANC leader Mr Tsvangirai took office in February after months of wrangling. The toddler - named Sean - drowned in a swimming pool at Mr Tsvangirai's home in the capital Harare.

He will be buried today in Buhera, southeast of Harare, next to his grandmother Susan. Mrs Tsvangirai was killed on March 6 in a car crash in which Mr Tsvangirai was badly injured. "Sean was the son of

the prime minister's son Garikai and (his wife) Lilian who are based in Canada," said a spokesman for Mr Tsvangirai. "They came here to attend the funeral of Mrs Susan Tsvangirai and were meant to go back today."

Mr Tsvangirai returned home from a cabinet retreat in Victoria Falls on hearing of his grandson's tragic death.

He became Prime Minister in a new power-sharing government with his bitter rival President Robert Mugabe in February. The administration has the mammoth task of rebuilding Zimbabwe's wrecked economy.

Sudan elections put back to 2010

Sudan will hold general elections in 2010 - a year later than expected - the electoral commission has announced. The deputy chairman of the commission, Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah, said the electoral process would begin next month and finish in February next year.

Under the 2005 peace deal to end years of war in the south, the elections were supposed to be held this year. The SPLM, former rebels from the south, are expected to field a candidate against President Omar al-Bashir. He has been indicted for war crimes in Darfur by the International Criminal Court. Mr Abdullah said there would be six elections: national presidential and parliamentary, the south Sudanese presidency, state governors, the southern parliament and state assemblies.

"The results will be declared by the end of February. The voting will take place earlier in the month," he told Reuters news agency. SPLM spokesman Yien Matthew said the former rebels were happy with the date. The polls would be Sudan's first democratic elections in more than two decades. The peace deal ended a 21-year civil war between the north and the south.

The two parties signed the 2005 deal and share power at a national level but analysts say relations remain tense. The peace deal gave the south a semi-autonomous government and provided for a referendum on independence for the south by 2011.



Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe (right) swearing in Morgan Tsvangirai as Prime Minister in a power-sharing government in February.

Zimbabwe 'to re-engage with West'

Zimbabwe's new coalition government has adopted a 100-day renewal plan aimed at mending ties with the West after years of isolation under Robert Mugabe. Ministers on a three-day retreat hammered out the plan which is meant to yield a new constitution by next year.

Restrictions on foreign media are due to be lifted and human rights restored. Correspondents at the talks say there is some scepticism that such ambitious targets can be met in such a short space of time. After Zimbabwe quit the Commonwealth in 2003, the EU and US imposed travel bans on Mr Mugabe and his circle.

Morgan Tsvangirai, leader of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), was sworn in as prime minister in February 2009, following months of wrangling over a power-sharing agreement originally signed with Mr Mugabe in September 2008.

Five priorities have been set out in the plan agreed in the resort town of Victoria Falls: restoring human rights, addressing security concerns, stabilising the economy, building infrastructure and re-engaging the international community.

Relaxation of the media regulations means that independent local and international media should be allowed to operate freely. Broad consultations are due to be held on the new constitution ahead of a stakeholders' conference

three months from now.

Patrick Chinamasa, the justice minister and an MP from Mr Mugabe's Zanu-PF party, said his country wanted normal relations with the West.

"We have committed ourselves to normalising relations between Zimbabwe and those countries which disengaged their relationship and this is primarily the EU, the United Kingdom, the United States and the white Commonwealth countries," he said.

"So we have now said that we are going to re-engage them. A core team of ministers has been set up to expiate the re-engagement."

Eric Matinenga, the constitutional affairs minister and an MP from Mr Tsvangirai's MDC, said broad consultations would be held on the new constitution.

"We are already starting to engage the various groups and the population to make sure that the constitution is acceptable to the people of Zimbabwe," he said.

Former political rivals may have faced each other and bonded, Zimbabwean journalist Brian Hungwe reports from Victoria Falls, but the big task now is implementation.

Mr Tsvangirai was at the talks in Victoria Falls but left on Saturday after hearing news of a new family tragedy, less than a month after his wife Susan died in a car crash in which he himself survived.

Libya migrants search called off

The search for survivors from a migrant boat that sank off Libya has been called off with more than 230 people presumed dead, an official has said.

Michele Bombassei, a spokesman for the International Organization for Migration (IOM), also said about 100 bodies had been recovered. Twenty-one migrants were rescued from the boat, which sank early yesterday.

The survivors said it had capsized because of bad weather and people

panicking when the boat began to leak. Another boat carrying 357 people was rescued by Italian authorities and towed back to the Libyan capital, Tripoli.

The boats were on the route used by smugglers to bring mainly African migrants illegally from Libya to Italy. More than 31,000 people attempted the perilous crossing last year, a sharp increase from 2007.

The journey is often made in ill-equipped, overcrowded boats, and many would-be migrants die. The boat that sank yesterday

capsized about 15km (9 miles) west of Tripoli.

"Unfortunately we have been told that the search operation has been stopped," Mr Bombassei told the BBC. Survivors said the smuggler, an Egyptian, was among those who drowned.

Mr Bombassei, who visited the survivors at a centre near Tripoli on Wednesday, said the amount they were charged for making the journey depended on the nationality of the migrant.

"There were some guys who said they paid the

equivalent of 300 euros (£270) and others who paid 1,000 [euros]," he told the BBC.

"The smugglers want to make as much as they can so they are very flexible."

Some survivors of the capsized and rescued boats were quoted as saying they had paid even more. Many of those rescued from the boat that sank have kidney problems after drinking large quantities of sea water, the IOM said. Italy is to start joint sea patrols with Libya aimed at stemming the influx of migrants in May.

Trust International

WORLD REPORT

Obama promotes nuclear-free world

Barack Obama has outlined his vision of a world free of nuclear weapons in a major speech in Europe.

The US president called for a global summit on nuclear security and the forging of new partnerships to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. He said he hoped to negotiate a new treaty to end the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons.

North Korea's "provocative" rocket launch earlier in the day underscored the need for action, he said. Although his nuclear goals might not be realised in his lifetime, he said he would strive to achieve them. Mr Obama said that as long as Iran continued to pose a potential nuclear threat, the US would continue to work on a controversial missile defence shield, parts of which would be stationed in Poland and the Czech Republic.

He was speaking ahead of a meeting with EU leaders in the Czech capital, Prague, hours after North Korea launched a rocket despite international warnings. Mr Obama condemned the launch: "Now is the time for a strong international response," he said. "North Korea must know that the path to security and respect will never come through threats and illegal weapons."

Speaking to a 20,000-strong crowd in front of Prague's historic castle, Mr Obama said the US had a moral responsibility to act in ridding the world of nuclear weapons. "The existence of thousands of nuclear weapons is the most dangerous legacy of the Cold War," he said.

"Today the Cold War has disappeared but thousands of those weapons have not." He pledged to reduce the US nuclear stockpile, and urged others to do the same. But as long as a nuclear threat existed, the US would retain its nuclear capability, although it would work to reduce its arsenal.

Mecca mosques 'wrongly aligned'

Some 200 mosques in Islam's holiest city, Mecca, point the wrong way for prayers, reports from Saudi Arabia say.

All mosques have a niche showing the direction of the most sacred Islamic site, the Kaaba, an ancient cube-like building in Mecca's Grand Mosque.

But people looking

down from recently built high-rises in Mecca found the niches in many older mosques were not pointing directly towards the Kaaba.

Some worshippers are said to be anxious about the validity of their prayers.

There have been suggestions that laser beams could be used to make an exact measurement. Tawfik

al-Sudairy, Islamic affairs ministry deputy secretary, downplayed the problem in remarks quoted by the pan-Arab newspaper al-Hayat.

"There are no major errors but corrections have been made for some old mosques, thanks to modern techniques," he said. "In any case, it does not affect the prayers."

Ice bridge ruptures in Antarctic

An ice bridge linking a shelf of ice the size of Jamaica to two islands in Antarctica has snapped. Scientists say the collapse could mean the Wilkins Ice Shelf is on the brink of breaking away, and provides further evidence of rapid change in the region. Sited on the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula, the Wilkins shelf has been retreating since the 1990s.

Researchers regarded the ice bridge as an important barrier, holding the remnant shelf structure in place. Its removal will allow ice to move more freely between Charcot and Latady islands, into the open ocean.

European Space Agency satellite pictures had indicated last week that cracks were starting to appear in the bridge. Newly created icebergs were seen to be floating in the sea on the western side of the peninsula, which juts up from the continent towards South America's southern tip.

He said his administration would work to bring the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) into force in order to achieve a global ban on nuclear testing.

The agreement would ban all nuclear explosions for any purpose, but cannot currently come into effect as nuclear powers such as the US and China have not ratified it, and India and Pakistan have not signed it.

The most immediate and extreme threat to global security, the president said, was the possibility of terrorists possessing nuclear weapons. "One terrorist with a nuclear weapon could unleash massive destruction," he said.

"Al-Qaeda has said it seeks a bomb. And that it would have no problem in using it. And we know that there is unsecured nuclear material across the globe."

Mr Obama announced a new effort to secure sensitive nuclear material within four years and break down the black market in the trade in illicit weapons.

He also said he would negotiate a new strategic arms reduction treaty with Russia by the end of this year. The speech came days after he and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev - meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit in London - agreed to reopen negotiations about reducing nuclear warheads.

They aim to produce a new arms control treaty to replace the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (Start) that expires at the end of the year. Under Mr Obama's predecessor, George W Bush, tensions arose between the two sides over the US plan for a missile defence shield, parts of which would be stationed in Poland and the Czech Republic.

The new US administration is currently reviewing the plans, which are meant to counter nuclear attacks from countries like Iran and North Korea, but which Moscow sees as a threat.



OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR-GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION (OSGOF) FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT NO. 8 YAWURI STREET, GARKI II, ABUJA

PRE-QUALIFICATION NOTICE AND INVITATION TO TENDER

The Office of the Surveyor-General of the Federation (OSGOF) invites interested, reputable and qualified companies to apply for pre-qualification and submit tenders for the supply and installation of a Large Format Printing Machine, Automatic Cutter and GIS-to-Map Printing Software:

2. SCOPE OF WORK

Supply and Installation of a Large Format Printing Machine, Automatic Cutter and GIS-to-Map Printing Software are as specified below:

Lot 1

- (i) Large Format Printing Machine (Model: HP SCITEX TJ 8350) with the following specifications - Speed: 480 SQM per hour, Accuracy: 400dpi - 600dpi, paper width = 1.5 meters.
- (ii) Automatic Cutter (Model: FOTOBA X LTJOL), which must integrate seemingly into the production line of the large printing machine and allow precision cutting of various paper sizes and orientation.
- (iii) GIS-to-Map printing software which will enable direct transfer of data from the GIS system into the printer and preparation of the data for printout, including coordinates frame, sheets division, paper size selection and north arrow.

3. REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for pre-qualification, interested companies are required to supply the underlisted documents:-

- (i) Certificate of Incorporation with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC). (Original will be sighted).
- (ii) Tax Clearance Certificate for the past three (3) years/VAT remittance. (Original will be sighted).
- (iii) Evidence of previous supply and installation of Large Format Printing Machine including after sales service.
- (iv) Evidence of past experience in implementation of mass data GIS solutions.
- (v) Evidence of past experience in raster image clearing house.
- (vi) Details of company profile including personnel, their qualification and experience.
- (vii) List of similar jobs successfully executed (or being executed) within the last three years.
- (viii) Evidence of financial capability to handle the project.
- (ix) Sworn affidavit that none of the Directors of the company is an ex-convict or bankrupt.
- (x) Evidence of Authorization from Manufacturers.
- (xi) Evidence of payment of Tender Fees of N10,000.00.

4. SUBMISSION OF TENDERS

The pre-qualification documents must be returned in sealed envelope, marked at the top left hand corner "Pre-Qualification document" stating the job the company is applying for while the corresponding financial bid should also be in another envelope, marked "financial bid". The two submissions i.e. "pre-qualification document" and "financial bid" should all be enclosed in a larger envelope which must be sealed and addressed to The Secretary, Ministerial Tenders Board, OSGOF. The sealed envelope is to be dropped by hand into the Tenders Box of the OSGOF on or before **12 noon Monday, 4th May, 2009**. Opening of only pre-qualification documents shall commence at 1.00 p.m. on same day in the conference room of the OSGOF. On the next day, **5th May, 2009 at 1.00 p.m.**, the names of pre-qualified contractors will be announced and their financial bids will be opened. The financial bids submitted earlier by those that were not pre-qualified will be returned to them unopened. Contractors or their representatives, NIS, NGOs and the general public are encouraged to attend, please.

5. TENDER DOCUMENTS

All contractors are expected to collect departmental specifications and tender documents from the Mapping Department.

The Secretary
Ministerial Tenders Board
Office of the Surveyor-General of the Federation
Abuja

APPRECIATION

This is to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all those who found time to attend and witness my wedding fatiha with Amina Ibrahim Gamawa which took place on Saturday 28th March 2009 in Azare, Bauchi State. I also wish to thank those who could not attend but sent in their prayers/goodwill messages. The list below is by no means exhaustive.

Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, SGF
His Excellency, Alh. Isa Yuguda, Executive Governor of Bauchi State
His Excellency, Alhaji Aliyu Akwe Doma, Executive Governor of Nasarawa State
Alhaji Ibrahim Jarma former Controller-General of Prisons
Alhaji Sule Katagum, Wazirin Katagum
Dr. Abdullahi Adamu Former Governor of Nasarawa State
Chief Michael Abdul, Deputy Governor of Nasarawa State
Alhaji Garba Mohammed Gadi, Deputy Governor, Bauchi State.
The Grand Khadi Nasarawa State, Alhaji Abdullahi Mohammed
Alh. Halilu Bala Usman, Former Dep. Governor of Plateau State
Alh. Ahmed Ibrahim Dandija, SSG Bauchi State
Alhaji Adamu Aliyu, mni, Walin Katagum
HRH Emir of Lafia, represented by Madaki, Waziri, Zanna and Magajin Garin Lafia
HRH Emir of Wamba, represented by Hakimin Wayo, Barden Wamba and Hakimin Konvah
Magajin Garin Sokoto
Alh. Mohammed Onawo, Former Speaker Nasarawa State House of Assembly
Mr. Zira Maigadi, Former MD/CEO AP Plc.
Alhaji Abdu Dantata, GED Dangote Group
Capt. J. Oyewumi, M.D. Dangote Ports Authority
Mr. Deinde Brown, M.D. Dangote Pasta
Mr. Mike Zeilchik, M.D. Dangote Flour
Alhaji Sada Ladan Baki, CEO Logistics Dangote Cement
Alhaji Suleiman Olarinde, CFO Dangote Sugar
Alhaji Isa Tata, Dangote Group, Abuja
Alhaji Ibrahim Yaro, BUA Sugar, Lagos
Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi
Alhaji Aminu Saleh, Wamban Katagum
Alhaji Mohammed Shekarau Umar, Magajin Malam of Katagum
Alhaji Disina Muhammed, Marafan Katagum
Alhaji Yelwaji Ahmed, Turakin Katagum
Justice Mohammed Dahiru Saleh, Matawallen Katagum
Police Commissioner Abubakar Mohammed, Sarkin Yakin Katagum
Alhaji Yahaya Yusuf, Dan Isan Katagum
Dr. Waziri Dogo Muhammed, NHIS
Alhaji Abdulmuhyi Mukhtar
Alhaji Shuaibu Adamu
Alhaji Ali Shira, Karofin Katagum
Alhaji Ahmadu Yusuf
Alhaji Muslim Sambo
Alhaji Adamu Jafiya
Dr. M.A. Abba Iya
Dr. Abubakar Abdullahi Kelos
Alhaji Garba Ibrahim Bature
Alhaji Kawule Tela
Ikoyi Community Club Team led by Col. Yusuf Ishola

Mrs. Nsidem Roberts, M.D. SEROB, Abuja
Mal. Adamu Alkali, E.D. FIN Bank
Zumunta Association USA Inc. represented by Alh. Ibrahim Hassan
Alhaji Hassan Zurmi, Former National Chairman AC
Alhaji Sule Ubam, Nasarawa State Chairman, AC
Alhaji Ahmed Abdullahi, Nasarawa State ANPP Chairman
All State Officials of AC and ANPP
All Senate, House, L.G. Candidates for AC
Nasarawa State Commissioner of Police
Prince Awo Iliya Rini, Former Chairman, Akwanga LGA
Alhaji Bala Ahmed, Tafidan Nasarawa
Hon. Isa Ambaka, House of Reps. Abuja
Hon. Njidda Ahmad Gella, House of Reps. Abuja
Hon. Gyunka, House of Assembly, Lafia
Alhaji Magaji Inuwa, Kaduna
Indiana State University Old Students represented by Kano officials led by Bello Danmaisoro
Alhaji Mustafa Yahuza Musa II, Dan Lawan Lafia
Alhaji Usman Danburam, Abuja
Alhaji Abubakar Madaki/Alhaji Jawi
Alhaji Murtala Lamus, Magajin Garin Wamba
Alhaji Abubakar Akwai, Dangaladiman Keffi
Hon. Zakari Idde, Sardaunan Alogam
Alhaji Abdullahi Igbo Keana
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Kromtit
Nasarawa State Comm. of Commerce, Alh. Samir Mohammed
AC Team from Toto led by Alhaji Abdu Gentleman
Mrs. Hauwa Abiodun Yuguda
Mrs. Hannatu Sani Sami
Hajiya Hadiza Mormoni
Mrs. Saratu Mormoni
Hajiya Saratu Umar
Hajiya Amina Kelo
Hajiya Maryam Ma'aji Abdullahi
Hajiya Larai Kusherki
Hajiya Aishatu Bala
Hajiya Fati Ashemi
Hajiya Amuna Ahmed Muazu
Hajiya Aisha Usman Halilu
Hajiya Maryam
Hajiya Hafsatu Chinade
Hajiya Hussaina Kaulaha Aliyu
Hajiya Maimuna Nagogo
Gloria Nwoguze
Hajiya Fatima Umar

Signed:
Engr. Abdullahi Sule



WEST AFRICAN POWER POOL (WAPP)

SYSTEME D'ECHANGES D'ENERGIE ELECTROQUE OUEST AFRICAN
General Secretariat/Secrétariat Général

JOB VACANCY

Created by Decision A/DEC.5/12/99 during the 22nd Summit of the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of States and Government, the West African Power Pool (WAPP) has the vision to integrate the national power system operations into a unified regional electricity market in order to provide the citizens of ECOWAS Members States with a regular, stable and reliable electricity supply at affordable costs, medium to long term.

The General Secretariat of WAPP, a specialized agency of ECOWAS is currently offering the following job opportunity.

POST: Legal Adviser

The Legal Adviser is in the Office of the Secretary-General. The legal Adviser shall serve as in-house legal expert for all WAPP civil, commercial and Labour Law matters and shall act as WAPP's general counsel in all legal matters.

Deadline for submission of application: 09th May, 2009, 5PM (Cotonou Time).

Kindly consult our website (www.ecowapp.org) for further information on WAPP. Selection criteria consists of educational qualifications, work experiences and competences.

WAPP is an equal opportunity employer. Women candidates are therefore encouraged to apply. WAPP officers earn competitive salaries and benefits comparable to those offered by International Organizations of the same ranking within the sub-region.

Only complete applications (Covering Letter + CV) shall be considered. Due to the large volume of applications, only candidates being seriously considered for the vacancy will be contacted. Applications can be sent by e-mail or by post to the address below.

Info@ecowapp.org

**Secretary-General
West African Power Pool
Akpakpa PK 6 Zone des Ambassades
06 BP 290 Cotonou Republique due BENIN**

Department: Legal
Position Title: Legal Adviser
Location: Cotonou, Benin
Report to: Secretary - General
Subordinates: Not applicable
Job Summary: Serve as in-house legal expert for all WAPP corporate businesses, commercial and technical matters, as well as serve as WAPP's point of contact for external parties on legal issues relating to WAPP.

Essential Duties:

1. Provide legal expertise and support internally for WAPP Executive Board, senior management, and departments, on all corporate legal matters to ensure compliance with all legal requirements and standards.

2. Serve as point of contact on external legal matters, such as WAPP member governments, utilities and other regional stakeholders, and represent WAPP externally in addressing legal aspects of electricity sector development within the region.
3. Act as WAPP's general counsel in all legal matters.
4. Represents WAPP in regulatory and other legal proceedings.
5. Participate in development of WAPP's rules, agreements, standards, policies, etc.
6. Draft, negotiate and implement, agreements and contracts relating to WAPP market participants i.e. utilities interconnected with the WAPP system, dealing with wheeling, IPP security package, PPP Project documents, connection agreements, etc.
7. Co-ordinate legal related issues and assignments with outside counsels as appropriate
8. Negotiate routine contracts and agreements with vendors, customers and other entities.
9. Manage risks to WAPP relating to regulatory compliance and external communications.

Minimum Qualifications, Skills and Knowledge Required:

Education: LLB, BL Degree (an additional Masters degree in Business Law, Energy Law or other relevant field is an advantage)

Years of Experience: Minimum of 10 years post graduation experience as a business lawyer is required.

- Strong demonstrated legal knowledge, discretion and judgment
- Management/supervisory experience is required.
- Experience in commercial law and regulatory affairs.
- Knowledge of electric utility industry concepts dealing with engineering, legal, and/or business issues preferred.
- Must be able to work effectively in a team environment as facilitator and team member
- Strong interpersonal and conflict resolution skills and the ability to develop creative innovative approaches to satisfy competing interests are also essential.
- Excellent writing, communications, analytical, negotiation and documentation skills are required, with a demonstrated attention to details and the ability to express legal concepts in a non-legal manner.
- Ability to work in a fast paced environment and multi-task
- Good computer skills with knowledge of MS Office

Language: Fluent in English and French.



FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

P.M.B 2041, Katsina

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS

The Federal College of Education, Katsina intends to execute the following projects under year 2009 capital appropriation.

1. Completion of Parameter Fence.
2. Completion of Administrative Block
3. Rehabilitation of Roads
4. Furnishing of Student Hostels
5. ICT/Virtual Library Equipment
6. Insurance of College Fixed Assets
7. Rehabilitation of Lecture Hall

PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

All interested, experienced and reputable contractors are hereby invited to submit the following documents for the above projects in order to qualify for pre-qualification:

- i. Certificate of incorporation or business name registration
- ii. Registration with Federal Ministry of works in relevant category
- iii. Company audited account for three (3) years
- iv. Tax certificate for the last three(3) years
- v. Evidence of financial capability and banking support
- vi. Company profile including technical qualification and experience of key personnel
- vii. Similar projects executed and evidence of knowledge of the industry (please attach copies of award letters for on-going projects).
- viii. Equipment and technology capacity
- ix. Annual turn over
- x. VAT registration and evidence of past VAT remittances
- xi. Any additional information that may enhance the chance of the company

SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Pre-qualification documents should be submitted in sealed envelop marked at the top left hand corner with the name of the project for which pre-qualifications is sought, to reach the office of the **Head of Procurement Department, Federal College of Education, Katsina** on or before 12:00 noon of six (6) weeks from the date of this publication.

All submitted documents shall be publicly opened at 12:01pm of the closing date in the Conference room. Tenderers or their representative are advised to be present.

SIGNED

Alh. Abdullahi Abubakar
Registrar



AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF NIGERIA

AGRIC RESEARCH HOUSE, MABUSHI-ABUJA

PLOT 223D, CADASTRAL ZONE B6, MABUSHI

P.M.B 5026, WUSE-ABUJA; e-mail:

nigeria_arc@yahoo.com



INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS AND EXPRESSION OF INTERESTS FOR CONSULTANCY UNDER 2009 APPROPRIATION.

Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria, in compliance with the Public Procurement Act 2007, hereby invites registered, experienced and reputable Contractors and Consultants to apply for pre-qualification and or Expression of Interests in respect of its projects under the 2009 Appropriation Act. The areas are:

A. ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANTS FOR SECTORAL STUDIES

- ARC 01 Conduct of Specialized and Research Focused Studies into Agro-potentials of the 36 States of the Federation including the FCT.
- ARC 02 Development of a National Agricultural Research Policy and Strategy Plan for Nigeria – Technical facilitators/Advisors
- ARC 03 Establishment of an Organizational Performance Assessment System in the Research Institutes and Federal Colleges of Agriculture - Facilitators
- ARC 04 Engagement of Consultants on Sectoral studies in agricultural research (crops, livestock, fisheries, extension, socio-economics, agricultural biotechnology, agric research management etc. in various lots.

Scope of Work for Consultancy Services:

- a. Technical supervision and advice.
- b. Project facilitation
- c. Reviews, assessments and appraisals
- d. Design and development of research protocols
- e. Design and development of agricultural research management guidelines.
- f. In-depth studies of sectoral constraints for agricultural research, training and extension research.

C. BUILDING REHABILITATION (COMPLETION):

- ARC 05 Completion of Renovation and Rehabilitation works of Agric Research House Phase I in Lots

D. SUPPLIES AND PROCUREMENT OF GOODS (COMPLETION)

- ARC 06 Completion of Supply of office equipments, furniture and facilities to Agric Research House Phase I in lots

2.0 Pre-qualification Evaluation Criteria:

Interested Companies are to submit the following documents in their letters of intent for contracts and Expression of Interests in the case of consultancy services indicating on the top left hand corner the code provided against each area of their interest as listed above.

- i. Certificate of incorporation from Corporate Affairs Commission.
- ii. Evidence of membership of relevant professional bodies (e.g COREN, CORBON, NIA, NIQS etc) for Consultants.
- iii. List and ownership of equipment (for Construction).
- iv. Current Tax Clearance Certificate for the past three years.
- v. Value Added Tax (VAT) Registration Certificate.
- vi. Copy of Audited Account for the past three years.
- vii. Bank reference letter indicating evidence of accessibility to credit facilities.
- viii. Comprehensive Company Profile indicating the CV of key personnel.
- ix. Verifiable evidences of past job experience in similar projects of interest in the last five years indicating the contract sum and evidence of satisfactory job performance.
- x. In the case of sectoral studies: Individual Consultants who wish to apply must provide their comprehensive CV, evidence of performance in similar jobs/roles and must be computer literate.
- xi. Any other proven evidence/document that would confirm the skill/competence of the individual contractors/consultants.

3.0 Submission of Pre-qualification Documents:

The pre-qualification documents must be submitted in sealed envelope and marked **PRE-QUALIFICATION TO TENDER (Contracts) and or EXPRESSION OF INTERESTS (Consultancy) AT AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF NIGERIA, MABUSHI-ABUJA** on the left hand corner indicating the Lot interested and addressed to:

The Executive Secretary
Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria
Agricultural Research House; Mabushi-Abuja
P.M.B 5026, Wuse-Abuja

Application for pre-qualification must be submitted to the Procurement Office of ARC/N, Room 309, Agric Research House, Mabushi not later than 12.00 O'clock, 3 weeks from the date of this advertisement

4.0 Special Notes:

- I. **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ABOVE GUIDELINES MAY LEAD TO DISQUALIFICATION.**
- II. This is not an invitation to tender; full tendering will be applied to only pre-qualified contractors/consultants found capable of executing the project(s).
- III. Late submissions will not be entertained.
- IV. This notice shall not be construed to be a commitment on the part of the Council to award any form of contract to any respondents, nor shall it entitle any organization submitting documents to claim any indemnity from the Council.

Signed:
Prof B.Y Abubakar
Executive Secretary



FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL) BICHI
P.M.B. 3473, KANO

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

TENDER FOR 2009 APPROPRIATION

INTRODUCTION:

The Federal College of Education Technical Bichi is desirous to executing the following project funded under the 2009 capital appropriation:

1. Construction of Technical Education Complex Phase ii
2. Construction of Technical Education Complex Phase iii
3. Supply of office Furniture
4. Supply of Classroom Furniture

Interested, skilled and highly reputable Contractors and Consulting firms are hereby invited for pre-qualification.

PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Photocopies of the following documents are required:

1. Certificate of incorporation from corporate affairs commission
2. Current tax clearance certificate for the last 3 years
3. Company profiles including details of key staff C.V to be deployed for the execution of the project showing qualification and experience
4. Evidence of experience in similar contracts including letters of award and details of involvement
5. List of equipment, plants including machineries owned or to be hired
6. Copies of current company bank statement, reference letter and consent to allow for verification with bankers.
7. Company audited account for the year 2006-2007
8. Additional relevant information about company
9. Registration with relevant professional body

COLLECTION AND SUBMISSION OF TENDER AND PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Tender and Bidding documents can be collected at the office of the Director of works on payment of Fifty thousand naira only (N50,000.00) to the College Account.....

Completed Tender and Pre-qualification documents should be enclosed in separate sealed marked envelopes (2009 Pre-qualification forName of project) or 2009 Tender for Name of project). The two documents should be put in a bigger envelope marked (2009 Tender and Pre-qualification for:....Name of project) and submitted to the Registrar's office not later than 30th April 2009.

OPENING OF TENDER/PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

All Tenders and the general public are hereby, invited to the public opening which will hold in the College Council Chamber on the 30th April 2009 at 12noon. The College will analyse the Pre-qualification documents first and only Companies who pass the minimum marks will their Tender documents be further analyse to arrive at lowest evaluated responsive bid.

SIGNED:

Engr. Sani Umar D/Kudu
Secretary



FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE, AZARE
BAUCHI STATE

[OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION]

CALLING FOR SUBMISSION OF PRE- QUALIFICATION FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS

Please refer to our earlier advertisement on the above subject which appeared in **Volume 5 No. 6 Edition of Federal Tenders Journal, Abuja, Daily Trust Newspaper of Monday, 9th March, 2009 and Nigerian Tribune Newspaper of Monday, 9th March, 2009** respectively.

Due to the realities of the 2009 Appropriation Act and in compliance with the 2007 Procurement Act, the process is hereby cancelled and replaced with this one:

LOTA: COMPLETION OF EXTERNAL WORKS TO PHASE I OF PERMANENT SITE COMPLEX

LOT A1: EXTERNAL ELECTRICAL WORKS WHICH INCLUDES 33/11KVA DEDICATED LINE

LOT A2: CONSTRUCTION OF ACCESS ROAD WHICH INCLUDES EARTHWORK & SURFACE DRESSING.

LOT A3: COMPLETION OF PARKING SPACE, LANDSCAPING, STORM WATER DRAINAGE AND WATER RETICULATIONS/SUPPLY

LOT B: SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT.

LOT C: SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT.

REQUIREMENTS

Interested Contractors, who have experience in the relevant fields, are to apply within 2 weeks from today with the following documents:

1. Copy of Certificate of Incorporation/Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission
2. VAT Certificate
3. List of Projects executed within the last three (3) years with evidence
4. List of Technical Staff/Equipment owned by the Company with evidence
5. Tax Clearance for the last 3 years
6. Bankers Reference
7. Company Profile
8. Audited Statements of Accounts for the last 3 years
9. Any additional information in Compliance with 2007 Procurement Act.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Interested companies should submit their proposals separately in sealed envelop or package clearly marked 'PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR THE.....' and be addressed to:

The Medical Director,
Federal Medical Centre,
No. 5 Sule Katagum Road,
P.M.B. 005, Azare, Bauchi State.

SUBMISSION

All documents should be delivered to the address above not later than 20th April 2009. Note that opening or submissions will take place on the same day by 12:00 Noon in the Board Room of the Centre. All are invited.

Further enquiries can be made through the Office of the Head of Administration on GSM: 08034287648

SIGNED: Kabir M. Lele, Head of Administration
For: Medical Director

BUSINESS TRUST

● **First Bank adopts international reporting standards** —Page 30

● **Farming and the rainy season** —Page 27

Stock Market Report —Page 31

Hotline: 08051000536



Flight Schedule

Chanchangi Airlines

Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 10.00, 13.10, 15.30, 16.45
Lagos-Kad: 10.00
Lagos-Owrr: 08.00, 10.00, 14.30
Kad-Abj-Lagos: 10.30, 11.45
Abj-Lagos: 08.10, 13.40, 15.00

IRS Airlines

Lagos-Abj: 09.45, 11.45, 12.45, (Mon-Fri) 09.30, 12.45(Sat & Sun)
Lagos-Kano: 06.15(Mon-Fri), 16.30(Sat & Sun)
Kano-Lagos: 07.30(Mon-Fri), 10.30(Sat & Sun)

Aero Contractors

Lagos-Abj: 06.50; 13.30; 16.30; 19.45(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 12.30 (Sun) 16:45 (Sat).
Abj-Lagos: 07.30; 13.30; 19.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30; 14.30; 19.30 (Sun) 18.30(Sat).
Lagos-Ben: 07:45 ; 11:00 ; 15.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun) 12.30; (Sun); 15.30 (Sat).
Ben-Lagos: 09.15; 12.30; 17.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 17.00 (Sat); 14.00 (Sun)
Lagos-Cala: 13.15; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 08.30; 19.00 (Sun)
Cala-Lagos: 14.45; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30 (Sun)
Lagos-Enu: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 15.00(Sun)
Enu-Lagos: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat) 16.45 (Sun)
Lagos-PHC: 07.30; 09.30; 15.00(Mon-Fri/ Sat/ Sun)
PHC-Lagos: 11.15; 17.30 (Mon-Fri/Sat) 18.00 (Fri)
Lagos-Warri: 07.45; 16.00 (Mon-Fri/sat) 09.15 (Sun)
Warri-Lagos: 09.15; 17.30 (Mon-Fri/Sat) 10.45(Sun)

Virgin Nigeria

Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 09.00, 11.30, 14.00, 15.50, 17.00, 18.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Abj-Lagos: 07.00, 09.30, 10.15, 11.15, 13.35, 16.15 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Lagos-PHC: 07.40, 09.30, 10.00, 12.20, 13.30, 14.00, 16.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
PHC-Lagos: 10.50, 11.20, 12.45, 15.30, 16.15, 17.15 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Abj-Kano: 18.00 (Mon-Fri)
Kano-Abj: 08.20 (Mon-Fri)

Bellview Airlines

Lagos-Abj: 06.50, 12.55, 17.00(Mon-Fri) 16.40(Sat) 17.00 (Sun)
Abj-Lagos: 07.40, 14.50, 18.25 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Lagos-Kano: 06.50(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Kano-Lagos: 10.10(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)

Arik Air

Lagos-Abj: 07.30, 10.20, 14.20, 16.45, 17.45, 18.05(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Abj-Lagos: 09.20, 09.30, 10.30, 12.15, 16.20, 17.45, 20.05(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Abj-Cal: 10.25, 17.25(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Cal-Abj: 08.50, 15.50(Mon-Sat) 19.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Abj-Ben: 10.35(Mon-Fri)
Ben-Abj: 12.00(Tue-Fri)
Lagos-Ben: 08.00, 11.45, 15.30(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Ben-Lagos: 09.15, 13.35, 17.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Lagos-Cal: 07.00, 14.05(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Cal-Lagos: 12.00, 19.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Lagos-Enu: 07.30, 14.30, 16.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Enu-Lagos: 09.30, 18.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Lagos-Jos: 11.30, (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Jos-Lagos: 13.15(Mon-Fri)
Kano-Lagos: 15.30(Mon-Fri/Sun)
Lagos-PHC: 07.20, 07.50, 09.15, 11.30, 12.30, 15.10, 15.55, 16.45, 17.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
PHC-Lagos: 07.00, 08.30, 09.15, 11.10, 13.40, 14.30, 15.00, 17.05, 17.50(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)



Right to left: Senior Special Assistant to the President on Millennium Development Goals, Mrs. Amina Ibrahim; Minister of State for Finance, Mr. Remi Babalola; Special Adviser to the United Nations' Secretary-General on Millennium Development Goals, Prof. Jeffrey Sachs; and Director-General of the Budget Office, Dr. Bright Okogu, at the end of a meeting with the minister in Abuja by Sachs and his team last week.

How banks are ruining Nigerian economy-Duru

By Jibrin Abubakar

Head of Economics Department of the Ahmadu Bello University Zaria Dr. Mike Duru has told *Daily Trust* of how Nigerian banks are ruining the country's economy.

Responding to questions sent to him via e-mail, Dr. Duru said: "Banks have always been parasitic, manipulative and mean in the way and manner they conduct their business. It is no longer a secret that the banks are largely responsible for the melt down in the Capital market.

"Some of the banks were engaged in reckless lending in order to influence the prices of their stocks. This created high demand for their stocks that too much money were chasing few

stocks in the market and putting pressure on the price of the stock.

"But more worrisome is the way the banks are influencing the life style of people by making them to borrow money to finance consumption.

"Banks are giving loans to gullible Nigerians to buy cars and other items that turn out to be liabilities rather than assets to the borrower. Nigerian banks are trying to recreate the kind of credit system and consumption habit that is the genesis of the global economic crisis."

The economist said there was a quick need to raise the capital base of the banks, adding that the: "N25 billion

minimum base has been overtaken by events, especially the depreciation in the value of the Naira.

"The Basse Accord prescribed \$200 million as the minimum capital base for banks, N25 billion is less than \$200 million at the present value of the Naira.

"Also if big players in the global financial services sector like Indymac Equities, Fannie Mac, Freddie Mac, Merrill Lynch, Lehman Brothers, Northern Rock (UK) Bradford and Bindey and Halifax Bank of Scotland are in trouble, I wonder what will be the situation of most banks in Nigeria if subjected to serious scrutiny, especially with the margin loans crisis, and loans given to the so-called core investors dur-

ing the privatization exercise are yet to be settled. Not with the government dragging its feet about bailout."

Meanwhile, Dr. Duru warned against falling into another round of debt trap, having exited from the Paris Club of creditors.

Daily Trust can report that the country's debt portfolio is \$3.75 billion.

He said: "Whoever collects any loan must set in motion the process of paying back such loan during the tenure of the regime that collected the loan."

He also warned Nigeria against signing the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union (EU), saying it is not wise to foster partnership between two unequal partners.

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

Date	Currency	Buying(NGN)	Central(NGN)	Selling(NGN)
1/4/2009	CFA	0.2721	0.2821	0.2921
	DANISH KRONER	25.8089	25.898	25.9871
	EURO	192.3258	192.99	193.6542
	POUNDS STERLING	208.266	208.9853	209.7045
	RIYAL	38.608	38.7414	38.8747
	SDR	216.533	217.2808	218.0286
	SWISS FRANC	127.1227	127.5617	128.0007
	US DOLLAR	144.78	145.28	145.78
	WAUA	214.9494	215.6918	216.4341
	YEN	1.4701	1.4752	1.4803

BUSINESS TRUST

Thorny path to CBN Governorship

This month will certainly be important for the Nigerian banking industry. By most accounts, it is sometime in this month that the Federal Government would either announce a replacement for the position of the Central Bank Governor or retain the current holder of the post, Professor Chukwuma Soludo.

In ordinary times this should have been a routine bureaucratic change that is undeserving of public commentaries. But these are extraordinary times. The world financial system is gripped by a tremendous convulsion, local economies across the world are wracked by crises of gargantuan proportion and, closer home, the Nigerian banking system is at one of its weakest and most vulnerable states in decades.

This is precisely why the question of who becomes the next Central Bank Governor now transcends the concerns of economists and financial experts. It has become almost next in importance to who becomes Nigeria's next president, although the Central Bank governorship is, of course, not an elective position.

Now, given the increasing centrality of the post of Central Bank Governor, especially in economically turbulent times such as now, whom should the government trust with this delicate assignment? Should President Yar'adua renew Charles Soludo's term? Or should he choose from the impressive array of experienced bankers and financial experts in the country? Well, as with every decision, there are merits and demerits with every choice the president makes.

The obvious merit in retaining Mr. Soludo as Central Bank Governor is that this will ensure continuity. In uncertain moments like these, it is certainly persuasive to argue against changes at the top levels of our biggest financial institution. What would weaken this argument, however, is the fact that Soludo is himself so deeply implicated in the problems facing the banking sector today.

Soludo's alleged association with a questionable investment in a venture called African Finance Corporation (AFC) has left a sour taste in the mouths of many financial experts. Some experts put this investment at a dizzying \$462 million. This casts a shadow on the continuity school of thought. Given this scenario, among other litany of alleged failings associated with the current CBN leadership (such as arbitrariness in decision making, policy summersaults, and alleged disdain for the North as is deducible from the arbitrary removal of the *ajami* script from Nigeria's currencies, and allegations that he unilaterally took a decision to remove zeros from the Nigerian currency values to the chagrin of the presidency) it is seen as unlikely for the president to renew his term. In fact, it seems fairly obvious by now that Soludo's term will not be renewed considering the outcry that the banking consolidation of 2006 only strengthened the South East's (Soludo's kindred) grip on the financial sector. The current ownership structure of Nigeria's surviving 24 banks has not helped matters either, as it gives more ammunition to Soludo's critics. And many experts feel that it is also in his own interest to leave and clear his name of such widespread controversies.

Now who are the possible replacements for Soludo? And what can we expect from them? There are certainly many seasoned bankers and financial administrators in Nigeria who can do a better job of superintending over the affairs of the Central Bank and of the financial sector than Charles Soludo has done over the past few years. (though one must concede that there are significant positives associated with Soludo's stewardship)

Given the complex dynamics of Nigeria's Federal Character principle, policies and politics, it seems reasonable to narrow our search to the northern part of the country. When one looks at the trajectory of people who have led the Central

Speculation is rife that this week the President may take a final decision on the appointment of new Governor for the CBN or retain Governor Chukwuma Soludo. Daily Trust examines some of the factors that are being considered.

By Jibrin Abubakar

Bank over the past couple of years, it would stand to reason that it is now the turn of the North, broadly conceived, to produce the next Central Bank Governor.

Past Nigerian Central Bank governors have included the following: Aliyu Mai-Borno (Borno, Northeast zone) Clement Isong (Akwa-Ibom, South-south zone), Adamu Ciroma (Yobe, Northeast zone); Ola Vincent (Lagos, Southwest zone); Abdulkadir Ahmed (Bauchi, Northeast zone); Paul Ogwuma (Abia, Southeast zone) Joseph Sanusi (Ondo, southwest Zone) and the current Prof. Charles Soludo (Anambra, southeast zone).

It is obvious from above list that only two zones in the country have never produced a Central Bank Governor: the Northwest zone and the North-central zone. Now, in the spirit and letter of the Federal Character principle, that would seem unfair. It is for this reason that many people expect the next Central Bank Governor to come from either of these two zones.

Although many media reports have speculated that Bauchi State governor Isa Yuguda is in top contention for the post, the fact of his being from the Northeast would appear to put him at a disadvantage since the zone has produced more Central Bank governors than any zone in the country, as the list above shows. It is the same consideration that would edge out Mohammed Hayatudeen, the Borno-born former Managing Director of the defunct FSB International Bank.

In the case of Yuguda, it is even more complicated than that. He is married to the president's daughter. It raises profound ethical questions, analysts insist, for the president to appoint his in-law to supervise the country's financial vault. Given Yar'adua's concern with the rule of law and perceptions of propriety, watchers of the Nigerian financial sector predict that Yuguda's chances are indeed slim.

Now, there are currently five top bankers and financial experts from the Northwest zone who are thought to be under consideration for the position of CBN governor. They are (not in any order): Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, from Kano State, current Managing Director of First Bank; Alhaji Falalu Bello, from Kaduna State who is the current Managing Director of Unity Bank (the only bank in Nigeria where the North has any appreciable interests); Dr. Shamsudeen Usman from Kano State, the former Central Bank Deputy Governor and current Minister of Planning; the cerebral Dr. Obadiah Mailafia from Kaduna State who was also a former Central Bank Deputy Governor; and Dr. Tanimu Kurfi from Katsina State who is the current Chief Economic Adviser to the president. The north-central zone, unfortunately, doesn't seem to have any top bankers in contention for the post at least for now.

Of these names from the Northwest zone, only three appear to stand very good chances of being considered for the post: Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, Alhaji Falalu Bello and Dr. Obadiah Mailafia. What of the rest? Well, for starters, it would appear nepotistic for the president to appoint Dr. Tanimu Kurfi as Central Bank Governor since he comes from the same state as the president. It is the same ethical consideration that analysts believe will dissuade him from considering Yuguda, the president's in-law. Besides, although there are previous Central Bank governors who had no prior banking experience, Dr. Kurfi's lack of exposure to the nitty-gritty of the financial world would be a major disadvantage against him. This is especially the case because in these trying periods the country needs a seasoned financial

expert, with significant expertise and intimate familiarity with the nuances of the banking sector.

Dr. Shamsudeen Usman seems to fit the bill since he was once a Central Bank deputy governor, except that his performance as Finance Minister has called into question his capacity to understand and manage the perilous economic climate we are currently confronted by. Many feel that was probably why he was removed from the Finance Ministry. Besides, many analysts point out, Dr. Tanimu Kurfi and Dr. Shamsudeen Usman will do well to remain in the president's kitchen cabinet.

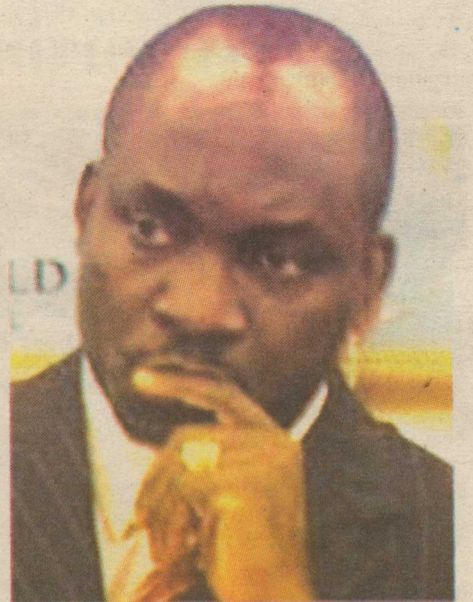
Given these scenarios, many financial analysts say Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, Falalu Bello and Dr. Obadiah Mailafia would better fit the bill. Sanusi Lamido Sanusi is an accomplished intellectual. He's the first northerner to head the bank in its over 100 years of existence, albeit a plum position he's likely to lose if the current merger talks between First Bank and Eco Bank Transnational is consummated. The fact that his appointment is recent and it's his first job as head of any bank, says a lot about Lamido's limited experience of sitting at the apex of any financial institution. And this provides a ground to question his suitability.

Falalu Bello is one of Nigeria's most seasoned bankers. He has headed several financially solvent banks and is currently the Managing Director of Unity Bank (considered the largest financial consolidation in history - 9 bank in all - a project Bello presided over). In fact, these days, it is customary to associate his name with banking (having headed Habib Bank, Intercity Bank, NACRDB, and now heading Unity Bank). Bello is not just a seasoned banker; he is also entrenched firmly in other sectors of the financial industry. For instance, apart from being a serving bank CEO, he has also been chairman of MBS Merchants Limited from 1997 to date, as well as been chairman of Kapital Insurance Limited, where Unity Bank is the majority shareholder. But that is not all. He is also director of such leading national and international players as British American Tobacco, Jaiz International Bank Plc, and Kakawa Discount House Limited.

So for reasons both of competence and of symbolic significance (he is CEO of the only bank with dominant northern interests), he seems uniquely suited to be the next Central Bank Governor. This will simultaneously please financial experts and assuage the angst of a region that has felt left out in the Nigerian financial sector. Talk of killing two birds with one stone. However, this choice may not necessarily please politicians because he's known to be firm on matters of principle and a none conformist to external pressures - Nigerian politicians are well known for their preference for puppets and cronies when taking decisions leading to making juicy appointments.

A similar case can be made for Obadiah Mailafia. He has a PhD in finance from a leading UK university and was a deputy governor of the Central Bank for several years before he fell out with Soludo who allegedly masterminded his exit from the apex bank. He is also from southern Kaduna, a historically under-represented part of the North, although a case can be made that he has been away from the banking sector for sometime and that since he has been in the Central Bank system he may be too invested in its bureaucracy to bring about the needed detachment necessary, in fact crucial, to bring change to the institution.

Whatever the case, it is obvious that two important considerations will determine who the next Central Bank governor becomes: track record of competence and experience, and geo-political dynamics. The consensus of financial experts is



Soludo



Falalu Bello



Dr. Obadiah Mailafia

that the next Central Bank governor should be a person who, while satisfying the need for geo-political balance, has extensive banking and financial experience at top managerial levels. It's not enough for him to have been in the bureaucracy of the Central Bank; he needs to have the detachment from the Central Bank system that will enable him to tackle the challenges of the nation's financial woes without getting caught up in the familiarity of the system. Yet he needs to have a deep knowledge of the banking and financial system at both national and international levels.

Ultimately, the decision lies with the president. But the country—and its financial health—will be well-served if the president and his advisers choose a Central Bank Governor that has the capacity to face the challenges of the phenomenally globalized and complex 21st century banking and financial system, a system that is currently in recession and Nigeria is bound to be impacted in one way or the other.

AGRIC BUSINESS

Farming and the rainy season

As the rainy season sets in, there is the need for adequate sensitizations of farmers on how best they can conduct their farming activities for the enhancement of agricultural activities in the country.

Obviously, failing to plan is planning to fail, agricultural activities in the country, especially farming continues to dwindle yearly due to what agricultural analysts attribute to ineffective government policies coupled with lack of interest in agricultural activities especially among youth whose interest is on unavailable white collar jobs is alarming.

A side from inefficient government policies and lack of interest, another factor militating against good agricultural programme in Nigeria has to do with inappropriate timing by farmers especially among the local farmers who accounted for close to 30 percent of the country's agricultural output.

Usually, in the central and northern Nigeria for instance, the season begins with light to moderate rains in April and May respectively. It is usually expected to peak in June, which is supposed to be the appropriate planting time but reverse is the case as anxious local farmers after the first rain rush to the farm to commence planting even when the land is not wet enough for planting. This affects the germination of crops.

It is not advisable for farmers to start planting immediately after the first rain fall. For a good farming season, after the first rain, farmer should start clearing the farm before anything. Bush burning also should be discouraged as it reduces the fertility thereby destroying the essential nutrients of the land. It also has the tendency of causing fire accidents.

For a good farming harvest, farmers should endeavour to wait until after several rain falls before commencement of full farming activities. Failure to adhere to this would result to poor germination, thus affecting the agricultural output.

A good drainage facility that would facilitate the smooth flow of water would no doubt solve the problem

From Murjanatu
Mohammed Abba, Kaduna

of erosion. And indiscriminate dumping of refuse should also be avoided.

Giving an expert view on the issues, Mrs. Jummai James of the Kaduna State Ministry of Agriculture advised: "It is always risky to commence planting as soon as the rain starts. Many a times we experience a dry spell after the first rain, therefore a farmer should always ensure that the rains are more frequent before he/she commences planting."

According to the agricultural officer, experience has shown that farmers that normally plant at the onset of the rain always have to replant and that is cost ineffective due to the loss experienced as a result of wastage.

"The farmer waste his resources like seeds, herbicides, fertilizer etc which are quite expensive, and the labour involve is also another waste of energy and

season

the waste of time. So, the best thing to embark upon after the first rain fall is to start clearing the farm land, the shores, in short just prepare the necessary inputs



Dr. Abba Ruma

before the rain gets at its peak usually by June, then a farmer can plant his/her crops", Mrs. James added.

On the issue of erosion, the agricultural officer suggested that a farmer should endeavour to understand the topography of his farm and the location, adding that erosion also depends on how a farmer does his ridges and drainages.

In her words: "If a farmer understands the type of his farm, there is a way he can arrange his ridges not in line with the direction of the water but opposite and drainages should also be cleared to pave way for water to flow.

"If the direction of the rain is sloping by the North wing of the farm land, the farmer should plant ridges across to prevent the forced flow of the rain from flowing away or destroying the crops."

Also planting of trees can control wind erosion thereby protecting the topsoil from eroding as the im-

portant nutrients are on the topsoil "if the top soil is eroded there is the tendency that the land will be impoverished thus require additional fertilizer", the expert further explained.

However, there is erosion that requires the government's intervention due to its magnitude i.e. erosion on a larger level. Such cases should be reported to the government immediately, advised the expert.

Farmers-either peasant or subsistent should consult experts on agriculture on what crop would best suit the fertility of the land in question. The application of modern farming inputs like fertilizer (manure) would no doubt boost their output.

In trying to accomplish the above, the three tiers of government of the country can help to boost the agricultural sector by embarking on genuine agricultural programmes for the country to have food security as preached by food and agricultural organization (FAO).

2009: Fertiliser distribution to be delayed

By Abubakar Ibrahim

There are signs that fertiliser distribution to farmers for the 2009 farming season may be delayed, even as the Federal Government is expected to spend over N50 billion on the purchase of the commodity for the 2009 planting season.

An investigation by *Daily Trust*, revealed that a month into the farming season, the Federal Executive Council (FEC) is yet to approve the release of the money.

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources is expected to buy 500,000 tonnes of fertiliser for the 2009 planting season as against the 650,000 tonnes purchased in 2008.

A source in the ministry of agriculture told *Daily Trust* that out of the 122 applications for prequalification to supply fertilisers in 2009 received, 32 firms were shortlisted.

It would be recalled that in 2008, 321 applications for prequalification to supply the commodity were received out of which only three firms won supply contracts.

the commodity to farmers for the 2009 planting season.

Alhaji Abubakar Aliyu, Director, Fertiliser in the ministry, said that government was targeting the peak period of May-June when the demand for fertiliser would be high before distributing

of the country still had some quantities of fertiliser from last year's stock which they could use for planting this year

He said that this target period was a deliberate attempt by government to prevent corrupt practices and diversion of fertiliser.

Aliyu said that most of the states in the northern part

monitoring of fertiliser to farmers through the state and local governments.

"The Federal Government is doing all things possible to ensure that the fertiliser get to farmers between April and May while distribution would end by June", he said



Hard at work at the farm



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

National Food Reserve Agency

(FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT)

PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SILO COMPLEXES

REF: NFRA/FRS/ICT/SILO/2009/01

1. This is reference to our advertisement number NFRA/FRS/ICT/2009/01 which appeared in both the national and international newspapers of January 06, 2009 for the Prequalification and Tendering for the three categories of Silo Complexes.

2. **THE SILO PROJECT**

The Silo Project under the National Food Security Programme consists essentially of the following:

- (a) Supply and installation of the silos, the conveyor systems complete with the electric motors, bucket elevators and all support systems. It also includes the temperature monitoring and aeration systems to keep the stored product in good condition at all times. All these elements are imported and installed at the silos sites. Civil works for foundations, channels and tunnels are provided by the local contractor in accordance with all relevant design and installation drawings to be provided by the overseas supplier/manufacturer.
- (b) The Civil Works to be executed by a local contractor and the works include the following:
- (i) Foundations, tunnels, manholes in reinforced concrete works to accommodate all the silo bases and other supports in addition to the tunnels and manholes for the moving parts of the equipment to traverse.
- (ii) The construction of ancillary buildings to ensure the proper operation of the complex. These include:
- Administrative Block (Ground Floor only)
 - Workshop (Warehouse Style, Ground Floor only)
 - Utility block to accommodate generators, water treatment plant and ground storage for water (Ground Floor only)
 - Security Staff Lodge (Ground Floor only)
 - Truck Drivers Lodge (Ground Floor only)
 - Security Building (Ground Floor only)
 - Warehouse Bagging Plant (Ground Floor only)
 - Managers Residence (Ground Floor only)
- (iii) The provision of roads, drainage system, power and water supply to the complex as part of the infrastructural development.

3. **THE TECHNOLOGY INVOLVED:**

Also in line with the prequalification requirements as specified in the documents, all silos to be supplied and installed would conform to either the European or American specifications. Consequently, the silos to be installed must conform to at least one or all of the following International Standard Quality Codes:

- ASTM - American Standards for Testing and Materials
- AISC - American Institute of Steel and Concrete
- AISI - American Iron and Steel Institute
- ASAE - American Society for Testing Materials
- ACI - American Concrete Institute
- SAE - Society of Automotive Engineers
- BS 8110 - A British Standard Code for Structural Concrete Design and Workmanship.

4. **COMPONENTS OF A COMPLETE SILO SYSTEM**

For those tenderers who will eventually qualify for the final award, it is important to bear in mind that a complete silo system must consist of the following items:

- A weighbridge to measure incoming product
- Truck receiving conveyor system in a truck receiving pit to be done in reinforced concrete by the local contractor
- Receiving bucket elevators to transfer the product to the next point (Wet/Tempering silos)
- Wet holding silos often referred as Hospital Bins
- Tempering silos often referred as Hospital Bins
- Another set of bucket elevators and support towers to transfer the product to the continuous flow grain dryer
- Continuous flow grain dryer
- Bucket elevators to bulk weigher (Dry weight)
- Bulk Weigher and conveyor to silo Loading Elevator
- Bucket elevators for silo loading
- Silo Loading conveyors and catwalks

REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA)

(MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES)

- Silos and Accessories
- Return Conveyors
- Support Towers for Conveyors to Bagging System
- Conveyor to Load-Out Silo
- Load Out Bagging Silo
- Bagging Units
- Various Accessories to include Dust Collection Silos, Jet Filters, Sensor Systems for Temperatures, Aeration Systems, motors, gears, Air compressor, PLC Controls.

5. **LIST OF PREQUALIFIED COMPANIES:**

From the list of applications received for prequalification, the following companies have been shortlisted for the three categories of the Silo Complexes:

CATEGORY 1: COMPLETION OF 25,000MT CAPACITY SILO COMPLEXES

1. ITCC Tech
2. Marron Ronmark Havage JV
3. Cremona Construction Co. Ltd
4. Castles and Palaces Eng Ltd.

CATEGORY 2: CONSTRUCTION OF 25,000MT CAPACITY SILO COMPLEXES

1. Gilmor Eng. Nig Ltd
2. Viomekat Technical (W.A) Ltd
3. Marron Ronmark Havage JV
4. United Overseas Merchants
5. Amtess Nig Ltd
6. Crew Construction Ltd
7. Silos Cordoba S.L
8. Imani Haq Nig Ltd
9. Vic Phranc Nig Ltd
10. Sintax Limited
11. Ugur B-As Construction Ltd
12. Continental Civil & Gen. Const. Ltd
13. Seegnal Nig Ltd
14. Nasaf Dev. Co Ltd
15. Primi Construction Nig Ltd
16. Eldorado Nig Ltd
17. Cremona Const. Company
18. GENTECH Power Sup. Nig. Ltd
19. Global Legend Integrated Ltd
20. Shirke Back- Up Nig Ltd
21. Secura Investments Ltd
22. Vivid Technology Ltd
23. FACCO (West Africa) Ltd
24. Bussdor W. Ltd
25. Akiota Works Ltd
26. Mecca Nig Ltd
27. Trenur Nig Ltd
28. Baraj Nig Ltd
29. Consolidated Water Engineering Services Ltd.

CATEGORY 3: CONSTRUCTION OF 100,000MT CAPACITY SILO COMPLEXES

1. United Overseas Ltd
2. SCOA Nig. PLC
3. Gilmor Eng. Nig. Ltd
4. Nasaf Dev Coy Ltd
5. Continental Civil & Gen. Const. Ltd
6. Eldorado Nig Ltd
7. Silos Cordobas
8. Metropole Dev. Ltd
9. Nahman Construction Ltd
10. GENTECH Power Supply Nig Ltd
11. Ugur- B-As Construction Ltd
12. Viomekat Tech Ltd
13. Top Two Ltd
14. Infouest Inter. Ltd
15. A. G Ferraro Co Ltd.
16. Uren Stirling Civil Eng Nig Ltd
17. Trenur (Nig) Ltd
18. Aku Int. Nig Ltd.

6. **TENDER OPENING**

The tenders of these prequalified companies will be opened in public on **Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at the Conference Room of the National Food Reserve Agency, Plot 223D, Mabushi District, Cadastral Zone B6, Abuja at 12.00 noon**. While formal invitations have been forwarded to these companies to send representatives to witness the public tender opening, this publication would also serve as notice of invitation.

In line with the provisions in the prequalification documents, the tenders of unsuccessful tenderers will be returned by registered post.

**Executive Director
For: Honourable Minister**

ENERGY BUSINESS

FirstBank adopts international reporting standards

In a bid to further strengthen its corporate governance standards and enhance transparency and disclosure in its financial reports, First Bank of Nigeria Plc has adopted the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as certified by the International Accounting Standards Board.

A statement from the bank said: "By so doing FirstBank aligns with the strongest

By Jibrin Abubakar

global standards of transparency in financial reporting. The adoption of IFRS at FirstBank takes immediate effect, and will apply to the bank's financial report for the year ended March 31, 2009."

The statement said: "In today's global market where investors seek opportunities in markets outside their home economies, the need for

financial statements to be comparable on the same basis across territories is an imperative. The adoption of IFRS by FirstBank will enhance shareholders value and bring added benefits to its business relationships with numerous overseas correspondent banks, multilateral organizations and international investors that require financial statements to make informed decisions about the bank."

It added that at the moment, IFRS is not a regulatory requirement in Nigeria although efforts are reportedly underway to promote a convergence between IFRS and local accounting standards.

Daily Trust can report that the IFRS regime requires more detailed disclosures on risk management, insider related

transactions and changes in accounting policies than obtains under the local Statements of Accounting Standards (SAS).

The FirstBank said: "To meet local reporting requirements, we will continue to produce financial reports in compliance with both IFRS and SAS until local regulatory requirement makes full convergence of the two standards mandatory."

The Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of FirstBank, Mr. Sanusi Lamido Sanusi asserted that the "adoption of the IFRS is a significant milestone which further cements FirstBank's leadership in corporate governance."

Hoping that other institutions will follow suit in order to promote

transparency in financial reports and upgrade the nation's sovereign rating, Sanusi added that "FirstBank can now benchmark its performance against international financial institutions and thus spur the drive for better performance not just for us but for the industry as a whole."

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the bank, Mr. Oladele Oyelola said that "as FirstBank becomes a global player, our financial statements prepared in line with IFRS will be easily comparable with other financial statements worldwide, thus eliminating the need to translate statements prepared under the local SAS for international use."

The statement added: "FirstBank's continued commitment to corporate

governance and improved disclosure levels in the reporting of its financials has been recognized severally especially by the regulatory authorities. In November 2008, FirstBank won the Nigerian Stock Exchange's (NSE) 2007 Quoted Company of the Year Award.

"FirstBank is an industry leader with over 500 business offices, including a fully fledged subsidiary in London which has a branch in Paris. The bank also has a representative office in South Africa. In further evidence of the Bank's strength, two foremost risk rating agencies, Fitch and Standard & Poor's, assigned it international ratings of B+ and BB- respectively with the latter rating being at par with the sovereign rating for the country."

New world order emerges

Slowly the shape of the world after the financial flood is beginning to emerge. The first thing to be said is that everyone is in the same boat. And they have to bail together. This contrasts to the old days when capitalists and communists exchanged insults as their ships passed in the night.

The worst threat at this G20 summit was a remark by French President Nicolas Sarkozy that he would walk out if there was not better regulation of banks and financial markets, not exactly the kind of casus belli that plunged Europe into war nearly 100 years ago. We have moved on. Nor did he walk out. Indeed, he was pleased, he said, at the result.

The Franco-German analysis might well have been right. But being right about the past does not mean that you alone can put right the future. The European Union as a whole, normally so free in its advice to all and sundry, was a bit chastened, with many newer and some older members on the verge of or in financial crisis.

We have moved on too from the 1930s, when depression helped fuel the rise of dictatorships. Whether the world solves its financial crisis this time has yet to be determined, but the players at least seem to have learned some lessons. Stronger relationships mean better chances of dealing with problems.

The second thing is that the position of the United States has changed. President Obama came and conquered, with little gestures like shaking hands with a black policeman guarding 10 Downing Street to the larger "listen and lead" attitude he showed at the conference itself.

There was no longer the sense of American particularity that there was under George W Bush.

President Obama spoke of an "era of responsibility" - meaning no more wild financial dealings and a willingness to take joint corrective action with others.

He accepted that America could not solve the crisis by itself (though its critics would

say that it managed to cause it largely by itself). This was a return to multilateralism - and a recognition that American ways were not necessarily the best ways.

It extended beyond economics. Mr. Obama had a productive meeting with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev at which they agreed to start negotiations on new nuclear weapons reductions and complete them by December.

They managed not to allow their differences - over missile defence or Georgia to name but two - to prevent the reset button from being pressed.

This does not mean that all will be well in their relationship. But it does mean that there are better prospects for overcoming problems.

Leaders of less developed countries such as Brazil can no longer be ignored.

Then there was China. Chinese President Hu Jintao did not make much of a public impact, beyond that in his own media, but China's influence was felt everywhere. They and the Americans agreed on a "strategic and economic dialogue" to start in Washington this summer.

The workshop of the modern world cannot be ignored. One sign is that China is likely to get much larger voting rights in the IMF to match its much larger contributions.

Can the day be long delayed when China enters the trading world fully, with a convertible currency?

This is the new super power diplomacy - not East versus West, nor a return to the disastrous manoeuvring of the late 19th Century or the 1930s, but the management of relationships within better agreed rules.

And do not forget the presence of leaders from places like India and Brazil. They cannot be ignored either.

It makes one wonder how much longer the old G8 style of meeting, another of which is planned in Italy this summer, can stagger on.

There can be no rich man's club if the members are no longer so rich and have caused so much disaster. BBC.



The General Officer Commanding (GOC) 3 Armoured Division of the Nigerian Army, Jos, Maj Gen Saleh Maina (Left) and the Business Development Manager, First Bank of Nigeria Plc, Jos, Sanni Bala Tanko, when the management of the bank paid a courtesy visit to the GOC at the Maxwell Khobe's Cantonment, Rukuba, Bassa LGA, Plateau State recently.

Standard Chartered Bank expands branch network

By Jibrin Abubakar

Standard Chartered Bank Nigeria last Thursday expanded its network with the opening of another branch at the Ikota Shopping Mall, Lekki, Lagos, a statement said.

The Managing Director/CEO Standard Chartered Bank, Nigeria Mr. Christopher Knight had last month during the commissioning of its Ilupeju branch stated that the bank will, in reflection of its strong business growth and strategic expansion drive in Nigeria be opening up more branches within the year.

Declaring the Ikota branch open for operations, Mr. Rudy Markham, Non-Executive Director and acting Senior Independent Director, Standard Chartered Plc, stated that Nigeria and its economy mean so much to the standard Chartered group as is currently the fastest growing among its

African franchise.

His words: "It gives me great pleasure to open this branch in Lagos because Nigeria is a very important part of Standard Chartered Bank's franchise in Africa. The country has been an integral part of our Bank's business growth in Africa. This growth has been exponential and Nigeria is currently the fastest growing and most profitable of our franchises in Africa."

Markham, who is also a member of the Board of the Financial Reporting Council further stated that: "We are proud of the achievements of our franchise in Nigeria over the past few years and I am particularly impressed with the huge potential of the banking market in the country."

"We believe this is a very good period to capitalize on the

extraordinary growth dynamics in the country and the establishment of this branch is a key element in the execution of our strategy to grow the business and outperform our competitors".

Acknowledging the friendly environment provided to the bank by the people and government of Nigeria, Knight stated that: "We are quite pleased with the generous support we have received from the Government and people of Nigeria since we commenced business here in 1999. This has been quite encouraging and we fully intend to keep up our side

of the bargain by consistently delivering on our brand promise to our customers.

"With an international footprint stretching over 70 countries, Standard Chartered Bank is uniquely positioned to capitalise on cross-border business for fast growing markets like Nigeria and we remain committed to making this happen and we will continue to be the right partner to our customers by providing more branches and channels to access the world class products and services that Standard Chartered Bank is known for globally'.



FINANCE BUSINESS

NIGERIA STOCK EXCHANGE

REPORT AS AT FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2009

Stock Name	Price	Volume	Traded	Value	Stock Name	Price	Volume	Traded	Value
TUP	37.05		20	746.00	INTERCONT	6.30		14	93.00
ABCTRANS	0.88		127	110.00	JAPAUOIL	1.79		3	6.00
ACCESS	5.16		5	30.00	JBERGER	24.00		262	6.00
AFPRINT	0.86		90	77.00	JOHNHOLT	11.97		360	4.00
AFRIBANK	5.10		460	2.00	LASACO	0.92		23	21.00
AIICO	0.91		2	2.00	LAWUNION	1.35		61	82.00
AIRSERVICE	10.64		5	50.00	LINKASSURE	0.50		14	7.00
AP	72.22		72	5.00	LIVESTOCK	1.13		25	28.00
ASHAKACEM	8.16		202	1.00	LONGMAN	3.56		280	1.00
ASOSAVINGS	0.99		978	961.00	MAYBAKER	4.70		7	31.00
BAGCO	1.33		543	718.00	MBENEFIT	0.74		781	569.00
BCC	20.60		1	33.00	MOBIL	96.61		2	225.00
BERGER	6.31		3	23.00	NAHCO	6.82		297	2.00
BIGTREAT	2.47		19	46.00	NASCON	3.95		240	950.00
BOCGAS	16.16		30	508.00	NB	36.90		613	22.00
CADBURY	10.45		168	1.00	NBC	21.00		644	13.00
CAP	32.77		7	238.00	NEIMETH	1.81		55	100.00
CAPOIL	13.83		100	1.00	NEM	0.67		3	2.00
CCNN	7.84		160	1.00	NESTLE	138.00		2	343.00
CHEVRON	90.30		832	78.00	NIGERINS	1.62		52	84.00
CILEASING	6.35		1	9.00	NIWICABLE	1.48		35	50.00
CONOIL	67.23		2	151.00	OANDO	69.20		179	12.00
CONTINSURE	0.85		2	1.00	OCEANIC	6.67		3	20.00
CORNERST	1.20		1	1.00	OMATEK	0.82		284	233.00
COSTAIN	4.59		261	1.00	PLATINUM	5.35		1	6.00
CRUSADER	3.62		31	113.00	PRESCO	5.09		105	534.00
CUSTODYINS	2.13		5	11.00	PRESTIGE	4.62		2	8.00
DANGFLOUR	7.79		520	4.00	PZ	15.50		3	55.00
DANGSUGAR	14.90		3	53.00	REDSTAREX	1.81		401	725.00
DIAMONDBNK	4.90		7	35.00	ROYALEX	2.28		8	19.00
DNMEYER	9.88		2	18.00	RTBRISCOE	9.16		1	10.00
DUNLOP	0.50		1	701.00	SKYEBANK	4.70		2	10.00
ECOBANK	27.96		32	913.00	SOVRENINS	0.85		10	8.00
EKOCORP	5.87		91	507.78	SPRINGBANK	5.59		188	1.00
EQUITYASUR	1.88		630	1.00	STACO	3.66		1	3.00
ETERNAOIL	26.68		69	1.00	STARCOMMS	2.12		1	3.00
ETI	9.73		4	40.00	STDINSURE	0.55		2	1.00
EVANSMED	2.79		2	7.00	STERLNBANK	1.15		5	6.00
FCMB	4.32		11	48.00	TANTALIZER	1.00		2	2.00
FIDELITYBK	2.55		4	11.00	TOTAL	143.32		1	240.00
FIDSON	2.28		309	759.00	TRANSCORP	0.54		771	410.00
FIRSTBANK	15.05		21	330.00	TRANSEXPR	7.26		2	14.00
FIRSTINLND	2.33		186	432.00	TRIPPLEG	7.77		48	354.00
FLOURMILL	14.34		65	930.00	UAC-PROP	17.30		1	21.00
FTNCOCOA	1.05		716	779.00	UACN	29.30		266	7.00
GLAXOSMITH	15.01		1	15.00	UBA	8.37		2	23.00
GOLDINSURE	0.50		134	67.00	UBN	10.06		3	39.00
GUARANTY	10.34		7	76.00	UNHOMES	1.42		2	3.00
GUINEAINS	0.56		620	347.00	UNIC	0.73		540	382.00
GUINNESS	88.50		542	48.00	UNILEVER	8.50		3	30.00
HALLMARK	3.22		200	612.00	UNITYBNK	1.15		5	5.00
HMARKINS	0.52		1	520.00	UNIVINSURE	0.54		3	1.00
IAINSURE	0.50		2	1.00	UTC	3.16		7	22.00
IBTC	5.45		236	1.00	VITAFOAM	4.10		18	74.00
IKEJAHOTEL	4.54		1	4.00	WAPCO	16.30		3	61.00
INTBREW	3.09		122	364.00	WAPIC	2.40		83	194.00
INTENEGINS	1.00		24	22.00	WEMABANK	4.04		164	663.00
					ZENITHBANK	11.35		3	45.00

IT WORLD

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FG to support stem cell technology

By Hamisu Muhammad

The Federal Government is to support the development and application of stem cell technology as an alternative treatment therapy in the country.

The Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Alhassan Bako Zaku made this known when he received a delegation of the committee on the Research and Application of Stem Cell Transplantation Technology (NACRASTIN) led by its Chairman Dr. Perry Iloegbunam in his office.

Zaku said Nigeria cannot afford to be left behind in this latest technological fad as it held the promise of cure of innumerable diseases that had defied orthodox treatment. He added that the Asian countries had long joined the train stem cell technological research while recently President Obama retraced American policy on stem cell by increasing funding of its research.

"To give teeth to the Federal Government's Initiative, a Science and Technology Research Development Fund which has been approved by Mr. President, will soon be set up to fund research and development in Science as normal budgetary provision cannot fund Science and Technology", Dr. Zaku added.

Zaku, who expressed satisfaction at the work of the committee so far, told the delegation to consider the ethical dimension of stem cell application, adding that public opinion is very critical in any policy formulation.

The Minister therefore challenged the members to work harder by educating Nigerians on the benefits of stem cell technology, adding that much objection to stem cell application was based on ignorance.

Dr. Zaku, however said the Federal Government's foray into stem cell technology would be done with the private sector in line with the new Public Private Partnership (PPP) policy.

In his remark, the Chairman of Stem Cell Transplantation Technology in Nigeria (NACRASTIN), Dr. Perry Iloegbunam said his committee would work with the Ministry to bring the gains of Stem Cell Transplantation Technology to Nigeria.

... declares support for DAP, SABI

The Federal Government has said it supports the Digital Awareness Project (DAP) and other initiatives being out in place by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) to ensure that internet and broadband services are taken to semi urban and remote areas of the country so that all citizens benefit from the potentials and resources of the global digital economy.

Minister of State for Information and Communications, Alhaji Ikra Bilbis, said this when he commissioned two DAP Centres located at Barewa College, Zaria, and Yusuf Aboki Secondary School, Shika, also in Zaria, and the Advanced Digital Access for Tertiary Institutions, ADAPTI, located Ahmadu Bello University.

Alhaji Bilbis said these projects were initiated by the Nigerian Communications Commission, with the support of my Ministry, in response to the digital information gap existing in the country.

Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Commission, Engr. Ernest Ndukwe, said the first phase of the Program was launched in October 2004 with the selection of twelve educational institutions spread across all the geopolitical zones of Nigeria.

"Today about 221 schools and colleges have benefited from this initiative while this is being complimented by the School Access Programme in which the Universal Service Provision Fund Secretariat has targeted for provision of similar facilities and infrastructure.

Engr. Ndukwe said Nigeria has recorded an impressive phone subscription with more than 64 Million Active Lines by end of December 2008, raising the teledensity to over 40% and that considering our history in this sector, this is no doubt a remarkable growth.

"However, with the current population of Nigeria at about 140 million, we cannot rest on our oars. Every Nigerian citizen is entitled to the basic communication tools that are necessary to live in an information age.

"We therefore still have a long road to cover. We also live in a world where the average citizen is in demand for more than basic voice telephony. Today demand for broadband and Internet resources for e-health, e-education, e-commerce, e-business, e-office, e-everything, has continued to rise, and Nigeria must rise up to this challenge.

"It is in response to this that the Nigerian Communications Commission initiated the Digital Awareness Program (DAP) and the Digital Access Programme for Tertiary Institutions, ADAPTI, to provide academic institutions and their neighbouring communities across the country with ICT facilities", he said.

What e-payment lacks, by Ilukwe

By Hamisu Muhammad

The recent e-payment system introduced by the federal government needs security, legal and infrastructural backing for it to function properly, Managing Director of the Galaxy

Backbone Gerald Ilukwe has said.

Speaking at the Network Operation Center, of the Company in Abuja, Ilukwe said the e-payment system

at the moment would not be what it means unless a government payment gateway is created where agencies, departments and ministries made or received payments.

According to him moment there is no such gateway, urging that one of the key agencies such as of the Office of the Accountant General should serve as the gateway for payment.

"So there is a security, legal and infrastructure issue. Galaxy is only but a part of that picture, a critical picture because of the infrastructure, the application is also another issue. Should each department going to run its own application or should Galaxy or someone in government such as Office of the Accountant General build a government payment

gateway where the ministry should go and made payment?"

According to him the gateway must be a security conscious to avoid external attacks by hackers. "Because some body would hijack the it for other reasons".

He said there is no better time to deploy e-payment then now and unless it is started, the loopholes can't be identified.

He said some of the challenges witnessed in the e-payment system are normal and are good for future planning.

Some unions and civil servants have continue to mount pressure on the manner the e-payment is been implemented by the federal government, more especially the delay in salary payments.

MainOne set for another submarine cable

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

MainOne Cable Company has commenced the main route survey operations of its submarine cable project, Funke Opeke, Chief Executive Officer of the Company has said.

She said this first phase is expected to extend from Portugal to Nigeria and Ghana respectively and will comprise 1.92 Terabits per second of bandwidth, more than 10 times the bandwidth currently available by the only other subsisting submarine cable in the territory.

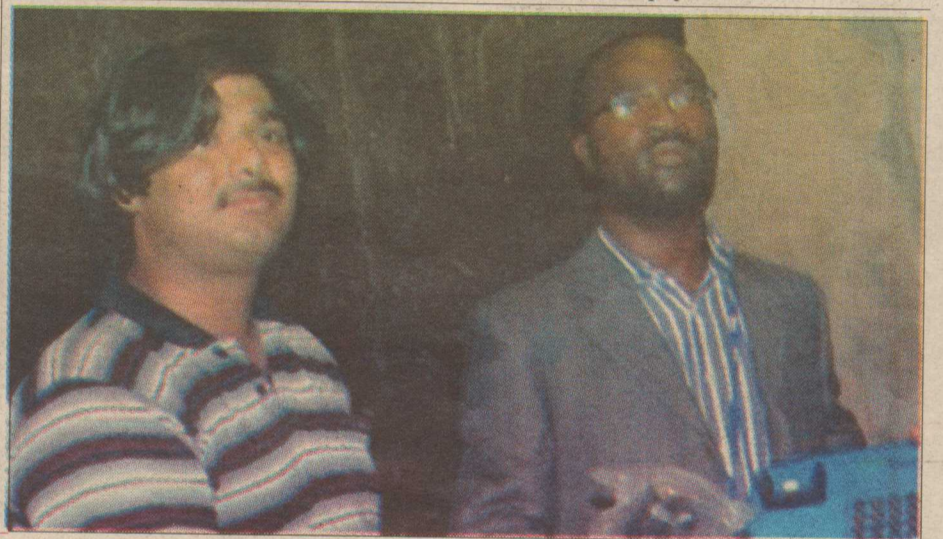
According to her, when the roll out is completed it is expected to crash internet bandwidth rates considerably.

"This main route survey operation follows the completion of the 27 kilometers in-shore survey operation near Portugal. The in-shore survey which commenced in January ahead of schedule was completed successfully in February. "Kommandor Jack" the MainOne Cable survey vessel started mobilization in Lisbon, Portugal on Wednesday March 25th and has since set sail from Portugal towards Nigeria and Ghana".

She said the over the next two months, while en route, the vessel will survey the proposed route for the cable with multi beam scan and profiling tests of the seabed to ensure the optimal placement of the cable. In addition to the initial landing, the vessel will also survey four additional spurs on different West African countries, enroute, for

proposed future landings of the cable.

Opeke expressed delight at the remarkable progress that the pace-setting MainOne Project continues to record. Only last December, the company was a recipient of the first ever issued sub marine cable licenses in Nigeria and Ghana respectively



R-L: Rt.Com Project Implementation Manager Mr. Prithwish Baisaya, Managing Director of Galaxy Backbone Plc, Gerald Ilukwe displaying some of the equipment to be installed at the 5000 VSAT sites in the country.

Minister tasks NITDA on ICT training guidelines

By Hamisu Muhammad

The National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) has been urged to engage more in Research and Development for the production of affordable and customized IT systems and standardized training guidelines for the industry.

The Minister of Science

and Technology, Dr. Alhassan Bako Zaku made the call in Abuja on Thursday, saying recognizing the importance of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in the emerging digital economy, there is need for Nigeria to move with the current technological revolution sweeping across the globe.

Zaku, who expressed satisfaction at the efforts of some private sector training outfits involved in the development of the ICT sector in the country, stressed the need for the standardization of the outfits and their curricula. He charged NITDA to collaborate with relevant stakeholders and come up with appropriate guidelines for the training outfits.

The Minister also expressed optimism in the future of the Federal Public Service. He said the training would greatly enhance productivity and effective service delivery in the Public Service and also rightly position the Public Service for

the smooth take-off the Nigerian e-government programme. He also said the training was a vital step taken to develop well-equipped human capital in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) which is of paramount interest to the Federal Government.

Zaku also appealed to state and local government authorities to take a cue from the Federal Government and avail their personnel training in modern technological innovations to enhance effective governance.

The minister called on NITDA to make concerted efforts to assist state governments in setting up viable IT Development Agencies.

In his response, the Director-General of NITDA, Prof. Cleopas Angaye, pledged the unwavering commitment of the Agency towards the development of IT proficient personnel and globally competitive manpower in Nigeria. This, he said, would position the nation as a key player in the global Information society.

Glo sponsors South-South economic summit

By Hamisu Muhammad

National Telecoms operator, Globacom, is collaborating with the governments, business community and major stakeholders in the South-South geopolitical zone to host an economic summit at the Tinapa Business Resort in Calabar, Cross River state. The summit, tagged, "Positioning the South-South for Global competitiveness", is aimed at transforming the zone from a region of crisis into a zone of prosperity.

According to the organizers of the summit, the event will seek ways to remove the threats to energy security of the world as found in the oil rich South-South region. The summit will also explore new ways of driving the economic growth of the region, thereby facilitating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals of Nigeria. The Glo endorsement of the South-South summit is in the Platinum category, the highest available sponsorship category.

Globacom commended the initiative of the six South-South governors to organise the economic summit. "We subscribe to the developmental goals of this country and Globacom will do anything necessary to contribute to meaningful efforts to solve the nation's economic problems and enhance the living standards of Nigerians", said Globacom in a statement.



**OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR GENERAL OF THE
FEDERATION (OSGOF)**

**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT
NO. 8 YAWURI STREET GARKI II, ABUJA.**

PRE-QUALIFICATION NOTICE AND INVITATION TO TENDER

The Office of the Surveyor-General of the Federation (OSGOF) invites interested, reputable and qualified companies to apply for pre-qualification and submit tenders for the underlisted projects.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

(A) Implementation of Federal Geographic Information System. Maps Clearinghouse, Training and Provision of Materials and Maintenance of Large Printing Machines"

Lot 1. LARGE PRINTING MACHINE ACCESSORIES AS FOLLOWS
(i) Colors for printer(to support 24 months of printing)
(ii) Papers for printer(to support 24 months of printing)
(iii) Cleaning machine materials(to support 24 months of printing)
(iv) Tools, furniture and general accessories to maintain the machines (Printer and cutter)

Lot 2. LARGE PRINTING MACHINE PERIPHERALS AS FOLLOWS
(i) Provision and Installation of 16KVA Dedicated Power Source
(ii) Fuel supply for the Generator - for 12 months period
(iii) Printing Room Adjustment and changes to fit to the printing process...Unit
(iv) Security Sytem...Unit

Lot 3. HARDWARE FOR LARGE PRINTING MACHINE
(i) HP WorkStations and Peripherals such as Keyboard, Mouse, 19" High Resolution LCD Multimedia and Internet ready functions-14 no.

(ii) Stabilizers 2KVA-16 no.
(iii) UPS1.5KVA-16 no.
(iv) Power backup system - 24 X 7-1 no.
(v) HP Laptop - Latest model-4 no.
(vi) HP Proliant Server with 2 Processors and RAID 1-1 no.
(vii) Tape BackUp device-1 no.
(viii) BackUp tape cassettes-8 no.
(ix) HUB/Switch 10/100-1 no.
(x) HP A3 colour printer (InkJet)-3 no.
(xi) A3 scanner-6 no.
(xii) A0 Scanner-1 no.
(xiii) Xerox Laser combo printer-3 no.

Lot 4. TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE FOR LARGE PRINTING MACHINES
(i) Pilot acceptance tests in Abuja by team of experts on how to use the printer and cutter
(ii) Training for 2 people at manufacturer facilities
(iii) Training on the usage of the GIS system—Training to users on how to operate the system
(iv) Training for experts on how to maintain the FEGIS system, including configuration of the server

(v) Project implementation and management services (for 1 year)
(vi) Warranty and maintenance service(Warranty service for 1 year – including support, consultancy services, code support, system upgrades and hardware maintenance)

Lot 5. SPECIALISED SERVERS FOR THE PRINTING MACHINE OPERATIONS
(i) GIS server-GIS application server. The price includes installation and configuration
(ii) SQL Database Server enterprise 2008-1, unit
(iii) GIS client end users stations-14 units
(iv) IIS Server to support MapGuide-1 unit

Lot 6. BASIC SOFTWARE FOR THE PRINTING MACHINE OPERATIONS
(i) AutoCAD MAP 3D 2010-4 units
(ii) MapGuide 2009-1 unit
(iii) Raster images clearinghouse server license-1 unit
(iv) Photoshop or similar software for printing file production-2 units

Lot 7. SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT
(i) Database configuration and amendment according to the customer's needs-1unit
(ii) FEGIS System programming according to the customer's needs-1unit
(iii) GIS Database and layers structure creation-1unit
(iv) Web-Site development and installation-1unit
(v) GIS web application installation and configuration(MapGuide 2009 based application)

(vi) Raster images clearinghouse software development and coding-.1unit

(B) Supply and Installation of:
Lot 8. Xerox XES 6302 Printer, Copier & Scanner, Wide format
Lot 9. 500KVA Mikano Sound Proof Generator

3. REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for pre-qualification, interested companies are required to supply the underlisted documents:-

- (i) Certificate of Incorporation with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)
- (ii) Tax Clearance Certificate for the past three (3) years/VAT remittance;
- (iii) Evidence of past experience in implementation of mass data GIS solutions for projects listed under (A), above;
- (iv) Evidence of past experience in raster image clearing house for projects listed under (A), above;
- (v) Details of company profile including personnel stating qualifications and experience;
- (vi) Evidence of financial capability to handle the project or banking support.
- (vii) Sworn affidavit that none of the Directors is an ex-convict or bankrupt.
- (viii) List of similar jobs successfully executed within the last three years.
- (ix) Evidence of payment of Tender fees of ₦5,000.00

4. SUBMISSION OF TENDERS

The pre-qualification documents must be returned in sealed envelope, marked at the top left hand corner "Pre-qualification document" stating the job the company is applying for and while the corresponding financial bid should also be in another envelope, marked "financial bid". The two submissions i.e. "Pre-qualification document" and "financial" bid should all be enclosed in a larger envelope which must be addressed to The Secretary, Ministerial Tenders Board, OSGOF. The sealed envelope is to be dropped by hand into the Tenders Box of the OSGOF on or before **12 noon Monday, 4th May, 2009**. Opening of only pre-qualification documents shall commence at 1.00 pm on same day in the conference room of the OSGOF. On **Friday, 11th May, 2009 at 1p.m.**, the names of the pre-qualified contractors will be announced and their financial bids will be opened. The financial bids submitted earlier by those that were not pre-qualified will be returned to them unopened. Contractors or their representatives, NIS, NGOs and the General Public are encouraged to attend, please

Secretary
Ministerial Tenders Board
Office of the Surveyor General of the Federation
Abuja



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

Plot 1370 Ukpo Close, Off Oro Ago Crescent
Off Muhammad Buhari Way, (by Old CBN),
Garki 11 District. P.M.B. 252, Garki-Abuja.
Tel/Fax: 09-6706861

e-mail: info@ncac.gov.ng. www.ncac.gov.ng

**PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR
SELECTED PROJECTS TO BE DONE BY THE NATIONAL
COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURE IN YEAR 2009**

The National Council for Arts and Culture, Abuja is desirous of undertaking its 2009 capital budget. In view of the above, the office is inviting competent and reputable companies/contractors/suppliers to tender for the pre-qualification for the following jobs:

- i. Development of National Research Centre on Textile Traditions at Osogbo, Osun State.
- ii. Supply of Office Equipment for National Research Centre, on Boat-Regatta in Uyo, Akwa-Ibom State.
- iii. Development of Crafts Centres at Awka, Ikare and Kano.
- iv. Purchase of office furniture and Equipment for 5 out of the 10 Zonal Offices.
- v. Supply of Equipment for the promotion of indigenous games Abuja.
- vi. Maintenance and improvement of National Herbal Garden of indigenous Medicinal plant species at Abina, Ebonyi State.
- vii. Supply of Equipment for the promotion of Traditional and Herbal project, Abuja.
- viii. Maintenance and improvement of National Research Centre on Durbar Traditions at Kaduna, Kaduna State.
- ix. Maintenance and improvement of National Research Centre on Masquerade Traditions at Enugu, Enugu State.
- x. Maintenance and improvement of Lagos Craft Centre.
- xi. Development of National Herbal Garden of indigenous plants species project in Taraba State.
- xii. Purchase of Audio-Visual and library Equipment, Abuja.
- xiii. Partitioning of office space in Abuja

2. Pre-Qualification Requirements

Interested contractors are required to submit the following pre-qualification documents:

- * Evidence of company registration with Corporate Affairs Commission.
- * Company Audited Account for three (3) years.
- * Evidence of Tax Clearance Certificate for 3 years.
- * Evidence of Financial Capabilities and Banking Support.
- * Experience/Technical qualification of key personnel.
- * List of similar project executed and evidence of knowledge of the industry.
- * VAT registration and Evidence of past VAT remittances.
- * Equipment deployment and equipment/technology capacity.

3. Submission of Pre-Qualification Documents

The pre-qualification Documents must be submitted in a sealed envelope and marked at the top left hand corner "Tender for Pre-qualification" and forward to the Executive Director, National Council for Arts and Culture, Plot 1 370, Ukpo Close, Garki II, P.M.B 252 Garki Abuja on or before 2 weeks from the date of this Advertisement that is, 20th April, 2009. Time 12:00 noon.

4. Additional information:-

- i. Tender information and instruction shall be given only to contractors that have been screened and found suitable to provide the services.
- ii. The Advertisement shall not be considered as commitment on the part of the National Council for Arts and Culture nor shall it entitle potential companies to make any claim whatsoever and /or seek any indemnity from the National Council for Arts and Culture by virtue of such company having responded to the advertisement.
- iii. Interested contractors are expected to submit their tenders separately for each of the jobs independent of the others.
- iv. Late submission of pre-qualification documents will be rejected.
- v. Only pre-qualified contractors will be allowed to participate in the competitive tender.
- vi. The National Council for Arts and Culture reserves the right to reject any application.

SIGNED:
Executive Director/CEO
NCAC - Abuja.



DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS
AREA 7, GARKI - ABUJA

PUBLIC NOTICE

Defence Headquarters recently advertised for Pre-Qualification for the execution of various projects in the Punch and Daily Trust Newspapers and the Federal Tenders Journal published on Monday 9th March, 2009.

In the mentioned publications, there was erroneous inclusion of **EVIDENCE OF REGISTRATION AS DHQ CONTRACTOR** as part of the criterion for the bidders.

By this publication, the DHQ regret any inconveniences caused the general public and most especially our prospective bidders and to also state that **EVIDENCE OF REGISTRATION AS DHQ CONTRACTOR** is not part of the criteria as earlier published.

MI GANA
Major General
for Chief of Defence Staff.

EXCEL COLLEGE, KANO

MOTTO: To be the best
5 YAUTAI LINK OFF MAIDUGURI ROAD
GSM: 08038028353, 08034060395, 08023564656
☎ 064-940840, 064-960112
E-Mail: excelcol@yahoo.com

BOARDING SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

ADMISSION INTO JSS 1 AND SS 1

EXCEL COLLEGE KANO was established in 1996 as a Secondary School to serve as an Islamic Model Post Primary Institution. It was setup with the main objective of producing confident, academically and morally disciplined youth.

We at EXCEL COLLEGE are committed to achieve academic success, develop a strong sense of self confidence and foster a life-long enthusiasm for learning to face challenges anywhere in the world.

We provide an academically challenging environment in which all our students are encouraged to aim for excellence. Excel College provides a caring friendly environment where the needs of individual learners are recognized.

What we offer:

- ◆ Excellent boarding facilities for girls
- ◆ Qualified experienced and dedicated teachers
- ◆ Well equipped science laboratories
- ◆ Computer literacy
- ◆ Functional library
- ◆ Excursions and field trips for learners.
- ◆ Lessons delivered with the use of modern technological gadgets
- ◆ Tajweed lessons
- ◆ Islamic perspective on world events for all students
- ◆ Electricity supply backed up by generator.

ADMISSION FOR 2009/2010 SESSION

Application forms are now on sale for N2,500.00 at the following places:

- i. Excel College Kano
- ii. Any Skye Bank Branch in Kano

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

DATE:	Saturday 25th April, 2009
VENUE:	School Premises
TIME:	9:00am



UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN, ILORIN, NIGERIA

NOTICE OF MEETING OF CONVOCATION

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of Convocation has been scheduled to hold as follows:

Date: Friday, 17th April, 2009
Venue: University Auditorium, Main Campus
Time: 10.00 a.m.

AGENDA

Appointment of Convocation representative on Council.

MEMBERSHIP

According to Schedule 3 (Statute No.1) of the University of Ilorin Act, 1979, membership of Convocation shall comprise the following persons:

- i) The Principal Officers of the University;
- ii) All Academic Staff of the University; and
- iii) All Alumni Members registered in the University and who have fulfilled the financial obligations as prescribed for entry and retention in the Alumni Register.

Nomination of representative on Council shall be made on prescribed format and returned to the Registrar not later than the 10th of April, 2009.

SIGNED:
OLUFOLAKE O. OYEWEMI (MRS.)
Registrar

EXECUTIVE SEARCH

JOB TITLE: CODE 0420091

Project Managers for Owerri and Abuja

AGE:

30-35 years

EDUCATIONAL & PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION

BSc. or HND in any of: Building Engineering; Civil Engineering; Architecture or Quantity Surveying.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Minimum of 3 years of relevant work experience in project management

SKILLS/SPECIAL ATTRIBUTES:

Must be highly personable with excellent written and communication skills

Computer literacy in Microsoft project, excel, power point and corelDraw are added advantage.

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES:

Must be hard working, integrity, result-oriented, highly motivated and organized

Must be able to work under pressure with little or no supervision

JOB TITLE: CODE 0420092

Admin Manager for Abuja

AGE:

30-35 years (MALE)

EDUCATIONAL & PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION

BSc. in any of the Social Sciences and Msc. Human Resource Management.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Minimum of 3 years of relevant work experience in office administration and procurement

SKILLS/SPECIAL ATTRIBUTES:

Must be highly personable with excellent written and communication skills

Computer literacy in Microsoft word, excel, power point, corelDraw are added advantage.

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES:

Must be hard working, integrity, result-oriented, highly motivated and organized

Must be able to work under pressure with little or no supervision

ALL APPLICATIONS ATTACHED WITH C.V. TO BE SENT THROUGH E-MAIL. QUOTING THE JOB TITLE CODE NUMBER ON THE SUBJECT

oeaghrm2009@hotmail.com



USMANU DANFODIYO UNIVERSITY, SOKOTO

(Office of the Registrar & Secretary to Council)

Expressions of Interest for development of Online Students Information System

The Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto intends to employ the services of consultants for the development of **Online Students Information System**.

The University therefore invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in working with our ICT staff to develop the system.

SCOPE OF WORK

The system should allow both prospective and returning students to access information relevant to their needs using web technologies. These include post UME, online admission, online registration, online accommodation, online fess payment, online grades checking, etc using **Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) tools**. This solution will be implemented by means of a Turnkey Contract with the following basic scope:

- . **Hardware Platform**, including servers and other processing equipment designed to support the proposed system.
- . **Software modules**, including the main modules outlined above, Database Management and Development tools, security and network monitoring.
- . **Training** for UDUS project staff.

PRE – QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Interested consultants must provide information including:

- Company Name,
- Year of incorporation,
- Locations of offices and other facilities,
- Contract Information.
- General information concerning Standard Products and/or Services.
- List of Major Clients.
- Evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission.
- Company Tax Clearance for the last three years and VAT registration.
- Brief description of similar verifiable projects successfully executed by the company with locations, letters of award and completion certificates, in the last 5 years.
- List of managerial, technical and administrative staff of the company.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the Public Procurement Act of the Federal Government of Nigeria.

COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

Interested consultants may submit their expression of interest electronically or physically within two weeks from the date of this publication and clearly titled **"expression of interest for the development of Online Students Information system"** addressed to:

The Secretary to Council,
Usman Danfodiyo University, PMB 1246, Sokoto.
Email: aichafe@yahoo.com
aichafe@udusok.edu.ng

successfully pre – qualified consultants will be notified and required to purchase the Bidding Documents at the above address upon payment of non – refundable fee of N10,000.00.

RECEIPT OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS

Completed bidding documents be in sealed envelopes clearly marked **"Bids for the development of Online Students Information System"** and delivered to the above address. **Only pre – qualified consultants will be contacted and eligible to purchase the bidding documents**. Receipt of bids will be closed four weeks from the date of commencement of purchase of bids by **12.00pm**. Bids can be submitted electronically using the above email addresses. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at **12.15pm** on the date of close of receipt.

The address referred to above is
**Senate Conference Room,
Usman Danfodiyo University,
PMB 2346, Sokoto.**

(Signed)
Umar U. Bunza
Registrar & Secretary to council



UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA

P.M.B. 117

**CENTRE FOR GENDER SECURITY STUDIES AND YOUTH
ADVANCEMENT,
MAIN CAMPUS, AIRPORT-GWAGWALADA ROAD, ABUJA.**

SUPPLEMENTARY ADMISSION FOR COMMONWEALTH YOUTH DIPLOMA PROGRAMME (CYP) IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT WORK

This is to notify the public that forms are on sale for supplementary admission into the CYP programme for 2008/2009 Academic Session.

The CYP is a two-year Diploma programme in Youth in Development Work by Distance Education System. Three contact sessions are held per semester during which lecturers and students interact to discuss contents of the modules.

Admission Requirements

The entry requirements are a minimum of three credits at 'O' Level, including English Language and at least 3years experience in Youth/Community development work or related fields.

Method of Application

Application Forms can be obtained from Zenith Bank, Zone 3, Wuse - Abuja at a non- refundable cost of Five Thousand Naira only (N5,000.00).

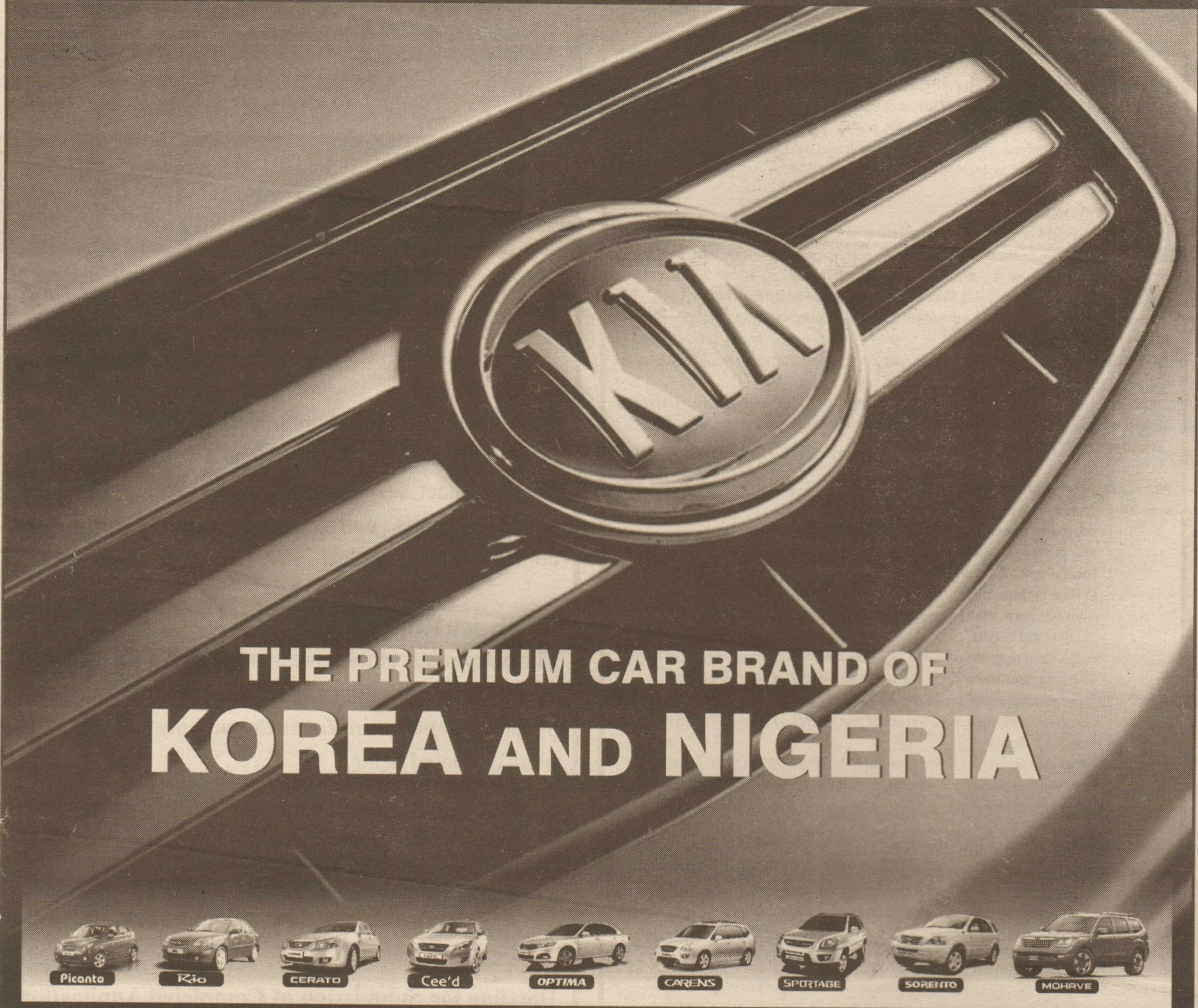
Dateline for Submission of Completed Application Forms

All completed form, with photocopies of relevant documents should be returned on or before 22nd May, 2009 to:

The Director,
Centre for Gender Security Studies and Youth
Advancement,
University of Abuja

Signed:

Dr. (Mrs.) R. Mundi
Ag Director



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Email: kia@danagroup.com

Lagos: 0805 535 9999 / 0803 534 9999 / 0803 676 8888
Ikeja: 0805 999 8190
Lekki: 0702 931 0211 / 0803 288 8882
Surulere: 01-7276083-4
Abuja: 0807 709 3404 / 0802 776 9999 / 09-314 9694
Aba: 0803 571 7804 / 0702 965 6788
Abakaliki: 0806 835 5717 / 0807 903 1913 / 0807 903 2667
Akure: 0705 611 1334

Asaba: 0803 738 5553 / 0706 070 3754
Benin (1): 0805 857 8789 / 0805 531 5145 / 052-450 479
Benin (2): 0705 563 6183 / 0705 563 6185
Calabar: 0803 363 1210 / 0805 814 0271
Enugu: 0803 635 4641 / 0807 513 1813 / 0807 061 4504 / 042-325 618
Ibadan: 0703 404 7494 / 0807 979 5335
Ilorin: 0802 307 5692

Kaduna: 0803 680 5245 / 0805 320 2667 / 062-243 522-24
Kano: 0802 776 3333 / 0805 676 2222 / 064-897 753
Katsina: 0803 712 7232
Oshogbo: 0807 979 5337 / 0705 611 1336
Port Harcourt: 0803 676 3333 / 0805 676 3333
Uyo: 0803 644 2483 / 0802 304 1192
Warri: 0806 588 7771 / 0803 357 8540

Trade-in: 0702 877 7398, 01-732 9999



DANA MOTORS OFFERS YOU 18 DEDICATED KIA AFTER SALES SERVICE CENTRES NATIONWIDE



DIGEST

Sisters spread happiness while brothers breed distress, experts believe.

Researchers quizzed 571 people aged 17 to 25 about their lives and found those who grew up with sisters were more likely to be happy and balanced.

The Ulster University team said having daughters in a family made people more open and willing to discuss feelings.

They said the influence of girls was particularly important after distressing family events such as marital break-ups.

During the study, participants filled in psychological questionnaires which researchers used to assess a range of issues,

Sisters 'make people happy'

including whether they had a positive outlook and any mental health problems. Lead researcher Professor Tony Cassidy said: "Sisters appear to

encourage more open communication and cohesion in families.

"However, brothers seemed to have the alternative effect.

"Emotional expression is fundamental to good psychological health and having sisters promotes this in families."

He said many of the participants had been brought up in families where parents had split and the impact of sisters was even more marked in these circumstances.

"I think these findings could be used by people offering support to families and children during distressing times.

"We may have to think

carefully about the way we deal with families with lots of boys."

Geri Burnikell, co-ordinator of the charity Support Line, which offers counselling to young people and families, said: "This is very interesting and certainly chimes with our experiences.

"Boys tend to internalise problems and in families where there are lots of sons. "I can see that can cause problems.

"I think the most important thing in these circumstances is to give people someone independent to talk to outside the immediate family-unit."

Culled from bbc.co.uk



Sister make families more open and willing to talk about problems

Are men the 'weaker' sex? Pregnancy with male fetus riskier, study claims

Nurses in the maternity ward often say that a difficult labour is a sign of a baby boy. Now, researchers at Tel Aviv University claim that a new study provides scientific evidence that a male baby comes with a bigger package of associated risks than his female counterparts.

In a study of 66,000 births, Prof. Marek Glezerman, chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, together with Dr. Yariv Yogeve and Dr. Nir Melamed, found that while girls were at a higher risk for restricted growth in utero and for breech presentation at birth, risks associated with boy fetuses were more abundant.

"Pregnancies with a male fetus are more often complicated," says Prof. Glezerman. "They're more likely to result in a premature rupture of the embryonic sac and suffer from premature delivery. And those male fetuses which make it to term," he continues, "are more likely to suffer from excessive growth in the uterus, making

delivery more difficult and leading to more caesarian section deliveries."

In a study presented to the Israel Society for Gender Based Medicine, researchers

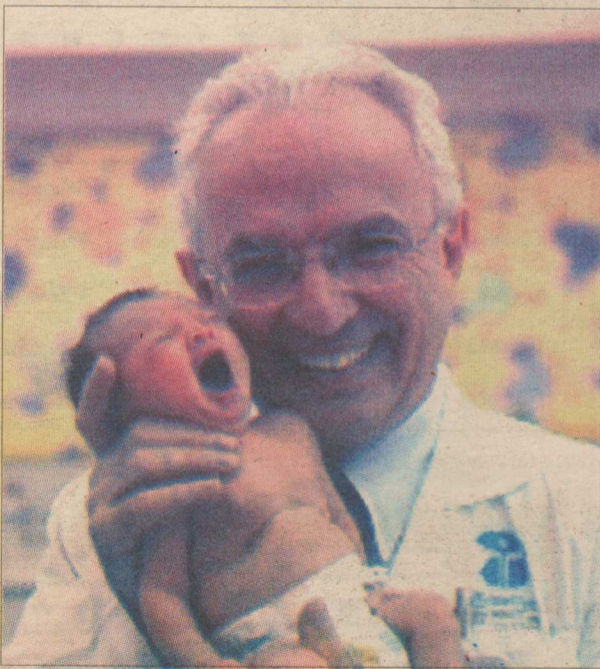
association of risks," but note that the findings should be viewed in the proper light. "Boys are riskier to an extent," says Prof. Glezerman, but pregnancies involving boys

alone. It's only one factor for doctors to consider when looking at the whole picture, he says.

"But in general, boys are more vulnerable in their life in utero, and this vulnerability continues to exist throughout their lives," says Prof. Glezerman, an expert in gender-based medicine. "Men are known to have a shorter lifespan, are more susceptible to infections, and have less chance of withstanding disease than women. In short, men are the weaker sex."

This new evidence, Prof. Glezerman notes, confirms the old wives' tale that boy fetuses are more troublesome in the womb and the delivery room. Prof. Glezerman also takes the notion one step further. "This research not only confirms an old wives' tale, but adds to what we know about the male gender. Males are also associated with higher risk in the neonatal period after birth, and are more likely to expose themselves to risky behavior later in life."

Culled from sciencedaily.com



Prof. Marek Glezerman with an infant. (Credit: Image courtesy of Tel Aviv University)

concluded that male fetuses should not be classified as come with "a higher "high-risk" for that reason

When did April Fool's day begin?

Though pranksters and joke-lovers in many countries gleefully duped friends and loved ones on April Fool's Day, no one knows exactly when or why, or even where, this tradition began.

A giddy spurt of practical joking seems to have coincided with the coming of spring since the time of the Ancient Romans and Celts, who celebrated a festival of mischief-making. The first mentions of an All Fool's Day (as it was formerly called) came in

Europe in the Middle Ages.

Some trace April Fool's Day back to Roman mythology, particularly the story of Ceres, Goddess of the harvest, and her daughter, Proserpina.

Pluto, God of the Dead, abducted Proserpina and took her to live with him in the underworld. The girl called out to her mother, but Ceres could only hear the echo of her daughter's voice and searched for her in vain.

Such "fool's errands," or wild goose chases, became

a popular practical joke in Europe in later centuries.

The most widespread theory of the origin of April Fool's Day is the switch from the old Julian to the Gregorian calendar (now in use) in the late 16th century. Under the Julian calendar, the New Year was celebrated during the week between March 25 and April 1, but under the Gregorian calendar, it was moved to Jan. 1. Those who were not notified of the change, or stubbornly kept to the old tradition, were often mocked

and had jokes played on them on or around the old New Year.

In France, this took the form of pranksters sticking fish on the backs of those who celebrated the old custom, earning the victims of the prank the name Poisson d'Avril, or April Fish.

But the theory can't explain why the pranking tradition spread to other countries in Europe that did not adopt the Gregorian calendar until later.

Culled from livescience.com

Women are attracted to funny men because they're seen as 'more intelligent'

Having trouble impressing the ladies? Try telling them a joke or two.

A sense of humour makes men seem more intelligent, trustworthy - and a better bet for a relationship, a study found.

Psychologist Kristofor McCarty said it appeared that men really can laugh women into bed.

He said: "A quick browse of lonely hearts ads will confirm that women look for a good sense of humour in a potential partner - our research may explain why this is the case."

Mr McCarty asked 45 women to rate the personalities behind a selection of lonely hearts ads drawn up especially for the study.

Some of the ads had been chosen because they were funny, others were entirely factual.

The funny men were rated as more intelligent, despite the ads containing no clues on IQ.

They were also seen as more honest and better material for a relationship and for friendship, the British Psychological Society's annual conference heard.

The finding could go some way to explain the sex appeal of some of Britain's favourite comedians.

Mr McCarty, of Northumbria University, said: "There was a kind of halo effect. The funny guys appear to be getting everything."

"I think men play on this - I would if I was funny."

James Corden, the comedy star of BBC hit Gavin and Stacey, has said that being funny helped him to attract women from his teenage years onwards.

"My weight was never a concern for me," he said. "I could always talk to them and make them laugh, so they tended to

overlook my physical imperfections."

It is thought that women equate wit with brains - perceiving funny men as good providers and good father material.

"And having a funny guy around the house rather than some drab businessman is much more fun."

Any men thinking of turning on the charm should spend some time honing their humour.

Culled from dailymail.co.uk



Lady luck: Comedian James Corden has said that being funny helped him to attract women from his teenage years onwards

DIGEST

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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

EASY

52.

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

SOLUTION TO SUDOKU PUZZLE No. 51

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

SIGN LANGUAGE



Right Store gets its spellings very wrong
 Photo location: Hendersonville, Tennessee by Christiano Fraser
 Culled from the telegraph.co.uk

FIND & CIRCLE JUMBO

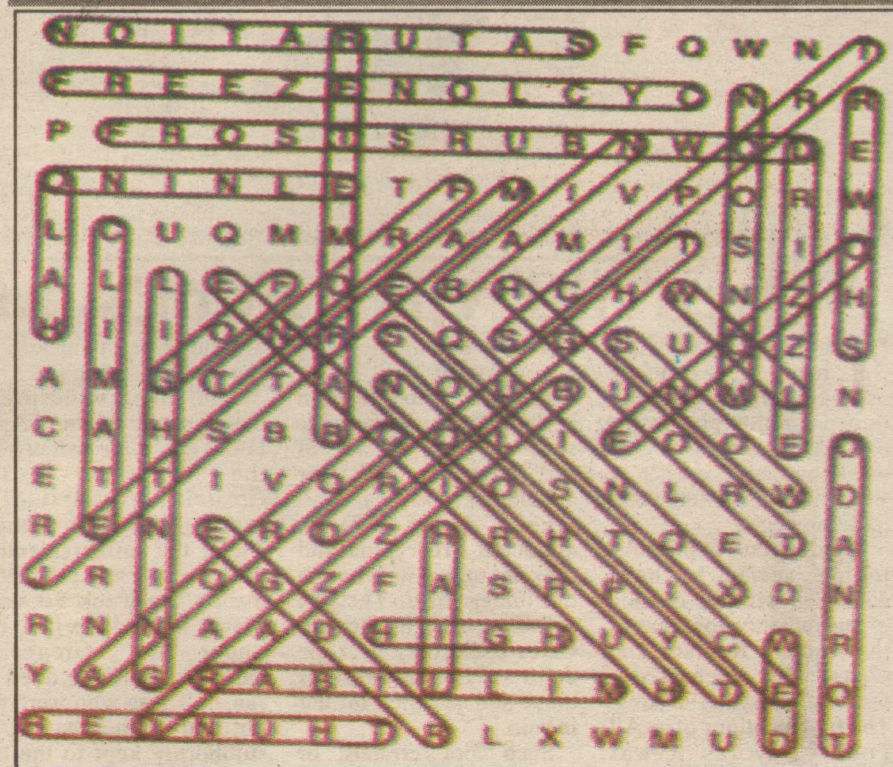
FIND & CIRCLE JUMBO puzzles are solved by finding all the hidden words in the diagram. The words are always in a straight line and may read up, down, forward, backward, or diagonally. Cross a word off your list once you have circled it. Many words will overlap.

41

Our happy day

Activity	G Y O J D E G U S T O D E J Z		
Agree	F L L R I H W N I V Y A L P K		
Amuse	D E A A C T I V I T Y N I O C		
At ease	Y V A D Z E I C J L D C E O P		
Bliss	P I T S S I L B I E F E M Y N		
Celebrate	P L H E T A L E R L R F F Z R		
Cheer	A R G G P C Q U B G O I V O S		
Comfort-able	H T I L H L T M A R T R M C W		
Cozy	S S L E F P E T T A A P F G T		
Dance	I Q E E A M Q A R N N T I S X		
Delight	L R D R O M B G S D F W E M T		
Elate	E L A R F L U A T E A S E Y N		
Feast	R H Y I E E H S V U D R N S Y		
Fling	T N A I D A R O E R I R N U L		
Frolic	U I E W U T L A J T L R T R G		
Glad	Happy	Merit	Refresh
Glee	Joy	Play	Relish
Grandeur	Lively	Pleased	Romp
Gratify	Love	Radiant	Snug
Gusto	Memory	Rapture	Whirl

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE No. 40



PROPERTY

HOTLINES:
08064416006, 08035946883

Funtua council spends N305m to provide shops

Funtua local council of Katsina state has constructed 1,000 lock-up shops at Funtua at a cost of N305 million.

The council chairman, Alhaji Mukhtari Dansutse, stated this in Funtua on Wednesday when course participants from the National Institute of Policy

and Strategic Studies (NIPPS) visited him.

He said that the council had also built a motor park and an abattoir at Jabiri at a cost of N35 million.

Other projects executed by the council, according to the chairman, include 37 solar-powered boreholes, 40 housing units, township

roads and 150 primary school classrooms.

Dansutse said that no fewer than 17 communities were provided electricity under the council's rural electrification programme.

The chairman also listed the provision of 350 culverts, a secondary school, and 48 classrooms for some secondary schools

in the area as part of the achievements of the administration since inception.

He said that N30 million was generated in 2008, adding that efforts were on to raise the annual revenue target to N60 million.

Dansutse said 120 motorcycles and sewing machines were distributed to

empower some youths and women. He added that 350 water pumping machines were given out to farmers to aid irrigation.

The team leader, Mrs Laraba Attah, commended the effort of the local government for its achievements and urged it to continue to implement programmes that would

impact positively on the lives of the people.

The theme of the study group is "Good governance as a prerequisite to Vision 2020."

In a remark, the District Head of Funtua, Alhaji Sambo Idris, described the community as mini-Nigeria where all ethnic groups live in harmony.

HJBDA contractors want contract reviewed

Contractors handling the completion of the remaining 7,000 hectares under the Kano River Irrigation Project Phase- I of the Hadejia Jama'are River Basin Development Authority (HJBDA), are now requesting for a hundred per cent review of the total contract sum.

The contract was awarded in 2003 at the cost of N8.6 billion naira.

A representative of the contracting firm, Gilmore Nigeria Limited, told members of the Senate Committee on the Investigation of Nigeria Food Crisis and Agricultural Sector that they are now requesting for N7.3 billion to complete the project.

According to a press release sign by Umaru G. Yarima of the authority's public relation department, the contracting firm claimed the increase was necessary due to inflation.

In his remarks, HJBDA managing director told the visiting Senators that the contractors have been paid the agreed contract sum of N8.6 billion and that only 1,500 hectares have now been fully developed.

The managing director also told the Senators that when the remaining 7,000 hectares are fully developed, additional 84,000 metric tones of both food and cash crops will annually be produced by the farmers.

At Bagawai Irrigation project the Senators were informed that the project is a federal government intervention involving the construction and completion of on-going and abandoned irrigation projects for about 872 hectares facilitated by a member of the House of Representatives representing the area, Alhaji Farouk Lawan.

The contractors handling the contract for the Bagawai irrigation project, Dantata and Sawoe Nigeria Limited, also informed the Senators that the contract which was awarded at the cost of N9 billion will now cost 5.2 billion more to complete.

Highlight of the visit include the inspection of 3.8 kilometer completed main canal, the night strong reservoir and the developed irrigation land of the completed sectors.



Sandralia Hotel, under construction in Utako district, Abuja

Open sealed parks at your own risk -FCTA

The FCT Administration (FCTA) has warned operators who sell alcohol in the 26 parks that were recently sealed that stiffer measure will be taken against those that have re-opened them.

Director, FCT Parks and Recreation Department, Mal. Isa Shuaibu, told journalists on Friday that anybody who decides to continue operation it is at his or her own risk because at the end of the day the administration will take stiffer measures that might be more disturbing to them.

By Nasir Imam

He said FCTA is winning from all angles, "we didn't take the park operators to court, and they did so because we are enforcing the regulations concerning the use of parks in the FCT. Last week they went to court to ask for the earlier order that the status quo be maintained, the Judge declined meaning that the extant order is that those parks that have been closed remain closed until the case is determined."

"If anybody is violating this order, the Police is there

to enforce it, and there are rules concerning contempt of court; we shall continue to carry out our administrative responsibilities without prejudice to the case that is in court," Isa Shuaibu said, adding that only 2 parks remained sealed.

He said when these parks were being closed, the department of parks and recreation staff were not alone; it was undertaken in presence of law enforcement agencies. When the operators took the matter to court, they were aware that the status quo as at then was

that the parks were sealed. "Unfortunately some of them went ahead to open it while the case was still in court, but rather than taking the law into our hands, out of respect for the court we have decided to exercise restraint, we have reported to the police. He said the administration is looking into a proposed NBL Village which will create opportunities for those who want to partake in public drinking to have a place to go to, without necessarily infringing on the Abuja Master Plan, and drink in an orderly way.

Trans-Saharan highway ready in 2012 -Envoy

Algerian Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Bachid Beabunes, said last week that the road network, proposed to link Lagos and Algiers, would be ready in three years.

According to him, the completion would strengthen the bi-lateral relationship between both countries.

Beabunes said there were other related on-going projects, notably the Nigeria/Algeria Optic Fibre Network and the Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline.

Beabunes said this in Abuja, while visiting Minister for Information and Communication, Professor Dora Akunyili.

He said, "The trans-Saharan gas pipeline is a strategic project and although the agreement has not been finalised, negotiations have reached a very positive step. After now, the project will be facilitated and soon, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

would be signed when all partners agree on modalities. For the optic fibre network, we are very close to finalising agreement between the three countries involved- Niger Republic, Nigeria and Algeria."

He also endorsed the Federal Government's re-branding campaign, calling it "an important strategy that came at the right moment. This initiative will promote the right image and facilitate development."

Responding, Akunyili said the Federal Government would continue to sustain the bi-lateral relationship, which she said was really strong, as evidenced in the Algerian President's visit 17 times to Nigeria since 1999.

On the proposed projects between Algeria and Nigeria, she said the meeting to finalise the signing of the agreement will be held in June, in Nigeria.

"I hope that the meeting will be formalised so that its execution will start," she concluded.

FG cannot provide housing, roads all alone -Minister

The minister of Works and Housing Dr. Hassan Muhamed Lawal Thursday disclosed that the federal government alone cannot provide road network and housing scheme that will cater for all Nigerians.

He disclosed this during a courtesy visit paid to him by the Executive Secretary of the Nigeria Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), Engineer Mustapha Bello at the ministry.

The minister added that the budgetary allocation is not enough to achieve the set goals of ministry, necessitating the need to partner with the private sector to collectively achieve the

By Mustapha Suleiman

result. "The trend all over the world is to do away from relying on government to fulfil the obligation of the ministry by way of budgetary allocation particularly in the developing society. There are various competing demands and because of that the budgetary allocation are almost always inadequate. If you look at the road network in this country from the colonial days to early independence and to post independence, one can rightly say that government cannot cope with the construction, rehabilitation

and repair of all road networks in this country hence the need for private sector partnership in this regard cannot be overemphasized," he said.

The minister further said that the effort to provide shelter for the teeming Nigerians cannot be provided by the government, adding that the government is trying to ensure that the private public partnership (PPP) is applied and implemented.

Earlier in his address, the Executive Secretary of NIPC, Engr. Mustapha Bello said that the visit is to brief the minister on what the NIPC do and seek his partnership and collaboration in terms of

the policies and proposals to government that will support the minister's ability to deliver.

"Our proposals will help really reduce your dependent on appropriation from the centre and to be able to finance some of the key infrastructural budgets particularly the highway through the models adopted by countries like Malaysia and Turkey," he said.

He stressed further that the registration of companies in the country has been simplified, allowing companies to be registered within 24 hours, adding that this will help encourage investors to the country.

ENVIRONMENT

A communal appraisal of water, sanitation in Ekiti

Never at all did we use the overhead tank installed by the federal government to provide water for the people of my domain," remarked the Eleda, Oniyo Ekiti, Oba Julius Oladipo Awolola, about the dysfunctional overhead water tank constructed in his domain by the federal government.

Ilejemeje is situated in Ekiti North, about one and a half-hour drive from the Ekiti State capital Ado-Ekiti and it is mainly an agrarian community.

When in 2007 contractors from the International Services Limited, in a scheme for the

By Benjamin Auta, who was in Ekiti

provision of boreholes to rural areas in the state, came to provide potable drinking water in the area, the people thought that their prayers had been answered.

But according to Oba Awolola, "when we realised that the borehole was not yielding water, I called the contractor and even pleaded with him to do something about it but he refused and told me that he will go to Abuja and collect his money whether I like it or not."

Such reports of abandoned water projects contracted by the FG have been lying dormant in all the

states of the federation, according to a report by WaterAid and some civil society organizations (CSOs) involved in the provision of water and sanitation in the country.

However, a most disturbing story making the rounds recently, revealed that the Federal Government at the last meeting of the National Council on Water Resources (NCWR), held in Lagos in August 2008, informed members of the council that it will only focus on building and maintaining dams for the provision of food in the country.

Also on March 12, 2008, the federal government

through the Minister of State, Agriculture and Water Resources, convened a meeting for commissioners responsible for water resources in their states, where they were told that the federal government will henceforth, start funding large dams for multipurpose duties especially irrigation as it will not fund water supply project given the dwindling revenue from oil as well as dysfunctional facilities.

Before the withdrawal, the federal government was responsible for 50% the provision of rural water and sanitation as well as 30% of small town water sanitation while states are responsible

for 25% rural water, 30% sanitation and 60% small town water sanitation.

The local governments also contribute 20% of rural water and 15% sanitation as well as 10% small town water sanitation as communities are obliged to pay 5% rural water, 5% sanitation without contributing anything to the small town water sanitation.

But Oba Awolola called on the federal government not to handover the provision of water and sanitation alone to the states and local governments as they don't have enough funds and capacity to provide such to most communities, due to

insufficient fund.

"Water is a major problem to our communities in this part of the country. Without it and power, no investor will establish any factory in our communities. We are only farmers and traders here and we also need it to survive," he concluded.

But at Eda/Obada community still in Ilejemeje local government, only one borehole provides water for a community of more than 3,000 people.

This trip was sponsored by WaterAid Nigeria, a CBO concerned with the problems of water and sanitation in the country.



Gurara dam

Gurara Dam and the hope for adequate water in Abuja

Water, one of the basic necessities of life is in short supply in Abuja, reputed to be one of the fastest growing capital cities in Africa. With a population of 2.1 million in 1998, the city is expected to accommodate over 7 million people in the next few years. By then, the daily demand for water in Abuja is also expected to rise from over 210 thousand cubic meters to nearly 1 million cubic meters. Seeing that the Lower Usuman Dam, commissioned in 1982 could no longer meet the water demand of the growing FCT population, several studies were carried out by the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to source for suitable and sufficient water that would satisfy the present and future demands of the FCT.

According to the Director of Dams and Irrigation in the ministry, Engineer Marcus Gundiri, one of the recommendations proffered to the water shortage problem was the Gurara Water Transfer Project. In 2001, contracts for the construction of the Dam and Associated Works, Lot A was awarded to Salini Nigeria Ltd, while that of the Water Conveyance Pipeline, Lot B went to SCC Nigeria Ltd.

The Joint Venture of Coyneet Beller and De Crown Co. Ltd. was engaged to carry out the final design of the two Lots and

When Senator Adamu Aliero, the FCT Minister, assumed office, he promised Abuja residents that they will be provided with uninterrupted water supply in six months. As the deadline approaches, Nasir Imam visited the dam and spoke to some officials handling the Gurara Dam Water Project.

construction supervision of Lot A. Water and Dams Company was retained to supervise construction of Lot B.

The Dam to be built had a span of 3 km, with an embankment 55m high. It was to be capable of holding back 61 km sq of surface water, with a capacity of 880 million cubic meter of water and granting a regulated water flow of 36 cubic meter per second all year long. This was far in excess of the need of the FCT water demand of about 3 cubic meter per second. Hydropower and Irrigation potentials were identified as viable uses of this excess capacity. The teething trouble of funding the project was eminent, this was moreso that the federal government was funding the project without any external assistance. The benefit of augmenting the national electricity grid and increasing the food security in Nigeria was however irresistible. The Federal Ministry of Water Resources therefore integrated a 30MW hydropower plant in the Dam

works to supply power to Kaduna metropolis and program a 14,000 Ha of irrigable farmland into the

project. The initial plan, he said, was to transfer water from Gurara Dam to Usuma Dam then assumed a new dimension to become a multipurpose water project.

The spillway, located on the left bank of the dam is a 307m long un-gated concrete drain, for the discharge of spillovers. The structure supports a bridge at the crest of the dam and has a ski jump at the end to simulate a waterfall. From here the calmed stream flows along a 270m wide, 1.5km long channel to return to the Gurara River.

Prelude to pipe laying, according to him, government took a decision to establish the pipe manufacturing factory in Nigeria. This became necessary as the sheer size of each 18m long pipe weighing 21 tons was very intimidating. It was also envisaged that the factory would reduce the unit cost of the pipes, enable full transfer of technology in addition to making the handling of the pipes easier. In 2003 the pipe factory in Bwari Abuja, was commissioned.

The challenge of laying

the 3m-diameter pipe, the first in West Africa and probably second to South Africa's was enormous. Special cranes and machinery were brought in and experts were consulted from different parts of the world.

Of particular interest was the deep cut section of the pipe route within km 25 and 27. The open cut option at this section meant a massive excavation to a depth of 18m and evacuation of about 1million cubic meter of soil and rock. The pipeline level had to fall below the hydraulic grade line to enable continuous and stable gravity flow throughout the pipeline. As the project progressed, significant contentions from the compensation for displaced settlements and farmlands arose. Amicable negotiation was negotiated and the interruptions that could have caused considerable delays were averted by the efforts of the ministry's compensation teams on both lots. New schools, markets, houses, and general means of livelihoods emerged. This brought smile and joy to the faces and hearts of the affected people.

The intake of the conveyance pipeline is located on the right bank, about 1.6 km upstream of the dam. The 45 m high Intake Tower comprises four independent 4m-high and 2.5m-wide intakes equipped

with stop logs and fixed screen located at different elevations to allow the withdrawal of water of the required quality.

From the period of the first phase of the Gurara river diversion through the Bottom Outlet in 2003 to allow the contractors carry out the grouting curtain into the riverbed, the target to complete the Dam and associated works was decided.

By June 2005 the open channel, box culvert, penstock gallery and intake tower for the bottom outlet up to lift 12 had been completed.

The active control system at Usuman Dam regulates water from the Gurara Dam into the Usuman Dam reservoir via a custom designed outlet structure. The choice for the design of the outlet structure to incorporate a stilling basin was both for engineering capabilities and the aesthetics of its discharge thus adding tourism value to the project.

The substantial completion of the Gurara Project was achieved in 2007 by the final diversion of the river from its natural bed to the bottom outlet and commencement of impounding of the Dam reservoir.

The closure pipe was laid by March 2007 at the deep-cut section of the pipeline. It was a moment of expectation, signifying not only the end

of pipe laying between Gurara Dam and Lower Usuma Control Valve Chambers, but the substantial completion of the conveyance aspect of the project, finally in the month of May 2007, SCC completed the pipeline.

The full test run operation of the pipeline took place during the visit of the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources to the project site on 4th December 2007. With the full opening of both Gurara and Usuma Dams main Control Valves, it took less than a day for the water from Gurara Dam to discharge into the outlet structure gallery at Usuma Dam.

The reality of Gurara as a success story was complete with the conveyance of water to Abuja. Finally, the spillway was completed and the first spill took place in August 2008 with the completion of the second of the four components of the multipurpose Gurara project.

As we expect the completion of the other two components, the Hydropower and Irrigation schemes, the successful completion of the water transfer and institution of the Gurara River Basin Commission to manage the project is a definite hope that the era of perennial water shortage in Abuja will soon be over.

City news

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Hotlines

0803-3493-462

0803-8927-513

DRTS impounds 756 unpainted cabs

The FCT Directorate of Road Traffic Services (DRTS) has so far impounded 756 unpainted commercial vehicles.

This was disclosed yesterday by the directorate's Director, Retired Major Adamu S. Argungu, who stated that about 107 of the impounded vehicles were painted into FCT commercial colours of Green-White-Green in the DRTS premises.

He said the painted vehicles were released after obtaining coded security numbers and doing the proper registration.

According to him, 26 vehicles were found to have been impounded in error and have been released to the respective owners.

The director warned those still operating unpainted cabs to paint them into FCT commercial colours, adding that the exercise will continue until all unpainted and unregistered vehicles complies with the regulations of operating commercial vehicles as contained in the FCT Road Traffic Regulations of Section 50 Sub section A-K.

Argungu disclosed that coded security numbers have so far been issued to those that painted their vehicles inside the DRTS premises and he informed other taxi operators to come to the DRTS premises to obtain their coded security number, adding that the numbers help commuters and law enforcement agents to easily identify cabs.

"Only commercial vehicles registered under the arrangement of 'Operator's Licence', can ply the FCT roads and highways in colours other than the official Green-White-Green, provided Road Traffic Regulations 29 Sub section 1-9 are met," he added.

He said part of the regulations provides that the operator must have at least 50 vehicles in its fleet and must have all the vehicles painted in the same colour as approved, adding that an example of such operator is that of the Abuja Leasing Company and such vehicles are to be used for hire purposes only.

"Other requirements for

By Abubakar Yakubu

operator's licence, includes payment of operators' fee, having appropriate financial standing, professional competence, satisfactory ar-

rangements for maintaining the vehicles used under the licence in a serviceable condition," he stated.

Our reporter also gathered that 159 abandoned and crashed vehicles in me-

chanic workshops within the city centre have been evacuated, while 44 illegal mechanic workshops within the city centre were also sealed up.

The director advised

Abuja residents to ensure that they patronize mechanics only at Apo Mechanic Village, adding that they operate in the approved area meant for mechanics.

"Those who patronize

others outside Apo Mechanic Village risk having their vehicles impounded if found inside any mechanic workshop in the city centre as it is illegal for a mechanic to operate within the city centre," he added.



Parents' at the Oasis International College's maiden inter-house sports competition at Lugbe, Abuja ...Friday.

Parents' race causes laughter at Oasis inter-house sports

Spectators at the maiden inter-house sports competition of Oasis International College, Lugbe Friday busted out in laughter during the executive female and male races that involved parents of students.

By Abubakar Yakubu

Parents whose weight were heavy had a hectic time getting to the finishing line,

while some had to stop half way when their breath became unbearable.

A very fat lady appeared to be the attraction on the

field as she started well and pulled out of the race.

In the male and female executive races, Mr Samuel Igborgbor of Sky Bank and

Mrs Chinyere Ekanem came first respectively.

The School's Proprietress, Dr (Mrs) Popoola called on Nigerians, especially the youths to engage in sporting events in order to get rid of excess fat.

According to her, if properly groomed, talents discovered from schools' inter-house sports competitions can become the country's future stars.

She thanked parents that contributed immensely to the success of the school's inter-house sports event.

Students from the school's four houses, Queen Amina, Nnamdi Azikiwe, Moremi and Herbert Macaulay, competed in various sporting events and at the end, Moremi House came first, followed by Herbert Macaulay, Nnamdi Azikiwe and Queen Amina Houses respectively.

The proprietress presented a giant gold cup to Moremi House captain, while two other cups were given to Nnamdi Azikiwe and Queen Amina captains.



Students of Moremi House displaying the trophy at the Oasis inter-house sports competition. From right is the school's Proprietress, Dr. (Mrs) Popoola and Mrs Babale, the principal.

Pics: Abubakar Yakubu.

City news

Hospital discharges boy injured by mum

By Ibraheem A. Fatai & Hussein Yahaya

The Kubwa General Hospital recently discharged a 13-year-old boy, Wisdom Ndubuizi, whose mother used a laundry electric iron to burn him in various parts of his body.

Hospital sources said the boy spent three weeks under intensive care and presently walks with the aid of clutches.

"The boy is presently with his elder ones and will visit the hospital as an out patient until his injuries are properly healed," the source added.

Our reporter learnt that the boy's mother, Stella Ndubuizi was arraigned in court on March 9 and is presently detained at Suleja Prisons.

The woman, who is a widow, had complained of the boy's stubbornness and truancy from home before committing the act.

One of the woman's neighbour described the lady's situation as unfortunate, adding that ever since she lost her husband, it became difficult for her to control her children.

"As a result of the children's stubbornness, the mother developed high blood pressure and I fear that if she is jailed her children will suffer," he added.



Dignitaries that graced the Mothers' Day event at SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Nyanya recently. Fourth person on the right is Rev. Father Michael Gokum. Pic: Abubakar Yakubu.

FCDA demolishes illegal structures at Karu

Officials of the Department of Development Control of the FCT Administration Thursday demolished illegal structures at the Federal Housing estate at Karu Site, Abuja.

Our reporter observed bulldozers pulling down structures, while armed police personnel kept watch as resi-

By Mustapha Suleiman

dents of the affected apartments made frantic efforts to remove their belongings.

An official of the Department of Development Control, Mrs. Ngozi, said that the demolition exercise was necessitated by the fact that the estate is fast turning into

shanties as most of the structures put up by the squatters were not approved by the department.

A woman whose structure was affected by the demolition was seen wailing at the top of her voice, alleging that there was no prior notice before the demolition exercise.

"My husband works with

the FCDA and yet you people are doing this to me," she said amidst tears.

Another elderly victim of the demolition, Mr. Amenior Anthony, who claimed he was an ex-staff of FCDA, said they never received a demolition notice.

"I laboured so hard to acquire this building after retiring during El-Rufai era as FCT minister and got the building legally but see what they have done to me," he lamented.

The affected residents later identified a man that claimed to be an FCDA staff and collected money from them in order to save their buildings from demolition.

The man was promptly arrested by the security personnel that accompanied the demolition squad.

While in handcuff, the arrested man told our reporter that it was one Katungo, an operator with the FCDA that gave him the go ahead 'to have a field day'.

The FCDA officials at the site of the demolition were prompt in denying the man, adding that he is a criminal trying to defraud the residents.

Bwari residents plan protest over

Residents of Bwari Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) have vowed to stage a mass protest against the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), if they fail to redress the prolonged power outage affecting the community in the next few weeks.

Areas badly affected by the outage include, some parts of Sabon Gari; Sixteen-Sixteen and places across the river.

A resident, Mr. Kehinde Popoola, said the peaceful demonstration will be staged by youths and business people in front of PHCN's Bwari office.

"We will go there and de-

power outage

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

mand for immediate solutions to the power problem or ask them to stop sending us their electricity bills," he said.

Mrs. Nkechi Joseph, a fish seller in the area, lamented that the power outage experienced in Bwari, has forced her out of the business, adding that residents are fed up with the whole situation.

"It is as if government is insensitive to the plight of the common man; and that is why some of us are planning to demonstrate," she explained.

Malam Saka Abdullah, a civil servant said the planned demonstration will not bring any meaningful solution to the problem and he advised residents to seek other means including prayers.

An official of the PHCN, Bwari appealed to the residents to be patient, adding that PHCN management are aware of the current problem and trying to find lasting solutions to it.

A police officer at the Bwari Police Station said the police are yet to receive any application on such protest.

The officer advised the residents to first obtain a police permit before organising such protest.

Police Hotlines in FCT

Divisional Police Officers	Telephone Nos
1. Maitama	08038485123
2. Central Police Station	08033568389
3. Lugbe	08077657371, 08037882321
4. Wuse	08053088102
5. National Assembly	08065777706, 08045317637
6. Asokoro	07028134449
7. Nyanya	08046115181
8. Utako	07055888119, 07038621264
9. Karshi	08023565354
10. Wuye	08023314440
11. Karu	08036098804
12. Gwarimpa	08059113555
13. Karmo	08033773129
14. Garki	08033560903
15. Life Camp	08058036613
16. Kubwa	08036134478
17. Gwagwa	08035537989
18. Zuba	08036311967
19. Bwari	08075804475
20. Dutse Alhaji	08053089999
21. Kuje	07030800531
22. Kwali	08033062496
23. Rubochi	08060568342
24. Gwagwalada	08057467369
25. Abaji	08037209328

Abuja Area Command Heads	
1. Metro:	08033052353, 08059099953
2. Kubwa:	08033560903, 08026760504
3. Gwagwalada:	08033041083

Other police help lines: 09-8702367, 09- 8702368, 09-2341198, 08061581938

FRSC FCT COMMAND HOTLINES-EMERGENCY	
FCT Sector Command	08035752108
FCT Head of Operations	08053471057
Giri-Gwagwalada-Kwali	07034736628
AYA-Nyanya-Keffi	-
08075029154	-
Gwagwalada-Yangoji-Kwali	-
08055120551	-
Kubwa-Zuba-Bwari	08052738933
Kubwa-Zuba & Kubwa-Bwari	08035892284
Kwali-Abaji-Lokoja-Giri	08059219730
Central Business District	08059216183
Kuje-Airport Junction	08065302264
National Assembly	08035958958

NEXT LEVEL

Appointments And Promotions

e-mail:nextlevel@dailytrust.com

Professor Idoko appointed DG, NACA

Professor John Alechenu Idoko, an infectious diseases physician (MBBS, 1976; FMCP 1983) has been appointed director general (DG) of National Agency for the Control of HIV/AIDS (NACA).

The Federal Government's agency working to mitigate the spread and severity of HIV has been without a substantial DG since Professor Babatunde Osotimehin who was the DG was made minister of health late last year.

The new NACA boss, Idoko, has been an HIV physician involved in the prevention, treatment, care and support of HIV patients and several community directed comprehensive HIV programmes since 1990; and

By Ruby Rabi

has been chairman of National Antiretroviral Committee for the last six years.

Idoko who has been deeply involved in virtually every step against HIV in the country was a member of the National Resistance surveillance committee, and has been chairman of all the committees that have been set up since 2002 to develop guidelines for the use of antiretroviral drugs in adult Nigerians.

He currently leads a standing committee set up by the Federal Ministry of Health and CDC Nigeria to develop the training curriculum for various cadres of health workers in Antiretroviral Therapy

(ART), including doctors, nurses and pharmacists. He is the Principal Investigator of AIDS Prevention Initiative Nigeria (APIN), among several responsibilities focused on the HIV/AIDS scourge and efforts to tame it.

He has over 40 publications in peer reviewed journals and contributions to books, including "AIDS in Nigeria", "From the ground Upwards" and "What you need to know about ART."



Professor John Alechenu Idoko

Air France KLM appoints new manager for Northern Nigeria

The management of Air France KLM has appointed a new manager, Mr. Francois Chenel, to take charge of the Northern and Central Nigeria business. He is to work in Air France KLM's newly launched office in Abuja.

Mr. Chenel took over from Mr. Duncan Rogers who has been elevated and transferred out of Nigeria. Introducing the new manager to newsmen, the airline's Vice President, Africa & Middle East, Mr. Etienne Rachou said Nigeria remains a major market in Africa for the airline.

Speaking of the company's plans, Rachou

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

said the KLM will increase investment in Nigeria by introducing additional seats every week to Paris and Amsterdam through their newly introduced Boeing 777 which commenced flight operations early last month.

He explained, "The investment we have made in Abuja is only part of the investments we are making to develop our presence in Nigeria; it is a very important year for us. We are going to increase our capacity and the number of seats we are offering to the Nigerian market by more than 20 per cent."

Nted is Maritime Workers Union President, Benin

By Onimisi Alao

The Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN) in Benin has elected a new president general, Mr. Tony Nted, who was until his election the president of the dockworkers branch of the union.

Reports reaching *Daily Trust* have it that Nted scored 109 votes to emerge the new president general of the union at the expense of his rival, Mr. Rasaan Bakare, who scored two votes from the 113 delegates who attended the 2nd Quadrennial Delegates Conference that organised the election.

Others who emerged as national executive council members included Dahiru Tale and Dipo Ogunleye as deputy presidents-general. Sule Ibrahim, Anthony Anyanwu and V.K. Okafor were elected vice presidents while Francis Isaac and Funmi Fasae became trustees. The post of national treasurer went to Sunday Kalu.

The election was witnessed by officials of Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity and that of transport, AS WELL as well as representatives from the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) and Nigerian Maritime Administration and safety Agency (NIMASA).

Yabo becomes director/CEO, Abuja environmental board

By Onimisi Alao

An assistant general manager in charge of Environment and Pollution Control, Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Engr. Abubakar Shehu Yabo has been appointed director and chief executive of Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB).

He is coming to the Federal Capital Territory's environmental sanitation outfit for the second time. He was the Board's deputy director and head of department of Solid Waste Management before moving over to the Nigerian Ports Authority.

Yabo takes over from Engr. Kenneth Okafor who has been moved to the Transport Secretariat Department of Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), Abuja.

A statement from the AEPB describes the new director as "a committed and experienced technocrat" whose versatility in environmental matters and human resources management will be an asset to the AEPB.

He was an assistant director, Marine Pollution, Federal Ministry of Transport, and assistant general manager, Environmental Pollution Control under the NPA, before his return to the AEPB.

Oladimeji to operate BRT's Iyana Ipaja - Ikotun Corridor

By Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

A new group, Igbatuntun City Bus Cooperative Society, headed by Mr. Olusegun Oladimeji as president has been appointed to operate a new Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) route under the Lagos State Government.

The new corridor which stretches to Igando, Iyana Iba, Ipaja, Ayobo and Maryland, is planned to open for operation this month with 50 high capacity buses, according to the new Corridor's chief operator, Oladimeji who said the buses were already being prepared for the operation.

He disclosed, however, that the buses will ply the same road as other vehicles, as there will be no designated BRT lane on the new corridor.

Bus shelters and bus stops have already been constructed along the Ikotun - Iyana Ipaja route in readiness for the new addition to the BRT network.

The implementation of the first phase of the Lagos BRT began a year ago, March 2008, although it was initially slated for November 2007. The first route, 22 kilometres in length, goes from Mile 12 through Ikorodu Road and Funsho Williams Avenue up to CMS.

The scheme has gone far in easing the chaotic traffic situation in Lagos that defied all regular traffic control measures and accounted to a great extent for the transfer of the Federal Capital from the city to Abuja beginning in 1976 when the first practical step was taken to build the new capital territory to nearly 20 years ago when Ibrahim Babangida who was military president moved office from there to the new Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

The Lagos BRT is reputed to be the first BRT scheme in sub-Saharan Africa.

Isichei, Kalu, others gain promotion at Lowe Lintas

By Onimisi Alao

Messrs Laz Isichei and Ottah Kalu, appointed recently to the executive board of Lowe Lintas Limited, have had their responsibilities expanded in a restructuring of personnel which the company believes will strengthen it for optimal performance.

Lowe Lintas Limited is an advertising and marketing firm, 80 years old, with head office in Lagos and associated to global industry player, Lowe Worldwide Agency network.

Mr. Isichei is Lowe Lintas' new executive director, Finance and Administration, while Mr. Kalu takes on agency-wide responsibility for Client Service matters as executive director.

The senior level promotions include Mr. Olisa Maha, who now becomes director, Art and Mr. Hycent Nwabuisi, associate director, Client Service.

Also in Client Service, Mr. Law Ojunta becomes Senior Group Head, and Mrs. Elo Iyayi Group Head, while Mr. Mathew Adinnu has been promoted to the position of senior manager for Radio and Television Production.

Lowe Lintas which explained in a statement that it was moving staff in efforts to prime the agency "to meet the challenges of offering top-class services to its blue-chip clients," announced the employment of new staff to what it called critical departments. In Client Service, the agency appointed Mr. Duke Ochukenyi as manager to handle "key client business." Mrs. Funke Ogedegbe, a human resource specialist, joined the agency as director of Administration cum company secretary.

Joining the agency's Creative Department as copywriters are Miss Oluwaseun Agbelusi, a graduate of Zoology from University of Agriculture, Abeokuta; Miss Ochege Etu, who read Mass Communication from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka as well as Miss Bunmi Bialose, a graduate of Banking & Finance from Babcock University.

Lowe Lintas became what it now is, Lowe Lintas Ltd, from being simply Lintas Limited in November 2003. By that development, it became a member of the Lowe Worldwide Agency network, a global advertising agency with operations in over 80 countries across the world.

Adeniji, four others appointed by Virgin Nigeria

By Onimisi Alao

Virgin Nigeria has appointed new staff to fill key management responsibilities vacated by some of its workers.

The new appointees include Shri Nadgauda, who comes in as chief financial officer; Babtunde Adeniji, who is taken as acting head of Ground Services; and Stephen Chiazor, who becomes acting head of Human Resources, while Samuel Ogbogoro is to head the Corporate Communications office.

A continuing officer, Olufunmilayo Aiyepoku now has Eagleflier unit added to her portfolio as head of Marketing.

The firm says in its website that the new ap-

pointments followed a remodelling of the company's business to exploit profitable regional and domestic routes.

Independent sources add that the 'remodelling' was necessitated by the divestment of Richard Branson, the former chairman of the airline, which resulted in the firm having to restrict its operations to less number of local and international routes.

NEXT LEVEL recently reported Virgin Nigeria's appointment of Captain Dapo Olumide, an aviation expert with over 25 years industry experience, as the deputy managing director

Yerima Hwale is Michika's new village head

By Ibrahim Musa

Mr Yerima Fashe Hwale, a retired civil servant has been appointed the new village head of Michika II.

A direct descendant of Kwarda Kwaka, the famous Higgi man who founded Michika town, the headquarters of Michika Local Government Area in Adamawa state, the new village head succeeds his late elder brother, Yerima Zakawa.

In a statement made available to *Daily Trust*, Mr Dauda T. Talayari Kwache, a member of the Kwarda Kwaka lineage, thanked the people of Michika District and Mubi Emirate Council for making Mr Hwale the new village head because he is the best candidate for the throne.

The statement quoted Mr Kwache as wishing the new village head long life, God's guidance and protection throughout his reign.



Mr. Yerima Fashe Hwale



AIR FORCE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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ADMISSION INTO PGD/MSc IN AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

1. Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for admissions into the Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Aerospace Engineering in the Department of Aircraft maintenance, School of Air Engineering, Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT), Kaduna.

POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME/PROGRAMME DETAILS.

2. The PGD in Aerospace Engineering at AFIT is a one year programme that is specially designed to prepare candidates for the one year MSc in Aerospace Engineering programme at Cranfield University, United Kingdom. Applicants for PGD must possess a first degree in engineering or physical sciences (physics/mathematics/chemistry) with a minimum grade of second class honours.

3. Candidates enrolling on the Masters Programme can choose to specialise in one of the following fields:

a. Aerospace Vehicle Design (Airframe and Airframe Systems option).

Applicants for Airframe and Airframe Systems must possess the equivalent of a UK first or second class honours degree in an appropriate engineering discipline. Candidates with alternative qualifications supplemented with relevant industrial experience may also be considered.

b. Aerospace Vehicle Design (Avionics Systems option).

Applicants for Avionics Systems must possess the equivalent of a UK first or second class honours degree in electrical/electronic engineering or physics. Candidates with alternative qualifications supplemented with relevant industrial experience may also be considered.

c. Thermal Power (Aerospace Propulsion option). Applicants for Aerospace Propulsion must possess the equivalent of a UK first or second class honours degree in physical sciences, mathematics based or engineering subjects or their international equivalent. Candidates with HNC/HND or equivalent supplemented with considerable industrial experience may also be considered.

4. Acceptance on the Cranfield MSc programmes will be subject to the approval of Cranfield University.

COST IMPLICATIONS

5. The breakdown of the cost implications of the PGD at AFIT is as follows:

a.	Tuition fee	-	N 170,000:00
b.	Practicals	-	130,000:00
c.	Final course project	-	75,000:00
d.	Field Tours and visits	-	120,000:00

6. Accommodation and feeding arrangements are available at the Institute for interested candidates at additional cost.

7. The tuition fee for the MSc Programmes in Cranfield University will be agreed between Cranfield and the AFIT. Candidates would be expected to provide for their accommodation, food and sundry expenses.

MODE OF APPLICATION:

8. Interested candidates are to download the application forms from AFIT website: www.afitnigeria.net or www.airforcetech.net Duly completed forms accompanied by a certified bank draft of N5,000:00 payable to AFIT Kaduna are to be submitted by hand or post not later than Thursday, 30 April 2009 to the following address:

The Registrar
Air Force Institute of Technology
PMB 2104
Nigerian Air Force Base
Kaduna.

Signed:
REGISTRAR

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Management Training Programmes Abuja

April-May, 2009

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Is your Brand heading in the right direction? The programme will feature presentation of global best practices for brand management with complementary case presentations & discussions led by Industry leaders:

Who Should Attend:
Brand Managers, Product Development Managers, Small Business & Corporate Affairs; Managers, Advertising Account Executives and Entrepreneurs.

Duration: 3 days **Date:** Apr 14-16 **Fee:** N150,000

Developing Teamwork & Interpersonal Skills

This programme which is targeted at self-directed and intact teams, is designed to enable participants acquire and retain fresh insights and skills on the principles of teamwork.

Each participant receives a personal profile analysis report, using the DISC behavioural framework.

Who Should Attend:
Team Leaders, Middle and top Level managers interested in enhancing the level of their groups/teams.

Duration: 2 days **Date:** May 12-13 **Fee:** N80,000

Customer Relationship Management Roadmap

This workshop will impart key strategies aimed at transforming the organisation into a magnet for customers. Participants will come away with a thorough understanding of customer life cycle management and the role of people and IT in CRM with the ultimate goal of attaining customer loyalty.

Each participant receives a personal profile analysis report, using the DISC behavioural framework.

Who Should Attend
Senior Marketing, IT and Customer Service Executives, and those who manage customer relationships.

Duration: 3 days **Date:** Apr 21-23 **Fee:** N105,000

Partnering with your Boss: Strategic tools for the administrative professional

This programme is designed to enable participants to establish trust, credibility and authority to strengthen relationship with their boss.

Attend this seminar and master the techniques for effective goal setting, prioritising, planning, decision making, relationship building and management.

Each participant receives a personal profile analysis report, using the DISC behavioural framework.

Who Should Attend
Senior administrative support staff, executive assistants/secretaries, administrative assistants and staff assistants.

Duration: 2 days **Date:** May 19-20 **Fee:** N80,000

Quality Customer Service

This course is designed to equip employees with relevant skills in managing and measuring quality service in order to improve the business performance of organizations, understand the needs of their internal and external customers..

Each participant receives a personal profile analysis report, using the DISC behavioural framework.

Who Should Attend
Customer service Executives and those who manage customer relationships.

Duration: 2 days **Date:** Apr 28-29 **Fee:** N80,000

Getting the best out of people: (Building the Team)

This course is designed to equip existing and upcoming managers with competencies needed to get desired results from subordinates.

Each participant receives a Personal Profile Analysis Report using the DISC Behavioural Framework.

Who Should Attend
Middle level Managers, HR professionals and Team Leaders across all industries.

Duration: 3 days **Date:** May 26-28 **Fee:** N105,000

Business Process Mapping

This course is designed to enable you document, understand and improve your organisation's business processes. It will help you to gain a better understanding of what process mapping entails and also to appreciate its importance. You will leave the course with the knowledge and tools to document and improve business processes in order to improve overall efficiency within your organisation.

Who should Attend?
Business and operational managers, supervisors, project leaders and process owners.

Duration: 3 days **Date:** May 5-7 **Fee:** N150,000

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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ROLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OPERATIONS

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB

To direct and control the Underwriting and Marketing teams and to take responsibility for the portfolio of clients, ensuring effective operations for the company.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. To monitor the activities of both the Technical and Marketing Departments in the Operations Directorate
2. Direct and control the staff of the directorate to ensure that they are appropriately motivated and trained and are working towards the achievement of the company's corporate objectives.
3. Provide an efficient and effective service to clients by maintaining effective communication with them, responding promptly to enquiries
4. Maintain a sound knowledge of competitors by thoroughly analysing market position, products, rates etc.
5. Review claims from clients, check these for accuracy and decide on the appropriate action to be taken.
6. Maintain all necessary records and processes to ensure that premiums are paid promptly and that claims are efficiently processed.
7. Oversee the Marketing projections and to ensure that the company meets its financial targets.
8. Identify and develop new initiatives to improve the range and quality of the products provided by the company and to ensure responsiveness to changes in the external environment.
9. Develop all necessary policies and procedures to ensure the effective promotion and marketing of the company.
10. Analyse trends in the business environment, help to develop products that are responsive to market demands, and identify new market opportunities.
11. Assist in formulating and monitoring the annual business plan to ensure the long-term success and viability of the company and the attainment of corporate objectives.
12. Advise the company, as part of the corporate management team, on the development of new initiatives and the promotion and marketing of products to ensure the achievement of the company's business plan and corporate objectives.

Knowledge, Skills and experience required (For all underwriters)

At least 10 years' post qualification experience in the insurance industry;
 Relevant underwriting skills;
 Strong technical knowledge of the insurance sector;
 Management skills and previous management experience;
 An ability to undertake analysis and research;
 Practical Skills in Computer operation
 Good communication Skills
 The excellent interpersonal skills necessary to be able to manage a team of professionals and to negotiate relations with a range of clients.

QUALIFICATIONS

A minimum of Higher National Diploma or a University Degree
 ACII or other relevant Professional Certification
 An MBA would be an added advantage
 Must be between the ages of 35 and 45

ROLE: CLAIMS OFFICER

Main Responsibilities

To ensure that adjusters reports are reviewed efficiently and claims made against the company are registered with proper notifications and with supporting documents within the policy terms and payments are made promptly and efficiently to the person authorised, and also ensuring that research and advise on claims fields and underwriting are undertaken periodically.

ROLE: MOTOR UNDERWRITER

Main Responsibilities

To ensure contract terms are well agreed with proposer and proper premium charged to ensure accurate issuing of motor certificates, ensuring client is offered good advice on terms and conditions regarding applying for motor polices and also ensuring renewal notices are sent in good time.

ROLE: FIRE /ACCIDENT UNDERWRITER

Main Responsibilities

To ensure that risks are assessed and appropriate premium charged, whilst making sure that contract terms are agreed with proposer in accordance with company guidelines, monitoring policy performance and circumstances to assess changes that may be required to premium levels, whilst ensuring that safety measures are updated and renewals sent in good time.

ROLE: REINSURANCE UNDERWRITER

Main Responsibilities

To ensure adequate preparation of offers and recording of inwards and outward businesses, and analysing of treaty offers to determine acceptance, whilst ensuring proper registration of local facultative outward businesses and ensuring accurate preparation of reinsurance surplus treaty quarterly reports.

Knowledge, Skills and experience required (For all underwriters)

A minimum of Higher National Diploma or a University Degree
 A second relevant degree will be an added advantage
 At least 5 years' experience in underwriting in an insurance company
 Strong technical knowledge of the insurance industry
 Strong negotiating skills
 Computer literacy
 Insurance Professional Certification will be an added advantage
 Evidence of underwriting trainings
 Must be between the ages of 25 – 35 years

NON-INSURANCE SKILLS

ROLE: MANAGER, CLIENT SERVICES

Main Responsibilities

Maintain regular contact with customers to keep them aware of business developments and to seek feedback from them so that the company can effectively implement a programme of continuous improvement and always happy to renew their businesses with the company.

Knowledge, Skills and experience required

A minimum of Higher National Diploma or a University Degree
 A degree in Mass Communication or second relevant degree will be an added advantage
 At least 5 years experience in the same capacity.
 Oral and Written communication skills
 Good interpersonal skills
 Computer literacy
 Must be between 35 – 45 years

ROLE: MANAGER, MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

To promote the public image of the organisation through advertising, direct marketing and any other appropriate PR techniques and to assist in the production and distribution of publications and other media to publicise the company's activities and promote a positive brand image by acting as a point of contact for media enquiries, creating opportunities for media coverage of the organisation's work and handling crisis situations as they arise.

Knowledge, Skills and experience required

A minimum of Higher National Diploma or a University Degree
 A degree in Mass Communication or second relevant degree will be an added advantage
 At least 5 years experience in the same capacity.
 Professional membership will be an added advantage
 Oral and Written communication skills
 Good interpersonal skills
 Computer literacy
 Must be between 35 – 45 years

ROLE: MANAGER, CREDIT CONTROL

Main Responsibilities

To maintain the debtors ledger accurately and to ensure that all income due is received and accurately accounted for. Reconcile brokers accounts and monitor all outstanding invoices are paid.

Knowledge, Skills and experience required

A minimum of Higher National Diploma or a University Degree in Accounting
 An MBA degree/ICAN or its equivalent will be an added advantage
 At least 5 years experience in the same capacity.
 Computer literacy
 Must be between 35 – 45 years

Interested applicants should send their application with copies of relevant certificates in PDF format to careers@unitykapital.com Applications should be submitted two weeks from date of this publication. Only shortlisted candidates would be invited for interview. Please ensure you indicate the particular role you are applying for.

Universal-ETF Executive Secretary

beneficiaries access the money. The next step is the utilization of these resources. You know there is so much money going to the institutions, and when you look at the kind of projects they are undertaking, you will start worrying about proper utilization. For instance, how can a university start embarking on the construction of car parks, drainages and

fencing of campuses when there are empty laboratories and empty studios, or workshops? When we addressed them in December last year at a stakeholders' workshop, we told them that there is no more of these kinds of projects. We have forged a special relationship with the regulatory agencies such as the National Universities

Commission (NUC), National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) and the National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE) that henceforth, ETF intervention must follow the criteria for accreditation to the regulatory agencies.

In a situation of improper utilization of funds how can the ETF defend itself against the accusation of the tax payers contributing to the intervention fund?

We intend to organize a taxpayers' forum. The companies that dutifully pay their taxes should know what the money they have been paying is being used for. Towards the middle of this year, we intend to organize a taxpayers' forum, and it will become a yearly event, to show them what we have done with the monies that they have contributed and also recognize their contributions. Though by law, they have no choice, it will be nice for them to know what they are paying the money for and also for us to show appreciation to them.

The major issues now are the amendments to our enabling Act so that we finally exit basic and secondary schools and concentrate the resources on the tertiary level as originally conceived so that we can make more impact. We cannot make impact by throwing these resources on the 774 local governments including the six area councils of the FCT, 37 States SUBEBs, 36 states ministries of education and 230 tertiary education institutions. We can't make impact like that. Ghana, which borrowed the idea of using tax to fund education from Nigeria's ETF and established a Ghana Education Tax Fund (GETF) in 2002, is making more effective use of GETFUND than we have made of our ETF. Go to the University of Legon and see what their Fund has done. We are considering special intervention in select tertiary institutions. No approval has been given yet, but we are really considering such. We take one university in each geo-political zone and see how we can upgrade the teaching and learning environment so that we can begin to say yes, in Nigeria, we have world-class universities. If you see the recent world ranking of universities, you will see that there is no Nigerian Universities among the first 50 universities in Africa. The most recent ranking is Ilorin, but as of December last year, the best Nigerian University was

Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), and it was number 67 in Africa and number 7704 in the world. We don't have any laboratory in Nigeria that can rank among the top 1,000 in the world. We believe this is the kind of facility that our intervention should provide.

How would you respond to the clamour by the operators of the privately-owned universities to be included among the beneficiaries of the ETF? They argue that they are equally Nigerians who also contribute to the economy of the country by paying taxes.

The law is for the funding of public educational institutions, not private. As the law exists today, we fund tertiary and non-tertiary educational public institutions. If the private proprietors of universities want to be included as beneficiaries, nothing stops private proprietors of secondary schools from asking for the same thing because just as we have private polytechnics, we have private polytechnics, private colleges of education and private secondary schools. For now, the law says 'public,' and that is what we are following. Secondly, public institutions are guided more by social considerations rather than by profit. Of course there are some private institutions that are not necessarily driven by profit, such as the faith-based institutions, but at the same time, they are free to charge the kind of fees that cannot be contemplated in public tertiary institutions. As it is today, latest statistics from the NUC has shown that only three percent of Nigerian students are enrolled in the private universities, which means about 97 percent are enrolled in public institutions, with the majority being in the federal universities. So if somebody has convinced the NUC that he or she has the capacity to establish a private university, there is no reason why he or she should go through the backdoor now and agitate for a government agency to fund its projects. The law doesn't permit the funding of private educational institutions, whether it is a tertiary or non-tertiary. Even the proposed amend hasn't contemplated that at all.

Speak more on the N40 million allocations to universities for staff training and development in your 2008 budget. Is it for each university?

Each university has been allocated the sum of N40 million for staff training and

development. Each polytechnics, whether federal or state, has been allocated N22.4 million and each college of education has been allocated N10 million. The criteria used for the sharing formula is 2:1:1. 50 percent of the entire budget goes to the universities, and the polytechnics and colleges of education will be sharing the remaining 50 per cent. But the polytechnics are getting marginally higher than the colleges of education because you have colleges of education than polytechnics. We are funding about 50 polytechnics and we are funding over 60 colleges of education. We made some money available to for research, N10 million to each university and N5 million to each polytechnics and colleges of education. However, from the proposal we have received so far from the institutions, there is no serious research. So, we again asked for the minister's approval in the absence of our Board of Trustees to re-align the budget, so that the N10 million meant for research per each university could be added to the money staff training and development, which means each university will now get N50 million for staff training and development, each polytechnic will get N27.24 million and each college of education will get N15 million for the same purpose.

How does ETF address complaints about secrecy surrounding allocations to the institutions, especially from the unions against the managements of such institutions? How does it also sanction the managements of institutions that embark on projects outside your core mandates?

Let me tell you something. I'm not sure that any Vice Chancellor or head of tertiary institution can do car parks or fences anymore. We will allocate based the resources available and based on the allocation formula attached to each university. The mistake we made in the past was to accept whatever proposals made by the universities. Now we do not accept such proposals. So you can't construct the drainages and car parks again, because you are required to propose the project and for us to grant the approval in principle we have to review the project. Once we do that, it will be easier for us to monitor such projects. We will not give you the money 100 percent. If it is construction, we give you 50 percent first tranche; 35 percent second

tranche and 15 percent retention. We will not the remaining 15 percent until we are satisfied that it has been satisfactorily completed. It is impossible now for institutions to propose projects outside their core mandates. Secondly, we have reports from all institutions at the tertiary level from the regulatory agencies and we have information on programmes that have been accredited, programmes that have been granted partial accreditation and those denied accreditation with the regulatory agencies stating the reasons why. So, when they make proposals, we compare such proposals with the accreditation reports. For instance, one of the VCs proposed to ETF to construct an administrative block. I said not under my watch will you do that. He the re-prioritized and said he wanted to use it to construct a Servicom office. I said no, I wouldn't allow that. It is only when we rejected the proposals twice that he discovered that he had three programmes that were denied accreditation, that he wanted to use the money to address the deficiencies. It is very sad that somebody from Abuja should tell a Vice Chancellor that between an academic programme and a Servicom office, he should select an academic programme.

Secrecy is a major source of problem. I had cause to address all our beneficiaries between the late November and early December last year at the NUC. We invited the Vice Chancellors and I addressed them under the auspices of NUC. In Kaduna, I spoke to the Rectors and Provosts of Monotechnics under the auspices of the NBTE and then in Abuja again, we addressed the Provosts of Colleges of Education under the auspices of the NCCE. One of the major problems is the culture of secrecy in a way ETF funds are handled by some heads of institutions, not all. Where we have given letters of allocation, they collect the letters and then there isn't an open process of how much has been received, let's sit down and decide what we are going to use what we are going to use the money for. I believe there should never be secrecy in the handling of public funds. I told them that we should do away with that culture. What we want to do again to promote the culture of openness is to insist that each beneficiary establishes a committee for the handling of ETF projects. The committee should be broadly representative of the entire strata of the institutions, including, most importantly, the unions, particularly the academic staff unions.



DRAFT IBRAHIM SHEKARAU MOVEMENT

4, Sokoto Road, Kwangila, P. O. Box 122, Zaria, Kaduna State.

WHO WE ARE

We are an association of Nigerians of like minds, united by our mutual belief in, and commitment to the actualization of Nigeria's greatness in our lifetime. We are pan-Nigerian in motivation and activism, non-ethnic, non-religious and non-sectarian. We do not belong to any of the existing political parties. Our membership cuts across all the existing configurations of the country. As an association, we transcend the existing configurations and intend to propel them into one just, united and great nation.

OUR LONG TERM GOAL

We believe that the greatest challenge of the nation is that of finding the leadership, which is not only strong and compassionate, but honest and exemplary and which possesses the legitimacy and capacity to unify and quickly modernize Nigeria on the basis of equity, social justice and freedom for all Nigerians and their communities. In addition, Nigerians are justifiably, anxious to experience the material and moral benefits of democracy. Therefore, we have established a national network of equally committed compatriots united by the common purpose of finding enduring solution to the myriads of the country's problems, and who will selflessly devote their energies and resources to achieve the concrete objectives of the nation through peaceful and legitimate means in the context of the democratic process.

OUR IMMEDIATE TASK

We have come to the thoughtful conclusion that the immediate threat to our young democratic order is the seeming entrenchment of a government, which has been patently lacking in consistency and a sense of direction and which has remained insensitive to the considerable and widespread hardships being experienced by low income groups in the country. After a careful examination of the nation's political landscape, we are fully convinced that this stage of our democracy demands that we assess the country's leaders who have the requisite experience and track record of broad mindedness, creativity and ready-made solutions to the fundamental problems of Nigeria, and have the capacity to generate the momentum for sustainable growth and development.

To this end, we are endeared to the idea of an Ibrahim Shekarau Presidency come 2011. Armed with the benefit of hindsight, experience of six years of governance as Governor of Kano State and a pool of new ideas, new techniques and ingenuity, innovation and values, bold focus and fearlessness in governance, a Shekarau Presidency will set Nigeria on a new height and vigor, productive economy and prosperity.

We have therefore set ourselves the selfless and patriotic task of democratically drafting His Excellency, Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau, Executive Governor of Kano State into the race for the Presidency of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in 2011. Nigerians from across all divides love him and understand him; and even those who dislike him or disagree with him openly acknowledge his political and leadership ingenuity, appeal and creativity, virtues, simplicity and humility.

WHY WE ARE CALLING ON MALLAM IBRAHIM SHEKARAU

We are calling on Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau to present himself for service to the nation at this critical moment. This call is being made on behalf of millions of Nigerian men and women at home and abroad, cutting across age, profession, belief, class, tribe, gender, geo-political zone and community. All those who share the idea that in the current democratic dispensation of Nigeria, Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau is among the few State Governors who have provided a purposeful, focused, enlightened and compassionate leadership are hereby invited to share with us the noble commitment to the **Shekarau for President Project**.

Against the background of unprecedented economic hardships, stagnation, continued downward spiral of the economy, insecurity, lawlessness and violence in our dear country, we believe that a continuation of a leadership which runs on poverty of ideas and spurns the value of long term strategies is the greatest threat to our young democracy and the peace and stability of the nation. In the coming months and years we must work very hard to reverse this negative trend. Perhaps, more than at any time in the history of this country, Nigerians are looking forward to a purposeful, diligent and effective leadership. Yes, they are looking forward to a leadership which has the capacity to re-shape our approach to economic and political philosophy so that the ethics which built this country can be revived; a leadership which has the courage to launch a fresh initiative to develop a better understanding among Nigerians about their economic life; their social needs; their national institutions and political life.

We are aware that there are other excellent and potential presidential materials in Nigeria who each, have something unique to offer the country. But we believe that only Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau alone can best put together the broadest possible coalition with the charisma and excitement, vision, national acceptability and international outreach, as well as the substance, to beat the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in a freely and fairly contested presidential election come April 2011. Furthermore, we believe that this is an urgent challenge and national assignment which Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau cannot, and must not, evade but which indeed he must embrace.

Specifically, we are setting for Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau a 9-Point Task, which is the centerpiece of a **4-Year Blue Print for Change**, which we and all our affiliate Associations shall press on him to pursue in the context of a democratic Nigeria. He is free to remain in the All Nigerian Peoples Party (ANPP) or join any registered political party of his choice but we shall guarantee him the support of millions of Nigerians across the length and breadth of the nation. We are convinced that a Shekarau Presidency and a vigorous application of aggressive policies shall speedily transform many of our material advantages as a nation into catalysts for growth. The components of the 9-point task can be viewed in our website: www.draftibrahimshekarau.com

CALLING ON ALL NIGERIANS

Our movement is open to all Nigerians, including members of the existing political parties. We are embarking on nation-wide membership expansion drive. Individuals and existing associations are hereby invited to register their membership.

ALL YOU NEED TO DO

Send your name and address or membership list or register to our Protem National Coordinating Office as follows:

By Personal Visit: 4, Sokoto Road, Kwangila, Zaria, Kaduna State.
By Post: P.O. Box 122, Zaria
By Phone: 069-87 54 76; 080 509 80 846
By e-mail: draftshekarauovt@yahoo.com;
membership@draftibrahimshekarau.com

Or visit our website: www.draftibrahimshekarau.com

No Membership Fee! No Registration Fee!! It is Your Freedom to Associate!!!

Signed:
Chairman,
Interim National Coordination Committee.

INSIDE POLITICS

Court stops arrest of DPP chair

A Federal High Court in Abuja has barred the police from arresting the Sokoto State Chairman of the Democratic People's Party (DPP) Alhaji Umarun Kwabo, who the State Commission of Inquiry wanted arrested over an investigation into his tenure as chairman of the state Pilgrims Welfare Agency.

Following an alleged mob attack on him and his lawyers on March 4, Kwabo had excused himself from appear-

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin
ing before the commission for lack of security.

The commission, in reaction, issued a bench warrant asking the Inspector General of Police and the Sokoto State Commissioner of Police to arrest Kwabo for failing to appear before it.

But Kwabo, through his counsel Tayo Jegede (SAN), asked the court to enforce his fundamental rights by quashing the arrest warrant

issued against him.

After evaluating submissions of counsel to the parties involved, Justice Garba Umar ruled thus: "Those parties are ordered to stay all actions pending the hearing and determination of the notice of objection and substantive application."

He also ordered the parties to file their written addresses within two weeks, and adjourned the matter to May 4 for adoption of the addresses.

DPP tasks Useni on North's unity

The Democratic People's Party (DPP) has advised its national chairman and the new Board of Trustees (BOT) chairman of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), retired Gen. Jeremiah Useni, to sustain the unity and development of the North.

DPP's acting Director of Media and Publicity Malam Abubakar Ateku Yusuf said

By Abbas Jimoh

at the weekend in Abuja that Useni should consolidate the achievements recorded by his predecessors. He said Useni's election was well deserved.

Useni took over from Alhaji Magaji Dambatta as ACF's BOT chairman, after an election in Kaduna last week. He is to serve in that

capacity for the next five years.

"It is the wish of the party (DPP) that our chairman (Useni) consolidates the achievements recorded under the late Chief Sunday Awoniyi and this can only be achieved with a strengthened unity of the North and the nation at large," Ateku said.

Reject bond bill, PDP tells Abia lawmakers

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Abia State has urged lawmakers in the state to defeat the Abia State Registered Bond Bill presented to them last week under which Governor Theodore Orji plans to raise N30billion from the capital market.

PDP chairman in the state Mr. Ndidi Okereke said in a statement that the proposal was a scam aimed at siphoning state funds while enslaving Abia people for the next 50 years.

Okereke described the proposed borrowing as a calculated scheme to defraud

By Abbas Jimoh

the state through the award and re-award of phantom projects.

He questioned the legality of the state government "bringing up a bill to borrow N30billion from the capital market when the State Executive Council is dissolved and an outstanding N20billion debt exposure to commercial banks, for which Irrevocable Standing Payment Orders have already been signed, the expectation that the bond would be offset through federal allocation already sounds hollow and

untenable."

He said, "It is an illegal bill because it did not pass through executive due process. The explanatory note accompanying the proposed Bill as submitted to the State House of Assembly is a scanty document bereft of any valuable information and laden with fraudulent intents and inconsistencies. Granting this illegitimate request from the government, under any guise, would be tantamount to legislative rubber stamp on a scam which could destroy the state's financial foundations."

Rep applauds Yar'adua's electoral reform

Rep. Abasi Braimah (PDP-Edo) has applauded President Umaru Yar'adua for having the courage to initiate the electoral reform process. In an interview in Abuja, the lawmaker said Nigerians should salute the courage of the president in fulfilling his promise of reforming the electoral process.

Braimah representing Etsako federal constituency of Edo State, said the bravery exhibited by the Yar'adua in setting up the electoral reform process would go a long way in engendering free, fair and transparent elections in the country.

"Let me commend Mr President for having the courage to say, let us reform

our electoral process. That is to say, we have a new leadership, which is responsive to the needs and aspirations of Nigerians," he said.

The lawmaker said that though a lot of complaints



President Umaru Yar'adua

trailed the Uwais' committee's report, "we are still moving in a right direction. We must create a win-win situation, I believe it is a monumental milestone where we should take something positive out of the report."

Speaking on the review of the constitution, Braimah said the House of Representatives was committed to carrying out its responsibilities which included the review. "Parliament is the bastion of any nation, it is the instrument of social engineering, and as the holder of power in trust for the Nigerian people, the House has a constitutional duty to carry out its mandate given to it by Nigerians that include constitutional review," he said. (NAN)

FEDERAL COLLEGE OF FRESHWATER FISHERIES TECHNOLOGY, BAGA

P.M.B. 1060, MAIDUGURI, BORNO STATE
bagafishcol@yahoo.com 08050305033; 08026477321

(FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES)



INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

A. INTRODUCTION

The Federal College of Freshwater Fisheries Technology, Baga, (FCFFT) Borno State, a Parastatal under the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources hereby invites applications for pre-qualification exercise from competent and interested companies/ contractors for execution of the approved projects under its 2009 Capital budget.

B. SCOPE OF WORK

- LOT 1A Supply of metal lathe machine.
- LOT 1B Supply of netting materials
- LOT 2A Supply of smoking kiln.
- LOT 2B Supply of solar drying tents
- LOT 3A Construction of fish pond.
- LOT 3B Supply of water recirculatory system
- LOT 4 Part Perimeter fencing of college premises (Construction of Entrance Gate)
- LOT 5A Supply of laboratory equipment.
- LOT 5B Supply of laboratory chemicals
- LOT 6 Supply of office furniture
- LOT 7 Rehabilitation of staff quarters
- LOT 8 Rehabilitation of classrooms (Terrazzo)
- LOT 9A Supply of tractor with trailer
- LOT 9B Supply of tractor implements (Harrow, Plough, Ridger, Slasher)
- LOT 10A Supply of Surveying/Navigation equipment.
- LOT 10B Supply of Audio- Visual equipment
- LOT 11 Rehabilitation of Fish feed mill building

C. PRE-QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

- Interested contractors/companies are required to submit the following:
- (i) Evidence of incorporation with the Corporate Affairs Commission
 - (ii) Current tax clearance certificate for the last three (3) years (2006, 2007 & 2008)
 - (iii) Company VAT registration certificate and evidence of remittances
 - (iv) Company Profile with qualifications and experiences of key staff
 - (v) Verifiable list of similar jobs properly executed in the past.
 - (vi) Evidence of financial capability and banking support.

D. SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

All pre-qualification documents should be in a sealed envelope and marked "PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS" indicating boldly the **LOT No** of the project. Companies / Contractors applying for more than one LOT should submit separate application for each LOT, addressed and submitted to:

THE PROVOST
FEDERAL COLLEGE OF FRESHWATER FISHERIES
TECHNOLOGY, BAGA
P.M.B. 1060,
MAIDUGURI, BORNO STATE.

E. OPENING OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Opening of pre-qualification documents will be held six weeks from the date of this advertisement at 12:00 noon in the presence of the bidders or their representatives at the College Mini Conference Room. Please note that this advertisement is not an invitation to tender. Full tendering will apply only to contractors/companies that have been pre-qualified. The College is not bound to accept any particular documents nor any conditions attached to it.

Signed
Provost

Federal College of Freshwater Fisheries Technology, Baga.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

PACEMAKERS' SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

This is to notify the general public that the above mentioned organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for Registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap 59, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990

The Trustees are:

1. Jenkeri Zakari Okwori
2. Ibrahim Shaibu
3. Mary Ali
4. Ladi Deborah Alabi
5. Dominic Ichaba
6. Gladys Brume
7. Danladi Musa
8. Fatima Abubakar
9. Alex Ibitoye

Aims and Objectives

1. To actively participate in and advocate for lasting development and sustainable change.
 2. To empower citizens through training and awareness, for social development.
 3. To embark on research work for societal development.
- Any objection(s) to the above registration should be forwarded to the Registrar, Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja within 28 Days from this publication.

Signed:

Barr. Ladi Deborah Alabi

ROAD SAFETY OFFICERS WIVES ASSOCIATION (ROSOWA)

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Association has applied for change of Board of Trustee and amendment of the constitution under the Company and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1999 part C.

OLD TRUSTEES ARE

1. Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Haldu Anthony Hananiya (rtd)
2. Mrs. Rhoda Hananiya
3. Engr. Yemi Agoro
4. Mr. Romanus Ifechi Fred (JP)
5. Commander Oyewole Jatto (JP)
6. Mrs. Benny Alpoh
7. Mrs. Sarah Jummai Dakup

NEW TRUSTEES ARE

1. Mr. Osita Chidoka Corps -Marshal/Chief Executive FRSC
2. Mrs. Chidinma Chidoka -National President - ROSOWA
3. A.K Browne (Commander)
4. Commander J. Asom
5. Mrs. Aishatu S. Abarshi

Any objection should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama, P.M.B 198, Abuja within 28 days of this publications.

Signed:

Nwachukwu .O.

CALLISTUS OPARA FOUNDATION

This is to notify the general public that the above mentioned foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap 59, laws of 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. CIRI MONIGOD - CHAIRMAN
2. REV. FR. PETER I. ADOBOH
3. REV. FR. AUSTINE IBEZIMAKO
4. OKECHUKWU OPARA
5. LEONA CHINYERE OPARA - SECRETARY

The aims and objectives are:

1. Providing aid to the poorest of the poor.
 2. Providing vocational training for the youth.
- Any objections to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

OKECHUKWU OPARA
BVM SOLICITORS, SUITE A19 KAYS PLAZA,
NO. 48 EBITU UKIWE STREET, JABI.

NASRIL ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF NIGERIA

This is to notify the general public that the above named Society has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap 59, laws of 1990.

Trustees are:

1. Alhaji Muhammad Saheed Usman
2. Hajiya Fatima Binta Usman
3. Hajiya Lateefah Abubakar
4. Abdulwasii Abdulazeez
5. Ismael Bello
6. Sheu Ibrahim
7. Abdulmajeed Yunus
8. Mukadam Yusuf Adebayo

Aims & Objectives

1. To propagate Islamic religion in Nigeria
 2. To promote Islamic knowledge through establishment of Islamic centers in Nigeria.
- Any objections to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, PMB 198, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Aya Alhassan
Suite 14 2nd floorGidan Mabaiyi
Ahmadu Bello Way, Kaduna.

SOLOMON IYOBOSA EDEBIRI CENTRE FOR CHANGE

This is to notify the general public that the above named Centre has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap 59, laws of 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Solomon Iyobosa Edebiri (JP), MON
2. Vivian Isowanwen Edebiri
3. Gideon Oronsaye
4. Ikpomwosa Martins Edebiri
5. Itohan Ekwerike

Aims & Objectives

1. To provide, fight and propagate change in Nigerian ideas about Society and Governance
 2. To provide better leadership
 3. To promote love and better understanding among the members
 4. To inculcate the spirit of respect and change in the members
 5. Promote Social development, educational, literary, scientific, cultural activities among members of the Centre and Nigerians in general.
- Any objections to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

OGUAFOR & PARTNERS
52 Bekweri Wosu Street
D/Line,
PortHarcourt.

CHRIST DIVINE FAITH MINISTRY

This is to notify the general public that the above mentioned foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap 59, laws of 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Rev. (Dr.) Adewale Adetayo Adeyemi - Chairman
2. Rev. (Dr.) Mrs Arinade Aduke Adeyemi-Secretary
3. Pastor Olabode Orekoya

The Aims and Objectives:

1. To propagate the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to all nations
2. To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the standard of belief set in the Bible

Any objections to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

Secretary

YARIMAN BAKURALIKE MINDS FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Foundation has applied to the corporate Affairs Commission for the registration under part "C" of the companies and Applied matters Act 1990.

TRUSTEES

1. KASIM SANI KAURA
2. IBRAHIM MOHAMMAD
3. BASHIR HASIMU
4. DR. UMAR M. ANGO
5. MUHAMMAD H. ALI
6. DR. YUSUF A. BAFFA
7. ABUBAKAR M. MA'AJI
8. MUHAMMAD MAIGANDI
9. ABUBAKAR MAIGIDAN KAIWA

Aims & Objectives

1. To promote good quality leadership
2. To provide scholarship
3. To promote peace among members.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the registrar General, Corporate Affairs commission within 28 days of this publication.

Signed by

Alh. Kasim sani Kaura
(chairman)

LOSS OF ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

This is to inform the general public of the loss of Original Certificate of Incorporated Trustees of ZUMA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IRRUA and the Constitution of the organization which was incorporated on the 17th day of February 1994 with Certificate number 7708.

The Original Copy of the Certificate was in the Custody of the Pioneer Chairman, Dr. Christopher Gbelokoto Okojie who died on the 7th day of October, 2006. Therefore all efforts to trace the documents proved abortive and as such we are hereby applying to Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for the re-issuance of certified true copy of the said documents.

Signed:

Dr. S.E. Okojie
Hon. Justice S.O. Olgbokie

TAUBAT FOUNDATION FOR ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

This is to notify the general public that the above named organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap 59, laws of 1990.

The Names of Trustees are:

1. Rabiat Umar Bello - Chairman
2. Maryam Auwal
3. Taubiat Yazeed
4. Amina Umar Bello
5. Bilyaminu Umar Bello - Secretary
6. Kabir Ibrahim Donga

Aims and Objectives

- a. To provide continuous educational support in a sustainable way to orphans and less privileged Nigerian Children for all levels of education or vocational training.
- b. To provide the educational support in form of payments of school fees, educational supplies, uniforms and other forms of necessities that will facilitate the learning ability of the children.
- c. To provide direct assistance to the guardians and helpless single parents or orphans and less privileged Nigerian Children through educational assistance.

Any objections to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, PMB 198, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

AMINA AHMED-FARI

ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT TRANSPORTERS KWARA STATE

This is to notify the general public that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap 59, laws of 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Alh. Saliu Idris Gambari (Chairman)
2. Odediran Taiwo (Secretary)
3. Alh. Morufu Kajogbola Salaudeen
4. Alh. Abdulrasaq Ariwo
5. Alh. Faruq Yusuf Opeleyeru

Aims and Objectives

1. To cater for the wellbeing of the members
2. To promote Peace, Unity and progress of the entire transporters
3. To protect the general interest of members of this association and their properties.

Any objections to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

Barr. Ibitoye Issacs

TOUCH OF LIFE FOUNDATION

This is to notify the general public that the above named Body has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap 59, laws of 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Dr. Zanna Muhammad
2. Hon. (Barr.) Vidiyeno H. Bamaiyi
3. Prof. Umar Pate
4. Hajiya Hauwa Baba Suntai
5. Mr. Nazzal Taylor
6. Dr. Rais Ibrahim
7. Dr. Hamisu Abubakar Garba
8. Mrs. Ginika Tor
9. Mrs. Christiana Ngu Galadima
10. Hajiya Jamila Zanna Muhammad

The Aims and Objectives are:

1. To impact skills such that women, the girl-child and orphans are economically empowered to be independent, thereby discouraging street begging and prostitution.
2. To give desired love and care for all in general who seemed to be neglected by the society.
3. To help in giving micro-financing to the less privileged and how to manage it.
4. To help in nations building.

Any objections to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, No 420, Tigris Crescent, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

Ahmad Adamu & Halima Nagogo, Esq.
08033870923, 08068984461

ABILITY FOCUS FOUNDATION

This is to notify the general public that the above named foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap 59, laws of 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. MS Ayoola Olubukola Fajeyi
2. Hon. Oluwole Oke
3. Mr. Emmanuel Amosu

The Aims and Objectives are:

1. To cater for the needy, disabled and underprivileged Nigerians
2. To increase employability through vocational skills training
3. To promote health and wellness by developing health literacy, hygiene and basic life skills.
4. Providing an array of rehabilitation services to remove the barriers to self-sufficiency stemming from disability.
5. Ensure care and support services for mothers and all individuals living with HIV and their families.

Any objections to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, PMB 198, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

OLATOUNA KOLAWOLE & CO
LEGAL PRACTITIONERS.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

George F. Habis

Lost passport No 1046299

At Birnin kebbi. Please if found return to No.3 post office road, canteen Daji, Gusau, Zangare State or call 08086338466, 08051649922.

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the AGIS Abuja and the general public of the loss of my original copies of the receipt paid in respect of application for allocation of residential plot in the Federal Capital Territory Abuja and the original copies of the acknowledgement letters Ref No. FCDA/EST/80/BN/139 on 3rd February 1981 and that 16/6/86 respectively. All efforts made to trace the said documents proved abortive. Abuja Geographic Information Systems (AGIS) to please take note.

Signed:

Mr. David Audu Ahmed.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

TRUMPET SOUND INLAND MISSIONS

This is to notify the general public that the above named organization has applied for registration under part (C) of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No.1 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- Jacob Tanko Garba-Paiko-Co-ordinator/Chairman Board of Trustees
- Godwin Festus - General Secretary
- Faustina Nwabueze - Member
- Abraham Garba - Member
- Lovely Onajite Ebojoh - Member
- Tabitha Aloh - Member

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- Christian Discipleship.
- Economic Empowerment at the grassroots.
- Educational Awareness to youths at grassroots.
- Resource mobilization and allocation for missions.

Any objection to the above registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420B, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Godwin Festus
(General Secretary)

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the general public that four original land documents D1589, D1590, D1901 located at Mpampe and D139 located at Peyi all in Bwari Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory with Alhaji Adamu Sule have been declared missing. Anyone who has information in respect of the missing documents should call Alhaji Adamu Sule on the following numbers: 08063466102 and 08056522228 or submit them to the nearest police station. AGIS Bwari to please take note.

LOSS OF CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

This is to inform the general public that the Original Offer of Terms of Grant/Conveyance of Approval with File No. OG 229 in respect of Plot 488 in Kuciyako District Kuje, belonging to OLUSOLA M. GBADEBO of RCCG, Abuja and the Original Offer of Terms of Grant/Conveyance of Approval in respect of plot 2139 in Barwa Layout, belonging to OLALEKAN BABALOLA of Suite 16, Landmark Plaza Maitama, Abuja, are hereby declared missing and all efforts to trace it proved abortive. If found, please forward to MESSRS. FOMBINA CHAMBERS, Suite 16, Landmark Plaza, Plot 3124, IBB Way, Maitama - Abuja.

AUTO MOBILE AND TOURING CLUB OF NIGERIA

This is to notify the general public that the above named Club has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap 59, laws of 1990.

Trustees are:

- Bamaiyi Ishaka Bamaiyi
- Hadiza Bamaiyi
- Ter Atagher

Aims and objectives:

- To promote Road Safety Programmes
- To train people on Driving and Navigational Skills
- Give Motor related advice and Information

Any objections to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420B, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Lex Primus

CHANGE OF NAME

WE FORMERLY KNOW AND ADRESSED AS MR ALPHONSUS .C.O NYENUFORO., MRS CECILIA .U. ONYENUFORO, JUSTIN IFEANYI ONYENUFORO, CHIZOBA .C. ONYENUFORO. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADRESSED AS MR. ALPHONUS C. NWABUGWU, MRS. CECILIA U. NWABUGWU, JUSTIN IFEANYI NWABUGWU, CHIZOBA NWABUGWU. ALL FORMER DOCUMENT REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE

I formerly known as MISS MERCY CHIBUOGWU OJIMADU now wish to be known as MRS. MERCY CHIBUOGWU NWOKOMA. All former documents remain valid, general public should take note.

FORMERLY MISS MARY TIYI ADAMU, NOW MARY ROWLAND BODUNDE. COMMUNITY STAFF SCHOOL ASOKORO ABUJA AND GENERAL PUBLIC NOTE.

I, formerly known as OLORUNGBON BOLA RAPHAEL, now wish to be known as ISAAC BOLA RAPHAEL. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly FLORENCE CHINYERE EZEH, now wish to be called FLORENCE CHINYERE EDACHE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly MISS OBEIDAT AYOOLA OGUNBIADE now wish to be known as MRS. OBEIDAT AYOOLA YUSUF. All former documents remain valid. Code of Conduct Tribunal and general public to note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as SHEHU USMAN HARUNA, now wish to be known as USMAN HARUNA. All former documents remain valid. NHRC note.

I, formerly MISS OYESANWO ADEJOKE BOLANLE now wish to be addressed as MRS ADEYEMI ADEJOKE BOLANLE. All former documents remain valid. IMSU Owerri, FCMB, Kwara Poly, Ilorin and general public take note.

I, formerly called MAGAJI SANI, now wish to be called AYUBA HABU. All former documents remain valid. The authority concern and general public to note.

I, formerly MUHAMMAD UMAR SANI, now MUHAMMAD UMAR BABA. All former documents remain valid, universities, general public to note.

I, formerly RIFKATU BAKO now REGINA ABU. All former documents remain valid, Nigerian Air Force, ministry of defence, general public should please take note.

I, formerly known as UMMA ISA now wish to be called UMMUKHAIRI SA'IDU. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly MISS CHINYERE JULIE AMALAH now wish to be MRS CHINYERE JULIE IBE EWENDU. All former documents remain valid employer and general public to note.

I, formerly OLUWATOYIN ANTHONIA ADAMOLEKUN now wish to be called MRS OLUWATIYIN ANTHONIA AINA. All former documents should remain valid. UBA Plc and general public should take note.

I, formerly SAIDU YAHAYA of Yelwa Plateau State, now SAEED ABDULLAHI YAHAYA, Darki-Wudil LGA Kano State. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly called AISHA SALEH ENE, now wish to be called AISHA SALEH ABDULLAHI. All former documents remain valid. Bayero University, Kano to please note.

I, formerly MR. LARAYETAN FOLORUNSHO EDWARD, now MR. LARAYETAN OLUFUNSHO EDWARD.

I, formerly known as GOMINA O. OLUWAFUNKE, wish to be addressed as BAKARE KUEJRAT OLUFUNKE.

I formerly MISS MONSURAT ABOLORE YAHAYA, now to be called MRS. ISHOLA MONSURAT ABOLORE. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly known as MISS COMFORT INYANG UDOFA, no wish to be addressed as MRS. COMFORT EMMANUEL NSAH. Former documents remain valid. UBA, UNICAL and general public take note.



JOB VACANCIES

Successory Nigeria Ltd

Recruits on behalf of a New International Microfinance Bank

To launch its operations in Kaduna City, a new Microfinance Bank seeks to recruit: Human Resources Manager, Accountant, IT Manager, Purchase / Logistics Officer, Loan Officers, Client Advisors and Cashiers.

Human Resources Manager

Responsibilities
The Human Resources Manager will lead the Human Resources Department which is in charge of all personnel matters from hiring, to training, to performing evaluations.

Qualifications/Skills

- University degree in Business Administration, Human Resources Management or General Economics
- Minimum 5 years of experience in human resources related role with experience in managing staff (required)
- Track record in developing a Human Resources Department based on performance management (valuable)
- Past experience in the financial sector (valuable)
- Knowledge of Nigerian labour law and employment practices
- Excellent presentation, organisational and training skills
- Strong analytical skills with entrepreneurial personality and team orientation

Accountant

Responsibilities

The Accountant will be in charge of booking all daily records and preparing financial reports in compliance with local regulations and best practices.

Qualifications/Skills

- University degree in Business Administration or Accounting
- Minimum 5 years of experience in accounting with a track record in developing a proficient department
- Past experience in the financial sector (valuable)
- Knowledge of Nigerian accounting practices and regulations
- Strong analytical skills with excellent presentation and organisational skills
- High level of integrity

IT Manager

Responsibilities

The IT Manager will be in charge of all hardware and software related issues in the microfinance bank.

Qualifications/Skills

- University degree in IT
- Minimum 5 years of experience in IT management with a track record in developing a proficient department
- Past experience in the financial sector (valuable)
- Knowledge in Nigerian IT infrastructure requirements
- Detailed oriented with organisational skills
- Strong analytical skills with entrepreneurial personality and team/user orientation

Purchase / Logistics Officer

Responsibilities

The Purchase / Logistics Officer will be responsible for planning and executing both purchases and logistics.

Qualifications/Skills

- University degree in Business Administration, Management or General Economics
- Minimum 5 years of experience in Purchase / Logistics in a well-established company
- Strong interpersonal and negotiation skills
- Organisational expertise

Loan Officers

Responsibilities

Loan Officers are responsible for recruiting and managing a loan portfolio of up to 200 microentrepreneurs. Pre-loan disbursement tasks include promoting products, evaluating and analysing businesses, preparing loan synthesis for credit committee and presenting the cases. Post-loan disbursement tasks include monitoring visits to business, following up on loan repayment, managing loan recovery and assessing the impact of loan for renewal.

Qualifications/Profile

- Diploma: ND minimum with basic knowledge in accounting, finance and mathematics
- Articulate, well spoken with fluency in English (written/spoken)
- Detail and target oriented
- Self starter, able to work alone
- Creative and innovative
- Customer service oriented
- Dynamic and motivated individuals who like to work outdoor

Client Advisors

Responsibilities:

As Client Advisor, the main responsibilities include mobilising deposits, managing savings accounts, data entry and control of client data in the information system.

Qualifications/Profile

- Diploma: ND minimum
- Articulate, well-spoken
- Fluent in English (spoken/written)
- Detail and target oriented
- Customer service oriented

Cashiers

Responsibilities

As Cashier, the main responsibility is cash management in the bank branches. Each cashier will be responsible and accountable for the efficient and accurate operation of one teller.

Qualifications/Profile

- Diploma: ND minimum
- Fluent in English (spoken/written)
- Detailed oriented
- Self motivated



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ADVERT RATE

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	RATE (N)	VAT (N)	RATE (N)	VAT (N)
Full Page	324,000.00	16,200.00	432,000.00	21,600.00
Half Page	162,000.00	8,100.00	216,000.00	10,800.00
Quarter Page	81,000.00	4,050.00	108,000.00	5,400.00
10"x6 cols	225,000.00	11,250.00	297,000.00	14,850.00
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8"x5 cols	169,200.00	8,460.00	234,000.00	11,700.00
8"x4 cols	126,000.00	6,300.00	187,200.00	9,360.00
8"x3 cols	122,400.00	6,120.00	169,200.00	8,460.00
7"x6 cols	153,000.00	7,650.00	198,000.00	9,900.00
7"x5 cols	144,000.00	7,200.00	187,200.00	9,360.00
7"x4 cols	122,400.00	6,120.00	180,000.00	9,000.00
6"x6 cols	147,600.00	7,380.00	188,400.00	9,420.00
6"x5 cols	135,000.00	6,750.00	183,600.00	9,180.00
6"x4 cols	118,800.00	5,940.00	176,400.00	8,820.00
6"x3 cols	72,000.00	3,600.00	97,200.00	4,860.00
6"x2 cols	63,000.00	3,150.00	81,000.00	4,050.00
5"x5 cols	126,000.00	6,300.00	180,000.00	9,000.00
5"x4 cols	113,400.00	5,670.00	178,200.00	8,910.00
5"x3 cols	68,400.00	3,420.00	171,000.00	8,550.00
5"x2 cols	54,000.00	2,700.00	91,800.00	4,590.00
4"x6 cols	126,000.00	6,300.00	73,800.00	3,690.00
4"x5 cols	115,200.00	5,760.00	171,000.00	8,550.00
4"x4 cols	104,400.00	5,220.00	163,800.00	8,190.00
4"x3 cols	63,000.00	3,150.00	82,800.00	4,140.00
4"x2 cols	48,600.00	2,430.00	68,400.00	3,420.00
3"x2 cols	30,600.00	1,530.00	45,000.00	2,250.00
3"x3 cols	45,000.00	2,250.00	54,000.00	2,700.00
2"x2 cols	21,600.00	1,080.00	36,000.00	1,800.00
1"x1 col	4,500.00	225.00	5,400.00	270.00

SPECIAL POSITIONS	RATE (N)	VAT (N)
Page 2 or 3	950,400	47,520
Page 4 or 5	864,000	43,200
Front Page Strip (2" x 6 cols)	342,000	17,100
Front Page Solus (6" x 2 cols)	342,000	17,100
Back Page Strip	324,000	16,200
Front Page Earpiece	120,000	6,000
Back Page Earpiece	96,000	4,800
Centre Spread	1,360,800	68,040
Double Spread	1,008,000	50,400
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ROP Strip (Colour)	132,000	6,600

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Registration of Trustees	3" x 2 cols	15,000	750
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Per 1000 copies (1 Sheet)	30,000	1,500
Per 1000 copies (Magazines)	50,000	2,500

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Width - 10"	21-51 Insertions 10%

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FIFA U-20 WORLD CUP

Flying Eagles draw Spain, Venezuela

Nigeria's Flying Eagles yesterday bagged an easy draw for the FIFA U-20 World Cup scheduled to take place in Egypt between September 24 and October 16 this year in the five host cities of Alexandria, Ismailia, Cairo, Port Said, and Suez.

By Ismaila Umaru Lere

Yesterday's official draw in Luxor, Egypt, which threw up six intriguing groups with many mouth-watering clashes, saw the Eagles streamed in Group B along with former world youth champions Spain;

South American qualifier Venezuela and liliputians Tahiti, who will represent Oceania having shocked onlookers to qualify and be the first Pacific island nation to appear at the tournament.

The draw ceremony at the Temple of Luxor was attended by a large number of VIP guests. FIFA Director of Competitions Jim Brown conducted the draw, assisted by Shawki Gharieb, assistant coach of Egypt's national team, Aya Medany, the female modern pentathlon world champion,

and a trio of distinguished former Egypt internationals: Hazem Emam, Hady Khashaba and Taher Abou Zeid.

The team making the draw conjured up a string of fascinating encounters at the group stage. Host Egypt will face Italy, Paraguay and Trinidad & Tobago in Group A.

European champions Germany must contend with USA, Korea Republic and African qualifiers Cameroon in Group C, while South American top dogs Brazil face the challenge posed by Czech Republic, Aus-

tralia and Costa Rica in Group E.

In Group D African champions Ghana will take on England, Uruguay and Uzbekistan, whereas South Africa are streamed along with Honduras, Hungary and the United Arab Emirates in Group F.

Egypt will meet Trinidad and Tobago in the opening match on Thursday 24 September at the Egyptian Army Stadium in Alexandria.

Nigeria will start its campaign against Venezuela on

Friday, September 25 in Cairo.

The FIFA U-20 World Cup has long been a breeding ground for future FIFA World Cup stars to make a first impression on the international stage. Such luminaries as Diego Maradona in the competition's fledgling era, through to modern giants of the game such as Lionel Messi, Kaka, Thierry Henry and 2007 golden-boy Sergio Aguero are all graduates of the FIFA U-20 World Cup.

A new name could well be etched onto the trophy at the 16 October final with a number of teams stating their credentials in qualifying combined with the fact that reigning and six-time champions Argentina failed to qualify making the tournament as wide open as ever.

Having appeared at every tournament bar one, Brazil will inevitably be strong contenders that many will wish to avoid in the draw, having won on four occasions, mostly recently in 2003.

Heartland, Pillars progress in Champions League

Heartland and Kano Pillars advanced to the next round of the CAF Champions League but Ocean Boys were eliminated on penalties by Red Arrows.

Heartland held FAR Rabat 1-1 in the second leg of their second round tie to advance 4-1 on aggregate, while Pillars had their 1-1 first leg draw to be grateful to after finishing 0-0 in the second leg played in Kaduna.

Pillars squandered several scoring chances with Kingsley Elechi hitting the upright in the 38th minutes.

The Nigerian champions were denied on numerous occasions by string of daring saves from Ndiaye Issa in goal for the Senegalese Custom outfit.

In Rabat, Mohamed Madihi gave former African champions FAR OF Morocco hope with a goal in the 37th minute but Heartland's Signs Chibambo put the tie beyond doubt as he found the net in the 67th minute to give the Nigerian side a 4-2 aggregate victory.

Pillars next round opponents, Al-Ahly of Egypt beat Tanzania's Young Africans 1-0 in Dar es Salaam.

Angola striker Flavio scored the only goal of the game after just four minutes to complete a 4-0 aggregate win for the defending champions.

But former African champion JS Kabylie of Algeria crashed out as they lost in Libya 1-0 to Al Ahly Tripoli.

Omar Dawood's 39th-minute goal completed a 3-1 victory aggregate win for the Libyan side.

However, there was better news for two-time winners Tout Puissant Mazembe of DR Congo as they won 2-1 in Angola over Petro Atletico.

Two of the stars of the DR

By Ismaila Umaru Lere

Congo's win at the recent African Nations Championship in the Ivory Coast, Mputu Mabi and Dioko Kaluyituka, scored the goals for Mazembe.

David Magalhaes scored the consolation goal for Petro as the Congolese side won 5-1 on aggregate.

Sudan's Al Merreikh eased past visitors Al Ittihad of Libya 3-0 to complete a 4-1 aggregate win.

All the goals came in the first half, with two from Nigerian striker Endurance Idahor and one from Ragei Abdalla.

Zambia's Zesco United beat visiting Africa Sports from the Ivory Coast 2-0 and that was the same score on aggregate.

Maybin Mwaba scored the opening goal in the 59th minute and Enock Sakala completed the win 10 minutes later.

Meanwhile, Ajax Cape Town yesterday became the second South African side to crash out of the African Champions League after losing to Monomotapa of Zimbabwe.

The Zimbabwean champions won the second leg of the second round tie 2-1 on Sunday in Harare to make it 4-4 on aggregate.

Monomotapa advance on the away goals rule after losing 3-2 in South Africa three weeks ago.

The result means there is no South African club in the third round of the Champions League, after SuperSport United lost 3-2 on aggregate to Uganda's KCC on Saturday.

Also yesterday two-time African Champions Asante Kotoko of Ghana were knocked out by Morocco's Al Ittihad Khemisset on the away goals rule.

The Moroccans won the second leg 2-0 at home to make the score 3-3 on aggregate.



Andy Murray, of Britain, holds up his trophy after he defeated Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, 6-2, 7-5 during the men's singles finals at the Sony Ericsson Open tennis tournament yesterday, in Key Biscayne, Florida.

THE DRAW

Group A
Egypt
Trinidad & Tobago
Paraguay
Italy

Group B
Nigeria
Venezuela
Spain
Tahiti

Group C
USA
Germany
Cameroon
Korea Republic

Group D
Ghana
Uzbekistan
England
Uruguay

Group E
Brazil
Costa Rica
Czech Republic
Australia

Group F
United Arab Emirates
South Africa
Honduras
Hungary

Suntai: Taraba ultra-modern stadium near completion

Taraba Gov. Danbaba Suntai said in Yola that the state government would soon complete the Taraba ultra-modern sports complex initiated by the immediate past administration in the state.

Suntai, who is in Yola for a lawn tennis friendly between Adamawa and Taraba said this on Sunday while addressing newsmen.

The governor said the completion of the project was strategic to the devel-

opment of sports in the state.

He said already, his administration had a discussion with the contractor to ensure that the contract was fully executed.

Suntai described the project as one of the legacies of Mr Jolly Nyame as the governor of Taraba.

He said when completed, the stadium would be the best of its kind in

the northern part of the country.

Golden Eaglets for 4-nation tourney

Henry Nwosu, Chief Coach of under-17 national team, on Friday in Abuja said his team was battle ready to retain the FIFA Under-17 World Cup trophy.

"Nigerians should not doubt our readiness for this Under-17 World Cup," Nwosu said, at the annual SWAN Pillar of Sports five-a-side football tournament at the Old Parade Ground in Abuja.

"We are going to Dubai on Monday for a four-nation tournament and that will put the boys in good shape," he said.

The former Super Eagles player, however, said not all the Golden Eaglets players in camp will be part of the Dubai trip. "I have 28 boys in camp, but I will be going with 20 players and nine officials," Nwosu said.

He said when they returned to the country their normal routine training would continue.

"Our national tour will definitely continue when we come back from the Dubai trip," he said.

Quote of the Day

“I think this is the day of my dreams. What’s my dream? To have my debut and score a goal like that. I really enjoyed it.”

—Manchester United's youngster, Federico Machedo, who made his surprise debut on Sunday, reacting on his last minute decisive goal against Aston Villa which gave United a 3-2 victory and push them back to the top of the English Premier League.

Sports

Man Utd go top with last-gasp win

Federico Macheda scored a stunning late winner as Manchester United regained top spot in the Premier League.

United took the lead when Cristiano Ronaldo scored from an indirect free-kick after a James Milner backpass.

Villa deservedly equalised when Carew headed in Gareth Barry's superb cross and Gabriel Agbonlahor headed Villa in front from Carew's left-wing delivery.

But Ronaldo's low shot made it 2-2 before debutant Macheda turned in the box and curled home to snatch victory.

It was an incredible finish to a match that twisted and turned - and had looked to be going the way of Villa rather than the Champions.

But after digging deep, and finding inspiration from an untried 17-year-old, United have leapfrogged Liverpool at the top of the table.

And they also avoided a third successive league defeat, which would have been more galling given that Villa were thumped 5-0 by Liverpool in their last match.

They struggled with an unfamiliar back four that was forced upon them because of Rio Ferdinand's injury and Nemanja Vidic's suspension.

Gary Neville, returning from injury, was brought in to partner John O'Shea in the heart of defence, but that proved to be a costly mistake.

Carew quickly served notice that he would enjoy the mismatch against Neville when his header was scrambled clear via Darren Fletcher and the post.

And the visitors were in the mood to expose United's vulnerabilities.

The pace of Agbonlahor, back in the side for the injured Emile Heskey, and the poise and passing of Barry was causing United all manner of problems.

But United were handed a lifeline when James Milner passed the ball back to Brad Friedel, who picked the ball up, and the resulting free-kick in the area was cracked in by Ronaldo after Ryan Giggs had

rolled the ball to him.

The goal settled United's nerves and they began to stroke the ball around with more confidence, but without really penetrating.

And Villa remained dangerous on the break, particularly through Agbonlahor, whose speed was a big problem for Neville.

Ashley Young's free-kick was tipped over by Edwin van der Sar as Villa threatened.

From another quick counter Villa deservedly

restored parity, Barry's excellent right-wing cross powerfully headed into the bottom corner by Carew as Neville stood by helplessly.

Shortly after, Neville was switched with right-back Jonny Evans - but it had been a half-hour to forget for the former United skipper.

He would have felt better if Ronaldo's glancing header had gone either side of Friedel rather than straight at the keeper and given United a half-time lead.

Instead, Villa struck again on 58 minutes when Ronaldo was caught in possession and Villa moved the ball quickly to Carew, and his cross was headed in by Agbonlahor.

United's response was to bring on 17-year-old Macheda for Nani.

The young Italian, who hit a hat-trick for reserves recently, appealed unsuccessfully for a penalty after he fell under challenge from Curtis Davies.

Then at the other end

Davies was close to converting Ashley Young's free-kick.

United needed something special from somewhere and it came from Ronaldo, who picked up the ball on the edge of the box and fired a low drive into the bottom corner to drag his side level.

The impetus was all with the hosts now and it took a fine save from Friedel to deny Fletcher from 12 yards.

Substitute Danny Welbeck was next to be

thwarted by Friedel as he saw his shot saved at point-blank range.

But United were not to be denied and substitute Macheda produced a moment of magic to win the game when he turned and curled a peach of a shot into the far corner.

Pellissier treble pegs back Juventus

Juventus suffered a blow to their Serie A title hopes when Sergio Pellissier completed a hat-trick with a stoppage-time equaliser to give Chievo a 3-3 draw in Turin on Sunday.

Inter Milan, on course for a fourth successive scudetto with nine games left, can extend their lead over second-placed Juve to nine points with victory at Udinese later (1700 GMT).

Striker Pellissier crowned a stunning display by heading in at the far post to stun Juve, who had come from behind twice before taking the lead.

"Today is a splendid day which I'll remember for a long time," Pellissier told Sky television.

Chievo have steadily moved away from the relegation zone in the last month and they soon showed Juve they were in no mood to end their good run.

Pellissier put Chievo ahead midway through the first half when he took advantage of Giorgio Chiellini's mistake to round Gianluigi Buffon and score.

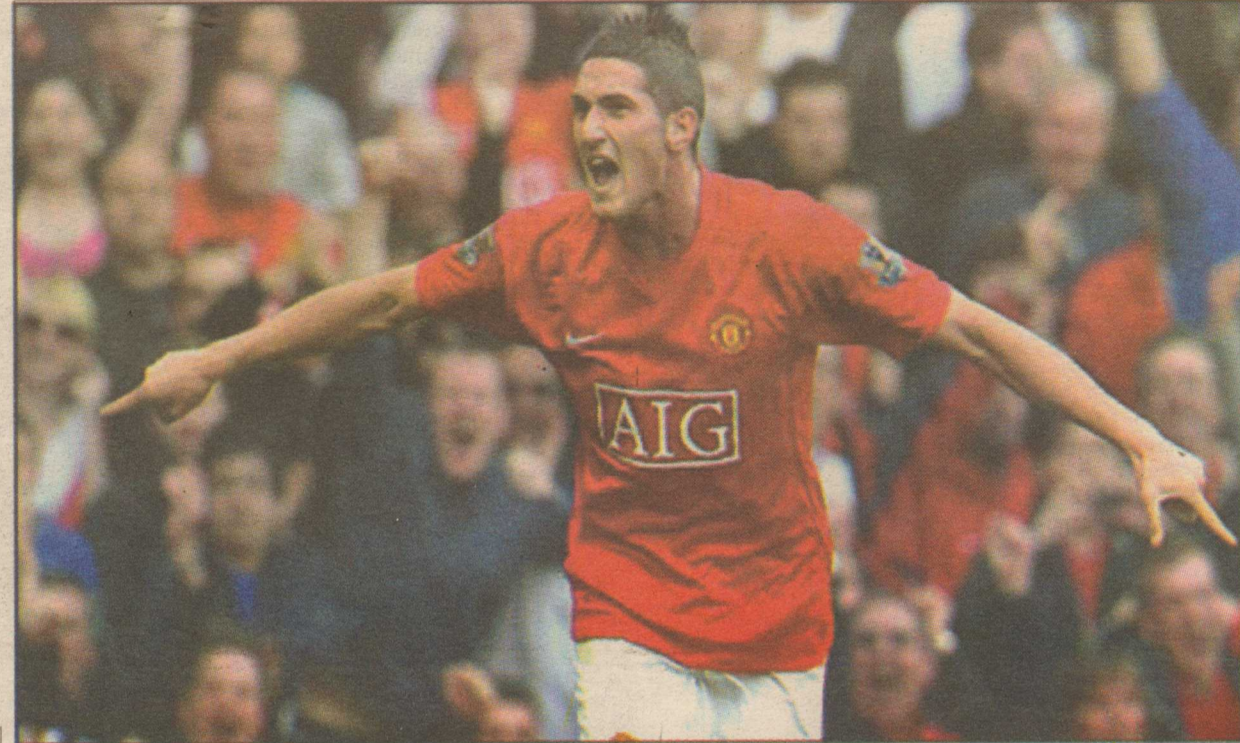
Defender Chiellini, wearing a mask to protect a broken nose, made up for his error by smashing the ball in off the bar but Pellissier grabbed his second just before the break when this time he outpaced Olof Mellberg.

Chievo defenders Santiago Morero and Mario Yepes both touched the ball for an unfortunate own goal early in the second period and Juve went ahead with 11 minutes left when Vincenzo Iaquinta headed in Mauro Camoranesi's cross.

Pellissier was not to be denied however and Chievo deserved their draw against a lethargic Juve, who substituted the ineffective Alessandro Del Piero at halftime.

In other matches, substitute Thiago Motta netted in the second half to keep Genoa two points clear in fourth spot with a 1-0 win at almost doomed bottom side Reggina.

Fiorentina, in fifth, needed Alberto Gilardino's late goal to win 2-1 at Atalanta while sixth-placed AS Roma are three further back after two contentious penalties from Francesco Totti sealed a 2-1 home win over fourth-bottom Bologna.



Federico Macheda scored a stunning late winner as Manchester United beat Aston Villa 3-2 to regain top spot in the English Premier League...yesterday

Barca, Real win, Villarreal slump 3-0

Samuel Eto'o gave leaders Barcelona a 1-0 win at Real Valladolid and Gonzalo Higuain kept Real Madrid in touch in second place as the champions beat Malaga 1-0 away in the Primera Liga on Saturday.

Barca have 72 points with nine games left to play, and remain six ahead of Real.

After an aggressive start from Valladolid, Cameroon striker Eto'o played a slick one-two with Xavi and lobbed the goalkeeper for his 26th league goal of the season just

before the break.

Coach Pep Guardiola only used Lionel Messi and Daniel Alves as substitutes with one eye on next week's Champions League quarter-final at home to Bayern Munich.

Malaga put Real under pressure in similar fashion in the late game but a burst from midfield by Argentine striker Higuain saw him score the only goal just after the restart.

Sevilla are third with 57 points after a first-half Frederic Kanoute penalty earned a 1-0 win at Recreativo Huelva.

Fourth-placed Villarreal could not cope with Almeria striker Alvaro Negredo as he inspired his side to a 3-0 home win.

The former Real Madrid youth team player netted his 17th of the league campaign after seven minutes and set up Pablo Piatti and Mane for two more before halftime.

He hit the post after the restart just before Villarreal were reduced to 10 men when Robert Pires collected his second yellow card on the hour.

In the 65th minute, after

using all their substitutes, the visitors also lost Santi Cazorla to a serious leg injury that has put the Spain winger out for the rest of the season.

At the bottom, Numancia grabbed a last-minute equaliser from the penalty spot to draw 3-3 in a bizarre game at Real Betis that increased the pressure on home coach Paco Chaparro.

Betis let slip a 1-0 advantage, and then fought back from 2-1 down with 10 men to lead 3-2 with a minute to go.

Five-star Wolfsburg seize pole

Wolfsburg have beaten champions Bayern Munich 5-1 with doubles from strikers Grafite and Edin Dzeko to go top of the Bundesliga on goal difference.

Wolfsburg tore apart a fragile Bayern defence with four goals in 14 minutes in the second half to record their eighth consecutive win and maintain a near-perfect home record with only wins and a draw from 13 matches this season. Bayern drop to fourth place on 48 points, three off the top with eight matches remaining.

Despite their position, Wolfsburg coach Felix Magath said his team were not aiming for the title and wanted simply to secure a top-five finish. "Our aim is still to secure fifth spot," Magath, who was sacked by Bayern in 2007 after leading the team to two consecutive domestic league and cup doubles, told reporters. "This was an extraordinary game and you do not get such a result every day against Bayern."

Hamburg carved out a 1-0 win over Hoffenheim with a solitary goal from Jonathan Pitroipa to move up to second

on goal difference with 51 points but will miss captain David Jarolim next week after he was sent off for a second booking. Elsewhere, Hertha Berlin's title hopes suffered a setback after they lost 3-1 at home to Borussia Dortmund and dropped to third on 49 points. VfB Stuttgart moved up to fifth ahead of Hoffenheim with a 2-1 win at VfL Bochum.

Grafite, the league's top scorer with 20 goals, produced what must have been the goal of the day when he dribbled past two defenders and the keeper before scoring with a

back heel in front of two other stunned defenders for his team's fifth goal.

Wolfsburg struck first in the 44th minute with Christian Gentner heading home a Zvezdan Misimovic corner before Luca Toni, returning from an injury break, levelled in first-half stoppage time with a close-range rebound from a Lucio header. Dzeko then netted twice in three minutes to take his goal tally to 15, before Grafite added a fourth with a powerful shot from just inside the box and rounded off the rout with his solo effort.

Bayern, who play

Barcelona in their UEFA Champions League quarter-final first leg next week, gave a lacklustre performance, with playmaker Franck Ribery shut out by a hard-working defence and Toni failing to combine effectively with Lukas Podolski.

"It is not comfortable to return with such a result to Munich," said Bayern coach Jurgen Klinsmann, who has yet to see his team top the standings this season. "This defeat hurts especially ahead of the quarter-final match against Barcelona. Wolfsburg are now where we wanted to be."

Sports

U-20 World Cup: Golden boys' glittering legacy

As Egypt prepares to host the 17th edition of the FIFA U-20 World Cup, the locals may well be wondering what to expect. The tournament's billing has traditionally promised 'a look at football's stars of tomorrow, today', but has the 32-year-old showpiece really lived up to this kind of hype? FIFA.com set about finding out.

Tunisia staged the first-ever FIFA World Youth Championship, as it was known in 1977, and the star of the title-winning USSR side was midfield general Vladimir Bessonov. After laying claim to the tournament's adidas Golden Ball award, the Dynamo Kiev star went on to enjoy an outstanding international career, winning Olympic gold in 1980 before starring at the 1982, 1986 and 1990 FIFA World Cups™.

A good start, then, but nothing compared to the sense of history-in-the-making that accompanied the 1979 edition in Japan. This was the tournament at which a certain Diego Maradona gave the world a memorable first glimpse of his awesome potential, inspiring an outstanding Argentina side to glory alongside his prolific partner in crime, Ramon Diaz.

Argentina conceded their crown two years later, but the Albiceleste side of 1981 did contain a striker who would go on to score a FIFA World Cup-winning goal just five years later, Jorge Burruchaga. Uruguayan legend Enzo Francescoli also impressed in Australia, but it was Romulus Gabor - the rock on which the bronze-winning Romania side was built - who claimed the adidas Golden Ball.

It was generally felt that Gabor, despite going on to win 35 caps for his country, failed to live up to his potential, and the same was widely said of Geovani, the star of Mexico 1983. The Brazilian's vision and skill had seen him edge the likes of Marco van Basten, Toni Polster and Bebeto to both the Golden Ball and Golden Shoe awards, but it was to prove the high point of a career that never truly got off the ground.

Geovani's fellow Brazilian and winner of the 1985 Golden Ball, Silas, undoubtedly fared better, starring for Sporting

and Sampdoria in a career that also encompassed two FIFA World Cups in 1986 and 1990. A supporting cast in USSR that included the likes of Claudio Taffarel, Rene Higuita and Krassimir Balakov also provided evidence of the tournament's growing strength, and this trend was to continue at Chile 1987.

The elegant, imperious Robert Prosinecki proved a popular choice as the tournament's outstanding player, but the title-winning

who unlike his overlooked team-mates went on to enjoy a surprisingly unspectacular career.

Adriano, a standout at Australia 1993, was another Golden Ball winner who failed to scale the expected heights, and this pattern of Brazilian promise unfulfilled was continued by Caio, the star of the 1995 edition. Rather than conquering the world, he was left to look enviously at the success enjoyed by those he had pipped to the prize, such

as Hidetoshi Nakata, Fernando Morientes and Paulo Wanchope.

South America again dominated the podium in 1997, but while an Argentina side including Juan Roman Riquelme and Esteban Cambiasso took home the title, it was Nicolas Olivera who bagged the Golden Ball award. The Uruguayan's happiest times thereafter were spent with Sevilla, but although he also appeared at the 2002 FIFA World Cup, his achievements

have been overshadowed by rivals from that class of 97 including Thierry Henry, Michael Owen, David Trezeguet and Nicolas Anelka.

By this stage in the history of the FIFA U-20 World Cup, there was an established pattern of future superstars failing to land the end-of-tournament awards, and this continued at Nigeria 1999 when Ronaldinho, Roque Santa Cruz, Xavi and Diego Forlan all missed out on the Golden Ball. Yet while Seydou

Keita was perhaps a surprise recipient at the time, the Malian is currently cementing his reputation as an outstanding, hard-tackling midfielder with the mighty Barcelona.

The Camp Nou has proved a popular destination for stars of the FIFA U-20 World Cup, and Javier Saviola - winner of both the Golden Ball and Golden Shoe at Argentina 2001 - was expected to become a Barça legend when he completed a £15 million move at the age of just 19. As it transpired, El Conejo never really won the hearts of the Catalan faithful and is currently to be found warming the bench of Barcelona's old rivals, Real Madrid. Incidentally, Kaka featured among the players beaten by Saviola to the 2001 honours, not the first time a future FIFA World Player had found himself overlooked.

At UAE 2003, the role of bridesmaid fell to the likes of Andres Iniesta, Daniel Alves and Javier Mascherano, with the erstwhile unknown Ismael Matar emerging as the tournament's star attraction. The attacking midfielder has offered fleeting subsequent glimpses of his talent in the senior ranks but with UAE now out of the running for a place at the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa, we will be denied the opportunity of judging him on the game's greatest stage.

Yet it says much for the continued ability of the FIFA U-20 World Cup to showcase the best emerging talent that the two most recent recipients of the tournament's Golden Ball award are expected to be star attractions in South Africa. Lionel Messi, the star of Netherland 2005, needs no introduction of course, with many already insisting that the Barcelona star is the world's greatest player. His fellow Argentinian, Sergio Aguero, who shone in Canada two years ago and went on to dazzle just as brightly at last year's Men's Olympic Football Tournament, is another youngster for whom hopes could hardly be any higher.

The only question now is: who will follow in the footsteps of this galaxy of stars? Whoever it is, history would suggest that Egypt can safely expect a treat.



A young Diego Maradona in action during the 1979 edition in Japan

Yugoslavia team alone yuged the midfielder with a plethora of worthy rivals such as Zvonimir Boban, Predrag Mijatovic and Davor Suker. There was similarly stiff competition in Saudi Arabia two years later, with Diego Simeone, Sonny Anderson and Oleg Salenko all in the running for honours. Yet it was Brazil who again provided the Golden Ball winner, and though Bismarck didn't go on to conquer the world, he did earn a place in the Seleção squad at Italy 1990.

Portugal 1991 witnessed the crowning of a 'golden generation' as the hosts retained the trophy, despite the efforts of emerging talents such as Giovane Elber, Andy Cole and Paulo Montero. Yet the player identified as the competition's shining star was not Luis Figo, nor Rui Costa or Joao Pinto, but rather Peixe,



Seydou Keita of Mali was a surprise recipient of the Golden Ball at Nigeria 1999 edition



Uruguayan Captain Enzo Francescoli dribbles past the sliding tackle of Belgium's Enzo Scifo. Francescoli was the star of 1981 edition in Australia.

Azarenka sees off Serena in final

Victoria Azarenka claimed the biggest win of her career as she defeated five-time champion and world number one Serena Williams in the Miami final.

The 19-year-old Belarusian won the Sony Ericsson Open 6-3 6-1 as Williams, playing with heavy strapping on her left leg, struggled physically.

Azarenka, the world number 10, won four straight games to take the first set.

And the teenager sealed her first win over Williams in

three meetings as the American faded badly in the second.

"It was a little difficult moving to the left and a little bit to the right. A little forward was also difficult," a smiling Williams said afterwards.

"I don't like to not play. I gave the effort that I could give today. That's all I could give."

The victorious Azarenka said: "You could see the leg tape right away, but I wasn't really paying attention too much because I had to play my game and I had to keep her

moving as much as I could."

Azarenka has made steady progress over the last couple of years to her current high of number 10 in the world but has yet to get past the fourth round of a Grand Slam - making this the biggest match of her career to date.

The final was played in the heat of the Florida afternoon and brought memories of the pair's last meeting.

Azarenka was controlling their Australian Open fourth-round clash in January before retiring through illness in the

scorching Melbourne heat, and the teenager called for an ice pack on an early changeover this time.

The Belarusian began nervously, while Williams appeared keen to keep the points as short as possible as she coped with her injury worries, making for a scrappy start to the match.

After swapping breaks in games three and four, Azarenka moved ahead for the second time at 4-3 when Williams went long with a forehand.



Azarenka has already won titles in Brisbane and Memphis.

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SPORTS Bits

'I was an idiot', says Podolski

Germany striker Lukas Podolski admitted on Saturday that he had been an "idiot" for slapping national captain Michael Ballack during a World Cup qualifier against Wales. "I have to realise that I was an idiot," Podolski told the Bild tabloid of the incident that occurred on Wednesday. "Unfortunately I over-reacted.

"The whole thing is now over. I have no problem with Michael Ballack - we've talked between ourselves."

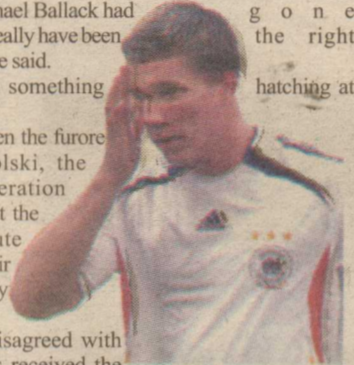
German footballing legend Franz Beckenbauer, writing in his Bild column, said "this gesture could not be tolerated".

"If a slap given to Michael Ballack had gone unpunished, it would not really have been the right signal sent to the team," he said.

"Apparently, there is something hatching at the heart of the team."

In an attempt to dampen the furore swirling around Podolski, the German football federation announced on Friday that the striker would contribute 5,000 euros towards a fair play initiative organised by the federation.

Podolski, who had disagreed with Ballack over tactics, has received the support of his club manager Jurgen Klinsmann, himself former striker for the German team.



Jo at the double for Everton

Brazil striker Jo scored twice for Everton as they kept their bid for European football next season on course with a 4-0 Premier League win over fellow high-flyers Wigan here on Sunday.

This victory was Everton's biggest of the season as the Merseysiders strengthened their grip on sixth place in the table.

Jo, on loan to Everton from Premier League rivals Manchester City, opened the scoring in the 26th minute with a low shot after good work by Leon Osman. Two goals early in the second-half settled the match.

Tony Hibbert's low cross found Marouane Fellaini, who



was given time and space by Wigan's defence, before scoring his seventh goal of the season.

And, minutes later, when Fellaini's shot was palmed out by Wigan goalkeeper Chris Kirkland, Jo pounced from close range.

Kirkland's failure to hold another shot, this time a 20-yard effort from Fellaini on the hour mark, allowed Osman to score Everton's fourth.

Ogilvy, Casey among leaders at Houston Open

Fred Couples, Paul Casey and Geoff Ogilvy were part of a six-player tie at 11-under par after three rounds of the Shell Houston Open. Bo Van Pelt, Colt Knost and Ryan Moore were also tied for the lead when the round concluded yesterday morning. PGA Tour officials said it was the first six-player logjam after 54 holes since at least 1970, when the statistic was first kept.

Couples finished 10 holes Saturday, then birdied the par-4 12th on yesterday to join the leaders. Casey made three birdies after resuming his round, then bogeyed the 17th to slip back to 11-under, and Ogilvy birdied three of his first five holes to move up.

The tournament has been playing catch-up since high winds suspended play Thursday afternoon and wind gusts up to 35 mph were forecast for yesterday.

Van Pelt was the overnight leader, making two late birdies to reach 11 under before play was suspended Saturday by darkness. Players resumed their rounds under sunny skies and strengthening breezes yesterday. Padraig Harrington and Lee Westwood were in a group at 10 under early in the final round.

Justin Leonard, Jonathan Byrd and John Senden were at 9-under par.

Ogilvy finished second at Redstone in 2008 and broke 70 in his first three this year. He's already won twice outdueling Casey in the finals of Match Play last month.

Ogilvy has had an up-and-down week in countering six bogeys and a double with 19



Sarkozy as King Leopold in Congo

By Okello Oculi

GUEST COLUMNIST

President of France, Nicolas Sarkozy, a descendant of Hungarian immigrants who was born into wealth, on March 26th, 2009, stood inside the Parliament of the Democratic Republic of Congo and would neither apologize nor offer reparations for France's role in the deaths of over five million Congolese who have perished from wars inside Congo's borders; the massive looting of the country's resources; the destruction of her economy, and the culture of international impunity against the Congo - all of which occurred between 1998 and 2009. With typical contempt, he sought to divert attention by becoming a new philosopher of unity, cooperation and courage in relations between a deeply injured Congo and a gun-totting economically rapacious Rwanda. He saluted as a "courageous decision" a recent blood-stained collaboration between the armies of Rwanda and Congo that turned Hutu refugees into mere pests to be hunted down, outside the cover of morality and humanism, even though they remained citizens of Rwanda. In President Sarkozy's view, armed Hutus are apparently the only ones who can commit genocide.

The year 1997 marked the historic, even if silent, fall from power and flight into a short exile, quickly followed by death from cancer, by President Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wazabanga. His venalities were longer, and more destructive, than his names. Mobutu had, since his role in the murder of Patrice Lumumba - Congo's first and vigorously anti-colonial Prime Minister - ruled and ruined the country continuously for 29 years as a loyal friend of France and the NATO countries. Nelson Mandela must today dread the day he sought peace and reconciliation on a South African navy ship off the coast of Congo by calling a sick and frightened Mobutu sitting to his right, and a bulky Kabila cheered by alcohol to his left, as "two of the greatest sons of Africa". Under his rule French global propaganda could proudly claim that sad and tortured country as the largest "French-speaking country in the world".

His fall came when the Cold War had ended, Soviet communists had become new Russian millionaires hawking raw gold inside suitcases inside hotels in New York, London and Amsterdam. The Soviet empire had broken up under Mikhail Gorbachev as western leaders, led by Henry Kissinger, mocked his naiveté in global statesmanship by believing that President Reagan and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher loved him and were trusted friends. With the fall of Soviet power also fell the usefulness of Mubutu as a herds-boy and loyal foreman to protect the vast natural resources of the Congo by keeping away communist rivals.

The road to Mobutu's fall started when France decided to fight a defensive diplomatic and military battle over Rwanda against a British-American plan encircle and contain Islamic fundamentalism being brewed by Omar Bashir in Sudan by putting in power friendly rulers in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Uganda and Rwanda. In Rwanda they would replace the Hutu rulers, who were linked to the French language, by supporting an invasion launched from Tanzania against Idi Amin; and later re-launched from Uganda against Habyalimana's government in Kigali. The second offensive saw Museveni's troops, tanks and guns being used by the Tutsi-based Rwanda Patriotic Front, RPF, whose leaders had grown up and been educated up to university level, in Uganda. Their Tutsi parents had

escaped brutal death and slaughter by Hutu gangs on the eve of the country's independence in 1959. Having seen Idi Amin seize and use power in Uganda around a tribal dream, even though clothed with Islam, the leaders of the RPF also began to dream of going back home to grab back the power that had been launched with the blood of the Tutsi as libation to long fermented anger of oppressed Hutu ancestors. Realizing that the triumph of RPF would mean the expansion of the English language into the Great Lakes region, and would eventually eat up the vast Congo, French leaders decided to welcome Tutsi fighters into a Rwanda without any Tutsi's left to join their invading forces. France had once played a similar vicious game of destroying furniture, ripping off telephones from government offices, tearing up and burning government files in anger that Sekour Toure's people in Guinea had voted to become independent instead of remaining tied to France. It is either France gets all the control in Africa or nothing remains standing.

The government of Paul Kagame has publicly accused French diplomats, military officers, business adventurers and administrators of deliberately and systematically planning and training Hutu militias to exterminate Tutsis out of Rwanda. France has countered back by accusing Kagame himself of carrying out the



President Nicolas Sarkozy of France

shooting down, in 1994, of the aircraft that was carrying the two democratically elected Hutu presidents of Rwanda and Burundi. They were returning from peace talks, held in Arusha, Tanzania, and a power-sharing formula between the invading RPF and the incumbent Hutu-led government. Hutus constitute the majority in both countries, and since democracy is a game of arithmetic, they would win a free and fair election any day. Sarkozy inherited the bitter recriminations with Kagame. He also inherited France's role in the 1994 genocide that exploded all across Rwanda. As the RPF became unstoppable, Hutu civilians in their hundreds of thousands fled into Mobutu's Congo. So did the remnants of the Rwanda army and the militias that had been trained to conduct the genocide planned with the collaboration of French officials.

French officials and diplomats supported efforts by the international non-governmental organizations and the International Committee of the Red Cross to feed the Hutu refugees, the Interahamwe "genocedaires", and remnants of former Rwanda troops inside the Congo. They were camped within easy range if they wished to continue fighting the RPF inside Rwanda. Herein lay the main body of France's 'Rwanda hook-bomb' that would explode inside Congo and blast Mobutu out of power. The RPF, and their supports in Uganda, would be lured into not only chasing after the Hutu attackers now lodged across the border in Congo, but also the temptation to drive out their willing host, Mobutu, and rule over a vast Congo empire. The genocide in Rwanda had disgusted even former President Nyerere to the point where he would not be in a position to restrain those in Tanzania who agreed with a plan to rid East and Central Africa of Mobutu as a long deadly political poison. Tanzanian officials are reported to have recovered Laurent Kabila from bars of Dar es Salaam and dusted him up into returning to his days as a revolutionary who once had the historic honour of being assisted by the legendary Che Guevara in his short-lived armed war against Mobutu in the mid-1960s.

To be cont'd.