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# DAILY TRUST



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# How Yar'adua whiles away time

PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua spends some hours every day sitting in a hard-backed chair in an upstairs sitting room of the State House's residential wing surrounded by nephews, nieces and grandchildren who run up and down the stairs, *Daily*

*Trust* learnt yesterday from sources familiar with the set up. Since his return to the country on Tuesday last week, the ailing President has been in near-total seclusion inside the State House. Acting President Goodluck Jonathan again said yesterday that he had

not seen Yar'adua since he returned to the country. *Daily Trust* learnt that contrary to reports that Yar'adua is completely bedridden or even held in an intensive care facility, he makes some minimal movements within the residence and that he has

been seen by some very few personal aides. On Thursday last week, sources said, Yar'adua received some staff members. He sat on a chair while they greeted him and said some prayers for his quick recovery, the sources said. *Daily Trust* also learnt

that in the early evening hours, the lights were suddenly switched off in the corridors around the residence, and it was believed that Yar'adua was taking an uncertain walk around the house. The sources said while he is able to speak, the president is very weak and

it is difficult to hear him. Meanwhile, the tight seclusion imposed on the residence since Yar'adua's return is very effective with almost no outside visitors allowed in. *Daily Trust's* sources said except for the cries of children, there **Continued on page 5**

PHOTO: AFP

## Danjuma heads Jonathan's think thank

By Mohammed S. Shehu

A Presidential Advisory Council headed by former Defence Minister Lt Gen T. Y Danjuma was constituted by Acting President Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan yesterday with constitutional lawyer and former Education Secretary Prof. Ben Nwabueze as deputy chairman.

Council members include Mr. Fola Adeola; Mallam Abubakar Gimba; Mr. Basil Omiyi; Alhaji M. D. Yusuf; Chief Emeka Anyaoku; Amb. G. B. Preware; Prof. Bartholomew Nnaji, and Mr. Kase Lawal. Others include Malam Muhammed **Continued on page 5**



THE massive destruction caused by a tsunami in the Chilean city of Dichato, three days after a huge 8.8-magnitude earthquake rocked the country early morning, killing at least 708 people.

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Intercontinental Bank yesterday sacked 1,182 support staff as part of a repositioning exercise **25**

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# Yar'adua is president only by name – Gov Aliyu

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

NIGER State Governor Babangida Aliyu has said that Yar'adua is president only by name. He said this yesterday at a function by the North-central forum of the vision 20:2020 in Minna. Governor Aliyu maintained that there

could not be a president where there was an Acting President, saying one must give way for the other.

"Since there is an Acting President in place, the president exists only by name and not action. If any other group is calling another person a president then that

group is only describing the person by name", he said.

He lamented a situation where a few individuals pledged their loyalty to a single individual instead of the country, adding that Nigeria was by far bigger than any individual. Aliyu said the controversy over the

health condition of the president wouldn't have been there if the constitution was followed. "Even if you are going on vacation, you must tell your second in command. We all know this because you and your deputy were elected on the same platform and must work together", he said.

Aliyu urged public office holders to stop diverting funds meant for Nigerians, asking them to evolve plans that would move the country forward.

He called on Nigerians to support Acting President Goodluck Jonathan and pray for Yar'adua to recover fully.



MEDIA Trust Editor-in-Chief Malam Mannir Dan Ali (right) presenting a souvenir to Kaduna State Governor Mohammed Namadi Sambo (left), during a courtesy visit.

## Emulate Daily Trust, Sambo urges media organisations

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

IF media organisations in the country can emulate Media Trust, publishers of *Daily Trust*, and conduct their activities professionally, the country will be better for it, Kaduna State Governor Namadi Sambo has said. He said this when the management of Media Trust Limited led by its Editor-in-Chief, Malam Mannir Dan Ali, paid him a visit. He said the country needed newspapers like *Daily Trust* for it to move forward. He enjoined newspapers in the country to always put professionalism first.

"*Daily Trust* has become a paper for the people of this region. It is a paper that has made a name for itself by ensuring that the truth is told. Other newspapers need to emulate it for the development of the country. We need papers that would conduct their activities in line with the ethics of the profession," he said.

He assured the management of the company of the state government's support, urging the company to sustain the tempo. He also lauded the organization for carrying out a compendium of business potentials in the North, this he said would assist in the development of the region.

Earlier Dan Ali, said the organization would continue to uphold the ethics of journalism.

He said the company was compiling a compendium on business potentials in the 19 Northern states in order to harness them for the socio-economic development of the region. He solicited for the support of the state government.

## JIBWIS chiefs to meet over Gummi

From Isa Liman, Zaria

THE Islamic Group, Jama'atu Izalatul Bidi'a Wa'iqamatu Sunna (JIBWIS) is to hold a meeting to discuss the arrest of one of the group's national preachers, Dr. Ahmad Gummi by Saudi Arabian security personnel. Speaking to our correspondent yesterday in Zaria, the deputy national chairman of JIBWIS, Sheikh Abubakar Imam Ikara, said the group would hold the meeting in order to have a common ground on how to handle the issue.

"JIBWIS will hold a meeting to take a decision on what to do about the arrest. We want to find out what actually led to the arrest as the information before us indicates that Sheikh Gummi has been with the Saudi security agents for more than five days," he said.

The cleric added that his group may travel to Saudi Arabia, adding that JIBWIS would do everything possible to ensure that they established the reason for the arrest of the Islamic scholar.

## Intrigues over sharing of N24bn in Adamawa

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, Yola

INTRIGUES among top government functionaries and civil servants appear to have dominated the discussion on how to share about N24 billion that accrued to Adamawa State in the last two weeks.

The amount includes the monthly statutory allocation, the state's share of the \$2 billion excess crude released to states by the federal government and the \$85 million (about N12.8 billion) debt-deduction refund made to the state, finance ministry officials told *Daily Trust* in Yola.

The Obasanjo administration had few years ago wrongly deducted money from the state's statutory allocations to pay non-existent foreign debt, but the then Boni Haruna administration protested and sought for refund.

President Umaru Yar'adua

ordered for the refund, which began last year with the release of over \$100 million (at the ratio of 70:30 to Adamawa and Taraba States respectively).

The federal government released additional \$85 million to Adamawa government last Tuesday, deposited in its Zenith Bank account in Yola, finance officials told *Daily Trust* at the weekend.

"The amount of money we get in the last two weeks is unprecedented, but there appears to be some intrigues on how to allocate it," one official who preferred anonymity said.

"For example, it is initially agreed in the ministry for local government affairs that N1 billion can be released to local councils to settle workers' debt and end the ongoing local government employees' strike, but some people have now kicked against it," the source added.

Another source also claimed that there was no consensus on whether to use part of the excess crude and debt refunds to settle some of the state government's local debts or execute new projects.

The debt refunds and excess crude have lifted the finances of the state government that has also said its internally-generated revenue of about N250 million per month last year would jump to N500 million per month this year.

Finance officials told *Daily Trust* yesterday that the government has used part of the rising incomes to pay state civil servants their leave grant arrears.

Many civil servant servants have confirmed to *Daily Trust* that they had received their 2009 leave grants last Thursday, though some have complained that the amount was lower than what they had expected.

# Yar'adua: IBM cautions against regional sentiments

By Suleiman M. Bisalla & Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

CHAIRMAN of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) said the present leadership predicament occasioned by the ill health of President Umaru Yar'adua has been fuelled by regional sentiments that could make nonsense of the efforts of founding fathers of the nation and soldiers who fought to keep the country together.

Speaking to Daily Trust in

his residence in Abuja yesterday, General Ibrahim Bata Malgwi Haruna said his concern about the situation arose from the role he played during the war to ensure the unity of the country.

He also observed that the weak leadership provided by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has fuelled the failure experienced in the circumstance.

"This concern is coming from me as a retired civil war

general and commander in chief and as a citizen of Nigeria, and from my commitment to ensuring that sacrifices made in liberating the South-South and in consolidating the erstwhile Biafran nation and in bringing up the Nigerian state to where it is today is not in vain," he said.

"After surviving the war with no victor no vanquished; after dividing the country from 4 to 36 states, people are still saying: let the north go and eat

groundnuts. This is an insult on other citizens. It should not be warranted just because there is lack of leadership in deciding how to put into effect the provisions of the law and the constitution," he added.

The ACF chairman, who insisted he was speaking in his personal capacity, said the new development demonstrated that the leadership being expected from the ruling PDP is not coming.

Haruna also singled out

former President Obasanjo for a special condemnation on the issue, pointing out that having contrived the emergence of Yar'adua in 2007, the BOT chairman displayed lack of a contingency plan to tackle the situation.

"He subverted party's constitution and anointed Yar'adua. Other competitors withdrew. Now, one would have expected that he has a contingency plan of how to accommodate what is happening," he said.



FROM left: Ms Stella Shaibu, with the National coordinator, Blood Transfusion Service Dr Ifeoma Ogbue and a 22nd time donor Nathan John, during the exercise in Abuja yesterday.

PIC: NAN

## 8 cops held over Boko Haram

By Misbahu Bashir & Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

EIGHT police officers who allegedly participated in the summary execution of the Boko Haram sect members in Borno State recently have been arrested, a police source has said.

Police spokesman Yemi Ajayi has however told a news agency, AP, yesterday that 17 officers were brought to Abuja for questioning over the videotape, which aired on Al-Jazeera last month.

Those arrested in connection to the killings included an Assistant Commissioner and a Chief Superintendent and were transferred to the Police Force Headquarters in Abuja. All those arrested are being detained.

The source said investigation into the matter is being handled

by the Headquarters and any policeman found guilty in the summary execution of the suspected Boko Haram members will be arrested and prosecuted.

Meanwhile, Police Affairs Minister Yakubu Lame has expressed doubt about the video footage broadcast by Aljazeera.

He said modern technological advancement can make it possible for the clips to be recorded.

In the Aljazeera clip, some Police officers were shown extra-judicially killing armless civilians, including the crippled and teenagers.

The minister told BBC Hausa service that professionals have begun investigating the video clip to ascertain whether it is genuine or done to implicate the Police.

## Govs meet Jonathan today

By AbdulFattah Olajide & Muhammed S. Shehu

NIGERIAN state governors are billed to meet with Acting President Goodluck Jonathan this evening at the Presidential Villa in Abuja, Daily Trust learnt yesterday.

It was also gathered last night that Jonathan and the governors may visit ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua at the end of their meeting.

Top on the agenda, according to Presidency sources, is how to

ease out ailing Yar'adua and douse the political tension pervading the country.

The governors, who will first hold a meeting in the afternoon under the aegis of the Governors' Forum, will also discuss the dissolution and reconstitution of the Federal cabinet with the acting president.

The governors, Daily Trust gathered, will plead with the acting president to allow them nominate replacements for ministers when the current Federal cabinet is eventually dissolved.

Sources close to the Governors' Forum also told Daily Trust that the governors will present before Jonathan their alleged plan to mobilise the members of the National Assembly from their respective states to impeach President Yar'adua if necessary.

The governors had earlier mobilised the lawmakers to pass the resolutions which made Jonathan Acting President when Yar'adua failed to transmit a letter of medical vacation to the National Assembly as required by section 145 of the 1999 Constitution.

## C'tee to assess FG projects

By Mohammed S. Shehu & AbdulFattah Olajide

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday set up a Federal Projects Assessment Committee.

Arc. Ibrahim Bunu is the chairman of the assessment committee while Mr. Bon Otti is vice chairman.

Members include: Mr. Ibore Ege-Edaba, Mr. Yomi Awoniyi, Navy Capt. (rtd.) Caleb Olubolade, Prof. Aminu Mikailu, Engr. (Dr.) Idris Abubakar, Engr. Pius Okpa, Mrs. Kate Okparake, Engr. Usman Abubakar, Engr. Gbola Tokun,

Engr. Etodo Inyang, Prof. Akoh N. Ugbabe, Engr. Ummi Aminu, Engr. Olusegun Adedeji, Engr. Khalil Inuwa and Engr. B. K. Mohammed.

Dr. O. O. Oluleye of the Office of Secretary of the Government of the Federation is Member/Secretary. The statement said the committee has three months to complete its assignment and submit a report.

The committee would assess and provide necessary information on the status of on-going Federal Government projects across the country.

## Court orders Bafarawa's arrest

By Misbahu Bashir

A High Court in Sokoto yesterday ordered the re-arrest of ex-Governor Attahiru Bafarawa who is standing trial over a N15 billion corruption charge by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

The order is as a result of the non-appearance of Bafarawa in the

court to face trial as mandated by law.

The presiding judge, Justice Bello Abbas therefore temporarily suspended the bail earlier granted the accused person by the court.

Acting on the order of the court, Chairman of the EFCC has directed that the former governor be declared wanted with a view to seeking the assistance of other

security agencies across the world to arrest him.

Defence counsel, Ricky Tafa, told the court that the accused person was not in court because he had travelled to London for medical treatment on February 28 and that the treatment will last for 10 days.

He tendered a medical report to show that his client was in dire need of medical treatment and had

travelled for the same purpose. He therefore prayed the court to excuse his non appearance.

However, Niyi Akinsola, the prosecution counsel raised objection on the excuse and prayed the court to reject the document tendered by the defence counsel.

He subsequently asked the court to revoke the bail order, summon the surety to show why he should

not forfeit his bail bond, order the arrest of the accused if in Nigeria and use Interpol to arrest him if abroad.

In his ruling, Justice Abbas agreed with the position of the prosecution counsel and temporarily revoked the earlier bail granted Bafarawa.

He adjourned the case till March 17.

## Reps rule out debate on Yar'adua

MEMBERS of the House of Representatives yesterday ruled out any debate on ailing President Umaru Yar'adua, saying they would rather pray for quick recovery of the Nigerian leader.

A lawmaker told Daily Trust that the House would never debate any matter on President Yar'adua's present state of health, pointing out that he (Yar'adua) should be allowed recuperate fully.

He said: "The House has decided not to debate any issue on Mr President's health status. This is because we thought it is not a wise idea to meddle into the matter since he is still recuperating. Let us continue to pray for his quick recovery."

The lawmaker said the House is worried over agitation by some group of people who capitalise on the ailing president to heat up the polity.

Also, chairman of the South-South caucus in the House, Rep Andrew Uchendu (PDP, Rivers State) told our reporter that the members from the region would not push for the President's resignation as insinuated by some people.

He said: "The South-South caucus is not contemplating debating any matter on Yar'adua's health. We are talking on that matter."

The chairman of the committee on Media and Publicity, Rep Esemey Eyiboh (PDP, Akwa Ibom State) weekend said it would be pre-emptive to discuss the President's health status on the floor of the House.

## Jonathan denies meeting Yar'adua

Mohammed S. Shehu

STORIES making the rounds that Acting President Goodluck Jonathan has met with President Umaru Musa Yar'adua were false, spokesman for the acting President, Ima Niboro, stated in a text message to Daily Trust yesterday.

He also said that Jonathan has not seen the President since his return from Saudi Arabia in the early hours of Wednesday last week.

"There is a story making the rounds in the media that the Acting President, Dr Goodluck Jonathan, met with President Yar'adua this morning. This story is entirely false. The acting President has not seen the President since his return from Saudi Arabia last week. This is for clarification please," Niboro said in the text.



SYMPATHIZERS at the scene of a three-storey building gutted by fire at FESTAC town, Lagos, on Sunday.

## Minister: Niger River dredging 60 percent completed

By Shehu Abubakar

THE dredging of the River Niger is going on as planned and government has no plan to divert any money from the amount meant for the dredging of the river or suspend the dredging work, Minister of Transport Alhaji Ibrahim Isa Bio has said.

Bio, whose ministry is executing the project, said yesterday at a press briefing that the federal government has no intention of suspending the dredging project because it has already attained more than 60 percent completion.

He said government is very conscious of the economic values of the dredging of the river and

will see to its completion.

He said the 572 kilometers length Niger River from Baro in Niger state to Warri in Delta state will continue until it is completed, adding, "The project due to its peculiarities was divided into five lots using natural boundaries. Work on lot 2, from Bifurcation of Nuns River and Forcados to Onitsha and lot 4 from Idah to Jamata are about 80 percent completed. Lot 1, from Warri to Bifurcation of Nuns River and Forcados is currently ongoing and has attained about 40 percent completion. Lots 5 and 3 are ongoing and have not attained required level of performance."

The minister the recent Federal Govern-

ment commitment of N19 billion to land reclamation and shoreline protection in the communities within the project area was meant to enhance and mitigate environmental impact on the people.

As part of the post amnesty program, the Federal Ministry of Transport had earlier proposed to open channels linking Onyia (Bifurcation) to Brass route in Bayelsa state, Nembe to Port-Harcourt (with spur to Degema) route and Onyia to Warri route in Delta state. The purpose of doing these channels linkage is to open the area for movement of bulk Cargo and people since road construction might be challenging within the timeframe.

## Maduekwe to discuss Niger with AU chairman

By Aisha Umar Agaie, with agency report

FOREIGN Affairs Minister Ojo Maduekwe will meet with Malawi President and Chairman of African Union Bingu wa Mutharika to discuss the recent military coup in Niger Republic.

The military intervention in Niger was condemned by both the AU and ECOWAS. The mili-

tary ousted President Mamadou Tandja who had changed the constitution to stay in office past the end of two terms.

Ojo, who has embarked on tour of a five South African countries with first stopover be in Malawi, is expected to hold talks on issues of multilateral and bilateral interests. He will also meet with the Malawi Foreign Minister.

The Minister will also visit

Mozambique, Angola, Namibia and Botswana.

Meanwhile, Niger's Junta leader Salou Djibo said on state radio that no member of the junta will stand in the presidential elections it has promised to hold.

Niger's newly-appointed civilian Prime Minister Mahamadou Danda urged his military bosses this week to ensure a swift return to democratic rule, a call echoed

by the international community.

In a related development, four parties of the former ruling coalition in Niger, known as Daraja, PDP Annour, PMT Albarka and Uni-Independants, have condemned the use of arms in resolving political differences and called for the release of deposed President Mamadou Tandja, and all the other people arrested following the coup d'état of Feb. 18.

## Shell, NNPC trade words over shut down of gas plants

By Fidelis Mac-Leva & Hamisu Muhammad

SHELL Development Company yesterday shut down its gas plant at Sapele and warned that if the current stock of wet condensate at the Warri Refinery persists, its gas plant at Owen would also be shut down within the next six days.

But the Group Managing

Director of NNPC Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo said the corporation will not allow any company to shut down gas supply for such type of reason.

Barkindo said yesterday that there is no any agreement whatsoever that NNPC should be evacuating condensate for them to supply gas.

He said the evacuation of the condensate now that the WRPC

is back on stream is impossible through the refinery.

The development has further casted doubts on the prospects of improvement in Nigeria's declining power generation.

Shell had threatened to shut down its three gas plants unless the NNPC evacuated the concentration of wet condensate that had accumulated at the

Warri Refinery which was put at 472,000 barrels.

Contacted, the Minister of Power, Lanre Babalola, who spoke through his Special Assistant on Media, Yakubu Lawal, confirmed the development. He expressed the fears that if the situation persists, the six thermal stations in the country also stand the risk of being shut down.

## Danjuma heads Jonathan's think thank

Continued from page 1

Hayatuddeen; Justice Alfa Belgore; Mr. Chibudom Nwuche; Mrs. Mobola Johnson; Hajija Halita Aliyu; Alhaji Magaji Danbatta; Prof. Buba G. Bajoga; Dr. (Mrs.) Sally Bolujoko; Mrs. Mariam Uwais, and former Attorney General of the Federation Chief Kanu Agabi.

Dr. Bamanga Tukur; Alhaji Ismaila Isa; Prof. Shehu Said Sarinwata, and Dr. Simon C. Okolo are also members, as is the Chairman of the Nigeria Economic Summit Group. The Permanent Secretary (Special Duties) in the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation would serve as Secretary.

The council would provide alternative inputs into policy formulation, promote good governance in the areas of power, economy, security, infrastructure and social sector. Senior Special Adviser on Media and Publicity to the acting President Ima Niboro said the council's other terms of reference include evaluation of policy implementation, inputs in electoral process, and the fight against corruption.

They are also to "advise on areas requiring adjustments; to advise the President on how to maximize the benefits derivable from government's efforts; to advise on such actions and programmes that may improve credibility and performance of the government, and advise on any other matter referred to it by the President," the statement said.

The committee would be inaugurated on Thursday, March 4.

## Jonathan to probe army deployment

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan has set up an inquiry to investigate the deployment of army officers to the airport and parts of Abuja during last week's return of ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

"For troops to be deployed without the knowledge of the commander-in-chief is very discomforting," Information Minister Dora Akunyili was quoted by Reuters as saying.

"I have heard the acting president has set up an inquiry and I believe that very soon the results may be out."

She said the risk of a military intervention during Yar'adua's absence had been "a very big worry", but that such concerns had eased, praising senior officers for openly resisting any attempt to drag the army into politics.



FROM left: Secretary for Education, FCT Alhaji Halilu Pai, Secretary Joint Consultative Committee on Education, Dr. Lami Amodu and Ministry of Education Permanent Secretary, Prof. Oladapo Afolabi, during the 56th session of the National Council on Education in Abuja yesterday.

## Security beefed up around Aso Rock

SECURITY officials attached to the Presidential Villa, Abuja have intensified security patrol in and around the nation's most coveted seat of power, *Daily Trust* observed yesterday.

Vehicles going into the Villa were subjected to thorough search by a combined team of security men in plain cloth and anti-riot police men known as Mopol.

Drivers were asked to open their boots while vehicles with tinted glasses were requested to wind down to enable security

men identify the occupants.

Our reporter gathered that the search has contributed to long queues especially at the western gate, which is the main entrance for visitors approaching the Villa from the Federal Secretariat.

Our reporter, who drove into the Villa at about 1.15pm, was asked by one of the security men to open the boot of his car, and when he requested to know the reason for the search, a police man replied "my brother I don't know."

But when the reporter requested to know whether he was safe to enter the Villa, the security man said "It is safe. That is why we are here to make it safe for you." However, the situation was different at the other two entrances visited by our reporter.

The sudden tightening of security might not unconnected with the political argument over the health of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua which has continued to generate tension within and outside the Presidential Villa.

## EU welcomes return home of Yar'adua

THE EU yesterday welcomed news that Nigeria's ailing president had returned to the country, while urging acting president Goodluck Jonathan "to foster stability", amid fears of a leadership tussle.

"The European Union welcomes news of the return of President (Umaru) Yar'adua to Abuja. The EU extends its best wishes to the president," a spokesman for EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton said.

His statement stopped short of explicitly calling for the president to resume the reins of power in his troubled country.

Yar'adua arrived discreetly back in Nigeria last week, throwing the country into confusion and reviving concerns of a leadership squabble just two weeks after Vice President Goodluck Jonathan was installed as acting president after a leadership vacuum of nearly three months. AFP

## How Yar'adua whiles away time

Continued from page 1

is no activity around the residence. No ministers, governors or other politicians have paid a visit since Yar'adua's return. However, maintenance crews from the construction giant Julius Berger, which manages the State House, are sometimes allowed in to carry out electrical, plumbing or other repairs. They only go in at times specified by security operatives. Outside the residence though, the maintenance crews continue

to water the flowers, sweep the yards and trim the hedges.

At the weekend, State House officials heard that Yar'adua was about to pay a visit to his hometown, Katsina in order to greet his mother, Hajia Dada. There were some signs of preparation as cars were seen lined up in the driveway, but sources said the trip did not take place for unknown reasons.

Activity around the President's office has also been very low since Yar'adua departed from

Saudi Arabia last November. The three top shots in Yar'adua's office, namely Principal Secretary David Edovbie, the Senior Special Assistant on Presidential Matters Saraki and the Special Assistant on Housing Development have all been redundant since November, when the president left the country. However, sources said activity picked up around Dr. Goodluck Jonathan's office when the National Assembly passed a resolution declaring him as the Acting President. Since Yar'adua's

## Saudi envoy denies knowledge of Gummi's arrest

By Aisha Umar Agaie

THE Saudi Arabian embassy in Abuja said it does not have any information regarding the arrest of Sheikh Ahmad Gummi in Saudi Arabia.

Charge d Affairs of Saudi embassy Jalal Hassan O. Almograbay said he only read the information which was exclusively reported by the *Daily Trust* on Monday.

"The embassy will inform the press if there is any official statement from the Saudi authority, but for now we cannot say anything because we don't know anything about it," the envoy told *Daily Trust* in an interview at the embassy in Abuja.

return last week, Jonathan has also reduced the pace of activities around his office and few visitors go there these days.

Another source told *Daily Trust* that Yar'adua could finally make a public appearance at tomorrow's Federal Executive Council [FEC] meeting, not to preside over it, but to thank the ministers for their support and prayers. It may also be the joker to squelch any moves by some FEC members to declare him permanently incapacitated.

# Civil Defence to carry arms this year

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

MONEY has been made available in this year's budget for the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) to buy arms, a lawmaker has said.

Rep Austin Nwachuku (PDP, Imo State), a member of the House Committee on Interior, made this known yesterday in

Abuja at the International Civil Defence Organisation Day (ICDO) by NSCDC.

The lawmaker said government is also looking for the possibility of providing the corps with helicopters to enhance their activities in providing security for Nigerians.

"Today I am proud to say that in the 2010 budget, money

was appropriated for arms and you are going to have it," he said, drawing applause from the officers.

The Civil Defence has for long been pleading with the FG to provide it with arms considering the "hazardous nature" of their job. The request was however opposed by those who believe Nigerian security agen-

cies misuse guns.

Speaking shortly after the programme, CG of Civil Defence Dr Ade Abolurin said his agency is not taking over responsibilities of the police force, as "no country will do without police force on ground."

He said Nigeria became a full-pledged member of the

ICDO in 2003, and was registered as the 66th member nation a year later. He said the theme of this year's Civil Defence day is "Disaster Medicine," aimed at tackling disaster worldwide.

Meanwhile, the Secretary General of the ICDO Mr. Nawaf Al-Sleibi said the organization has been very active in responding to disaster.

## American detained over fake cheques

By Misbahu Bashir

NIGERIA'S anti-graft agency has detained a 24-year-old American lady Sharon Denis Thorpe over her involvement in a counterfeit cheque scam valued at \$760,668.

Thorpe, a resident of Raleigh North Carolina, was arrested at the Murtala Mohammed Airport, Lagos, on Saturday Feb. 20, 2010 while about to board a Qatar Airways flight to Washington DC.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) said the suspect holds an American passport with No. 457647779 issued at North Carolina, USA, on December 30, 2008.

"She had been in Nigeria since Nov. 9, ostensibly on vacation with one Musediku Akorede Kehinde, her fiancé, who is believed to be the mastermind of the crime," EFCC said in a statement issued by its spokesman Femi Babafemi.

He said Thorpe has told interrogators that the counterfeit cheques were given to her by one Femi Atoms, a friend of Musediku, who is at large.

Thorpe was arrested by officials of the State Security Service (SSS) and was handed over to the EFCC on February 24, 2010.

The suspect is still being interrogated.

## Nigeria, Britain plan youth exchange programme

By Romoke W. Ahmad

NIGERIA and Britain are to start an exchange programme between the Nigeria Youth Parliament and British Youth Parliament, Youth Affairs Minister Senator Akinlabi Olanukanmi has said.

The minister said the exchange will expose Nigerian youth parliament to their foreign counterparts for them to gain experiences and leadership training.

Senator Olanukanmi said this while receiving the Next Generation team of the British Council who paid him a courtesy call in his office.

Director of Programmes for British Council in Nigeria Mr. Ben Fisher said his organisation has finalized arrangement for the exchange by facilitating contact between the ministry and the United Kingdom youth parliament.



EMIR of Jama'a, Alhaji Muhammadu Isa Muhammad (left) with Minister of Works, Dr. Hassan Lawal, during a turbaning ceremony in Kafanchan recently

## Ex-minister sues Goje over Kalare killings

By Atika Balal

A suit has been filed before the Community Court of Justice of the ECOWAS seeking an order directing Gombe State governor to pay the sum of N50m each to families of the 70 community citizens killed in Gombe by an armed gang.

Former minister and lawyer Muhammed Ibrahim Hassan sued the governor alongside the Federal Government.

In an application filed before the court, Hassan is seeking an order directing the Federal Government to disarm, disband and prosecute members of the Kalare gang. He alleged that the gang was

linked to the governor.

He is asking the court for a declaration that the extra judicial killing of 71 community citizens in Gombe from 2003-2009 by the gang is illegal as it contravenes Article 4 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights.

He wants the court to give an order for provisional instruction to restrain the defendants, their agents, privies and servants from attacking, harassing and intimidating the plaintiff pending the determination of the substantive suit.

No date has been fixed yet for hearing.

## Nigeria moves to combat meningitis

By Ruby Rabiou

THE Ministry of Health has deployed over 370,000 doses of vaccine to vulnerable states to help stem the effect of cerebrospinal meningitis (CSM).

The epidemic claimed several lives in 2009 mostly from the northern part of the country.

Health Minister Professor Babatunde Osotimehin said this while giving an update on the preparedness of the health sector to combat the infection.

He said due to the widespread vaccinations carried out in 2009, the CSM epidemic in 2010 is appearing to have been blunted.

The minister said due to high advocacy and negotiations with

WHO by the health ministry, Nigeria was able to make a case for adequate supply of vaccines to the country.

He said Nigeria currently has more than half of the entire stock of vaccines available globally.

In a statement signed by his Special Assistant on Communication Mr Niyi Ojuolape, the minister said that as at week 8, a total of 148 cases have been recorded.

The two states identified as high risk states are Bauchi with 14 affected local government areas and receiving about 71,170 doses of vaccine and Jigawa with 16 affected local government area getting about 300,000 doses of vaccine.

## Group urges N/Assembly to reconsider state creation

By Turaki A. Hassan

THE two chambers of the National Assembly have been urged reason with Nigerians yearning for the creation of more states and include state creation in the ongoing review of the 1999

constitution.

The call was made by the National Association of State Movements (NASM) in Abuja.

President of the association Dr. Emmanuel O. Adaelu said contrary to insinuations, creation of new states will not further

breed corruption. He said the creation of new states will spread development across the land and help bring democracy dividend to the doorsteps of Nigerians.

"We want to use this opportunity to appeal to the conscience of this great nation especially

our lawmakers to give the issue of state creation a priority in the ongoing constitution review exercise," he said.

Dr Adaelu said the lawmakers should not to throw away the agitations of Nigerians asking for 14 more states to bring the number of states in Nigeria to 50.

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE

# Police foil alleged plot to bomb Edo Assembly

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

THE police in Edo State have foiled an alleged plan by some persons to bomb the state House of Assembly. The officer in charge of the state

anti bomb squad DSP Akingbehin Taiwo disclosed this in Benin yesterday.

Mr Taiwo said the bomb which is a twin device was forced into a medium sized table water container.

He said the bomb was made of an explosive device and accessories, adding that when it explodes, it could send waves within 250 and 500 meters radius. Taiwo maintained that the bomb was kept

at the gate of the Assembly.

"But for the quick intervention of the anti bomb squad, the explosives would have shattered the Assembly's complex and the Central Hospital", he said.

Last week, arsonists set fire on the legislative quarters on Iyama road in Benin city. The Assembly at its sitting yesterday called on the state government to investigate the incident.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

## NAHCON fixes April 30 as deadline for hajj fare collection

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

ONLY intending pilgrims who are able to pay hajj fares by April 30 would be allowed to perform the exercise, the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) has said. The Commissioner in charge of Policy, Planning and Personnel Management of the state pilgrims board Alhaji Liad Tella who visited Kaduna State Governor Namadi Sambo said the date was fixed to enable states pilgrims board organize trainings for intending pilgrims on how best to perform the exercise. While emphasizing the need for the training of intending pilgrims, he said many who go for hajj were not knowledgeable on its essence. He added that first timers would be given priority. "Pilgrimage is not a jamboree. People must be well informed and educated on how best to perform the religious obligation. That is why we are emphasizing on training this year. We have seen the need for it," he said.

Commending the Kaduna State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board for organizing training for its staff, he urged other states to emulate Kaduna by organizing trainings for their workers for the enhancement of service delivery during hajj operations.

## Borno govt recruits 1,000 teachers

From Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

THE Borno State government has recruited 1,000 teachers in various disciplines to boost manpower in the state secondary schools, the Commissioner for Education Dr. Asabe Vilita Bashir has said.

Dr. Bashir who disclosed this yesterday in Maiduguri said government embarked on the recruitment exercise because the state was in need of qualified teachers. "Government is not unmindful of the importance of training and re-training of our teachers to deliver hence, the ministry has completed arrangements through its various agencies to organize workshops for teachers at all levels", she said.



MINISTER of Transport Alhaji Ibrahim Isa Biu, addressing a press conference on the drainage of River Niger in Abuja yesterday.

## Ex LG boss wants to be released from prison

From Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

A former council chairman in Borno State has appealed to be let out of the Maiduguri prison where he is serving a jail term. He was convicted of financial impropriety following his prosecution by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC).

Shugaba Umara yesterday filed an application at the high court 10 (the same court that jailed him) seeking to be released on health grounds pending the determination of an appeal which he filed at the Court of Appeal. At yesterday's sitting, counsel to the former chairman, Peter Adébayo Bello, said the health of the applicant was deteriorating, adding that the prison authorities said they did not have the facility to manage the situation. The counsel said the chairman had a heart related disease which the prison could not manage and appealed to the court to let him out of the prison so that he could take care of his health. Counsel to the ICPC, Paul Ahmed Bassey, urged the court to throw out the application, saying it was incompetent. The presiding judge adjourned the case till March 23, 2010.

The court had on Tuesday 29th September, 2009, convicted the then Chairman of Mungonu Local Government Area, Shugaba Umara Gana, and a staff of the Board of Internal Revenue over corrupt charges levelled against them by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission. The ICPC had in charge number M27C/07 accused the chairman of withdrawing N1.5 million under the pretence of paying withholding tax to the Board of Internal Revenue, an act contrary to section 19 of the ICPC Act 2000. The pleaded not guilty to the charges, but at the end of the trial, the presiding judge, Nggada, ordered that the chairman and one Alkali Imam be jailed for 7 years each.

## LG releases N8m for NECO exam fees

THE Isoko South Local Government in Delta, has disbursed N8 million to enable principals of public secondary schools in the area pay for their students 2010 NECO examination.

The Chairman, Chief Askia Ogieh, told newsmen in Asaba that the payment was to show the council's commitment to the advancement of education in the area. Ogieh said that education was the greatest legacy any government could bequeath to its people, and that the amount was for the 20 public secondary schools in the area. He said that 1,069 students would benefit, adding that education was a major industry in the area as both primary and secondary schools were found all over the communities.

The local government boss said the council had already completed the payment of its counterpart fund to the power sector special intervention fund. He said that a total of N192.38m was paid into the power sector special intervention fund, adding that there was the need to sustain the tempo of development.

"This of course is until we realise our overall objectives of bringing the dividends of democracy to the door steps of the majority of our people," he said.

He further said that the newly inaugurated cassava factory constructed by the local council was geared toward the industrialisation of the area.

Ogieh said that the factory would benefit the people in three ways, as it would enhance cassava production, stimulate economic activities and create employment.

He said, "We believe that this project will encourage agro-industrial activities in the rural areas plus other spill-over effects on the economy of the area. (NAN)

## Katsina govt pays N40.3m on Fadama programme

THE Katsina State Government has paid its N40.3 million counterpart fund for the Fadama III programme. Alhaji Magaji Abubakar, the state Coordinator of the programme, made this known yesterday in Katsina.

He said 20 local government

areas in the state which had signified interest to participate in the programme, had also paid their counterpart funds.

Abubakar said the Fadama Project Coordination Committee had been inaugurated, while a Memorandum of Understand-

ing (MOU) was signed between the 20 participating councils and the Fadama Office.

He said 80 facilitators had been receiving training to ensure that the programme was successfully implemented.

"We have made adequate

preparations for the programme. We are only waiting for World Bank's response any time from now," he added.

He commended the government for its support for the programme and other agric-related projects in the state. (NAN).

# Assembly suspends nominee confirmation over irregularities in credentials

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE Nasarawa State House of Assembly yesterday suspended the confirmation of a nominee sent to it by Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma after members allegedly discovered some irregularities in the credentials sub-

mitted by the nominee.

Isah Musa Agwai, son of the Emir of Lafia, Alhaji Mustapha Agwai, could not be cleared by the House because his credentials showed that he completed his National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) a year before he graduated from the University of Jos.

His certificate indicated that he graduated in November 1997, but the NYSC certificate is dated November, 1996. A member, Barrister Lagi's, then moved a motion for an investigation into the suspected certificate forgery. The motion received unanimous support from members of the House after

which the Speaker Musa Ahmed Mohammed ruled that both the university and the NYSC be asked to provide explanations. The nominee was screened for the Nasarawa State Local Government Service Commission (NSLGSC) alongside four others. The other four nominees were cleared.



GOVERNOR Adebayo Alao-Akala of Oyo State (holding stick), inspecting the Garage-Odoona-Elwe-Apata Ganga road dualization project.

## LGs want new emirate

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

GOVERNOR Ali Modu Sheriff's local government area, Ngala and two others, Kala-balge and Dikwa Local Government Areas that are part of the four local government areas under Dikwa Emirate in Borno State at the weekend held a rally demanding a separate emirate. They also demanded that the palace of the emir of the new emirate when created, should be in Ngala, Governor Sheriff's home town. The rally which took place in Dikwa was attended by top government officials including commissioners, permanent secretaries, members of the state House of Assembly, local government chairmen and directors in the state civil service.

The Borno State Commissioner for Works Mohammed Gajibo said going by the law passed by the state Assembly granting Sheriff's request for the creation of new emirates, the people of Ngala, Kala-balge and Dikwa want to be removed from the Dikwa emirate. Gajibo who read a text jointly signed by nine top government officials from the three councils said they had met the necessary criteria which included a demographic strength of about 500,000 people (according to the 2006 NPC) 12 district administrative units as well as 77 villages.

The Borno Assembly had in February passed a law granting powers to the governor to create new emirates in the state.

## Jos crisis: Ondo family looks for son

From Leye Adewumi, Akure

WEEKS after the recent Jos crisis which claimed lives and property in Plateau State, the Adegalu family in Ondo town, Ondo State is still searching for one of their

sons, Mr. Peter Olubunmi Adegalu. The head of the family, Mr. Jerry Adegalu, told newsmen yesterday in Akure that 36 Olubunmi had lived in Jos for about ten years before the crisis. He said all efforts by the family and relations to

locate Peter had not yielded any positive result. He said series of meetings had been held with the Ondo community in Jos where it was confirmed that none of the state's indigenes died in the crisis. Chairman of the group in Jos,

Mr. Francis Iyiola, said before the crisis, Peter Adegalu, was a strong member of the youths' vanguard which protected Ondo indigenes during the 2008 crisis. He said a search party had been set up to look for him.

## Borno govt distributes N1.26 bn learning materials

From Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

THE Borno State government yesterday commenced the distribution of learning materials worth N1.26 billion to secondary schools in the state.

The exercise was flagged-off by Governor Ali Modu Sheriff. Materials to be disbursed include 21,730 double desks worth N269 million, 924,000 textbooks valued at N771 million, chemicals and reagents worth N182million and 10,000 mattresses worth N37.5million. Governor Sheriff said all the boarding schools in the state, including the 85 senior secondary schools would benefit, adding that the gesture was aimed at providing a conducive learning environment

for students.

"A monitoring committee would be set up to go on a tour of the secondary schools to ensure that the items have been distributed as allocated and are being put to proper use. The committee which will start work next week would be headed by my Chief of Staff with five commissioners and three permanent secretaries as members. Let me categorically state that these materials are meant for post primary schools only and must not be diverted or sold. Anyone found sabotaging this effort would be decisively dealt with," he said.

In her welcome address, Borno State Commissioner for Education Dr. Asabe Vilita Bashir said the exercise was to raise the standard of education in the state.

## Fashola signs 2010 budget into law

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

LAGOS State Governor Babatunde Fashola yesterday signed the 2010 budget into law. Governor Fashola had earlier presented a budget of N429.6 billion to the Assembly late last year, but last Tuesday, the proposal was reduced by the lawmakers to N389.571 billion, amounting to a reduction of N40 billion. He also signed the bill establishing the State Assembly Service Commission into law.

Speaking on the bill that created the State Assembly Service Commission before it was signed into law, the Special Adviser on Political and Legislative Bureau

Abdul-Lateef Abdulhakeem said the law would give the state Assembly autonomy in managing its affairs.



GOVERNOR Babatunde Fashola

# Muslim leaders dissociate Islam from terrorism

By Abbas Jimoh & Ibraheem Fatai

MUSLIM leaders and scholars said Islam is a peaceful religion that is against the use of violence to promote its cause.

Speaking in Abuja during the Muslim Media Practitioners of Nigeria (MMPN) public symposium, speakers attributed the cause of terrorism to global injustice, oppression and violation of human rights.

In a key note address titled,

"Islam and Terrorism", Secretary General Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) Dr Abdullateef Adegbite urged the media to educate the world on the root cause of terrorism which was denial of justice, with many Muslim countries at the receiving end.

While commending the initiative of the MMPN for the topical symposium with global relevance, Adegbite said Islam abhors violence and frowns at

unlawful killing of human beings or suicide bombing.

Adegbite, who also delivered the good will message of Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar, called on the Federal Government to intensify diplomatic pressure on US to get Nigeria delisted from its list of countries of interest in the war against terror.

Delivering a paper titled, "Passivity is not the Muslim answer to tyranny", Vice Chancellor University of Ilorin Prof Ishaq

Oloyede said terrorism has no universal definition but occurs as a result of dissatisfaction of an aggrieved individual, group of people or even nations over a pressing issue. Represented by Dr Yusuf Badamas, Oloyede said, "Contrary to widely held opinion that terrorist activities are common features in the Middle East, a report on international terrorist activities revealed that 412 terrorist activities were carried out at the global level with 40.5 per

cent in Western European countries as against Middle Eastern region of 20 per cent."

In her presentation on "Is there any link between Islam and Terrorism?", Hajia Aisha Umar-Yusuf of Media Trust limited, said there was a great task before Muslim media practitioners in combating the negative image of Islam being touted by the international media, saying, "What this calls for is a full-fledged intellectual jihad."

## 'Lack of funds threatens MDGs'

By Ruby Rabiu

PAUCITY of funds is a major setback to achieving Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6 which revolve around saving the lives of women and children, an official has said.

Senior Special Assistant to the President on MDGs Mrs Amina Az-Zubair said this yesterday during the flag off ceremony of training of midwives on life saving skills and integrated management of childhood illness under the Midwives Service Scheme (MSS).

She said more funds need to be harnessed and deployed to the areas that deal exclusively with maternal and infant mortality, adding that it was a shame that women and children still die from preventable diseases.

The SSA said little reduction has been noticed in the statistics given on the maternal and infant mortality over a span of five years, which would

make it almost impossible to achieve goals 4, 5 and 6.

"All stakeholders in the health sector, both at the federal, state and local government will have to partner to harness funds to save the lives of our women," Zubair said.

Earlier the Health Minister Professor Babatunde Osotimehin said that with the introduction of the MSS into the health sector a lot of positive impact has been made in several communities where they have been deployed.

Meanwhile a lot of complains have trailed the scheme as some midwives have lamented the harsh conditions they are forced to work in.

Mrs Victoria Akinrolabu, an MSS focal officer, told Daily Trust that some communities were yet to honour the agreement they signed with the federal government to provide accommodation and security for the midwives which has made the job tiresome and challenging.



LAGOS State Governor Babatunde Fashola (left), signing the 2010 Budget Bill into law at the Lagos House, Ikeja yesterday. With him are his adviser on Political and Legislative Powers Abdullateef Abdullateef Hakeem (right) and the Chairman, House Committee on Budget and Appropriation Kolapo Olukorede Osunsanya.

## ECOWAS calls for peaceful election in Togo

By Aisha Umar Agaie

THE Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has urged Presidential candidates and other stakeholders in Togo's upcoming election to work towards a peaceful election.

The regional body also commended the stakeholders for their ongoing election campaigns slated for March 10 devoid of any hostility.

In a statement from the ECOWAS commission in Abuja, the Togolese people were reminded that the group has taken step to deploy a joint military-civilian observer mission

in order to enhance the atmosphere and ensure that the forthcoming election is free, credible and transparent.

"ECOWAS urges all the stakeholders to continue to put the interest of their country over and above all partisan interests and to contribute to the successful conduct of a peaceful, credible and transparent election on 4th March 2010," the commission said.

Most of the candidates were alleged to have held political appointments such as military administrators, ministers, chairmen and members of corporate bodies and public institutions.

## NLC restates opposition against deregulation

By Francis Okeke

NIGERIA Labour Congress (NLC) yesterday said it would continue to resist Federal Government's plan to deregulate the downstream oil sector.

The congress also said that it did not collect any money in whatever form from the Federal Government as an inducement for it to jettison its position.

NLC's General Secretary Comrade John Odah told reporters in Abuja the congress had come a long way in its resistance and that the current leadership of the union would not soil its "hands with blood money, considering the fact that many lives have been lost while the congress was leading Nigerians in the struggle against deregulation in the past.

He called on all Nigerians to be steadfast in the struggle and not allow mischief makers distract the nation from the real issues at hand which is "the need for government to tackle the corruption in the system.

"As one of the people driving the system, we were determined not to take any kobo as individuals because of various reason, some emotional some otherwise.

Chima Ubani and some people died in the course of this struggle. We had a resolution on this that what we will do will be in the interest of our members, and in the interest of Nigeria and Nigerians.

He said the union has all what it takes to match government in terms of discussion and debate, and our report by the deregulation committee.

## Customs identifies 60 illegal border routes

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

THE Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) says they are about 60 illegal routes in Ogun State, through which people could enter the country.

The Comptroller of Customs, Ogun State Command, Ahmed Jamo, who spoke on a radio programme monitored in Abeokuta yesterday said the illegal border routes were discovered shortly after his assumption of duty in the state. The comptroller said Ogun had the largest number of border routes in the country.

"But I must tell you that the identification of these illegal routes has brought about efficiency in our operations as we have our officers on ground to check the influx of people and contraband into the country. We are also educating the people on their rights on importation. For example, you only need to pay 30 per cent duty on a bag of rice", he said.

The comptroller on the presence of right-handed vehicles in the country said, "Those kind of vehicles are unacceptable in the country. We use left-handed vehicles".



FROM left: Permanent Secretary Ministry of Health Linus Awute, Chairman, Dental Therapist Registration Board Mrs Grace Dhalakama and Minister of Health Professor Babatunde Osotimehin, at the inauguration of boards of Federal Tertiary institutions in Abuja at the weekend.

# Rivers govt approves teachers' arrears

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

THE Rivers State government has approved the payment of salaries owed teachers in the state.

Governor Chibuike Amaechi disclosed this in response to a question during a Town Hall meeting with the people of Tai Local Government Area in the state.

He said the funds would be released very soon so that payment could commence, urging the teachers to be patient. The governor said his administration was committed to providing the people with basic infrastructure.

He noted that the Town Hall meeting was a forum to hear from the people how the policies of the state govern-

ment had impacted on them, saying available record indicated that Tai people needed more infrastructure than they had received.

Governor Amaechi added that health centres allocated to Tai Local Government Area had increased from five to seven, saying five new model primary schools would be built for the people.

## ...To ban illegal markets, parks

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

THE Rivers State government says it would soon ban illegal markets and motor parks from operating in Port Harcourt and its environs, saying they were responsible for the traffic jam in the city.

Governor Chibuike Amaechi who said this yesterday while speaking at the 14th anniversary thanksgiving service of the

Gateway International Church, Port Harcourt, said already a board on traffic management had been constituted to carry out the assignment.

He warned that anyone who violates the order would be arrested. He added that a bill seeking to enact a law against demand for "marching ground" and other illegal levies would be sent to the state legislature this week.

"It seems some of the laws we are making are harsh, but we

have to make them so that we can sanitize the society", he said.

He said works on some of the road projects were at a slow pace because of the reduction in the revenue accruing to the state, appealing to the people to pay their taxes to enable government live up to its obligations. Amaechi explained that work had not commenced on the Ada George road because government was still discussing with owners of houses that would be affected by the road expansion.

## Kebbi uncovers 6,000 ghost workers

From Isma'il Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi

THE Kebbi State government yesterday said that through e-payment, it was able to uncover over 6,000 ghost workers in the state civil service and save the state about N200m.

The state Commissioner for Finance Alhaji Muhammad Bello Tuga disclosed this in Birnin Kebbi while addressing newsmen. He however maintained that the government was not interested in punishing any ghost worker, saying the introduction of the e-payment system was not to punish anyone, but to ensure an efficient salary payment system.

Tuga said though there had been com-

plaints, particularly from the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) on the e-payment, he promised that every complaint and observation would be looked into by his ministry.

"Some people feel they were downgraded and some said their salaries were slashed. We have set up a committee to look into this. I promise that any short fall will be paid immediately", he said.

He the money recovered from the exercise would be returned to the treasury and government would decide on what to do with it.

He called on civil servants who had not been screened for the e-payment to do so without further delay.

## Seven policemen killed, 105 suspects arrested in Kogi

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

SEVEN police officers of the Kogi State Police Command were killed in 2009 while 105 suspects were arrested during the period under review.

The Police Public Relations Officer of the command, Mr. Abubakar Nasir Mohammed, disclosed this yesterday in an interview with

our correspondent in Lokoja.

Mr. Moihammed who said the command paraded 45 suspects and prosecuted 60 persons recalled that three police officers of the command were shot dead during a robbery in Anyigba while four others were killed on different occasions.

The police spokesman said last year, there were nine cases of theft, four kidnap-

pings, three armed robbery incidents and one suicide in the state. Mohammed said the age bracket of the offenders is between 18 and 30. A situation which he said was a cause for concern.

Citing poverty and unemployment as responsible for the crimes, the PPRO however noted that the crime rate in the state had reduced by 70 percent.

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# Online Reactions

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



**How Guards Brigade operates, by senior officer**

WELL, at the time the action was taken, Goodluck was the president and should have been informed. Is the military independent of the constitution or do they choose who to be loyal to? We are in a democracy now and they must put that into consideration. This issue must be investigated and the independence of the Guards Brigade should be re-evaluated.

**Aji Isuwa Suleiman**  
suleimanaji@yahoo.com

So the operation was normal after all. Maybe, it was the illegal ascension of the Vice President to the position of Acting President that provoked the Guards. Democracy must be defended, Prof. Akunyili should be advised to resign because she is not focused and President Yar'adua should do the right thing. May the Almighty preserve Nigeria.

**Prof. M. Garba**  
magakatagum@yahoo.com

## Akunyili: Yar'adua's aides must clarify his condition

MADAM Dora, the present ministers were appointed by President Yar'adua. Yar'adua is still the president and if you differ in views with other ministers, the honourable and principled thing to do is to resign from the cabinet so that when Jonathan becomes president he can re-appoint you.

**Mustash**  
almustash@yahoo.com

Please tell this lady that this is not how an honourable person behaves. She cannot deceive us. If she is not satisfied with the way things are in the government, let her resign. After all, is it not the same minister that is talking about rebranding Nigeria, saying we should not be reporting the negative aspect of our country? What she is doing now is contrary to what she is preaching.

**Sunusi Musa**  
iyando22@yahoo.com



**PROF. Dora Akunyili, Minister of Information and Communications**

Why are you saying things that are capable of tarnishing your image. The words you are using are too political.

**Mohammed**  
pronetoteres@yahoo.com

I hail this lady for her boldness.

Africa needs these sort of people.

**Obanor**  
kenor@web.de

I love people who maintain their stance, no matter the situation. Professor Dora has shown that she is a true patriot and

should be commended. If everyone up there can do the same, it would be good for Nigeria.

**Ewulum Clement**  
ewulumclement@yahoo.com

Dear minister, I think you should respect your leader and the rule of law.

**Lamido**  
bappahlamido@yahoo.com

It is actually frustrating for a Minister of Information who is supposed to be the spokesperson of the government not to have information on the president. If I were in her position, I would not be taking orders from the aides. Some of us were happy that the president came back, but to be frank, I am fed up and I believe many Nigerians feel the same way. No one knows what to believe or who to believe.

**Murtala Shawai**  
murtala74@yahoo.com

## Soludo's banking consolidation a sham – Sanusi

SO, Soludo was just fooling us. The man can be a great Information Minister.

**Mustash**  
almustash@yahoo.com

And he wants to govern a state. No wonder nothing is working in Nigeria except poverty and corruption. The country needs to be overhauled not only our refineries. How can we understand the fact that despite all our wealth and budgetary allocations, we do not have electricity, fuel or any meaningful development in the country.

**Aji Isuwa Suleiman**  
suleimanaji@yahoo.com

Before his appointment, he said he would not talk about the man that was there before him, why now?

**Inuwan Abdu**  
mufihady@gmail.com

Good enough, Mr. Sanusi, your office has the responsibility of correcting these

ills. Wasn't there anything your predecessor got right? Decorum forbids this incessant swipe at your predecessor unless they can be justified. Unfortunately, it is this same attitude that is robbing Farida Waziri of any recognition. Rule No. 1, "Never condemn your predecessor's work."

**Frisky Larr**  
friskyLarr@aol.com

I have been waiting to hear this from Sanusi. Soludo is part of the problem in the banking sector. EFCC should pick him up to answer questions on Sanusi's claims.

**Chris**  
nedkrix@yahoo.com

You're now talking, Mr. Lamido. Its better late than never. You seem to have waited for a long time to tell the country the truth about Soludo's role in our banking industry. Thank God Anambra people denied him immunity, now he can face the EFCC.

**Haro**  
haroismail@yahoo.com

Can the EFCC swing into action. This man should be arrested, prosecuted and jailed. Nigerians are watching.

**Hafizu Murtala**  
mhafizu@yahoo.com

You spoke the truth about the former CBN Governor. The next step is for you to initiate prosecution.

**Idee Amin Banki**  
talbanbanki@yahoo.com

Since the current CBN boss knows all these, why has he not invited the EFCC to question Soludo?

**Abdulfattah Muhammad**  
abdulfattahmuhammad@yahoo.com



**CBN Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi**



### NIGERIA DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

#### SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND GENERATING SETS

The Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC), in exercise of its right as Liquidator of failed banks, hereby invites interested members of the general public to buy the motor vehicles and generating sets of various banks (in-liquidation) through **PUBLIC COMPETITIVE BID**.

#### INSPECTION

The motor vehicles and generating sets can be inspected at **Ekene Dili Chukwu compound, 11A & B, Oregun, Ikeja, Lagos**. All interested persons are invited to contact Mr Amagoh Paul at NDIC, 8th Floor, NECOM House, 15 Marina, Lagos or on Tel No. 08055444145 for a guided inspection of the vehicles and generating sets.

#### BIDDING CONDITIONS

Bids should be submitted in **sealed envelopes** together with 10% of the bid price in certified bank draft in favour of the bank (in-Liquidation) for the motor vehicles or generating sets bidden for with an inscription on the top left-hand corner of the envelope **"BID FOR MOTOR VEHICLE OR GENERATING SET OF HALLMARK BANK PLC"**. The bid should contain name, address and telephone numbers of the bidder. Successful bidders will be required to pay the balance of their bid price within 30 days of notification.

#### SUBMISSION OF BIDS

Bids should be submitted to the **Head, Asset Management Department, Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation, Lagos Office, NECOM House (25<sup>th</sup> Floor) 15, Marina, Lagos on or before 4.00 p.m. on Thursday, 11th March, 2010.**

#### OPENING OF BIDS

Submitted bids shall be opened before the bidders on **Friday, 12th March, 2010 by 10.00 a.m. prompt at the office of the Head, Asset Management Department, Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation, Lagos Office, NECOM House (25th Floor) 15 Marina, Lagos.**

All assets are sold as "they are" and "net".

**Head, Asset Management Department, Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation, Lagos Office Annexe, NECOM House (25th Floor), 15 Marina, Lagos.**



By Kenneth Uwadi

## Akunyili should resign

**D**ora Nkem Akunyili, born July 14, 1954, is the former Director General of National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) of Nigeria and current Nigerian Minister of Information and Communications. She is a pharmacist and governmental administrator who has gained international recognition and won hundreds of awards for her work in pharmacology and public health.

She was a Senior Lecturer and Consultant Pharmacologist in the College of Medicine, University of Nigeria Nsukka (U.N.N.), Enugu Campus, before she became the NAFDAC boss.

She was born in Makurdi, Benue State (Nigeria) on the 14th of July 1954, hails from Nanka and married in Agulu, both in Anambra State of Nigeria. Akunyili's educational career started with her passing the First School Leaving Certificate with Distinction at St. Patrick's Primary

**You should have resigned honourably and separate yourself from the people you see as clowns and liars**

School, Isofia, Anambra State in 1966, and the West African School Certificate (W.A.S.C.) with Grade I Distinction in 1973 from Queen of the Rosary Secondary School, Nsukka, both in Nigeria.

**T**hese exceptional results in the First School Leaving Certificate, and W.A.S.C. earned her the Eastern Nigerian Government Post Primary Scholarship and the Federal Government of Nigeria Undergraduate Scholarship. She got her First Degree in Pharmacy in 1978 and her PhD in 1985 from U.N.N. Akunyili was a Post Doctorate Fellow of University of London and a Fellow of the West African Post Graduate College of Pharmacists. To prepare her for Managerial positions, she was trained on Senior Management skills Course in RIPA, London and Computer Education Programme by WHO/UNDP/World Bank Sponsored, Enugu in 1998 and 1994 respectively. Akunyili has enjoyed many academic awards and recognitions.

Dora Akunyili started her working career as a Hospital Pharmacist from 1978-1981, in the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital (U.N.T.H) Enugu, after which she ventured into academics as a Graduate Assistant (Research Fellow) in Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, U.N.N. from 1982-1986. In the University system, she made a steady progress from Lecturer I in 1986 until she was made Senior Lecturer in 1990. She transferred to College of Medicine, U.N.N. in 1992, where she was made a Consultant Pharmacologist in 1996, a position she held until 12th April 2001. Due to her love for Teaching and nurturing young ones, she was also a part time lecturer of the West African Post-graduate College of Pharmacists Lagos, Nigeria from 1992-1995.

When Akunyili was in NAFDAC, we all gave her the support because she was doing very well then. Today, Akunyili to me is a shadow of herself. She is not projecting the image of Nigeria very well as the minister of information. Her attitude reminds me of the film *District 9*. *District 9* is a film in the US described as openly portraying Nigerians as scum, as inhuman, as cannibals and even openly using Obasanjo's name as the cannibal head of the depraved Nigerian community. The film is being voted for a Best Picture Oscar, along with such films as *Avatar* and the *Hurt Locker*. According to critics, this film has done much to rubbish the image of Nigerians in the US.

**T**he role Akunyili is playing in this Yar'adua ill health issue provokes me to re-assess myself, who I am and where I am going in this world. Akunyili to me is producing another *District 9* movie. Akunyili seems to forget that she is currently the image maker of this country. She now sees herself as a social critic.

Akunyili as Minister of Information and Communication have not been the success many expected. Controversies with some subordinates and failure to repaint the negative perception of Nigerians in the global community have been some of her major challenges. Nothing exceptional was heard from Mrs. Akunyili until the controversy over the ill-health of President Umaru Yar'adua enraptured the polity. Her memo to the Federal Executive Council (FEC) seeking to empower Dr. Goodluck Jonathan as Acting President to many people is a way to attract cheap popularity. Now following reports of the return of President Yar'adua to the country in the wee hours, the holier than thou attitude were again stirred in the Information Minister who was compelled to now inform inquisitive newsmen that a few have turned the ill-health of the President into a desperate game for political merchandise. Akunyili this time around is saying that she is fed up with the lies of Yar'adua's aides. She now sees Yar'adua's aides as liars.

I have this to her: *Dora Akunyili, thanks for your bold and un-Nigerian principles. Unfortunately, it appears you are at the wrong place at the right time so to say. You are in the process of destabilizing the polity. As a core member of the cabinet, you should know how to manage a lot of information about the presidency in order not to create tension in the country. Castigating your colleagues with an aim of getting your ego boosted is not the best for the interest of the nation. As an official person and most especially in the ministry of information, you are not expected to be divulging everything that transpires at the highest office of decision making for the sake of the peace and stability of the nation.*

*The mere fact that you are still sitting there as a minister is a testament to the fact that you are not that heroin you are pretending to be. You should have resigned honourably and separate yourself from the people you see as clowns and liars. In case you do not realize this, you are the chief image maker of Nigeria but instead of image making you are image rubbishing Nigeria.*

Uwadi can be reached at [anwuri252002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:anwuri252002@yahoo.co.uk)



By Al-Amin Mohammed

## Yobe's giant strides in education

**T**he United Nations' minimum benchmark of 26 percent budgetary allocation to the education sector has been a source of controversy among stakeholders in the sector. The Academic Staff Union of Universities [ASUU], for one, had on several occasions employed various measures, including resort to strike actions, to prevail on state and federal governments to make that much commitment to prioritise education.

In Yobe state, the focus and commitment of the Gaidam administration to making education accessible and affordable to the people remains unprecedented in the history of the 19-year old state. The education sector, over the past three years, had consistently enjoyed 26% of the state's total budget size, as the state governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam reiterated his administration's determination to fast tracking educational development in the state. "It is disturbing that an area known for its heritage of learning in the past, had only 23% literacy rate according to the 2006 National Population Census. This calls for concern and informs us to take various measures to reverse the situation. We have allocated 26 per cent of our 2008, 2009 and 2010 budgets to the education sector as recommended by UNESCO", he declared.

A visit to educational institutions in the state would easily reveal the infrastructural and structural developments recorded in the sector in the last three years. Schools have witnessed massive

**This calls for concern and informs us to take various measures to reverse the situation**

reconstruction and rehabilitation of classrooms and distribution of instructional materials. New boarding schools were established and constructed in all the 17 local government areas at the cost of N2.6 billion to provide qualitative foundation, enhance continuity and remove the financial burden of sponsorship on parents and guardians.

**Y**obe government introduced its students to world class education through sponsorship to the prestigious Turkish International colleges in Abuja, Kano and Kaduna and, subsequently the establishment of the Turkish college model in Mamudo. A visitor to the N1.2 billion Mamudo college, will appreciate efforts put by government in providing qualitative structures, facilities and general infrastructures at the college for conducive learning and teaching atmosphere obtained anywhere in the world.

As part of efforts to encourage girl-child education and check cases of school dropout among girls in the state, six girls colleges in Gadaka, Buni-Yadi, Potiskum, Ngelzarma, Dapchi and Dagona were renovated at the cost of N1.3 billion.

To update the teacher's knowledge to master their subject, 757 teachers were sponsored for capacity building at

the National Mathematics Centre Abuja costing government N200 million while additional 1,284 qualified teachers will be recruited to boost education at the basic level for a sound foundation. The implementation of 27% Teachers Salary Structure as well as, introduction of incentives for teachers serving in the rural areas have all translated into productive teaching with increased output and performance in WEAC and SSCE examinations.

With the massive intervention in the primary and secondary levels of education, the state government embarked on a deliberate and adequate funding of its tertiary institutions to absorb and find placement for all qualified school leavers. To this end, facilities were immensely provided at the state owned university otherwise known as Bukar Abba Ibrahim University to meet standards and accreditation by the Nigeria Universities Commission.

**T**he university having met all mandatory requirements of the commission, successfully commenced degree programmes in October last year. Office and residential accommodation for staff were constructed while, students' hostels, lecture halls, classrooms and laboratories were also constructed to facilitate smooth take-off of the university. Government provided furniture and equipment for three laboratories worth over N150 million. A modern clinic and laboratory with the state-of-the-art equipment had been provided to provide health care delivery to the university community. Similarly, an up to date weather station comparable to none in the North-east sub region had been established in the university. A 2.5 kilometre road network was currently undergoing construction to open up addition access roads in the university.

The Vice Chancellor and seasoned academician, Professor Musa Aliabe, said the colossal investment by government into the university will spur the young institution to catch up with older universities in terms of academic excellence and research. "It is gratifying and encouraging that the state government is investing substantially in the university. This will facilitate academic excellence among lecturers and students. I am assuring you that with the atmosphere provided by government, we shall produce graduates that can compete favourably anywhere in the world" he said.

It was a celebration galore for the management, staff and students of the state polytechnic Gaidam when the state government approved and released N90 million lifeline for equipping of its laboratories to meet its accreditation requirements by the National Board for Technical Education. This feat gave the Polytechnic which hitherto suffered long neglect a sense of belonging, fulfilment, and determination to pursue academic excellence and, to compete favourably among its peers across the nation.

Similarly, the college of Agriculture Gujba, enjoyed a N34 million support from government to procure laboratory equipment and consumables, construct and equip veterinary clinic, audio/visual room and abattoir as well as, 10 tractors with complete accessories for accreditation of its courses.

Mohammed wrote from Ali Marami Housing Estate, Damaturu.



## Your Letters

### Kebbi: Who the cap fits...

Gone are the days when the blind leads those with eyes. A carpenter was given a tailors job to do while the tailor was busy operating patients in the doctor's theatre just because the interest of a few people must be satisfied at the expense of the electorate in Kebbi State.

People have woken up from their slumber that had allowed the continuous enthronement of bad leaders in the past, whose singular and egocentric interests have remained for self-enrichment and aggrandizement. More annoying is that this is done with great impunity too.

Today the youths in Kebbi State have decided to stand up and speak with one loud voice saying enough is enough! Nobody will henceforth come home carrying any flag from elsewhere proclaiming himself an anointed candidate for any post and we the youth will take it as a fait accompli.

It is no longer business as usual; no more money politics. We want to see a realistic agenda-based politicking that will lay emphasis on people development with short and long term goals to which we shall hold anyone elected to account for throughout the duration of his or her tenure.

Political office seekers that flock to the government house in search of his blessing or anointment get the same response repeatedly; go back to your people! If they want you we also want

you. This is the true reflection of a selfless and people subservient leader. These and other intrinsic qualities have endeared him to the youth in Kebbi state and thus winning their support in his bid for a second term in office come 2011.

The youth are now poised to see that imposition which was a common thing in the past is totally abolished and merit is given to whom it is due through free and fair electoral processes in the next general elections.

Now that we have tasted a purposeful, fair, honest, committed and God fearing leadership, Kebbi youths would no longer sacrifice this on the altar of self serving people. No one comes out of darkness into the light and claims he misses the darkness.

**Mohammed Danjuma Dago**  
(jnr), Zuru, Kebbi State.

## Text us on 08 131 8000 30

### Crosswords or Sudoku?

I can't understand why you people stopped printing the crossword puzzle in your digest page which is more educative than the Sudoku you currently run. Please bring it back before you lose some of us that are your avid readers.  
**MUSA A. Anyio, Abuja, 08023334927.**

### Man shall not leave by bread alone

THOSE members of the Christian community in the north should watch their tongue; they are provoking the nation by asking for the removal of Chief of Army Staff and other senior officers purely on religious grounds. Who do they think they are, making such inflammatory calls?  
**ABDULLAHI Umar, Dutse, 08060411329.**

**Not in our name**

THE call by some Northern Chris-

tian organisation for the removal of the army chief is entirely not in our interest, we the peace-loving Christians of this country. That call is a threat to the peace and unity of our country,  
**08137803474.**

### Looking a gift horse in the mouth

ISSA Aremu should be more sensible. TY Danjuma did what even those who clearly stole couldn't.  
**MUSA Luka, 07041722226.**

### To believe is to see

I am at 99 percent sure that President Yar'adua is not yet back. If you doubt me, then prove me wrong. I don't know the direction we are heading to, and also I don't even know the point we are now; I only pray for all sick Nigerians for quick recovery, not only the president but including sick nation.  
**LIBERTY Agbo, Wuse, Abuja, 08039663725.**

### Question for Gov Idris

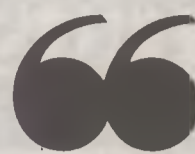
WHAT is happening in Ebiraland? Is Ebiraland not part of Kogi state? FG should wade into the matter and save our lives.  
**DR A. A. Rahaman, Abuja, 08033210532.**

### Ominous words

WHILE the beards of Niger Republic politicians are on fire, Nigerian politicians are busy sprinkling their own with petrol, tempting conflagration.  
**ISA MB, 08099495893.**

### Akunyili needs telling...

THAT she is carrying the Yaradua/ Jonathan issue too far. Her assertion that only the senate can give Yar'adua back his seat is ludicrous.  
**ABDULLAHI Safio, Potiskum, Yobe State, 07069685274.**



By Adamu Muhammad Usman

## Between Sanusi Abubakar, Sule Lamido and Jigawa State

"You can be come blind by seeing each day as similar one. Each day is different one; each day brings a miracle of its own. It's just a matter of paying attention to this miracle"

—Paulo Cogh

Jigawa is literally means a fertile land that is conducive for agriculture and animal husbandry, and replete with abundant resources. According to the 2006 census, Jigawa has a total population of 4,348,659. Out of this number 80-90% are farmers and pastoralists.

With the human and natural resources, also despite all the receipt of billion of naira in grants, allocations from federal government, foreign bodies, development partners, NGOs, there is little to show for them.

Sanusi Abubakar, in his Tuesday column (*Daily Trust*) of February 9th and 16th -2010 busied himself eulogizing Lamido, instead of advising the governor to provide social services to people of the poorest state in the federation.

Even the Governor has acknowledged that Jigawa, has witnessed a lot of suffering, hardship and the total collapse of most of her system in high level of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, insecurity etc. "Jigawa in terms of criteria such as level of illiteracy, maternal and infant mortality, has been portrayed as the poorest in the federation" —Governor Lamido (See page 9, December 22 and page 21 December -25- 2008 *Daily Trust*).

Therefore, the remaining one year that Governor Lamido has left in office is very crucial and a critical challenge for him if he is at all serious and determined to make any difference, rescue and uplift the state from its present predicament. To be a messiah or the *Talakawa's* governor, he has to move with speed of the hope, agitation and expectation of Jigawa people.

Lamido has to revisit his policies and restructure his team; he has to get honest, dedicated and competent team, a group of technocrats with positive ideas, committed and selfless in order to move the state forward because of the dilemma of misappropriations of funds in the state which the EFCC is has been investigating the Governor and some his cabinet members

The governor should continue his plan of improving the deplorable situation of the roads in the state most especially Jahun, Kafin-Hausa, Kafin-Hausa, Auyo and Kafin-Hausa, Bulangu roads respectively. The state of roads in Jigawa have become a death trap where many of our people lose their lives, not quite long I read in one of the National Dailies that, the state sector command of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) was reported to have said "No fewer than 147 people were killed in 130 auto crashes in Jigawa State last year."

During the Talakawa Summit in the state, a traditional birth attendant lamented the needless death of women and their children due to lack of access roads in the state.

There is also a need for the state government to revisit its policy decision in regard to withdraw the licenses of medical practitioners who refuse to work in the state after completion of their studies.

Lastly I will still appeal to the Jigawa state government to reverse it decision on its policy of deprivation on student minimum credits from seven (7) to five (5) if at the government of Sule Lamido is Serious about assisting the students of poor parents (masses) to further their studies at various institution across the country, because even the other states were education is given due considerations more than Jigawa, the minimum credits needed are five. But if the government of Talakawa insists on going forward with this decision, many of us would not be able to continue with our studies and may be forced to dropout.

Jigawa people need and deserve good and urgent service delivery from this administration and there is no better time to make meaningful contribution to the lives of Jigawa people than now. Yesterday's opportunity might have gone; today brings a new ones.

A leader has to fortify his fort in order to overcome negative influence, selfish interests and desires, greed and covetousness among others, before he can become a self-disciplined leader, imbued with honour and integrity and with a consciousness of accountability and transparency.

It is when we understand our own situation, needs, desires, priorities and problems that we can make a proper evaluation of the needs of the people and the state.

**Usman wrote from Kafin-Hausa, Jigawa State**  
([adammusman@yahoo.com](mailto:adammusman@yahoo.com))

# DAILY TRUST

## EDITORIAL

No. 20 P.O.W. Mafemi Crescent, Off Solomon Lar Way,  
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## Improving fire fighting facilities at airports

**R**ecent reports that the nation's airports lacked adequate protection against fire disasters are disturbing. Details of the shortcomings were provided by Nigerian Aviation Fire and Safety Association (NAFSA, at a meeting in Lagos. The organization identified lack of sufficient fire cover and poor state of existing ones across the nation's airports as one of the many challenges confronting its members in the discharge of their duties. Most of the fire covers at airports are either obsolete or decaying. The president of NAFSA, Mr Lewis Ojeifo, said that some of the tenders and equipment are as old as twenty-five to thirty years, severely constraining the capacity to effectively deal with fire outbreaks.

There is generally a poor fire fighting and prevention culture in the country, which in many cases, has led to the loss of lives and valuable property, which otherwise would have been averted. Where fire fighting facilities are not obsolete, they are grossly in short supply. Non-availability of water is another constraint faced by fire fighters each time there is fire outbreak at any of the airports other public places. Fire fighters, too, lack adequate expertise and modern techniques of fire fighting. There are scarcely any water hydrants in our major cities, let alone towns and villages. These inadequacies represent serious obstacles to efforts and fire prevention and fighting in Nigeria.

Considering how unpredictable fire outbreaks could be during the landing and take-off of aircrafts, government must see it as a matter of utmost necessity to provide adequate fire covers at airports across the country. Sufficient and up-to-date fire fighting equipment should be provided at airports and other public buildings in the country. Such tenders and equipment should be sourced directly from the manufacturers. Their maintenance, too, should be done in accordance with manufacturers' maintenance schedule. Alternatives to public water supply system such as boreholes dedicated to fire stations should be installed at airports to address situations of water shortage and scarcity. Water hydrants at designated points within and outside airports could also help in putting out fire without difficulty whenever there is an outbreak. The provision of such water points at public buildings and along the roads may also serve fire fighting purposes.

**W**hile we encourage government to give priority to training and re-training of fire fighting personnel, we also urge corporate organizations and institutions including airports as well as individuals at the family level, to imbibe good fire prevention culture by observing fire drills at regular intervals. The regular but spur-of-the-moment drills for all airport staff would avail authorities at the airports the opportunity of ascertaining the availability or validity (where facilities exist) of fire extinguishers and other fire fighting chemicals and other input liquid. The installation of smoke sensors and fire detectors in all the rooms and offices within the airport premises is paramount in the bid to uncover and avert fire outbreaks at the nation's airports.

Notices showing fire escape routes and ways leading to staircases within the airport premises should always be written clearly and in bold ink and colours. Given the low level of fire prevention awareness among Nigerians, we suggest that government at various levels should embark on intensive public enlightenment campaigns on fire safety measures. No amount of expenditure on fire prevention, fighting and control particularly at airports would be too much, considering the devastation that usually accompany fire incidents at airports.

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## Akunyili and the road to anarchy

### Muhammad Al-Ghazali

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08052100432 (SMS only)

**I**n the run-up to the criminal invasion and occupation of Iraq, one particular world leader held precariously onto the coattails of George W. Bush, the renowned war criminal, for relevance. Tony Blair, then the British Prime Minister, knew the war contemplated by the right-wing elements in Washington was unjust, and illegal, but towed the American line all the same, in continuance of the so-called special relationship foisted on both nations by their colonial heritage, and the two world wars fought in the last century.

But Blair faced a Herculean task. British public opinion, like that of other responsible citizens of the world, was against the war. Spontaneous demonstrations took place in different world cities. All attempts by the hawks in Washington to link Iraq with terrorism were unconvincing, especially since Saddam Hussein was not a patron of Al-Qaeda, the alleged masterminds of the 9/11 atrocities.

They were the same reasons echoed by several British cabinet members who felt that Britain needed a second UN resolution to join the mad stampede for regime change in Baghdad, which was the ultimate goal of the Bush administration. One member in particular, Claire Short - then the British Secretary for International Development - was particularly stringent in her opposition to the plan.

Claire Short grudgingly consented to the invasion only when the Attorney General Lord Goldsmith, somehow contrived to convince the cabinet that it was legally agreeable to go ahead with the invasion. But she resigned soon after when the invading forces failed to uncover the stockpiles of WMD, Blair and Bush were emphatic Iraq possessed. And a few weeks ago, a formal panel provided her with a forum to have the last laugh on the very people she said, coned her into supporting the war.

**I** have taken time to cite the Claire Short example because I wanted to prove that it is possible for cabinet members to vehemently disagree with even their superiors without compromising on the need for decorum, responsibility, and group loyalty, in interest of the larger society. There is nothing wrong with cabinet Ministers disagreeing among themselves. What is highly abnormal, however, is when the exact details of their deliberations and disagreements become the subject of intense gossip and innuendoes in market squares across the country the very next day!

Even village meetings are guided by a set of written or unwritten rules that are binding on all members. It is the essence of civilized conduct. And because issues bordering on national security are often discussed at cabinet meetings, governments, the world over, have come to expect a certain level of civility in the con-

duct of cabinet members. Governments are not operated on the pages of newspapers.

Obviously, all Nigerians have the right to be aggrieved at the manner information on the health of the President has been managed. Yet, that can hardly be an excuse for lunacy. The way Dora Akunyili has been singing and disclosing information on the conduct of her cabinet colleagues, when she could have easily resigned in civilized protest, is nauseating and goes beyond the realm of protecting her personal integrity.

her, too, deserves the benefit of our doubt on the rumours currently peddled in the media on the extent of her control.

Still, if Akunyili has been at her self-glorifying best, the actions and inaction of the acting President, too, gave reasons for serious concern. The reported intention to change service chiefs so soon after his minor cabinet reshuffle seemed a daft move to me, as much as he could have done without the controversy on the diversion of funds from the dredging of River Niger.

If he proceeds to change the service chiefs while the man that appointed them is still battling for his life, he will set alarm bells ringing among people already sceptical about the sudden desperation to supplant Yar'adua.

And like I wrote last week, what Nigerians expect most from

**“If he proceeds to change the service chiefs while the man that appointed them is still battling for his life, he will set alarm bells ringing among people already sceptical about the sudden desperation to supplant Yar'adua**

Her methods, such as the syndicated interview carried by several newspapers over the weekend, are more likely to compound, rather than to improve the situation she condemned with so much venom. It reeks of cheap opportunism. She may not know it, but if she has not become one herself, her strategy is sure to have emboldened a fast emerging colony of anarchists with catastrophic implications for the country. And in any case, how much, efforts has she made to resolve her differences with the cabal?

I was totally appalled by the way Akunyili amplified trivial issues in the interview. Issues such as the matter of sitting on the chair reserved for the President in the Council Chambers, and the way she recycled the information disclosed to the Ministers when they eventually met with Jonathan, were certainly unnecessary, in my view. And except he was privy to her action I will be very surprised if the acting President fails to reprimand her on the matter.

I have no intention of holding brief for the so-called 'cabal' responsible for the total paucity of information on the health status of the President, but I am of the opinion that what the situation demands at this material time are cool heads, rather than demagogues and selfish Ministers intent on playing to the gallery.

The President's spouse may be all people have claimed she is, and more, but given the gravity of her husband's health situation, even

Mr. Jonathan was for him to steady the ship of state. If he also succeeds in reforming the electoral process ahead of the next general elections, it will no doubt be a huge plus. Jonathan, more than anyone else, should know that the aggressive attempts at consolidating his hold on power will ultimately unnerve some quarters so soon after his nocturnal communion with Olusegun Obasanjo.

That aside, as desperate and obstinate as they may seem no one needs to remind Yar'adua's diehard loyalists that what the unfolding scenario portends for them is essentially the 'last chance saloon.' Even for them, if the president fails to put in an appearance before the end of the week, enlightened self interest must determine their next course of action.

**E**xcept they have information not immediately available to ordinary Nigerians, it was wrong to have smuggled the president back into the country without informing the acting President. The acting President too has the right to be aggrieved over the matter, but there must surely be better ways of addressing his grief.

The sudden disclosure of discomforting information capable of polarising the nation is certainly not one of them. But it is a price the nation must pay for appointing a novice to superintend over our information management process.



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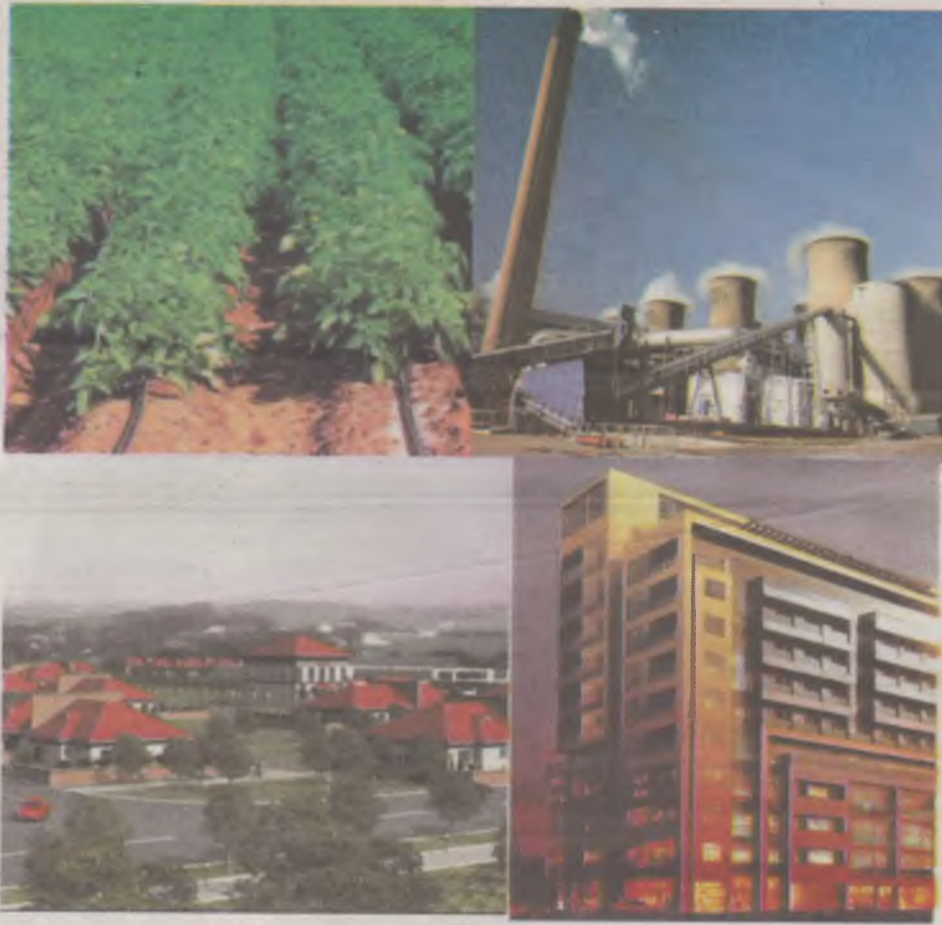
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7	Fidelity Bank Plc	61
8	First Bank of Nigeria Plc	7981
9	First City Monument Bank Plc	90
10	Fin Bank Plc	114
11	Guaranty Trust Bank Plc	318
12	Intercontinental Bank Plc	331

S/NO	NAME OF BANK	NO. OF RETIREES
13	Oceanic Bank International Plc	258
14	Bank PHB Plc	157
15	Skye Bank Plc	316
16	Spring Bank Plc	102
17	Stanbic IBTC Bank Plc	563
18	Standard Chartered Bank Nigeria Plc	7
19	Sterling Bank Plc	25
20	Union Bank of Nigeria Plc	1,643
21	United Bank for Africa Plc	1,793
22	Unity Bank Plc	446
23	Wema Bank Plc	561
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# INTERNATIONAL

## Ugandan activists ask parliament to reject anti-gay bill

HUNDREDS of anti-AIDS campaigners yesterday urged Ugandan lawmakers to reject a proposed anti-gay law calling for tough penalties against homosexuality, including the death penalty. Around 400 activists presented parliament speaker Edward Ssekandi with a petition, criticising the bill as a violation of Uganda's constitution.

"The bill is not about protecting Ugandan culture and traditions as it purports. On the contrary it is violating our cultures, traditions and religious values that teach against intolerance, injustice, hatred and violence," one of the activists, Reverend Canon Gideon Byamugisha, said.

"The bill threatens all of us. It threatens the health, peace and

the well-being of Ugandan citizens and goes against the Ugandan constitution which provides for freedom from discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, colour, ethnicity, tribe, birth and creed," another activist, Rubaramira Ruranga, told AFP. But the parliament speaker said the bill had to undergo the due process.

"At the moment we cannot

block the bill; it has to follow the procedure in the house," Ssekandi told the group. "As part of this procedure we welcome people with divergent views to submit them so that we take into account these concerns," he added.

The bill, which has sparked widespread international condemnation, would criminalise public discussion of homosexual-

ity and could penalise an individual who knowingly rents property to a homosexual. It also calls for the death penalty for "aggravated homosexuality", in cases of rape of a minor by a person of the same sex, or where one partner carries the virus that can cause AIDS. Homosexuality is already illegal in Uganda, punishable by life imprisonment in some instances.

## Tanzania president vows clean elections

TANZANIAN President Jakaya Kikwete vowed a new election law would impose tighter controls on campaign financing and improve the standards of this year's polls.

Kikwete, speaking yesterday in his monthly televised address, said the new measures were crucial to ensuring the credibility of the legislative and presidential elections due in October.

"The whole electoral process... right from nomination of a candidate by a political party to actual election and activities after the polls can all be subjected to legal scrutiny under the new law," he said.

"There is evidence that some people spend excessively during the electoral process. The trend is worrisome, with emergence of some people in the country ready to buy their way into leadership positions at any cost," Kikwete said.

The 44-million-strong east African country, which relies heavily on donor money, has been criticised over widespread corruption and last year admitted to losing a third of its annual budget through graft and embezzlement.

Kikwete said that under the



TANZANIAN President Jakaya Kikwete, vowed a new election law would impose tighter controls on campaign financing and improve the standards of this year's polls.

Election Expenses Act, political parties and individuals must disclose the amount and the source of the money spent during the cam-

aign and election processes.

"Transparency and full accountability are vital components of a serious democratic set up. Nothing

should be done secretly," he said.

In October, Tanzania will hold local, legislative and presidential polls, the country's fourth since

the re-introduction of multi-party politics. Kikwete has declared his intention of running for a second and final five-year mandate.

## Troops vote first in Togo's presidential polls

TROOPS and police voted peacefully yesterday in a presidential election in Togo that is seen as a test of the small west African country's democratic progress after decades of dictatorship. The defence and security forces were called out to vote three days before the rest of the electorate so that they can keep guard over ballot-casting by civilians on Thursday.

An AFP correspondent saw long queues of voters at a military regimental camp and the gendarmerie headquarters -- the two largest voting centres in the Togolese capital Lome.

"The early voting will allow Togo's armed forces to be free on election day," Togo's chief of general staff, General Essofa Ayeva, told journalists.

Most of the polling stations in Lome opened on schedule at 7:00 am (0700 GMT) and voting closed at 5:00 pm (1700 GMT).

The number of voting security personnel was not disclosed, but they were casting their ballots at 126 centres in camps and gendarmeries across the country. Presidential elections in Togo in the past have been followed by bloody violence, including in 2005, after the death of former dictator General Gnassingbe Eyadema, who ruled for 38 years.

When Eyadema died, the military installed his son Faure Gnassingbe in power, causing a domestic and international outcry.

## Hundreds feared dead in Darfur clashes

HUNDREDS of civilians are feared to have died in a surge of fighting between the Sudanese army and rebels in the turbulent Darfur region, a UN source told Reuters yesterday.

A Sudan army spokesman denied any fighting was taking place in Darfur's mountainous Jabel Marra region and accused insurgents of harassing and attacking locals.

Reports of clashes throughout last week have marred Khartoum's announcement of a new peace push in the region and come just over a month ahead of national elections. "We think that we have a mounting number of casualties ... The lower esti-

mate is around 140. The higher estimate is closer to 400," said a UN source, adding the figures referred to civilian deaths.

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said as many as 40,000 civilians had fled the fighting between the government and Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) rebels, most recently around the market town of Deribat.

"For us the important thing now is to get access to the area," said the source, who said aid workers and UN agencies had been blocked from entering Jabel Marra by the ongoing fighting and the threat of bandit attacks on their staff.

SLA field commander Suleiman Marajan told Reuters government bombing raids had killed at least 170 civilians around Deribat over the past 10 days and more had died in other areas.

The army spokesman told Reuters: "There are no clashes between the Sudanese army and the forces of Abdel Wahed's movement." Abdel Wahed Mohamed al-Nur is the leader of an SLA faction which has a stronghold in the area.

Darfur's conflict surged in 2003 when the SLA and other rebels took up arms against Sudan's government, accusing it of leaving the mostly desert region underdeveloped.

## International

### Palestinian cabinet stakes claim amid shrine furor

THE Palestinian cabinet moved its weekly meeting to Hebron yesterday, a symbolic protest against Israel's addition of a contested shrine in this volatile West Bank city to its list of national heritage sites.

Israel's decision last week drew widespread international criticism and heightened Palestinian suspicions of Israel at a time when the US is trying to restart peace talks.

Israelis and Palestinians have clashed frequently in the past over two West Bank shrines added to the heritage list: the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron and Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem.

The city's brewing tensions were on sharp display yesterday, when a group of settler youths, some as young as 4 years old, threw rocks and cursed at Palestinians not far from the traditional grave of Abraham, considered the father of both Judaism and Islam.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas denounced Israel's move as an "attack on the holy places," and his Islamic militant Hamas rivals in Gaza called for a new uprising. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the decision was about preserving culture, and not connected to politics.

### IAEA chief accuses Iran of non-cooperation

THE head of the UN atomic watchdog, Yukiya Amano, said yesterday that Iran is still not giving sufficient information on its nuclear activities but that a uranium fuel deal is still on the table.

In an address to the International Atomic Energy Agency board of governors, Amano said: "We cannot confirm that all nuclear material in Iran is in peaceful activities because Iran has not provided the agency with the necessary cooperation." Iran protested and at a later news conference, Amano sought to clarify his comments.

"Yes, there is cooperation from Iran. That is why we have been able to confirm that declared nuclear material has not been diverted for non-peaceful purposes. But there are areas where we don't have cooperation and (where) we need cooperation," he said.

Iran must implement resolutions of the IAEA board and the UN Security Council to cease uranium enrichment, the Japanese official added.

# Hezbollah ups security after Hamas Dubai slaying

LEBANON'S militant Hezbollah group has beefed up security measures following January's killing of a top Hamas operative in Dubai and openly asked Lebanese authorities to tighten border controls against would-be assassins.

Dubai police say a 26-member hit team carrying forged foreign passports, including British, French and Australian ones, killed Mahmoud al-Mabhouh in his hotel room in January. Dubai authorities have blamed Israel's Mossad intelligence agency for the assassination.

"We call upon Lebanese security agencies to follow and monitor any person carrying a European passport and to deal with

him as a potential spy," Hezbollah legislator Nawaf al-Moussawi said in a televised interview yesterday.

Lebanon is in a state of war with Israel and Israeli citizens and travellers with Israeli stamps on their passports are not allowed to enter.

Hezbollah, which has fought Israeli forces since the early 1980s, has had several of its top members killed, allegedly by the Israelis and in 2006, the group fought a 34-day war against Israel. While a powerful force in the country, Hezbollah does not control the nation's borders, airport and ports and must rely on the government.

A government security official said that new measures had

already been taken to guard against possible infiltration by Israelis using forged European passports, though he did not elaborate any further. A Hezbollah official, for his part, said that while the group had complete confidence in government security agencies, it has boosted its own security measures as well. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject.

It is not uncommon for Hezbollah operatives to briefly detain foreigners walking in southern Beirut area known as Dahiyeh, where the group's headquarters are. In the past, Israeli journalists, using foreign passports, have

entered the country and reported from Lebanon.

Local and foreign journalists who want to report in Hezbollah's strongholds need special permission and escorts from the group. Maj. Gen. Waffiq Jizzini, head of the Directorate of General Security, said the data of any person arriving in the country with a Jewish-sounding surname is sent up to the head office where it is checked on. "We follow up on the person arriving and those receiving him," the general told Hezbollah's Al-Manar TV station. Israel's spy service has been suspected of assassinating Hezbollah commanders for more than two decades.



YEMENI Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs and his other cabinet colleagues attend Meeting of the working group for Yemen development needs in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, at the weekend.

## Yemen raid kills southern activist, family

A government raid left a southern activist, his wife and three children dead during an ongoing crackdown on southern separatists in Yemen, local officials said yesterday.

The officials said Ali Saleh al-Hadi was killed with his family in a pre-dawn raid yesterday on their home in Zinjibar town in southern Abyan province.

Two soldiers also died in the raid, the southern officials said but provided no details. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not allowed

to talk to the media. Government officials in the capital, Sana'a, did not comment the raid.

South Yemen was once a separate country and simmering tensions there have compounded Yemen's troubles as it struggles with a resurgent al-Qaida movement.

Yemen is also the poorest country in the Arab world and home to heavily armed tribes that barely acknowledge the central government's authority.

The unrest in southern Yemen is separate from a six-year conflict

in the country's north between government troops and Shiite rebels.

That conflict appears to be drawing to a close since the two sides agreed to a cease-fire last month. Southerners who joined a unified Yemeni 1990 have started a political movement demanding secession from the North, blaming the northerners for marginalizing them.

Also yesterday, demonstrations continued for a third day in several southern provinces, with protesters chanting anti-govern-

ment slogans and condemning abuses by the government. The southern movement, meanwhile, accused security forces of continuing to raid houses in southern towns and arresting dozens of supporters.

Yemeni police arrested 21 people on Sunday for allegedly belonging to the movement. Brig. Ghazi Mohsin said police also confiscated weapons and separatist literature during raids Saturday in the southern city of Dali, 125 miles (200 kilometers) south of Sana'a.

## International



INDIAN Prime Minister Manmohan Singh speaks during a press conference in Riyadh yesterday.

### Indian PM: Palestinian state crucial for stability

INDIA'S Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said yesterday that an independent Palestinian state was key to Middle East stability and called on arch-foe Pakistan to "act decisively" against terrorism.

"There is no issue more important for peace and stability in the region than the question of Palestine," Singh told members of the Saudi Shura Council, the kingdom's appointed consultative body, in Riyadh.

"For far too long the brave people of Palestine have been denied their just, legitimate and inalienable rights, including most of all the establishment of a sovereign, independent and viable Palestinian state," he said.

Singh, on the third and final day of a state visit to Saudi Arabia, also said that good relations with India's neighbour Pakistan hinged on its actions against terrorism.

"Our objective is a permanent peace (with Pakistan) because we recognise that we are bound together by a shared future," he said.

"But to realise this vision, Pakistan must act decisively against terrorism. If Pakistan cooperates with India, there is no problem that we cannot solve," Singh said.

Nuclear powers India and Pakistan have fought four major wars since 1947, and New Delhi accuses its arch-foe of being implicated in several terror attacks over the past years.

A bilateral cooperation agreement which Singh signed with King Abdullah after talks late on Sunday also emphasized the need for an independent Palestinian state. In the agreement the two leaders "stressed that Israel's continued building of settlements is a major obstacle to the peace process."

### Turkey warns US against genocide bill in Congress

TURKEY warned yesterday relations with its ally the United States would be damaged if a US congressional panel votes this week to label a World War One-era massacre of Armenians by Turkish forces as "genocide."

The Armenian issue has poisoned ties between NATO member Turkey and the United States in the past. In 2007, Ankara recalled its ambassador to Washington for consultations after a US panel voted on a similar bill.

Muslim Turkey accepts that many Christian Armenians were killed by Ottoman Turks but denies that up to 1.5 million died and that it amounted to genocide -- a term employed by many Western historians and some foreign parliaments. Ankara has said such a resolution would also hurt efforts by Turkey and Armenia to normalize ties.

"We want to believe that the Committee members will act responsibly and that they are aware that the acceptance of the bill could damage Turkey-U.S. ties as well as the efforts of peace and stability in the South Caucasus," Turkey's Foreign Ministry spokesman Burak Ozugergin told reporters.

### Vote monitors slam Tajikistan's parliamentary vote

RAMPANT fraud including ballot-box stuffing and proxy voting marred Tajikistan's weekend parliamentary elections, international observers said yesterday, while the opposition threatened legal challenges.

Results have yet to be announced, but Sunday's election was expected to confirm President Emomali Rakhmonov's two-decade grip on power over the impoverished Central Asian country that serves as a supply route for international forces in neighbouring Afghanistan. The opposition Islamic Revival Party complained of serious vote fraud, saying it had evidence of forged ballot count reports.

Vote monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe also said that the vote, while peaceful, was tainted by ballot-box stuffing and proxy voting.

## Uzbekistan charges 200 with plotting alleged coup

THE government of Uzbekistan has falsely accused about 200 people of killing officials and plotting a coup in the authoritarian Central Asian nation, a human rights group said yesterday.

Surat Ikramov of the Independent Human Rights Defenders Group says the men who have been caught up in a sweeping crackdown on Muslims and government critics are facing "100 percent trumped-up charges" in closed trials throughout the ex-Soviet nation.

He said the defendants are accused of being involved in the 2009 killings of a government-

appointed Muslim cleric and a police colonel, and of forming underground Islamist groups to overthrow President Islam Karimov's government. Uzbek officials were not available for comment, and no information on the trials have been reported by strictly censored Uzbek media. A former Communist boss, Karimov has ruled the predominantly Muslim nation of 27 million since before the 1991 Soviet collapse, silencing critics and eliminating opposition.

"This is state terror that only intensifies over the years," Ikramov told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

The defendants, most under age 30, have only been allowed to use government-appointed lawyers and were deprived of any communication with relatives, Ikramov said. At one of the trials outside Tashkent in late February, prosecutors requested that 15 defendants be sentenced to 15 to 20 years in jail, he said.

Rights groups claim that thousands of peaceful Muslims who worship outside government-sanctioned institutions have been convicted and jailed by Uzbek authorities fearful of Islamic fundamentalism. The prisoners are kept in remote maximum-security

prisons and are subject to hunger, humiliation and torture, rights groups say.

Karimov's government was ostracized by the West after its brutal suppression of a 2005 uprising in the eastern city of Andijan. Opposition and rights groups claimed that hundreds were killed in Andijan, but authorities insist fewer than 200 died and have accused Islamic militants of instigating the violence.

Since the uprising, Uzbek authorities have stepped up their pressure on religious groups, government critics and independent media.

## International

## Turkey: Partnering with Nigeria for development

By Francis Okeke

THE Republic of Turkey has over the years proved to be a strategic partner in Nigeria's efforts to reduce its legion of the unemployed.

History of Turkish-Nigeria relations dates to the Ottoman era which had dealings with the Kanem Bornu Empire that till now covers today's Northern Nigeria, Niger and Chad.

It also had relations with South Africa as early as 1863 while some North African countries such as Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, The Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia and even Niger and Chad were totally or partially subject to Ottoman rule centuries ago.

However, relations suffered neglect when Turkey became a republic in 1923 until 1998 when Turkey initiated a surge in mutually beneficial friendships and alliances with the acceptance of the World Bank's Africa Action plan.

Records show that Turkey opened its first official mission in Lagos in 1956. In 1998, the "Opening up to Africa Policy" document was adopted by Turkey to further develop its political, economic and cultural ties with African countries.

The year 2005 was announced by Turkey as "The Year of Africa" and this signalled a deliberate surge in activities between the two parties on an institutional level. Turkey has been providing development assistance to other countries since the 1970's and has transitioned from being a recipient country to a net donor country in recent years.

Disbursement of development assistance was institutionalised in 1992 with the establishment of the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) which operates under the affiliation of the Prime Minister's Office within the legal framework of Law No. 4668 enacted in 2002.

As parts of its contribution to creating jobs and empowering the unskilled in Nigeria's labour market, TIKA in collaboration with the management of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) sponsored officials of the NDE to a two week study tour of the GAP region in Republic of Turkey where projects of government, both small and big are utilised to create jobs for the unemployed or the underemployed in Turkey.

Hydro-dam projects are utilised to provide jobs for whole communities through strategically sited irrigation projects. Schools for young ones are created in training centres for women to reassure mothers of the safety of the toddlers.

During the two weeks stay in Sanliurfa Province in the GAP Region of Turkey which has



LEADER of the NDE delegation Alhaji Isma'ila Umar and the Deputy Governor of Turkish Adiyaman Province Mr. Yakup Guney in a business lunch when the team visited skills acquisition centres in the province.

eight other provinces, 46 officials of NDE including all the 36 state coordinators and that of the Federal Capital Territory Abuja toured part of the region visiting different skills acquisition centres.

GAP itself is not just a political enclave but a multi-sector and integrated regional development effort approached in the context of sustainable development. Its basic objectives include the improvement of living standards and income levels of people so as to eliminate regional development disparities and contributing to such national goals as social stability and economic growth by enhancing productivity and employment opportunities in the rural sector.

The project area covers 9 administrative provinces (Adiyaman, Batman, Diyarbakir, Gaziantep, Kilis, Mardin, Siirt, Sanliurfa and Sirtak) in the basins of the Euphrates and Tigris and in Upper Mesopotamia.)

The GAP had originally been planned in the 1970s consisting of projects for irrigation and hydraulic energy production on the Euphrates and Tigris, but transformed into a multi-sector social and economic development program for the region in the 1980s.

The development program encompasses such sectors as irrigation, hydraulic energy, agriculture, rural and urban infrastructure, forestry, education and health.

The project rests upon the philosophy sustainable human development, which aims to create an

environment in which future generations can benefit and develop. The basic strategies of the project include fairness in development, participation, environmental protection, employment generation, spatial planning and infrastructure development.

The NDE delegation had the mandate by the Director General of the directorate Malam Abubakar Mohammed to understudy Turkey's simple and cost effective techniques of creating profitable and lasting jobs for the teeming unemployed in Nigeria especially in the rural areas.

The team visited irrigation sites, soap, informatics as well as copper and glass workshops and also old traditional style markets.

It also met experts from Turkey's Ministry of Trade and Industry, officials of the country's medium enterprises development organisation, confederation of Turkish tradesmen and craftsmen, association of tertiary education management Inc, bazaar developers, ministry of public works and housing, Turkey Employment Agency and the youth culture house.

In the 'Catoms,' as the skills acquisition centres are called in Turkey, music as well as human rights classes are taught for mostly illiterate women and their children. Young people are also trained on cleaning and how to be cashiers in supermarkets.

Officials of GAP said over two million people are currently employed in the agricultural sector with one million people in

other fields such as tourism and tourism related merchandising.

The 46 NDE officials also visited a youth and cultural centre in the Mardin Province where about 500 youths benefit annually from training in computer software programming and dance classes. As the name implies, the cultural centre which aims to take children off the streets organises cultural such as carnivals and picnics for the young ones.

In caring for the social and economic welfare of the youths, certificates are given that enable beneficiaries secure employment and some do it just for self improvement. Here, the centre collaborates with computer giant Microsoft and the government to provide the resources needed for its activities.

The team was also briefed by an official of the two million member Confederation of Turkish Tradesmen and Craftsmen (TESK) on how Turkey has been able to use small and medium scale enterprises to create more jobs than large companies.

Zehra Kaya who is TESK's Training Manager explained to the Nigerian delegation how the confederation structure policies that aims to create and maintain existing jobs as well as develop professionalism in members.

With tremendous clout to lobby for favourable government policies, TESK has local and foreign representation in bodies whose decisions affect its members. It settles disputes and encourages cooperation among

members and government as well as keeps up to date register of the names of members throughout the 81 provinces of Turkey.

Educational institutions in Turkey are also key players in government's efforts to not only create jobs but also inculcate in young people the zeal of agricultural business from the primary schools. Cuneyt Esmer, TIKA Africa Coordinator explained to the delegation that agricultural camps are periodically opened for youngsters in order to acquaint them with farming techniques and also for them to explore business opportunities inherent in agriculture.

He said that "in Turkey, deliberate efforts are made to encourage and pass down agricultural activities from one generation to another in a seamless manner as well as teach them the latest methods in both crop and animal production.

"To achieve our long time agricultural strategy, youngsters of 11 to 15 are selected from the children of leaders or pioneer farmers in the communities. We keep them in the camps for 12 days where they learn farming techniques from inception to the point of marketing."

As a means of alleviating poverty in the rural areas, he said villagers "are given up to 10 pregnant sheep and a male sheep to rear. They are expected to return the same number of sheep at the end of five years and we hope to increase the number to 50 in subsequent programmes."



**NATIONAL TEACHERS' INSTITUTE (NTI),  
KADUNA**

**INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PRE-  
QUALIFICATION EXERCISE**

The National Teachers' Institute (NTI) Kaduna, is inviting interested, competent and qualified registered companies to submit Technical proposal as a pre-requisite for pre-qualification, for the following:

1. Rehabilitation of House No.Z A 1
2. Procurement of Instructional Materials:
  - a Primary and JSS Science Kits
  - b Mathematical Kits
  - c TW8 Computers
3. Production of Course Manuals

**PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Interested companies should submit the documents listed below:

- I. Full details of the company's profile
- II. Certificate of Registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission.
- III. Current Tax Clearance Certificate.
- IV. Evidence of VAT Registration and Remittance
- V. Evidence of similar job(s) executed in the past (with verifiable addresses).
- vi. Company's organizational structure and available manpower with list of Personnel/Officers.
- vii. Evidence of financial capability and Bank Statement with Annual Turn Over of at least N50million, duly endorsed by a Bank.
- viii. Company's Audited Accounts, over the past three years.
- ix. Evidence of job Completion and Delivery duly stamped.

**SUBMISSION**

Interested companies are to submit their Technical Proposals for pre-qualification in sealed envelopes addressed to the: **Director-General/Chief Executive, National Teachers' Institute, KM 5, Kaduna-Zaria Express way, P.M.B 2191 Kaduna.** These documents are to be dropped in the Tender's Box in the office of the Acting Registrar. Interested companies are to ensure that they also sign the submission Register at the office, with a payment of non-refundable fee of N30,000.00(Thirty Thousand Naira Only)

Only companies with the capacity to execute and deliver within the planned completion period shall be pre-qualified and invited to bid for financial proposal.

**CLOSING DATE**

All submissions should reach the above stated address two weeks after the date of this publication

**Signed**  
**Acting Registrar**



**NATIONAL TEACHERS' INSTITUTE (NTI),  
KADUNA**

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

This is to inform the general public, particularly participants of the 2009 Nationwide Capacity Building Workshops for Teachers under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), that the Institute has paid N14,000 to each participant as allowances into their respective bank accounts, in the 36 states and FCT.

The Institute is however, aware that few participants, who gave wrong Bank Details are yet to receive their allowances, and wishes to advise them to go to the nearest NTI State Office with their correct Bank details.

The introduction of e-payment by the Federal Government stipulates that payment to any beneficiary by MDAs **must** only be through that method.

The implication of this is that participants **must** provide correct Bank Details to ensure payment. Reasons for the delay in payment are as follows:

1. Wrong Account Numbers submitted by Participants
2. Account Numbers extending beyond normal digits submitted by Participants.
3. Non- indication of names of Bank and Branch by Participants.
4. Wrong Sort Codes and Dormant Accounts
5. Use of one Account by many participants.
6. Failure to provide any Bank Details by some participants.

The Institute wishes to use this medium to call on the few affected participants that are yet to receive payment to check their names on the NTI State Offices Notice Boards, State Universal Basic Education Boards and Local Government Education Offices, for verification and submission of correct Bank Details for immediate payment of their allowances.

**ANNOUNCER:**

**DR AMINU LADAN SHAREHU**  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL/CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



# FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF THE CIVIL SERVICE OF THE FEDERATION  
THE PRESIDENCY

## FLAG-OFF OF THE SERVICE-WIDE STANDARDIZED RATE GROUP LIFE INSURANCE SCHEME FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

THE ACTING PRESIDENT, DR. GOODLUCK JONATHAN, *GCON*, WILL FLAG-OFF THE SERVICE WIDE STANDARDIZED RATE GROUP LIFE INSURANCE SCHEME FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

**VENUE:** BANQUET HALL, STATE HOUSE, ABUJA

**DATE:** THURSDAY, 4TH MARCH, 2010

**TIME:** 11.00 AM PROMPT

### THE FOLLOWING ARE TO ATTEND:

- ALL FEDERAL PERMANENT SECRETARIES
- DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NATIONAL PENSION COMMISSION
- DIRECTORS-GENERAL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF EXTRA-MINISTERIAL DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS
- DIRECTORS OF HUMAN RESOURCES IN ALL MDAs
- DESK OFFICER FOR GROUP LIFE INSURANCE IN ALL MDAs
- COMMISSIONER FOR INSURANCE
- ALL PARTICIPATING INSURANCE BROKERS
- ALL PARTICIPATING INSURANCE COMPANIES
- EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OF ALL PUBLIC SECTOR TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS

**GUESTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE SEATED BY 10.30 AM.**

**SIGNED**

**P.J. MAJOR**

**PERMANENT SECRETARY (COMMON SERVICES OFFICE)  
OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF THE CIVIL SERVICE OF THE FEDERATION.**

# BUSINESS

0805 1000 536



FROM left: Mr. Oladele Kuti, Head, Energy Finance, Stanbic IBTC Bank, Engr. Ernest Nwapa, General Manger, Capacity Building, Nigeria Content Division, NNPC, and Mr. Hakeem Adedeji, Senior Vice President & Head of Energy Finance, First City Monument Bank at the 10th edition of the Nigeria Oil & Gas 2010 Conference and Exhibition in Abuja on Thursday.

**BRIEF**

## Kaduna trade fair ends

By Abubakar Momoh

THE 31st Kaduna International Trade Fair ended on Sunday, ten days after it opened. The president of Kaduna Chambers of commerce, Hajiya Saratu Aliyu said thorough planning and implementation of policies were necessary ingredients for the attainment of Vision:20:20. She stated this at the weekend while speaking at the closing ceremony of the 31st Kaduna International Trade Fair.

Hajiya Saratu said it is only through articulate planning and implementation of policy documents that the country can fully realize the dream of joining the league of economically developed nations. The Yar'adua administration has expressed desire of becoming one of the world most 20 industrialized countries by 2020 but it is bogged down by lack of road map for implementation. She said the participation of some of the state governors and their representatives at the 10 days fair underscored their commitment to the economic development of the north and the country at large.

The 179 Turkish delegation who visited the fair, she said, had indicated an interest to partner with local exhibitors on how to explore the investment sector adding that the organization would continue to assist any legitimate investor in the country. Ashakacem, Peugeot Automobile of Nigeria, PAN and Unity Bank Plc were ranked first, second and third respectively in their overall performance at the fair.

# Intercontinental Bank sacks 1,182 staff

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

INTERCONTINENTAL Bank yesterday announced the sack of 1,182 support staff cadre workers as part of a repositioning exercise.

The sack which took place yesterday marked the conclusion of the right-sizing exercise embarked upon by the bank last December. So far, the bank has sacked over 2,500 staff as part of rationalisation process.

A statement by the bank said the exercise was finally carried out after due consultation with the National Union of Banks, Insurance and Financial Institutions Employees (NUBIFIE) and the local chapter of NUBIFIE where the terms of disengagement were agreed upon.

The exercise which was said to have been done based on clearly-defined criteria agreed by the union and the bank,

will see the affected staff leaving with an enhanced severance package approved by the Board of Directors of the Bank and in line with the collective agreement with NUBIFIE.

"Equally, each of the affected staff will have access to three months free medicare under the existing Health Insurance Scheme (HIS)", the bank said.

It will be recalled that the Bank last year launched a three-phased "Project Transformation" strategy aimed at stabilising, rebuilding and consolidating the bank for greater efficiency and profitability.

The Bank is committed to pursuing bold and necessary changes that will fully restore value and confidence to all our stakeholders.

Also, the management of Intercontinental Bank Plc also debunked claims that it has concluded plans with Standard Bank for the acquisition of stakes in Intercontinental Bank.

A media report yesterday reported that Standard Bank may have concluded plans to acquire 75 per cent stake in Intercontinental Bank - with the remaining 25 per cent expected to be shared between the staff of the bank and Nigerian institutional investors. But, a statement from Intercontinental Bank's Group Managing Director Mr. Mahmoud Lai Alabi said there was no such plan.

While acknowledging that the bank is in the process of discussion with all those who have indicated interest in the bank, including Standard Bank, the Intercontinental Bank boss said there was no detailed discussion or negotiations so far.

The management of Intercontinental Bank, he said: "Affirms that the board of the bank is kept along in the process and the board has decided to appoint its own advisers to ensure the interest of all shareholders and all stakeholders are protected."

Trust Index	
Inflation	→ 12.3%
GDP	→ 6.90%
Budget	→ N3.1tr
External Reserves Acct	→ \$41bn
Excess Crude Acct	→ \$4.2bn
Poverty Ratio	→ 54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	→ 6%
Banks	→ 24
Oil Price	→ \$78 a barrel
Power Supply	→ 2, 200MW
Oil output per day	→ 1.9mbd
Broad Money Supply	→ N10,730,793.1m
Credit to Private Sector	→ N10,155,442.0m
Inter-Bank Rate	→ 2.2600%
Treasury Bills	→ 2.645%
Deposit Rate	→ 12.56%
Prime Lending Rate	→ 19.03%

CBN EXCHANGE RATES				BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES	
2/12/2010				BUYING	
	Buying(NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)	DOLLAR.....	N150
CFA	0.2897	0.2997	0.3097	EURO.....	N206
DANISH KRONER	26.8799	26.971	27.062	POUNDS.....	N237
EURO	200.1899	200.8681	201.5462		
POUNDS STERLING	230.5512	231.3322	232.1132	SELLING	
RIYAL	39.36	39.4934	39.6267	DOLLAR.....	N151
SDR	226.2265	226.9929	227.7592	EURO.....	N208
SWISS FRANC	136.5655	137.0281	137.4907	POUNDS.....	N240
US DOLLAR	147.6	148.1	148.6		
WAUA	226.801	227.5693	228.3376		
YEN	1.6378	1.6434	1.6489		

Stock Market Index	
Date:	Monday, March 1, 2010
Index:	22,985.00
Deals:	6,586
Volume:	300,163,255
Value:	N 2,182,433,600.15
Cap.:	N 5,535,747,167,998.75

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

## Business

# Bank PHB suffers system breakdown

By Idris Ahmed

CUSTOMERS of Bank PHB yesterday were stranded in most of the bank's branches in Abuja and its environs as they could not withdraw their moneys because of system breakdown.

An official of the bank said the bank was aware of the problem and that the system will be ok today.

Customers who recounted their experience to Daily Trust said the bank's staff only attended to customers who

went to deposit money, "but those that wanted to withdraw were told that there was a network problem."

This is not the first time customers are complaining about not been able to withdraw money from the bank.

"It normally happens like this at the end of every month. And every time they say it was a system breakdown. I was at the bank as early as 8 am yesterday and they told me to come back and when I went back I was told the same story", one of the customers told Daily Trust.

An official of the bank who spoke to Daily Trust said

system breakdown is not peculiar to Bank PHB. "All banks experienced this once in a while. We are all connected to a network and once the network breakdown, we experience this kind of thing.

"We are working on the system and by tomorrow (today) everything will be alright."

Bank PHB is one of the banks that were adjudged to have suffered from liquidity problem in the recently concluded CBN/NDIC special banks examination.

## Power supply drops as Shell shuts gas plant

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

SHELL Development Company yesterday shut down its gas plant at Sapele thereby casting further doubts on the prospects of improvement in Nigeria's declining power generation. Consequently power generation has further slumped due to shortage of gas supply to the thermal plants.

The development which has led to further drop in power generation, Daily Trust learnt, is due to the yet to be evacuated condensate at the Warri Refinery and Petrochemical Company.

Shell had threatened to shut down its three gas plants unless the NNPC evacuated the concentration of wet condensate that had accumulated at the Warri Refinery which was put at 472,000 barrels.

Daily Trust learnt that there is still accumulation of wet condensate at the Warri Refinery estimated to be 500,000 barrels even though the NNPC is said to have evacuated 140,000 barrels about ten days ago following the threat from Shell.

Daily Trust learnt that Shell has already communicated the PHCN and NGC over the development warning that if the current stock level of wet condensate at the Warri Refinery persists, its gas plant at Owen would also be shut down within the next six days. Contacted, the Minister of Power, Lanre Babalola, who spoke through his Special Assistant on Media, Yakubu Lawal, confirmed the development. He expressed the fears that if the situation persists, the six thermal stations in the country also stand the risk of being shut down.

"When the NNPC evacuated about 140,000 barrels of wet condensate ten days ago, we raised power generation to 3,362MW but it has now dropped to between 2,427MW to 2,941MW because the gas producer said they cannot continue to supply if the current stock of wet condensate at Warri is not evacuated", Lawal said.

## Banks warn customers on fake CBN emails

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

COMMERCIAL banks in the country at the weekend urged their customers to disrespect fake Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) emails which they described as work of internet fraud stars.

At the weekend, bank customers were bombarded with e-mails headlined "Important Notice from CBN". They were asked to submit their bank details in order to upgrade their Automated Teller Machine (ATM) card.

It reads: "Please note that Your ATM Card would be suspended due to the emergence of the new Interswitch (Verve) Chip and Pin card. In order for your ATM Card to remain active, You would have to upgrade your ATM Card to the new Chip and Pin ATM."

"Please Use the button below to Activate the New Chip and pin Program to get Unlimited Access on your ATM Card. Click <http://www.cbnbank.org/IntOps/chipnpin>," it added.

The customers were given 48 hours to furnish them with their bank details or have their ATM card deactivated. "Note: You are advised to make sure all information entered are accurate and correct for your New CHIP AND PIN Card application to be receive," it reads.

Access Bank PLC in a text message sent to their customers this weekend described the e-mails as fraudulent and urged their customers to ignore it.

"Dear customer, please ignore any email purportedly sent by the CBN to register your card on any website. It is fraudulent. Do not disclose your card details to anyone," the text reads.



## Inflation rate of 11.2% feasible, says minister

From Kayode Ekundayo, Chris Agabi, Lagos

THE Minister of State for Finance Remi Babalola said in Lagos yesterday that the expected 2010 real GDP growth rate of 6.1 percent and a target inflation rate of 11.2 percent remain feasible despite challenges facing the nation's economy.

Babalola at the 2010 Stanbic IBTC international investors conference said government would continue to increase investments in critical infrastructure, implements sectoral reforms, maintains macroeconomic stability and puts in processes that would ensure lasting peace, security and development in the Niger Delta.

He said the monetary policy stance of the present administration reflects the tendencies to curb inflation reduce undue liquidity injection and limit wide fluctuation on the inter-bank rate. Nigeria now has a more strengthened banking system and a more unified foreign exchange rate market. Indeed, external position is robust, characterized by low external debt and reasonable external reserves position.

"In 2010, the Nigerian economy will operate on a positive and optimistic note, as the Federal government is establishing spe-

cial intervention funds to provide credit facilities for commercial farming and support necessary agro-processing linkages to sustain industry. However, improvements in the ratings are expected to depend on the nation's ability to sustain non-oil growth and raising per capita income by addressing infrastructure through investment and reforms."

Babalola said besides, a review of tariffs and fiscal incentives is being undertaken to boost productivity in the real sector and facilitate rapid economic growth, measures have been put in place to restore the viability of the sector, especially with the Asset Management Company initiative to assist in restructuring and further improving the balance sheets of banks, and enhance the flow of credit to the real sector to boost growth and development of the economy.

The minister said there would be an increase in foreign investment inflow is also feasible in 2010 with the deepening and sustained implementation of Public Private Partnership (PPP) framework and other related economic reforms adding that the private sector is expected to generate more employment and increase wealth creation while government, on its part, would continue to create the enabling envi-

ronment through adequate provision of infrastructures and robust investment climate for the private sector to grow and thrive.

He said though there were a number of challenges in implementing the 2009 budget, including issues surrounding the process of budget finalization, implementation of the Procurement Act and limited capacity in Ministries, Departments and Agencies, to ensure improved efficiency, the Budget Office, working with the National Planning Commission, Office of the Chief Economic Adviser and the MDG office, have designed a framework to monitor and evaluate the budget performance in 2010.

"In 2010, there will be extensive focus on monitoring and tracking the impact of resources utilized as part of the ongoing reforms to introduce a comprehensive performance-based budgeting system.

Therefore, a monitoring and evaluation system that uses special electronic templates to systematically track and report on the actual outputs and outcomes (capital vote in particular) achieved by MDAs has been put in place. This system will ensure that the focus will shift from resource commitments to MDAs to what was actually delivered by the various MDAs.

# Business/Insurance



FROM Left: Prince Jide Kosoko, President of Association of Nigerian Theatre Arts Practitioners (ANTP); Alhaji Teslim Sanusi, President Nigerian Council of Registered Insurance Brokers (NCRIB) and Mr. Clinton Uranta, Managing Director, Niger Insurance Plc; at the February edition of NCRIB members evening held in Lagos Tuesday

## VIO, Road Safety asked to stop insurance business

By Yunus Abdulhamid

THE Association of Registered Insurance Agents of Nigeria (ARIAN) has rejected the continued involvement of men of the Vehicle Inspection Officers (VIO) and the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) in the issuance of vehicle insurances.

Chairman of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) chapter of the Insurance Agents, Mr. Moses Agbar Brume said the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) should speed up action against unregistered insurance agents to bring credibility and confidence into the industry.

He was speaking in Abuja at the inauguration of the Abuja chapter of the Association and a seminar on Market Development and Restructuring Initiative (MDRI).

Brume regretted the continued interference of the VIO into

the operations of the insurance agents, saying it hampers the activities of his members.

"The job is for the insurance agents and not the VIOs or Road Safety. We want the Commission to henceforth stop them from parading themselves or exercising our functions. We also want the commission to write them and develop radio and television jingles with messages stopping them from their activities.

"VIO should be stopped from getting involved in any insurance activity. They should be checked. We want professionalism in the industry. They are not professionals," he stated.

"VIO should be stopped from getting involved in any insurance activity. They should be checked. We want professionalism in the industry. They are not professionals," he stated.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Director, Information Technol-

ogy and Research, NAICOM, Mr. Madziga Timtak Gamece said the commission has set a target of N1 trillion by 2012. He said the industry is also estimated to contribute over 4% to the nation's GDP by end of the same year through the implementation of its Market Development and Restructuring Initiative (MDRI).

He said 250,000 jobs would be created in the industry, with elimination of fake insurance products and practitioners, increase in direct projected revenue to the tune of N800 million and indirect projected revenue to NAICOM from increase in ISS levy to N12 billion.

Other FCT ARIAN executive members inaugurated at the ceremony include; Vice Chairman Elder David Odozie, Mr. Mark Jagaba, Secretary, Gever Patricia Terseer, Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Roselyn Adigbai, Financial secretary, and Mrs. Mariam Ahmed as treasurer.

## Oceanic Insurance group pays N71m claim

By Sunday Williams

OCEANIC Insurance Group said it has paid claims totalling N71,053,654 arising from accidental damage to MT ORE OFE Vessel belonging to Col Nigeria Limited.

The payment will ensure speedy repairs on the vessel and enable the insured ship to resume full operations to fulfil its obligations to stakeholders.

The management of Oceanic Insurance Group which led a consortium of seven underwriters on the cover said the firm places high premium on best practices, superior service delivery, and prompt claims payment.

According to Prince Lafor Olateru-Olagbegi, Managing Director, Oceanic Insurance Group, the firm had since its inception four years ago, sustained its vision to professionally provide peace of mind to its customers and stakeholders through excellent insurance services.

"At Oceanic Insurance Group, we are constantly propelled to providing creative solutions to our clients' insurance needs. Our performance confirms our position of strength and motivates us to continually provide the best of covers for our clients and promptly indemnify them through prompt claims payment," he said.

Olagbegi said the Group is making consistent progress in its quest to emerge as the leading financial risk manager in West Africa, adding that its strategic relationship with Oceanic Bank International Plc has continued to yield extensive banc assurance channels to take insurance products and services to all Nigerians, including those at the grassroots.

"We remain committed to giving our clients and the entire insuring public effective risk management, well researched products that create and preserve wealth, excellent service delivery, and an endless opportunity to always experience peace in their transactions," he added.

It will be recalled that Oceanic Insurance Group is one of the few firms that have consistently grown its underwriting profit, a globally accepted strength and effective risk management indicator.

## Crystalife Assurance repositions operations

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

CRYSTALIFE Assurance Company Limited, a life insurer has repositioned its operations to effectively take on the challenges in the industry.

A statement from the company noted that the key element of her operations, the Human Capital is currently being upgraded by recruitment of professionals engaged to enhance the operations and services of the company.

The statement said the company recently inducted new staff into its fold. "The staffs inducted cut across different cadre as the main objective of the induction was to help the new intakes to internalise the company's vision, mission and values in order to achieve the company's set goals.

"This edition of the induction programme which was like a 'boot camp' had over 20 new members of staff have been billed to fill various positions within the organisation" it said. Facilitators at the induction programme include the AGM Corporate Development & Strategy, as well as the AGM Technical. All Heads of Department also facilitated giving the inductees insights into respective departmental goals, protocols, procedures and processes," the statement said.

A statement signed by Mr Adeniyi Aromolaran, the AGM, Corporate Development & Strategy, noted that employing new hands to fill in key positions within the organisation is to further reinforce the company's Human Capital Management (HCM) policy of recruiting, retraining and retaining the best in the industry. He further stated that, their coming to join the Crystalife Team will add value to the service delivery of the organisation, meet specific market demands and consequently, help the company accomplish her corporate goals faster.

## Continental Re earmarks N1.3bn for bad debt

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

CONTINENTAL Reinsurance Plc has made a provision for bad debt and diminution of about N1.3billion in compliance with regulator's guidelines.

Mr. Adeyemo Adejumo, Managing Director of the company told reporters in Lagos that "Continental Reinsurance Plc's total provisions for bad debt and diminution in the value of its financial assets are estimated at N1.3billion which is sub-

ject to review by external auditors and similar provision was made in 2008.

"Unpaid reinsurers' balances are an industry problem while provisioning for toxic financial assets was a direct consequence of the extreme volatile Nigerian stock market that started in 2008."

He however noted that external auditors might still review the figure.

However, he remarked that the volatility of the Nigerian stock mar-

ket and general economic downturn in Africa has continued to affect the company adversely just like most institutional investors in Nigeria.

"We allocated a fair portion of our financial resources to the stock market and recorded substantial losses in 2008 and 2009," he said.

He said the company has already drawn up of five-year strategic plans including ensuring that its premium are collected and thus reduce or erase bad debt from the

company's system.

Adejumo said: "We are implementing a strategy of relentlessly pursuing our premium collection to mitigate future bad debt provisioning and on the investment front; we will continue to remain extremely conservative by making a priority, capital preservation and liquidity."

He said most companies in the industry have grossly abused the privilege of credit business that had resulted in huge debt which every insurance and reinsurance compa-

nies had to make provision for.

"My advice to the Insurance Industry is that cash is king and key. We should improve cash flow in our business. A claimant will not want to hear stories if he has a claim and as such we should do more business with willing payers," he advised.

In spite of all that, Continental Re boss said the company had to review its debt portfolio last year and made significant provisions for balances outstanding considered doubtful of recovery

## MTN spreads goodwill and cheer to orphanages across the country

In line with its commitment to enriching the lives of Nigerians, especially the under privileged, MTN has visited several orphanages in the six geo-political zones of the country. The donations were made in the New Year.

The company donated a selection of household utilities, food items,

beddings, back-to-school supplies (bags, raincoats, notebooks) estimated at millions of naira. The company consistently carries out this humanitarian assignment to orphanages, periodically during the year, spreading cheer and hope to thousands of children across the country.

The following pictures tell the story:



L-R Rev. Fr. Chidi Nonso, Founder, *Voice of Children International* receiving MTN-donated gift items from Prof. Dora Akunyili, Minister of Information and Communications and Ms. Nonny Ugboma, Executive Secretary, MTNF in Enugu



L-R: Rev. Mrs. Dele George, Founder, *Little Saints Orphanage*, Palmgrove, Lagos receiving materials from Mrs. Funke Amobi, GM, Organisation and Talent Development, MTN Nigeria.



Susan Burger, GM Revenue Assurance & Fraud, MTN, Amina Oyagbola, Human Resources Executive, MTN, Laja Adedoyin, Coordinator of *Hearts of Gold Hospice*, Atilola Williams, External Communications Officer, MTN and Helene Heslop, GM, Business Risk Management, MTN



Prince Julius Adelus-Adeluyi, Director, MTN Foundation (right) assisted by Chief Mrs. Morohunmbo Bayode, Commissioner for Women, Youth and Social Welfare, Ekiti State (2nd left), presenting gift items to residents of the *Erelu Adebayo Orphanage*, Iyin-Ekiti



Mrs. Fummi Omogbenigun, GM, Corporate Communications, MTN (2nd left, back row), Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman, House Committee on Nigerians in Diaspora (3rd left) and Rev. Lateefat Aroyewun, Founder, *Great Faith Orphanage*, Ikorodu, Lagos (centre) with some of the residents.



Albert Eboh of MTN (left) and Chioma Ohakwe of *Bethseda Home of the Blind in Yaba*, Lagos (2nd left) with some of the residents.



L-R: Mrs. Uto Upanah, Company Secretary, MTN Nigeria, presenting donated items to the representative of *Lekki Children's Home*, Lekki, Lagos while Andrew Okeleke, External Communications Manager, MTN looks on



L-R Ms. Nonny Ugboma, Executive Secretary, MTNF, Mrs. Nwanneka Ekweremadu, wife of the Deputy Senate President and Mrs. Joyce Chukwuana, Matron of *Cathedral of the Good Shepherd Motherless Babies Home*, owned by the Anglican Communion, Enugu



Ntu Moloto, GM, Procurement, MTN Nigeria (Left) and Pastor Atunde of the *Light of Hope Orphanage*, Akute, Ogun State



Mrs Funke Amobi, presenting gift items to representatives of the *Nigerian Red Cross Society (Orphanage and Abandoned Children Home)*, Yaba, Lagos



Andrew Okeleke, External Communications Manager, (Right) presenting donated items to Lady Beth Obieri of *Living Fountain Orphanage*, Victoria Island, Lagos.



Ms. Nonny Ugboma and Mrs. Aishatu Sadauki, Director, MTN Foundation presenting gift items to Pastor Mrs. Tina Bolante, Matron of *Mercy Orphanage*, Kaduna



Albert Eboh of MTN presenting household materials to the Administrator of *Precious Pearls Orphanages*, Idimu, Lagos



L-R: Mr. Akinola of *Heritage Homes*, Anthony Village, Lagos and Albert Eboh of MTN with some of the donated materials



Mrs. Uto Upanah making a presentation to Rev. Lt Col D.C. Ogo, Founder, *Arrow of God's Orphanage*, Ajah, Lagos, as Andrew Okeleke looks on

## Business

# Making money from mortar and pestle

Mortars are traditionally carved wooden bowls designed to hold substances to be grind into small pieces or powder by means of a club-shaped tool called Pestle. These pounding objects have assumed a place of pride in many homes in Nigeria, including the nation's capital. Our Reporter caught up with a group of people who are involved in the business of designing mortars and pestles for sale at Gwarimpa area of Abuja.

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

USMAN Danladi is a citizen of Niger Republic who resides in one of the sprawling suburbs of Gwarimpa in Abuja. He lives in a makeshift shack made of old corrugated iron sheets with his wife and two kids. About six years ago Danladi, faced with the worsening economic downturn of his country, left Maradi [his hometown] to Nigeria in search of a better means of livelihood. Abuja, Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory (FCT) turned out to be his destination.

On arriving Abuja Danladi, who is not literate enough to secure a white collar job, settled at Dawaki extension on the outskirts of Gwarimpa with his family. Having found a place he could, at least, call 'home', the search for a means of livelihood began in earnest.

After several months of spirited, albeit, unsuccessful efforts to get something doing, he decided to offer himself for service as a security night watchman at a block industry located in front of the second gate of the Gwarimpa Estate. "The earnings from this security job was barely enough to take care of my wife and two children", said Danladi.

Some months later, Danladi was introduced to an emerging business that became popular among the locals at Gwarimpa: the business of carving Mortars and Pestles for sale along the Abuja- Kaduna expressway through Gwarimpa. Since then the immigrant from Maradi in Niger Republic has been surviving through the business of carving Mortars and Pestles for sale and he is not in a hurry to quit.

Danladi is not the only resident of Gwarimpa area in Abuja that has taken to the business of Mortars and Pestles for survival. Several others, most of who have also come from elsewhere in search of 'daily bread' in the nation's capital, are also engaged in the Mortars and Pestles business. While some are involved in selling the finished product others, like Danladi, are engaged in the actual carving and designing of the Mortars and Pestles out of wood.

This reporter caught up with some of the carvers at work as well as some sellers who displayed their products along the expressway that passes through Gwarimpa. There are several fascinating attributes of the Mortars and Pestles at Gwarimpa. Apart from their ornamental attraction, these traditionally



MORTARS and pestles on display at Gwarimpa.

designed wooden bowls which come in different shapes and sizes also have aesthetic appeal. Little wonder that their patronage cuts across different classes of people within the society.

Garba Yahaya is one of those involved in this business of Mortars and Pestles. He buys them from the carvers in wholesale and displays them for sale along the expressway that passes through Gwarimpa. "I buy these Mortars and Pestles from the carvers in different sizes and display them for sale to interested buyers", says Yahaya who explains that his customers are mostly women engaged in the business of selling pounded yam within and around Abuja. Other passing travellers buy them for different domestic use, he said.

According to Yahaya, the price of every Mortar and Pestle sold at Gwarimpa is determined by their sizes. While the smallest size of Mortar sells for about N500, the medium size goes for between N800 and N1,000 while the bigger ones go for between N1,500 to N300.

Ya'u Audu, a 25-year old youth from Kano who came to Abuja in search of a means of livelihood also ended up in the business of selling Mortars and Pestles at Gwarimpa. "I came to Abuja sometime last year to find something doing and after years of endless search I was introduced to this business at Gwarimpa", said Audu who said he makes between N10,000 to N20,000 in a month.

Several others who have their Mortars and Pestles displayed in-between heaps of sand gathered by road construction workers along the Abuja-Kaduna expressway through Gwarimpa said they have taken to the business as a means of livelihood in Abuja.

Moving further into the forests of Dawaki on the suburb of Gwarimpa, this Reporter encountered a group of workers who

are actually involved in the art of cutting down logs of wood and carving them into mortars and pestles. It was a beehive of activities as the workers, mostly youths, busied themselves with their work using different metal tools.

Sitting under a tree trunk is twenty-six years old Hassan Amadu. He is deeply engrossed in his work that he hardly noticed the arrival of this Reporter. With a sharp bladed metal tool, Amadu chisels through the opening of a hard log of wood that had been cut into the shape of an average size Mortar. Sitting on Amadu's far left another carver, Shehu Garba, uses a sharp bladed object to smoothen some Pestles that had been cut into different sizes.

Both Amadu and Garba are Nigeriens who came to Abuja to find their means of livelihood through the Mortar and Pestle business at Gwarimpa.

"I carve an average of three Mortars daily depending on the sizes", said Amadu who said their products are bought by the sellers who purchase in different quantities and display for sale in retail along the road for buyers.

Speaking in the same vein, Garba said he had been doing the Mortar and Pestle business in Abuja for the past three years. "We spend days and weeks in this forest carving Mortars and Pestles which we sell to our customers who in turn sell to interested buyers", Garba said, stressing that although the work is a tedious one "we endure the hardship for the purpose of survival."

Fifty-five years old Alhaji Habibu Mohammed is the supervisor of the Mortar and Pestle carvers of Gwarimpa. Muhammadu who also hails from Niger Republic told this Reporter that he inherited the art from his forefathers. "I have been doing this business in Abuja [Nigeria] for the past twenty years and hope to continue with it so long as I live", he said.

With a grin on his face, Abdullah enumerated some of the benefits he derived from the Mortar and Pestle business. "I can tell you that I feel proud doing this work. Apart from using the proceeds to cater for my family needs I can also proudly inform you that I have also sponsored myself to Saudi Arabia to perform the holy pilgrimage."

As supervisor of the Mortars and Pestles carvers at Gwarimpa, Abdullahi is also responsible for identifying the trees whose logs are used in carving. This is because it is not every tree that is used in carving Mortars and Pestles. For this reason the old man spends more time in the forests identifying and cutting down particular trees for use.

On a number of occasions, he had bitter encounters with farmers who accosted him for cutting down trees in their farmlands without permission. "On such occasions we were able to resolve with the farmers amicably through settlement", Abdullahi said.

How is art and business of carving Mortars and Pestles in Niger and Nigeria generally? Abdullahi hesitated for a while and said: "I must tell you that the art and business of Mortar and Pestle carving is more dignified in other places like Saudi Arabia. In this part of the world, it is merely viewed as a last resort for those who lack better things to do." But like his apprentices and others who are involved in the Mortar and Pestle business at Gwarimpa in the nation's capital, Abdullahi is not in a hurry to bid it a farewell.



A middle aged man displays his mortars and pestles by the roadside for interested buyers.

## Business/International

# MTN CEO Nhleko steps down next year

PHUTHUMA Nhleko, Chief Executive Officer of South African mobile phone group MTN, will step down as CEO and group president in March 2011, the group said yesterday.

Nhleko, one of South Africa's best-known black businessmen who has been MTN's CEO since 2002, said in a statement that he will continue to deliver on MTN strategic priorities and ensure a thorough handover to his successor until his departure.

"I have given this decision very careful consideration. I feel it is the right time to secure the next generation of leadership for the group and the right time for me personally to start thinking about the next phase of my career," Nhleko said.

MTN shares were 0.8 percent higher at 112.79 rand by 0753 GMT, slightly underperforming the JSE Securities Exchange's blue chip TOP-40 index, which was 0.91 percent stronger.

Analysts said MTN had no history of leadership problems and the market expected a smooth transition to the new CEO.

"MTN has not really had a legacy of leadership issues and we trust that they will have a seamless migration to the new leader-

ship. They have really done a good job with a stable leadership and I don't think it is a cause for concern at the moment," said Frost & Sullivan analyst Spiwe Chireka.

MTN chairman Cyril Ramaphosa said Nhleko's commitment to continue as CEO until a successor is in place will ensure a smooth transition.

Under Nhleko's leadership, MTN has grown into a group with more than 100 million subscribers operating in more than 20 countries.

But Nhleko - a U.S.-educated civil engineer turned corporate financier -- has twice failed to secure a tie-up with Indian mobile phone operator Bharti Airtel, the most recent in September last year.

MTN, with a \$26.8 billion market capitalisation, operates in countries in east, central and west Africa such as Nigeria, Cameroon, Ghana, Zambia and Uganda. Under Nhleko, it has also pushed into Iran, Yemen, Syria and Afghanistan, as well as Cyprus. (Reuters)



A worker harvests sugar cane.

## Uganda's Madhvani to invest \$100m in new sugar plantation

UGANDA'S Madhvani Group plans to invest \$100 million in a new sugar plantation and manufacturing plant to help address supply shortfalls in east Africa's third largest economy, the company said yesterday.

Uganda consumes 320,000 tonnes of sugar per year but only produces 280,000 tonnes. The Madhvani Group, which owns a sugar plant in Jinja producing 160,000 tonnes per year, calculates Uganda will need an estimated 800,000 tonnes of sugar by 2030.

"In the last decade, Uganda has seen a tremendous increase in population and a considerable rise in incomes," said Koduvayur Eswar, Madhvani's director of corporate affairs.

"Inevitably, we have more people consuming sugar but the country's production capacity has not grown in any significant way and that's why we're putting up this investment in northern Uganda," he told Reuters in an interview.

Madhvani is one of Uganda's largest and oldest corporate firms whose commercial footprint extends to tourism and underwriting. The new plantation will be in the northern district of Amuru. It also has operations in Rwanda and Zambia.

Eswar said the company needed about 40,000 acres of land -- for both a nucleus estate and outgrowers -- to guarantee a sufficient supply of cane to its proposed plant in Amuru.

The plant is initially expected to produce 60,000 tonnes of sugar per year in five years' time and then increase its capacity to 120,000 tonnes as cane supply grows.

The project, however, is hampered by legal disputes. Local Acholi politicians have accused the government, which has already leased 10,000 acres to Madhvani, of conspiring with the company to steal their land. The politicians have already sued the government and the company to nullify the lease. (Reuters)



THE headquarters of South Africa's MTN Group in Johannesburg.

## OPEC likely to hold oil output steady

OPEC is likely to leave its oil production targets steady when it meets later this month to set output policy, Libya's top oil official said yesterday.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, source of more than a third of the world's oil, meets on March 17 in Vienna.

"If things stay as they are, we will probably stay put," Shokri Ghanem told Reuters by telephone.

He added that he thought OPEC members needed to increase compliance with the group's oil output targets. Adherence to the group's existing supply limit declined in Feb. to 53%, according to a Reuters survey. (Reuters)

## Mauritius textile industry needs to expand

MAURITIUS' textile firms, which supply European chains such as Next and Inditex's Zara, need additional export markets and more high-value products to remain competitive, the Indian Ocean island's industry minister said.

A traditional cornerstone of the economy, the sector is facing the end of a European preferential trade deal, it was hit last year by the global downturn and company executives fear a strong local currency could hurt it further.

"To be competitive, Mauritius has to climb the ladder in terms of value-added products. Mauritius cannot remain competitive as a textile producer in manufacturing the basic textile items," Dharambeer Gokhool told Reuters in an interview yesterday.

"Competition is more intense at the low end of the market segment. It is vital for Mauritius to move up the global value-chain within the textile sector in producing value added textile items with design and brands," the minister said.

The sector is seen growing by 1 percent this year after shrinking 4 percent in 2009.

The main textile markets for Mauritius are the UK, France, Germany and Italy. Textiles contribute 6.5 percent of gross domestic product and provide 11 percent of jobs.

Gokhool said export revenues should reach 24 billion rupees in 2010, up from 23.4 billion last year. (Reuters)



KENYAN workers pack clothes for export at the Alltex export processing zone (EPZ) factory in Athi River, near the Kenyan capital Nairobi.

## Business/Finance

## Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Monday, March 1, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
<b>2ND-TIER SECURITIES</b>				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	4	0.55	49,227	26,090.31
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>49,227</b>	<b>26,090.31</b>
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>				
FTN COCOA PROC. PLC	39	0.91	3,858,868	3,362,991.26
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	2	0.69	1,110	732.60
OKOMU OIL PALM COY PLC	0	21.62	0	0.00
PRESCO PLC	2	5.32	1,000	5,060.00
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>43</b>		<b>3,860,978</b>	<b>3,368,783.86</b>
<b>AIR SERVICES</b>				
AIRLINE SERV. & LOG. PLC	5	2.75	52,327	137,096.74
NIG. AVIAT. HAND. COY PLC	81	8.36	377,595	3,207,252.65
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>86</b>		<b>429,922</b>	<b>3,344,349.39</b>
<b>AUTOMOBILE &amp; TYRE</b>				
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	14	0.50	315,552	157,776.00
R. T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	28	4.76	563,444	2,681,441.56
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>42</b>		<b>878,996</b>	<b>2,839,217.56</b>
<b>BANKING</b>				
ACCESS BANK PLC	189	9.38	4,016,238	37,563,614.64
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	120	2.57	4,789,897	12,537,387.03
DIAMOND BANK PLC	107	8.92	4,890,781	44,472,026.38
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	233	6.20	43,284,827	250,701,210.34
F/CITY MONUMENT B. PLC	112	9.15	5,360,481	49,067,549.44
FIDELITY BANK PLC	106	2.58	6,110,095	15,830,095.07
F/BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	939	14.58	34,421,347	496,305,001.35
FINBANK PLC	66	0.67	1,597,625	1,065,954.22
GTBANK PLC	432	18.14	9,390,155	169,879,703.98
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	65	8.16	2,848,855	23,254,095.24
INTERCONT. BANK PLC.	67	2.00	1,911,957	3,816,142.00
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	88	1.99	4,385,096	8,837,406.28
BANK PHB PLC	107	1.84	2,206,837	4,141,542.98
SKYE BANK PLC.	140	7.15	2,995,240	21,462,355.24
SPRING BANK PLC	15	0.95	435,806	417,057.03
STERLING BANK PLC	36	1.70	1,859,916	3,164,597.25
UNT. BANK FOR AFR. PLC.	243	13.10	5,249,832	69,018,760.49
UNION BANK OF NIG. PLC	126	6.00	1,500,903	8,977,746.63
UNITYBANK PLC	19	1.10	772,232	849,487.20
WEMA BANK PLC	50	1.19	1,019,296	1,188,099.92
ZENITH BANK PLC	300	16.19	22,455,108	354,388,761.32
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>3,560</b>		<b>161,502,524</b>	<b>1,576,938,594.03</b>
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	53	16.20	330,285	5,374,946.94
BENUE CEMENT COY PLC	22	50.01	230,319	11,522,299.73
CEMENT CO. OF N/NIG. PLC	53	16.56	2,112,807	34,685,791.62
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	27	35.00	398,656	13,948,376.70
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>155</b>		<b>3,072,067</b>	<b>65,531,414.99</b>
<b>CHEMICAL &amp; PAINTS</b>				
BERGER PAINTS NIG. PLC	7	3.52	58,835	217,101.15
CHEM. & ALLIED PROD. PLC	11	29.74	21,941	654,458.60
DN MEYER PLC	15	2.95	134,177	395,822.15
NIG.-GERMAN CHEM. PLC	2	15.04	364	5,201.56
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>35</b>		<b>215,317</b>	<b>1,272,583.46</b>
<b>COMPUTER &amp; OFFICE EQUIP.</b>				
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC.	3	8.13	20,600	175,718.00
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	13	0.51	607,700	310,974.00
TRIPPLE GEE AND COY PLC	1	4.37	19,350	80,496.00
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>647,650</b>	<b>567,188.00</b>
<b>CONGLOMERATES</b>				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC	13	2.99	79,339	231,306.40
CHELLARAMS PLC	1	14.13	1,500	20,145.00
JOHN HOLT PLC	1	9.28	69	608.58
PZ CUSONS NIGERIA PLC.	67	25.30	1,300,462	33,145,448.43
TRANSN. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	112	0.56	39,147,028	21,015,160.70
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	61	43.94	1,529,556	67,199,447.39
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	91	25.00	805,054	20,132,702.42
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>346</b>		<b>42,863,008</b>	<b>141,744,818.92</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	41	5.00	437,831	2,246,457.16
J/BERGER NIGERIA PLC	17	28.00	104,852	2,895,742.80
MULTIVERSE RES. PLC	2	0.50	100,500	50,250.00
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>60</b>		<b>643,183</b>	<b>5,192,449.96</b>
<b>ENGINEERING TECH.</b>				
CUTIX PLC	7	2.89	28,504	86,171.12
NIG. WIRE AND CABLE PLC.	2	0.90	12,893	11,603.70
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>41,397</b>	<b>97,774.82</b>
<b>FOOD/BEV. &amp; TOBACCO</b>				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	13	30.60	13,921	447,281.73
BIG TREAT PLC	13	0.77	1,808,262	1,417,821.68
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	63	15.43	667,514	10,323,708.48
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	170	12.53	2,714,042	34,254,491.34
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	98	16.31	1,518,190	25,193,685.94
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	65	45.10	535,304	24,130,769.58
H/WELL FLOUR MILL PLC	30	7.77	246,503	1,915,028.31
NA. SALT COY NIG. PLC	50	6.48	1,119,320	7,036,809.80
NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC	17	27.00	37,687	973,662.00
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	32	270.00	35,690	9,654,082.79
N/NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	1	23.00	298	6,556.00
TANTALIZERS PLC	22	0.95	947,700	908,835.00

## What is Convertible Security

A security of an issuer (for example - bonds, debentures, or preferred shares) that may be converted into other securities of that issuer, in accordance with the terms of the conversion feature. The conversion usually occurs at the option of the holder of the securities, but it may occur at the option of the issuer.

Google

UTC NIGERIA PLC	5	0.78	20,364	15,895.17
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>579</b>		<b>9,664,795</b>	<b>116,278,627.82</b>
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	6	1.07	25,380	25,887.60
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	6	2.40	41,343	95,908.90
GLAXOSM. CONS. NIG. PLC	25	27.30	365,910	9,985,153.00
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	23	5.04	88,103	442,775.40
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	2	1.47	2,137	2,991.80
UN/DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	11	0.61	1,060,839	647,661.79
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>73</b>		<b>1,583,712</b>	<b>11,200,378.49</b>
<b>HOTEL &amp; TOURISM</b>				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	5	2.88	479,850	1,377,337.50
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	4	1.50	350,000	523,695.00
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>829,850</b>	<b>1,901,032.50</b>
<b>IND./DOMESTIC PROD.</b>				
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	3	10.39	10,900	113,430.00
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC	9	0.50	223,028	111,514.00
VITAFAM NIGERIA PLC	16	4.75	256,593	1,219,104.60
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	3	0.63	13,000	7,800.00
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>31</b>		<b>503,521</b>	<b>1,451,848.60</b>
<b>INF. &amp; COMMUN. TECH.</b>				
CHAMS PLC	25	0.68	1,357,198	946,134.40
MASS TEL. INNOV. NIG. PLC	1	0.50	993,500	496,750.00
STARCOMMS PLC	34	1.93	1,591,615	3,065,473.41
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>60</b>		<b>3,942,313</b>	<b>4,508,357.81</b>
<b>INSURANCE</b>				
AFRIC. ALLIANCE INS. PLC	1	0.50	500	250.00
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	77	1.05	7,413,911	7,778,164.10
CONTINENTAL REINS. PLC	18	0.99	14,160,000	13,485,078.44
C/STONE INSUR. CO. PLC.	21	0.52	1,577,840	808,605.66
CUST. AND ALLIED INS. PLC	52	2.95	106,177	308,639.60
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	4,000	2,000.00
GREAT NIGERIA INS. COY PLC	2	0.50	100,000	50,000.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	17	0.53	2,516,345	1,310,871.60
GUAR. TRUST ASSUR. PLC	23	2.15	2,306,500	4,975,068.80
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	3	0.50	16,000	8,000.00
CONS. HALLM. INSUR. PLC	1	0.50	10,000	5,000.00
INT. ENERGY INSUR. COY PLC	32	0.56	2,345,683	1,328,983.48
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	22	0.51	1,184,650	604,401.00
LAW UNION & ROCK INS. PLC.	4	0.53	957,200	523,936.00
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	1,000	500.00
MUT/BENEFITS ASSUR. PLC	6	0.64	350,000	224,000.00
N.E.M. INS. CO. (NIG.) PLC.	26	0.52	1,446,795	745,775.45
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	8	0.74	214,000	158,135.00
REG.Y ALLIANCE INS. COY PLC	2	0.50	1,000,700	500,350.00
SOV. TRUST INSUR. PLC	3	0.50	420,300	210,150.00
STAND. ALLIANCE INSUR. PLC	52	0.52	12,597,473	6,464,890.96
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	8	0.82	189,728	155,722.40
UNIVERSAL INSUR. COY PLC	1	0.50	182,522	91,261.00
INTERCONT. WAPIC INS. PLC	13	0.95	762,315	728,593.75
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>394</b>		<b>49,863,639</b>	<b>40,468,377.24</b>
<b>MORTGAGE COMPANIES</b>				
A/SAVINGS & LOAN PLC	11	0.62	703,460	458,795.60
RESORT SAV. & LOANS PLC	2	0.50	5,097,000	2,548,500.00
U/HOMES SAV. & LOANS PLC	14	0.91	272,521	245,790.30
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>27</b>		<b>6,072,981</b>	<b>3,253,085.90</b>
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL INST.</b>				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC.	6	0.95	2,126,300	2,023,225.00
NIG. ENERGY SECTOR FUND	1	552.20	50	26,229.50
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	8	0.59	422,300	251,182.00
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>2,548,650</b>	<b>2,300,636.50</b>
<b>PACKAGING</b>				
NIG. BAG MANUF. COY PLC	356	2.30	1,157,754	2,606,921.47
POLY PROD. (NIG.) PLC.	2	4.23	1,200	4,824.00
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>358</b>		<b>1,158,954</b>	<b>2,611,745.47</b>
<b>PETROLEUM(MARKETING)</b>				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	162	45.70	1,350,975	61,793,100.30
BECO PETR. PROD. PLC	5	2.24	13,000	27,690.00
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	6	69.79	3,041	212,859.59
CONOIL PLC	26	35.87	106,579	3,822,988.73
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	15	6.00	258,724	1,544,991.20
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	8	97.51	46,495	4,307,296.80
OANDO PLC	13	93.99	30,496	2,866,319.04
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	11	142.50	24,715	3,585,650.00
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>246</b>		<b>1,834,025</b>	<b>78,160,895.66</b>
<b>PRINTING &amp; PUBLISHING</b>				
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	3	9.76	25,215	233,995.20
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	28	5.75	457,857	2,580,568.32
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>31</b>		<b>483,072</b>	<b>2,814,563.52</b>
<b>REAL ESTATE</b>				
UACN PROP. DEV. CO. PLC	10	21.00	314,350	6,595,795.00
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>314,350</b>	<b>6,595,795.00</b>
<b>ROAD TRANSPORTATION</b>				
ASSOCIATED BUS COY PLC	9	0.90	222,000	199,800.00
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>222,000</b>	<b>199,800.00</b>
<b>THE FOREIGN LISTINGS</b>				
ECOBANK TRANSN. INCORP.	14	16.00	555,885	8,924,242.50
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>555,885</b>	<b>8,924,242.50</b>
<b>OVERALL Totals</b>	<b>6,586</b>		<b>300,163,255</b>	<b>2,182,433,600.15</b>

## GAINERS

CONOIL	1.70
CCNN	0.78
UACN	0.65
ZENITHBANK	0.48

## LOSERS

AP	1.76
PZ	0.70
DIAMONDBNK	0.43
CADBURY	0.37

# Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited

An ExxonMobil Subsidiary

Operator of the NNPC/MPN Joint Venture



## Setting the Record Straight

The attention of the Management of Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited (MPN) has been drawn to recent print and electronic media coverage of solicitations for investment made by agents of Commandchem Nigeria Limited (CCNL).

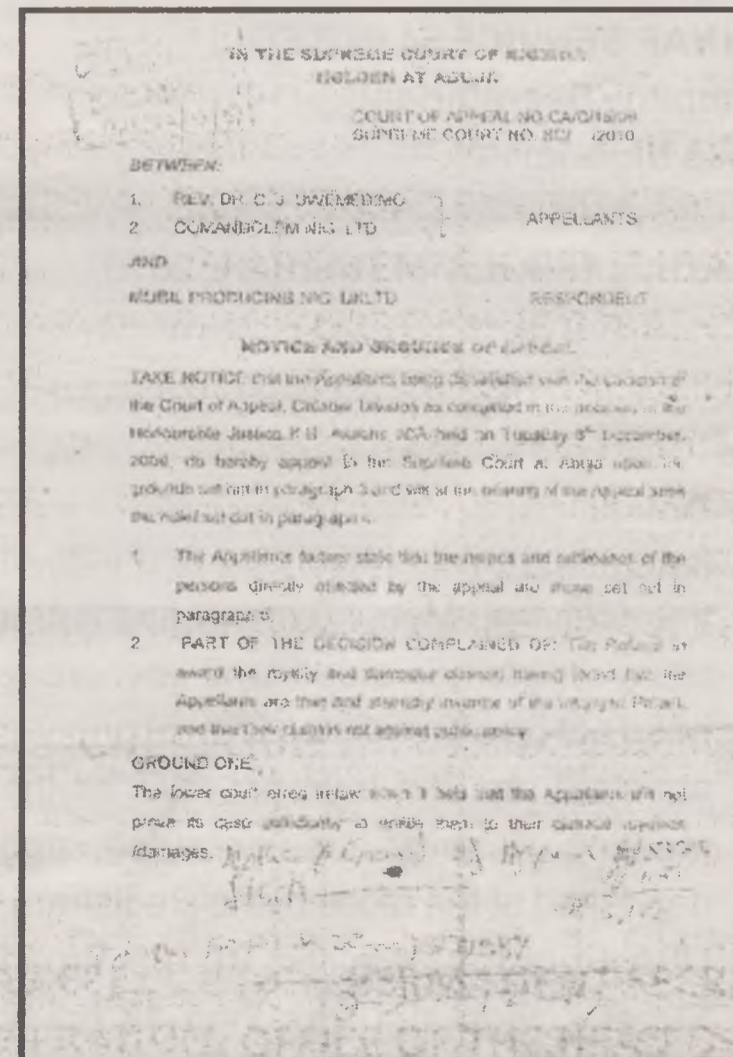
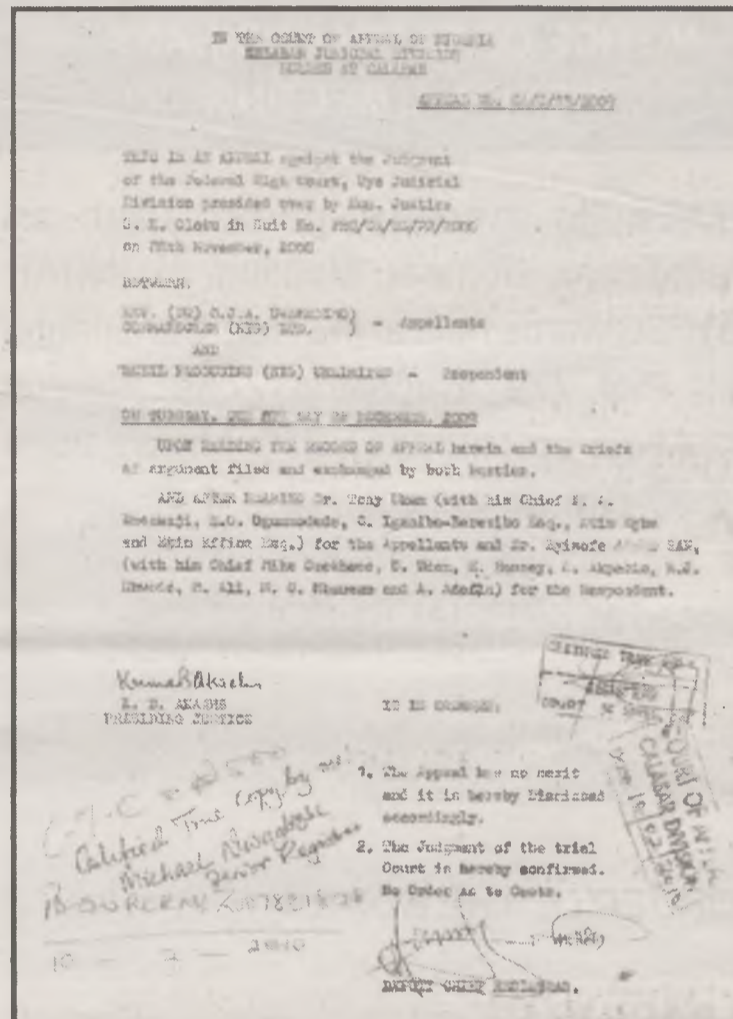
The decision of the Court of Appeal on 8 December, 2009 in an appeal (CA/C/15/2009) filed by CCNL appears to be the basis for the solicitation.

As a socially responsible and law abiding Nigerian corporate citizen, MPN would like to state as follows:

- CCNL filed the appeal (CA/C/15/2009) because it was dissatisfied with the judgement of the Federal High Court (FHC) delivered on 28 November, 2008 (FHC/UY/CS/22/2000).
- That in the judgement, **ALL** of CCNL's claims in the suit (FHC/UY/CS/22/2000) were **completely dismissed by the FHC**, particularly:
  - that CCNL's promoter Dr. Uwemedimo invented any patent for MPN;
  - that any contract oral or written between MPN and CCNL or Dr. Uwemedimo;
  - that MPN had violated **ANY** patent owned by CCNL and/or Dr. Uwemedimo;
  - that CCNL and/or Dr. Uwemedimo were entitled to **ANY** payment from MPN
- The Court of Appeal gave its judgement in appeal filed by CCNL (CA/C/15/2009) on 8 December, 2009.
- That decision upheld the prior decision of the FHC and again **completely dismissed CCNL's appeal**. A copy of the enrolled order of the Court of Appeal is reproduced in this publication.
- Again dissatisfied with the result of the appeal, CCNL filed an appeal to the Supreme Court on 21 December 2009. A copy of the Notice and Grounds of Appeal filed on CCNL's behalf by Dr. Tony Ukam is also hereby reproduced.
- Information provided to the media to the effect that the Court of Appeal decided the case in CCNL's favour and that MPN has appealed the decision are **FALSE**
- MPN is confident that the appeal is without legal or factual merit and intends to vigorously defend the appeal at the Supreme Court

MPN is providing this information for the benefit of the general public to better inform them about the facts and status of judicial pronouncements on this matter. Records of the cases mentioned in this publication are public records available at the FHC and Court of Appeal for any member of the public.

MPN confirms its commitment to carry out its operations in a safe, law abiding and socially responsible manner.





**INCAR NIGERIA PLC**

RC 3309

**NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY  
GENERAL MEETING**

NOTICE is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of INCAR (NIG) PLC will be held at the Reiz Continental Hotel, Plot 779, Cadastral Zone, Central Area, Abuja on Thursday, 25th March, 2010 at 12.00 p.m. to consider and if thought fit pass the following resolution which will be proposed as SPECIAL RESOLUTION:

"That the Company be delisted from The Nigerian Stock Exchange"..

**BY ORDER OF THE BOARD**

**K.O.BADEJO**  
**LENNAP SERVICES LIMITED**  
(Company Secretaries)  
Lagos Nigeria.

Dated this 18th day of February, 2010.

**Note:**

**Proxy**

A member entitled to attend and vote at the General Meeting may appoint a proxy in his/her stead and the proxy need not be a member. A form of proxy is attached and if it is to be valid for the meeting it must be executed and deposited at the office of the Registrars, UBA Registrars Limited 97/105 Broad Street, Lagos, not less than 48 hours prior to time of the meeting.



**THE COUNCIL FOR THE REGULATION OF  
FREIGHT FORWARDING IN NIGERIA**

**REGISTER NOW!**  
...Even at the Venue

Pursuant to the provisions of the CRFFN Act 16 of 2007, CRFFN invite all Freight Forwarders, Freight Forwarding Companies and Service Providers in the **NORTHERN ZONE** to a Stakeholders Forum holding as follows:

**DATE: WEDNESDAY 3RD MARCH, 2010**

**TIME: 10:00 AM PROMPT**

**VENUE: ROYAL TROPICANA HOTEL, KANO**

(Service Providers are Individuals and Corporate bodies engaged in any act pertaining to the profession of freight forwarding for gain - (see section 28(2) of the CRFFN Act). For ease of reference. Kindly visit our website: [www.crffn.gov.ng](http://www.crffn.gov.ng)

Participate in the ongoing membership registration.

**CRFFN Management**  
**Announcer.**

# DIGEST

## Why you'd be stupid to cheat on your wife...

DECEITFUL and depicable is one description that wronged wives could apply to their cheating husbands.

Plain stupid is another. For scientists have concluded that men who sleep around are likely to have lower IQs.

It is a finding likely to prove of interest to Cheryl Cole as she contemplates her errant partner Ashley's unfaithful ways.

Dr Satoshi Kanazawa, an evolutionary psychologist from the London School of Economics and Political Science, said the smarter a man is, the less likely he is to cheat

Therefore, in the case of fidelity, men who cannot adapt and end up succumbing to temptation and cheating are likely to be more stupid.

'The theory predicts that more intelligent men are more likely to value sexual exclusivity than less intelligent men,' he explained.

According to his theory, the link between fidelity and intelligence does not apply to women because they have always been expected to be faithful to one mate - even in polygamous societies.

Dr Kanazawa's research, in the journal *Social Psychology Quarterly*, also claims that intelligent people are less likely to believe in God or hold conservative views.

Analysing the American National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, he found young adults who regarded themselves as 'very liberal' had an average IQ of 106, while those who saw themselves as 'very conservative' had an average IQ of 95.

Dr Kanazawa's theory holds that self-interested, conservative attitudes are primitive in evolutionary terms, while selfless, liberal views are more advanced and linked with intelligence.

Similarly, those who identified themselves as 'not at all religious' had an average IQ of 103, while those who saw themselves as 'very religious' had an average IQ of 97.

According to Dr Kanazawa, that is down to people who are smarter being more open to new ideas.

Those who are less intelligent cling to belief in God, a relic of our evolutionary past, he added.

'Humans are evolutionarily designed to be paranoid and they believe in God because they are paranoid.'

'This innate bias towards paranoia served humans well when self-preservation and protection of their families and clans depended on extreme vigilance to all potential dangers.'

'So, more intelligent children are likely to grow up to go against their natural evolutionary tendency to believe in God and they become atheists.'

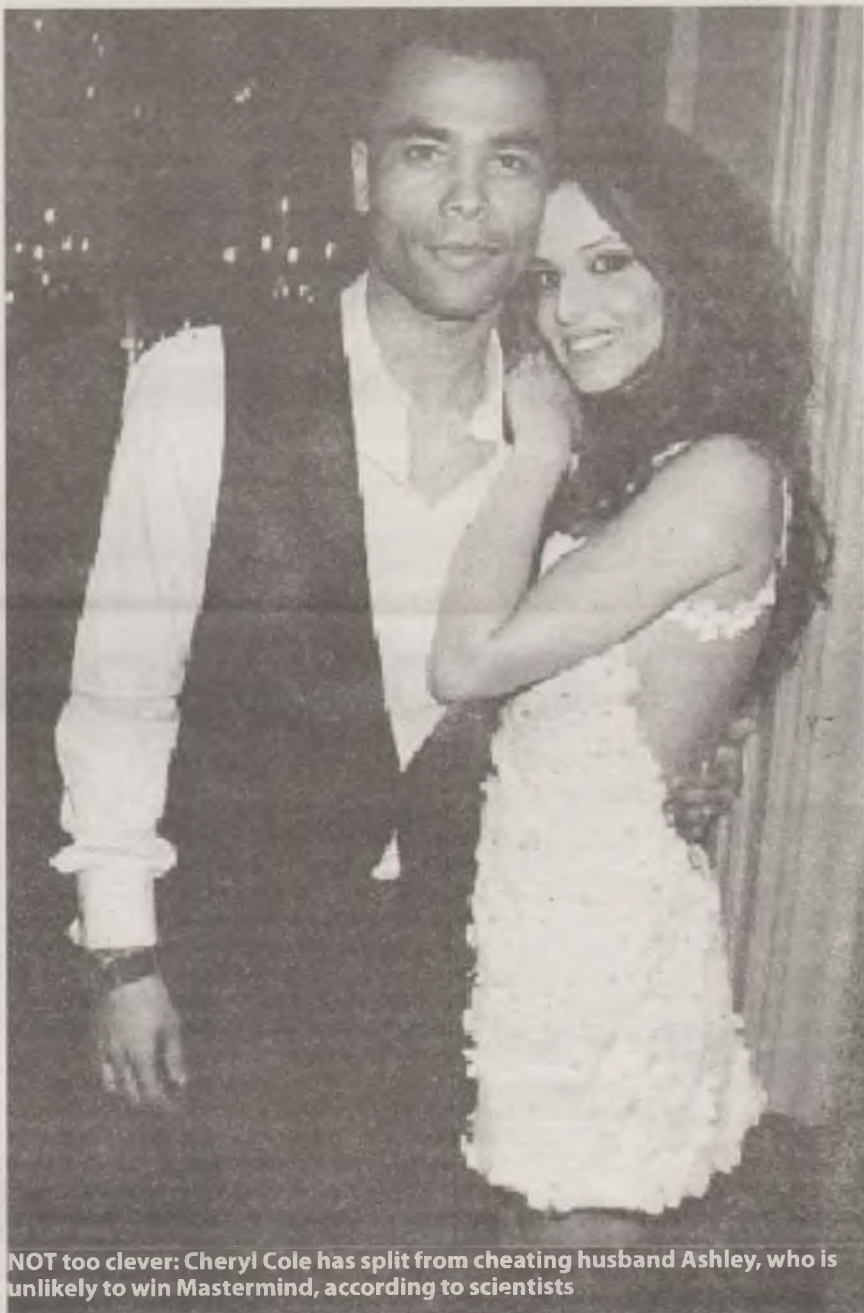
**The theory predicts that more intelligent men are more likely to value sexual exclusivity than less intelligent men**

on his partner.

His theory is based on the assertion that through evolutionary history, men have always been 'mildly polygamous'.

That has changed today, however, and Dr Kanazawa explained that entering a sexually exclusive relationship is an 'evolutionarily novel' development for them.

According to his theory, intelligent people are more likely to adopt what in evolutionary terms are new practices - to become 'more evolved'.



**NOT too clever: Cheryl Cole has split from cheating husband Ashley, who is unlikely to win Mastermind, according to scientists**

## Boy develops fish scales at 4 months old



**BABY Song suffers from the rare and severe condition Lamellar ichthyosis, where the whole body is peeling off like fish skin**

THIS 14-month-old boy born without pores in his skin has baffled medics by developing fish scales.

Doctors believe Song Sheng, of Jinhu, eastern China, may be suffering from a rare genetic condition that means his body cannot cool itself. Song Sheng - called fish boy by locals - began developing scales within days of his birth caused by his lack of pores.

Doctors say because he cannot sweat or lose heat through his skin, it peels away in fish-like scales.

Instead, his family controls his body temperature by laying him in baths of ice.

Song Dehui, his father, said: 'He is in a lot of pain all the time and if we don't have enough ice he gets a fever.'

But doctors have told the family there is still no known cure for the genetic condition, known as Lamellar ichthyosis. 'It can be treated but not cured so we are praying for a miracle or a folk medicine cure,' his father said.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

## How to lie and not look as though you are lying

SOCIETY would quickly collapse were it not for the dozens of tiny lies we permit ourselves every day. Mostly we use this for simple good manners. For instance, when breaking up with a partner, we reassure them that 'It's not you, it's me', when in reality it most certainly is them.

We all learn to lie at such a young age: every parent will recognise the moment where a child first puts their hand to their mouth before stating a blatant lie. From that moment, we get steadily better at lying as we grow older, gradually refining our technique until by full adulthood we are all experts in the art of deception. Of all human social behaviours, it is perhaps the hardest to detect. That said, there are various things we can look out for to help us know when someone is lying.

### Are they just nervous?

Lying can have very similar symptoms to anxiety. In many situations when we might be tempted to lie, we can also simply be nervous - trying to cover up our mistakes or woo a possible partner. The trick is to establish what a person's 'baseline' behaviour is, and then look for deviations.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

Sign Language

老人、儿童上扶梯时  
需有家人陪同

When old man's child go up hand ladder  
temporary need the family to accompany



Simple translation: Children must be accompanied  
Photo location: Hangzhou, China, by Jason Harris  
Culled from telegraph.co.uk

EASY CROSSWORDS

1

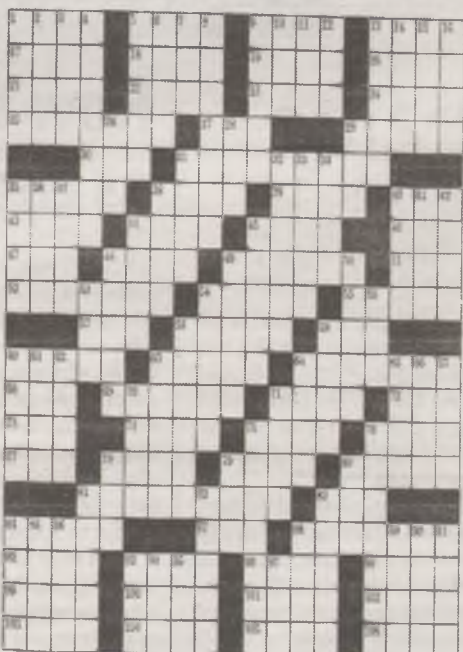
ACROSS

- 1. Penny
- 5. Hit (a past)
- 9. Sports squad
- 13. Any
- 17. Declare formally
- 18. Book leaf
- 19. Great Lake near Buffalo
- 20. Brother of Cain
- 21. Simple only
- 22. Pungent smell
- 23. Little shop
- 24. — song, traditional form
- 25. Rise in rank
- 27. Road chart
- 29. Red, rooted vegetables
- 30. Student-transporting vehicle
- 31. Occasions for cakes and candles
- 35. Grown-up
- 38. Fruit from a palm
- 39. Believe (60-Down)
- 40. Explosive stuff; abbr.
- 43. Inspire sewns
- 44. Nail-shaping implement
- 45. Aladdin's light
- 46. Wooding tool
- 47. Fireplace fuel
- 48. Snow glider
- 49. Most ancient
- 51. Mis. tinders
- 52. Built to wall
- 54. Harbor towns
- 55. Religious ceremonies
- 57. Unrefined mineral
- 58. Flu symptom, often
- 59. Jam container
- 60. Spaghetti or ziti
- 63. Household duty
- 64. Entertainer
- 68. Feel under the weather
- 69. Hebeop locations
- 71. Sugar block
- 72. Boot tie
- 73. Marriage vow, 2 wds.
- 74. Beerlike brews
- 75. Yoga mats
- 76. Stray attack
- 77. — York City
- 78. Greasy substances
- 79. Five minus five
- 80. Gave in to anger
- 81. Untrue statement
- 83. Chewy candy
- 84. Knight's suit of metal
- 87. Geological span
- 88. Lost control of the football
- 92. — at, ogie
- 93. Measure of land
- 96. Inactive
- 99. Cherish
- 99. Fell gradually
- 100. Small basket
- 101. Spind buds
- 102. Biblical garden
- 103. Racetrack statistics
- 104. Censes
- 105. Oceans
- 106. Take a break

DOWN

- 1. Sleep in a tent
- 2. At all times
- 3. — emperor
- 4. Quiver
- 5. Leopard features
- 6. Walk through water
- 7. In the past
- 8. Wood-eating insect
- 9. Entice
- 10. Historic period
- 11. Balloon filler
- 12. Encounter
- 13. Bank vaults
- 14. Clarinet kin
- 15. Dissolve, as ice
- 16. Lodge members
- 25. Away from work
- 26. Exist
- 28. "Miss"
- 29. Lacking hair
- 32. Physical well-being
- 33. Titled ladies
- 34. Nile vipers
- 35. Skilled
- 36. Closet closer
- 38. Persuade strongly
- 39. Perished
- 40. The object there
- 41. — and this little piggy had —
- 42. Wallet bills

- 44. Escape
- 45. Quite big
- 48. Stopping tube
- 49. Rains heavily
- 50. Tiny amount
- 53. Soldier's bed
- 54. Swimming venues
- 56. Annoy
- 58. Pizza topper
- 59. Boxing punches
- 60. Bodily hurt
- 61. Assistant
- 62. At a snail's pace
- 63. Prison rooms
- 64. A martial art
- 65. Papa deer
- 66. Seep
- 67. Require
- 70. Signal (a verb)
- 71. Christmas greeting
- 75. Showy blossoms
- 76. Casino patron
- 78. Rowboat propeller
- 79. Wild-animal park
- 80. Daiquiri liquor
- 81. Tined unbleached items
- 82. Shoe parts
- 83. Rough estimate
- 84. In addition
- 85. Enjoyed a magazine
- 86. Repair (a rip)
- 88. Pest on a dog
- 89. 57-Across deposit
- 90. Festive nights
- 91. Fender Memphis
- 93. Imitate
- 94. Soap tin
- 95. Free left
- 97. Color (fabrics)



SUDOKU

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

97

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

Solution to Sudoku 96

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

## News Extra

## Doctors tell Barack Obama to quit smoking



BARACK Obama has had his first medical examination since becoming president.

excellent and he does not have to return for another medical until 2012. Obama, who is 48, has 20-20 vision, weighs 179 lbs in his shoes and clothes, and requires

“He told reporters last year he had quit but still had an occasional cigarette, without specifying how many

Barack Obama is still struggling to kick smoking, according to his first medical examination since becoming president.

Obama is sensitive about his cigarette habit and tetchy with reporters who raise it. But after his 90-minute medical at the Navy hospital outside Washing-

The American president has been trying to KICK the habit for sometime, apart from the smoking he is in excellent health

ton Sunday morning, his doctors confirmed he had not yet managed to conquer the habit and suggested he “continue smoking cessation efforts”.

The doctors said the president used medication to try to ease the pangs, they described it as “nicotine replacement therapy, self-use”.

Obama promised Michelle when he embarked on his campaign to become president he would quit, at the time he said he was smoking about eight a day.

He told reporters last year he had quit but still had an occasional cigarette, without specifying how many.

His health was described as

little medication. Apart from the nicotine replacement, he uses a non-steroid anti-inflammatory medication associated with physical activity: he regularly plays basketball at the White House.

The doctors also recommended “moderation of alcohol intake”.

Culled from guardian.co.uk

## All the president's emails

In a unique experiment in democratic transparency, Barack Obama – a BlackBerry owner, and the first American president to use email while in office – has agreed to copy G2 in on his otherwise highly confidential electronic communications. Each week, we present a selection from recent days

To: Gordon Brown <g.brown@parliament.uk>  
Subject: Re: sincere and heartfelt apologies

Gordon – I'm glad you're finally getting some help with your anger issues, but there's really no reason for you to apologise to me. Copenhagen was a frustrating time for everybody, and in the heat of the moment many regrettable things were said and, in your case, thrown. You're a passionate man, impatient for change – those are admirable qualities. I'm just sorry that my secret service guys felt the need to wrestle you to the ground. But that's protocol, right? I hope that your arm is feeling better now. Barack

To: John McCain <john.mccain@senate.gov> Subject: Re: healthcare summit

John, you can dismiss it as “political theatre” if you want. But if it was theatre, then I got some pretty good reviews. Seven hours on live TV, and still making sense at the end of it – not something you'd expect from the previous incumbent. But honestly, let's put politics aside and move forward in a spirit of reconciliation. Yes, we can. BHO

To: VPOTUS <joe.biden@whitehouse.gov> Subject: Re: health summit – nice work!

You don't understand, Joe – there are two types of “reconciliation” here. One is the notion of



PRESIDENT Barack Obama on his BlackBerry

setting aside differences to work together, and the other is a complex legislative process aimed at ramming the healthcare bill through as is. We've tried the first, and now we're moving on to the second. If you'd stayed

awake for the whole seven hours, you'd know this. BHO

Hillary Clinton <secretary@whitehouse.gov> Subject: Re: Brown apology

Yeah, I got one too. I think they make you send them out,

kinda like a 12-step thing. Any more gossip? Is it true he threw a bust of Churchill at Miliband? And people wonder why I don't do one-on-one with the guy any more. Going out for a cig – text me. BHO

## News Extra

## Latest of Kennedy clan shuns politics

... For now

- 50-year run of Kennedys in Congress set to end
- 'There are other ways to serve,' says 29-year-old

The Kennedy clan's best hope of keeping alive the family political tradition Sunday ruled out standing for Congress in November.

Joseph P Kennedy III, grandson of Robert Kennedy and son of former Congressman Joseph P Kennedy II, confirmed he had been discussing a run with his friends and family but finally decided against doing it this year. He did not rule out standing at a later date.

There has been an unbroken run of Kennedys in Congress since 1947.

After the death of Senator Ted Kennedy and the decision of representative Patrick J Kennedy not to seek re-election in November's mid-term election, the era appears to be finally coming to an end.

Joseph P Kennedy III had emerged as the one most likely to maintain the family legacy.

The 29-year-old Harvard law school graduate is a former member of the Peace Corps and an assistant district attorney in

Massachusetts, with an office close to the family compound on Cape Cod.

He is the great-grandson of patriarch Joe, the multimillionaire whose ambition for his family was the driving force behind the eventual clan political dominance in Massachusetts and nationwide.

Kennedy told AP: "I certainly thought about it a bit with close friends and family."

He had been under no special pressure to carry on the family tradition, he said.

"Members of my family have said politics is an honourable profession, but there's a lot of ways to serve," he added.

He listed the work of relatives in other areas, such as social work and charity, and his own work in the law.

"At this moment, I think I've found my way to serve," he said.

"I've got a job I love being an assistant district attorney on the Cape, and I want to get better at it at this point. I know serving in Congress would be a great job, but I've got a great job."

Kennedy had worked on the Senate re-election campaign of



FOLLOWING John F Kennedy's election as President, the family gathered for a photo on November 9, 1960. Shown standing, left to right are: Mrs Robert F Kennedy; Steve Smith and his wife, Jean Kennedy; John F Kennedy; Robert Kennedy; sister, Patricia Lawford; Sargent Shriver; brother Ted's wife, Joan, and British actor, Peter Lawford. In foreground, Eunice Shriver, a sister, Joseph P Kennedy with wife seated in front; Jacqueline Kennedy, and Ted Kennedy.

Ted Kennedy in 2006 and been active in politics in other ways.

The November mid-terms are building up as a risky option for Democrats, even in Massachusetts, normally a Democratic state.

The victory of the Republican Scott Brown in January in Ted Kennedy's seat makes Democrats

vulnerable across the US, even those with the Kennedy name and its long association with Massachusetts.

Kennedy had been cited as a potential replacement for Congressman William Delahunt, who is widely expected to announce he will not stand for

re-election.

Delahunt has several times over the last few years been reported to have lost interest in politics, and he, like other Democrats who have decided not to stand again, may not fancy his chances this year in the face of anti-Democratic sentiment.

Culled from guardian.co.uk

## An overdue farewell to the Kennedy dynasty

There will soon be no Kennedy holding political office in Washington for the first time since 1947, argues Toby Harnden in Washington

In the end, the burden was too much for Patrick Kennedy. After spending half his life in elected office, the 42-year-old announced that he would not seek re-election for a ninth term in the House of Representatives in November.

The unmarried congressman was left utterly bereft by the death in August of his father and Capitol Hill compatriot, Senator Ted Kennedy.

Last year was the annus horribilis of the Kennedy dynasty. It also saw the death of Ted's sister Eunice and the political humiliation of Caroline Kennedy, his niece and President John F Kennedy's daughter, as she abandoned her unconvincing bid to be appointed Senator from New York in Hillary Clinton's place.

Like Caroline and the diffident Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, a daughter of Bobby Kennedy who lost what should have been a relatively straightforward gubernatorial race in Maryland in 2002, Patrick was deeply uncomfortable as a politician.

The Rhode Island congressman is painfully awkward, a poor

public speaker and has suffered from alcoholism, bipolar disorder and addiction to prescription drugs. Apart from his surname, he is best known for crashing his Mustang into a barrier outside the Capitol at 2.45am in May 2006 and then promptly booking himself into rehab at a Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.

Whatever the congressman's

reasons for leaving the field of politics, only the fiercest of Democratic partisans could argue that he will be missed.

The only reason that he ever had a political career was his surname. The same, of course, was initially true for Edward Kennedy, who inherited his brother JFK's seat after it had been kept warm for him for two years by a Kennedy

placeholder until he reached the requisite age of 30.

By the time of his death, Kennedy had achieved the status almost of living saint. Once he was diagnosed with brain cancer, it was considered unforgivably vulgar even to mention Chappaquiddick that the married Senator left his companion Mary Jo Kopechne

to drown in his car as he fled the scene of a late-night accident.

Ted Kennedy toiled in the Senate for decades but he could never quite erase the stain on the family name that Chappaquiddick left.

From January, there will be no Kennedy in Congress or the White House for the first time since 1947. For some that will be seen as a tragedy but perhaps it would be better viewed as a relief.

One of the greatest strengths of the United States is that there is no aristocracy and the class stratifications that can so stifle British society and dynamism are largely absent. A reason for Barack Obama's election was that Americans were tired of the notion of dynasties, be they Bush or Clinton.

America is currently in the throes of what amounts to a rage against the political class and its complacent sense of being entitled to hold power and wield it in its own interests. If there's one thing Patrick Kennedy can be given credit for, perhaps it is that he correctly read the national mood.



PATRICK Kennedy (right) shares a joke with his father, the late Ted Kennedy

# Congratulations

## TO A CONSISTENT, LABOUR FRIENDLY LEADER

The leadership of the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC), Kano State Council, and the entire labour force in the state heartily felicitate and rejoice with

*His Excellency*

**(Dr) Malam Ibrahim Shekarau**  
on his conferment of a well deserved  
title of **SARDAUNAN KANO**

*By His Royal Highness*

**Alhaji (Dr.) Ado Bayero, CFR, LL.D, JP,**  
the Emir Kano.

In the labour movement, we surely celebrate your outstanding achievements and your impeccable leadership qualities, as shown in your human development and labour friendly projects since your assumption of leadership in the state.

*May your light continue to shine  
forever, the people's governor.*



*His Excellency*  
**(Dr) Malam Ibrahim Shekarau**  
*Sardaunan Kano*

---

**Allah Ya Ja Zamanin**  
**SARDAUNA, Ameen.**



**Comrade L. Y. Dangaguma**  
*State Chairman*



**Comrade Aminu Salehman**  
*State Secretary*

**NIGERIAN LABOUR CONGRESS, KANO STATE COUNCIL**

# PROPERTY

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## PDP chieftain cautions over Jos demolition

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

A People's Democratic Party chieftain in Plateau State, Alhaji Tijjani Musawa, has called on the Federal Government to caution Governor Jonah David Jang on his intention to embark on a demolition exercise in Jos.

The PDP stalwart made the statement in an interview with our correspondent in Jos yesterday saying that the exercise is capable of disrupting the fragile peace in the state.

Governor Jang had during the weekend after receiving the report of the greater Jos master plan reiterated his position to pursue the actualization of the plan by demolition illegal structures in the city.

The administration of Jang has, among many other rea-

sons, pointed out that the distortion of the Jos master plan has denied the city of Jos its natural beauty stressing that lack implementation of the plan has also denied many residents access to good social amenities as a result of congestion in the city.

"The demolition exercise is capable of disrupting the fragile peace in the state because up to this moment there is tension, we are not praying but everyone knows that a little thing can ignite unrest in Jos, we are all aware of the little disagreements that have nearly reignited the crisis some days back".

According to Musawa, the reason given by the government on the implementation of the greater Jos master plan was not tangible adding that Plateau state is one of the states in country that has mass landscape.

"Why wouldn't the government go to those areas and develop them so that the city will expand, why must the government insist on Jos North, the expansion of the city will give many job and housing opportunities to the people in the state".

He added, "But everybody knows the reason why the Governor is insisting on the demolition in Jos North and environs, it is simply because the Governor doesn't like peace and the greater majority of Jos North and environs is predominantly occupied by Hausa/ Fulani, that is why he wants to embark on the demolition".

Musawa further stressed the fact that the 6pm to 6am curfew is still in place indicates that there is still tension in the city, "how can you now want to embark on a demolition exercise."



MINISTER of state FCT, Chief Chuka Odom, right, with Chief Emeka Anyaoku and Mr. Tony Blair, former British Prime minister, at a recent event in Abuja recently.

## Safana LG constructs clinic at N12.6m

SAFANA Local Government Area in Katsina State spent N12.6 million to build six clinics in the area last year, its Chairman, Alhaji Abdulkadir Zakka, has said.

Zakka said in Katsina on Monday that the clinics, which gulped N2.1 million each, had all been inaugurated and were now in use.

He said the decision to build the clinics was borne out of the council's commitment toward providing health care to the door steps of the rural communities.

He added that the clinics were also aimed at addressing the high rate of maternal and child mortality in the area.

Zakka said the local government had also spent N25.5 million to provide 10 solar powered boreholes to alleviate the hardship faced by the people in getting potable water.

The chairman said the boreholes were sited in Illela, Babban-Duhu, Zakka and Safana wards. (NAN)

## Plateau awards N142m earth dam contract

THE Plateau Government has awarded a N142-million-contract for the construction of an earth dam in Timbol in Langtang-South Local Government Area, with a three-month completion period.

Malam Idi Waziri, the Commissioner for Water Resources and Rural Development, signed on behalf of the government, while Mr Yaro Davou signed on behalf of Bodawett Nigeria Ltd, the construction

firm.

Waziri reiterated government's determination to tackle the problem of inadequate water supply, alleviate poverty and facilitate rural development.

He said the signing of the contract was another milestone in the efforts to deliver dividends of democracy, and promised that contracts for similar projects would soon be awarded in the two other senatorial zones.

Waziri advised the contractor to observe standards and specifications in the execution of the project.

He urged the benefiting communities and local governments to cooperate with contractors to enable them to successfully execute projects sited in their areas.

Responding on behalf of the firm, Davou promised to ensure that the project conformed to standards. (NAN)

## FHA to build new town on Lagos-Badagry expressway

THE Federal Housing Authority (FHA) will soon submit a proposal to the Lagos State Government for the construction of a new town development scheme on the Lagos/Badagry Expressway, an official said.

The South-West Coordinator of FHA, Mr Fola Owolabi, said on Sunday in Lagos that the agency's board had approved the construction of a housing estate in the area.

He said the ongoing expansion work on

the road and the plan by the state government to extend a light rail to Badagry would open up the area.

"We will soon be forwarding our proposal for a new town development scheme along the road. We are counting on the goodwill of the government to approve it," he said.

Owolabi said the concept of a new town development scheme had been adopted by

FHA as one of the delivery methods for the realisation of its 100,000 units by 2013.

He said apart from the existing housing schemes in Lagos, including the 11,000 housing units in FESTAC town, FHA had also completed 562 housing units at Diamond Estate, Isheri, Lagos.

The coordinator disclosed that the agency was constructing another housing estate at Egan, a Lagos suburb, in partner-

ship with a private firm.

"Also at Abesan, we have just opened another site where contractors have been mobilised for the delivery of an estate being handled through direct labour," said Owolabi.

He added that the FHA would deliver more than 8,000 housing units through cooperative societies under its 2009-2013 Action Plan. (NAN)



## 'Niger Delta skill acquisition centre contract stalled'

By Nasir Imam

SOME contractors, who bid for the construction of ultra-modern skill acquisition centres in various states in the South-South, have raised alarm over alleged attempts by the Niger Delta ministry to thwart the amnesty programme of the federal government.

Some of the contractors who spoke to Daily Trust said that twenty-two of them applied eight months ago for the

jobs that were advertised and thereafter followed due process through the Bureau for Public Procurement (BPP).

The contractors stated that surprisingly after all the processes stipulated in the Public Procurement Act have been duly adhered to the Federal Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs since December 2009 have refused to issue letters of award via processing of necessary document to Federal Executive Council (FEC).

"The Ministry of Niger Delta refused to release it

but withheld it till date thus creating another source of manoeuvring for contract selection by giving genuine slots to other companies for selfish and political interests.

"This without any doubt suggests that the Public Procurement Act is being jettisoned with impunity and such act may affect Federal Government's programme for the Niger Delta and the economic growth of the country," the contractors stated.

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE

## Ekiti assures on 954 km road completion

EKITI State Government has assured of the completion of the 954 kilometre of roads initiated by the Segun Oni led-administration in the state.

The State Commissioner for Information and Civic Orientation, Hon. Taiwo Olatunbosun in a statement yesterday said the state government has completed 342 km out of the projected 945 km adding that the completed roads are spread across the three senatorial districts of the state.

Olatunbosun said the ongoing 444 km are in different stages of completion and would soon be delivered by the various contractors handling them, stressing the desire of Governor Oni to ensure that the state has the best network of roads that could attract investors and make it best destination for both local and foreign investors.

The Information Commissioner also hinted on the plan of the Oni administration to award contract for the construction and rehabilitation of another 169km of roads across the state, adding that no community would be left out in the desire to open up the rural areas of the state for easy transportation system.

Olatunbosun who noted that the state government is doing all within its power to leave a legacy of service to future administrations in the state called on the people to continue to give quality support to the Oni administration.



THE Lamborghini building along Lekki-Badagry expressway, Lagos.

## Women housing plan initiative flagged off

By Nasir Imam

THE Women Housing Plan Initiative was yesterday flagged off in Abuja by the wife of the Acting President Mrs. Patience Dame Jonathan.

According to the President/CEO of the project, Hajiya Binta Ibrahim; the Women Housing Plan Initiative (WHPI) is a mission driven shelter initiative, deeply committed to empowering women and families towards owning their own homes through a service enriched housing programme that is affordable within their household budget.

She added that the main

objective of the programme is to assist and empower women, widows, singles and married to own houses in support of their immediate families and also to support the Federal Government efforts towards housing for all by the year 2015.

The Minister of State for Works, Housing and Urban Development, Chief (Mrs.) Grace Ekpiwre, commended the initiative of providing mass housing for Nigerian women, adding that the federal government, through the Ministry of Works, Housing and Urban Development, will support the Women Housing Plan Initiative.

The minister added that the Federal Government is willing to support any estate developer with a genuine Public Private Partnership (PPP) scheme in mass housing development by providing unencumbered land in any part of the country.

She called on Nigerians to take advantage of the Federal Government's "Sight and Service" scheme of her ministry whereby parcels of land are acquired in all the states of the federation by the Federal Government, surveyed, planned, serviced with infrastructure and allocated to Nigerians to build their own houses.

The Chief Executive of the Federal Housing Authority (FHA) Mr. Steve Gemade, added that his office is willing to render any level of technical and advisory service to the Women Housing Plan Initiative whenever he is called upon to do so.

The Minister, Federal Capital Territory, Senator Adamu Aliero commended the initiative, saying it was timely and interesting, especially as the programme is coming up at this time that the Federal Government is on the verge of flagging-off the most ambitious mass housing programme in the Federal Capital Territory.

## W/Africa building confab to hold in Abuja next month

From Chris Agbai, Lagos

WATER Africa 2010 and West Africa Building & Construction 2010 will be held on 28-30 April 2010 at the Abuja International Conference Centre.

ACE's Managing Director, Tracey Nolan-Shaw, who was in Abuja early in February, met the chairman of the Senate Committee on Water Resources, Senator Basse Ewa-Henshaw, who pledged his full support for the event. He also agreed to chair the Water Africa Seminar, which

will be held alongside the exhibitions on 29 April. The Building & Construction Seminar will be on 28 April.

The organisers in a statement say that local companies, as well as international suppliers, have already committed to the exhibitions, and Tracey Nolan-Shaw anticipates a large response to the company's first exhibitions in Nigeria since 2007. Some 80 companies will be taking part in the two exhibitions coming from all parts of the globe. To date, bookings have been received from Belgium,

China, Denmark, France, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Portugal, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, Uruguay and USA, as well as from the host country.

Quite a few of the exhibitors at these exhibitions will be new to the West African market and will be looking for local partners to help them sell and distribute their products and services here. There is great potential for business to be done at both shows and exciting new products and services to be seen and discussed.

Exhibitors at both exhibitions will be able to take part in the accompanying seminar programme, which will be run in co-ordination with the federal government ministries. Places in the seminar programme will be limited and priority will be given to registered exhibitors. The programme will provide an ideal opportunity for exhibitors to get to know the problems and needs of the water and construction sectors in West Africa, and to provide information on their products and services.

## Property



property@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079



A landscape view of the Federal Secretariat complex, Abuja

## South Africa's land reforms discriminate against women

SINCE the end of apartheid, land reforms have been one way of righting the wrongs to which the black South African majority was previously subjected. But many black women have little or no opportunity to own land, due to the customary laws that still govern ownership rights in rural South Africa. This is explored in a new thesis from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

Annika Rudman has studied the relationship between legislation, customary law and opportunities for development in relation to black women's ownership rights and the land reforms implemented in South Africa since 1994.

"The values that govern South Africa's land reforms concern the right to equality between men and women and a prohibition on racial discrimi-

nation, but at the same time these have to be balanced against local customary law and the traditional forms of leadership associated with this. Therefore, each reform must take into account the fact that conflicts can arise between the different value systems," says Annika, who is a PhD student in the field of peace and development research at the University of Gothenburg.

The change process currently under way in South Africa is taking place within the new official legal framework, which emphasises equality and pluralism.

"Taking as my starting point the new constitution, which came into force in 1997, I have examined the function and status of customary law in South African land reform, and have attempted to highlight the legal prob-

lems many black South African women have to deal with when they try to gain access to land through the new system," says Annika.

In her thesis she points out the dangers of building new ownership structures around the often patriarchal customary law structures.

"Traditional leadership in South Africa has a prominent role to play in the struggle to increase respect for equality between men and women, particularly in rural areas," says Annika.

The study therefore recommends that national guidelines be introduced for how the traditional leadership in South Africa can approach and implement equality in relation to the principles of customary law that govern land ownership in many of South Africa's

various cultural groups.

"These recommendations are based on the idea, launched by the South African Constitutional Court, that it is the traditional leadership that should be the driving force in the issue of developing customary law in line with the requirements for equality that are set out in the constitution," says Annika.

In addition to the legal analysis, the thesis puts South Africa's land reforms in a development context, and studies the possibility that by protecting women's rights, it will help to reduce the growing poverty among women in South Africa, which has in recent years been worsened by the spread of HIV/Aids. The material for the thesis was collected during three years of fieldwork in various parts of South Africa.

**The change process currently under way in South Africa is taking place within the new official legal framework, which emphasises equality and pluralism.**

### NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF TOWN PLANNERS

National President  
Tpt (Mallam) Kabir M. Yari

Recognized by Decree No. 3, 1988

National Secretary  
Tpt (Mallam) U. U. U. U. U.

CORPORATE HEAD OFFICE

Plot 2047, Michael Okpara Street, Wuse Zone 5  
P.M.B. 7012, Garki, Abuja FCT  
Tel: 01-8502270, 0800 8326491  
Email: nigtpt@nigtpt.org



LIAISON OFFICE

12, Seidu Ajibowu Street,  
Off Toyin Street, Ikeja, Lagos  
Tel/Fax: 01-8502270, 0800 8326491  
Website: www.nigtpt.org

MEMBERS: ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES OF NIGERIA (APBN)

#### INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO PARTICIPATE IN BUILDING PROJECT.

- The Nigerian Institute of Town Planners is a non-governmental and non-profit-making professional association recognized by Cap. 431, LFN of 1990 (Decree No. 3 of 1988). In its effort to advance its organization, administration and coordination of its functions and activities, this association intends to build a befitting office complex with ancillary facilities on its plot in a choice location along Michael Okpara Street, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja.
- It is the pleasure of this Institute to invite interested developers to express their interest in establishing partnership with the Institute to develop the proposed office complex and other ancillary facilities on 'Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis. Details of the project are as follows.
  - Location of Proposed Project.**  
The site for the proposed development is located at Plot Number 2047, Michael Okpara Way, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja. It is adjoined by the secretariat of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN). The plot is within easy reach of prominent commercial and institutional facilities such as hotels (Ibro, Top View, Gubabi, Millennium, e.t.c.); business facilities such as Banks, Building materials market, e.t.c; Institutional/Public Offices such as NAFDAC, National Population Commission, Federal Road Safety Commission. It is opposite office of the Auditor-General of the Federation. The site is highly accessible and fully serviced with requisite utilities and services.
  - Project Description.**  
Proposed project is a four storey floor open plan office complex which is flexible/partitionable to meet the needs of prospective tenants who can use it for corporate business services. Design is available for inspection at the National Secretariat of the Institute which is on the said site.
  - Eligibility**  
Interested Partners should provide comprehensive information giving the following details about their corporate entity in a bound brochure. These include:
    - Corporate Experience including:
      - Details of Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission i.e. date, category of registration and main business.
    - Organizational Structure, Management, Professional/Technical Qualifications and experience of Key Personnel.
    - Evidence of similar projects executed and proof of knowledge of the construction industry.
    - Equipment and technological capacity.
    - Financial capability;
    - Tax Clearance Certificate for the past three years.
    - Audited Accounts for the immediate past three years.
    - Operational base.
    - Evidence of Registration with Nigerian Institute of Town Planners (NITP)
    - Other relevant information in support of competence.
  - Designs of the proposed development are available for collection from the contact addresses below at a token fee of twenty five thousand Naira (N25,000.00) only in Bank Draft in favour of Nigerian Institute of Town Planners.
  - Interested partners may wish to discuss possible modifications to the plan with the Committee when making their submissions.
  - Interested partners are requested to submit written 'EXPRESSION OF INTEREST' with above details in sealed envelopes to:

**The Chairman,**  
Bawa Bwari House Committee  
Nigerian Institute of Town Planners,  
Plot 2047, Michael Okpara Way,  
P.M.B. 7012, Garki, Abuja.

OR

**The Chairman,**  
Bawa Bwari House Committee, (NITP)  
Liaison Office,  
No. 12, Seidu Ajibowu Street,  
Off Toyin Street, Ikeja - Lagos.

NOT LATER THAN 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2010.

Tpt. (Dr) WOSILAT TITILOLA-SHITTU,  
Chairman, Bawa Bwari House Committee

## CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513  
email: citynews@dailytrust.com

# Court faults slain Ribadu aide's investigation on PFC

By Abubakar Yakubu

AN FCT High Court yesterday faulted an investigation conducted by late Superintendent Danjuma Muhammad on the Petroleum Finance Corporate Limited (PFC) when he was an investigator with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), during the reign of Mallam Nuhu Ribadu as chairman of the commission.

Danjuma had in 2007 led a team of EFCC officials to invade PFC's headquarters in Abuja, where valuable documents of business transactions were seized and the company's accounts in eight banks frozen.

Justice Jude Okeke absolved

PFC of the fraud allegation leveled and set aside the EFCC's directives' to the eight banks stopping or blocking or putting on hold the operations of PFC's current accounts with the affected banks, namely Unity, Guaranty Trust, Zenith, Intercontinental, Diamond, Platinum Habib, Sterling and First Bank of Nigeria.

The court also ordered the EFCC to return PFC's laptop computer, Bank of America's cheque book, cheque books issued to the PFC by the eight banks, PFC's files containing contract agreements between the plaintiff and PFC USA, PFC Shanghai, China as well as the contract agreement for the construction of the 24 federal

universities student's hostels in Nigeria, which EFCC officials carted away in September 2007.

Justice Okeke also restrained the EFCC or their agents from further giving directives to the banks to block or put on hold the operations of their current accounts with the banks.

The judge compelled the banks to resume forthwith, the usual banker/customer relationship with the PFC by allowing her make money/cheque payments into its current accounts as well as make withdrawals without hinderance.

Commenting on the ruling, PFC's group Chairman, Ambassador Abdullahi Ali Alfa said God has vindicated the company

and regretted that Late Danjuma Muhammad was not alive to witness the judgment.

Ambassador Alfa decried the manner at which the EFCC operatives invaded PFC and removed all its business documents two and a half years ago without genuine reasons.

According to him, some of the company's staff died, including the company's President, Mallam Ibrahim Tahir as the company was grounded to a halt and its business deals put on hold because of the action of the EFCC.

He said during the reign of Mallam Ribadu as EFCC's chairman, some operatives in the establishment were teleguided to achieve their selfish ambitions

and praised the current Chairperson, Farida Waziri for sanitizing the place and insisting on the rule of law.

Also speaking, Mr Max Gbanite, a Nigerian in Diaspora, praised the judgment and said the proceeding of the ruling will be transmitted to the Americans so that they have faith to continue to invest in Nigeria

Mr Gbanite said if the FBI in the United States of America wants to invade a company, they will first go to a court to get a warrant with a timeline.

PFC's Counsel, Jeremiah Idakwoji, said the certificate of judgment will be served on the EFCC, after which PFC will request for its belongings with the EFCC.

## Estate agent accused of cheating client

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

THE police recently arraigned an estate agent before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly converting money paid by one Miss. Theresa Yaku Umaru for accommodation to his personal use.

The accused, Amos Adukwu of No 10, New Life Camp, Abuja was arrested by the police in February.

Police prosecutor Monday Akor told the court that on February 19, 2010, one Miss. Theresa Yaku Umar reported to the police that the accused cheated her.

"The accused dishonestly collected N1 million as payment to rent a room and parlour apartment for the period of two years but only remitted N500,000 to the landlord," the prosecutor added.

He also stated that the accused converted the remain-

ing N500,000 to his personal use, adding that the accused committed offences punishable under Sections 312 and 322 of the Penal Code Law.

When the two-count charge was read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail, which was not objected to by the prosecutor.

In her ruling, Magistrate Ann Akobi granted the accused bail in the sum of N200,000 with two reasonable sureties in like sums, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction.

She also ruled that one of the sureties must be a civil servant of not below grade level 12 and that the two of them must swear to affidavits to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to March 12 for hearing.



FROM left: Mr Max Gbanite, PFC's Chairman, Ambassador Abdullahi Ali Alfa and Barrister Jeremiah Idakwoji after their victory over EFCC at an FCT Court yesterday.

## Woman in court over breach of trust

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 44-year-old woman recently appeared before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly selling a piece of land that belongs to another person to one Mrs. Mary Ngozi of Bassa, Airport road, Abuja.

The woman, Suzan Bark of Nualege village, behind Air force Base, Abuja, was reported to have sold the said land for N130,000 in May 2008.

Prosecutor Yilkudi Dungji told the court that the accused deceived the complainant by selling a piece of land that did not belong to her to the complainant.

"The accused knowing full well that the land belongs to another person, dishonestly sold it and converted the money that accrued

from the sales to her personal use," the prosecutor added.

He stated further that the complainant decided to build a shop on the said land, adding that on January 16, 2010, the shop was vandalized by some unknown persons, who removed the shop window and door.

"The offences committed by the accused are punishable under sections 312 and 322 of the Penal Code Law," the prosecutor argued.

When the charges were read to the accused, she pleaded not guilty and asked for bail.

Magistrate Hadiza Shagari granted the accused bail in the sum of N100,000 with a reliable surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction.

The case was adjourned to March 15 for hearing.

## Woman takes husband, rival to court over defamation

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A second wife has taken her husband and his first wife to court for accusing her of killing her stepson last year.

The woman, Fatima Umar told an Abuja Upper Area Court that she was accused by her husband's family and the mother of the boy of being responsible for the child's death.

Fatima told the court that she was surprised when her husband's family accused her of killing the boy because she was in the house with the boy's mother when the sad news got to them and they both rushed to the scene of the incident, after which they rushed the boy to hospital.

"In fact I have never seen this kind of problem before and surprisingly I was the one who paid

the hospital bill before the boy was certified dead and we buried him but later that day, I was taken to the police station, accused falsely of his death as well as seriously beaten by the police," she said.

Fatima further told the court that when the police later asked her rival, Maryam Muritala if she has evidence to link her with her son's death, she said somebody told her.

She said what pained her most was that her husband also believed his first wife's accusation and she decided to sue them for spoiling her name as well as to claim damages of N1.5 million for defamation.

The petitioner also accused her mother-in-law of instigating her rival as well as trying to drive her from her husband's house over the allegation.

Reacting, the husband, Muritala Babanzayanu, who spoke through his counsel, said he is surprised at what is happening in his house and that he loves his wives and cannot understand what is happening between them.

He also apologized to Fatima and said he is not comfortable that she took the case to court.

Barrister Kenny Clet urged the court to allow him settle the couples amicably since it is a family issue, adding that he will inform the court of his outcome as soon as the matter is settled.

Presiding Judge Issa Alhaji Yahaya granted the counsel's request and advised both parties to let peace prevail in their home.

The judge adjourned the case to March 3, 2010 for further hearing on the outcome of the settlement.



## Congratulations

In recognition of the Honorary Doctorate Degree in Law awarded to our Chairman **Alhaji Aliko Dangote, con** by Bayero University, Kano, we say congratulations.

This is further recognition of your invaluable contributions to the growth and development of Kano State and the Country at large.

From the Management and Staff of  
**Dangote Agro Sacks Limited.**



# Four die in Abaji windstorm

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

TRAGEDY struck at Abaji Area Council on Saturday evening when four persons including a 9-year-old boy died, while 15 others mostly children sustained various degrees of injuries after a wind storm struck the town.

The heavy wind storm which lasted for about 15 minutes destroyed property worth millions of naira, as many residential houses in the heart of the council collapsed, while some had their roofs removed by the wind.

An eyewitness, Malam Abdul-lahi Usman, while narrating how the nine-year-old boy died at 4:12 pm, said the boy who was in company of other children from an Islamiyya School, ran to hide at the back of a fence opposite junior staff quarters in order to avoid the heavy wind but the fence collapsed on four of the children, killing the year old boy on the spot.

Malam Usman, who is a staff of the Federal Government Girls College, Abaji, expressed shock over the incident, saying since his

17 years stay in the council, he has never witnessed such a disaster.

Another eyewitness said three other persons were killed by the storm, including a middle-aged woman, who were on their way home from market, when one of the blown off roof tops landed on them, killing them instantly.

The areas worst affected included, Abatoir, Ayaura Pipeline, Anguwar Gwari, Naharati, junior staff quarters.

Our reporter who visited the hospital Sunday morning observed that seven of the vic-

tims, including three children were receiving treatment, while a nurse disclosed that two others who had fractures were taken by their parents to a native doctor.

The Minister of State for FCT, Chief Chuka Odom visited Abaji on Sunday to commiserate with the victims and their families.

The minister, who also visited the Ona of Abaji's palace, informed him that he was in the town to assess the damage and sympathise the traditional ruler and the victims over the incident.

Chief Odom directed the coun-

cil chairman to liaise with the Metrological Agency in Abuja in order to know whether there is the need to evacuate residents of the area, adding that the FCTA will urgently send relief materials to the victims.

Areas visited by the minister were the Federal Government Girls College Abaji, where he inspected damaged classrooms, hostels, and administrative blocks, promised to liaise with the Education minister to make adequate arrangements for the students.

PIC: ABUBAKAR SADIQ ISAH



DAMAGES caused by windstorm at Abaji ...Saturday.

## Task force arrests food vendors, hawkers

By Usman A. Bello, Samuel Olotu & Doris Afoma West

THE Abuja Environmental Protection Board's task force yesterday arrested food vendors and hawkers at Wuse bus stop in Abuja.

Our reporters who observed the incident saw food vendors and hawkers fleeing to evade arrest, while the task force officials had a field day packing their wares into their vehicle.

Those who were arrested were seen inside the vehicle begging the task force officials to release them promising not to come back to the area.

One of the food vendors who escaped told City News that they had to escape to avoid facing a mobile court, where they will be made to pay a fine.

A member of the task force who spoke on the condition of anonymity said they had warned the street hawkers severally not to either sell food or hawk in the area but they are adamant as well as contribute to littering the area with dirt.

Meanwhile, the board's Public Relations Officer, Samuel Musa, said AEPB will not rest until the city is cleared of such nuisances.

## Ex-convict jailed for cell phone theft

By Usman A. Bello & Samuel Olotu

A 25-year-old ex-convict, Abubakar Lawal, was yesterday sentenced to two months imprisonment for stealing a phone set at Wuse bus stop.

Police Prosecutor, Francis Tanko, told the court that on February, 26, one Patience Okimi reported to the police that while she was inside a vehicle at Wuse bus stop on her way to Suleja, the accused dipped his hand into the vehicle and made away

with a Nokia phone valued at N10,000 that she kept on her lap.

The prosecutor said after stealing the phone, the accused threw the phone to one of his accomplices who absconded with it, adding that during investigations, the accused confessed to the crime.

When the content of the First Information Report (FIR) was read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and begged the court to temper justice with mercy.

"The woman kept the phone on her lap but my friend asked me to pick it that the woman will not notice it," the accused pleaded.

The prosecutor told the court that the accused is a habitual criminal who has taken to stealing as a means of livelihood and that he was arraigned in the same court over the same offence last month.

Magistrate Aminu Ari sentenced him to two months imprisonment without an option of fine.

## Igbo community honours Abaji council boss

By Doris Afoma West

THE Igbo community living at Abaji Friday organised a reception for the Chairman of Abaji Area Council to congratulate him for his achievements as well as his election as the chairmanship candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party in the April council polls.

The group's spokesman, Victor Muogbo said the council chairman has always carried them along in his political agenda, which made them participate in the political process.

He disclosed that the council chair-

man appointed an Igbo person as a supervisory councillor that has made the Igbo grateful to the extent of mounting campaigns for his re-election for a second tenure.

According to him, the Igbo benefited through employment opportunities, automobile gift, contracts as well as pilgrimage trips during this council's administration.

Responding, the council Chairman, Alhaji Yahaya Musa Muhammad thanked the group for their massive support and vowed to continue with the gestures if voted for.



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA  
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION  
POST-BASIC (STEP-B) PROJECT

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

IDA CREDIT No. 4304-UNI

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COLLEGE (FGC)  
KEFFI, NASARAWA STATE

Procurement and Installation of Laboratory & Technical Equipment,  
Chemicals, Instructional Materials & Textbooks and Vehicle

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB)  
STEPB/FGCKEFFI/GDS/NCB/01/10

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in Development Business, issue no. 591 of 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2007.
2. The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association toward the cost of Science and Technology Education Post-Basic (STEP-B) Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for the Procurement and Installation of Laboratory & Technical Equipment, Chemicals, Instructional Materials & Textbooks and Vehicle.
3. The Federal Government College (FGC), Keffi, Nasarawa State, now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Procurement of the following:

LOT NO.	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	Bid Security	Delivery Period	Location
1.	Science & Technical Equipment	VARIOUS	At least 2.5% of Bid Price	60 days Maximum	FGC, Keffi, Nasarawa State
2.	Chemicals	VARIOUS	At least 2.5% of Bid Price	60 days Maximum	FGC, Keffi, Nasarawa State
3.	Instructional Materials & Textbooks	VARIOUS	At least 2.5% of Bid Price	60 days Maximum	FGC, Keffi, Nasarawa State
4.	Vehicle (14 Seater Bus)	1	At least 2.5% of Bid Price	60 days Maximum	FGC, Keffi, Nasarawa State

\* Evaluation will be done on lot by lot basis and discount for one or more lots will be considered during evaluation

4. Bidding will be conducted through the **National Competitive Bidding (NCB)**, a procedure specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from The Federal Government College, Keffi, Nasarawa State at the address below and inspect the Bidding Documents from **8:00am to 4:00pm Mondays to Fridays**.
6. Qualifications requirements include:
  - Evidence of previous supply (sale) of similar Equipment proposed for the last 5 years.
  - Audited Financial Statements for the last 3 years to demonstrate the financial capability of the Bidder in terms of Profitability and adequate working capital.
 A margin of preference for eligible national contractors **shall not be applied**; Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
7. A complete set of Bidding Documents in **English** may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee **N 10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira)** only. The method of payment will be by Bank Draft in favor of STEP-B Project Federal Government College, Keffi. The Bidding Documents will be collected by the representative of the Bidder.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before **2:00pm on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2010**. Electronic bidding **will not** be permitted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or bidders' representatives, who choose to attend in person at the address below at **2:00pm on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2010**. All bids must be accompanied by a **Bid Security** of 2.5% of bid price in a freely convertible bank currency from a reputable commercial bank in Nigeria.
9. The address referred to above is:

**The Project Manager**  
Science & Technology Education Post-Basic (STEP-B) Project  
Federal Government College (FGC) Keffi  
P.M.B 003, Keffi  
Nasarawa State

E-mail: stepbfgckeffi@yahoo.com  
Telephone: 08036051457, 08062550022

Signed Management



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION POST-BASIC (STEP-B) PROJECT

**Invitation for Bids (IFB)**

NIGERIA ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
TECHNOLOGY (NAEC), ASOKORO, ABUJA  
IDA CREDIT No. 4304-UNI

Date of Issuance: Tuesday 2nd March, 2010

**Procurement and Installation of  
Research Equipment & Materials.**

(IFB NO: NAEC/GDS/NCB/1/10)

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in Development Business, issue no. 591 of 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2007.
2. The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association toward the cost of Science and Technology Education Post Basic Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for the Procurement and Installation of Research Equipment and Materials. (IFB NO: NAEC/GDS/NCB/1/10)
3. The Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission (NAEC), STEP-B, Asokoro, FCT now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Procurement of the following:

Procurement and Installation of Research Equipment & Materie						
S/No	Description	Lot No	Qty	Bid Security	Delivery Period	Location
1	UV-Visible Spectrophotometers	1	2	At least 2.5% of Bid Price	90 days Max	Nuclear Technology Centre Sheda, Abuja, Nigeria
2	Gas Chromatograph System	2	1	At least 2.5% of Bid Price	90 days Max	Nuclear Technology Centre Sheda, Abuja, Nigeria
3	Digital Dose Rate Meter	3	1	At least 2.5% of Bid Price	90 days Max	Nuclear Technology Centre Sheda, Abuja, Nigeria
4	Liquid Nitrogen plant	4	1	At least 2.5% of Bid Price	90 days Max	Nuclear Technology Centre Sheda, Abuja, Nigeria
5	Portable Gamma Spectrometer	5	1	At least 2.5% of Bid Price	90 days Max	Nuclear Technology Centre Sheda, Abuja, Nigeria
6	Dosimeters	6	1	At least 2.5% of Bid Price	90 days Max	Nuclear Technology Centre Sheda, Abuja, Nigeria
7	Dose Rate Meters	7	1	At least 2.5% of Bid Price	90 days Max	Nuclear Technology Centre Sheda, Abuja, Nigeria

4. Bidding will be conducted through the **National Competitive Bidding (NCB)**, a procedure specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission (NAEC) STEP-B at the address below and inspect the Bidding Documents from **8:00am to 4:00pm Mondays to Friday** excluding public holidays.
6. Qualifications requirements include:
  - Evidence of previous supply (sale) of similar Equipment proposed for the last 5 years.
  - Audited Financial Statements for the last 3 years to demonstrate the financial capability of the Bidder in terms of Profitability and adequate working capital.
  - A margin of preference for eligible national contractors **shall not be applied**; Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
7. A complete set of Bidding Documents in **English** may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **N 10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira)** only. The method of payment will be Bank Draft in favor of Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission (NAEC) STEP-B or by cash. The Bidding Documents will be collected by the representative of the Bidder or by courier services on request.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before **2:00 pm on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2010**. Electronic bidding **will not** be permitted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or bidders' representatives, who choose to attend in person at the address below at **2:00 pm on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2010**. All bids must be accompanied by a **Bid Security** of 2.5% of bid price in a freely convertible currency or bank draft from a reputable Nigeria commercial bank.
9. The address referred to above is:

**The Project Manager,**  
Federal Ministry of Science and Technology  
Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission (NAEC)  
Science and Technology Education Post-Basic Project, (STEP-B)  
9, Kwame Nkrumah Crescent, Asokoro,  
Abuja,  
Nigeria

E-mail: stepb\_naec@nigatom.org.ng

www.nigatom.org.ng

Telephone: DG-08038531067, PM-08033261311, PO-08036400031

Signed Management

# PDP confirms Yohanna's candidature at Bwari

By Nasir Imam

THE PDP National Chairman, Vincent Ogbulafor, has written to the Chairman, FCT INEC confirming the candidature of

Peter Yohanna Ushafa as the PDP chairmanship candidate for the April 10 elections in Bwari Area Council.

In the said letter, dated March 1, 2010, the PDP Chairman said

a final committee set up to investigate allegations against the candidature of Peter Yohanna Ushafa did not find any legal basis to justify his substitution with another candidate.

The letter however directed that FCT INEC should maintain the candidature of Peter Yohanna Ushafa as the rightful chairmanship candidate for the elections.



PIC: ABUBAKAR SADIQ ISAH

**ACTION Congress Chairmanship aspirant in Abaji, Alhaji Abdulrahman Ajiya at Abaji ...Saturday.**

## Banker accused of defrauding customers

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A bank official working with BFL Microfinance Bank is in a police cell for allegedly defrauding some customers of the bank through withdrawals of various amounts of money from their accounts.

The suspect (names withheld) was arrested by the police last month, after one Ahmed Toyin, a staff of BFL Micro Finance Bank reported at the Utako Police Division, alleging that the suspect dishonestly debited the accounts of some customers of the bank.

He also revealed that the accused forged the signatures of the customers and dishonestly withdrew N269,000 from their accounts, adding that the action of the accused has defrauded the bank of certain sums of money.

City News gathered that during police investigations, the suspect confessed to have dishonestly defrauded the bank of the said amount of money.

It was also gathered that a Mercedes Benz car, which the suspect bought with the money was recovered from his possession by the police.

"The suspect will be charged to court on a two-count charge of forgery and criminal misappropriation, offences that are punishable under Sections 364 and 309 of the Penal Code Law," a police source said.

## Bwari traders relocate to new site

By Hussein Yahaya

TRADERS at the Bwari weekly market have finally relocated to the new market site provided by the area council along SCC Road, in the outskirts of the town.

Our reporter who visited the open market space Saturday, reports that full market activities has commenced at the site despite the fact that no infrastructure is on ground.

It would be recalled that the traders had earlier vowed not to move to the new market site until nec-

essary infrastructures such as locked-up shops, security are provided in the site.

Most of the traders who spoke with *City News* expressed shock over the council's decision to force them to an open space for trading activities without security.

Hajia Hauwa, a rice seller, appealed to the council to immediately commence the development of the market before the rainy season sets in.

"Honestly there is no way we can remain like this during the rainy season and presently we

are exposed to the hot weather because of the place is an open ground," she lamented.

Mrs Rachael, a fish seller, said moving to the new site is not the problem but providing the necessary facilities.

"Every market day, I spend more money to move my goods from my shop at the old market to the new market and this is added to exposing myself as well as my baby to this unfriendly weather," she said.

However when our reporter visited the old market, some traders

refused to move to the new site, saying they will only move when adequate security is provided.

Mallam Musa, a textile dealer, complained of the cost of moving his wares to and back from the new site on each market day.

Press Secretary to the Bwari council's Chairman, Daodu Dasha, who had earlier spoken on the development of the market, promised that the market, when completed, will meet the standard of a modern market and will satisfy the interest of everybody.

## Aggrieved wife to sue husband

By Romoke W. Ahmad

THE divorce case between one Lami Sarki and her husband Zaka Tanimu which was reported by this medium in January has taken a new dimension as the woman has returned to court after giving birth.

The woman, who was rushed out of the court room in labour pains during the last court, said her husband has refused to obey the court order of paying the cost incurred during pregnancy.

"He only he came to greet me and my family four days after I delivered the baby and since then I have not seen him," the woman said.

She said her presence in court yesterday was to find out if her husband brought money or not as directed by the court, adding that she catered solely for the pregnancy and baby.

The court registrar confirmed that the man has not dropped money and may be served with summons notice.

## AC aspirant vows to improve on girl child education

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE Action Congress (AC) chairmanship candidate for Abaji Area Council, Alhaji Abdulrahman Ajiya, has assured residents of the council that girl child education will be one of his priorities if he is elected chairman of the council.

Abdulrahman, who was addressing Abaji Locust Women Association (ALWA) during his

campaign tour over the weekend, observed that the girl-child education is very significant in every society and called on every individuals and stake-holders to support and encourage it.

He noted that 60 percent of the council's women are not encouraged to acquire education, adding that the attendant consequences of not encouraging girl child education in some societies leads to

anti-social activities.

According to him, some parents send their children to hawk bananas, oranges, eggs and sachet water on the streets, which he said results in some cases to unwanted pregnancy or fatal accidents.

The chairmanship aspirant regretted that the girl-child education programme that was initiated by the former chairman of the council, Alhaji Muham-

mad Angulu Loko, has now been neglected by the PDP led administration.

The chairmanship candidate further assured residents of scholarships, particularly to indigenes as well as residents of the council in tertiary institution in the country.

Earlier, leader of Abaji Locust Women Association (ALWA), Mrs. Janneth Francis Chukwurah, complained that women of the

area council have not been feeling the impact of the dividends of democracy, despite constituting the highest population in the area.

She said politicians only seek their attention when ever election approaches and make empty promises without fulfilling any of their promises, saying most of them have to buy water from private bore-hole for their households.



# NATIONAL POVERTY ERADICATION PROGRAMME (NAPEP)

## PRESS RELEASE

### SENATE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE'S ALLEGATIONS AGAINST NAPEP GROSSLY INCORRECT

In our press release of 17/2/2010, NAPEP had sought to dispel the misinformation that the agency has always been reluctant to appear before the Public Accounts Committee of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. In that release we explained very clearly and copiously that NAPEP was the only agency out of the three that were invited by the senate Public Accounts Committee to appear before it on 12/2/2010, despite the short notice, that was issued to all of them including NAPEP.

Unfortunately, the Senate Public Accounts Committee vented its frustration for the non-appearance of other agencies on NAPEP. NAPEP that was present became a clear scapegoat and target of the Committee Chairman's anger.

We have noticed with dismay that this misinformation that NAPEP does not want to appear before the Senate Committee on matters arising from the Federal Auditors reports have persisted. Over the past few days, the media has been awash with reports that this same Senate Committee is accusing NAPEP of "refusing" to appear at its hearing on the 24/2/2010, when NAPEP had in fact in a letter to the Chairman of the Senate Public Accounts Committee with reference number NAPEP/HCPA/2286/1/T/5 of 19/2/2010 sought permission from this Committee to allow it a period of two weeks to collate all the relevant information being requested before forwarding it to them. This indeed is what they themselves had directed when NAPEP met them at the meeting of 16/2/2010.

Besides, as NAPEP explained in that letter the information requested, dated back to 2006 and involved some NAPEP State Offices thus necessitating that such a request be made which is itself a sign of respect and also the usual protocol such matters require. Surprisingly the Senate PAC that had granted a request of two months to another Agency to appear before it, rejected NAPEP's request of two weeks and went ahead to accuse NAPEP with all sorts of allegations, including an alleged warrant to arrest the National Coordinator of NAPEP.

NAPEP as an agency of government charged with the responsibility of leading Nigeria's war against poverty takes its responsibility very seriously. It also operates with a high sense of responsibility, transparency and passion in all matters relating to poverty eradication in the country. How does a polite request by the head of an agency seeking for just two weeks to provide all required information attract such level of bitterness from a Distinguished Chairman of a Distinguished Committee of the Senate to the level of calling for the arrest of a chief executive of an Agency without giving the agency an opportunity to present their submission for consideration? Does this not give the wrong impression to the general public and the world as a whole, that such an agency has already been prejudged as wanting in the performance of its duties?

Because NAPEP considers its responsibilities very seriously and has the highest respect for all National Assembly Committees, it has meticulously compiled its own reports for submission. It only hopes that no person, however highly placed in any arm of

government, would go out of its way to tarnish the image of an agency or the chief executive of an Agency without having read their responses to the allegations against them regardless of the issues at stake.

For instance, in his recent massive press briefings, the Chairman Senate Committee on Public Account, Senator Ahmed Lawan claimed that NAPEP awarded a contract for tricycles amounting to 2.4 billion naira for 5,000 tricycles and spare parts without following due process. Further, that only 500 KEKE NAPEP had been supplied to date. Contrary to this allegations, the truth is that all due processes were followed in this contract, some of which include:

- NAPEP obtained the appropriate letter of no objection from the Budget Monitoring and Price Intelligence Unit (Due Process Agency at the time) as well as the Federal Ministry of Finance before awarding this contract
- The contract had been executed with 4,012 KEKE-NAPEP having been delivered with the spare parts and the remaining 988 arrived at the Nigeria ports but were mistakenly classified and gazzetted by Customs as overtime cargo due to the port congestions at the time. NAPEP has already applied to the Comptroller of Customs to release the consignment which will complete the total number of 5,000 tricycles of which the contract was awarded.
- NAPEP never sold any Keke NAPEP through any Abuja based contractor.
- That all payments made were and are covered by reputable Bank Guarantees.

From all of the above, it can be clearly seen that if the Committee had exercised a little patience and examined NAPEP's submissions, such an uproar, display of anger and unfortunate personalization of government business thus causing undue harm to an agency and individuals working therein, would have been avoided. With all due respect, NAPEP would like to request the Distinguished Committee that in the future, it should examine the submissions made by NAPEP before holding Press Conferences to castigate it or its Chief Executive and even the staff.

NAPEP has already appealed to the Senate President to ensure that it is given a fair hearing rather than this campaign of calumny and destruction being led by Senator Ahmed Lawan against NAPEP and the National Coordinator, Dr. Magnus L. Kpakol.

**P. A. Onuoha,  
Head, Publicity  
NAPEP .**

## Inside Politics

# Why I fell out with Idris

## — Abubakar Audu

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

FORMER governor of Kogi State Prince Abubakar Audu yesterday gave insights into how his relationship between him and Governor Ibrahim Idris turned sour.

Audu, in a telephone chat with our correspondent, said the relationship would have remained cordial if Idris had not dethroned his brother, a traditional chief of Ogbonicha in Igalaland and humiliated him (Audu) using the EFCC.

"It was in the spirit of friendship that I didn't take him to tribunal after 2003 elections. But when he dethroned my brother, the Oreogo-Attah of Ogbonicha and cancelled his chieftaincy stool, sent the EFCC to arrest and handcuff me in Lokoja for public ridicule, and subsequently banned me from politics for 10 years which led to my wrong disqualification for the 2007 election, I decided to take him to court. And now, since I left office, I have not received my severance allowances running to about N400 million.

"I used to lodge him in the presidential lodge any time he visited me without asking him to book an appointment. So, how can he now ask me to book an appointment before I can see him? Even, Obasanjo and Yar'adua have never asked me to book appointment to see them. Idris has forgotten that I once chaired his children's wedding, and on his recommendation, I appointed his father-in-law as chairman of the state tourism board. Well, if Idris says he is sorry, we'd reconcile," he said.

Reacting, Governor Idris, through his Director of Press, Richard Elesho, insisted that he owed his predecessor no apology, claiming that "the governor did not ask the EFCC to arrest and handcuff him. Does

being a former governor mean that Audu should not account for his stewardship? Also the governor did not dethrone the Oreogo-Attah, but there were questions on whether the chief should be recognised as a paramount chief. On his severance allowances, as a retiree, just like thousands of others, Audu will be paid his allowances, but not to the detriment of the civil servants".



PRINCE Abubakar Audu

## 2011: Ex-prison's boss to re-contest Bauchi guber seat

FORMER Comptroller-General of Prisons (CGP), Alhaji Ibrahim Jarma, has expressed his intention to run for the governorship of Bauchi State in 2011.

Jarma made his intention known in a statement he issued in Bauchi yesterday, saying that his decision to re-join politics was based on "mutual consultation".

Jarma had run for the office in 2003 on the platform of ANPP but lost to former Bauchi State Governor, Alhaji Adamu Mu'azu of PDP.

"After mutual consultations with our leaders from all over our great and promising state, Bauchi State; those great men and women of wisdom and understanding, I have decided to return to partisan politics and to run for the office of Governor of Bauchi State in the forth-

coming general elections.

"I took" this decision because of my long standing interest and cherished desire to use the exalted office of the Executive Governor of Bauchi State to make meaningful contribution to the development efforts in the state, in particular, and Nigeria, in general," Jarma said.

The former Prisons boss outlined a six-point agenda he intended to pursue if elected governor in 2011, including revenue generation toward establishing a stable economic base to fast-track the development of the state in the areas of business, commerce, industry, infrastructure, education and other services.

According to him, the creation of employment opportunities will also top his priority, while the state civil service will be

re-structured "to restore its good name and past glory".

The former Prisons chief said he would also work in concert with relevant security outfits to ensure that law and order prevailed in the state.

"These laudable objectives are, however, only achievable with cooperation and loyal support, commitment and adherence to the ethics of hard work, industry and integrity.

"I wish to take the opportunity of your good sense of judgment and penchant for development and goodness to formally solicit for your unrelenting support, strongly believing that together we can, Allah willing, succeed in building a virile, secure and economically viable Bauchi State," he said.

Jarma retired from service in 2002. (NAN)

## Election petitions: CPC says INEC's proposal unrealistic

CONGRESS for Progressive Change (CPC), yesterday in Lagos described as unrealistic INEC's proposed three-month period for disposal of all election petitions.

INEC had expressed dissatisfaction with the six-month period recommended by the retired Justice Muhammed Uwais-led Electoral Reform Panel for the disposal of all election petitions.

The commission argued that six months was a long period, and that it would be dangerous to keep elected public officers waiting for that long before assuming office as recommended by the panel.

In an interview, CPC's National Publicity Secretary, Mr Dennis Aghanya, said the INEC's proposal could be counter-productive.

"Anybody kicking against enough time for elections and litigations is mischievous.

"How can electoral matters be exhausted within



PROF. Maurice Iwu

three months? It is not possible; enough time should be given for litigation," Aghanya said.

He argued that the three-month period would not be enough for disposing of the

petitions at the tribunals and Court of Appeal.

"So I agree with the Uwais panel that six months is an ideal time frame for the disposal of every election petition," he argued. (NAN)

## APGA tasks women on education

By Akor Ojoma

NATIONAL Chairman of the All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA), Chief Victor Umeh, has advised women to ensure that they are adequately educated in order to increase their participation in politics and compete favourably with their male counterparts.

Chief Umeh gave the advice recently when women under the aegis of Gender and Affirmative Action Based Project (GAA) paid him an advocacy visit in Abuja.

According to him "if women should take education seriously it wouldn't be long before a female president emerges in Nigeria. Education is the key to knowledge and empowerment and when you are well educated people will entrust you with their votes".

He said APGA is a gender sensitive party as evidenced in it is production of a female deputy governor in Anambra state Mrs Virgy Etiaba who later became the first female governor of Nigeria after the governor was illegally impeached adding that there are many women in the current cabinet of the APGA led administration in Anambra state.

The chairman said legislation may not be the full answer to women's participation in politics if the women in question do not come out in large numbers to participate.

Mrs Omowumi Asubiaro, a senior project officer who spoke for GAA said they solicit the party's support for increased women's participation in politics especially the political party registration and regulatory commission (PPRRC) and 30% women representation in both elective and appointive positions.

## PDP North West appeals for funds

THE PDP in the North West zone has appealed for more funding to enable it carry out its activities in the region.

Dr Danladi Sankara, the North West Zonal Chairman of the party, who made the appeal in Kaduna, said the zonal secretariat was able to get only 28 per cent of the total amount approved by the zonal working committee for the year 2009.

"This has made it difficult for the party to undertake various activities in 2009," he said.

The chairman, however, said that regular monthly meetings were held within the period under review through the assistance of some stakeholders, including some governors, elected officials and individuals.

Sankara assured members that the zone would make efforts to improve the party's fortunes in 2010, and commended those who made the financial and material contributions that kept the party going in 2009.

He pledged members' support to Acting Presi-

dent Goodluck Jonathan and commended him for his cooperation and loyalty to recuperating President Umaru Yar'adua.

On PDP performance in the zone, Sankara said "democratically elected executives" had emerged in Kano and Zamfara states, while leadership and membership drive were being consolidated in Kebbi, Sokoto, Kaduna, Jigawa and Katsina states.

He expressed members' resolve to win all the seven states in the zone in 2011. (NAN)

# Inside Politics

## The battle for Yobe has just begun, says Albishir

FOR nearly three years, Senator Usman Albishir had been in legal battle to reverse his alleged wrongful substitution with late Governor Mamman Ali after the primaries of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) in 2007. He had scored 388 votes as against late Mamman Ali's 88 votes during the primaries. The battle came to an end last Friday when the Supreme Court failed to approve his request to file an out of time appeal. In this interview with *Daily Trust*, Albishir says the political battle for Yobe has just begun and he will make his position known in the next two to three weeks after consultation. Excerpts:

By Mustapha Muhammad

**T**HE Supreme Court has ruled on your prolonged legal tussle with ANPP and INEC over the governorship position in Yobe State. What is your opinion about the ruling?

Yes, the result of the verdict, Court has its ruling; we can't say why they have done such a ruling. That's how they did it and we have submitted everything to God the judgment is with Almighty Allah. But I am calling all my supporters in Yobe State to consider this as predestination from God and they should not take this as an end of the road to our journey, by God grace I will make pronouncement to them imminently.

**H**ow did you welcome the verdict?

Ah! You know this is the apex court (Kotun Allah ya isa). If I don't accept it what can I do? There is nothing I could do than to surrender everything to God. He will do us justice.

**W**hile the case lasted in court, your supporters had alleged that the government of Yobe State was not treating them as members of the ANPP. What is your position now that the legal battle has come to an end?

I and my supporters have been subjected to maltreatment and persecu-

tion to the extent that I can't even describe it. But we have always ignored their (Yobe government) provocation so that peace would reign in the state. If we had been like them, the scenes that would have created would not augur well for the State. In fact even my supporters would not find it easy. But we have shown that we are true democrats who respect the rule of law. In all these years, no one can attribute to us any violent behavior; we have always sought to pursue our course through lawful and democratic means. I still call on my teeming supporters to be calm and live in peace with everyone. I also thank them for their understanding and perseverance in the last three years. I also appeal to them to exercise more patience. I will certainly make a pronouncement on our stand within the next three weeks so that we will know where we are heading to continue the struggle. We should not be discouraged by this development; this is the beginning of our political struggle in Yobe, no going back.

**B**ut shortly after the judgment, the state government urged you and your supporters to come and join hands together to move the state forward. Aren't you responding to the call?

To move together or join hands together with who? There is no way we can

move together with them. The issue of being together is already erased and the battle line has been drawn. I will sit down with my followers to decide what is good for us and the step to take. I can reassure you that the struggle has just begun.

**A**re you suggesting that you and your supporters are leaving the ANPP?

I cannot tell you yes or no for now because it is something that will be decided after meeting with my supporters. It is not for me to decide alone; it is the people, I am just a leader in the struggle. And being a leader I cannot take any decision without their consent. We are democrats.

**A**re there any lessons you have learnt in the prolonged legal tussle?

In the first place, the issue of substitution of candidate will not happen again in Yobe because everyone has suffered for it, even the government itself. So I doubt if somebody's name will be substituted with another person's again. This is one thing we have achieved.

Secondly, we have shown a good example of how to pursue a democratic course in a peaceful manner. In all these years, there has not been a single incidence of fight over the course for which we have gone to court to seek redress. We have therefore



SENATOR Usman Albishir

strengthened democracy in a way.

**N**ow that there is a move to amend the country's electoral laws and considering the time you had to spend in court to have your case dispensed, what suggestions would you offer?

First, I will call on the National Assembly to expedite action on the processes of amending the electoral laws to first of all ensure that no one, for his own selfish interest, replace a candidate who emerged winner during a party's primary election.

Secondly, I also sup-

port the idea of independent candidacy in the forthcoming elections so that aspirants can have varied options during elections. I also advocate the reduction of the number of political parties from the over fifty that we have now to, may be, three.

Finally, I think government should stop financing political parties. I believe that some politicians' register political parties to get government subvention. I believe that if we have only three political parties and independent candidature that will undoubtedly improve our nascent democracy.

## Presidency: Nnamani group worried over NLC's silence

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE Good Governance Group (G3) led by former Senate President Ken Nnamani yesterday expressed concern over the silence of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) throughout the period President Umaru Musa Yar'adua spent for medical treatment in Saudi Arabia.

A letter to NLC President Abdulwaheed Omar by the Group's Organizing Secretary, Mallam Salihu Lukman, said the Congress being the umbrella organization of Nigerian workers and over the years through its patriotic mass actions as the vanguard for the struggle for justice, had maintained what it called 'an undignified silence'.

The 3G said the management of information about President's health situation by the Presidency was deplorable and unacceptable, adding that a simple matter with constitutional provisions for its resolution is being mismanaged to the detriment of national stability.

The letter copied to all Trade Unions affiliated to NLC and the media read in parts: "we find it extremely difficult to understand why the NLC could adopt business-as-usual disposition and continue to conduct its affairs as if the Nigerian state and government is not facing a constitutional crisis.

"The least that will be expected is for the NLC to, in its usual tradition, subject the matter to a debate through its organs and allow the leadership of affiliated unions to decide on the matter. As things stand today, this has not happened," it stated.

The grouped appealed to NLC President to use the forthcoming Kaduna National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting of the Congress to restore the leadership of Nigerian workers in the struggle for justice, freedom and unfettered Constitutionalism in Nigeria.

## Kogi 2012: Councillors tip Ugbane for gov

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

COUNCILLORS from Idah Federal Constituency of Kogi State have called on Senator Nicholas Yahaya John Ugbane to run for the governorship seat of the state in 2012.

Speaking when they paid a courtesy call on the Senator in Abuja at the weekend, the councillors said with the much development that Ugbane has attracted to their constituency in the last six years, they were ready to support

him for higher political office.

Councillor representing Aloma Ward in Ofu Local Government Area, Shuaibu Samaila said the people in the area are satisfied with Ugbane's performance. He also called on the senator to influence the construction of Ida-Anyingba road saying the road is central to the capital of the Igala Kingdom.

The delegation which includes all councillors from Ofu, Idah, Igalamela and Ibaji Local governments pledged their support for

Ugbane, saying they believe he will do better as governor.

On the issue of the litigation on alleged fraud brought against the senator by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the councillors expressed hope that the court would eventually vindicate the lawmaker.

In his response, Senator Ugbane reiterated his innocence in the alleged fraud charge saying he has never engaged in any fraudulent activities.

**UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION COMMISSION**

UBEC BUILDING, 7 GWANI STREET, OFF IBB WAY, WUSE ZONE 4, ABUJA



ADVERT No: UBEC/PU/OZO/INT/SER/2455/2010

**INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS FOR RE-ROOFING OF UBEC ABUJA HEADQUARTERS BUILDING AND OTHER REMEDIAL WORKS ( 3 STOREY BUILDING)**

1. In compliance with the Federal Government guidelines on public procurement and award of contracts, the Universal Basic Education Commission invites sealed bids from competent building or civil engineers, contractors and other service providers for the re-roofing of UBEC Headquarters building and other remedial works as shown below:

2. The requirements and the scope of work are as follows:
- Removal of existing roof members and roof covering
  - Demolition and levelling of parapet walls
  - Removal of skylight
  - Casting of concrete roof beam and concrete eaves
  - Filling of differential levels of blockwork
  - Construction of new roof i.e provision of roof members and roof covering
  - Remedial ceiling works
  - Remedial painting works
  - Cleaning and carting away of debris from site.

Specifications are as in the unpriced Bills of Quantity(BoQs)

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.**

Prospective building or civil engineers and contractors should put as part of their submissions or bids the following key requirements:

- Evidence of Certificate of Incorporation with Corporate Affairs Commission
- Evidence of Tax Clearance Certificates for three years (2006,2007 and 2008)
- Company profile with details of key staff to be deployed for the proposed work.
- Evidence of financial capability from a reputable bank
- Evidence of similar contracts executed showing documentary evidence of award, pictorial evidence of previous work done within the period 2006, 2007&2008.
- Audited financial statements from reputable Audit firms for 2006,2007&2008.
- Evidence of payment of pensions and social security contributions.

**3 COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS**

Interested engineers and contractors should collect Tender documents from the Procurement Unit, Office of the Executive Secretary at the Universal Basic Education Commission, No. 7 Gwani Street, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja after the payment of a non refundable fee in banker's certified draft of N5,000.

**4 SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS.**

The bid documents should be sealed and labelled (Technical and Financial Bids) separately in the two envelopes put in another envelope that should be sealed and labelled, "Bids for re-roofing of UBEC building Abuja and other Remedial work". Note that the bid document should be submitted in two copies, one 'original' and one 'copy' for both the technical and financial bids.

**Any submission which combines both technical and financial bid as one document will be rejected.**

All pages of the bid should be duly endorsed by the bidders. Completed bid documents should be submitted at the **Procurement Unit, Office of the Executive Secretary at the Universal Basic Education Commission, No. 7 Gwani Street, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja. 9.00am-4pm, Mondays- Fridays.**

**5. CLOSING:**

All submissions must be received at the above mentioned address on or before 11.00 noon on **March 17th, 2010**. The bids will be opened at **12noon the same day** in presence of representatives of the bidders.

Yakubu Abbas  
Head of Procurement  
For: Executive Secretary



To Our  
Esteemed Readers,  
Advertisers and  
Contributors

**POLICY ON PUBLICATION OF ADVERTORIALS, PETITIONS AND RELATED MATERIALS**

Media Trust Limited, publishers of Daily Trust, Weekly Trust, Sunday Trust and Aminiya newspapers take very seriously its responsibility to the public to publish all points of view, including those we do not share. We think this is the function of an independent, liberal newspaper dedicated to the pursuit of the common good. We are also conscious of the fact that it is a shortsighted business policy for a newspaper to shut out a particular point of view for its own reason or due to pressure from powerful institutions and advertisers.



But we are also aware that professional agitators can use the pages on newspapers to malign governments, companies and individuals on spurious grounds.

Caught between our desire to give voice to the concerns of the voiceless and to protect public officers and institutions from unfair and demoralizing attacks, we have been forced to develop a more stringent policy for the placement of advertorials, petitions and other related materials in the pages of our newspapers.

**The new policy is depicted hereunder**

- The writer(s) of such advertorials must not be anonymous but people who can stand by what they say, with their full names and address.
- If there is any accusation against any person or organization, such writer(s) must substantiate the claims with evidence which can stand before a Court of Law. For example, if they claim that a contract was inflated, they must show Media Trust, relevant documents to back this up.
- The placement must be fully paid for, before it is carried.
- The author(s) should be prepared to accept corrections or alterations made by us but the corrected version would be shown to the author(s), before publishing.
- The publishers have the right to reject any piece considered to be libelous, containing assertions without supporting facts and figures to prove the authenticity of such claims.
- In the alternative, we are prepared to enter into an indemnity agreement with those who place such advertorial which will put the onus of proof squarely on them.
- Media Trust employees that collect such materials have been instructed to contact the Advert Manager, who will also consult further with the relevant superior officers to analyze the piece before placement is made.
- If the publishers of Daily Trust, Weekly Trust, Sunday Trust and Aminiya newspapers reject any material regarded as unprintable based on the above consideration, they will not enter into any correspondence with the author(s).

Finally, we wish to assure our readers that we will not shy away from publishing fair and balanced criticisms of any government or individuals, which is in the nature of free exchange of ideas.

This, we will continue to do in our free opinion columns and with advertorials where some readers feel strongly enough to pay for them.

We thank you for your support and assure you that we will do our best to keep your trust.

Signed:  
MANAGEMENT



# HEALTH REPORT

## Trading mosquito nets for polio vaccine in Niger

From Ruby Rabi and Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

DESPITE concerted efforts made by officials of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) to educate people on the importance of vaccinating their wards through immunization, some still believe they are doing health officials a favour and not looking at the adverse health implication on their children.

This ideology is further compounded as about 25 local government area councils in Niger state refused to allow their children participate in the recent immunization exercise as they maintained that they were not involved in the free net campaign in the state.

Initially, some of the parents based their rejection of the vaccines on religion grounds, but their rejection terms changed from religious grounds to the exclusion of their households in receiving the free mosquito nets being distributed by the federal government.

According to them, since they did not receive the free mosquito nets, there was no need for their children to be vaccinated.

When Daily Trust visited Gwada in Shiroro local government area of Niger state during the just concluded immunization exercise, a parent who spoke under anonymity maintained that until she gets the free treated mosquito net, she won't present her daughter for vaccination.

According to her, they were tired of been overlooked when items of value

are shared stressing that when they need their assistance in bringing their children to be vaccinated then they remember them.

Her words, "I personally refused to allow my children to be vaccinated because I think it would teach them a lesson not to overlook us when giving free things only to subject us to the stress of bringing our children out for immunization.

"I think that the issue of the treated net is the same as the vaccination exercise and if they want us to participate then they should ensure that we are included in the free treated net project", she said.

Another mild protest was also displayed in Minna, the state capital as some people toed the line of keeping their children away from getting immunized as opined that by doing so they would have made their points clear on the issue of being left out of getting the treated nets.

In Bida, local government area of Niger state, the situation was the same as Malam Ndagi living in the Masaba area of the place disclosed that until he gets the free nets he won't allow his child to be immunized.

He reasoned that there was no point in administering vaccines against polio and other related illness when there is no provision to protect the child from the risk of malaria.

When the ward head of Rafi local government, Mr Bisan Wakili was asked to comment on the level of compliance in the area, he lamented that, a situation where people result to throwing verbal insults at field officers during immunization is not acceptable.

'Meanwhile government has give enough funds and institutionalize a law to arrogate them with powers that will enforce compliance.'

He continued, "I think we should be empowered to prosecute parents who opposes the immunization exercise because at the end of it all the children who are prevented from partaking in the immunization end up becoming a problem to society, especially if they get affected with polio," he said.

Ramatu Jibrin, one of the health officials on the field at Maikunkele told this journalist that most of the resident were not aware that malaria could be managed as she added that she and her team did their best to educate parents on the disastrous effect of pre-

venting their from getting immunized against polio.

Ramatu emphasized the need for detailed advocacy visit by health officials and community leaders to enlighten people of the devastating effect of polio in the life of an individual and by extension the society at large.

While she described the entire immunization exercise a success, she said only a negligible few aggrieved persons refused to allow their children to be immunized but assured that a team has been sent out to placate the angry parents.

Speaking with our correspondent, a deputy director in the ministry of health under the department of primary health care confirmed the situation and said that the people are not happy with the fact that they

did get the free nets.

"Recently some people were not too happy about the distribution of the mosquito nets as they view that having the treated nets is a fundamental requirement to allowing their children get immunized.

"To get them to comply we assured them that we will reach them with the free treated nets so that they will in turn allow their children to be immunized," she said.

The deputy director said the issue of the mosquito net was the only factor that has attempted to slow down the pace of immunization in the state as he maintained that before then, the process has been wonderful.

According to her the effect of the immunization has produced healthier children in the state, adding that for the past six months there

has been no recorded case of polio in the state.

"There has been tremendous impact in the state, since larger parts of the society has embraced polio immunization because for the past six months no case of polio has been recorded in the state", she said.

She commended the traditional leaders and officials of the health ministry for their efforts towards making sure that communities were well sensitized.

She assured that plans have been concluded to ensure that nets are given to those who were missed during the last batch of free nets distribution, adding that since most of them are beginning to excuse themselves, based on the issue of net it was important to trade the nets so as to get their children immunized.



HEALTH workers immunizing a child at Wada local government area of Niger state

## Internet and control of medicines in Nigeria

THE issue of shady deals perpetuated by dealers in drugs and food products through pharmacy shops and patent medicine stores is well known, but counterfeiters using the internet to get to consumers also exist. Dr Philip O Emafo, a foremost professional and immediate past president of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) says the practice is on the increase. The following is an abridged and edited version of a researched paper which he delivered at an event which the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN) organized in Abuja to honour some of Nigeria's earliest pharmacists.

Nigeria has always enacted laws to address identified problems with the manufacture, sale, dispensing and distribution of drugs.

The Pharmacy Ordinance of 1902 was designed to control the sale and distribution of drugs and poisons in the colony of Lagos and the towns of Calabar, Opobo, Warri, Farcados and others in the Protectorate of Nigeria.

There have been subsequent amendments to the 1902 Ordinance. New relevant laws have also been made to handle drug issues in the country.

The control of drugs in Nigeria is currently based on at least nine existing laws; the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria Act, Cap P17, LFN 2004, the Poisons and Pharmacy Act Cap 535, LFN 1990, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act Cap N30, LFN 2004, Dangerous Drugs Act Cap D1, LFN 2004, the Food and Drugs Act Cap. F32, LFN 2004, the National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control Act, Cap N1, LFN 2004;

Others include, the Food, Drugs and Related Products (Registration etc) Cap F33, LFN 2004; the Counterfeit and Fake Drugs and Unwholesome Processed Foods (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, Cap C34, LFN 2004 and the National Drug Formulary and Essential Drugs List Act, Cap N29, LFN 2004.

Deriving from the laws and other expe-

diencies, there are conditions to be fulfilled to engage in drug-related transactions in the country.

The first requirement for a drug to be imported into, advertised, displayed for sale, sold or manufactured in Nigeria is that the drug should be contained in the National Drug Formulary and Essential Drug List as stipulated by Section 2 of the National Drug Formulary and Essential Drugs List Act.

The second requirement is that the drug shall be registered in Nigeria in compliance with the provisions of the Food, Drugs and Related Products (Registration, etc) Act by the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC).

The Act states, among others, that "The Agency shall from time to time, publish a notice in the Gazette notifying the registration of a drug or drug product."

A third requirement, established by the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, is that the

person importing, mixing, compounding, preparing, selling or delivering a drug shall be a selling dispenser, a licensed and registered pharmacist, and, in the case of poisons specified in Part 4 of the First Schedule of the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, hold a valid license under subsection (4) of section 16 of the Act.

A fourth requirement is that the person shall operate from a registered premises in accordance with section 3(1) of the Poisons and Pharmacy Act.

A fifth requirement applies only to importation and exportation of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances where NAFDAC is required to grant authorization for their import and export.

A developing phenomenon, however, is the use of the internet for the illicit sale of drugs.

Since 1996, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) has been reporting on the use of the Internet to sell controlled drugs illicitly.

## SPORT

'There is hope in Lagerback'

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# I know what Eagles need to be world's best – Lagerback

IN his first interview since being named as the coach of Nigeria, Lars Lagerback has spoken of his intentions of returning the Nigerian team to the pinnacle of the game.

The 61 year-old former Swedish national team coach was favoured ahead of the likes of Bruno Metsu, Sven Goran Eriksson, Ratomir Djukovic and Glenn Hoddle for the Nigeria job by the Nigeria Football Federation last week.

"I know what this country needs, to be the best in the world as a footballing nation" Lagerback told Complete Sports.

"Any of the other candidates could have gotten the job but for my plan and love for Nigerian football, it is not about the money but about the abundance of talents.

"I have always believed in the Nigerian team. I strongly believe the best players of every country should be in the national team.

"I've been in touch with Nigerian players, both young and old, and I'm quite familiar with their performances week in and week out. There are good Nigerian players who are not playing for the national team at the moment whom I strongly believe should be playing for the Super Eagles".

It is the first time the Swede will be working in Africa and many considered this a minus for his chances.

"Well, lots of people have said that but in life there's always a first time. I am ready to work here, I have counted the costs and the sacrifices I need to put in and I'm confident I can successfully lead this team".

On his next line of action



SUPER Eagles Team B players during a training session at the National Stadium in Abuja yesterday. The Eagles will play the Democratic Republic of Congo in an international friendly on Wednesday.

with the Super Eagles, Lagerback said he was waiting to have full discussions with the NFF and to meet those who he will be working with. "We will meet as soon as possible to rule out our plans for the team. We have to discuss how we intend to monitor players needed for

the World Cup".

The coach who has shown a preference for experience over youth in the past said his choice of taking older players for the Eagles will depend on fitness above all.

"It all depends on fitness and mental readiness of such play-

ers to play for Nigeria. Why not, if such players are still good enough to carry on?"

He will be assisted by Austin Eguavoen, Daniel Amokachi and Alloy Agu as well as bringing in his physical trainer from Sweden. He will be officially presented at a press conference

in Abuja on Wednesday and will watch the friendly game between a mostly home-based Nigeria team and Congo at the Abuja National Stadium.

Nigeria will play in Group B against Argentina, Greece and South Korea at the World Cup in June.

## DR Congo hits Abuja today

By Ismaila Lere

DEMOCRATIC Republic of Congo, the Simba, will land in Abuja today for tomorrow's international friendly match against the Super Eagles.

Already in town are the five foreign-based players invited for the game, namely, Onyekachi Apam and Elderson Echiejile, midfielder Sani Kaita and strikers Obinna Nsofor and Peter Utaka. Utaka was the last person last night.

They have joined the home-based contingent preparing for the match under the watchful eyes of Coach Shaibu Amodu.

DR Congo's 29-man delegation will be led by Njirand Akilimali, alongside the Vice President of the country's Football Federation (FECOFA), Mr. Laurent Lai N'kwim.

Santos Mutumbile Ndjela (Head Coach), Adede Moke (Assistant Coach), Claude Mayamona (Physical Trainer), Babo

Kabasu (Team Secretary), Kakala Bungu (Doctor), Robert Munzeka (Goalkeepers' Trainer), Kabwe Nkulu (Coordinator) and Paulin Mukuapamba (Physiotherapist) make up the technical team.

Players on the trip are Makiadi Pambani, Simbi Ebunga, Eric Bokanga, Emmanuel Ngudikama, Makela Landu, Gladys Bokese, Bawaka Mabele, Miala Mkulukuta, Basisila Lusadisu, Tresor Mputu Mabi, Mbenza Bedi, Joel Kimwaki,

Dioko Kaluyituka, Mulota Kabangu, Kazembe Mihayo, Tshini Kanyinda, Ngandu Kasongo, Kanu Niemba and Bengel Bombasa.

The letter conveying the delegation list was signed by the General Secretary of FECOFA, Gregoire Badi Elonga.

Four percent of total revenue from Wednesday's match will go to the victims of the Haiti earthquake, according to FIFA's recent directives.



TRESOR Mputu, Congo star

## Owerri fans angry with Heartland

By Orkula Shaagee

FORMER Flying Eagles Coach, Emmanuel Orkaa yesterday expressed hope in the ability of new Super Eagles Technical Adviser, Lars Lagerback to take the country to the semi final of the South Africa 2010 World Cup.

Orkaa, who was assistant to Coach Samson Siasia at the 2005 FIFA U-20 World Cup in Netherlands, what is required now is the cooperation of the Nigeria Football Federation and the players that would make the Eagles team to South Africa.

According to Orkaa, the coach has little time to make the expected impact in the team, but he can achieve much more if officials in the Nigeria Football Federation and the players cooperate with him.

"I have so much respect for Lagerback and as a white man I think the players will give him the needed cooperation to succeed. You know that our players respect foreign coaches more than the indigenous ones, and if that happens here, I see the new Technical Adviser doing well in South Africa.

"We (Nigeria) have the players but the problem in the past has been that of indiscipline on the part of the players and the moment that is taken care of, Nigeria will be better off", Orkaa stated.

The Benue-born soccer tactician added that he is impressed with the credentials of the new Super Eagles helmsman, having led Sweden to the round of 16 at the Korea/Japan 2000 World Cup and Germany 2004 World Cup respectively.

## Lagos postpones T/Tennis league

THE proposed Lagos Table Tennis League scheduled to take off today has been put off by one week, the State Chairman of the association, Noah Osumuyiwa, said yesterday.

Osumuyiwa told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) yesterday in Lagos that the postponement was to allow players, coaches and referees rest after the Nigeria Table Tennis Federation (NTTF) U-13 and U-16 championships.

He said the league was also postponed to enable more local governments to register since it was a grassroots competition aimed at discovering talents in the state.

The chairman said the league would now hold from March 9 to March 12 at Mobolaji Johnson Sports Centre, Yaba.

"We are sorry for the postponement, we just came back from a national championship and we needed to put our house in order.

"The league was to discover young talents, who we hope to train to stardom to replace our ageing players," he added.

He said the league was for budding players and not for established ones.

Osumuyiwa urged the local governments, which had not registered to use the one-week period to send in their entries.

# There is hope in Lagerback - Orkaa

By Orkula Shaagee

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Super Eagles tactician, Lars Lagerback

## Gazelle coach excited over Bayelsa Utd ouster

LITTLE known Gazelle FC of Chad on Sunday in Yenagoa ousted Nigeria's Premier League defending champions, Bayelsa United from the CAF

Champions League and their coach expressed excitement at the achievement.

In a post-match interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) after recording a 2-2 draw, Toukam Julien, described the 3-2 aggregate win as a big upset for his team.

Julien said the win over the two legs came as a big surprise because they never expected to beat a club from Nigeria, regarded as a major soccer powerhouse in Africa.

The Chadians won the first leg by a lone goal two weeks earlier in Njamena.

"We never expected to beat the Nigerians because they play better football.

"I am happy with the outcome of the match, my boys played very well to contain the Nigerians. It is a big win for us," he said.

Julien said they would return home to prepare for their next game in the

championship. The Bayelsa United technical crew and management left the Samson Siasia Stadium immediately after the game.

The club's Media Officer, Ebi Avi, said that it was unfortunate that they

lost the game. Avi refused to comment on unconfirmed reports that the players refused to train for the game over the non-payment of their sign-on fees and salaries.



CHIBUZOR Okonkwo's Bayelsa United were knocked out of the CAF Champions League by little-known Chadian outfit, Gazelle FC

"We will go back to the drawing board to make corrections because a lot of things went wrong in today's match," he said.

The visitors, who were more impressive, shot into the lead

through Greyanda Fiacre when he connected home a pullout in the 24th minute but Gbemi Akinrolabu drew level for Bayelsa in the 43rd minute.

Mannir Ubale doubled scores

for the hosts from the penalty spot in the 69th minute and Gazelle netted the equaliser with a minute left also from a penalty.

The Bayelsa boys ran out of gas before the end of the first stanza.

# Grafite gets Brazil recall



BRAZIL coach Carlos Dunga has recalled Wolfsburg forward Grafite for the friendly against Ireland.

BRAZIL coach Dunga has made the decision to hand Wolfsburg forward Grafite a call-up for the international friendly against Ireland. Brazil and Ireland lock horns at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium tomorrow night.

The 31-year-old attacker wasn't included in Dunga's original squad, but Grafite got a call-up after Sevilla striker Luis Fabiano was forced to withdraw due to injury.

It's the first time Grafite has been part of the Selecao since April 2005, when he played his only international match so far. Grafite scored once in the international friendly against Guatemala, but never got called up again.

## Torres: Spain are motivated against France

LIVERPOOL striker Fernando Torres expressed his happiness at having recovered from his latest injury to arrive in time for Spain's international friendly match against France, a team Torres feels have the ability to do very well in this summer's World Cup.

"These matches are great, above all because we are against a team that we view as one of the best. These are always great matches for Spain and we have a lot of motivation to play against them, above all since they eliminated us from the last World Cup," said the striker in comments reported by Marca.

"These matches are great, above all because we are against a team that we view as one of the best."

'El Nino' expressed his satisfaction at having recovered in time to train with his national team and be available for the match. "Luckily, I arrived in time. Being with the national team is a prize for me. I have the luck of a coach that has called me up to play after just two matches since returning from injury."

Spanish coach Vicente Del Bosque's decision to call up Torres apparently did not sit well with Liverpool coach Rafa Benitez, who did not want to see his player force himself and fall back into a struggle against injury. "I understand Rafa's position," said Torres. "It is normal that he would think of his interests, but he knows that every player wants to play with the national team. For us it is an honour to be here, to play as much as possible, and to return to our respective teams stronger than when we arrived."

After scoring in Liverpool's last match, Torres did concede that he was fatigued after having played nearly 90 minutes after two months out.



TORRES

## Lagerback embarrasses Onigbinde

NEW Super Eagles coach Lars Lagerback inadvertently embarrassed one of his predecessors, Adegboyega Onigbinde, during his presentation to the panel interviewing him.

During the course of his presentation, Lagerback spoke about the 2002 World Cup and how Sweden upstaged Argentina, England and Nigeria to win the group.

An insider at the meeting told KickOffNigeria.com that Lagerback explained that his team scouting identified the strengths and weaknesses of each of the

team in the group and Nigeria's major weaknesses was a lack of tactical depth from the sidelines, despite having more top-class players at the time than Sweden.

"Lagerback said they discovered during their scouting that out of 23 players, Argentina had 20 top class players, England had 15, Nigeria had 10 and Sweden had 5.

"So he said their best chance was to target a win against Nigeria, and take points off the other two. They identified that Nigeria had great, skilful and strong players,

but lacked tactical organisation and the coaches did not respond to tactical changes on the field."

Lagerback was unaware that the man who 'did not respond to tactical changes on the field' at the time was one of his interviewers.

He then went on to break down the tactical errors that cost the Super Eagles on the day and Onigbinde, according to the insider, was suitably chastised.

"Onigbinde said he knew that he had been wondering what he did wrong in 2002 and Lagerback finally explained it to him."



LAGERBACK

## Why Eguavoen, Amokachi – Ogunjobi

TECHNICAL committee chairman of Nigeria Football Federation, Chief Taiwo Ogunjobi has flatly refuted insinuations that the NFF has installed Austin Eguavoen, Daniel Amokachi and Alloy Agu as assistants to new Super Eagles handler, Lars Lagerback because they are preferred candidates of The Glass House.

Ogunjobi revealed in a telephone interview with brilafm.net that there was no way the NFF would bow to the PTF in choosing Sunday Oliseh and Samson Siasia as assistant coaches since they

would find it difficult to function if they are employed under duress.

"PTF is not running football in this country. The only recognized body for football in this country is NFF.

"We are working hand-in-hand with the PTF, but the only body to hire and fire, if the need arises, is the NFF.

"If you are then to say they imposed some coaches on us, do you think they will be able to put in their best under the circumstances? Won't there be conflict of interest," he wondered.

## Lagerback plans to meet Kanu

NEWLY appointed Super Eagles technical adviser, Lars Lagerback has revealed his intention to grant Nwankwo Kanu audience before making a decision on whether the Portsmouth star will fit into his programme.

Lagerback revealed to your fact finding dial that he will give every other player a chance to impress him but says Kanu is already on the wrong side of football.

"I know about Kanu and I know he is a good player. He is experienced, but getting old.

That is true, but I can't rule him out and assume he is too old to play.

"I plan to meet him and discuss with him and we will see where we go. I plan to meet many of the other players, because I know Nigeria has many good ones.

"The players are very good and this makes the team strong. We plan to get together and see what can be done with the team. I know Nigeria can do well with the quality we have," he enthused.

## THE TUESDAY COLUMN

Sanusi Abubakar

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## Who really ousted Tandja, and why?

As I leave Niamey today (Tuesday March 2) ready to face some eight hours of driving back to Abuja via Katsina, it is clear to my mind that although I gained a better, more nuanced, understanding of the coup that took place in this landlocked, poor but proud nation of some 15 million, I still have several questions running around my head. Questions I still don't have answers to. Newer questions than the ones I came hoping to find answers to.

At least two sources indicated there may be a military takeover in Niger Republic, weeks if not months before it actually happened. So when someone raised the issue of doing something on the last ECOWAS meeting, I suggested to my colleagues on the Trust Editorial Board that we focus on what is likely going to happen in that country. We agreed to advise reporters to find out what was really going on, especially as a faction of the Nigerien opposition had given a press conference threatening to spark off a civil war if President Mamadou Tandja, was not checked. That was in Abuja, on the very day ECOWAS was issuing its own communiqué.

Barely twenty-four hours later, just as every worker was going for lunch in Niamey around 1.00pm, the soldiers struck. And within a few hours, they staged a quick and clinical coup. Except for a few dead and some arrests, the junta came out at 6pm to say it is now in-charge, and everyone went to bed relatively peacefully. I have lived through countless coups in my own country to know that is not normal. The usual refrain was that the people had tired of what was going on, that Tandja had it coming and that the coup, though unconstitutional (like any other coup), came as a relief. Now the country could move forward. But can it, really?

Since when did France and China (both major players in Niger), the USA, or the bureaucrats at ECOWAS and the AU secretariats and, especially the fat-cats heading our countries, begin to worry about constitutions or popular feelings? And why should they start now? And despite the mild, public condemnations by most of these countries nobody came out to demand that the soldiers hand back power and return to their barracks. Indeed the first American response, through a State Department spokesman, Philip Crowley, was that Tandja had only himself to blame. "President Tandja has been trying to extend his mandate in office. And obviously, that may well have been, you know, an act on his behalf that precipitated this act today," Crowley said. But how many dictators had the Americans kept, and still keep, in power regardless of what their people or constitution say? Not only that, even before the new military regime could send out emissaries to canvass for international support all the major players started to rush to Niamey for talks and photo-ops with the new President, Squadron-Leader Salou Djibo (or Salihu Jibo, as the Hausas will say). Could the presidents of Nigeria, Togo, Cameroun, Gabon, Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire, and all the usual suspects, really be so concerned about Tandja's tempering with the constitution, tenure elongation and all that?

What of France? Since when had any coup attempt, not to talk of a regime change, ever taken place in any of its former colonies without its knowledge and tacit approval? The facts appear to be this; the immediate pressure (some will say incentive) to move against Tandja may be internal, and probably genuine or funded by former Nigerien leaders (in and out of the country) and the opposition parties

they lead, but the real reason Tandja lost the support of his main partners, China and France, and why he was removed could be what some would call "resource control" – especially control of uranium and oil.

Niger is the world's third largest producer of uranium, after Canada and Australia, the control of which used to be a monopoly of the French. Its deposits are some of the purest in the world. They were paying Niger very low prices on the pretext that the cost of evacuation is high given the remote location of the mines. Attempts to get a fairer deal for the country led to the French engineering the removal of Niger's first leader, the late President Hamani Diori, in addition to his perceived sin of refusing to follow the French in its unconditional support for Biafra. Tandja could not have been ignorant of that history as he pushed for higher prices for uranium. He also started diversifying ownership and control as he brought in the Chinese, Koreans, Americans and others. But even more strategic, Niger's original agreement with France did not include any clause stipulating that the uranium could only be used for peaceful purposes. France was not likely to ignore any threat to a legally clean source for uranium it could use, or sell, to make weapons.

As Tandja came to rely more and more on China- for developing Niger's hydrocarbons, to build petroleum refinery and dam, as well as an alternative market for uranium, he had started playing with fire. Even if China was aware he was going to be removed (and they probably had their own reason why they wanted him out) they were apparently ready to continue dealing with whoever emerges. Unlike the Americans or the Europeans they had no law limiting the inducements or even actual bribes they could dish out to promote their businesses. And as Tandja moved closer to Gaddafi and Venezuela (most likely in his pursuit of greater autonomy for his country) the Americans were getting jittery, and probably would welcome a more docile replacement. Also, could what they saw as the emergence of "political Islam" in Niger and neighbouring northern Nigeria; could this have also contributed to their opposition to Tandja? What role did all these countries actually play in this *coup d'état*? Was Nigeria too busy with its own problems to bother about what was going on next door?

Some of these questions would probably remain unanswered for some time to come. Other must be addressed now. As members of the opposition, and probably most people in Niger, either celebrate or at least feel some relief, the agenda on the table is: what next? The US State Department had this suggestion. "Clearly, we think this underscores that Niger needs to move ahead with the elections and the formation of a new government." How, how soon and based on which constitution? Tandja is out, the opposition leaders would never agree among themselves. Can those in power now put in place mechanisms to resolve the log-jam and restore democracy to Niger in under 18 months? This is the immediate question. The wider issues of our inability in Africa to resolve issues without bringing in undemocratic means and organs would be with us for some time.

“And as Tandja moved closer to Gaddafi and Venezuela (most likely in his pursuit of greater autonomy for his country) the Americans were getting jittery



OUSTED President Mamadou Tandja of Niger

## SPORTS REPORT



ZINEDINE Zidane

## Zidane: I'd rather die than say sorry to Materazzi

France legend Zinedine Zidane would rather die than apologise to Marco Materazzi, who he headbutted during the 2006 World Cup final.

World football was left stunned when Zidane, in the last game of his career, attacked Materazzi in extra time – an action which saw the France captain duly dismissed.

"Things happen on the pitch. It's happened to me many times. But I could not stand it there. Because moreover...it is

not an excuse. But my mother was ill. She was in hospital. This people did not know.

"But it was a bad time. More than once they insulted my mother and I never responded. But there...

"If I ask him forgiveness, I lack respect to myself and to all those I hold dear with all my heart.

"But to him I cannot. Never, never...it would be to dishonour me...I'd rather die. There are evil people. And I don't even want to hear those guys speak."



DIRK Nowitzki of Dallas Mavericks

## Nowitzki leads Mavs to 7th straight win

Dirk Nowitzki scored 14 of his 36 points while playing all of the fourth quarter, including a 9-foot turnaround jumper, as the Dallas Mavericks pulled out a 108-100 victory over New Orleans Hornets Sunday night to extend their NBA-high winning streak to seven games.

"We made this a lot harder than we should have," said Nowitzki, who had his third consecutive 30-point game. "I actually missed two shots toward the end that I felt should have gone in, but I was able to make that last shot, so I'm happy about that."

The last time Nowitzki had three consecutive 30-points games was February 2008.

