

DAILY TRUST

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INSIDE



Robbers raid ex-minister's home

Robbers yesterday raided the Abuja home of former Minister of State for Agriculture Alhaji Adamu Maina Waziri and stole unspecified amounts of money and jewellery.

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No Nigerian firm in Africa's top 30

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As at Wednesday, April 1

TOP GAINERS

Symbol	Price(N)	Gain
Mobil	96.61	+4.60
Chevron	90.30	+4.30
AP	68.79	+3.27

TOP LOSERS

Symbol	Price(N)	Loss
CAP	32.77	-1.72
NBC	20.00	-1.00
JBerger	24.16	-1.27

Cap. N4, 497,204,291,897.06

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATE

	Selling	Buying
EURO	210	208
POUND	212	210
DOLLAR	170	168

Source: Daba Bureau de Change, Lagos



Book Online:

www.flydanaair.com

Hot climate produces baby girls

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Niger Delta:

FG mulls amnesty for militants

Militants in the Niger Delta who have engaged the Federal Government in a low-intensity urban guerilla campaign in the past decade may expect a generous amnesty offer shortly, going by hints dropped by President Umaru Yar'adua yesterday. Speaking at the opening ceremony

By Muideen Olaniyi

of the 47th National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party

(PDP) at its Wadata Plaza Secretariat in Abuja, Yar'adua said the government is working out terms for the granting of amnesty to all Niger Delta militants who

are prepared to lay down their arms and be rehabilitated into Nigeria society.

He said the National Security Council will meet next week to finalise the new rules

for engagement to grant amnesty to all those who are ready to lay down their arms. Yar'adua said, "We are funding a repositioned Joint Task

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THE LONDON SUMMIT 2009

STABILITY | GROWTH | JOBS



Group of 20 leaders at their summit at the ExCel Centre, East London, yesterday. They include Indonesia Finance Minister Sri Mulyani, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal, Chinese President Hu Jintao, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, US President Barack Obama, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, South African President Kgalema Motlanthe and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Photo: AFP

G-20 unveils \$1 trillion rescue package

Leaders of the world's biggest and emerging economies yesterday in London sealed a deal worth over a trillion US dollars to rescue the troubled global economy.

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, London

They also agreed to tighten banking regulations, renounce protection-

ism, boost global trade and help the world's poorest nations. They outlined policies to rebuild trust in the financial system, including a crackdown on tax havens and hedge funds

and new rules on linking executive pay to performance.

The Group of 20 nations made up of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Brit

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NEWS

Gaidam reappoints 16 commissioners

Sixteen out of the 21 commissioners sacked last week by Governor Ibrahim Gaidam of Yobe have been re-appointed, according to a new list submitted to the House of Assembly on Thursday. The list was read on the floor of the House by Majority Leader Ciroma Buba. The five who were dropped are Commissioners for Finance, Alhaji Mohammed Hassan; Water resources, Salisu Bakabe; Land and Survey, Dodo Karage; Sports, Garba Madugu and Women Affairs, Hajiya Fatima Halilu. Gaidam also requested the House to approve a new list of special advisers whose number was increased from six to 12. The governor said the increase was made in order to have four advisers from each of the three senatorial zones in the state. After the death of former governor, Mamman Ali, on Jan. 27, the Special Adviser on Special Duties and member of the State Executive Council, Alhaji Baba Ciroma, left the state without advancing reasons for his absence. In another development, the House directed the executive to liaise with its Borno counterpart to officially protest the plan by the Federal Government to construct Kafin Zaki dam in Bauchi state. It said the proposed dam would jeopardise the livelihood of nine local government areas in the state. It said the livelihood of the communities, residing on the banks of River Yobe and who engage in farming and fishing, would be threatened with the blockage of the river for the dam. Meanwhile, the affected communities are mounting pressure on their elected representatives to protest the proposed dam construction to safeguard their means of livelihood. (NAN)

Yuguda in minor cabinet reshuffle

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

Bauchi State Governor, Malam Isa Yuguda has effected a minor cabinet reshuffle that saw four of his commissioners swapping positions and eight Permanent Secretaries being deployed with immediate effect. A statement issued by the Secretary to the State Government, Alhaji Ahmad Dandija, said on Wednesday that Alhaji Aminu Hammayo had been moved from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Finance and Economic development, his counterpart, Engineer Muhammad Sama'ila Tela was moved from the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning to Ministry of Health while the Commissioner for Finance, Alhaji Garba Dahiru has been moved to the Ministry of Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation. The change also involved the former commissioner for Cooperative and poverty Alleviation, Dr Altine Lawal Bello who has been moved to the Ministry of Science and Technology which was before being supervised by the state Deputy Governor, Alhaji Garba Muhammad Gadi while the Commissioner for Finance and Economic Development will now oversee the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning. The state governor has also approved the redeployment of eight Permanent Secretaries including Mrs Kundera from Pension Board to Budget and Economic Planning, Dr Muhammad Hussaini from Ministry of Health to Pension Board and Alhaji Nuhu Wabi from Ministry of Higher Education to Hospitals Management Board.

Shinkafi removes health commissioner

Governor Mahmuda Shinkafi of Zamfara State has removed Alhaji Muhammadu Janyau as the Commissioner for Health. A statement by the Secretary to the State Government, Alhaji Muhammadu Gusau, also named Dr Sa'ad Idris as the new health commissioner. The statement did not give reasons for Janyau's removal but said he is now to serve as Shinkafi's Senior Special Assistant. Meanwhile, Shinkafi has sworn in Idris with a charge that he be more pragmatic in executing the health care programmes of the state. Sa'ad, was until his appointment, the Director of the VVF centre. (NAN)

Public disturbances: Police nab 46 in Sokoto

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

The Sokoto State Police Command has nabbed a total of 46 persons over public disturbances in the state capital. Also arrested were three below 15 years who were said to have attacked one Malam Ibrahim Umar, a teacher at Waziri Model Junior Secondary School. The suspects were paraded before journalists at the police command yesterday. Briefing journalists on those arrested, state Police Commissioner, Alhaji Ibrahim Chafe said the hoodlums formed themselves into groups and were terrorizing innocent people in the Sokoto metropolis. According to the police commissioner, the arrested persons were wielding cutlasses and other dangerous weapons, adding, "they engaged in criminal activities by forcefully dispossessing people of their monies. This is unacceptable to us and such criminal act would be met with justifiable legal action". He said the arrest of the suspects followed complaints by residents of Emir Yahaya area of the state capital, and that they would soon be charged to court, for constituting themselves into mischief making and public nuisance. Speaking on the case of the under-15 boys, the police commissioner said the teacher, Ibrahim Umar, was stabbed by the youths for punishing one of their siblings who is also a student of the school. The teacher, who spoke with journalists at the police command, disclosed that he was attacked in the school by the youths for carrying out disciplinary action on the erring student.

Accidents claim 11 on Lokoja, Potiskum roads

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu, with agency reports

Six people were killed and ten others sustained serious injuries yesterday when a luxury bus collided with a pick-up vehicle on Lokoja-Okene road while another five died and 26 sustained injuries on the Kano-Potiskum road.

The Lokoja-Okene accident occurred at about 4 a.m. at Crusher village near Lokoja. Mr Uzoma Winwe, the conductor of the luxury bus, told newsmen that the pick-up vehicle was travelling in the night without functional headlights. He said the collision occurred because the driver of the luxury bus did not see the approaching pick-up vehicle, adding that all the six occupants of the pick-up vehicle died on the spot.

The FRSC Sector Commander in Kogi, Mr Yomi Asaniyan, confirmed Winwe's statement, saying that the pick-up vehicle caused the accident

as it was using the lights of other vehicles to travel that night. Asaniyan told newsmen that the bodies of the six fatalities had been deposited at the morgue of the Federal Medical Centre, Lokoja. He said ten passengers of the luxury bus, who sustained injuries in the accident, were receiving treatment at the medical centre. Asaniyan, who warned the people against travelling at night, said that it was much safer to travel in the daytime. He also advised motorists to ensure that their vehicles were in good condition before embarking on a journey.

The Kano-Potiskum road mishap occurred when a heavily loaded trailer truck lost control and fell into a bush.

The accident occurred at Dagauda Village, about five kilometers to Potiskum when the trailer with registration number XA 711 JRE carrying 40 passengers, 18 Motorcycles and 1,210 cartons of batteries from Kano on its way to Maiduguri skidded the highway and fell in the bush.

Joel Tagwa, the head of operations at the state headquarters of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) confirmed the accident which he said occurred around 4:30 am yesterday.

"Apart from the fact that the vehicle was overloaded, the driver was over speeding when he lost control probably because he was sleeping...it's very unfortunate", Tagwa said, adding that the 26 people injured had been admitted at the General Hospital, Potiskum and were responding to

treatment.

Tagwa advised drivers to desist from driving at night, stop overloading and carrying passengers on top of goods. "These are some of the causes of avoidable accidents, trailers are meant only to carry goods not passengers", he said, "we are also appealing to the contractors handling this road to assist in constructing hard cut shoulders beside the road, it is very important for accidents to be minimized", he added. He equally accused some passengers of deliberately subjecting themselves to danger. "We recovered about N65, 345 from some of the people on the truck...this shows the passengers can afford using other vehicles meant for carrying passengers", he said.



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (right) with his Venezuelan counterpart Hugo Chavez during the latter's visit to Tehran yesterday. Pic: AFP

Why meningitis increases in Northeast, by NEMA

From Mustapha Isah Kwaru, Maiduguri

Indiscriminate building of houses in densely populated areas has been identified as the major factor contributing to the increase in Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis (CSM) outbreaks in the north-east region.

Director General of the National Emergency Management Agency, (NEMA), retired AVM Audu Bida made the assertion yesterday while speaking at a one day sensitization campaign on CSM, cholera and measles, organised by the north-east zonal office of the agency in Maiduguri.

Represented by the Commandant, 306 Air wing command of the Nigeria Air Force, Maiduguri, Commodore Ali Abacha, the NEMA boss, observed that majority of the victims of the killer disease were those living in densely populated areas where there is absence of adequate cross ventilation due to excess buildings.

"People who are mostly

coupled with the poor sanitary and drainage system", he added.

According to him, reports from the states on the increasing cases of CSM and other related diseases this year are too alarming and

unacceptable. He explained further that it was pathetic to note that despite strenuous campaigns conducted with aim of reducing the high rate of the diseases and minimise loss of lives, the situation worsened.

Northern Union presses for region's development

From Halima Musa, Kano

Northern governors have again been asked to intensify efforts at salvaging the region from its present position. The call was made by the chairman, Elders Council of the Northern Union, Dr Olusola Saraki when he paid a courtesy visit to Governor Ibrahim Shekarau of Kano State yesterday.

Saraki said Northern governors had great challenges ahead of them if they were to move the region forward, saying it was high time the governors stopped singing praises of the late

Northern premier, Sir Ahmadu Sardauna but emulate his good qualities.

He said they should also execute projects that impact positively on people's lives so that even after leaving office they could be remembered by their people. Saraki who said they were touring the Northern states to remind the governors and people of the region of the challenges ahead so that concerted efforts would be made to reverse the trend, noted; "we have embarked on this tour

to meet with all stakeholders to remind them of the need to work as a collective body towards moving our region forward," he said.

He also urged the northern governors to give full support to the Yar'adua administration so that it could work effectively to move the nation forward.

Responding, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau said the tour was timely, commending the effort of the Northern Union Elders council. He observed that unity is a good factor in promoting development.

NEWS

Ex-minister attacked by armed robbers

Robbers yesterday raided the Abuja home of former minister of State for Agriculture, Adamu Maina Waziri and stole an unspecified amount of money and valuables. They arrived his Maitama residence in the early hours of yesterday. They jumped over the fence and gained entrance into the building by scaling the balcony. Narrating his ordeal to our reporter yesterday, the former Minister, who was also the PDP gubernatorial candidate in the last election in Yobe State said one of them first entered his wife's room through the living room and asked her to lead him to her husband's room.

"My wife led him to my room and he demanded that I should give them money adding that they were not in my house to hurt any member of my household, but to get money from me. I gracefully opened my brief case and asked them to take whatever they wanted to take," he said. The robber took what he wanted and then marched him, his wife and the children to the toilet

and locked them up inside and then went back to the room and ransacked the place. It was then Waziri perceived he was not alone. He suspected he had a pre-knowledge of the house because they knew exactly where to go. "They ransacked the brief cases in my room and went away with some valuable documents. Not that alone, they equally went to my wife's room and packed all her jewelries and that of my daughters, some of which are as old as 20 years.

"At about 5.30 in the money when we were very sure that the armed robbers would have gone completely, we raised alarm and my domestic staff came and broke the toilet door for us to come out," he said.

The Public Relations Officer of the Federal Capital Territory Police Command, Deputy Superintendent of Police Moshood Jimoh said the former Minister had reported the matter to them.

"The former Minister reported the case at the Divisional Police Station in Maitama around 1:00 pm

yesterday," he said.

He said the police suspected that only one

thief went to the house and he has adequate knowledge of the house and the

occupants. He said the police have gathered sufficient facts that would

lead to the arrest of the thief and the recovery of the stolen items.



From right: President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, PDP National Chairman Vincent Ogbulafor and Senate President David Mark at the 47th PDP NEC meeting in Abuja yesterday.

Pic: Felix Onigbinde.

Reps threaten taking over Ogun Assembly

The political crisis rocking Ogun state assumed a new dimension yesterday with the House of Representatives threatening to invoke section 9 subsections 4 of the 1999 constitution to instill sanity in the polity if the State House of Assembly fails to reconvene before April 14th.

The Ogun state House of Assembly has not sat for the past one month, a development the MPs said violated section 104 of the constitution which stipulates the days each Houses of Assembly sits.

Rep Halims Agoda (PDP-Delta) speaking on a 'matter

By Tashikmah Hallah & Nasidi A. Yahaya

of urgent public importance' drew the attention of the members on the impending danger over the Ogun House's failure to sit for four weeks when the House is not on recess. He said: "Recent reports on the inactivity of the Ogun state House of Assembly as an affront on the social, economic and political interests of the people of the state," he said.

Rep Abdul Ahmed Ningi (PDP, Bauchi State) Chairman Committee on Police Affairs said the committee invited the

Inspector General of Police on the prevailing situation in Ogun State but regretted that the Inspector General of police could not give satisfactory answer.

According to him, the IGP told him that his hands are tied on the situation stating that "Mr Speaker, my Colleagues, what is happening in Ogun State is like a coup, a development where the legislative arm has not been functioning for the past one month reminds us of the military era. Most of our political class are still having this mindset", he added.

Also Rep Patrick Ogbahigbon (PDP, Edo

State) described Ogun State a 'failed state' and advocated for the immediate invoking of section 9 sub section 4 'to save our democracy'. But, Rep Gbenga Oduwaiye (PDP, Ogun State) protested the description of Ogun State as a failed state saying, "Mr Speaker, I am from Ogun State and as responsible citizen of the state, I cannot sit down to watch a Member from Edo State calling my state a failed state. I strongly take exception to that, Mr Speaker it may interest you that it was in Edo State a Commissioner of Police was ambushed and six police officers were killed".

Dialogue asks FG to give in to ERC report

By Onimisi Alao & Abbas Jimoh

National dialogue on electoral reform has asked the Federal Government to recognise the report of the Mohammed Uwais Electoral Reform Committee as the will of the people and to accept the recommendations.

The National Dialogue on Electoral Reform which was supported jointly by International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES), International Republican Institute (IRI) and National Democratic Institute (NDI) attracted top politicians, including the presidential candidate of All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) in 2003 and 2007, General Mohammed Buhari (rt); former Senate President, Ken Nnamani, former House of Representatives speaker Bello Masari, and the National Chairman of Action Congress, Chief Bisi Akande.

"The attempt to retain the same structures and processes that necessitated the current effort at electoral reform and the rising anxiety about future elections is unhealthy and will overheat the polity. "In any conflict between the expressed will of the people and the wishes of the Executive or elected representatives, the will of the people should be allowed to prevail. The Federal Government should give in to the will of Nigerians as expressed through the ERC recommendations," the communiqué said.

8m Nigerians face deportation-Reps

By Tashikmah Hallah & Nasidi A. Yahaya

The House of Representatives yesterday said about eight millions Nigerians in Diaspora may face deportation as from next year if their passports are not renewed.

Chairman of Committee on Diaspora, Rep Abike Dabiri-Erewa (AC, Lagos) said this when the committee summoned Comptroller General of Nigeria Immigration Services, Mr Chukwurah Udeh on the need to urgently rescue the situation before it slips out of hand. She said: "when we met these people in their different countries, they were asking what happens to them when their passports expire by next year? There are no facilities abroad for them to get the electronic passports. We are talking about eight millions Nigerians. So my question is: what happens to them when their passports expire?"

Responding, Mr Udeh allayed fear over Nigerians deportation, saying the Nigerian Immigration Service has introduced a new method of passports renewal without hindrance. He said: "Our Project Implementation Committee has come up with a programme of roll out, where passports will be renewed for those in Diaspora. We have rolled out in U.S, U.K, South Africa, Spain and India".

"The beauty of what we are doing is that we have a Mobile Acquisition System which is designed to address the issue of acquisition by proxy because our travel documents cannot be acquired by proxy anymore. So what we have now will take care of acquisition by proxy and also take care of the physically challenged persons," he added.

Lafiagi heads PDP convention c'ttee

By Muideen Olaniyi

Former President Olusegun Obasanjo will remain the chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) BOT until June 2011 when his term expires.

Yesterday the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) endorsed the recommendation of the National Working Committee (NWC) that the office of the chairman of the Board of Trustees (BOT) be thrown open to all eligible members of the Board in 2011.

The former President Obasanjo and the Secretary of the Board, Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu were not at yesterday's meeting. The former BOT chairman, Chief Tony Anenih was however present at the meeting that lasted for about four hours.

It was also gathered that the meeting endorsed the April 20 date chosen for the party's Special Convention where the current rule for the BOT positions is expected to be amended.

The NEC also endorsed

that the party revert to its 1998 constitution and the 2006 amended constitution be rendered null and void.

Though the issuance of the communiqué was delayed till today due to, what Daily Trust learnt, was 'technical reason', the NEC approved the recommendation that delegates to the national convention of the party be reduced.

With the new guidelines, former governors, ministers and former members of the National Assembly would be made automatic delegates to the conventions.

It was learnt that areas also endorsed by the NEC for ratification during the April 20 Special National Convention of the party so "that instead of 25 delegates composition of the state and local government, should be amended to read "15 delegates from each of the wards of the local government elected at the ward congresses"

The NEC, Daily Trust

further learnt, had replaced the automatic delegates from the wards, local governments and state chapters of the party to be replaced by former governors and deputy governors elected on the platform of the party provided that they are still members of the party.

Others to be included in the new lists of automatic delegates are former members of the national, zonal and state working committee, former local government party chairmen and former members of the national assemblies and former local government council chairmen and vice chairmen.

Meanwhile, the NEC has approved the nomination of the former governor of Kwara state, Alhaji Shaba Lafiagi as the chairman of the Special Convention Committee of the party. The 99-member Convention committee which had Joseph Pango as secretary is expected to work towards the success of the April 20 convention.

The committee was inaugurated by the PDP National Chairman, Prince

Vincent Ogbulafor yesterday after the meeting.

Present at the yesterday's meeting were President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, Vice president Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, Senate President David Mark, Speaker, House of Representatives, Dimeji Bankole, Governor Liyel Imoke (Cross River), Bukola Saraki, (Kwara), Adebayo Alao-Akala (Oyo), Gbenga Daniel (Ogun) and Olagunsoye Oyinlola (Osun).

Others were Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan (Delta), Muazu Babangida Aliyu (Niger), Namadi Sambo (Kaduna), Jonah Jang (Plateau), Akwe Doma (Nasarawa), Danjuma Goje (Gombe), Murtala Nyako (Adamawa), Gabriel Suswan, (Benue) Mahmud Shinkafi (Zamfara), Dep. Sen President Ike Ekweremado, Dr Banabas Gemade, Elder Godsday Orubebe, former Senate president Ken Nnamani, FCT Minister Adamu Aleiro and Dr. Ibrahim Lame (Minister of Police Affairs) among others.

NEWS

Reserve 70% seats for fresh pilgrims

— NAHCON tells states

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

The National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) has directed States Pilgrims Welfare Boards to give fresh intending pilgrims priority during this year's hajj and reserve seventy percent seats for them. In a statement issued yesterday, NAHCON said "State Pilgrims' Welfare Boards/Agencies must reserve seventy percent of the seat's allocation to first timers because demands for Hajj seats outweigh available seats."

This directive came at a time when some states have reportedly reports from some state exhausted the seats that are yet to be allocated to them by the commission. States like Kano, Katsina, and Bauchi are said to have already stopped collecting money from intending pilgrims.

Fertiliser distribution for 2009 farming season may be delayed — Investigations

By Abubakar Ibrahim

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

Investigations by *Daily Trust* revealed that a month into the farming season, the Federal Executive Council (FEC) is yet to approve the release of the money. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources is expected to buy 500,000 tonnes of fertiliser for the 2009 planting season as against the 650,000 tonnes purchased in 2008.

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

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

Alhaji Abubakar Aliyu, Director, Fertiliser in the ministry, said that government was targeting the peak period of May-June when the demand for fertiliser would be high before distributing the commodity to farmers for the 2009 planting season.

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

Aliyu said that most of the states in the northern part of the country still had some quantities of fertiliser from last year's stock which they could use for planting this year.

He said that government had made the necessary arrangements for the procurement, distribution and monitoring of fertiliser to farmers through the state and local governments.

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

Consultation is key to success of re-branding - Shekarau

By Atika Balal

The Minister of Information and Communication, Professor Dora Akunyili has been urged to consult widely in the on-going campaign to rebrand Nigeria's national image.

Kano State Governor, Ibrahim Shekarau who made this call yesterday during a courtesy call paid on her at her office in Abuja, stressed the need for dissociating from a clique of people who claim to be an all knowing group of experts and advised that all Nigerians should be involved.

While accrediting the failure of previous attempts to rebrand the image of Nigeria to historic failure, he emphasized the need to appeal to the values and beliefs of the people as well as the centrality of good governance.

"Leadership is the key factor in the successful implementation of the re-branding campaign; you must hold fast to the principles of honesty, efficiency and transparency. You must also have firm political will, vision and clear target," he said.

Nigeria owes World Bank \$3.2bn — Mansur

By Idris Ahmed

Nigeria owes the World Bank \$3.2 billion out of the country's total foreign debt of \$3.75 billion, the Minister of Finance said yesterday in Abuja.

Dr. Mansur Muhtar made the remark while signing additional \$50 million International Development Association (IDA) credit from the bank. He said the new credit is to finance polio eradication project in the country.

He said \$500 million out of the total country's debt portfolio was gotten from the African Development Bank (AfDB) while the remaining balance is owed to other multilateral agencies.

Yesterday's signing was performed by Dr. Mansur and the World Bank's country Director, Onno Ruhl.

Asked if Nigeria was not again getting into debt trap with the signing of additional foreign credits, the Minister said the loans were all interest free.

The minister said: "This kind of loan can be justified. There is investment in human capital and with the effort I personally put on as the Director-General of the Debt Management Office (DMO) to exit the Paris Club debt, I would not do anything now that could get us into debt trap."

The IDA credit, as you are aware, is a highly concessional facility with a repayable period of 40 years, including a 10 year moratorium. It attracts a commitment charge of 0.50 percent per annum payable on the undisbursed amount and a service charge of 0.75 percent per annum payable on the amount withdrawn."

The World Bank's country Director said the credit facility signed yesterday was the project supports for the last push to eradicate polio globally.

Ruhl said Nigeria is the only country in Africa where polio is still endemic. Other three countries in the world where polio cases are still high come from Asia. They are India, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Mansur said Nigeria sought for and obtained polio credit because it falls within the World Bank's social development category and because it does not attract counterpart funds as an effective condition.

He said there are three components to the ongoing partnership for polio project such as procurement of Oral Polio Vaccine, supplemental

operation, such as social mobilization, cold chain and capacity building and effective monitoring of the programme.

"The first component, which is being financed by

the IDA under the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), is for the procurement of Oral Polio Vaccines", the Minister said.

Blackout imminent as power supply drops by 700mw

By Hamisu Muhammad

The epileptic power situation in the country may worsen as electricity supply dropped by about 700 megawatts yesterday as a result of shortage of gas supply to some of the nation's power stations.

In a statement yesterday, the management of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) said it had shut down its power stations at Olorunsogo, Omotosho and Delta due to the close down of Otorogu Gas station by the Nigerian Gas Company (NGC).

NGC said the Otorogu Gas station was vandalized on April 1. "As a result of this development, Olorunsogo, Omotosho and Delta power stations have been completely shut down while Egbin, PHCN's largest

power station is constrained to reduce its generation to 400MW", the statement has said adding that, "already Sapele power station was shut down since November 2008 as a result of gas limitation".

The company said the loss in gas supply has resulted to a cut back in generation by over 700mw, and will entail load shedding in many parts of the country.

The shutdown of Otorogu gas station, the management said has further reduced power generation capacity below 2,500 mw.

Daily Trust gathered that as at last week, Nigeria's Power generation capacity stood at 2,900 mw. But with the loss of 700 mw, power generation now remains

somewhere around 2,200 mw.

According to industry watchers, with the persistent breakdown of the gas supply to power stations, President Umar Musa Yar'adua's power generation target of 6000mw by the end of December this year and 10000 mw by 2011 will be unattainable.

Last November, PHCN had announced loss of about 1000 mw generation capacity from the national grid as Sapele power station was shutdown, while Egbin ran at further reduced capacity.

The Nigerian Gas Company and Shell Petroleum have attributed the gross shortfall in gas supply to the vandalisation of their gas pipeline facilities.

...In Tomorrow's

WEEKLY TRUST

As rent skyrockets accross Nigeria:

Houses everywhere, no occupants

As the economic meltdown continues to bite hard, the rise of rent across the country bites even harder. *Weekly Trust* chronicles the disturbing trend.



Abuja's night-time hawkers remain in the dark

Inside prison where inmates are 'condemned' before trial

How I broke into Nollywood

—Ali Nuhu

Exclusive interview with one of Nigeria's leading actors on how he conquered the Nollywood industry, his rise in Nollywood and more



NEWS

Yar'adua inaugurates land reform committee

By AbdulFattah Olajide

The Federal Government recently forwarded an executive bill to the National Assembly for the amendment of sections 5, 7, 15, 21, 22, 23 and 28 of the Land Use Act as a demonstration of its determination to implement its land reform agenda. President Umaru Musa Yar'adua said yesterday in Abuja.

Speaking while inaugurating the 9-member Presidential Technical Committee on Land Reform headed by Professor Akin Mabogunje, Yar'adua said he has "requested the leadership of the National Assembly to facilitate the expeditious passage of these amendments which will remove the requirement for consent to assignment, mortgages, sub-leases and other transfers by governors."

Other members of the committee are Prof. Nicholas Damachi, permanent secretary, Alhaji Garba Kibiya, Surveyor M.N Yahaya, Barrister John Balami, Pro. Y Fabiyi, Ms. Valentine Ofogba, Mr. E.C.O Madu, and Prof. Peter Adeniyi. The president said the amendments, when completed, would not only make transactions in land less cumbersome, but also facilitate increased investment, productivity and innovation in agriculture, the housing sector and the economy at large. He noted that land reform is a key element of his administration's Seven-Point Agenda. "This is because we are deeply convinced that for us to develop as a country, we need to awaken the potential of land as a veritable resource for food security, poverty reduction, capital accumulation, economic growth and national development", he said.

The President listed the terms of reference of the committee as follows:

i. to collaborate and provide technical assistance to States and Local Governments to undertake land cadastral nationwide;

ii. to determine individuals' "possessory" rights using best practices and most appropriate technology to determine the process of identification of locations and registration of title holdings;

iii. to ensure that land cadastral boundaries and title holdings are demarcated in such a way that community, hamlet, village, village area, town etc will be recognizable;

iv. to encourage and assist States and Local Governments to establish an arbitration mechanism for land ownership conflict resolution;

v. to make recommendations for the establishment of a National Depository for Land Title Holdings and Records in all States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory;

vi. to make recommendations for the establishment of a mechanism for land valuation in both urban and rural areas, in all parts of the Federation; and

vii. to make any other recommendations that will ensure effective, simplified, sustainable and successful land administration in Nigeria.

Responding, Prof. Mabogunje said "we wish to assure your Excellency that we will proceed with dispatch to promote the necessary awareness of the importance of the land reform process among the major stakeholders at the state and local government levels. We will strive to secure their commitment and support for the rigorous land surveying, adjudication, titling and registration procedures that the system entails. We will seek international technical assistance both bilateral and multilateral and learn from the lessons of experience of other developing countries which have embarked on similar major land reform programmes. At the federal level, we will soon be coming back with a proposed structure of how we hope that land reform can be organized, expedited and coordinated.

10 feared dead in cultist violence in Ogun

About 10 persons have been reported killed in the past 72 hours in renewed cult violence in tertiary institutions across Ogun State.

Five died at the Ago Iwoye campus of the Olabisi Onabanjo University (OOU) between Wednesday and yesterday while another five were reported to have been killed at Onikolobo area of the Ogun state-owned Moshood Abiola Polytechnic (MAPOLY) Abeokuta.

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

The state police command confirmed the death of one person in the Abeokuta clash, and the arrest of nine members of the Eiyeye fraternity.

Though details of the clash among the rival cults could not be ascertained as press time, the Police Public Relations Officer, Muyiwa Adejobi told *Daily Trust* on telephone that the dead cultist was from the Aye (Axe) group.

FG mulls amnesty for militants

Continued from Page 1

Force (JTF) to enforce law and order, and have worked out new rules of engagement for the JTF, giving it a period of six months. Next week, the National Security Council will meet to finalise these new rules for engagement to grant amnesty to all those ready to lay down their arms and ammunition and be integrated into the Nigerian society. The government has released enough funds to the JTF to acquire proper capacity to be able to enforce law and order in the region.

"Also, we are working on terms for the granting of amnesty for all those who are prepared to lay down their arms in the Niger Delta region. And this amnesty will include not only laying down their arms but reintegrating them and rehabilitating them into the Nigerian society."

He said the government is working on a holistic development and implementation of the Niger Delta master plan, adding that the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs was created to champion holistic development of the region.

He added that the administration has been releasing full funds to the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC).

Yar'adua also spoke on Nigeria's absence from the London meeting of leaders of the 20 most developed economies of the world, saying it was a sad development.

He said he wondered why a country like Nigeria with high population, capacity and ability had been unable to realise its great potentials.

He said: "I must say that today is a sad day for me and I think it should be for all Nigerians."

When 20 leaders of the leading countries of the world are meeting and Nigeria is not there. This is something we need to reflect upon. We have the population. We have the potentials. We have the capacity and ability. We have the collective wisdom. What do we lack? Is it the will that we lack? Honestly and sincerely, to realise these potentials, potential is nothing unless it is realised. No matter the potential you have, unless you work on it, it would not be realised. This is what the PDP must do to realise these potentials."

On the global economic meltdown, President Yar'adua said it is now affecting the country but added that solutions would require discipline and sacrifices of all Nigerians to take measures to mitigate its effects. He said efforts would be taken to ensure that the crisis does not degenerate into a great hardship for Nigerians.

The President who said the solution may not come this year, a statement which he said was also attested to by the World Bank, however thought that it may be tackled head-on by the year 2010. This country would come out of the crisis even stronger, he said.

He said, "Why we are making efforts to implement some aspects of the seven point agenda, we are all aware of the global financial crisis that has befallen the world in general. Indeed, as we are meeting today here, 20 leaders of the 20 most developed nations of the

world are holding a meeting in London trying to work out a solution to the problem of global financial crisis and the global financial meltdown.

"This has affected this country and any other country throughout the world and the crisis is not a joke; it is real and it demands discipline and sacrifices for us to take measures to mitigate the effects of this crisis and ensure that the crisis does not degenerate in this country into a great hardship for our people and to ensure that Nigeria comes out of this crisis stronger than it has weakened it."

"I want to make a general comment not only to our great party but to all Nigerians. This crisis is real; it is not a joke. And its source is not from this country. Nigeria and other undeveloped countries did not cause it in any way. This crisis began in the most developed economies- in the United States and Western Europe. And to a great extent, some of the Asian economies. And it has spread throughout the world. We cannot see the end of this crisis within 2009; the World Bank, the IMF and all other institutions are saying that there is no solution in 2009. In fact, if the global effort is going to make impact at all it may have to start somewhere, if we are very lucky in the year 2010. Why we are in this crisis, we must make sacrifices; and we must be realistic, we must look beyond ourselves; it is a collective responsibility of the nation."

On power and energy, Yar'adua said all plans for the attainment of government's target of 6,000

megawatts of generated electricity to be fully transmitted and distributed by the end of this year, are in place.

He said the plans have been concluded and implementation has begun and all the required funding for the attainment of the objective is in place.

He added that the plans to generate 10,000 megawatts of electricity by year 2011 have been concluded and implementation has also begun and all the funding required is also in place.

He said the government is working on the concession of eight major highways including Benin-Shagamu and Kano-Abuja. Strategic roads have also been taken for rehabilitation, he said. He said within the next one week, the Federal government would announce the concessioning of Ibadan-Lagos expressway while the contract will be awarded at next's Federal Executive Council meeting for its rehabilitation. "On the other strategic ones upon which we have worked with the National Assembly, the contracts will be awarded before the end of April," he added.

Earlier, PDP National Chairman Prince Vincent Ogbulafor said the party was financially handicapped, saying "non-compliance with Article 18 (2) b of the PDP constitution which states that public office holders must contribute 5% of their annual basic salary would attract serious consequences."

The highlight of the opening session was the formal welcome extended to Zamfara State governor Alhaji Mahmuda Aliyu Shinkafi, who decamped to the PDP late last year.

G-20 unveils \$1 trillion rescue package

Continued from Page 1

ain, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey and the United States sealed the deal at their London summit.

Announcing the agreement, their host, British Prime

Minister Gordon Brown, said: "Today we have reached a new consensus, that we take global action together to deal with problems we face, that we will do what is necessary to restore growth in jobs, that we will take essential action to rebuild confidence and trust in our financial system".

The prime minister said "the world came together to fight back against the global recession, not with words but with a plan for global recovery and reform and with a clear timetable for its delivery."

"For the first time we have a common approach to cleaning up banks around the world, to restructuring of the world financial system. We have maintained our commit-

ment to help the world's poorest," the prime minister said. He added, "This is a collective action of people around the world working at their best."

On Wednesday, French President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel called for tighter financial regulation rather than simple economic stimulation, warning that they would not sign up to a communiqué that did not include meaningful action. Among the principles agreed yesterday include the measures they had called for as regards to tightening global financial regulations.

In her reaction, the German Chancellor described the

agreement as "very, very good, almost historic compromise," saying it would give the world "clearer financial market architecture".

Thousands of anti-capitalist protestors spent two days in London demonstrating against the summit, sometimes violently, clashing with the police.

At least one man has been killed and several others, including many policemen, have been injured in the protests. The Independent Police Complaints Commission said the death was being investigated after the matter was referred to them by both the City of London Police and the Metropolitan Police vice.

NEWS

Galaxy explains delay in 5000 VSAT installations

By Hamisu Muhammad

The deployment and installation of Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) technology at the 5000 locations throughout the country by the Galaxy Backbone depend on the ability of the states and local governments to provide the sites at the right time, the Managing Director of Galaxy Backbone Gerald Ilukwe has said. Speaking yesterday when the Chairman of Senate Committee on Communications Mr Sylvester Anyawu visited the Network Operation Center of the company in Abuja, Ilukwe said the company would not risk deploying VSAT to unsecured sites. He said the VSAT would be installed when all the sites meet specific standards and until the benefiting governments and agencies comply with the site readiness format the project would not meet the expected deadline. "It is not within our capacity to provide sites under the National Information Communication and Education Programme (NICEP), our own is to go and fix the sites, putting site out there is the easiest part of the job," he said. Recently, the chairman of House of Representatives Committee on Communications Leo Ogor expressed dissatisfaction with the manner payments were made to the contractors while the network rollout had not progressed as was expected. The chairman and committee members queried the rationale for the payments when only 1012 of 5000 sites have been deployed.

2011: NPF shops for good leaders

By Idris Ahmed

The Northern Patriotic Front (NPF) said it has would embark on a regional campaign to shop for a good leader from the north who would contest in the 2011 general elections. Chairman of NPF Alhaji Ali Abacha said this yesterday in Abuja when he led members of the group on a courtesy visit to the headquarters of Media Trust. "We don't want money politics again. We want someone who can render good services. We would look for a political party that has good manifesto and education our people to vote for it. "We are going to give awareness to our brothers in the north just like the people in the south are doing. Our campaign is aimed at getting this into the minds of the people," he said. He said the NPF is a northern-based integrated independent campaign body which strives for the sustenance of democracy in Nigeria through the instrument of good governance which comes only with "good and exemplary leadership." According to him, the group's visit to the Media Trust was in appreciation of the determination and courage shown by the organisation in the discharge of its civic responsibility to the society against all dangers and risks.

Diaspora Nigerians critical to rebranding, says Akunyili

By Atika Balal

Nigerians in the Diaspora are vital part of shoring up the country's national image, the Minister of Information and Communication Professor Dora Akunyili has said. While commending them for their ingenuity and diligence in foreign lands, Akunyili said the campaign to redirect the negative perception of Nigeria and its people cannot be achieved without Nigerians who are based in foreign countries. She however regretted the actions and inactions of Nigerians in the Diaspora whom she said involve themselves in criminal acts that create negative images for the country. Following reactions on comments she made in an interview published by one of Nigeria's national dailies recently, which suggested that she described Nigerians in Diaspora as Nigeria's worst enemy. She said the re-branding committee has a representative of the Diaspora and would have a second. It will be recalled that the Minister had on February 12, commended the board of trustees of Nigeria in Diaspora Organization (NIDO) for launching the Global Data Base of Nigerians, which she said would be useful resource for various aspects of President Yar'adua's seven-point agenda and the country's vision 2020.

Spain donates 10m euro to fight illegal migration

By Aisha Umar, Victoria Awom & Terkuta Igidi

The Spanish minister of state for Foreign Affairs Angel Lossada Torres-Quevedo said Spain government has given financial assistance of 10 million euro for the fight against irregular migration through Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS). Torres-Quevedo, who made this known during his

visit to Nigeria, said they have recognized that the problem can only be dealt with successfully through cooperation.

"We are to foster bilateral relations through relations with the countries as well as between Spain and

ECOWAS. The engagement is now going to be on these two fronts. So the fight against irregular migration entails that we have to keep a well managed system of legal and other control based on the problems that have occurred by people living and working in Spain illegally," he said.

He said his meetings with

Turai warns mothers against feeding kids with junk foods

By Yunus Abdulhamid

The First Lady Hajiya Turai Yar'adua has appealed to mothers in the country to desist from feeding their children with junk foods, mostly known as fast food to avoid the negative consequences associated with them.

She said experts have confirmed that increase in the eating of junk foods is responsible for many diet related diseases like obesity, diabetes, cancer, heart problems, dental and visual retardation.

The First Lady disclosed this at the Nigerian Child-

ren's Parliament convened by the Consumer Protection Council (CPC) on the commemoration of the World Consumer Rights Day.

Turai, who was represented by the wife of the Vice President Dame Patience Goodluck Jonathan., said "the entire womenfolk of Nigeria should desist from feeding their children with fast foods at the slightest prompting. The real African value which promotes the preparation of highly nutri-

tious foods at the home instead for the feeding of the family, even in the face of pressure of life is much healthier habit."

Earlier in her remarks, the Director General of the CPC Mrs Ify Uwenyi said about 17.6 million children aged five years and below are estimated to be overweight worldwide as a result of a possible fall out of frequent consumption of unhealthy food.

She said consumption of junk food prepared by fast food sellers with appealing advertisement to entice un-

suspecting consumers, especially children, is becoming a common happening due to modern day economic realities that put undue pressure on long cultural values.

"The struggle to make ends meet daily is tearing family apart, giving parents little attention to the consumption pattern of their children. The confectionery industry is cashing in on this situation, using attention grabbing marketing tools to get our children hooked. Such tools are cartons and fantasy figures among others," she said.



Minister of Finance Dr. Mansur Mukhar (right) with World Bank Country Director Onno Rauh after the signing of an agreement of 50 million dollars additional financing for polio eradication project between the federal government and the World Bank, Abuja, yesterday.

Pic: Felix Onigbinde.

BPE boss solicits lawmakers' support on privatisation

By Yunus Abdulhamid

The Director-General of Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) Dr. Christopher Anyanwu has appealed to members of the House of Representatives to give him the necessary support in the bid to give the privatisation exercise a face lift.

Anyanwu made the appeal during a courtesy call on members of the House of Representatives Committee on Privatization.

He said his appointment is a great mission to refocus the process of privatization in the country and increase its pace for greater results.

He sought the support and cooperation of the legislators especially in the area of quick enactment of pending reforms bills prepared by

the BPE to hasten the process of privatization.

"I have a mission to do privatization professionally, eliminate obstacles generated by self-interest and maximize the benefits of privatization to all Nigerians. We are resolved to do things right, transparently and le-

gally to avoid unnecessary distractions by being invited by National Assembly committees and security agencies to answer queries on our transactions," he said.

In his remarks, the chairman of House of Representatives Committee on Privatization Alhaji Njidda Gella said they were impressed by the candour and commitment of Anyanwu

over the privatisation process.

Members of the committee advised the new DG to follow due process and legality in doing privatization and ensure wide consultations and strict monitoring of privatized enterprises to ensure compliance with contracts and remittance of privatization proceeds to the treasury promptly.

Appeal Court affirms Senator Effiong's election

By Ibrahim Khalil Aminu

The Court of Appeal sitting in Abuja yesterday upheld an appeal filed by Senator Effiong Bob challenging the decision of an Abuja Federal High Court which held that he was not the rightful candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party

(PDP)

Delivering judgment, Justice Ayobode Lokulo-Sodipe held that there was no cogent and verifiable reason adduced by PDP to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to warrant substituting Senator Bob with Chief Ime Albert Akpan.

The judge also noted that the name of Senator Effiong Bob got to INEC first and there was no sufficient reason given by PDP to change the name with that of the respondent and that the electoral Act 2006 stipulates that a political party cannot substitute the name of its candi-

date without cogent and verifiable reason.

The judge agreed with the position of counsel to Senator Bob, Asam Asam that the purported substitution of the name of Senator Bob with Chief Akpan did not follow the due process and laid down rules.

Besides, the judge noted that for a party to give "not sufficient information" as a reason for substituting a candidate cannot be tenable since such reason cannot be in the realm of 'cogent and verifiable reason' as provided in the electoral Act 2006.

The court therefore held that the appeal is meritorious and it duly succeeds.

NEWS

How 'Re-branding Nigeria' will work, by lecturer

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

Lecturer in the Islamic Studies Department, Kwara State College of Education, Ilorin, Malam Abdullahi Abdulganiy has noted that the re-branding Nigeria project may not be achieved unless Nigerians accord the teachings and tenets of their religions utmost priority. Malam Abdullahi Abdulganiy who made the observation in Ilorin while speaking with newsmen maintained that both Islam and Christianity call for good human relations but lamented the degree of inhuman acts in the society. He said the adoption of religious principles would assist in no small measure in molding people's behaviours to project the country's image within and outside. Abdulganiy attributed the nation's backwardness to the high level of corruption among top government officials and politicians and called on the people to re-dedicate themselves to God's service. According to him, "Nigeria can be a corrupt-free nation if everyone goes back to Allah and emulate the exemplary lifestyles of both Prophet Muhammad and Jesus Christ." He advised all tiers of government to attach great importance to religious principles and always seek religious scholars' opinions to be able to excel in their assignments. He urged Nigerians to join the crusade in projecting the good image of the country through self-discipline.

Ekiti re-run: Fayose alleges threat to life

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

Former governor of Ekiti State Mr. Ayodele Fayose yesterday in Lagos raised alarm over threats to his life and urged the Inspector General of Police to intervene before it is too late. Fayose at a news conference said his life was in danger and that there was a grand plot to assassinate him. "My life is in danger. There is a grand plan to maul me down. There are guns everywhere in Ekiti. Thugs of a prominent politician are brandishing their guns everyday," he said, adding that thugs had been brought from Oshogbo and other places to terrorise the people of Ekiti. Fayose said in the past three days, he had received text messages from unknown persons warning him that there were plans to eliminate him. He said he had forwarded these text messages to the Inspector-General of Police and the Commissioner of Police in Ekiti. An extract of one of the text messages sent to him read: "I beg you in God's name. I was privileged to hear a conversation between a very prominent politician and some of his thugs where the name of another prominent politician was mentioned. They said they had hired thugs to trace you from Lagos. Take your security seriously. God will be with you."

...as ex-governor urges tight security

Retired Air Vice-Marshal Ernest Adeleye, the former Military Governor of Rivers, has called for the deployment of more security men to Ekiti State during the re-run governorship election. Addressing newsmen in Ado-Ekiti yesterday, Adeleye who hails from Igede-Ekiti in Irepo-dun/Ifelodun Local Government Area, said heavy presence of security personnel would stem violence during the election. The former military governor who decried the upsurge in political violence in the state, said since the beginning of the campaigns, some politicians had been arming their supporters to fight their opponents. "There should be heavy security during the re-run governorship election scheduled for April 25 to check violence. If people are asking their supporters to carry arms to intimidate others to win election, I know the Federal Government will not allow the state to go up in flames," Adeleye said. He, however, described the planned visit of President Umaru Yar'Adua to kick-start the campaign of Mr. Segun Oni, the PDP candidate, as a "normal and welcome development. "First of all, Yar'Adua is a member of PDP. I do not think anybody has the right to say the president should not come to Ekiti State. If other politicians can come here to campaign for other parties, then the president too has the right to come and campaign for his party," he said. (NAN)

Katsina earmarks N80m for UNICEF programmes

Katsina State Government has earmarked N80 million in its 2009 budget for the execution of UNICEF-assisted programmes. Governor Ibrahim Shema disclosed this yesterday in Katsina when he received the new UNICEF country representative, Dr Sawome Sakai who paid him a courtesy call. Shema, represented by his deputy, Alhaji Sirajo Damari, gave the assurance that his administration would continue to support UNICEF programmes in the state with a view to achieving the desired objectives. He said the state government was committed to implementing policies and programmes that were aimed at improving the welfare of women and children. He disclosed that the expansion and construction of girls' schools across the state as well as the establishment of a state university were part of the government's efforts at boosting girl-child education. The governor also explained that the state had recorded 90 per cent success in the immunisation against child-killer diseases during the last immunisation days. He said the state government had made available polio vaccines in all the primary health centres in the state to ensure effective coverage. Earlier, Sakai had told the governor that she was in the state in continuation of her tour of states that were benefiting from UNICEF programmes. She commended the state government for its free medical care programme for women and children and its health care development plans. (NAN)

Yar'adua promises improved electricity in eight months

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

President Umaru Musa Yar'adua has assured Nigerians that there would be substantial improvement in power supply in the country in the next eight months.

"For the avoidance of doubt, we are committed, within the next eight months, to substantial improvement in power supply, transportation, including roads and railways, security agriculture, health care, education and the Niger-Delta," he said while declaring open the

given targets to deliver by the end of the year.

The President who was represented by the Minister of State for Information, Alhaji Ikra Aliyu Bilbis expressed the hope that by the end of the year, Nigerians would begin to enjoy a measure of stable electricity.

Reiterating the determina-

tion of his administration to reverse the decay in the country's infrastructure, Yar'adua said N460 billion had been earmarked in this year's budget for the revival and strengthening of critical infrastructure.

"Our strategy is to place priority on those sectors that will facilitate the resuscitation of the economy and bring immediate relief to the vast majority of our people. We have no doubt that this strategy will work because, for the first time in a long while, government has produced a performance-based budget with clear targets and time lines," he said.

He however solicited the support and cooperation of the media for successful implementation of policies and programmes of his administration.

"As gatekeepers in the business of information gathering and dissemination, we specifically appeal to you to ensure fairness and balance in the treatment of government policies and programmes. Practitioners must strive at all times to rise to the responsibility of providing accurate, factual and balanced information devoid of any prejudices. On our part, we commit ourselves to an open door policy that compels government officials to deal transparently with the media," he said.

Earlier in his address, the NGE president, Mr. Gbenga Adefaye lamented the sorry state of the country and called for the total overhaul of the country for the benefit of the citizenry.



From left: Mrs. Laureen Harper, wife of Canadian Prime Minister; Mrs. Gursharan Kaur, wife of Indian Prime Minister; and Mrs. Michelle Obama, wife of US President Barack Obama during a visit to the Royal Opera House, London, during the G20 meeting yesterday. Pic: AFP.

President urges editors to integrate NUJ

The President, Nigerian Guild of Editors (NGE) Mr Gbenga Adefaye yesterday in Kaduna urged editors to integrate the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) in its activities. Adefaye gave the advice in Kaduna while welcoming delegates to the 5th NGE conference tagged "Vision 20/2020 and the Nigerian Editors: the imperative of knowledge."

He urged editors to elevate

the NUJ to a status where journalists could perform effectively and efficiently in their daily editorial assignments. "Editors need to concern themselves with the activities of the NUJ because when they leave their official seats they will still remain reporters for life," he said.

The NGE president explained that the conference was designed for the editors to clear the cynical belief of

the people about the Nigerian economy.

"So many would ask and rightly too: What is the business of the Nigerian editor with public sloganeering? What concern of the editor is it with official posturing? There is a straight answer to that: Whereas governments would come and go, Nigeria remains. So visioning for it should not be a government project," he said.

Adefaye said editors were leaders placed by assignment to moderate communication and information exchange. He added that "editors who constitute the leadership of the newsrooms have constitutional obligations under the 1999 constitution of oversight functions over all arms of the government including the private sector."

Adefaye said to achieve the set goals by the guild, NGE invited those in government to the four-day conference "to put their facts on the table and let the editors discuss them".

"We seek to put in perspective the desires and the needs of Nigerians and establish observable verifiable indicators of excellence by which to judge our steps toward Vision 20/2020," the NGE president said.

He urged editors to help in fast tracking the realisation of President Umaru Yar'adua's Vision 20/2020 for the nation.

"We will like the editors to be equipped with comparatives. Perhaps, that should help the mass media to make inputs into the budget planning process and monitor budget execution, on a rolling plan basis for Nigeria," Adefaye said. (NAN)

Agreement threaten strike over agreement

From Hir Joseph, Makurdi

The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) in both Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi (FUAM) and Benue State University (BSU) also in Makurdi have threatened to resume strike if the Federal Government continues to renege on implementation of lecturers of 2 varsities entered with the union in 2001.

At a joint news conference at the BSU chapter secretariat in Makurdi yesterday, the two chapters decried the delay in signing the 2001 agreement.

The lecturers also criticised President Umaru Yar'adua for failing to reinstate the 49 lecturers of the University of Ilorin who were sacked for embarking on a strike several

years back.

Delivering the text of the news conference, the BSU chapter chairman, Mr. Raph Amokaha said the two branches were unsatisfied with the president's claim that the matter was in the court and could not be interfered with in the spirit of the Rule of Law.

"Government had conveniently forgotten that Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) was not only lawful but encouraged by the judiciary. The same government had pursued ADR in the matter of ownership of NICON between it and Jimoh Ibrahim", Amokaha said.

Mr. Amokaha who was with

the FUAM chapter chairman, Mr. Daniel Amine, the BSU secretary and treasurer, Victor Igbum and member, Genyi respectively, expressed concern that even after ASUU entered into renegotiation with the Federal Government in December 2008 on the 2001 agreement, there has been no response from government till now.

"It is the opinion of ASUU-BSU and ASUU-FUAM that continued delay by government in consenting to and signing the agreement is in bad faith and provocative," Amokaha said, and passed the resolve of the two chapters to embark on a strike if the Federal Government continues the delay.

NEWS

Yar'adua, Jonathan to campaign for Oni

From Ralph Adekunle, Ado-Ekiti

President Umaru Musa Yara'adua and Vice President Goodluck Jonathan are expected to lead the campaign train of Mr. Segun Oni, the PDP Governorship candidate in Ekiti State for the rerun election to Irepodun/Ifelodun Local Government Area in Igede-Ekiti on Friday and Saturday. Senate President David Mark and Speaker, House of Representatives, Dimeji Bankole as well as all the federal lawmakers in the southwest will join the campaign tour. The Director of Communication and Strategy, PDP in Ekiti State, Mr. Jackson Adebayo in a statement in Ado-Ekiti yesterday said President Yara'adua would arrive Ado-Ekiti on Saturday for the rally while the Vice President Goodluck Jonathan would arrive today for the rally. The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) called on the people of the state to come out enmass to welcome the President and the Vice President.

Biu monarch backs state varsity

Emir of Biu, Alhaji Umar Mustapha, on Wednesday declared support for the establishment of Borno State University. Mustapha spoke while receiving members of the technical committee on the establishment of the university in his palace in Biu. He described government's initiative as a welcome development in view of the increasing number of students seeking admission into universities. The Emir advised the state government to focus attention on upgrading facilities in state-owned institutions to improve the standard of education in Borno. Earlier, the Chairman of the technical committee, Prof Mohammed Nur-Alkali, had informed the traditional ruler that they were to make recommendations on how best to establish the institution. He said the committee would also visit the State College of Education in Waka Biu to interact with the management so as to make recommendations to government. (NAN)

Niger to license preachers to curb religious crises

Niger State Commissioner of Justice has said government would reinvigorate the law on preaching and license the preachers. Usman disclosed this while addressing newsmen in Minna on Wednesday. He said the measure followed series of complaints about the activities of some religious sects who wanted to cause crisis in the state. He said the "preachers' law would be revamped and anyone who wishes to preach would be interviewed and issued the license which is valid for three years". Usman said the Inspector General of Police, Mr Mike Okiro had written to the state government about the activities of Kalakato, Sallafiyya and the DarriSalam sects. He said government had discovered that seven of the Kalakato sect, who were instigating the crisis, were foreigners. According to him, government will liaise with the relevant agencies to deport them. He promised that government would sanitise the system and set standard that would ensure that the preachers operated within the ambit of the law. He accused elites for patronising the religious sects by aiding and abating their nefarious activities to the detriment of the society. Adamu said government had directed traditional rulers and chairmen of local government councils to study the preaching law, including that of Zamfara and submit their recommendations. He said the traditional rulers and chairmen were expected to monitor the activities of preachers in their areas and report to government. (NAN)

Ogun guber: Appeal Court strikes out Daniel's case

From Yemi Bamidele, Ibadan

The Court of Appeal in Ibadan yesterday struck out a case by the governor of Ogun State, Otunba Gbenga Daniel challenging the right of the President of the appellate court to set up another panel to re-try the election petition between him and Senator Ibikunle Amosun, the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) gubernatorial candidate in the state. Governor Daniel had through his counsel, Taiwo Oyetibo, approached a Federal High Court sitting in Abeokuta and raised a constitutional issue over an alleged correspondence between Senator Amosun and the President of the Court of Appeal on the reconstitution of a fresh panel to hear the ANPP Governorship candidate's petition. In the originating summon, Governor Gbenga Daniel had claimed that the action of the President of the Court of Appeal to agree to constitute a fresh panel based on a letter from Senator Amosun was unfair to him, as he should have been given the opportunity to make a representation. Delivering judgement yesterday, the Court of Appeal maintained that the Federal High Court that sat and delivered ruling on the matter on July 8, 2008 lacked jurisdiction to hear the case and as such the referral it made was illegal, null and void.

Rape cases increase in Lagos

From Abdulhakeem F.Akinola, Lagos

The Lagos State government says there is an increase in rape cases as the state recorded about 20 cases of rape in the past one month.

The Commissioner for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Mrs. Joke Orelope-Adefulire made the disclosure yesterday at a ministerial press briefing.

According to her, the 20 cases have been referred to the state Ministry of Justice for prosecution, adding that the government would not tolerate any form of child

abuse any more in the state.

The commissioner said, "We have discovered that most of the rape victims are the young girls who hawk goods around to assist their parents. We have a case in which a 50-year old man raped a 15-year old girl who was hawking."

She also revealed that there were some illegal day care centres in the state where children were being used as sex workers and for

alms begging without the consent of their parents and guardians.

According to her, some people visit the day care centres to hire the children for alms begging and possibly to satisfy their sexual urges.

She said; "We have had cases where a child from a day care center developed complications after she had been abused. Most parents do not know about this. That is why we have intensified our advocacy on child abuse so that parents can be very

careful about where they keep their children."

To reduce incidences of unwanted pregnancies among young children, Orelope-Adefulire said the state government had begun to arrest roaming pupils on Lagos Streets. She said, "The governor, Mr. Babatunde Fashola had already approved the procurement of four buses to arrest roaming students while parents who abuse their children will be prosecuted."



Mrs. Diezani Alison-Madueke, Minister of Mines and Steel Development at this year's International Women's Day celebration, held in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, receiving an award from the First Lady of Bayelsa State, Mrs. Alayingi Sylva.

Railways to arrest commuters atop trains

The Nigeria Railway Corporation (NRC) yesterday said it would soon embark on the arrest of commuters who stay on top of moving trains and rail line defaulters.

The Lagos District Manager of the corporation, Mr John Dottie, told newsmen in Lagos that the action became necessary following recent accidents, one of which resulted in the death of a woman.

The woman, who had a baby strapped at her back, was killed early last month at Yaba by a mass transit 106 train while crossing the rail line in spite of the warning signals from the

approaching train. The baby survived. In another incident, a middle-aged man was wounded at Ikeja station while trying to disembark from the top of the train he boarded at Iddo station.

The man, who was said to have missed his steps on his way down, hit the barrier placed besides the road and fell right on the rail line where the train ran over his leg.

Reacting to both incidents, Dottie said policemen had been placed at strategic places at the various stations to arrest offenders. "It is a serious offence to stay on top of the train or even obstruct level

crossing and henceforth, we will not take it easy with anybody caught," Dottie said.

The district manager said all passengers on the train had a premium insurance covering them for every ticket they paid for "but they are not covered in an accident if they stay on top of the train". He warned that anybody who died as a result of any accident on top of the train would put his family in problem as the police would seize the corpse and make family members pay the penalty.

"If on the other hand, he is lucky to be alive, he will still be arrested and made to

pay penalty because this is the only way we can dissuade them from risking their lives on the train," he said. He also berated those who were fond of jumping in and out of the train in motion, stating that they would also be arrested and treated like those who climbed on top of the train.

While putting the minimum penalty at N100,000, Dotti added that for any accident that occurred at a level crossing, the offender apart from paying the penalty, would also be responsible for any damage on the locomotive. (NAN)

NEWS

Man in court for threatening former employer

A 20-year-old man, Abiodun Babatunde, was yesterday brought before a Yaba Magistrate's Court in Lagos for allegedly threatening to kill his former employer. Abiodun appeared before Magistrate Mukaila Fadeyi on a one-count charge of threat to life. The Prosecutor, Insp. Benson Emuerhi told the court that the accused was an employee of the complainant, Mr Ayoola Onajide, before he was dismissed. Emuerhi added that Babatunde was dismissed on the ground that the complainant no longer had any trust in him adding that the accused was fond of absenting himself from work. He submitted that the accused wrote a threat letter to Onajide. The Prosecutor said Babatunde, in the letter, threatened to kill Onajide and terminate the lives of the complainant's family, including his mother, within four days. "Babatunde also wrote that the complainant should pay a sum of eight million naira to his Oceanic Bank account No. 2560001010203," Emuerhi stated. He said that the offence was contrary to section 323 of the Criminal Code, Laws of Lagos State. The accused pleaded not guilty and was granted bail in the sum of N250,000 with two sureties in like sum. The magistrate adjourned the case till April 8, for hearing. The accused is liable to three-years' imprisonment if convicted. (NAN)

Kebbi MDG awards contract for 469 projects

From Rakiya.A.Muhammad, Sokoto

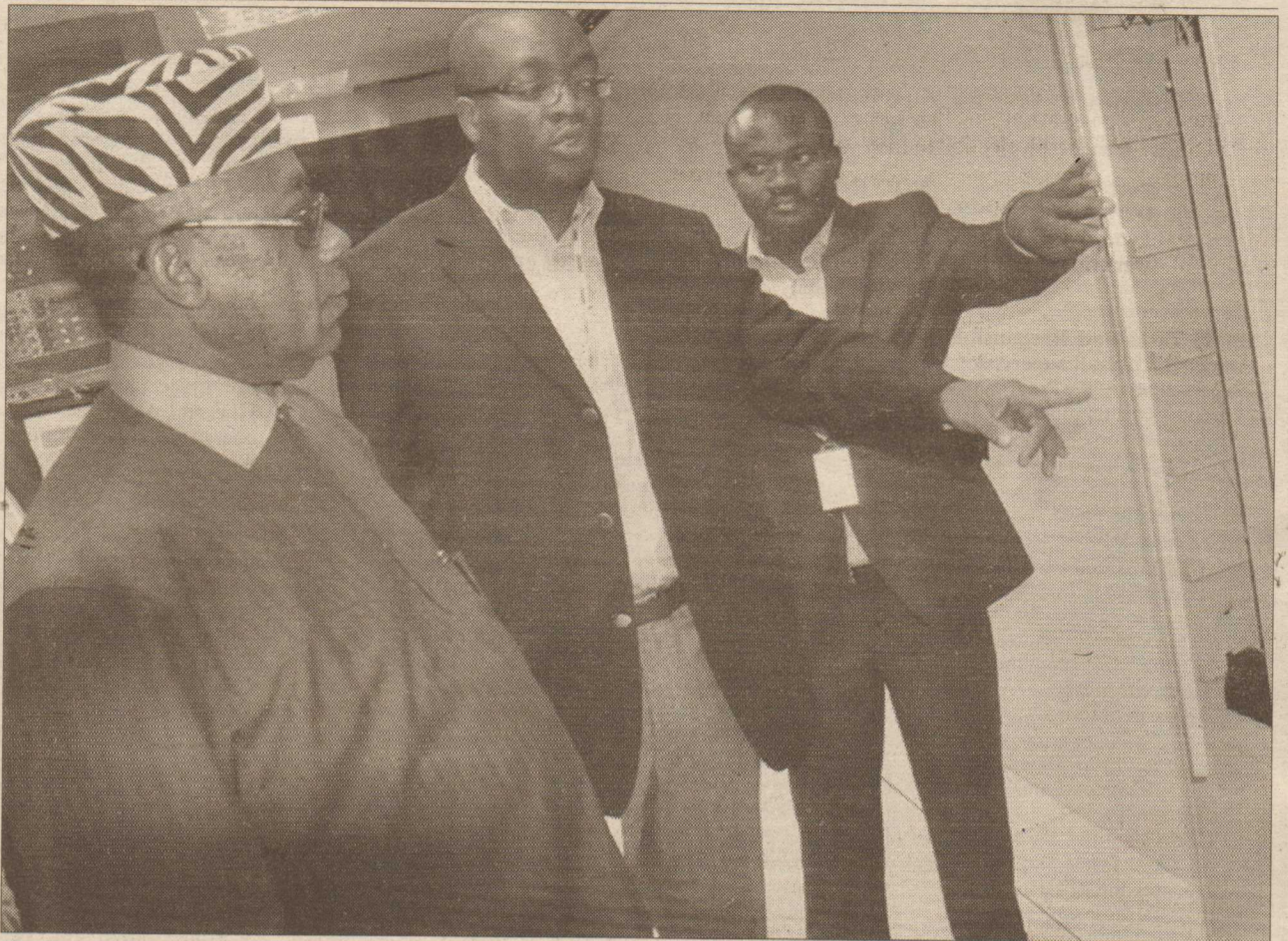
The Kebbi State office of the Millennium Development Goals, (MDG) has opened bid for the award of contracts for 469 projects at the total cost of N1.8billion. Speaking at the bid opening ceremony, Special Adviser to the state governor on MDGs, Alhaji Samaila Augie said out of the 469 projects, 70 were on renovation and extension of primary health centres at N977.9million. Others are construction of 42 hand washing facilities worth N10.5m, 200 VIP toilets at the cost of N84.9m and construction of 89 hand pumps and boreholes worth N84.5m. He described the bid opening ceremony as the first of its kind in the state. Alhaji Augie disclosed that the state government had paid its counterpart funding towards poverty eradication through project intervention in the areas of health care delivery, skills acquisition, water and sanitation. He urged those selected to live up to expectation and demonstrate high sense of responsibility in the execution of the projects.

Council sacks Federal Polytechnic Registrar

The Registrar of the Federal Polytechnic, Mubi in Adamawa, Mr. Pwady Dingoli, has been sacked. A circular signed by the Director, Information and Protocol of the polytechnic, Mallam Aliyu Abba, announced the appointment of Alhaji Suleiman Buba as the new registrar to take over from Dingoli. The circular however did not give any reason why Dingoli was sacked. It said the polytechnic's governing council approved the appointment of his replacement at its inaugural meeting held on Wednesday. The statement noted that the governing council's action followed a directive of the Federal Ministry of Education. The circular called for the maximum support and cooperation of the polytechnic community for the new registrar. "The management is requesting you to please give Alhaji Suleiman the maximum and necessary cooperation and support to move the institution forward," it said. (NAN)

Students to oppose thuggery in 2011

The National Association of Angas Students in Plateau said yesterday in Jos that its members would resist any attempt to use them as thugs in the 2011 elections. President of the association, Nenfort Gorip, stated this when he led a delegation on a solidarity visit to Yohanna Shidams, chairman of Pankshin Local Government Council. Gorip said that the students were tired of being used by politicians for political gains only to be abandoned later. He said that such students abandoned their studies for politics during elections only for the politicians to ignore them when they assume office. Gorip who promised that the students would vote for visionary leaders and avoid moving around with politicians during election periods, urged Shidams to appoint students who would from time to time advise him on matters affecting them. Responding, Shidams warned the students against abandoning their studies for other activities. He promised to provide educational materials for them and ensure that institutions from primary to tertiary level in the local government received the desired attention. The Angas tribe is dominant in Plateau Central senatorial district. (NAN)



From left: Chairman, Senate Committee on Communications, Sylvester Anyanwu, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Galaxy Backbone Plc, Gerald Ilukwe and Manager, Network Operation Centre, Galaxy Backbone Plc Dauda Oyeleye, during the Facility Tour of Galaxy Backbone Network Operation Centre in Abuja on Wednesday

Pic: Felix Onigbinde

Police kill two robbers, recover stolen cars in Benue

The police in Benue State yesterday shot dead two armed robbers who operated in Makurdi and environs and recovered two stolen cars from them.

The Commissioner of Police, Ibrahim Mohammed who briefed newsmen on the success recorded by the command in its renewed effort on crime said the two robbers were killed during a gun battle with men of the anti-robbery squad who were on their trail after they had snatched some vehicles in the metropolis and made away with valuables of victims.

Ibrahim Mohammed said the armed robbers were among the 36 robbers who recently escaped from the Makurdi Medium Prisons, adding that the robbers who escaped from the prison penultimate week had returned to the underworld and were involved in a chain of robbery operations across the state.

"On March 30, the robbers trailed a lecturer with the state university to his house and after robbing him of his belongings, took his car, leaving behind a Mercedes Benz car which they had earlier snatched from another victim and used for the robbery with the victim

From Hir Joseph, Makurdi

locked in the boot", the commissioner said.

He said after the robbery operation, victims ran to the nearby police station and reported the case after which the police swung into action to recover the stolen cars.

The robbers according to the commissioner were later apprehended in Nassarawa State by policemen. He said in the process of effecting the arrest, the robbers opened fire but were over powered by the police. He said during investigation, the police were informed about

the hideout of the remaining criminals and on getting there; one of the robbers was shot dead while he was trying to escape.

He warned criminals in the state to take solace elsewhere as he said his command would not condone their excesses.

Bauchi establishes 76 TB centres

The Bauchi State government on Wednesday said it had established 76 Directly Observe Treatment Strategy (DOTS) centres to provide free treatment to tuberculosis (TB) patients. Dr Rilwanu Muhammad, the Executive Secretary, Bauchi State Agency for the Control of HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Malaria (BACATMA), said this at the inauguration of the TB/HIV synchronised campaign in Bauchi.

Muhammad said the centres were established in various general hospitals, primary health centres and the Federal Medical Centre, Azare, to provide free drugs and counseling to infected persons. He said that more than 2,700 TB cases were recorded between 2007 and 2008 in the state. According to him, the state government had

established microscopic centres in each of the 20 local government areas to enhance treatment of the disease.

Government, he said, was also providing free meal and food supplement to the patients in addition to the provision of technical support to private hospitals.

"The cure rate and treatment success for TB recorded cases are 62.5 and 81.3 per cent respectively in the last two years. TB recorded cases and smear detection is 15.3 per cent in the state. This is grossly low compared to the national smear positive detection target of 70 per cent by 2010," he said.

Muhammad said the state government, in collaboration with Global HIV/AIDS initiative (GHAIN), the World Bank, Society for Family Health (SFH) and other donor

agencies had worked out effective measures to control the disease.

According to him, a health technical committee had been set up to study the relationship between HIV virus and TB as well as streamline campaign activities against the scourge.

"HIV and AIDS is fuelling the TB epidemic due to the unhealthy relationship between the two diseases. We have trained more than 200 health workers on TB treatment and contact tracing to effectively curtail the spread of the diseases. We are also providing free clinical and laboratory diagnosis to persons infected with diseases," he said. He said the Agency had embarked on awareness campaign to educate communities on the diseases and encourage them to go for treatment. (NAN)



INTERNAL/EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the leading UN organization in Reproductive Health and Population and Development, is recruiting personnel for the following positions in the Field Office in Abuja:

1. Programme Specialist (HIV/AIDS) - NOC

Post Level: NOC (ICS10)
Duty Post: ABUJA
Type of Contract: Fixed Term
Duration: One Year (Subject to renewal upon satisfactory performance)

Main Tasks and Responsibilities:

Under the overall supervision of the Representative and direct supervision of the Deputy Representative, the Programme Specialist will lead UNFPA's work in HIV/AIDS programming to support the national HIV and AIDS response, work with the national counterparts, the UN agencies and other partners to undertake the following tasks:

- Provide substantive leadership and inputs into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes to increase national HIV prevention coverage with quality evidence-based comprehensive intervention packages, within the context of the National Strategic Framework for HIV and AIDS (NSF), taking into account socio-cultural factors. Working in close collaboration with National and state governments, UN Agencies, NGOs and other partners to ensure that appropriate national capacities are developed for the scaling up HIV/AIDS programmes.
- Guide the development and implementation of policies and strategies for further scaling up the HIV programme activities of UNFPA in close collaboration with National and state governments, UN Agencies, NGOs and other partners
- Provide technical assistance for the integration of Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV and AIDS into one comprehensive package at the national level. Guide and support the Operationalization of the package at national and state levels.
- Guide the implementation of the prevention components of the NSF, working with the national and states' coordinating bodies to increase HIV prevention at community level.
- Facilitate the involvement of all levels of society namely, government, civil society, NGOs, FBOs and the private sector in the development of plans, implementation and evaluation of HIV prevention interventions.
- Guide the implementation of programmes to empower women and young people to effectively participate in halting the epidemic.
- Support the collection (including through operational research) of lessons learnt and best practices that enhance the effectiveness of HIV prevention interventions, disseminate them to stakeholders, and advocate, mobilize and convene partners for large-scale up of response to challenges of HIV/AIDS.
- Continuously analyze population and development, RH and gender issues with specific emphasis on HIV and AIDS in the country and provide data for decision making and target setting for HIV prevention programming. In addition, provide substantive input into advocacy strategies taking into account political and social sensitivities. Advocate and advance UNFPA's policy agenda by participating in public information events
- Contribute to analyses of national HIV/AIDS trends, challenges and priorities focusing on gender issues, women and girls, young people, condom programming. Conduct and contribute to assessments of gaps in policy environment, policy implementation and programmatic responses. Review HIV/AIDS related policy and programme documents and provide recommendations to government counterparts and development partners to ensure multi-sectoral, gender-sensitive and evidence-based approaches;
- Represent UNFPA in key HIV/AIDS-related fora, including the UN HIV/AIDS Theme Group, HIV/AIDS Technical Working Group, Country Coordinating Mechanism and ensure consistent feedback to other UNFPA program sectors on the outcomes and outputs of these mechanisms and processes.
- Support UNFPA's role in UNCT joint programming for HIV prevention. Facilitate the convening of the Prevention Group of the UN-Joint Support Programme.
- Identify funding opportunities and help UNFPA Country Office to mobilize resources for HIV/AIDS programmes and activities. Support UNFPA Representative to dialogue and lobby with major funding organizations and development partners to leverage HIV/AIDS funds towards prevention-including condom programming, and to reach young people, women and girls and vulnerable groups.
- Undertake any other assignments as may be required by the Representative

Required Competencies:

Core Competencies

- Integrity/Commitment to our mandate/Valuing Diversity
- Performance Management;
- Developing People/Coaching and Mentoring & Fostering Innovation and Empowerment; Working in Teams;
- Self-Management/Emotional Intelligence;
- Analytical and Strategic Thinking and Results Orientation/Commitment to Excellence;
- Knowledge Sharing/Continuous Learning

Functional Competencies

- Conceptual Innovation in the provision of technical expertise
- Leveraging the resources of national governments & partners/Building strategic alliances and partnerships
- Job knowledge/Technical expertise: Good knowledge of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, dynamics and impact.

Qualifications and Experience

The Ideal Candidate should:

- Be a Nigerian National (Male or Female)
- Be a Medical Doctor with a post-graduate degree in Public Health or have a Ph.D in a related Social Science field.
- Possess professional experience of a minimum of 15 years preferably in programme/project management in the public and/or private sector linked to gender issues.
- Possess good technical drafting and report/proposal writing skills and presentation and interpersonal communication skills.
- Be experienced in working with government institutions and donor organizations.
- Have a strong capability to communicate clearly and concisely in both oral and written English.
- Have the ability to work under pressure.
- Have proficiency in current office software applications.

2. Programme Analyst (HIV/AIDS)

Post Level: NOB (ICS 09)
Duty Post: ABUJA
Type of Contract: Service Contract
Duration: One Year (Subject to renewal upon satisfactory performance)

Main Tasks and Responsibilities:

Under the overall supervision of the Deputy Representative and direct supervision of the Head of Reproductive Health Unit, the Programme Analyst will work with the national counterparts, the UN agencies and other partners to undertake the following tasks:

- Provides Technical Assistance within the framework of agreed work plans for successful implementation of the HIV/AIDS component of the UNFPA Country Programme.
- Facilitate the development and implementation of policies and strategies for further scaling up the HIV programme activities of UNFPA in close collaboration with National and state governments, UN Agencies, NGOs and other partners
- Provide technical assistance for the integration of Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV and AIDS into one comprehensive package at the national level. Support the operationalization of the package at national and state levels.
- Assist in the implementation of programmes to empower women and young people to effectively participate in halting the epidemic.
- Support the collection (including through operational research) of lessons learnt and best practices that enhance the effectiveness of HIV prevention interventions and disseminate them to stakeholders.
- Continuously analyze population and development, RH and gender issues with specific emphasis on HIV and AIDS in the country and provide data for decision making and target setting for HIV prevention programming.
- Provide substantive input into advocacy strategies taking into account political and social sensitivities. Advocate and advance UNFPA's policy agenda by participating in public information events
- Supports capacity building for staff in relevant government, NGO and CSO institutions in HIV/AIDS.
- Creates and documents knowledge by evaluating programmes, projects and ongoing experience for lessons learned, best practices and replicable strategies and approaches and actively shares and applies this knowledge. Creates mechanisms to collect and share knowledge.
- Analyzes HIV/AIDS issues to provide substantive inputs to institutional responses and advocacy strategies taking into account political and social sensitivities.
- In collaboration with Government counterparts, NGOs and other partners contributes substantively to the formulation and design of the country programme action plan in line with State Government priorities and according to UNFPA programme policies and procedures.
- Assists in resource mobilization efforts by preparing relevant documentation, i.e. project summaries, conference papers, donor profiles and participating in donor meetings and public information events.
- Facilitate the convening of the Prevention Group of the UN-Joint Support Programme.
- Promote UNFPA visibility at all levels.
- Undertake any other assignments as may be assigned by the Deputy Representative or Head of Reproductive Health Unit.

Required Competencies:

Core Competencies

- Integrity/Commitment to our mandate/Valuing Diversity
- Performance Management;
- Developing People/Coaching and Mentoring & Fostering Innovation and Empowerment; Working in Teams;
- Self-Management/Emotional Intelligence;
- Analytical and Strategic Thinking and Results Orientation/Commitment to Excellence;
- Knowledge Sharing/Continuous Learning

Functional Competencies

- Conceptual Innovation in the provision of technical expertise
- Leveraging the resources of national governments & partners/Building strategic alliances and partnerships
- Job knowledge/Technical expertise: Good knowledge of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, dynamics and impact.

Qualifications and Experience

The Ideal Candidate should:

- Be a Nigerian National (Male or Female)
- Possess a post-graduate degree in Public Health or Social Sciences.
- Possess professional experience of a minimum of 10 years preferably in programme/project management in the public and/or private sector linked to gender issues.
- Possess good technical drafting and report/proposal writing skills and presentation and interpersonal communication skills.
- Be experienced in working with government institutions and donor organizations.
- Have a strong capability to communicate clearly and concisely in both oral and written English.
- Have the ability to work under pressure.
- Have proficiency in current office software applications.

Related Programme Skills

Because the nature of work are programme focused, involving other groups and various timelines and activities, related skills of good time management, managing deadlines and good team relationships are essential. Knowledge of the UN system is desirable.

Method of Application

Applications (with a functional e-mail address and mobile numbers) should include letter of application and detailed curriculum vitae (CV), **as one file in MS WORD format only**. Applications should be addressed to **The UNFPA Representative, Abuja** and forwarded to **nigeria.rep@unfpa.org** latest by **09 April, 2009**. Each application should be clearly marked as follows:

1. Programme Specialist, HIV/AIDS - NOC
2. Programme Analyst, HIV/AIDS - NOB

Please note that UNFPA will respond only to those applicants in whom it has a further interest. **Kindly also note that only applications sent by e-mail will be accepted.** Qualified women are encouraged to apply.

*UNFPA reserves the right to appoint at the indicated or lower level and prior to the closing date.

UNFPA – Because everyone counts



INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the leading UN organization in Reproductive Health and Population and Development is recruiting personnel for the following positions in its Federal Liaison Office, Abuja.

1. **SECRETARY (1 Post)**
Post Level: ICS - 05
Type of Contract: Service Contract
Duty Station: Abuja
Duration: One year (Subject to renewal upon satisfactory performance)

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the supervision of the Head of the Federal Liaison Office, Abuja the Secretary provides functional administrative support to the UNFPA Federal Liaison office, while ensuring the consistent delivery of quality services in correspondences, records and logistics management for effective programme delivery in the Federal Liaison Office. The Secretary performs the following functions:

- Arranges appointments and maintains supervisors' calendar, receives visitors, places and screens telephone calls and answers queries with discretion for the Head and Programme Officers;
- Arranges meetings, both internal and external, some involving high-ranking official, and takes minutes and/or notes at meetings;
- Takes dictation using shorthand on a variety of subject matters and transcribes, ensuring that spellings, punctuations are correct. Prepares correspondences, documents and reports.
- Receives, screens, logs and routes correspondence, attaches necessary background information and maintains follow-up action;
- Drafts correspondences and ensures follow-up action;
- Establishes and maintains files and documents for the Liaison Office;
- Clears correspondence for conformity with established procedures and accuracy of statements before being signed by supervisors;
- Establishes and maintain lists of names, addresses and telephone numbers of counterparts in Government, NGOs, private sector, diplomatic corps and donor organizations.
- Makes travel arrangements for the Head of the Liaison Office and other Programme Officers.
- Prepare offer letters to the travel agents for issuance of air-ticket; facilitate confirmation of tickets and follow-up on the settlement of air ticket bills.
- Establishes and maintains a logging system for staff assignments and completed assignments
- Ensures that office equipment are in working condition
- Assists the Liaison Office partners and the general public with requests for Programme information or materials in collaboration with the Programme Officer
- Establishes and maintain leave reports for staff in the Liaison office
- Performs other duties as required by the Head of the Office and Programme Officers.

Qualification & Experience:

The ideal candidate should:

- Be a Nigerian national (male or female) residing in Abuja.
- Have HND or First degree in Secretarial Studies or its equivalent.
- Have a minimum of 5 years work experience in public or private sector.
- Have the ability to work in a multi-cultural environment. Professional qualifications will be an added advantage and work
- Have a strong capability to communicate clearly and concisely in both oral and written English.
- Have excellent communication and human relation skills.
- Be proficient in current office software applications.

2. **DRIVER (3 Posts or subject to available vacancies in each zone)**
Post Level: ICS - 02
Type of Contract: Service Contract
Duty Station: Abuja
Duration: One year (Subject to renewal upon satisfactory performance)

Duties and Responsibilities

- Drives office vehicles for the transport of authorized personnel and delivery and collection of mail, documents and other items;
- Meets official personnel at the airport and facilitates immigration and customs formalities as required;
- Responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the assigned vehicle, checks oil, water, battery, brakes, tyres etc; performs minor repairs and arranges for other repairs and ensures that the vehicle is kept clean;
- Logs official trips, daily mileage, gas consumption, oil changes, greasing, etc;
- Ensures that the steps required by rules and regulations are taken in case of involvement in accident;
- Report to the Liaison Office Accountant any fault detected in any of the UNFPA vehicles;
- Photocopy mails and other official documents as may be required in the office or during workshops/seminars;
- Distributes mails as appropriate to all staff within the office and to government and NGO offices directly involved with UNFPA in the implementation of the Country Programme;
- Facilitates the procurement of visas from Embassies in the FCT for staff members, Government officials, traveling abroad for meetings and other official engagements.
- Assists with the official travelers' reservation, request, obtain and collates quotes from airlines.
- Maintain records on travel in order to facilitate efficient tracking and monitoring.
- Performs other duties as required by the Head of the Liaison Office and Programme Officers.

Qualifications and Experience

The ideal candidate should:

- Be a Nigerian national (male or female) residing in Abuja.
- Possess at least Primary School Leaving Certificate
- Possess valid professional driving license and Trade Test Certificate
- Have the ability to read and write English
- Ability to use the computer will be an advantage
- Have a minimum of 5 years professional driving experience with a reputable organization. Work experience with United Nations Agencies will be an advantage.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Applications (with a functional e-mail address and mobile numbers) should include letter of application and detailed curriculum vitae (CV) and addressed to **THE HEAD, UNFPA FEDERAL LIAISON OFFICE, c/o UNFPA OFFICE, UN BUILDING, CENTRAL AREA, ABUJA** and forwarded to following e-mail address otti@unfpa.org latest by 09 April, 2009. Each application should be clearly marked as follows:

1. Secretary, UNFPA Federal Liaison Office - ICS 05
2. Driver, UNFPA Federal Liaison Office - ICS 02

Please note that UNFPA will respond only to those applicants in whom it has a further interest. Kindly also note that any application not sent by e-mail and in MS-word format will not be accepted. Qualified women are encouraged to apply.

*UNFPA reserves the right to appoint at the indicated or lower level and prior to the closing date.

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Public Notice

“How Usoro Mismanages NAMASA: Her Questionable Contract Awards”

Retraction and Apology

In its edition, Vol. 21.No. 5, dated May 14, 2007, The Source under the caption, “How Usoro Mismanages NAMASA: Her Questionable Contract Awards,” published an article which we have since discovered were both libelous and damaging to the person of Mrs. Mfon Ekong Usoro, former Director – General / Chief Executive of Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA).

We made the said publications, believing that they were in the public interest and also believing, at the time, that the allegations conveyed therein were true, but have since found out that we were misled.

In the said publication, and some others concerning Mrs. Usoro's headship of NIMASA, we portrayed her as corrupt, vindictive, and lustful for power.

The Source (Magazine) hereby withdraws, in its entirety, the offending articles against Mrs. Usoro, especially against the backdrop of the report of the ministerial review panel which found her not culpable of any lapses in handling the issue of NIMASA's trapped funds in some failed banks.

We, also, unreservedly, tender our sincere apologies to her for the harm done to her character and integrity by the offensive articles.

We are profoundly sorry.

Management
Summit Publications Ltd.

OPINION

Naira's structural crisis

The declining fortunes of the Naira have become a dominant theme in debates and policy discussions even among ordinary Nigerians, with unnecessarily complicated and convoluted explanations leading nowhere. With our national currency losing so much in relation to other currencies in such a short time, these concerns are understandable. It would help, however, if we start by asking some basic questions about currency exchange rates and why they matter.

Obviously, if we do not need to buy anything from other countries, or if they are willing to receive our Naira, the question of exchange rate would not arise. It is when we need to trade, as we must in today's world that we then have to ask how much naira we need to buy their own currency so that we can pay for the goods or services we require from them. The exchange rate (or foreign-exchange rate) is the price at which one currency is bought and sold for another. So, if we exchange 180 Naira for one US Dollar, it means the Dollar is worth 180 of our local currency.

How do we arrive at an appropriate exchange rate? Basically, it is a matter of supply and demand, as well as policy choices. If we produce plenty of the goods and services that they require they pay us in Dollars, Euros or whatever currency we are willing to receive. If we want to buy from them we pay them in the currency they can use to buy more, or to buy something else from some other country. We can receive payment in Naira if we wish, but we soon come to a crisis if we accept Naira back, and

Sanusi Abubakar
ON Friday
sanusiabubakar@dailytrust.com

then have to import raw materials or machinery, the supplier may insist on the Dollar. They too may accept our paying them in Naira, if there are other things, of sufficient quality and quantity that they like to import from us. So the more goods and services we can supply, efficiently, cheaply and of superior quality, the more we can sell abroad to earn foreign exchange to buy those things we do not have.

The catch is, over the years we are trapped in a structural crisis. We have a development model heavily dependent on imports, and only one major source of foreign exchange. Aside from oil, we do not export enough to earn the forex required to purchase the imported food, clothing, cars and cosmetics we are used to, not to talk of paying for the spare parts, machinery and expertise we need for our agriculture, industry and other sectors. Our saving grace is the Dollars we get from petroleum rents and profit tax. Over 80% of Nigeria's foreign currency earnings accrue to our governments. The Central Bank of Nigeria collects the Dollars and subsequently exchanges same for Naira which it then issues to the different tiers of government. The Forex still belongs to Nigerians. CBN

uses that to facilitate governments, corporate and individual payments and settlements abroad based on how much there is and at a rate that will guarantee continuity. Forget any fiction you hear about the "market" setting the price. The more it has the more flexible and generous it tends to become, selling the Dollar at a lower rate. That was what happened when oil prices were high and we accumulated a large reserve, and even paid up our foreign debts.

In the current crisis, with investors, both foreign and local, wanting to move their funds into more convertible and secure currencies, too much Naira was chasing the Dollars that were available. What was coming in was declining with the fall both in oil prices and even in the actual amount of crude petrol exported due to crisis in the Niger Delta. Our aging industries need more and more inputs and spares. Others need better and newer machines. Some of our politicians, top civil servants, consultants and contractors want the latest SUVs, mansions abroad and fat foreign accounts. All these represent Naira chasing Dollars and Euros.

Remittances from abroad have declined. Those who earn foreign exchange prefer to

leave it outside. The CBN is the only source of new supply of forex, and it cannot continue this way.

The naira is now, and will remain for some time, in a nose dive. The CBN cannot continue to pump money to stabilise it forever. It must curtail demand, block leakages (read: corruption) and stimulate forex earnings by the real sector.

What is required, at the risk of sounding naive about the ability of this ruling class to pursue any serious developmental vision, is to break the log-jam. Agriculture and industry must begin to generate their own forex. They should be assisted to produce more, better and cheaper. That way they can sell abroad and earn the forex they require for sustaining, equipping and expanding their operations. They also would help reduce what we import and thus lower our demand for this Dollar. We must select dynamic industries with the greatest employment and linkage potentials (e.g. chemicals, iron and steel) and assist them and not waste the limited forex we have in useless products and projects. We should strive to produce most of the raw materials, inputs, machines and spares we need right at home.

By lowering our import requirements and exporting more we should see a strong Naira and enough Dollars and Euros to meet our current needs and future plans. What really matters is how much the naira buys both domestically and abroad. Devaluation may even make our exports attractive. As long as we remain dependent on only one source of foreign exchange, we cannot get out of this mess.

NAPEP: COPing with challenges of poverty eradication

For all the Federal Government's hype about its potency as an effective agency for eradicating poverty in the land, to many Nigerians, the only thing that easily comes to mind at the mention of NAPEP is the tri-cycle scooter, commonly referred to as Keke NAPEP, used in many parts of the country as a means of intra city mass transit. This not so charitable perception of the National Agency for the Eradication of Poverty is however, not for the lack of committed and determined efforts to live up to its multiple briefs. To a large extent, this is simply a function of the public's ignorance about what NAPEP's briefs are. There is also the problem of approach in the implementation of people oriented schemes. More often than not, the 'top to bottom' approach rather than 'bottom to top' has always been the choice mode of doing things where end users often find it difficult to access the benefit of policies targeted at them. Still, there is also the problem of perception with the larger society believing that acting, rather than action, has been in liberal proportion in the agency's activities.

To be sure, established in 2001 by the Federal Government as the principal agency to fight poverty in all its ramifications, NAPEP has over the years gone about its mandate with an uncommon determination without much fanfare with some measure of success obscured however, by the ignorance on the part of the larger society as to what exactly that mandate is. Outside the NAPEP insiders, very few people are aware that in addition to the periodic direct intervention in key sectors of critical needs as with KEKE NAPEP, the agency is also charged with the coordination of all poverty eradication efforts in the country; monitoring all poverty eradication activities of the federal government; maintaining a comprehensive

By **Bature Sani Malumfashi**

databank on all activities aimed at eradicating poverty in the country and carrying out impact assessment of all efforts geared towards eradicating poverty in the country. And since these other aspects of NAPEP's briefs are not quantifiable it is therefore easy to see why not many people think much about what it has been able to achieve in the eight years since coming on stream.

However, if past direct interventions by NAPEP have not succeeded well in impressing into the consciousness of the larger society the depth of the agency's achievements, the situation is beginning to change with the introduction in December 2007 of its current intervention programme dubbed COPE, coined from the phrase 'In Care of the People'. As Nigeria's version of Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) programme, the phased COPE was designed by NAPEP with a view to breaking the intergenerational transfer of poverty, where poverty is passed on from one generation to another as well as reducing the vulnerability of the core indigent in the society against socio-economic risks.

Even as the jury is still out regarding COPE's efficacy given that first phase of the programme is only limited to two states in each of the six geopolitical zones in the country plus the FCT, there are however encouraging signals from the states where it has been implemented that it may yet be the most successful of all NAPEP's direct intervention programmes so far. It is expected that with the release of more funds by the federal government the programme would fan out in the second phase to the remaining 24 states that are yet to be involved. Without prejudice to the agency's other direct intervention programmes such

as KEKE NAPEP and the micro finance, COPE is resonating well with its target beneficiaries because of the 'bottom to top' approach employed in its implementation and the seriousness of purpose on the part of most of the governments in the states implementing the programme.

As a grant based programme with an initial target of 500 households in each state and FCT, COPE is a two-pronged intervention effort with a difference. To qualify for the grant which comes in the form of a monthly income of N1,500 to N5,000 depending the number of children in a household and a lump sum of N84,000 at the end of the first year, apart from being in the lowest rung of the social ladder in the society, a participant must undertake to; enrol and retain his or her basic school aged child or children in primary one to Junior Secondary education; ensure at least 80% school attendance by his/her child/children; participate in training for life and vocational skills, basic health and sanitation as available in the community; and ensure participation of qualified children under five years in all government free basic health programmes such as Vitamin A supplementation and NPI Immunisations. A benefitting household head receives a monthly Basic Income Guarantee (BIG) of N1,500 if he/she has one child, N3,000 if children number two to three and N5,000 four children and above. And at the end of the first year the participant receives the sum of N84,000 as a Poverty Reduction Accelerator Investment (PRAI) derived from a compulsory monthly saving of N7,000. While the monthly BIG is intended to assist the participant in meeting his/her day to day needs, the PRAI is meant enable a beneficiaries to start a business of their own or invest in a profitable business venture that will yield sufficient

income to sustain the household after the 12 months of receiving the BIG.

There is no gainsaying that the success of any programme no matter how well designed depends to a large extent on the method of implementation. No less important is the active participation and support of other stakeholders like state and local governments, as well as religious, community and youth leaders. It is after all said that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. NAPEP is one such novel programme that, regardless of whatever shortcomings that may dog its implementation so long they are not deliberately contrived, must not be allowed to go the way of similar past efforts at arresting the menace of poverty such as Second Republic's Green Revolution and IBB's DIFRRI which faded out quietly without much ceremony despite the hundreds of billions of Naira pumped into it by the Military administration.

For a nation of over 140 million people a great majority of who, according to UNDP, lives on less than one US Dollar per day, NAPEP's contributions in the war against poverty is by no means inconsiderable in view of the fact that it has been able to achieve what it did in the seven years of its existence with a purse of only N11 billion.

And thanks a great deal to NAPEP's latest weapon of checkmating poverty at the grassroots across the land, the most indigent in the society, who are many, where the agency has so far been able to reach are arguably COPing well. As someone who has the privilege of visiting a few of the benefitting communities in Nasarawa State, this writer can attest to this fact without fear of contradiction.

Malumfashi writes from Abuja.

EDITORIAL

Leukemia in Yobe

Increase in the incidence of leukemia cases in parts of Yobe state have been linked to incessant use of Gamalin 20, DDT and other such chemicals to harvest fish in that part of Nigeria. According to A.T Ahmed and Usman Abjah, teachers at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital quoted in a report by our sister newspaper the *Sunday Trust*, this practice has led to these chemicals being ingested by humans and other living beings in those areas which is now leading to many people coming down with the blood disease.

For years, practices of using pesticides, insecticides and harmful chemicals as fertilizers on farms and for hunting preys, as well as for catching fish have been known to harbor dire consequences for the wellbeing of human habitation. Yet, the harmful practices were allowed to persist by those whose duty it was to raise the alarm as to the danger they constitute. Certainly, authorities of both states' ministries of agriculture and their federal counterpart must have been aware of the indiscriminate use of these harmful chemicals and the repercussion in later years on humans and other living beings, still nothing was done to warn the public. The fact that humans are now manifesting diseases as a consequence of the use of wrong and harmful fishing techniques underline the failure of the appropriate organs of state to perform their assigned duties, including providing proactive information and knowledge needed to avoid harm to society.

The Yobe State health authorities in the aftermath of the report of the outbreak of leukemia, came out to urge people to be enlightened about their actions and the incidence of leukemia; and that effort must be made to inform people about their health-threatening practices. It is a belated response which should have come much earlier than now. Therefore, the Yobe and authorities have been negligent of their duties and responsibilities and should be held accountable for the unnecessary health travails of their people now stricken with the disease.

But it will be fruitless wasting time on apportioning blame rather than looking for succour for those afflicted. No one needs be told that leukemia is a deadly ailment which makes an epidemic of it a tragedy; still the appropriate authorities should move urgently to put in place measures to curb its increase. Dr. Ahmed's linkage of the crisis of fish production to climate change (through rise in water temperature inhibiting fish breeding), as well as lack of alternative sources of protein (mainly from animal sources), is most valuable if noted by policy makers at local, state and federal levels. Immediate measures to arrest the situation should include fashioning out a sustainable way to make people earn a living so that it harms neither the environment nor humans. This will entail sensitization of people on the consequences of the indiscriminate use of harmful chemicals for harvesting fish and as farming inputs. The dangers of inappropriate use of pesticides, insecticides and other harmful chemicals should be clearly impressed on the farming population in those areas, including other harmful practices of preservation of food.

The unscientific use of farming inputs may not be unrelated to the dwindling yields from farmlands as a result of desert encroachment which has been very pronounced of recent. For far too long lip service has been paid to the need to beat back the relentless encroachment of the desert. Now that the effect of our unserious manner of dealing with the desert is with us, perhaps the impetus will now be found to seriously contend with the issue. For instance, the circus which the yearly tree planting measure have become should be replaced by concerted and goal oriented way of halting the incursion of the desert. Addressed seriously more fertile land may be made available for farming.

Government at both the federal and state levels should as a matter of urgency provide succour for those afflicted with leukemia. To be sure, with the state of health care delivery such as it is, it may be a tall order to expect a miracle. Still it is the duty of governments at every level to give their citizen adequate health care as well as provide the wherewithal to ameliorate their predicaments.



Your Letters

Re: On the side of the Pope

The editorial of the *Daily Trust* of March 30, 2009 came as a pleasant surprise. In a world where truth and honesty have been drowned by the deafening noise of the high and mighty in terms of material and financial wealth, it is consoling to read from a powerful instrument of shaping public opinion, a material based purely on truth and not influenced by any material or financial gain. Those who benefit from the 'sale of condom and anti-retroviral drugs as well as control much of the world's means of mass communication' have heavily criticized Pope Benedict XVI's counsel during his recent tour of some African countries that condom use is not a solution to the HIV/AIDS pandemic and that it would rather compound the problem.

The editorial opinion quoted above came up in defense of the Pope and the truth of his counsel. The problem with us is that we fail to realize that no matter how hard we try to bury the truth, it will still come up somehow,

some day.

It is easy to understand the fury of the Pope's critics. If condom is sold (even to ten year-olds) they are the gainers. If HIV/AIDS are contacted and antiretroviral drugs are sold, they are the gainers.

I would say that the editorial comment was trying to be very modest when it said that "scientific evidence has shown that condom is not 100% effective in preventing HIV/AIDS..." It is no longer news that the makers of condom, with their heavy machinery of propaganda have almost convinced the world that condom is 100% effective in preventing HIV/AIDS.

The truth is that condom has absolutely no protective effect on HIV/AIDS. The pore of the latex of which condom is made has a size bigger than the HIV virus and so when condom is used, HIV virus swims freely from an infected to an uninfected partner and so, the more condom is used, the more HIV/AIDS spreads.

It is a fact that the condom manufacturers would not like people to know. Medical experts admit that 80% of HIV/AIDS infection is contacted by sexual interaction, and it is a fact that if a life style of chastity and faithfulness is practiced, 80% of the problem of HIV/AIDS will be solved! Again, this is fact they would not want people to hear.

Condom was originally manufactured as a tool in preventing pregnancy but as soon as the incidence of HIV/AIDS occurred, it quickly

caught in on the situation to play a role it was not originally designed for but a much more lucrative one.

One thing is certain; the bitterness of the blood money from the condom will remain long after the sweet taste of the flamboyance and luxury of the condom money are gone.

Mrs. Josephine Duze, No 90, Wuse Zone 6, Abuja. 08023236043

NAEC, House and Nuclear pact
The attention of the commission has been drawn to a report in your newspaper (1/4/09 Pg. 5) titled "FG has no mandate to sign nuclear pact", in which it reported that the Director-General told the House committee on Science and Technology that "he was included in the process of the agreement".

As you may observe, the statements attributed to the DG of Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission (NAEC) as contained in paragraphs 5 and 7 of the report are irreconcilable. In this regard, the commission's assumption is that, either it was a

typographical error or the Director General was misrepresented by your reporter.

For the record, the DG as Chief Executive of the Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission (NAEC), the body mandated by the Federal Government to execute Nigeria's, nuclear power programme wishes to state categorically, as he had stated before the committee, that he was not privy to the said agreement.

We hope that this "mistake" will be acknowledged and corrected in your subsequent publication.

Amos Obeya, Information Unit, NAEC.

Text us on 08059100257

Daily Trust, be honest

Is the *Daily Trust* against the State of Israel? Please stop being lopsided and sentimental when writing on issues in Middle East. Hope you are not trying to tell us that the paper is not for non-Muslims.
GLAD, Kano, 0808100355

Re: Israel on trial

The rejoinder by one Mr Badmus to Adamu Adamu's 'Israel on trial' does not merit the space given to it. The history of the creation of Israel - its savagery and subterfuge - is well documented to allow for this kind of pretended ignorance - cum-trivialization.
M. Farouk, 08055277295

Attention Hajiya Bilkisu

By giving prominence to Amina Wadud, the controversial woman who led a mixed congregation as Imam at Friday prayer in the United States, I hope Hajiya Bilkisu is not trying to justify the woman's affront on Islam. Sincere Muslims can not be misled with a distorted brand of Islam.
Danlami Baban Takko, Bauchi, 08030539506

Why LGA not state?

The downfall of education was caused by the federal government for allowing the payment of salary and other allowances in the hands of local governments. They don't pay any arrears in bulk for teachers but pay their staff fully. Mr. President, please do something.
Mal Y. Ibrahim, 08036579675

Keep the good work Nana!

I must commend the efforts of Gombe State commissioner of education for uplifting education in Gombe. She is also actively involved in eradicating food poisoning.
Mohammed Sule, Akko, 08087316826

Carry on, Lai Mohammed

The spokesman of the Action Congress (AC), Alhaji Lai Mohammed is really trying. He always uses his intelligence and oratory to respond to issues of national importance. The opposition should be very happy to have him. I urge him not to compromise.
U. K. Bello, Abuja, 08055152350

MTN! Why must you lie?

Which 100 low cost houses have you built in Nasarawa that we have neither seen nor heard of that you have been disturbing people with? Please stop this trash and improve your network.
Zulaihat, Lafia, Nasarawa State, 07056222981

'Good people, great nation'

This latest campaign by the Federal Government of Nigeria, through the Ministry of Information and Communications, cannot make me fall in love with, and believe in, Nigeria again. I received it as a text message. It is boring! What is worth doing is worth doing well. It's not just about sending out messages but having an effect on the people.
Stella Ananga Iyimoga, 08085879329

Opinion

The tainted face of democracy in Africa

By Chris Chukwubuzor Azuka

Not long ago, some international election monitoring organizations decried the poor "democratic culture" prevailing in most African states. They were worried not only about the long absence of sound democratic values and principles, but also the debilitating effects of lack of good governance and its associated hardships usually imposed on the defenceless Africans by leaders who emerged mostly through fraudulent elections. It is argued that accountability, probity, transparency and all the forms of checks and balances that normally exist in a true democratic environment do not flourish in most African countries. In fact, they are aggressively trampled upon by the average new African leader.

These monitoring organizations also noted with serious concern the widespread use of imposition and intimidation that characterizes the African political landscape, and predicted that where most of the leaders emerged through faceless and irregular selection processes, their governments were likely to continue to be impeded by widespread irregularities and fraud, rather than thrive as creative and responsible leaderships. Nobody actually doubts that the majority of African countries today are ruled by leaders and governments that emerged through fatally deviant electoral processes. The usual claim that ours is 'home-grown democracy' that should be accepted on its own terms is merely painting a sepulchre white. That cannot cleanse the rot of the core.

So, what are the pressing challenges and goals of leadership in Africa today? Many would hasten to name the implacable need for security, human development, infrastructure, education, liberty, etc, all staring us in the face. But the more insightful would distinguish the primary from the dependent. Such ones would argue that the greatest challenge of leadership facing Africa today is organizing free and fair elections, as none of the earlier-mentioned can truly take place without a credible, honestly derived leadership. Unfortunately, we continue to hear speculations everyday from around the world that credible elections can take place in allegedly only two Africa countries: South Africa and Ghana. Botswana, in spite of its size, is also now making a case for herself in this direction. But the overall picture for African

democracy is bleak.

Elections have no doubt brought traumatizing experiences to millions of Africans. Even Nigeria, the self-proclaimed "Giant" of the continent, is yet to have, according to pundits, a consummated free and fair election in its entire political history as a nation. From the sharp electioneering practices, impositions, isolation and divisive tendencies of the colonial masters, we have arrived at the current rigging, thuggery, alleged sponsored assassinations and the now graduated ballot snatchings. These have rather than promote unity and growth brought divisions, ethnic crises and unimaginable pains in Nigeria and in many African countries. The failure of our founding fathers to produce a nationally acceptable election especially in the early sixties brought the polarization of Nigeria along ethnic, regional, religious and social lines. Inevitably, things fell apart!

Analysts have argued that the 1993 general elections did have the potentials of bringing a degree of restoration to the political frame and democratic credentials of Nigeria except for its annulment. Since then, however instead of things becoming better, subsequent elections in Nigeria had become nothing more than abracadabra to millions of its citizens, with increasing numbers of Nigerians claiming that their votes were never taken into account in determining the results of the elections.

At the continental level, ethnicization or regionalization of electoral processes pose a threat of catastrophic proportions to both the human and democratic development of Africa. In one country after another, the consequences are devastating. Ivory Coast, for one, which enjoyed decades of stability under its former leader, Houphet Bouigny, promptly descended into anarchy and ruin when the political class could not produce credible elections following the demise of Mr. Bouigny a few years ago. Again, in Zambia, when President Kaunda agreed to relinquish power after about 27 years, many hailed the move as a way forward for the nation. One Mr. Chiluba was elected in Kaunda's place to take Zambia to the next level. The upshot was disaster. Over and above every other failing,

Mr. Chiluba played the dangerous ethnic card when he claimed that Kenneth Kaunda, the country's founding father and author of the popular political bombshell, "Zambia Shall Be Free," was actually not a Zambian but a Malawian! He, therefore, frustrated Mr Kaunda as well as many others who wanted to run against him – and Zambia began its slide into political quagmire. He eventually won the controversial second term mandate and had wanted a third term afterwards through a dubiously inspired constitutional amendment craftily proposed to that effect. But thanks to the unyielding courage of horrified Zambians: the people rose with whistles and blew the danger away. They thus avoided exactly what happened in Ivory Coast where Mr. Henry Conambedie, Gen. Robert Guei and others, rather than focusing on matters of real national interest, were busy shouting that the country's former Prime Minister, Allasan Ouattara, was not an Ivorian but a Burkinabe. Simply because of deep personal desire to exclude others from power, these men watched their people fight each other and die for nothing, with their country torn to shreds. Why is Africa blind to the point of self-destruction?

In Africa, when we talk of leadership people simply concern themselves with marginal issues like where a leader should come from, his/her religion, etc. Not many would look at issues such as his/her vision, integrity, intellect character, etc. In fact, in some African countries today, the greedy political class not only shave some ex-prisoners clean and front them to the people as leaders, but they also wake people who sleep under bridges, or their likes, and impose them as leaders on the helpless citizens, while those who are prepared for leadership are ignored simply because they are not in the good books of these rapacious power brokers. America, the world's most powerful nation, leads by example in this crucial matter of sourcing leaders. Over there, leadership is all about service, ideas, the intelligent vision that enables the leader connect to the people through performance. That was why Collin Powell, in spite of his Jamaican descent, was able to become the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, the highest position in the US Military. He was eventually

appointed Secretary of State, again the third highest executive position in the United States' government. Magdaline Albright, from the then Czechoslovakia, was also able to serve as America's ambassador to UN and later as Secretary of State. There are governors, mayors, senators, etc. who have similar records. Surely, we all know about Barrack Obama whose father was from Kenya. Why then must we continue to belittle leadership here in Africa with people who can ordinarily hardly think for themselves often being forced to start thinking for everyone else?

The dehumanizing and endless brutality under which millions of Africans lead their lives today in the name of political independence makes child's play of the avowed pains of our colonial experience. If indeed we have liberated Africa from the colonial masters, who then will save Africa from Africans? The time has gone when democracy was threatened by military officers who seized power by coups in African only to further degrade polities they vowed to save. The time has also gone when we simply sat out their terms only to grumble later against them for our under-achievement as a continent. Ironically, our democratic aspirations and national development have come under serious attack not only from those whose democratic credentials are founded on false pretences, but also from well known freedom fighters who for decades risked their liberty, life and limb to establish democracy and independence in their own countries. Why does democracy wear an ugly face in Africa today? It is not on account of the misdeeds of the colonialists. It is the direct consequence of the misdeeds of our African leaders.

It may be that I have written this piece in despair, but it has also been with a strong hope in the glory to come. As I dedicate this article to the three wonderful gentlemen, Dr. Nelson Mandela, Mr. Festus Mogae and Prof. John Kuffor, I pray that God may bless them all. For, just because they ruled in this continent and left power honourably, Africa will never be the same again.

Chief Azuka is Special Adviser on Inter-Community Relations, to the Executive Governor of Kano State. azucomms22@yahoo.com

Bill Gates, Sokoto and polio virus

By Ali Abdulkadir

It was much later after Bill Gates' famous visit to Nigeria and indeed to Sokoto State, that loads of questions rented the air as to why the world's richest man could visit the Seat of the Caliphate, instead of the most populous and politically vibrant state in the country, or northern Nigeria's political capital. Some people believe, Kano being number one in terms of population, as well as the bubbliest state at least politically, or better still Kaduna, being North's political nerve center, should host the Microsoft former number one.

Those who believe Kano was it, think that if Mr. Gates was coming to boost Nigeria's chances of eradicating polio, Kano, known to have halted the periodic immunization exercise, an action which the global community blame for the sudden re-emergence of the polio virus in some countries, should have been given the privilege of hosting the co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Others again felt Kaduna, a city that plays host to the high and mighty in the region, should have been given the privilege, at least to secure the children of the "mafia" from the dreaded disease, easily the reason why the West is bent on kicking polio completely out of the surface of the earth. But with all their pedigree, Kano and Kaduna states lost out and still seethe for losing that rare and golden opportunity. They may perhaps have to wait for some decades to be so honored by history as Sokoto State.

But the people at the foundation seemed to have done their home work well enough to determine where the computer ace's destination in Nigeria should be. In the foundation's right estimation, Sokoto being the Seat of the Caliphate, having the rare honor

of being at the topmost of Muslim Hausa traditional leadership, should lead in the fight to totally eradicate the dehumanizing polio virus.

By their decision, the foundation recognizes the vital role of the traditional-cum-religious leadership of the Sokoto Caliphate not only in the Muslim North but also in Nigeria. They thus felt they could utilize the revered ruling house as a pressure group to facilitate this one last all-out phase in the fight to emasculate and send to extinction the stubborn polio virus.

Of course other criteria were considered before Sokoto emerged the host for Bill Gates. While for example, Kano was known for its political leaders' notorious act of once halting the routine immunization in their state, political leaders in Sokoto have consistently given it full support. This thus faults the assertion that the neighboring Niger Republic could have gotten more cases of polio from Sokoto. Niger Republic has its own cases, and there were never times when the virus was reported to have been totally eradicated from that country's soil, even though it has relatively fewer cases than that of its neighbor Nigeria. Again, Niger share border with no fewer than six northern states, and thus it couldn't have gotten re-infected by Sokoto State.

Sokoto could be one of the northern states with higher cases, but of course common sense can vindicate her of any guilt of passing across the virus, at least by the way the state consistently carried out the periodic vaccination. Another reason is that Bill Gates himself acknowledged the state's five-star effort in the fight to eradicate polio, when he

underscored the support of the political and traditional leaders in the state towards giving polio the final kick that would see it completely relocating from Nigeria.

A United States based non-profit organization, John Snow Inc. (JSI) that specialized in public health research and consulting, reported on its website on what the philanthropist saw in Sokoto during his visit that, "If Nigeria capitalizes on the commitments made by the state and federal governments, it can eradicate polio". This is an obvious reference on Sokoto and we see it as a pat on the back, particularly as it comes from a neutral party. The statement also confirms and elevates the efforts of Sokoto State above all other states in the fight against polio.

Briefing the press on the activities of his ministry in October 30, 2008, long before Bill Gates' visit was confirmed, Sokoto state commissioner of Health Alhaji (Dr.) Muhammad Jabbi Kilgari outlined some of the preoccupations of the ministry over the past months since the Aliyu Magatakarda's Administration restarted to include achieving one of the UN's millennium development goals of arresting child mortality through vaccination. According to him, the extent of the state's coverage during immunization exercises had often risen to as much as 130 percent.

This effort was commensurate with the resources invested so far, which received the endorsement of some of the supervising agents like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, who not only praised the effort they saw being put in the fight but also confirmed the reduction of polio cases in the state.

But authorities in Sokoto State are not resting on their laurels just yet. These assessments are mere morale booster, as more resources and energy would be directed towards safeguarding the health of the people of the state. Statistics have always not been as favorable to the north western state. Poverty level of the people, something closely associated with well being of a people, is astronomically high. Also, in some cases, the attitude of the people does not often encourage many a government. While in other states it was the state that deny the people the right to have the children immunized by coming up with policies to that effect, in other states, it was the people themselves that often prove too traditional and conservative to resist anything associated with America and its Western allies.

In the far North, people are still suspicious of the polio immunization. They believe that it has an impact in the fertility rate of the people who are majority Muslims. The international politics that continuously pitch Muslim countries against the West is guilty of fuelling resistance of all sorts in the developing countries, including the hostility against the polio virus. Unless the West breaks from that line of action, and until our political and traditional leaders in Nigeria double efforts to educate the populace that population politics has nothing to do with polio eradication, and until all other northern states in Nigeria try to work as hard and sincere as their sister state Sokoto is doing right now, the polio virus has come to stay; and it is bound to resurface even in the parts of the world that claim to have completely wiped it out.

Abdulkadir writes from Gawon Nama, Sokoto. aliu_cisse@yahoo.com

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA REPORT

Sudan to hold first general election in 24 years

Sudan will hold its first general election in 24 years next February, an electoral commission official said yesterday.

"The electoral process starts this April and will finish in February 2010," deputy commission head Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah told AFP.

According to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which ended Sudan's decades-long civil war between north and south in 2005, the elections were due to take place this year.

Sudanese will elect a president, the head of the semi-autonomous south, the national assembly and the south Sudanese parliament, as well as local governors.

The last general election, in April 1986, was won by the Umma party of Sadiq al-Mehdi, whose government was overthrown in a 1989 bloodless coup that brought President Omar al-Bashir to power.

Bashir clinched 87 percent of votes in a 2000 presidential election that was considered a farce by opposition parties.

Abdullah said demarcation of geographical constituencies would begin on April 15, six weeks later than planned because of delays in census results.

A national census which took place last year is key to the organisation of elections and the subsequent structure of the country's power sharing but the results for that cen-

sus are yet to be released.

Another critical obstacle to the elections is security in Darfur, where millions displaced by six years of civil war in the western Sudanese region are unlikely to be able to reach ballot boxes.

The electoral campaign will start on November 30 and end on February 5, with polling taking place from February 6-21, Abdullah said, and results expected to be announced on February 27.

The ruling National Congress Party said last week that Bashir, who is subject to an international arrest warrant for alleged war crimes committed in Darfur, would be its candidate in the presidential election.

S/Africa's Tutu says ANC leader should face graft trial

South Africa's likely next president Jacob Zuma should stand trial for graft, Archbishop Desmond Tutu said on radio yesterday, adding to the uproar over an arms scandal with polls just weeks away.

"At the present time, I can't pretend to be looking forward to having him as my president," the Nobel peace laureate, seen by many as the country's conscience keeper, said in remarks broadcast on national radio.

Zuma, leader of the Afri-

can National Congress (ANC), is widely expected to become president after general elections on April 22, but his campaign has been clouded by corruption charges stemming from a long-simmering arms scandal.

He is set to go to trial in August on charges of fraud, money laundering and racketeering, but Zuma's lawyers have presented new evidence to prosecutors that reportedly vindicate claims he is a victim of a political conspiracy.

Prosecutors say they will

announce Friday whether the case will go ahead.

"For his own sake, I hope they are not going to have a political solution. If he is innocent as he has claimed to be, for goodness sake, let it be a court of law that says so," Tutu said late Wednesday at a book launch in Durban.

"When our new government behaves somewhat strangely, it is very difficult to condemn because it looks like you are unpatriotic," he said. "We are at a bad place right now in our country."

The corruption case centres on accusations that Zuma accepted bribes for protecting French arms company Thales in an investigation into a controversial multi-million-dollar weapons deal.

Since the investigation began in 2001, the charges have been repeatedly dropped and revived, while also roiling the country's political scene.

A court ruling last year — since overturned — implied that then-president Thabo Mbeki had interfered in

Zuma's prosecution.

The ANC used the ruling to force Mbeki from office, leading his loyalists to launch a new breakaway party called the Congress of the People, which is challenging for power in next month's elections.

As the polls near, the future over the corruption scandal has grown.

One month ago Schabir Shaik, a wealthy businessman convicted of bribing Zuma, was released on medical parole less than three years into a 15-year sentence.

His release raised eyebrows because just a days earlier Zuma told a local newspaper that he might use medical grounds as a reason to parole Shaik, a close aide and financial adviser, if he became president.

Faced with the challenge of proving that he did not receive the bribes Shaik was convicted of giving him, Zuma's lawyers have brought new evidence to prosecutors, which would reportedly show that Mbeki had meddled in the case.



NIGCOMSAT

NOTICE OF TENDER TO PRE-QUALIFIED NIGCOMSAT CONTRACTORS UNDER CIVIL ENGINEERING AND GENERAL SUPPLIES

The Nigerian Communications Satellite Ltd, a company under the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology was incorporated in April 2006, with the mission to manage and exploit the commercial viability of the Nigerian Communications Satellites for the socio-economic benefit of the nation.

Accordingly notice is hereby given to NIGCOMSAT Ltd's prequalified contractors under civil engineering and general supplies categories to pick unpriced Bill of Quantity (BoQ) for the following projects

PROJECT:

PROJECT CODE

Proposed Access Road, Paved Walk-Way, Drainage and Gate House	1
Executive Tables and Chairs	2
General landscape and Car Park	3

All contractors are expected to pick up the Bill of Quantity not later than two (2) weeks from the date of publication

Assistant Manager
Supply Chain & Logistics
Nigerian communications Satellite Ltd
Obasanjo Space Center
Airport Road
Abuja



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Trust International

WORLD REPORT

Mexico reports arrest of major drug suspect

Mexico has detained one of its most wanted drug suspects, Vicente Carrillo Leyva, who allegedly was the second in command of the powerful Juarez cartel, the federal Attorney General's Office said yesterday.

The announcement came hours before the Obama administration's top security officials and their Mexican counterparts were set to discuss ways to stop arms smuggling across the border as well as new strategies for fighting the drug cartels that have fueled violence in both countries.

Federal police said Carrillo Leyva, 32, was caught while he was exercising in a park in a posh Mexico City neighborhood early Wednesday. Carrillo Leyva is the son of drug kingpin Amado Carrillo Fuentes, who was one of Mexico's most important drug traffickers before he died during plastic surgery to change his appearance in 1997. Amado Carrillo Fuentes was nicknamed "the Lord of the Skies" because of his success in sending plane loads of cocaine to the United States.

After his death, Amado's brother Vicente took over the cartel and Amado's son, Vicente Carrillo Leyva, became second-in-command, the Attorney General's Office said. Officials displayed Carrillo Leyva to the press at a news conference early yesterday, bringing a young man in glasses and a track suit before flashing cameras.

A week ago, the Attorney General's Office named Carrillo Leyva to a list of 24 of the country's most-wanted narcotics suspects and offered a reward of 30 million pesos (\$2.1 million) for his capture. The same amount was offered for the capture of the cartel's alleged leader.

Vicente Carrillo Leyva acknowledged to authorities that he was the son of Amado Carrillo Fuentes, said Marisela Morales, who is in charge of combatting organized crime at the Attorney General's Office.

"Carrillo Leyva is considered one of the heirs of the Juarez Cartel after the death of his father," she said.

Vicente Carrillo Leyva used an alias, Alejandro Peralta Alvarez, and was passing himself off as a businessman, said Federal Police Commissioner Rodrigo Esparza. But authorities were able to track him down through his wife, who did not change her name.



President Barack Obama shakes hands with a British police officer outside 10 Downing Street in London during a meeting with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown. Photo: Reuters

G-20 leaders eye more IMF funds, tighter rules

Global leaders made headway yesterday on tackling the world financial crisis, with new clampdowns likely on tax havens and hedge funds and more funds heading to the International Monetary Fund so it can boost loans to struggling countries.

Officials close to the negotiations said the Group of 20 nations could triple their funding for the IMF to \$750 billion. The world financial body supports countries whose finances have been hard hit by the global slowdown, supporting their currency reserves and banking systems.

The officials, from a number of delegations, said the funds could include an overdraft facility worth some \$250 billion for developing coun-

tries.

They refused to be further identified because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

On financial regulation — a sticking point ahead of the gathering — two people close to the negotiations said that France and Germany had persuaded the Group of 20 leaders to back tougher language in the final statement on stronger rules to avoid a repeat of the current crisis.

Another official said the final deal will include proposals making sure companies more tightly link executive salaries to performance, a measure that reflects public outrage about the huge retention payments, bonuses and golden parachutes granted to banking chiefs before the sector collapsed.

Opening the summit in London's east Docklands district, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said there was strong unity among leaders upon the need for action.

"I believe that the text that has been circulated already reflects a very high degree of consensus and agreement between all of us," Brown told his fellow leaders.

Britain's Finance Secretary Stephen Timms said early discussions had been "lively," but added that countries would agree on sanctions against countries who refuse to sign up to new rules on regulating tax havens.

"The era of banking secrecy is over," Timms said.

As President Barack Obama and Brown joined other leaders at a working breakfast, protesters began

gearing up for a second day of demonstrations, gathering outside the London Stock Exchange near St. Paul's Cathedral. Riot police took up positions as well, ringing the stock exchange.

French daredevil Alain Robert scaled Lloyds of London's high-rise headquarters as office workers below snapped photos. Robert, dubbed the French spiderman, has scaled dozens of tall structures around the world without ropes or harnesses to draw attention to global warming. He was later led away by police.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel have been adamant that the G-20 meeting must take concrete steps to more closely regulate banks, hedge funds and other financial institutions.

Critics assail Afghan law that 'legalizes rape'

A new Afghan law makes it legal for men to rape their wives, human rights groups and some Afghan lawmakers said yesterday, accusing President Hamid Karzai of signing the legislation to bolster his re-election prospects.

Human rights groups and some Afghan lawmakers criticized President Hamid Karzai on Thursday for signing into law legislation that some believe legalizes the rape of a wife by her husband and prevents women from leaving the house without a man's permission.

Critics worry the law undermines hard-won rights for women enacted after the fall of the Taliban's strict Islamist regime.

The law which some lawmakers say was never debated in parliament is intended to regulate family life inside Afghanistan's Shiite community, which makes up about 20 percent of this country of 30 million people. The law does not affect Afghan Sunnis.

One of the most controversial articles of the law stipulates that the wife "is bound to preen for her husband as and when he desires."

"As long as the husband is not traveling, he has the right to have sexual intercourse with his wife every fourth night," Article 132 of the law says. "Unless the wife is ill or has any kind of illness that intercourse could aggravate, the wife is bound to give a positive response to the sexual desires of her husband."

One provision of the law also appears to protect the woman's right to sex inside marriage, saying that the "man should not avoid having sexual relations with his wife longer than once every four months."

Israeli foreign minister questioned in bribe case

Israeli police interrogated the country's new hardline foreign minister for more than seven hours yesterday in connection to an ongoing bribery investigation.

Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said Avigdor Lieberman was questioned at the headquarters of the national fraud squad in central Israel on allegations of receiving bribes, money laundering and breach of trust.

Rosenfeld said the questioning was connected to a long-standing investigation into Lieberman's business dealings. His lawyer and daughter have also been questioned in the case. Lieberman denies any wrongdoing and says the probe is politically motivated.

"This investigation is going on for 13 years. In today's investigation Lieberman

cooperated and answered investigators' questions," Lieberman's spokeswoman Irena Etinger said. Lieberman took office this week as foreign minister. He has raised concerns around the world with statements seen as racist and his opposition to U.S.-backed peace talks over the past year.

He immediately sparked an uproar after taking office during a ceremony on Wednesday, saying he opposes concessions to Arab adversaries in exchange for peace.

"Whoever thinks that concessions ... will achieve something is wrong. He will bring pressures and more wars," Lieberman told an audience that included visibly agitated Israeli diplomats. "What we have to explain to the world is that the list of priorities must change."

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MANAGEMENT

UACN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO PLC








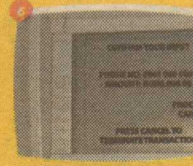

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<p>4</p> <p>Choose the airtime value by pressing the button adjacent to the figure.</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>The ATM will ask for your MTN mobile cell number so type in your full MTN number as shown.</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>The ATM will show you a summary of your requested transaction as shown. Check the mobile number as well as the recharge value. If ok, press the button to continue the transaction.</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>After your recharge, you'll get a print out from the ATM. That's your receipt. You'll also receive an SMS confirming your previous balance, value of top up and current balance after recharge.</p> 

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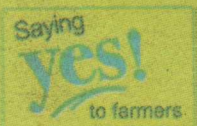
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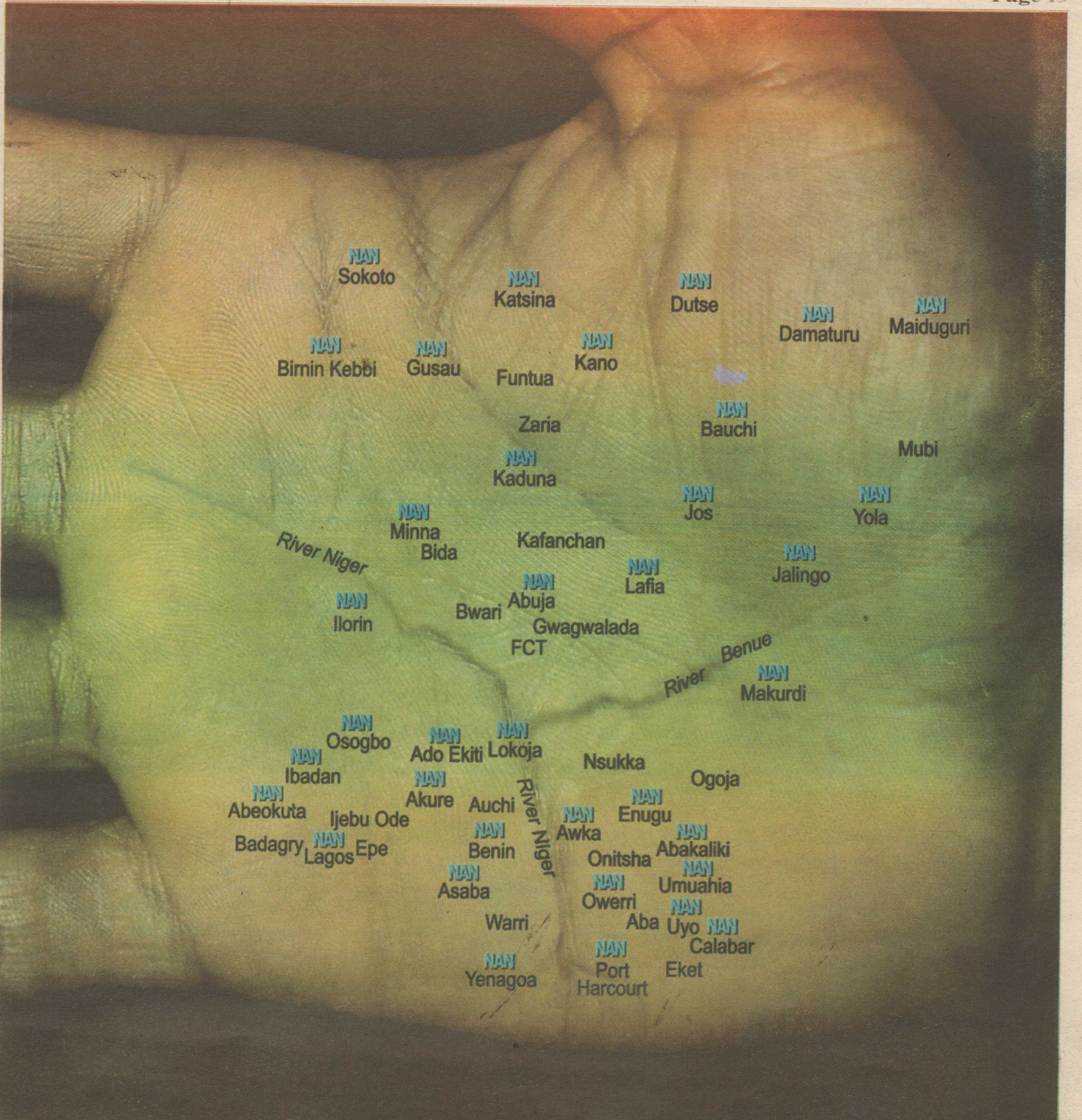
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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TENDERING

A. INTRODUCTION

The National Assembly in accordance with the Public Procurement Act hereby invites competent and reputable companies/contractors to submit pre-qualification documents as pre-requisite to tender for the provision of the following goods and services as contained in the 2009 Capital Budget.

B. LIST OF PROJECTS (LOTS)

- LOT 1 - Furnishing of Fire Station and Procurement of Fire Equipments
- LOT 2 - Alternative Power Generation
- LOT 3 - Purchase of Printing Equipment
- LOT 4 - Refurbishment of National Assembly Press
- LOT 5 - ICT/Communication Equipment
- LOT 6 - Security Equipment
- LOT 7 - Information, Video Conferencing and Printing Equipments
- LOT 8 - Purchase of utility Vehicles
- LOT 9 - Purchase of Ambulances, Medical and Dental Equipments
- LOT 10 - Intercom Connectivity of National Assembly
- LOT 11 - Purchase of Guests Houses in Abuja and Lagos
- LOT 12 - National Assembly Hospital Development
- LOT 13 - Construction of National Assembly Worship Centre
- LOT 14 - Purchase of Computers and Computer Materials
- LOT 15 - Purchase of Office Equipment
- LOT 16 - Electronic Registry Development
- LOT 17 - Library Development
- LOT 18 - General Supplies
- LOT 19 - Maintenance of Plants/Generators
- LOT 20 - Partitioning and Furnishing of Offices
- LOT 21 - Uniform and other Clothing
- LOT 22 - Cleaning and Fumigation Service
- LOT 23 - Consulting and Professional Services
- LOT 24 - Renovation/Decoration of White House & Annex I & II
- LOT 25 - Printing of Security Documents
- LOT 26 - Library Books and Periodicals

C. PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS *Interested firms should indicate area(s) of interest in writing, attaching the following documents:*

- (1) Evidence of Company Registration (Certificate of Incorporation of Company) and Registration with National Assembly
- (2) Evidence of Tax Payments for the last Three Years
- (3) Copies of Auditors Report and financial statement of the Company for the last Three Years
- (4) Original Bank statement for the last 12 months
- (5) Evidence of execution of similar job
- (6) Copies of VAT registration and evidence of past remittance for project completed
- (7) A sworn affidavit certifying as follows:-
 - (a) That the documents submitted for the pre-qualification exercises are not only genuine but correct.
 - (b) That the Director(s) of the company seeking for pre-qualification has never been convicted by any court of law.
 - (c) That the company is not bankrupt
 - (d) That non-of the officers of the National Assembly or National Assembly Service Commission is a former or present director of the company.

D. SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

- (a) The pre-qualification documents are to be submitted in three (03) copies, A4 sizes and neatly bound. The documents should be arranged in the order listed under the pre-qualification requirements and each separated by dividers.
- (b) The document must be sealed in an envelope and the reference job reference number must be clearly written at the top left hand corner of the envelope.
- (c) Addressed to the Clerk to the National Assembly and clearly marked "Pre-qualification for the provision of goods and services to the National Assembly". Submission of the Pre-qualification documents shall be at the office of the Secretary National Assembly Tenders Board, Room 1.351, 3rd Floor, Annex 1 Building, National Assembly Complex, Abuja.

E. CLOSING AND OPENING OF PRE-QUALIFICATION SUBMISSION.

Submission of Pre-qualification tender shall close at exactly two (02) weeks from the date on this advert while submissions will be opened on the same day at 12noon in the House of Representatives Hearing Room 1, White House Bulding, National Assembly Complex, Three Arms Zone, Abuja.

F. IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The National Assembly Tenders Board reserves the right to verify the authenticity of any claims made on the pre-qualification documents submitted by companies.

- (a) Failure to comply with the above requirements would automatically results in disqualification
- (b) NASS reserves the right to reject any or all pre-qualification documents.
- (c) Original documents listed must be produced for sighting
- (d) Tender documents submitted late shall be rejected.

Signed

**Director of Procurement and Supplies,
National Assembly. For Management**

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

We are a Pension Fund Administrator with business offices nationwide. To sustain and enhance our strategic position as a premier Pension Fund Administrator, exceptional opportunities exist for ambitious and result-driven individuals to join our team of dedicated workforce.

We are seeking to recruit dynamic, self-motivated and resourceful individuals who have the vision and passion for excellence and superior performance to join our team in the following positions:

1.0 AREA BUSINESS MANAGER

Job Description:

Develop and implement strategies and framework to achieve the company's business development and market acquisition goals in the private and public sub-sectors, etc.

Location: Port Harcourt.

Qualification:

A University first degree or HND (minimum of 2nd Class Hons or Upper Credit) and a minimum of 5 years post-qualification marketing experience in a financial institution.

Professional Membership:

Any relevant professional membership will be an advantage.

2.0 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING EXECUTIVES:

Job Description:

Develop and implement strategies and framework to achieve the company's business development and market acquisition goals in the private and public sectors at the business offices, etc.

Location: Yola , Birnin-Kebbi, Ado-Ekiti, Jalingo, Sokoto, Katsina, Makurdi, Kaduna and Gusau.

Qualification:

A University first degree or HND (minimum of 2nd Class Hons or Upper Credit) and a minimum one year post NYSC experience in a similar role in a financial institution or related environment.

3.0 ASSISTANT BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING EXECUTIVES

Job Description:

Field Sales Officers implementing the company's business development and market acquisition goals in their various locations, etc.

Location: Yola , Birnin-Kebbi, Ado-Ekiti, Jalingo, Sokoto, Katsina, Makurdi, Kaduna and Gusau.

Qualification:

Minimum of a National Diploma (minimum of lower credit) and a minimum one year experience in a similar role in a financial institution or other related marketing environment.

4.0 TRADE SUPPORT OFFICER

Job Description:

Provide prompt and efficient back office support to the investment/trading function; execution and settlement of trade instructions, liaison with custodians, brokers and other counter parties, reconciliation of custodian bank accounts and

the investment portfolio, etc.

Location: Abuja .

Qualification:

A University Degree or HND (minimum of 2nd Class Hons or Upper Credit) in Finance, Accounting, Economics, or any related Management and Numerate Sciences, with a minimum of 3 years relevant working experience in a similar role in a financial institution.

Professional Membership

Any relevant professional membership will be an advantage.

5.0 FUND ACCOUNTS OFFICER

Job Description:

Provide an efficient administration of the Funds Under Management; reconciliation and valuation of the funds, preparation and rendition of regulatory returns, preparation of financial statements for the funds under management, etc.

Location: Abuja .

Qualification:

A University Degree or HND (minimum of 2nd Class Hons or Upper Credit) in Finance, Accounting, Economics, or any related Management and Numerate Sciences, with a minimum of 3 years relevant working experience in a similar role in a financial institution.

Professional Membership

Any relevant professional membership will be an advantage.

6.0 ADMIN OFFICER

Job Description:

Provide an efficient administrative support services to the company; ensuring an efficient facility management, procurements, inventory management, asset maintenance, and vendor management, etc.

Location: Abuja

Qualification:

A University Degree or HND (minimum of 2nd Class Hons or Upper Credit) in Business Administration, Humanities or Management-related discipline, and a minimum of 3 years relevant working experience in a similar role in a financial institution or other related environment.

7.0 CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICERS :

Job Description:

Implement the company's relationship management and customer care policies and goals in their business areas, etc.

Location: Positions required in states of the federation.

Qualification:

Minimum of National Diploma (minimum of lower credit) in Social Sciences, Humanities or Management-related discipline and a minimum of 2 years experience in the customer service function of a financial institution or other related customer service environment.

8.0 MEDIA OFFICER

Job Description

Project the company's operations and businesses in the Media coordinate all publicity and promotion activities, managing internal and external communications, liaison with strategic stakeholders including the labour unions, etc.

Location: Abuja

Continued next page...

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES (Cont'd)

Qualification:

A University Degree or HND (minimum of 2nd Class Hons or Upper Credit) in Mass Communications, English Language, Social Sciences or Humanities, and a minimum of five years relevant working experience in a financial institution, Media House, or related environment.

9.0 Database Administrator:

Job Description:

Manage the company's database; develop and ensure that data storage, archiving, back-up and recovery procedures are functioning as required; Ensure database integrity and security; Assesse user needs and conducts periodic database capacity planning; Install and configure the company's databases; Manage access permission and privileges; Manage all the core database applications of the company; Maintain the back-up tape library and disaster recovery site; Generate periodic database performance and availability reports; etc.

Location : Abuja

Qualification:

A University Degree or HND (Minimum of 2nd Class Hons or Upper Credit) in Computer Sciences, Elect/Electronics Engineering, Computer Engineering or closely related disciplines, and minimum of 5 years relevant experience in a financial institution or an IT related environment.

Professional Certification Required: OCP, MCDA and any other relevant professional qualification.

10.0 SYSTEM DEVELOPER

Job Description:

Defining and implementing standards and best practices for software development; Developing, testing, and delivering programs to specifications given; Ensuring that developed software code is optimized to meet or exceed stated response time and processing requirements and process efficiently on hardware platforms; Supporting the software development life-cycle and E-Commerce framework; Providing and maintaining program and system documentation for all work; etc.

Qualification:

A University degree (minimum of 2nd Class Hons) in Computer Sciences, Elect/Electronics Engineering or Computer Engineering, with minimum relevant working experience of 5 years programming with NET framework, ASP.NET, Web Services, SOAP and XML, Visual Basic and C++, MS SQL Sever.

Professional Certification Required: MCSD, MCAD and any other relevant professional qualification.

If you meet the above professional and educational qualifications, send your application letter and a comprehensive CV to:

**The Advertiser,
P.M.B 254
Garki-Abuja.**

Your application letter should state the position applied for, current residential and contact address. All applications should be received within two weeks of the date of this publication. Only short listed applicants will be contacted.

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE, BAUCHI FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS SUPPLIERS

INTRODUCTION:

The School of Agriculture, Bauchi, plans to execute a number of projects and is therefore inviting interested and capable contractors to submit bid documents for the supply and or construction of the following projects under the year 2007 Education Trust Fund (ETF) intervention:

- (i) Construction of Block of 4-class rooms;
- (ii) Procurement of 20No Lecturer's Tables and-Chairs;
- (iii) Procurement of 4No HP P4 3.2GHz, 1 GB Memory, 120GB HDD and DVD Writer;
- (iv) Procurement of 4No HP DeskJet 1280 A3 Printers;
- (v) Procurement of 4No UPS (Mercury);

Interested bidders are to submit the following Documents:-

- (i) Evidence of registration / incorporation of Company by the corporate Affairs Commission.
- (ii) Evidence of registration with Federal Ministry of Works or the School Of Agricultures.
- (iii) Company Audited Accounts for three years.
- (iv) Company three years Income Tax Clearance Certificate.
- (v) Evidence of financial capability and banking support, and bank statement from a reputable bank acceptable to the school vouching for the company's financial prowess.
- (vi) Evidence of technical qualification and experience of the key personnel.
- (vii) Company's profile indicating Technical, Managerial and supporting Staff and their experience in the field.
- (viii) Evidence of similar projects successfully executed in the last three years, indicating Names of the clients, consultants and certificate of practical completion.
- (ix) List of Equipment and evidence Of technology capacity.
- (x) Evidence of VAT registration/ past VAT remittances.

SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

All documents must be packaged in the order listed (i-x) and submitted in a sealed envelope and marked supply of ----- construction of ----- and personally deposited in the tenders box provided in the office of the Registrar, School Of Agriculture, Bauchi between the hours of 10am to 1:00am on Mondays to Thursdays and 10am to 1:00pm on Fridays not later than two weeks from the date of this publication.

The pre-qualification documents will be opened at the Council Chamber of the School at a date which will be communicated at the point of the submission of the documents. Please note that this is not an invitation to tender and only successful applicants will be invited to tender after pre-qualification. Furthermore the School is not bound to accept any particular applications or any condition there attached.

All documents should be addressed to: -
The Registrar,
School Of Agriculture,
P.M.B. 0094, Bauchi,
Bauchi State.

Signed
Alh. Muhammad Baba Galadima
Registrar

We are The Restoration Group

It is with immense gratitude to the Almighty God and a deep sense of patriotism that we announce the birth of **The Restoration Group**.

The group emerged out of series of meetings held in Abuja and Kaduna. The meetings resolved and adopted a mission statement which will be its guiding principle.

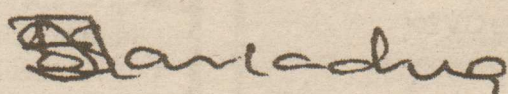
The Restoration Group is desirous of restoring the loss of confidence and faith by Nigerians in the Nation's political system, governance and leadership. We intend to mobilise and seek out like-minded Nigerians with similar vision and ideals towards the establishment of a just, equitable and open political system and culture that is deeply rooted in real and true democracy. To this end our mission is:

"To be the vanguard of the movement for the restoration of public trust in the credibility, integrity, competence and commitment to Social Justice of Nigeria's Political leadership".

To achieve this noble objective, **The Restoration Group** is already working with and is willing to join hands with other groups and concerned citizens whose aim is to restore public trust in leadership founded on well-established, universally accepted electoral process and democratic principles.

In pursuance of this objective, we would exercise our fundamental human rights and the constitutionally guaranteed freedom of association and expression to strengthen our democracy.

May God bless our Fatherland!



Honourable Sadiq Yar'Adua

National Publicity Co-ordinator

SMS Line – 0706 358 1345

BUSINESS TRUST

● Nigerian stock market records biggest decline worldwide

—Page 30

● Expert raises alarm over yoghurt factories —Page 27

Stock Market Report

—Page 31 & 32

Hotline: 08051000536



Flight Schedule

Chanchangi Airlines

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

IRS Airlines

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

Aero Contractors

Lagos-Abj: 06.50; 13.30; 16.30; 19.45(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 12.30 (Sun) 16:45 (Sat).
Abj-Lagos: 07.30; 13.30; 19.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30; 14.30; 19.30 (Sun) 18.30(Sat).
Lagos-Ben: 07.45; 11.00; 15.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun) 12.30; (Sun); 15.30 (Sat).
Ben-Lagos: 09.15; 12.30; 17.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 17.00 (Sat); 14.00 (Sun)
Lagos-Cala: 13.15; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 08.30; 19.00 (Sun)
Cala-Lagos: 14.45; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30 (Sun)
Lagos-Enu: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 15.00(Sun)
Enu-Lagos: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat) 16.45 (Sun)
Lagos-PHC: 07.30; 09.30; 15.00(Mon-Fri/ Sat/ Sun)
PHC-Lagos: 11.15; 17.30 (Mon-Fri/Sat) 18.00 (Fri)
Lagos-Warri: 07.45; 16.00 (Mon-Fri/sat) 09.15 (Sun)
Warri-Lagos: 09.15; 17.30 (Mon-Fri/Sat) 10.45(Sun)

Virgin Nigeria

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

Bellview Airlines

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

Arik Air

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

No Nigerian company on Africa's top 30

By Jibrin Abubakar

There is no Nigerian company on the list of Africa's top 30 companies, *Daily Trust* can report.

South African companies dominated the top ranking, as 15 of the 16 top companies on the continent are from South Africa.

United Bank for Africa(UBA was 34th on the ranking in 2008 but it has fallen to 81st), Oceanic Bank(It was also 48th last year but now 83rd) and Dangote Sugar Refinery(94th).

Intercontinental Bank Plc and Guinness Nigeria Plc

Plc(180th), Julius Berger Nigeria Plc(188th) and Oando Plc(189th).

While expressing concern over Nigeria's performance, the report also says: "Yet it is difficult to overlook the dramatic fall in Nigerian share prices. The Nigerian Stock Exchange lost more than 60% of its

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\$23.497billion. On its website, African biggest company said it has 190,000 employees.

The top four African companies which are all South African also include: SABMiller (consumer goods) with market value of \$23.317 billion; Sasol (oil & gas) limited which worth



From left: Wife of the Kaduna State governor, Hajiya Amina Sambo, Oceanic Bank Executive Director FCT Zone, Akin Asalu and wife of the minister of Commerce and Industry, Mrs. Theresa Udenwa, at the foundation laying ceremony of the Wuye Ultra Modern Market Phase III, in Abuja.....on Wednesday.

Fifty four of the top 90 also came from South Africa, *African Business* magazine said in its latest ranking of Africa's top companies in 2009.

On the list of 200 top companies, FirstBank of Nigeria Plc, with a market value of \$2.415billion ranks 34th.

Other Nigerian companies on the list are: Nigeria Breweries Plc (54th), Zenith Bank (61st), Ecobank Nigeria (62nd), African Petroleum (67th), Bank PHB(73rd) Wema Bank(78th),

also ranked 110th and 115th respectively.

Other Nigerian companies on the list are: Nestle Nigeria Ltd (134th), Mobil Oil Nigeria Plc(138th), Afribank Nigeria Plc(139th), Fidelity Bank Nigeria(143rd) and StanbicIBTC bank(150th).

Others are: First City Monument Bank(156th), National Sports Lottery Plc(161st), Spring Bank Plc(167th), Access Bank(168th), Diamond Bank(173rd), Total Nigeria Plc(178th), Benue cement

value between March 2008 and March 2009."

In West Africa, Sonatel telecom of Cote d'Ivoire tops the list with \$2.492 in market value.

It said: "Egypt and Moroccan firms pose some challenge in the higher reaches of our table but South Africa is in an economic league of its own in sub-Saharan Africa."

The report said South African Anglo American group (mining and metals) is Africa's biggest company with a market value of

\$18.604 billion and MTN Group Limited (telecoms) with a market value of \$16.333billion.

In North Africa, Morocco and Egypt also top the ranking of companies in the region.

Morocco's Itissalat Al-Maghrib, Attijariwafa and BMCE rank fifth, 15th and 18th on the list.

In East Africa, the Safaricom telecom of Kenya tops the list with \$1.523billion in market value.

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

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

BUSINESS TRUST

AP wants FG to subsidise cost of gas cylinders

The Chief Operating Officer (COO) of African Petroleum (AP) Plc Mr. Tunde Falasinu has urged the Federal government to heavily subsidise the cost of gas cylinder, saying the development would encourage massive domestic consumption of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in the country.

Said doing this would be a better alternative to kerosene subsidy with

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

positive implication for re-forestation and healthier environment.

Falasinu, who spoke Tuesday during the visit of the World LPG Association delegation to the AP headquarters in Lagos, said the consumption per capita of the product is abysmally low compared to the growing population of the country.

According to him, the consumption of the LPG surged from 58,000 metric tons in 2006 to less than year 80,000 metric tons last, saying the figures are still unacceptable to the nation's population strength.

He said, if it is obvious that potentials in Liquefied Petroleum Gas in Nigeria are enormous if we have the right combination of consistent policies, effective regulations, and investment in requisite infrastructure

and sound marketing strategies".

He said his company has rendered a good account of itself in LPG business with three LPG plants located in Lagos, Kano and Port Harcourt.

He added that the company planned to establish new ones in Abuja, Kaduna, Ibadan, Onitsha and Jos.

He further disclosed that as part of the company's renewed drive to take

advantage of the potentials in LPG marketing in the country, its LPG storage facilities in Lagos would be expanded from 840 metric tons to 6000 metric tons, adding that its obsolete LPG filling plants would be replaced with modern ones.

"Meanwhile, we have just taken delivery of two new mobile filling plants for Lagos and Kano. These mobile plants will enable us resume commercial filling of LPG bottles, pending the complete modernisation of the existing permanent filling plants."

"AP Plc is also blazing the trail with our recent importation of composite cylinders from America.

This surely will represent the formal introduction and marketing of the composite refill bottles in Nigeria".

Also speaking at the occasion, the Managing Director of the World LPG Association, James Rockall advised the Federal government to create an enabling environment for Liquefied Petroleum Gas business to thrive in the country.

He said creating the right environment would not only buoy investment in LPG but would also witness a massive consumption of the product.

He said his association is determined to work with the Federal government to explore ways to grow LPG business in the country.



From left: Mr Hafiz Bakare, Head Production, First Bank of Nigeria Plc; Mr. Gbenga Shobo, Group Head and Product Channels; and Mrs. Funke Smith, Head Consumer Banking Products at the FBN Big Splash Promo Draws Reloaded 2 in Lagos. Pic: Oladipupo Odunewu

Stocks market sustains gains

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

Trading activities on the floor of the Nigerian Stock market closed yesterday with a gain of N1.77 billion as the market closed at N4.497 trillion.

Since Monday, the market has been witnessing bullish trend and stock market analysts attributed the development to a renewed interest by most investors in the market.

According to the President Independent Shareholders' Association, Sunny Nwosu, the market would definitely rebound as most of the stocks are now bottom down to a level which it is good for wise investors to invest.

Nwosu also attributed the gradual appreciation of the stocks to inflow of some foreign firms into the market. Some of the firms, he said have been listed despite global economic meltdown.

However, the market continued its recovery trend yesterday as market capitalisation grew by N1.77 billion to close at N4.497 trillion. This was a slight contrast to the previous day trading of market capitalisation of N4.495 billion.

All share index also gained 7.85 point level to close at 19,879 point level. On Wednesday, the market recorded 19,871.69 points level.

In all a total of 286.702 million shares worth N1.330 billion in 4,677 deals were recorded yesterday with activities in the banking sub sector led other sub sectors.

Trading in the shares of Intercontinental Bank 17.017 million shares worth N105.846 million, First bank 13.641 million shares worth N207.608 million and Access bank 7.771 million shares valued at N38.918 million.

On the gainers' table, Mobil led other with N4.50 per share, Chevron N4.30, AP N3.27 and Nestle N2.00 per share.

On the losers' list, CAP led others with N1.72, JBerger N1.27, NBC N1.00 per share.

Four Customers wins cars at Bank PHB promo

From Murjanatu Mohammed Abba, Kaduna

Bank PHB yesterday had its final draw for the "YOU GO WIN" promo at four states across the country including its Kaduna main branch situated at Ahmadu Bello way where a customer, Mr. Onah M. Ekene won a brand new Honda (2008 model) car at the national (electronic) draw conducted within the Bank's premises.

Other gifts won by customers at the manual raffle draw includes a refrigerator, TV set, DVD Player, Micro-wave oven, Gas cooker and Cooler.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Oladejo Adebola who is in charge of the e-draw of the solution delivery department of Bank PHB disclosed that the Bank earlier had its two different draws held on the 23rd of October 2008 and January 29 2009 in Kano and Owerri respectively. He explained that four brand new Hyundai Accent cars were given out to lucky winners in the first and second draws adding that yesterday's draws were carried out at four different states comprising: Lagos, Kaduna Abuja and Port Harcourt with additional four brand new cars won by customers at the national draw.

Mr Adebola who disclosed that about 1,707 customers of the Kaduna main branch participated in the manual draw which is specifically for customer of a given branch said that the "YOU GO WIN" promo is one of the Bank's biggest promos that recognises all its customers saying "in each branch every customer is a potential winner".

He disclose that in every six weeks, for the period of six months every branch will have six winners of different gift items, adding that "all that is needed by a customer is to be increasing his/her account with N5,000 or above monthly".

UNIDO, BOI partner to salvage textile industry

By Yunus Abdulhamid

In a renewed bid to salvage the Nigerian textile sector, the Bank of Industry (BoI), is partnering the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) to provide the required funding for the revitalization of the sector.

The partnership will focus on the production of cotton, which is the major raw material for the industry.

This was made known to Journalists in Abuja, when top officials of both organizations paid a visit to the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Humphrey Enemakwu Abah.

Representing the Director General of UNIDO, Coordinator, International Financial Institutions Partnership Unit, Mr. Patrick Kormawa, said the partnership with BoI, was his organization's response to the request from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to support its effort in the rehabilitation of the cotton and textile industry in Nigeria.

He added that already, a memorandum of understanding between UNIDO and BOI was signed last year.

here to see what do to help in the textile industry, the stakeholders especially those in which the

industry is going in order to resuscitate the textile industry.

"From our side at UNIDO, we are ready to work with the Federal Government of Nigeria to implement the recommendations of the study earlier carried out on the industry; and to ensure that we identify the short term activities that we can embark upon, together with stakeholders. We intend to design a road map showing the milestones for the medium to long term activities that we will implement", he said.

Speaking on funding for the sector, Kormawa said UNIDO is a technical agency, which only provides technical assistance to its member States. He said that the organization does not provide direct funding but that this could be facilitated through its international financial partnership unit where bankable programmes are developed to help the industrial sector.

As for the N70 billion textile fund promised by the Federal Government, General Manager of the BoI, Alhaji Mohammed Alkali, who represented the Director

General of the Bank of Industry, Ms Evelyn Oputu, said, the fund was still available, and would be disbursed to beneficiaries soon.

While making a presentation at the meeting, Director of Industrial Policy and Private Sector Development at UNIDO, Mr. Mohamed Lamine Dhaoui, said the programme would focus on the development of the cotton, textile and garment (CTG) value chain network.

He mentioned the constraints in the industry to include weak productive capacity brought about by poor equipment.

He promised that UNIDO would work to enhance the competitiveness of the supply capacity for cotton and ensure the conformity of the CTG to international standard.

In his remarks, the Minister praised UNIDO for displaying knowledge of the challenges facing the sector as it concerns cotton, textile and garment subsectors, and indeed, the agro sector. He said that the same formula applies to the CTG and the larger agro sector of the Nigerian economy.

According to him, the government is doing something about rice production

after which attention will shift to textile and cotton.

"But I think that both can run concurrently and it will help us to save time. Sometimes last month, I received a delegation of consultants from UNIDO and I was impressed that they have done an extensive study as it relates to CTG in Nigeria", he said.

He appealed to both organizations to concentrate efforts towards re-upgrading and modernization of the value chain; from sourcing quality cotton seed to planting, processing of the cotton and producing the final products, the garments.

"I will appeal that we move away from the talk shops now and get into the field. My challenge to UNIDO and BOI is to help us leverage on their technical capacity to access long term funding. That is our most crucial need now because this project requires long term funding at low interest rate".

"Happily, there is a paradox that while the world is going through a depression, the cost of funding is down. Let us make the best use of that. Given the quality of management of BOI, I am confident that whatever fund is given to them will be judiciously utilized and recovered".

BUSINESS TRUST

The Director of National Animal Production Institute, Professor Ambrose Voh, has expressed concern over the proliferation of yoghurt factories in the country, saying it was a threat to health.

Voh who spoke to *Daily Trust* in his office in Shikma near Zaria noted that most of the yoghurt that is consumed in the country failed to meet minimum standard, adding that regulation in the sector had been undermined and ineffective in the recent years.

He said the proliferation was an indication of lack of control by way of policy or legislation stressing that both National Agency for Food Drug Administration and Control, NAFDAC and Standards Organization of Nigeria and other regulatory agencies have not been discharging their responsibilities.

According to him, the current practice in the country was that anybody could produce anything and call it yoghurt and sell to innocent consumers.

'All manners of things

'Why Nigerians are no longer saving'

By Abubakar Buba

The failed bank experience in Nigeria coupled with the negative effect of the global financial meltdown are some of the factors scaring Nigerians from operating bank accounts, a financial expert, Mr. Remi Bamidele has said.

It would be recalled that findings from a research conducted by the Department for International Development (DFID) in collaboration with the World Bank recently indicated that about 70% of Nigerians do not operate any form of account.

The report further stated that 45% of Nigerians (63 million) who initially operate an account have withdrawn from the formal banking system because of lack of faith and confidence. It added that most Nigerians patronize the informal banking sector such as the "Esusu" daily contribution to the conventional system.

Mr. Bamidele said that the development was unhealthy for a nation that is thriving to becoming among the world's largest economy by 2020. He said that most Nigerians had their savings trapped during the crisis that rocked the banking system in 2002 leading to the liquidation and failure of many commercial banks. "Many people are yet to recover from the losses they incurred during the failed bank crisis in Nigeria. Even the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) that is saddled with the responsibility of ensuring that customers of the affected banks get their money back did not help issue. Till date, many Nigerians have not been compensated for their losses.

"For them, it is a case of once beaten, twice shy. They are yet to be convinced that the 25 billion capitalization policy by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) for all commercial banks is enough to keep them insulated against loss when it occurs, the said

Expert raises alarm over yoghurt factories

By Abubakar K. Mommoh

are imported into the country as milk powder which is used to produce yoghurt without standard benchmarks, parameters and without standard conditions for even transportation or storage of these products"

He attributed the practice to the per chance of Nigerians to cheat and make profit at all cost, pointing out that the demand for dairy products in the country was overwhelming, adding however that the institute was determined to make the difference, explaining that the yoghurt produced in the in-

stitute was from natural milk, and it was the best.

The institute started commercial production of yoghurt in 1994 and presently produces 250 litres per day

most of which is sold to the university community and Zaria residents.

He said that even when one was going to blend with milk powder, there was defi-

nite proportion of milk powder to natural fresh milk that must be used, lamenting however that this was being flouted with nobody checking it.

Professor Voh said that to succeed in the effort to sanitize the sector, it would need the help of all the stakeholders, saying it was in their interest.

Abuja to host World Energy Council

By Hamisu Muhammad

The Nigerian National Committee of the World Energy Council (NNC-WEC) and the Cleaner Fossil Fuels System's Committee of WEC in collaboration with the Energy Commission of Nigeria (ECN) will co-host this year's summit on Cleaner Fossil Fuels Technologies in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities next week in Abuja.

The summit is scheduled for 6th-7th April 2009 and the WEC Africa Regional Meeting on the 8th April 2009.

The objective of the summit is to provide an in-depth understanding of clean energy, carbon storage technologies, challenges and opportunities in Africa.

The statement from the Energy Commission of Nigeria said other benefits of the summit is to demonstrate that clean fossil fuel systems are essential to modern energy access and Africa's sustainable development.

To enhance the awareness of stakeholders of African energy sectors and to promote clean energy technology

knowledge and deployment in Africa

The summit which will be declared open by the Minister of Power, Lanre Babalola will provide a forum for energy experts within and outside the country, decision makers and consumers to discuss the role of cleaner fossil fuel technologies, exchange information and create networks.

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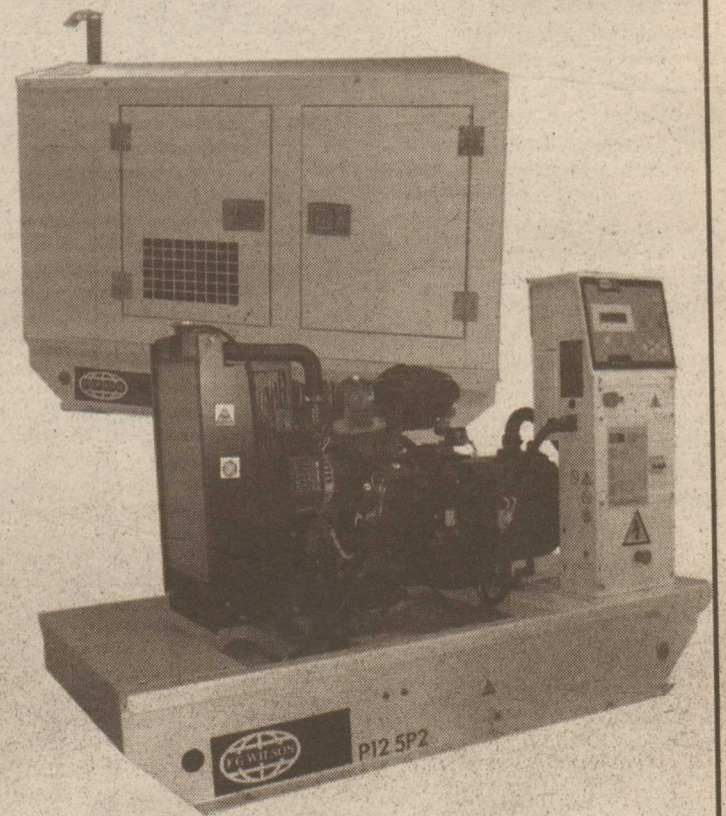
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STAR FEATURE

How cows grazed on a

Nigerian air transportation remains risky due to the operation of rickety aircraft and the persistent insecurity and neglect of the airports.

Though air transportation the world over is generally regarded as the safest, in Nigeria, the problems of this method of transportation, which are traced to decay of infrastructures at the nation's airports, absence of vital air safety equipments and the use of outdated aircrafts have, in the recent past, made air travels unsafe.

Several avoidable air disasters were recorded at almost all the airports in the country, especially between 2005 to 2006 when over 300 passengers and crew members were reportedly killed, many others disfigured and properties that cannot be quantified lost in the disasters.

Among those that lost their lives in such air disasters were the Sultan of Sokoto, late Alhaji Muhammadu Maccido and students of Layola Jesuit secondary school, who left Abuja for Port-Harcourt on holidays but their plane crashed in Port-Harcourt.

Speaking exclusively to *Daily Trust* at Tinapa resort in Calabar, an US-based Nigerian flight engineer, Mr. Horsefall Bright Etim, said Nigeria is one of the countries of the world that has the best trained pilots but working under the most difficult conditions due to poor flight infrastructure.

"It was amazing to hear that at the Port-Harcourt international airport, cows were caught grazing at the tarmac and a plane had to run into them. How did cows get to the tarmac? That was a clear case of insecurity and neglect. Every airport of that status should be fenced round to avoid encroachment by animals and unwanted persons.

"Some of the international airports in this country do not have standard runways. Some of the runways are too small for some of the big planes on international routes. In some cases, you also find the tarmacs with potholes or defective lights. The situation is so frustrating that some pilots do not even want to come this way.

"You see, air transportation is a very delicate and money consuming business. The moment one thing that is supposed to be there is not where it is supposed to be, you are inviting trouble. The government in developing countries like Nigeria may not be able to fund the aviation sector. I think provision should be made for private companies and individuals to invest in the

By Shehu Abubakar

sector," he said.

A passenger, Mrs Fanovo Dimowo, told *Daily Trust* at the

Port-Harcourt airport that most of the air disasters that occurred so far in the country were avoidable. She blamed the disasters on the lack of

adequate provision of the needed safety facilities at the airports.

"Some of these airports do not have automatic standby

generators to immediately provide light as soon as there is power failure from the national grid. The way our light is always on and off, you know

it will be disastrous for the light to go off when a plane is landing at an airport that has no automatic standby plant, or even when the plant is there, they tell you it cannot start itself due to lack of fuel.

"Instead of every state now trying to have an airport and within few years it is called an international airport, and the burden of running it is transferred to the federal



Air crafts on a Nigerian airport tarmac



Inside a Nigerian airport

government, I think these airports should be zoned so that we would have few but effective ones instead of having many that we cannot maintain. Establishing more than one airport within a distance of 200 kilometers is just unnecessary," she said.

A retired deputy comptroller of Immigration, who worked at several airports in the country while in service, Alhaji Haruna Buhari Jega, said some of the aircrafts in Nigeria, especially those operating as domestic commercial aircrafts, are scraps that should not be allowed to fly in Nigeria even as private planes.

"You find some of these planes very old even to be used as vehicles. I wonder why government should allow them to be flying and even be conveying passengers. Sometimes in 2006, I joined one of such planes from Port-Harcourt to Lagos. They had to use a heavy hammer to force the door open before we disembarked. If there was emergency, what do you think would have happened?"

"You find such planes with worn-out tyres and every part

of the heavy you know we clamp regulat planes Nigeria

lot of r a pity through recorded

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plane shaking. From the noise coming out of it, now all is not well. Yet, we have an agency managing the operations of this country. We are actually taking a risk on air transport. It is not that we had to pay dearly for the casualties over time," he said.

A senior aviation official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the federal government has tried its best in tackling the problems of the industry by allocating funds for the provision of some air equipments, but alleged that money was embezzled by officials of the ministry, which led to the arrest and subsequent prosecution of two ministers of aviation.

At this stage, some of us lost confidence in the possibility of reforming the aviation sector. Professionals like the flight engineers and others left to other jobs while some took up assignments with some airlines in the country. The sector must be fully reformed, existing staff must be retained and more other staff employed," the source

measures designed to make the nation's aviation industry meet up with the international standard.

Malam Kuta said the ministry of aviation has secured a 46 million-dollar loan from the World Bank which will be spent in tackling air transportation problems in the country under the components of the World Bank Projects coordinated by the Project Coordination Unit of the ministry.

He said the targeted projects are the economic reform and governance project [ERGP] and the West and Central Africa air transport safety and security programme [WCAATSSP], Nigeria Project. According to him, the overall objective of the projects is to enhance safety and security of operations in the nation's aviation industry.

"The Aviation component of ERGP is a project designed to streamline and strengthen

institutional and work processes in the sector. It will be recalled that following the two major plane crashes in 2005, the Federal Government of Nigeria expressed deep concern and embarked on measures to forestall reoccurrence of such unfortunate incidents.

"One of the measures taken was to request for assistance from ERGP to support specific reforms and immediate physical investment in the Aviation

Sector with a view to enhancing safety and security. The cost of the Aviation component of the ERGP is estimated at 15 million dollars and is targeted at specific projects inline with ERGP reform goals," he said.

Mallam Kuta said under the program, low level wind shear alert system that are identified as part of the major problems of air transportation in the country will be procured and installed at the nation's

airports. He said already, steps have been taken in purchasing the equipments.

"The [WCAATSSP], Nigeria project is a regional programme designed by the World Bank to partner with and assist the 23 West and Central Africa [WCA] countries in order to identify and execute specific projects that would create a safe and secured environment for air transport in the sub-region.

"It is important to note that three fatal crashes of passenger's airlines between 2005 and 2006 which claimed more than 300 lives posed threat to the nation's air traffic in the airspace. The Federal Government of Nigeria therefore joined the WCAATSSP in 2006, having met the eligibility criteria to quickly address serious lapses in aviation security and safety which was considered responsible for the unfortunate incidents of plane crashes," he cleared.

He said the project steering committee is responsible for providing support and resolving any constraint that may hamper project implementation and would require interventions from other ministries or arms of the government.

He said the committee is also responsible for providing policy direction on matters relating to the project preparation and implementation and carry out risk assessments of fiduciary risks related to the project implementation, in consistency with the dialogue between the World Bank and the government on governance issues.

According to the permanent secretary, the project steering committee (PSC) is expected to ensure that the project is implemented smoothly and speedily without compromising on quality, transparency and fiduciary responsibilities of the government and World Bank.



Herds of cattle could graze into an airport tarmac in Nigeria



This aircraft crash-landed at a Nigerian airport.

...ts to reach some of the operators to comment... successful as most of contacted said they not want to say that would hurt the ment because the they are working for t made their positions to them on the situation industry in the country. ever, the permanent ry of the federal y of aviation and an of the Nigerian of the steering tee of the West and African air transport nd security protection, Idris Adamu Kuta, said or actually suffered glects in the past that recording several air s, but said the present stration is taking e measures aimed at ng the problems. onfirmed that over 300 ere reportedly killed in air crashes in Nigeria n 2005 and 2006, and e federal government led out programmes d at addressing the ns of air transportation ountry with the aim of g total and holistic air ort security in the aid by the time all the y measures are put in y the end of 2010, s air transport sector is ed to be among the n the world except for causes that are beyond control. He said his ee has already started enting some of the

FINANCE BUSINESS

Nigerian stock market records biggest decline worldwide

Nigeria's stock market, Africa's best performer during the past decade, posted the biggest declines worldwide in the first quarter as bad loans to speculators pushed bank valuations to an all-time low.

The Nigerian Stock Exchange All Share Index fell 37 percent this year, the steepest quarterly decline in more than a decade and the worst of 89 benchmark indexes tracked by Bloomberg. Stocks in Africa's largest oil-producing nation reached a five-year low last week, even as a rebound in crude spurred gains in commodity-exporting countries from Russia and Norway to Brazil.

Investors have been fleeing "the good, the bad and the ugly" of the financial industry since Nigerian regulators allowed banks to delay booking losses on so-called margin loans backed by shares, emerging-markets brokerage Renaissance Capital says. The lack of disclosure left investors unable to identify potential losses. The All Share Index may fall another 9 percent, according to Moscow-based Renaissance and London-based Exotix Holding Ltd.

"Without meaningful disclosure investors will be hesitant to come back, especially in the financials," said Christopher Hartland-Peel, an equity analyst at Exotix. "No one can really tell how the companies are faring."

Lenders may be holding as much as \$10 billion of toxic assets, equal to about half of their capital, according to Eurasia Group, the New York-based research firm that publishes the Global Political Risk Index with Citigroup Inc. Banks have provided at least 1 trillion naira (\$6.8 billion) of margin loans to allow investors to buy shares, Bank of America Corp. said in a report last week.

Slowing Economy

Growth of Nigeria's economy may slow to 1.5 percent this year because of lower revenue from oil, which accounts for 20 percent of gross

domestic product, according to Standard & Poor's. The naira weakened 20 percent against the dollar since Nov. 26, when the Central Bank of Nigeria began limiting the supply of foreign exchange to banks to protect foreign reserves. The bank's naira rate was unchanged at 148.10 per dollar today, compared with 172 versus the dollar in unofficial street trading, according to Mohammed Kuza, a currency dealer in Lagos.

Renaissance expects the All Share Index to drop to 18,000 in the first half, from today's closing level of 19,871.69. Exotix forecast the same drop, without giving a time frame.

No Bank Failures

The market has a daily turnover of between \$10 million and \$20 million and a total capitalization of \$30.1 billion, according to Renaissance and UBA Capital, the brokerage unit of Lagos-based United Bank for Africa Plc. That compares with an average turnover of \$30.2 billion a day this year on the New York Stock Exchange and a U.S. market capitalization of \$9.38 trillion, Bloomberg data show.

Lenders make up about two-thirds of the Nigerian stock market, the largest proportion among the 50 equity indexes worldwide that are grouped in industries by Bloomberg and MSCI Inc. Banks accounted for four of the five worst performers this year among the 20 biggest Nigerian stocks by market value.

Wema Bank Plc, the lender whose chief executive was replaced by the central bank in September, dropped 67 percent, while Stanbic IBTC Plc, the Nigerian unit of Standard Bank Group Ltd., and Intercontinental Bank Plc, the country's third-biggest lender by assets, lost 51 percent. Zenith Bank Plc, the fifth-largest, retreated 47 percent. African Petroleum Plc, Nigeria's second-biggest fuel retailer by market value, was the worst performer with a 79 percent drop. All are based in Lagos.

Bank Reserves

Central bank Governor Chukwuma Soludo



Ndi Okereke Onyuike

said Nigeria won't allow any lenders to fail. Banks in distress may be given loans, have their management restructured or be forced to merge with another lender, he said in a speech in Lagos on March 30.

Nigeria's lenders have among the biggest cushions against losses in the world, according to the central bank. Their average capital adequacy ratio, a measure of capital against risk-weighted assets, stands at about 22 percent, compared with 18.4 percent on average for financial companies in the S&P 500 Index, according to Bloomberg data.

Festus Odoko, a spokesman for the central bank, couldn't be reached for comment.

UBA Capital says the retreat in stocks creates buying opportunities, including Nigerian Breweries Plc, the nation's biggest

beer maker by volume, and Lafarge WAPCO Plc, a unit of the world's largest cement company. Nigerian Breweries lost 12 percent this year after falling 17 percent in 2008. Lafarge dropped 40 percent after a 68 percent slide last year.

Niger Delta

"It's a time to be increasing exposure with a long-term horizon," said Jonathan Harrison, the London-based global head of research at UBA.

Nigeria's All Share index surged 454 percent from 1998 through last year, as investors poured money into lenders, brewers and construction companies to gain from an economy that grew at an average annual rate of 7.8 percent.

Stocks began falling a year ago as attacks by militants in the Niger River delta cut oil production. A 68 percent tumble in crude prices triggered by the global economic slowdown spurred more equity losses, prompting the stock exchange to temporarily restrict share-price declines to 1 percent a day in August.

Stocks dropped for 23 straight days after the Nigerian Central Bank said in October that lenders have the option to restructure margin loans until December 2009.

The six-month decline extended to 57 percent through yesterday, pushing prices for Nigeria's biggest lenders to below their breakup value, at about 0.75 times net assets, down from a peak of 4.36 in February 2008, according to Exotix. That compares with a ratio of 1.3 for the MSCI Emerging Markets Financials Index, according to Bloomberg data.

"It's a very opaque market," said Francis Beddington, co-founder of London-based Insparo Asset Management, which oversees \$140 million in Africa and the Middle East. "There are very good companies, but you don't know what's going on with the banks." (Bloomberg).

Banks slowdown

The Central Bank of Nigeria's Governor Chukwuma Soludo has alerted of unethical and unprofessional practice of banks de-marketing each other.

The banks are also losing grip of their customers as confidence in them thins out among Nigerians.

But the CBN, the referee, assures that all is well, and that it was ready to blow the whistle against those who play foul.

Beyond the CBN rhetoric, the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC)'s 2007 Annual Report released late 2008 said only four of the 24 banks are healthy.

The Intercontinental Bank was said to be at the verge of kissing the dust, but the CBN brushed it off as mere speculation by the bank's competitors.

When the recapitalization was concluded in 2005 and 24 banks emerged out of the then existing 89, there was hope that the era of failed banks was gone and that depositors' monies would be safe. But there are fears that storm is not yet over.

Despite the assurances, confidence in the system is depleting, fuelling speculation that the pre-consolidation features are back again.

These days, people are finding it difficult to bank their money and many that have monies in banks are seriously thinking of withdrawing them.

The regulatory authorities said they are worried that if the current rumours on the state of the health of some banks continue, the economy could collapse. Already, some banks which were considered to be doing very well some months ago are being fingered to be on the verge of collapse.

Despite continuous assurance by the CBN that banks are safe, ordinary depositors believe that something is wrong and that the financial regulator is only trying to contain tension. A customer in one of the "big banks" in the country said if things were as good as people were meant to believe, the unethical habit of de-marketing each other would not have surface.

"Banks or business organisations can only try to spoil other's business when things are bad with them and they badly want to measure up. They do this sort of things because things are not rosy and CBN should stop deceiving us," Mrs. Angela said.

By Idris Ahmed

Mrs. Angela whose sister resides in London said her sister called her last week to withdraw her money deposited in a bank because she heard a rumour that the bank was folding up.

"I have withdrawn parts of the money and used it to buy gold and keep. When I went to the bank to withdraw the money, there are several people doing same thing. Right now, I think people are getting worried and the confidence in our banking sector is down."

Early last week, rumours abound that Intercontinental Bank Plc was on the point of closing down because it was getting illiquid, but the bank and the CBN countered that nothing was wrong.

There are also rumours that because banks are finding it difficult to meet their overhead cost. They have taken to casualizing their staff. Staff of some of the banks who spoke with our reporter said that they were given the options "no promotion" and "pay cut" or "right-sizing". "We have decided to settle for pay cut and no promotion instead of been lay-off", a banker said.

Signalling cracks in the sector was the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC)'s 2007 Annual Report released late 2008. In the report, just four out of the twenty-four banks were given clean bill of health while many others were just surviving. After saying that insured bank's financial condition was generally satisfactory, NDIC later declared, "Out of the 24 banks in the industry as at end of 2007, four were rated sound, seventeen were rated satisfactory, two marginal and one was rated unsound." At the time the report was released, many did not take it serious and the media was blamed for publishing the report.

This report was released before the current global financial meltdown deepens and the crisis now rocking the capital market which is threatening to erode almost all the profits that were realised before August 2008 when the country started feeling the impact of the global economy crisis.

Now that cracks in the financial sector is widening, bank's CFOs and the CBN are

struggling to raise their heads above. There are strong rumours that CBN is under pressure by the banks to come to the public and tell them that all is well while the reverse is the case.

A financial analyst said, "This is why CBN is frequently these days in saying that the banks have no problem. The banks are using money to stop the truth from being told. This is exactly what they did when CBN asked them to have uniform accounting period. If things are well with the banks, why the on-the-street and aggressive marketing these banks have embarked on nowadays?"

He said: "Banks that demanded for huge amount before you could open an account with them before are now calling on the public to come an open account with any amount. This points to the fact that all is not well."

He said there is serious illiquidity in the system but banks are not confident enough to go the public and raise money through the Initial Public Offer (IPO) or Public Offer (PO) as they did in 2007.

"They can't go to the public now because they would not see any body. That is why they have device a new system of marketing strategies telling the public to keep their money for certain period in the bank to qualify to win some attractive benefits", he said.

Dispelling sickness in banks, CBN Governor Chukwuma Soludo said available data with the apex bank shows that the banks are healthy. He told the press in Abuja that the perceived problems in the banks are the handiwork of some people trying to cause problems where none exist.

Soludo said: "Some people within the banks are spreading these rumours to cause problem. The only reason why they are doing that is to take business away from other banks."

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FINANCE BUSINESS

THE NIGERIAN STOCK EXCHANGE

REPORT AS AT THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2009

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares	Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares
2ND-TIER SECURITIES									
JULI PLC	1	3.91	845	3,143.40	FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	3	2.40	17,500	41,400.00
NEWPAK PLC	1	1.10	1,100	1,265.00	GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG PLC	11	15.30	88,256	1,345,042.66
Sector Totals	2		1,945	4,408.40	MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	8	4.70	50,140	222,480.00
AGRICULTURE									
AFPRINT NIGERIA PLC	1	0.85	1,600	1,424.00	NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARMA. PLC	5	1.90	22,100	40,740.00
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	6	1.07	53,100	56,132.00	UNION DIAGNOSTIC & CLINICAL SER. PLC	13	0.57	940,233	531,359.11
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	7	1.13	178,071	190,875.13	Sector Totals	45		1,122,349	2,191,980.97
PRESKO PLC	4	4.85	14,920	74,600.00	INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS				
Sector Totals	18		247,691	323,031.13	NIGERIAN ENAMELWARE PLC	2	58.97	2,000	112,060.00
AIR SERVICES									
NIGERIAN AVIATION HANDLING CO. PLC	50	7.17	285,890	2,023,484.00	VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	9	4.10	145,985	583,287.00
Sector Totals	50		285,890	2,023,484.00	VONO PRODUCTS PLC	3	2.09	1,020,000	2,131,800.00
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE									
DUNLOP NIGERIA PLC	26	0.53	4,111,701	2,055,856.50	Sector Totals	14		1,167,985	2,827,147.00
R. T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	2	9.16	10,037	87,422.27	INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION & TELECOMMUNICATION				
Sector Totals	28		4,121,738	2,143,278.77	CHAMS NIGERIA PLC	32	1.20	133,859,409	167,321,734.54
BANKING									
ACCESS BANK PLC	198	5.14	7,771,461	38,918,340.72	MASS TELECOM INNOVATION NIG PLC	5	0.65	260,000	169,000.00
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	61	5.33	457,010	2,428,304.44	STARCOMMS PLC	30	2.02	1,465,568	2,973,983.68
DIAMOND BANK PLC	130	4.73	2,990,153	13,895,241.27	Sector Totals	67		135,584,977	170,464,718.22
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	8	27.96	600,152	16,780,249.92	INSURANCE				
FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	70	4.29	5,255,868	22,025,340.26	AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	64	0.95	2,247,681	2,156,257.25
FIDELITY BANK PLC	84	2.68	2,924,450	7,924,082.45	CONTINENTAL REINSURANCE PLC	6	0.85	1,025,000	871,250.00
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	653	15.23	13,641,390	207,608,308.05	CORNERSTONE INSURANCE CO. PLC.	21	1.22	1,413,294	1,772,130.61
FIRST INLAND BANK PLC	14	2.22	983,332	2,012,187.04	CUSTODIAN AND ALLIED INSURANCE PLC	3	2.13	321,000	683,730.00
GTBANK PLC	284	10.10	4,967,197	49,617,605.64	EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	3	1.97	28,500	53,580.00
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	47	5.21	1,541,674	8,185,324.40	GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	3	0.50	102,000	51,000.00
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC.	233	6.24	17,017,449	105,846,212.82	GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	4	0.58	25,200	14,112.00
OCEANIC BANK INTERNATIONAL PLC	189	6.63	2,056,151	13,768,423.64	CONSOLIDATED HALLMARK INS. PLC	2	0.54	69,573	37,569.42
PLATINUMHABIB BANK PLC.	59	5.51	4,088,219	22,685,959.36	INVEST. AND ALLIED ASSURANCE PLC	8	0.50	221,575	110,787.50
SKYE BANK PLC.	97	4.60	5,857,289	26,113,685.66	INT'L ENERGY INSURANCE CO. PLC	41	0.96	2,711,799	2,601,065.13
STERLING BANK PLC	56	1.11	4,282,496	4,556,125.38	LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	30	0.88	2,074,486	1,786,756.53
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC.	257	8.00	2,047,109	16,451,705.75	LAW UNION AND ROCK INSURANCE PLC.	1	1.42	142	191.70
UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	154	10.02	1,420,572	14,369,175.23	LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	17,530	8,765.00
UNITYBANK PLC	32	1.10	3,991,109	4,321,900.17	MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSURANCE PLC	15	0.74	677,675	501,279.50
WEMA BANK PLC	9	4.25	77,160	327,930.00	N.E.M. INSURANCE CO. (NIG.) PLC.	29	0.64	647,063	420,479.12
ZENITH BANK PLC	187	11.35	5,253,534	59,051,968.25	NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	3	1.70	25,066	40,606.92
Sector Totals	2,822		87,223,775	636,888,070.45	OASIS INSURANCE PLC	2	4.67	197,780	923,632.60
BREWERIES									
GUINNESS NIGERIA PLC	38	90.00	816,562	73,819,669.96	REGENCY ALLIANCE INSURANCE CO. PLC	2	0.50	12,000	6,000.00
INTERNATIONAL BREWERIES PLC	12	3.00	185,529	534,447.40	SOVEREIGN TRUST INSURANCE PLC	4	0.85	40,000	32,400.00
NIGERIAN BREWERIES PLC	97	37.00	5,433,363	200,215,384.24	STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC	30	0.57	2,639,600	1,504,572.00
Sector Totals	147		6,435,454	274,569,501.60	UNIVERSAL INSURANCE COMPANY PLC	11	0.54	1,397,230	754,504.20
BUILDING MATERIALS									
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	62	8.40	1,615,955	13,263,777.96	INTERCONTINENTAL WAPIC INS. PLC	15	2.38	2,904,418	6,913,545.30
BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC	16	20.00	161,019	3,103,071.64	Sector Totals	299		18,798,612	21,244,214.78
CEMENT CO. OF NORTHERN NIGERIA PLC	26	7.74	655,850	4,953,989.82	LEASING				
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	45	15.58	534,583	8,173,891.80	C&I LEASING PLC	1	6.68	10,300	65,405.00
Sector Totals	149		2,967,407	29,494,731.22	Sector Totals	1		10,300	65,405.00
CHEMICAL & PAINTS									
CHEMICAL AND ALLIED PRODUCTS PLC	9	32.77	127,982	4,407,959.18	MARITIME				
Sector Totals	9		127,982	4,407,959.18	JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERVICES PLC	148	1.82	1,739,045	3,153,281.81
COMMERCIAL SERVICES									
COURTVILLE INVESTMENTS PLC	7	2.75	394,000	1,067,115.00	Sector Totals	148		1,739,045	3,153,281.81
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	12	1.89	422,380	799,588.20	MEDIA				
Sector Totals	19		816,380	1,866,703.20	DAAR COMMUNICATIONS PLC	23	1.32	632,046	897,395.24
COMPUTER & OFFICE EQUIPMENT									
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	13	0.82	135,200	107,114.26	Sector Totals	23		632,046	897,395.24
TRIPPLE GEE AND COMPANY PLC	2	7.77	43,786	323,578.54	MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
Sector Totals	15		178,986	430,692.80	ABBEY BUILDING SOCIETY PLC	1	2.78	4,000	10,600.00
CONGLOMERATES									
JOHN HOLT PLC	1	11.97	691	7,863.58	ASO SAVINGS AND LOAN PLC	18	0.95	1,895,204	1,795,843.80
PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	30	15.98	1,344,196	20,380,102.89	UNION HOMES SAVINGS AND LOANS PLC	36	1.39	867,347	1,190,147.23
SCOA NIGERIA PLC	2	11.95	5,500	62,480.00	Sector Totals	55		2,766,551	2,996,591.03
TRANSNATIONAL CORP. OF NIG. PLC	42	0.52	2,937,500	1,578,590.00	OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS				
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	30	27.99	261,580	7,153,076.56	DEAP CAPITAL MANAG AND TRUST PLC	1	5.71	194,950	1,113,164.50
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	17	8.42	234,919	1,978,017.98	ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	3	2.28	28,438	61,710.46
Sector Totals	122		4,784,386	31,160,131.01	Sector Totals	4		223,388	1,174,874.96
CONSTRUCTION									
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	21	4.40	82,639	360,936.45	PACKAGING				
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC	37	24.16	828,099	20,032,271.84	AVON CROWNCAPS & CONTAINERS PLC.	1	9.04	48,421	415,936.39
MULTIVERSE RESOURCES PLC	7	0.50	141,000	70,500.00	NIGERIAN BAG MAN. CO. PLC	120	1.34	1,557,609	1,993,744.19
Sector Totals	65		1,051,738	20,463,708.29	NAMPAK NIGERIA PLC	1	8.13	9	69.57
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY									
NIGERIAN WIRE AND CABLE PLC.	3	1.48	359,000	531,320.00	Sector Totals	122		1,606,039	2,409,750.15
Sector Totals	3		359,000	531,320.00	PETROLEUM(MARKETING)				
FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOBACCO									
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	3	37.05	5,548	205,553.40	AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	22	68.79	272,813	18,766,806.27
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	18	10.00	154,849	1,544,315.67	CHEVRON OIL NIGERIA PLC	4	90.30	70,748	6,388,544.40
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	67	7.42	456,402	3,583,204.09	CONOIL PLC	3	67.23	6,069	387,627.03
DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	85	14.67	3,208,626	46,425,427.55	ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	3	26.68	10,200	272,136.00
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	33	14.00	142,270	2,018,857.84	MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	10	96.61	88,859	8,584,667.99
NATIONAL SALT COMPANY NIGERIA PLC	11	4.15	380,000	1,577,000.00	OANDO PLC	51	66.00	82,776	5,401,756.18
NIGERIAN BOTTLING COMPANY PLC	25	20.00	82,617	1,757,103.96	TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	12	143.32	17,300	2,394,001.00
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	38	140.00	50,591	7,074,222.09	Sector Totals	105		548,765	42,195,538.87
TANTALIZERS PLC	29	1.01	9,073,324	8,750,901.32	PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
UTC NIGERIA PLC	2	3.16	2,613	7,865.13	LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	2	3.56	4,840	18,053.20
Sector Totals	311		13,556,840	72,944,451.05	UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	1	3.80	48	177.60
HEALTHCARE									
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	5	2.79	4,120	10,959.20	Sector Totals	3		4,888	18,230.80
					REAL ESTATE				
					UACN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO. PLC				
					8				
					17.30				
					91,084				
					1,512,248.00				
					Sector Totals				
					8				
					91,084				
					1,512,248.00				
					ROAD TRANSPORTATION				
					ASSOCIATED BUS COMPANY PLC				
					5				
					0.87				
					93,000				
					80,910.00				
					Sector Totals				
					5				
					93,000				
					80,910.00				
					TEXTILES				
					UNITED NIGERIA TEXTILES PLC				
					1				
					3.26				
					1,595				
					4,944.50				
					Sector Totals				
					1				
					1,595				
					4,944.50				
					THE FOREIGN LISTINGS				
					ECOBANK TRANSNATIONAL INCORP.				
					16				
					10.24				
					152,039				
					1,556,879.36				
					PINNACLE POINT GROUP PLC				
					1				
					6.94				
					1,000				
					6,600.00				
					Sector Totals				
					17				
					153,039				
					1,563,479.36				
					Overall Totals				
					4,677				
					286,702,875				
					1,330,052,181.79				

Continued on page 32

FINANCE BUSINESS

Start from page 31

Top 10 Trades

Symbol	Volume	Value	Trades
GUARANTY	4,967,197.00	49,617,605.64	284
ZENITHBANK	5,253,534.00	59,051,968.25	187
FCMB	5,255,868.00	22,025,340.26	70
NB	5,433,363.00	200,215,384.24	97
SKYEBANK	5,857,289.00	26,113,685.66	97
ACCESS	7,771,461.00	38,918,340.72	198
TANTALIZER	9,073,324.00	8,750,901.32	29
FIRSTBANK	13,641,390.00	207,608,308.05	653
INTERCONT	17,017,449.00	105,846,212.82	233
CHAMS	133,859,409.00	167,321,734.54	32

Gainners

Symbol	Last Close	Yesterday's Close	Change
MOBIL	92.01	96.61	+4.60
CHEVRON	86.00	90.30	+4.30
AP	65.52	68.79	+3.27
NESTLE	138.00	140.00	+2.00
UACN	26.94	27.99	+1.05
OANDO	65.00	66.00	+1.00
BCC	19.17	20.00	+0.83
UAC-PROP	16.50	17.30	+0.80
DANGSUGAR	14.11	14.67	+0.56
NB	36.51	37.00	+0.49

Losers

Symbol	Last Close	Yesterday's Close	Change
CAP	34.49	32.77	-1.72
JBERGER	25.43	24.16	-1.27
NBC	21.00	20.00	-1.00
ETI	10.77	10.24	-0.53
DEAPCAP	6.01	5.71	-0.30
PLATINUM	5.80	5.51	-0.29
OASISINS	4.91	4.67	-0.24
WEMABANK	4.47	4.25	-0.22
NASCON	4.36	4.15	-0.21
DANGFLOUR	7.61	7.42	-0.19

Market State: Closed

Index :	19,879.54
Deals :	4,677
Volume :	286,702,875
Value :	N1,330,052,181.79
Cap. :	N4,497,204,291,897.06

Kano approves N257m to boost agric

The Kano State government has approved N257million counter-funding for the development of agriculture in the state, acting commissioner for information Alhaji Ibrahim Garba has said.

He said this shortly after the executive council meeting at the government House in Kano yesterday.

The commissioner stated that the fund would be used for the development of the 3rd Fadama development project, commercial agriculture development and National programme on food security.

According to him the sum, of N56, 274,685 will go to the Fadama project, while the sum of N155million will go for the commercial agriculture development, just as the programme on food security would gulp N46, 400, 00.

Garba further explained that out of the 44 local government councils in the state, 22 would contribute N2 million each, adding that other 9 local government councils would each contribute N3.6 million as their counter part funding for

From Halima Musa, Kano

the agricultural project.

He stated that the funds would be fully utilised to boost agricultural

production in the state.

"Kano State is blessed with fertile land and the state government has resolved to harness the God-endowed bounties to its fullest

advantage," he said.

The commissioner reaffirmed government commitment to revamp the sector with a view to boosting food security in the state.

CIBN inaugurates Unity Bank chapter

Yunus Abdulhamid

President of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN), Mr. Erastus Akingbola has commended the management of Unity Bank Plc for encouraging its staff to be active members of the professional body, as a means of enriching their contributions to the growth of the banking industry, and national development.

This message was delivered on his behalf by the Registrar and Chief Executive of CIBN, Dr. Uju Ogubunka at the inauguration ceremony of Unity Bank chapter of the Institute on Tuesday in Abuja, said he was particularly pleased that Unity Bank was among the first to inaugurate such chapters among the 24 banks in the country. The CIBN chapter is a new initiative of the Institute, and

Unity Bank's is the 8th to be inaugurated.

Swearing-in the seven-man executive committee, Dr. Ogubunka tasked CIBN members in the chapter to "heighten the noble outlook of the professional banker, increase his productivity and thus, relevance" in the country.

He also called on Unity Bank to partner with the Institute in the training and re-training of its staff to take professionalism to greater heights in the Nigerian banking industry.

The Registrar disclosed that the Institute is poised to introduce innovative ways of running the affairs of CIBN, stressing that plans are underway to commence issuance of licenses to qualified members to render banking services.

Earlier, in his message at the ceremony, the Executive Director Operations and Services of Unity Bank Plc, Dr. Evans Woherem said that the Bank will continue to encourage its staff to sharpen their skills to face the challenges of banking, especially in these times of global economic crisis.

He said that the present economic circumstances require expert knowledge that would enhance professionalism, and also charged CIBN members to ensure strict adherence to the Institute's code of ethics at all times.

Dr. Woherem also assured CIBN of the bank's continued support to promote its quest for professionalism in the Nigerian banking industry.

In his acceptance speech, the newly elected chairman, Mr. Abiade Ademola assured members of a robust chapter, which he said, is headed towards being one of the best in the industry.

Other elected officials of the Unity Bank chapter of the CIBN include Emmanuel Habakkuk as Vice Chairman, Aliyu Yusuf and Yinka Ode as Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General, respectively. Also sworn-in at the ceremony were Peter Aiyegoro, Biodun Oyedele and Samson Ahmed as Publicity Secretary, Treasurer and Financial Secretary respectively.

Intercontinental wins CBN Kano clearing award

By Abubakar Buba

The North West/North East Region of Intercontinental Bank Plc has won the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) award for the Most Efficient Bank clearing Representatives for the year 2009.

The award was bestowed on the bank by CBN Kano Area, which also awarded the bank the 2nd Highest in value prize coming after Unity Bank.

According to the bank's Regional Director, North West/North East, Mr. Jimmy Shotunde who received the award plaque on behalf of the region, the award meant that the apex bank appreciated the efforts of the region in doing something right and this was why it was brought to the fore for public acknowledgement.

He assured that the region would work hard to become number one in highest value come 2010.

The Central Bank Kano Area is the biggest after Lagos and Abuja as all banks are represented.

Intercontinental Bank recently embarked upon a strategic repositioning drive to dominate retail markets across the country, leverage on its strong corporate finance business and massive market response to the bank's consistent delivery on its brand promise to make customers

happy with excellent banking service.

Since banking industry consolidation, Intercontinental has continued to witness rapid growth in branch expansion, customer base, while all the branches are linked on-line to render real time services. To sustain its excellent service delivery the bank acquired and installed

the latest version of the Flexcube software, regarded as the world's number one selling banking software. With a network of over 370 branches, Intercontinental Bank services are now available in all the

36 states of the federation including a full fledged office in London and four branches at the hub of Ghana.

Oceanic finances Wuye market project

By Jibrin Abubakar

Oceanic Bank International Plc is currently financing the construction of Wuye Ultra Modern market project as a way of enhancing commercial activities in the nation's capital city, Abuja.

Speaking at the foundation laying ceremony of the market in Abuja on Wednesday, Managing Director of Oceanic Bank International Plc, Dr. (Mrs.) Cecilia Ibru, who was represented by the bank's Executive Director FCT Zone, Mr. Akin Asalu said the bank decided to finance the project because of its passion for promoting trade and industry as a way of building the nation's economy.

She explained that the market was designed to give maximum comfort to both buyers and sellers, pointing out that many jobs would be created when the market takes off.

"Oceanic Bank is committed to building a stronger Nigeria and that is why we are always passionate about financing projects that will boost commerce and industry in the country amongst others," she said.

"This market will be equipped with several social amenities to make shopping a pleasant experience, providing comfort and convenience to both buyers and sellers. It is one among the many markets that Oceanic Bank is currently financing both within the FCT and across the country."

The foundation was laid by First lady Hajiya Turai Yar'adua, who was represented by Mrs. Theresa Udenwa, wife of the minister of commerce and Industry. The first lady commended the promoters of the market

and expressed optimism that it would create jobs for many people in the FCT.

Also speaking at the event, Managing Director of the Abuja Investment Company Limited, Dr. Abdu Mukhtar said the market will cover about 7 hectares of land containing around 2000 shops. He added that it will provide accommodation to many of the displaced shop owners across the FCT.

Oceanic Bank is also the lead financier of the multi-billion Naira world class economic city also referred to as the New Singer Market currently under construction.

Upon completion, the facility will be fitted with the latest technology in shopping comparable to that obtained in City Centre Mall and Emirates Mall in Dubai. It is designed to serve as trade hub that would attract investors, business travelers and tourists in Nigeria.



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

Headquarters, Mabushi, Abuja

PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT MINISTERIAL TENDERS BOARD

ESTABLISHMENT OF OZONE TECHNOLOGY VILLAGE IN IKENNE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF OGUN STATE

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

- Introduction:** The Federal Ministry of Environment intends to establish an Ozone Technology Village in Irolu in Ikenne Local Government of Ogun State.
- Objective:** The main objective of the project is to establish an Ozone friendly technology village for the environmentally friendly equipment and technology development.
- Scope of the Works:** (i) Site clearing, Geo-survey and Excavation works (ii) Earth works, (iii) Construction of drainages, (iv) Construction of Erosion and Flood control structure: - Culverts, Weirs, Groyones, Embankment formation, (v) Grassing and Clearance of site, (vi) De mobilization from site.
- Eligibility:** Interested reputable FMENV-accredited Environmental Consultants are requested to forward for consideration the following pre-qualification documents:
 - Certificate of the Company's Registration/Incorporation
 - Details of company profile including the Curriculum Vitae of Key professional staff and others resources
 - Company's valid certificate of Accreditation with the Federal Ministry of Environment as an Environmental Consultancy Firm, with competence in Hazardous Waste Management.
 - Company's Current Tax Clearance Certificate
 - VAT Registration Certificate
 - Company profile reflecting executive capacity, plant & Equipment owned and personnel
 - Verifiable evidence of previous cognate experience in jobs of this magnitude, including certificate(s) of job completion
 - Evidence from the Company's Bankers confirming its financial capacity to undertake the works, if awarded
 - Audit Reports for the last three years
 - A brief description of the project concept
- Submission Deadlines:** The completed pre-qualification document must be forwarded in sealed envelope marked on the top left hand corner "CONFIDENTIAL" boldly written "PRE-QUALIFICATION: ESTABLISHMENT OF OZONE TECHNOLOGY VILLAGE IN IKENNE LOCAL GOVERNMENT" to reach:
The Secretary
Ministerial Tenders Board
Federal Ministry of Environment
Headquarters, 3rd Floor (Room B301)
Mabushi, Abuja
Not later than **12noon, Two (2) weeks** from the date of this publication
- FORMAL OPENING OF BIDS:** Opening of all bids is scheduled for by 12noon at the Conference room, Federal Ministry of Environment, Headquarters, Mabushi, Abuja

Signed:
Director (PAM&I/Procurement)
for: Honourable Minister



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

Headquarters, Mabushi, Abuja

PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT MINISTERIAL TENDERS BOARD

CONSTRUCTION OF A PROTOTYPE GAS PHASE CHEMICAL REDUCTION (GPCR) PLANT FOR AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND DESTRUCTION/REVERSE TRANSFORMATION OF PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPs) WASTE, AT A DESIGNATED POPs MANAGEMENT DEMONSTRATION CENTRE

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

- Introduction:** The Federal Ministry of Environment intends to establish a POPs Management Demonstration Centre, to be equipped with a Prototype Gas Phase Chemical Reduction (GPCR) Plant for an environmentally sound destruction/reverse transformation of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) waste.
- Objective:** To put in place a phased Environmentally Sound Technology (EST) for the destruction/reverse transformation POPs waste.
- Scope of the Works:** The Phase I Scope of Work to be carried out includes: (i) Capacity-building Programmes (ii) Technology transfer and (iii) Production of Technical Guidance Manual, etc.
- Eligibility:** Interested reputable FMENV-accredited Environmental Consultants are requested to forward for consideration the following pre-qualification documents:
 - Certificate of the Company's Registration/Incorporation
 - Provide details of company profile including the Curriculum Vitae of Key professional staff and other resources
 - Company's valid certificate of Accreditation with the Federal Ministry of Environment as an Environmental Consultancy Firm, with competence in Hazardous Waste Management
 - Company's Current Tax Clearance Certificate
 - VAT Registration Certificate
 - Company profile reflecting executive capacity, plant & Equipment owned and personnel
 - Verifiable evidence of previous cognate experience in jobs of this magnitude, including certificate(s) of job completion
 - Evidence from the Company's Bankers confirming its financial capacity to undertake the works, if awarded.
 - Audit Reports for the last three years
- Submission Deadlines:** The completed pre-qualification document must be forwarded in sealed envelope marked on the top left hand corner "CONFIDENTIAL" and boldly written **PRE-QUALIFICATION: ESTABLISHMENT OF POPs MANAGEMENT DEMONSTRATION CENTRE**, to reach:
The Secretary
Ministerial Tenders Board
Federal Ministry of Environment
3rd Floor (Room B301)
Headquarters, Mabushi
Abuja
Not later than **12noon, Two (2) weeks** from the date of this publication
- Formal Opening of Bids:** Opening of all bids is scheduled for Tuesday by 12 noon at the Conference Room, Federal Ministry of Environment, Headquarters, Mabushi - Abuja

Signed:
Director (PAM&I/Procurement)
for: Honourable Minister



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

Headquarters, Mabushi, Abuja

PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT MINISTERIAL TENDERS BOARD

ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL AIR QUALITY MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT STATIONS

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

- Introduction:** The Federal Ministry of Environment intends to establish a National Air Monitoring and Management Stations.
- Objective:** The main objective of the project is to develop National Data Bank which will consequently lead to the establishment of Air Quality Monitoring Stations in the country.
- Scope of the Works:** The project will involved inventorial studies of air quality in metropolitan cities of Lagos, Port Harcourt, Kano, Abu, Abuja and Maiduguri.
- Eligibility:** Interested reputable FMENV-accredited Environmental Consultants are requested to forward for consideration the following pre-qualification documents:
 - Certificate of the Company's Registration/Incorporation
 - Details of company profile including the Curriculum Vitae of Key professional staff and others resources
 - Company's valid certificate of Accreditation with the Federal Ministry of Environment as an Environmental Consultancy Firm, with competence in Hazardous Waste Management
 - Company's Current Tax Clearance Certificate
 - VAT Registration Certificate
 - Company profile reflecting executive capacity, plant & Equipment owned and personnel
 - Verifiable evidence of previous cognate experience in jobs of this magnitude, including certificate(s) of job completion
 - Evidence from the Company's Bankers confirming its financial capacity to undertake the works, if awarded.
 - Audit Reports for the last three years
 - A brief description of the project concept
- Submission Deadlines:** The completed pre-qualification document must be forwarded in sealed envelope marked on the top left hand corner "CONFIDENTIAL" and boldly written "PRE-QUALIFICATION: ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL AIR QUALITY MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT STATIONS" to reach:
The Secretary
Ministerial Tenders Board
Federal Ministry of Environment
3rd Floor (Room B301)
Headquarters, Mabushi
Abuja
Not later than **12noon, Two (2) weeks** from the date of this publication
- Formal Opening of Bids:** Opening of all bids is scheduled for By 12 noon at the Conference Room, Federal Ministry of Environment, Headquarters, Mabushi - Abuja.

Signed:
Director (PAM&I/Procurement)
for: Honourable Minister



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

Headquarters, Mabushi, Abuja

PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT MINISTERIAL TENDERS BOARD

PROJECT LOT (I): ESTABLISHMENT OF DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN THE SIX (6) GEO-POLITICAL ZONES OF THE FEDERATION PROJECT LOT (II): MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION OF THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE USING COMMUNITY BASED TOOLS

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

- Introduction:** The Federal Ministry of Environment intends to establish Data Management System and Community Based tools in the Six(6) Geo-political Zones of the Country to monitor and mitigate the effects of Climate change
- Objective:** To monitor, mitigate and adapt the effects of Climate change in the country
- Scope of the Works:** Lot.1: Establishment of Data Management System in the Six Geo-political Zones of the federation and Lot. 2: Mitigation and Adaptation of the effects of Climate change Using Community Based Tools.
- Eligibility:** Interested reputable contractors are requested to forward for consideration the following pre-qualification documents:
 - Certificate of the Company's Registration/Incorporation
 - Provide details of company profile including the Curriculum Vitae of Key professional staff and others resources
 - Company's valid certificate of Accreditation with the Federal Ministry of Works, Housing & Urban Development and Federal Ministry of Environment Category "C" OR "D"
 - Company's Current Tax Clearance Certificate
 - VAT Registration for the last three years (Evidence must be attached)
 - Company profile reflecting executive capacity, plant & Equipment owned and personnel
 - Verifiable evidence of previous cognate experience in jobs of this magnitude, including certificate(s) of job completion
 - Evidence from the Company's Bankers confirming its financial capacity to undertake the works, if awarded.
 - Audit Reports for the last three years
- Submission Deadlines:** The completed pre-qualification documents must be forwarded in sealed envelopes for the LOT of choice marked on the top left hand corner "CONFIDENTIAL" and boldly written **PRE-QUALIFICATION: "...Lot.1: Establishment of Data Management System in the Six Geo-political Zones of the Federation OR Lot. 2: Mitigation and Adaptation of the effects of Climate change Using Community Based Tools."** to reach:
The Secretary
Ministerial Tenders Board
Federal Ministry of Environment
3rd Floor (Room B301)
Headquarters, Mabushi
Abuja
Not later than **12noon, Two (2) weeks** from the date of this publication.
- Formal Opening of Bids:** Opening of all bids is scheduled for by 12 noon at the Conference Room, Federal Ministry of Environment, Headquarters, Mabushi - Abuja

Signed:
Director (PAM&I/Procurement)
for: Honourable Minister



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

Headquarters, Mabushi, Abuja

**PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT
MINISTERIAL TENDERS BOARD**

BUILDING A NATIONAL INVENTORY ARCHIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

- Introduction:** Building Inventory Archive System is a critical step in the sustainability of the National Inventory System because it serves as a starting point for future inventory teams
- Objective:** To build a National Inventory Management System from a set of building blocks which developing Countries can construct using redefined "Templates"
- Scope of the Works:** Building the National System Templates (Six): (i) Key Source Analysis Template (ii) Institutional Arrangements for Nation Inventory System Template (iii) Documentation and Source by Source Description Template (iv) Quality assurance and Quality Control measures Template (v) Inventory Archie system template (vi) National Inventory improvement plan Template
- Eligibility:** Interested reputable FMENV-accredited Environmental Consultants are requested to forward for consideration the following pre-qualification documents;
 - Certificate of the Company's Registration/Incorporation
 - Provide details of company profile including the Curriculum Vitae of Key professional staff and other resources
 - Company's valid certificate of Accreditation with the Federal Ministry of Works, Housing & Urban Development and Federal Ministry of Environment Category "C" OR "D"
 - Company's Current Tax Clearance Certificate
 - VAT Registration for the last three years (Evidence must be attached)
 - Company profile reflecting executive capacity, plant & Equipment owned and personnel
 - Verifiable evidence of previous cognate experience in jobs of this magnitude, including certificate(s) of job completion
 - Evidence from the Company's Bankers confirming its financial capacity to undertake the works, if awarded.
 - Audit Report for the last three (3) years
- Submission Deadlines:** The completed pre-qualification documents must be forwarded in sealed envelopes marked on the top left hand corner "CONFIDENTIAL" and boldly written **PRE-QUALIFICATION: "BUILDING ANATIONAL INVENTORY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM"** to reach:
The Secretary
Ministerial Tenders Board
Federal Ministry of Environment
3rd Floor (Room B301)
Headquarters, Mabushi
Abuja
Not later than **12noon, Two (2) weeks** from the date of this publication
- Formal Opening of Bids:** Opening of all bids is scheduled for by 12 noon at the Conference Room, Federal Ministry of Environment, Headquarters, Mabushi - Abuja

Signed:
Director (PAM&I/Procurement)
for: Honourable Minister



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

Headquarters, Mabushi, Abuja

**PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT
MINISTERIAL TENDERS BOARD**

PROCUREMENT OF DATA BANK FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MODELLING

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

- Introduction:** The Federal Ministry of Environment intends to procure Data Bank for Climate Change Modelling
- Objective:** Establishment of Climate change prediction models nationwide
- Scope of the Works:** (I) Designing A 3-D "DOING NOTHING SENARIOS" (II) DESIGNING A 3-D "MITIGATION SCENARIOS" (III) COLLECTION OF BASELINE SCENARIO DATA FOR VOLUNERABILITY PREDICTIONS.
- Eligibility:** Interested reputable FMENV-accredited Environmental Consultants are requested to forward for consideration the following pre-qualification documents;
 - Certificate of the Company's Registration/Incorporation
 - Provide details of company profile including the Curriculum Vitae of Key professional staff and other resources
 - Company's valid certificate of Accreditation with the Federal Ministry of Works, Housing & Urban Development and Federal Ministry of Environment Category "C" OR "D"
 - Company's Current Tax Clearance Certificate
 - VAT Registration for the last three years (Evidence must be attached)
 - Company profile reflecting executive capacity, plant & Equipment owned and personnel
 - Verifiable evidence of previous cognate experience in jobs of this magnitude, including certificate(s) of job completion
 - Evidence from the Company's Bankers confirming its financial capacity to undertake the works, if awarded.
 - Audit Reports for the last three (3) years
- Submission Deadlines:** The completed pre-qualification documents must be forwarded in sealed envelopes marked on the top left hand corner "CONFIDENTIAL" and boldly written **PRE-QUALIFICATION: "PROCUREMENT OF DATA BANK FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MODELLING"** to reach:
The Secretary
Ministerial Tenders Board
Federal Ministry of Environment
3rd Floor (Room B301)
Headquarters, Mabushi
Abuja
Not later than **12noon, Two (2) weeks** from the date of this publication
- Formal Opening of Bids:** Opening of all bids is scheduled for by 12 noon at the Conference Room, Federal Ministry of Environment, Headquarters, Mabushi - Abuja

Signed:
Director (PAM&I/Procurement)
for: Honourable Minister



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

Headquarters, Mabushi, Abuja

**PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT
MINISTERIAL TENDERS BOARD**

GENERATION OF GEO-SPATIAL INFORMATION FOR DEVELOPING A NATIONAL REFERENCE EMISSION LEVEL

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

- Introduction:** The Federal Ministry of Environment as the focal point in Nigeria is to establish a National Reference Emission Level
- Objective:** To establish a Baseline for Stimulating a Nigerian Carbon Market
- Scope of the Works:** (i) Designing a methodology for REDD including grounds trashing (field Observation), (ii) Establishment of a Baseline Year for Nigeria, (iii) Estimation of Growth Stocks at National Level (BC and SOC Estimates) using processed Imageries and Polygon.
- Eligibility:** Interested reputable Contractors are requested to forward for consideration the following documents;
 - Certificate of the Company's Registration/Incorporation
 - Provide details of company profile including the Curriculum Vitae of Key professional staff and other resources
 - Company's valid certificate of Accreditation with the Federal Ministry of Works, Housing & Urban Development and Federal Ministry of Environment Category "C" OR "D"
 - Company's Current Tax Clearance Certificate
 - VAT Registration for the last three years (Evidence must be attached)
 - Company profile reflecting executive capacity
 - Verifiable evidence of previous cognate experience in jobs of this magnitude, including certificate(s) of job completion
 - Evidence from the Company's Bankers confirming its financial capacity to undertake the works, if awarded.
 - Audit Reports for the last three years
- Submission Deadlines:** The completed pre-qualification documents must be forwarded in sealed envelopes marked on the top left hand corner "CONFIDENTIAL" and boldly written **PRE-QUALIFICATION: "GENERATION OF GEO-SPATIAL INFORMATION FOR DEVELOPING A NATIONAL REFERENCE EMISSION LEVEL"** to reach:
The Secretary
Ministerial Tenders Board
Federal Ministry of Environment
3rd Floor (Room B301)
Headquarters, Mabushi
Abuja
Not later than **12noon, Two (2) weeks** from the date of this publication
- Formal Opening of Bids:** Opening of all bids is scheduled for by 12 noon at the Conference Room, Federal Ministry of Environment, Headquarters, Mabushi - Abuja

Signed:
Director (PAM&I/Procurement)
for: Honourable Minister



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

Headquarters, Mabushi, Abuja

**POLICY ANALYSIS, MONITORING & INSPECTORATE DEPT.
MINISTERIAL TENDERS BOARD**

- PROJECT (I): RAIN FOREST RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, REHABILITATION OF NURSERIES IN ONDO, OSUN, CROSSRIVER, KADUNA AND ENUGU STATES AND NATIONAL PLANTING CAMPAIGN**
PROJECT (II): NATIONAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR WETLAND

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

- Introduction:** The Federal Ministry of Environment is desirous to undertake a prequalification exercise for the implementation of Forestry Projects appropriated in the 2009 Budget
- Objective:** Development, Rehabilitation and Conservation of Forest Resources and Nurseries
- Scope of the Works:** (i) Rain Forest Resources Development, Rehabilitation of Nurseries in Ondo, Osun, Cross River, Kaduna and Enugu States and National Tree Planting Campaign (ii) National Resources Conservation and Development of Management Plan for Wetlands.
- Eligibility:** Interested reputable contractors are requested to forward for consideration the following pre-qualification documents;
 - Certificate of the Company's Registration/Incorporation
 - Provide details of company profile including the Curriculum Vitae of Key professional staff and other resources
 - Company's valid certificate of Accreditation with the Federal Ministry of Works, Housing & Urban Development and Federal Ministry of Environment Category "C" OR "D"
 - Company's Current Tax Clearance Certificate
 - VAT Registration for the last three years (Evidence must be attached)
 - Company profile reflecting executive capacity, plant & Equipment owned and personnel
 - Verifiable evidence of previous cognate experience in jobs of this magnitude, including certificate(s) of job completion
 - Evidence from the Company's Bankers confirming its financial capacity to undertake the works, if awarded.
 - Audit Reports for the last three years
- Submission Deadlines:** The completed pre-qualification documents for **Project (I) or Project (II)** must be forwarded in sealed envelopes indicating the State of choice for Project (I) and marked on the top left hand corner "CONFIDENTIAL" and boldly written **PRE-QUALIFICATION: "Project (I): Rain Forest Resources Development, Rehabilitation of Nurseries in Ondo, State (or State of your choice) or Project (II): National Resources Conservation and Development Plan for Wetland"** to reach:
The Secretary
Ministerial Tenders Board
Federal Ministry of Environment
3rd Floor (Room B301)
Headquarters, Mabushi
Abuja
Not later than **12noon, Two (2) weeks** from the date of this publication
- Formal Opening of Bids:** Opening of all bids is scheduled for by 12 noon at the Conference Room, Federal Ministry of Environment, Headquarters, Mabushi - Abuja

Signed:
Director (PAM&I/Procurement)
for: Honourable Minister



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

Headquarters, Mabushi, Abuja

PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT MINISTERIAL TENDERS BOARD

**PURCHASE OF WATER HYACINTH HARVESTER, MACHINE, BADGES, TRANSPORTER
INSTALLATION, TRAINING AND ACCESSORIES FOR FIVE (5) YEARS**

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

- Introduction:** The Federal Ministry of Environment is desirous to implement Forestry Projects appropriated in the 2009 Budget.
- Objective:** Purchase and Installation of Water Hyacinth Harvester Machine.
- Scope of the Works**
 - Purchase of Water Hyacinth Harvester Machine
 - Purchase of Badges, Transporter
 - Installation and Training
 - Accessories for Five (5) years.
- Eligibility:** Interested reputable contractors are requested to forward for consideration the following pre-qualification documents;
 - Certificate of the Company's Registration/Incorporation
 - Provide details of company profile including the Curriculum Vitae of Key professional staff and other resources
 - Company's valid certificate of Accreditation with the Federal Ministry of Works, Housing & Urban Development and Federal Ministry of Environment Category "C" OR "D"
 - Company's Current Tax Clearance Certificate
 - VAT Registration for the last three years (Evidence must be attached)
 - Company profile reflecting executive capacity, plant & Equipment owned and personnel
 - Verifiable evidence of previous cognate experience in jobs of this magnitude, including certificate(s) of job completion
 - Evidence from the Company's Bankers confirming its financial capacity to undertake the works, if awarded.
 - Audit Reports for the last three years
- Submission Deadlines:** The completed prequalification documents for **Project (I) or Project (II)** must be forwarded in sealed envelopes indicating the State of choice for Project (I) and marked on the top left hand corner "CONFIDENTIAL" and boldly written **PREQUALIFICATION: "Project (I): Rain Forest Resources Development, Rehabilitation of Nurseries in Ondo, State (or State of your choice) or Project (II): National Resources Conservation and Development Plan for Wetland"** to reach:
The Secretary
 Ministerial Tenders Board
 Federal Ministry of Environment
 3rd Floor (Room B301)
 Headquarters, Mabushi
 Abuja
 Not later than **12noon, Two (2) weeks** from the date of this publication
- Formal Opening of Bids:** Opening of all bids is scheduled for by 12 noon at the Conference Room, Federal Ministry of Environment, Headquarters, Mabushi - Abuja

Signed:
Director (PAM&I/Procurement)
for: Honourable Minister



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

Headquarters, Mabushi, Abuja

**PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT
MINISTERIAL TENDERS BOARD
EROSION AND FLOOD CONTROL WORKS IN ILUDUN EKITI, EKITI STATE,
AGWATASHI, NASARAWA STATE, TEKPAYI IBBA, NIGER STATE, AGO OBA BRIDGE,
ILORIN, KWARA STATE**

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

- Introduction:** The Federal Ministry of Environment intend to carry out Erosion and Flood Control in some selected state in the country.
- Objective:** To control the menace of erosion and Flood in the selected state
- Scope of the Works**

(i)	Site Clearing
(II)	Excavation for drains and earth works
(III)	Provision of Interceptor drains and Culverts
(IV)	Filling of gullied areas
(V)	Re-shaping of gully edges
(VI)	Concrete works/Reinforcements
(VII)	Stone pitching works
(VIII)	Grazing of Reclaimed land
(IX)	Ancillary works
- Eligibility:** Interested reputable contractors are requested to forward for consideration the following pre-qualification documents;
 - Certificate of the Company's Registration/Incorporation
 - Provide details of company profile including the Curriculum Vitae of Key professional staff and other resources
 - Company's valid certificate of Accreditation with the Federal Ministry of Works, Housing & Urban Development and Federal Ministry of Environment Category "C" OR "D"
 - Company's Current Tax Clearance Certificate
 - VAT Registration for the last three years (Evidence must be attached)
 - Company profile reflecting executive capacity, plant & Equipment owned and personnel
 - Verifiable evidence of previous cognate experience in jobs of this magnitude, including certificate(s) of job completion
 - Evidence from the Company's Bankers confirming its financial capacity to undertake the works, if awarded.
 - Audit Reports for the last three years
- Submission Deadlines:** The completed pre-qualification documents must be forwarded in sealed envelopes marked on the Stop left hand corner "CONFIDENTIAL" and boldly written **PRE-QUALIFICATION: "EROSION AND FLOOD CONTROL WORKS IN..... (Location of choice)"** to reach:
The Secretary
 Ministerial Tenders Board
 Federal Ministry of Environment
 3rd Floor (Room B301)
 Headquarters, Mabushi
 Abuja
 Not later than **12noon, Two (2) weeks** from the date of this publication
- Formal Opening of Bids:** Opening of all bids is scheduled for by 12 noon at the Conference Room, Federal Ministry of Environment, Headquarters, Mabushi - Abuja

Signed:
Director (PAM&I/Procurement)
for: Honourable Minister



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

Headquarters, Mabushi, Abuja

PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT MINISTERIAL TENDERS BOARD

**FINAL REVISION AND PRODUCTION OF EIA SECTORAL
GUIDELINES**

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

- Introduction:** As part of its activities for 2009, the Federal Ministry of Environment through the Environmental Assessment Department wishes to undertake Final Revision and Production of EIA Sectoral Guidelines
- Objective:** To revise existing EIA Sectoral Guidelines for use by the Ministry and all its Agencies and Parastatals
- Scope of the Works:**
 - Final Revision and production of 3000 copies of EIA Sectoral Guidelines on Dredging (Inland and Riverine)
 - Final Revision and production of 3000 copies of EIA Sectoral Guidelines on Wastes management
 - Final Revision and Production of 3000 copies of EIA reviewers' Guideline
 - Revision and Production of 3000 copies of the National Guidelines on Environmental Management Systems
- Eligibility:** Interested reputable contractors are requested to forward for consideration the following pre-qualification documents;
 - Certificate of the Company's Registration/Incorporation
 - Provide details of company profile including the Curriculum Vitae of Key professional staff and other resources
 - Company's valid certificate of Accreditation with the Federal Ministry of Works, Housing & Urban Development and Federal Ministry of Environment Category "C" OR "D"
 - Company's Current Tax Clearance Certificate
 - VAT Registration for the last three years (Evidence must be attached)
 - Company profile reflecting executive capacity, plant & Equipment owned and personnel
 - Verifiable evidence of previous cognate experience in jobs of this magnitude, including certificate(s) of job completion
 - Evidence from the Company's Bankers confirming its financial capacity to undertake the works, if awarded.
- Submission Deadlines:** The completed pre-qualification documents must be forwarded in sealed envelopes marked on the top left hand corner "CONFIDENTIAL" and boldly written **PRE-QUALIFICATION: "FINAL REVISION AND PRODUCTION OF EIA SECTORAL GUIDELINES"** to reach:
The Secretary
 Ministerial Tenders Board
 Federal Ministry of Environment
 3rd Floor (Room B301)
 Headquarters, Mabushi
 Abuja
 Not later than **12noon, Two (2) weeks** from the date of this publication
- Formal Opening of Bids:** Opening of all bids is scheduled for by 12 noon at the Conference Room, Federal Ministry of Environment, Headquarters, Mabushi - Abuja

Signed:
Director (PAM&I/Procurement)
for: Honourable Minister



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

Headquarters, Mabushi, Abuja

PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT MINISTERIAL TENDERS BOARD

**PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION OF A BRIQUETTING MACHINE IN
OGOJA, CROSS RIVER STATE**

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

- Introduction:** The Federal Ministry of Environment intends to carry out procurement and installation of a Briquetting Machine towards production of briquette as an alternative to firewood
- Objective:** The main objective of the project is to Reduce Environmental Pollution by Harnessing Local Agro-Industrial Wastes (BIOMASS) as an alternative source of energy to fuel wood for use in Nigeria.
- Scope of the Works:** The project will involve (I) Clearing and Fencing of Acquired Site (II) Construction of Administrative Block and Plant Shed
- Eligibility:** Interested reputable Building Contractors are requested to forward for consideration the following pre-qualification documents:
 - Certificate of the Company's Registration/Incorporation
 - Details of company profile including the Curriculum Vitae of Key professional staff and other resources
 - Company's valid certificate of Accreditation with the Federal Ministry of Environment as an Environmental Consultancy Firm, with competence in Hazardous Waste Management.
 - Company's Current Tax Clearance Certificate
 - VAT Registration Certificate
 - Company profile reflecting executive capacity, plant & Equipment owned and personnel
 - Verifiable evidence of previous cognate experience in jobs of this magnitude, including certificate(s) of job completion
 - Evidence from the Company's Bankers confirming its financial capacity to undertake the works, if awarded
 - Audit Reports for the last three years
 - A brief description of the project concept
- Submission Deadlines:** The completed pre-qualification document must be forwarded in sealed envelope marked on the top left hand corner "CONFIDENTIAL" and boldly written **PRE-QUALIFICATION: PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION OF A BRIQUETTING MACHINE IN OGOJA, CROSS RIVER STATE** to reach:
The Secretary
 Ministerial Tenders Board
 Federal Ministry of Environment
 Headquarters, 3rd Floor (Room B301)
 Mabushi, Abuja
 Not later than **12noon, Two (2) weeks** from the date of this publication
- FORMAL OPENING OF BIDS:** Opening of all bids is scheduled for by 12noon at the Conference room Federal Ministry of Environment, Headquarters, Mabushi, Abuja

Signed:
Director (PAM&I/Procurement)
for: Honourable Minister



MINISTRY OF BUDGET AND ECONOMIC PLANNING
Office of the Chairman Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
Programme Implementation Committee

Usman Faruk Secretary Sokoto
P.M.B. 2016
Sokoto

Tel: 060-233008

**INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FROM
REPUTABLE CONTRACTORS WITH RELEVANT
EXPERIENCE AND REQUISITE EXPERTISE TO
UNDERTAKE EXECUTION OF MDG/CGS PROJECTS IN
SOKOTO STATE.**

A. INTRODUCTION

As part of its commitment and mandate to the attainment of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Sokoto State Government in partnership with federal government of Nigeria (OSSAP/MDG) will be utilizing conditional grant for implementation of projects and programmes for the attainment of MDGs. The State in collaboration with OSSAP/MDG has made a provision for the execution of MDGs projects in rural water, and primary health centres. The office of the Chairman State programme implementation unit hereby invites suitably qualified and reputable contracting firm to pre-qualify for works in the following areas.

B. THE SCOPE OF WORK INCLUDES

- i. Construction of Solar Powered Boreholes
- ii. Supply of Obstetrics Care Basic (AEOCs) Equipments
- iii. Supply of Equipment and Drugs for Roll Back Malaria Programme

C. PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT

- i. Evidence of Incorporation with CAC.
- ii. VAT registration
- iii. Tax clearance certificate (2004-2005 and 2006)
- iv. Company audited account for at least 3 years
- v. Evidence of financial capability and clean bill of healthy financial position in the form of referee from the bank.
- vi. Evidence of experience/technical qualification including key personnel
- vii. Equipment and technology capability

SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Two (2) Hard copies and one (1) Soft copy (CD or DVD) of the completed pre-qualification documents should be submitted in sealed envelope which shall bear words, PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR MDG/CGS 2008, indicating specific project^(s) applied for.

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTOR FOR I/II/II OR ALL

The envelopes should not bear any mark indicating the identity of the submitter. All documents shall be submitted at the following address not later **15th April, 2009**.

Office of the Chairman MDGs programme implementation committee
Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, Usman Faruk Secretariat
Sokoto, Sokoto State.

NOTE

Only short listed contractor will be invited to tender.
The office of the Chairman on MDGs will not make any form of payment or refund what so ever for expenses incurred in response to this invitation.

Signed

Sokoto State MDGs Focal Person
For: Chairman Millennium Development Goals
State Programme Implementation Committee



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
Headquarters, Mabushi, Abuja

PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT
MINISTERIAL TENDERS BOARD

**ESTABLISHMENT OF METAL/SCRAP RECOVERY RECYCLING PLANT PROJECT
IN OGUN STATE**

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

1. **Introduction:** The Federal Government through the Ministry of Environment intends to establish Metal/Scrap Waste Recovery/Recycling Plant in Ogun State
2. **Objective:** To manage the Metal/Vehicle Scrap Waste and its environ in order to prevent all associated environmental hazards associated with such waste
3. **Scope of the Works:** **LOT 1:** Feasibility Studies for the Establishment of Metal/Vehicle Scrap Recycling Plant in Ogun State
LOT 2: Establishment of Metal/Vehicle Scrap Recycling Plant in Ogun State

1. **Eligibility:** Interested reputable FMENV-accredited Environmental Consultants are requested to forward for consideration the following pre-qualification documents:

- (i) Certificate of the Company's Registration/Incorporation
- (ii) Details of company profile including the Curriculum Vitae of Key professional staff and other resources
- (iii) Company's valid certificate of Accreditation with the Federal Ministry of Environment as an Environmental Consultancy Firm, with competence in Hazardous Waste Management.
- (iv) Company's Current Tax Clearance Certificate
- (v) VAT Registration Certificate
- (vi) Company profile reflecting executive capacity, plant & Equipment owned and personnel
- (vii) Verifiable evidence of previous cognate experience in jobs of this magnitude, including certificate(s) of job completion
- (viii) Evidence from the Company's Bankers confirming its financial capacity to undertake the works, if awarded
- (ix) Audit Reports for the last three years
- (x) A brief description of the project concept

5. **Submission Deadlines:** The completed pre-qualification document must be forwarded in sealed envelope marked on the top left hand corner "CONFIDENTIAL" boldly written "PRE-QUALIFICATION: ESTABLISHMENT OF METAL/SCRAP RECOVERY RECYCLING PLANT PROJECT IN OGUN STATE" to reach:

The Secretary
Ministerial Tenders Board
Federal Ministry of Environment
Headquarters, 3rd Floor (Room B301)
Mabushi, Abuja
Not later than **12noon, Two (2) weeks** from the date of this publication

6. **FORMAL OPENING OF BIDS:** Opening of all bids is scheduled for by 12noon at the Conference room Federal Ministry of Environment, Headquarters, Mabushi, Abuja

Signed:
Director (PAM&I/Procurement)
for: Honourable Minister



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
Headquarters, Mabushi, Abuja

PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT
MINISTERIAL TENDERS BOARD

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY PREPARATION AND RESPONSE PLAN

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

1. **Introduction:** The Ministry, as the Lead Organization for Mainstreaming Sound Chemicals Management (SMC) in Nigeria is desirous to developing an Integrative and Effective National Institutional Framework for Hazardous Chemicals-related Disaster Management System.
2. **Objective:** To prevent, prepare ore, and maintain superior response capabilities in Chemical-related Accidents Disasters, Spills and other Emergencies
3. **Scope of the Works:** Development and Production of a National Hazardous Chemicals Emergency Response Plan

4. **Eligibility:** Interested reputable FMENV-accredited Environmental Consultants are requested to forward for consideration the following pre-qualification documents:

- (i) Certificate of the Company's Registration/Incorporation
- (ii) Details of company profile including the Curriculum Vitae of Key professional staff and others resources
- (iii) Company's valid certificate of Accreditation with the Federal Ministry of Environment as an Environmental Consultancy Firm, with competence in Hazardous Waste Management.
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- (v) VAT Registration Certificate
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- (vii) Verifiable evidence of previous cognate experience in jobs of this magnitude, including certificate(s) of job completion
- (viii) Evidence from the Company's Bankers confirming its financial capacity to undertake the works, if awarded
- (ix) Audit Reports for the last three years
- (x) A brief description of the project concept

5. **Submission Deadlines:** The completed pre-qualification document must be forwarded in sealed envelope marked on the top left hand corner "CONFIDENTIAL" boldly written "PRE-QUALIFICATION: HAZARDOUS MATERIAL EMERGENCY PREPARATION AND RESPONSE PLAN" to reach:

The Secretary
Ministerial Tenders Board
Federal Ministry of Environment
Headquarters, 3rd Floor (Room B301)
Mabushi, Abuja
Not later than **12noon, Two (2) weeks** from the date of this publication

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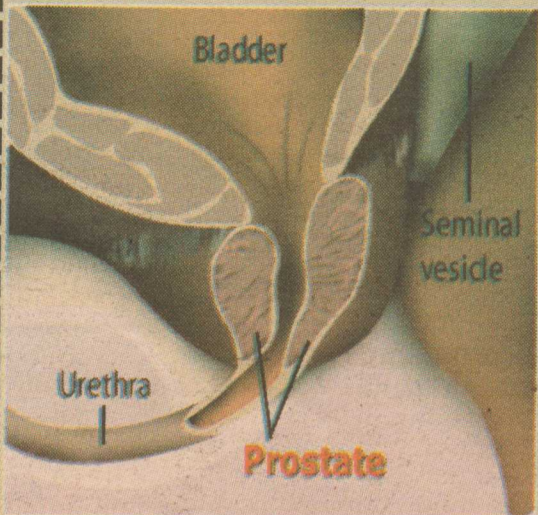
Signed:
Director (PAM&I/Procurement)
for: Honourable Minister

THE HOME FRONT

INSIDE

Health Interactive

With Dr Aminu Magashi



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FASHION & STYLE

Looking great with healthy makeup tools



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Helping your child overcome reading disorder

By Akor Ojoma

Reading disorder known medically as dyslexia is a serious problem many parents are battling with in their homes. When children attain school age most parents enrol them with high hopes of their learning how to read fast and subsequently doing well with their studies generally. A number of parents say it is a thing of joy seeing their children read especially in their early ages.

A child with dyslexia reads at a much lower level than average for his or her age, intelligence, and education. The disorder affects how a child does in school and other daily activities.

Causes

Experts at Baptistonline.org say nobody knows what causes dyslexia. It occurs more in some families. Children with other conditions such as fetal alcohol syndrome, fragile X syndrome, and lead poisoning are more likely to have a learning disability such as a reading disorder.

The disorder is not caused by vision problems. In dyslexia the problem is in the way the brain translates symbols into meaningful language.

Symptoms

Symptoms based on what is average for the child's age, intelligence, and education include:

Guessing words, rotating numbers and letters, such as "9" and "6" or "b" and "d",

Changing the order of letters in words, not looking at all the letters in a word

Losing the place while reading, forgetting common words learned each day

Reading word for word, adding, deleting, or changing words in a sentence and reading slowly.

Sometimes children with dyslexia also have problems with speaking, such as mispronouncing words and speaking in incomplete sentences. Research shows that children who start talking later than normal may be more likely to have a reading disorder.

Diagnosis

The disorder is usually detected in children early in primary school by parents or teachers. By the primary three children with a reading disorder are usually 1 to 2 years behind in reading skills. The doctor will also examine the child to rule out

medical problems such as hearing or vision problems. He or she will ask about the child's symptoms, medical history, and any family history of learning disorders. The child can also be referred to a specialist for

reading disorder is increasing self-esteem through support and encouragement from family members, friends, and teachers. The child should be praised for his or her efforts and for any gains, however small, in reading skills.

How long do the effects last?

It may be hard for children with dyslexia to keep up with schoolwork. The earlier the child receives special help with reading skills, the more likely he or she will successfully complete secondary school and tertiary institution. Teenagers who still have problems may lose interest in reading, making it difficult for them to do well in school. Adults with an untreated reading disorder may have fewer career choices.

Helping the child

Health experts advise parents to:

Read to your child, or with your child, every day. Let your child select the book. Follow the words with your finger as you read. Explain words and ask questions to be sure your child understands. Have your child draw a picture or write a few sentences about what has been read.

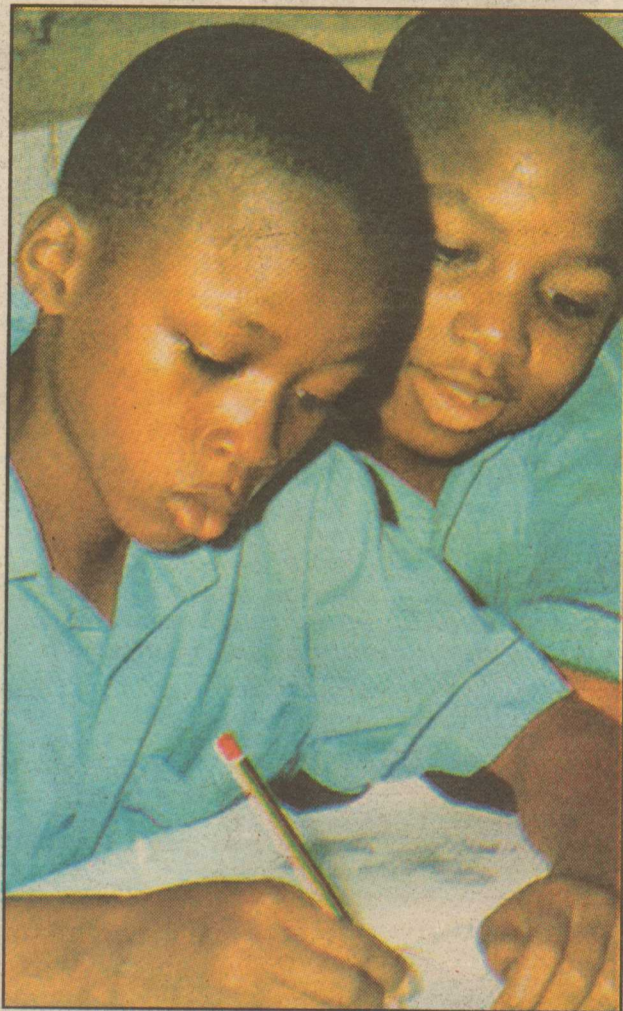
Read books about what interests your child such as sports, art, animals, hobbies, science and nature. Read together for enjoyment and fun, as well as for learning.

Talk about what you are reading and allow your child to interrupt and ask questions. This helps involve the child in the story and also increases understanding of what is read.

Write down your child's stories or have him or her write them down if writing skills are developed. Seeing his or her own words in print help to connect reading and writing concepts.

Encourage your child to read all kinds of things, such as labels, signs, magazines, assembly instructions, billboards, or Internet information.

Praise your child's efforts at reading and writing. Give encouragement for trying.



testing to measure the child's reading level and overall intelligence.

Treatment

Reading disorders are usually treated by providing one-on-one instruction in reading skills. The child may receive special help from his or her teacher in a regular classroom setting. It is also helpful for the child to work with a reading specialist also called "remedial reading". This can be done privately or in a small group that meets

in a special classroom that may be called a resource room, reading center, or reading lab.

Methods that emphasise the senses, including hearing, vision, and touch are often used to improve reading skills. A variety of teaching methods are used. In many cases if one approach isn't successful with a particular child, the teacher will try another one.

An important part of treatment for a child with a

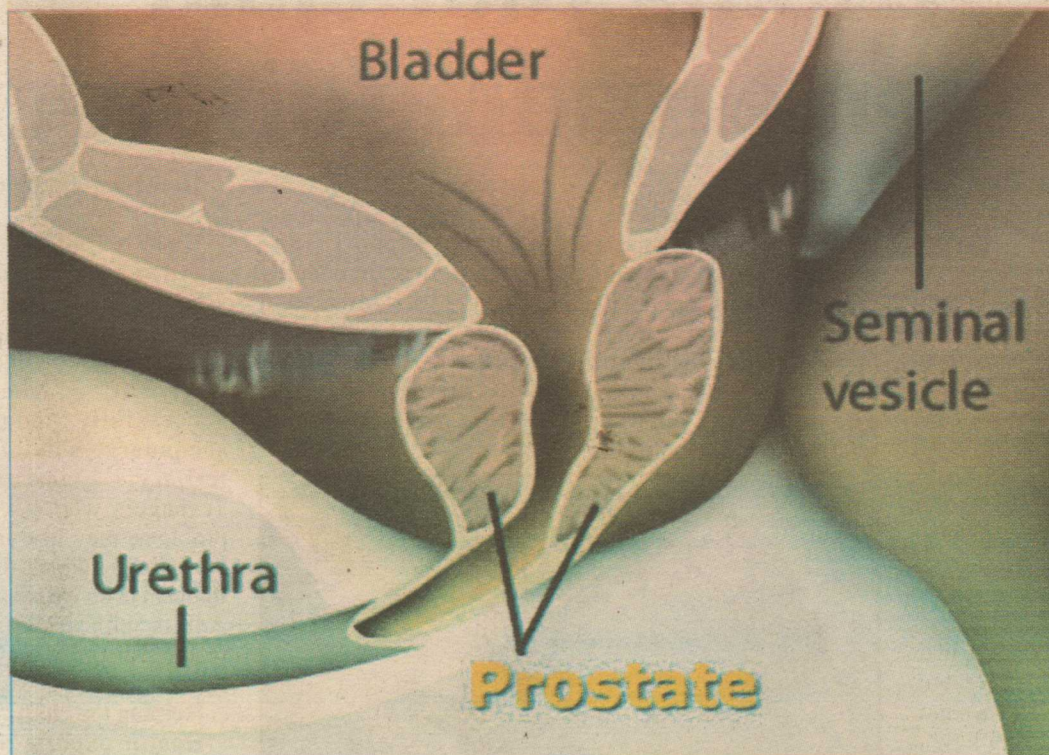
Sometimes children with dyslexia also have problems with speaking, such as mispronouncing words and speaking in incomplete sentences. Research shows that children who start talking later than normal may be more likely to have a reading disorder

THE HOME FRONT

Health interactive

With

Dr Aminu Magashi

**My prostate gland is enlarged**

I am 65 years old but with good sexual appetite. I have 3 wives and two of them are young. Recently I started having difficulty in urination and a doctor confirmed that my prostate is enlarged. Please what are the causes and remedy?

Yusufa.

Prostate Gland is a secretory and aggregated cells that are found below the urinary bladder and in between the urethra of a man. As one grows older, the glands increase in size and at times if the growth is remarkable can cause obstruction to urine path way. It is a sign of old age, just like gray hair, but it is not a must to cause obstruction.

There are 3 kinds of prostate enlargement

- Benign prostatic hypertrophy (is the commonest among the three, it is mild, can cause obstruction and is diagnosed through rectal examination)
- Prostatitis (inflammation of the gland due to infective agents such as bacteria)
- Carcinoma of the prostate (this is a severe condition and without a known cause, but known carcinogens can stimulate the growth).

Visiting a Urologist in a teaching hospital will be your best option.

Lactation and dryness

I am 24 years old and had my first child 3 months ago. I am breastfeeding but however, both myself and my husband are sexually active. He has complained that my private part is dry despite foreplay, I have also noticed same. Kindly proffer solution.

Rabia

After delivery, there is decreased level of Estrogen (A chemical agent that ensures adequate vaginal lubrication), this is as a result of activity of another chemical agent called Prolactin that contributes in milk production. During breastfeeding, Prolactin is active.

You can obtain creams or lubricants such as K-Y Jelly and also non-prescription Estrogen creams, foams and suppositories all of which are available in any good chemist and use based on instruction provided in its cover, label or flyer.

My child's hair is sparse

I am very worried that my first child was delivered with very little hair and over the last two years the condition has not really improved. I want to know the likely causes.

J Joseph.

Embryologically, hair follicles appear during the ninth week of gestation (pregnancy). At eight months of gestation, the initial fine and lightly pigmented fetal hair called lanugo is shed and vellus hairs emerge.

The condition of child delivered without hair is called Congenital Alopecia (loss of hair).

Many factors could be responsible such as:

1. Hormonal imbalance
2. Genetic factors
3. Development defects within the uterus

Your child needs to be assessed by a consultant physician in a teaching hospital. His/her hair may or may not grow depending on the cause and the outcome of examination and diagnosis. For children that have less or absence of hair, as they grow older, they will notice such differences especially among their peers and that may cause anxiety and worries and may detach themselves from other people. The social problem may be aggravated if their peers make fun of them. As a father, you need to be aware of that possibility to ensure that you monitor your child and such tendencies and provide regular encouragement, support and closeness.

Risk of being a wickle cell carrier

Both my wife and I are Sickel Cell Carriers. We only discovered that when we were being registered for Health Insurance Scheme. Please what are the risk attached to it?

Uba from Abuja

A carrier means AS, not SS, only carrying the Sickel Cell trait, not having the disease (SS). The chances during every pregnancy are that, there is 50% chance of every pregnancy to give birth to a carrier (AS) and 25% chance of every pregnancy having an AA (normal) and 25% of every pregnancy having SS (child with the Sickel Cell Disease).

So your wife can deliver in all pregnancies, a Sickler (25% chances) or for her entire life she will not deliver a Sickler but either carrier or normal with AA. Children with Sickel Cell Disease are prone to having Low blood level, Infections, Joint and Bone Pain, Dehydration amongst others. However there are many parents that raise Children with the disease and lead a productive life. So it all depends on understanding the situation and responding to it.

Talk to counselors and get more useful information. Good luck

What causes acne?

I have acne on my face for a long time. What are the causes and remedy?

Rebecca.

Acne, (spots) especially among young people is common, but clears around 25 years of age. It is called Acne Vulgaris and normally occurs when the Pilosebaceous Follicles in the skin are blocked.

Many factors are associated with that

1. Increase secretion of sebum (a liquid substance)
2. Increased hormonal production, example release of Androgen from Testes, Ovaries and Supra renal Gland
3. Increased abnormal keratinisation (thickness) around the Pilosebaceous Follicles which lead to obstruction of the flow of sebum.
4. Increased presence of Bacterium such as Propionobacterium acnes. It is a normal commensal on the skin
5. Familial; runs in the family.

It normally affects face, shoulder, upper chest and back

Investigation

1. Swab from the follicle to rule out infection
2. History of menstrual disturbances or clinical virilisation such as increased in the size of clitoris in women.
3. Hormonal assays
4. Pelvic Ultrasound.

Management

1. Local treatment such as regular washing with soap and clean water
2. Use of Antibacterial skin cleaners
3. Use of Antibiotics
4. Hormonal Treatment, but depends on the cause.

My breasts are too small

I am always worried whenever I check myself in the mirror and see my breasts are small compared to my peers. I am 17 years old.

Rakiya

The social norm in some places is that, large breast is what is being admired and desired by the opposite sex. That belief has put a lot of young women in a continuous dilemma and scrambling to enlarge their breast by all means. The truth is that, it is not like that. While some men admire large breast, others admire small and/or moderate size breast.

Breasts not only develop differently from a woman to a woman, they continue to change shape and size throughout one's life. Their final shape and size depend more or less on inherited characteristic, but a mother and daughter's breasts can develop differently. There is no medicine that will significantly change the shape of and/or the size of breast.

Birth control pills may give the feeling of a larger bosom. Exercises can increase the size of the muscle beneath the breast, but will not increase the actual breast tissue. Some women opt for artificial breast enlargement by inserting silicon at the base of their breast.

It is possible at the age of 17 your breast has not finished developing, so it may or may not increase in size. I advise you move on with your life. There is no need to start scrambling for medication, it will only add to your dilemma. Value and appreciate what you have and people will relate and appreciate you.

Write in confidence to healthinteractive@hotmail.com or send a text message to 080-89972539 or P.O.Box 14807, Kano, Nigeria.

THE HOME FRONT

fashion & style

Looking great with healthy makeup tools

By Atika Balal

Some people say it takes a flawless makeup to look beautiful, others say it all has to do with a gorgeous outfit but I tell you it takes basically the right beauty tools to make you stand out in the crowd.

So many times most of us, particularly women ask our friends after heavily making our faces up how we look. We use the most sophisticated products and wear the most expensive outfit not knowing that however sophisticated your cosmetics are and however expensive your clothes are it does not necessarily have to make you look great.

There are basics that both men and women must take into consideration if they must appear presentable. First we need to work on our appearances without makeup. How well we take care of our skin and other parts of our body, like the nails and our hair matter. Our physical appearance plays an enormous role in determining how others perceive us; as such it is important that we always look well kept, whether at our workplace or at home.

Women often use powder as the quickest remedy to a faulty makeup; it could be loose or otherwise. However while taking into consideration how good the product is for you, you must ensure your powder brush, sponge or puff is kept in the healthiest condition.

Our makeup or beauty tools must be given the utmost attention if we have to look great. When your sponge or puff begins to smell awful or to lose their original shapes then you know it's high time you replaced them. While some can be washed others can't so you must ensure you do not use them for too long.

You do not necessarily have to wash your powder sponge or brush with disinfectant, but to make them last a little longer, you could wash them regularly in liquid soap and warm water then allow them to air dry, you could also steam them by holding them over boiled water.

Different sponges are designed for different reasons. And the secret to a perfect application is by using the right one with the right powder, eye shadow, blush or lipstick; it will lengthen the life span of

truth is, the more makeup brushes you have the easier it is to work at your makeup.

Sometimes we complain that we have rashes or spots on our faces, sometimes the only possible reason for these are just how unhealthy our makeup tools are. Germs gradually find their way to this delicate part of our body 'most women consider their faces very delicate' until finally they produce the most undesirable result that will be extremely difficult to do away within a short while.

Your nails come next. Nail care is as important for men as it is for women. Your nails are the gateways to letting people know how well you take care of yourself. It tells people how clean you are or otherwise. For both men and women, we need to take appropriate care of our nails to ensure that we do not attract unnecessary attention and unwanted comments from people who could accidentally sight our unkempt nails. Owning a nail kit does not cost a fortune and every tool you need for a manicure and pedicure comes in it.

In most cases people go to the nail studio to get a manicure or pedicure done but sometimes one could do it at home, as long as you are careful you need not worry about stripping away some part of your skin.

How presentable our nails turn out to be does not necessarily have to do with painting them. As always, keeping them clean will do.

We must also take into consideration our cuticles. They are very stubborn and they leave us feeling uncomfortable especially when due for removal. We would not want to accidentally scratch our friends when shaking hands with them, as such we need to give the adequate attention to ensure we do not let them become over due.

As women are expected to take proper care of their hair, men are also expected to shave when necessary. With the right hair brushes and a shaving kit one can always look one's best. No one will want to be seen with a woman who has got her hair flying in all directions or a man who roams the street with a head full of unwashed

his face, this however does not mean you will entirely ignore the other parts of your body.

It could be embarrassing when you walk down the street with someone and people stare at you as though you just escaped from a zoo.

Either of you could be responsible for those stares, as such you must ensure

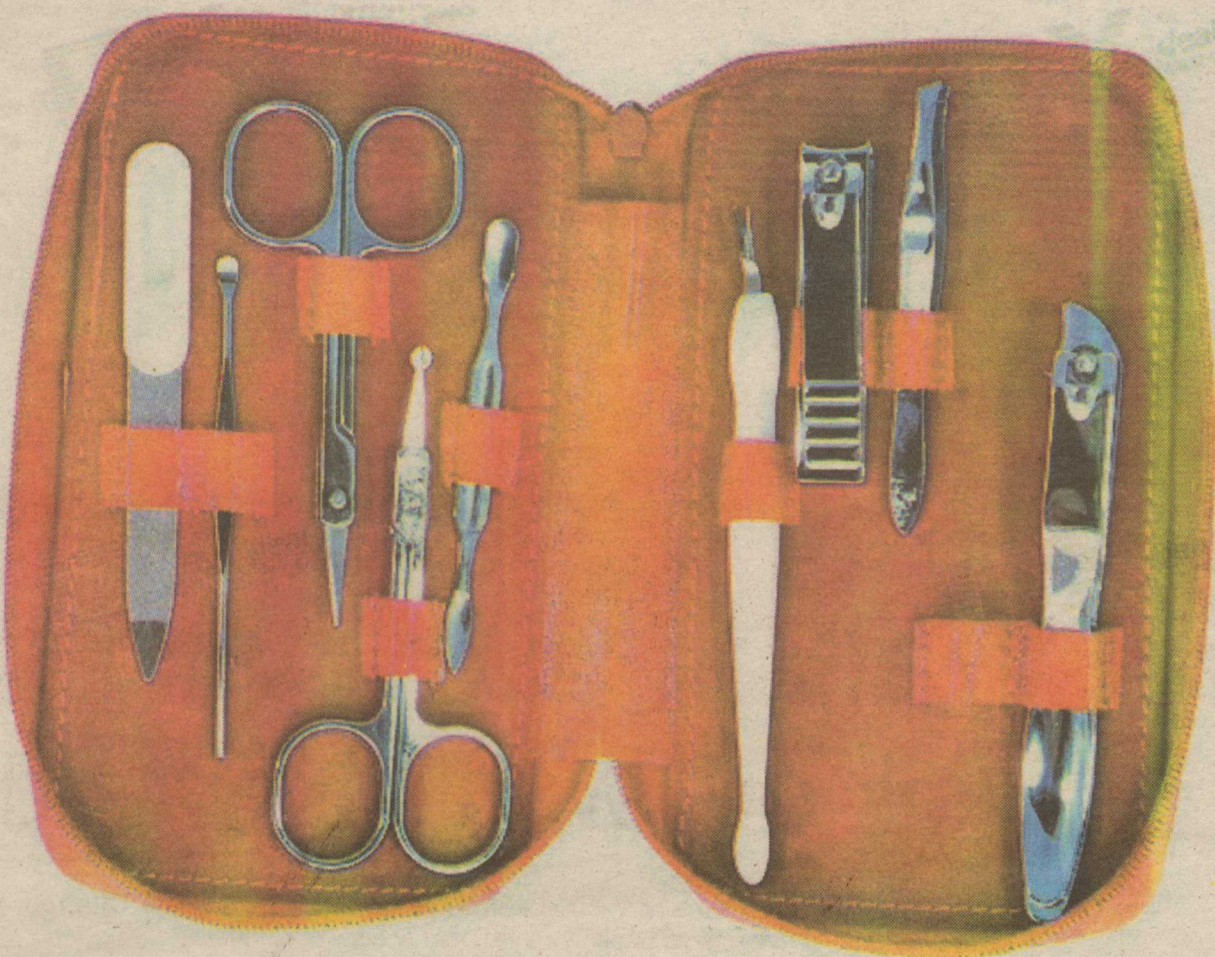
that both of you appear nice, whatever the situation, however the hurry you both might have been in before leaving your homes and wherever the occasion.

Every well groomed man is expected to have an accessible shaving kit because it is convenient and gives the best result. Hair brushes and shaving kits must also be kept clean.

While a little detergent gets your brushes clean, a man's shaving tools on the other hand in most cases have to be sterilized especially in situations whereby these tools are shared. Some people have very sensitive skin that when tools are shared they break into a rash, in such cases, tools must be sterilized.

It is good to look our best,

but even feels better when we know that our makeup tools are not a cause for alarm; so whatever the reasons why we love to make up, however important it is for us to look smashing in the midst of thousands of people, one thing we must always take into consideration is how healthy our makeup tools are.





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DIGEST

Hot climate produces baby girls

People who live in the tropics have more baby girls compared with those living in other parts of the world.

It may be down to the hotter weather or the longer days, says US researcher Dr Kristen Navara in the Royal Society journal *Biology Letters*.

She says this climate may change miscarriage rates and sperm quality.

Or there may be some evolutionary advantage to having more girls than boys if you live by the equator.

Experts already know that the birth rates of boys and girls vary across the globe.

While some of this can be explained by society - in countries like China baby boys are favoured and many unborn girls are electively aborted - there are natural processes at

work.

Research suggests the female foetus is less fragile than the male foetus, which is more prone to the effects of the environment on pregnant women.

At times of extreme environmental stress, including war, the birth rate of girls outstrips that of boys.

Wide variations

Experts have suspected that latitude could have an effect. Past work has shown that the chances of giving birth to a boy increase as you head south - at least in Europe.

But it is difficult to draw conclusions looking at regions in isolation because of wide variations in things like culture, society and economy, to name but a few.

Dr Navara, of the University of Georgia, set out to gain a global perspective by looking at

the sex ratios at birth of 202 countries over a 10-year period and taking into account socio-economic

differences between nations and continents.

The accepted global average is slightly male

biased, at 106 males per 100 females, or 51.5%.

"The only country in the world which produces more

females than males is the Central African Republic," she told the BBC's Network Africa.

In her study, Dr Navara found countries closer to the equator produced significantly fewer boys annually than those at temperate and subarctic latitudes - 51.1% and 51.3%, respectively.

This pattern held strong despite "enormous continental variation in lifestyle and socio-economic status", said Dr Navara. "The results could indicate an adaptive strategy employed by humans, or there may be another non-adaptive strategy."

"Perhaps male ejaculate quality or miscarriage rates vary on a latitudinal scale," she said.



Tropical climates produce more girls

Culled from bbc.co.uk

'Natural' breast enlargement using stem cells from spare fat to be made available in Britain

Natural' breast enlargement through stem cell therapy is said to be an improvement on implants

A stem cell technique that can enlarge breasts while reducing the waistline is to be made available to British women.

The treatment involves taking stem cells from excess fat on the stomach or thigh, and then 'growing' them in the breasts.

Surgeons say the result gives a more natural look than many synthetic implants.

The process can only make breasts one cup size larger at this time, but it is

expected bigger augmentations will be possible as the technique develops.

Around a dozen Britons have had breasts repaired with stem cells after cancerous cells were removed, but this is the first time the treatment will be carried out on healthy women.

Professor Kefah Mokbel, a consultant breast surgeon at the London Breast Institute at the Princess Grace hospital, will test the procedure on 30 volunteers from May.

By the end of the year he says he should be able to offer it to private patients.

He expects the cost to be around £6,500.

He added that the stem cell technique would produce more natural-looking breasts than silicone implants.

"This is a very exciting advance in breast surgery," he said. "Breasts treated with stem cells feel more natural because this tissue has the same softness as the rest of the breast. 'Implants are a foreign body. They are associated with long-term complications and require replacement. They can also leak and cause scarring.'

Stem cells are early-stage cells which can grow into any tissue of the body - organs, skin or blood.

The new technique increases volume but does not provide firmness or uplift. As a result, only modest augmentations are possible at present, although Professor Mokbel plans to carry out research to see if bigger enlargements are possible. "We are optimistic we can easily achieve an increase of one cup size," he said. "We cannot say yet if we can achieve more. That may depend on the stem cells we can harvest."

The technique was developed in Japan and has been available there for six years.

Culled from dailymail.co.uk



Inner ear cells could be replaced

Stem cell 'deafness cure' closer

Stem cells that could be used to restore hearing have been successfully created, scientists have said.

A Sheffield University team took stem cells from embryos and converted them into cells that behave like sensory hair cells in the human inner ear. Their discovery could ultimately help those who have lost hair cells through noise damage and some people born with inherited hearing problems.

But any cure is still some years away, experts told the journal *Stem Cell*.

The Sheffield team is now working on the next stage of the research to check if the cells can restore hearing.

Currently, hair cell damage is irreversible and causes hearing problems in some 10% of people worldwide. Embryonic stem cells could change this because they have the unique ability to become any kind of human cell.

Not only could they be used to replace the lost hair cells, but also any damaged nerve cells along which the signals generated by the hair cells are transmitted to the brain.

But the use of stem cells is controversial - opponents object on the grounds that it is unethical to destroy embryos in the name of science. Lead researcher Dr Marcelo Rivolta, said: "The potential of stem cells is very exciting. We have now an experimental system to study genes and drugs in a human context. "Moreover, these cells would help us to develop the technologies needed to deliver them into damaged tissues, such as the cochlea, in order to restore the different cell types. "This should facilitate the development of a stem cell treatment for deafness."

Dr Ralph Holme, director of biomedical research at RNID, said: "Stem cell therapy for hearing loss is still some years away but this research is incredibly promising and opens up exciting possibilities by bringing us closer to restoring hearing in the future."

Culled from bbc.co.uk

X-ray shows how man accidentally

Chinese surgeons saved a man's life after he accidentally swallowed a pair of nail scissors he was using to clean his teeth.

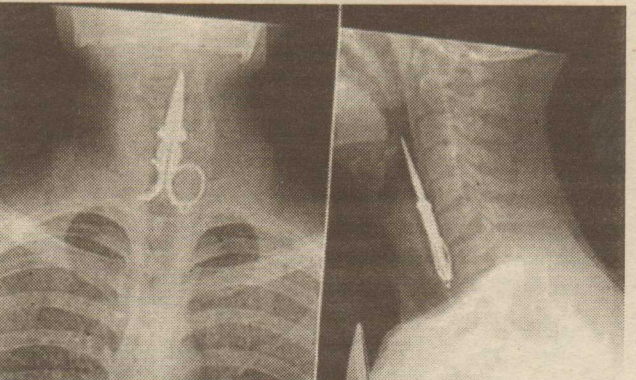
These are the astonishing X-rays that show how surgeons saved a man's life after he cut his throat with a pair of scissors - from the inside.

Surgeons left scalpel in patient Lin Kong had borrowed a four-inch-long pair of nail scissors to use instead of a toothpick to clean his teeth after a meal.

But as one of his friends told a joke, the 27-year-old laughed and swallowed the clippers.

As he tried to cough up the scissors, the points, which were facing upwards,

swallowed scissors



X-rays showed the 9cm long and 4cm wide scissors fully entered esophagus, with the sharp top angling up to the epiglottis

Photo: EUROPICS

dug deeper into his throat, causing serious damage.

Chen Wei, a surgeon at

the hospital in Putian, eastern China, said: "When he came in, his face was twisted, pale,

and [he was] sweating. The patient was having difficulty swallowing and blood was mixed with his saliva."

X-rays showed that the scissors had completely entered the man's oesophagus, with the sharp points sticking up into the epiglottis.

Surgeons could only operate under local anaesthetic, as general anaesthetic would have relaxed his body so much that the scissors would have slipped deeper down the throat.

"The entire surgery took around 30 minutes. Luckily Mr Lin does not have much of a wound left inside his throat," said Dr Chen.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

DIGEST

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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

EASY

51.

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

SOLUTION TO SUDOKU PUZZLE No. 50

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

SIGN LANGUAGE



Main reason for juvenile drunkenness
Photo location: Cooperative Store in Mirfield, West Yorkshire by Jan Watson-Walker
Culled from the telegraph.co.uk

FIND & CIRCLE JUMBO

FIND & CIRCLE JUMBO puzzles are solved by finding all the hidden words in the diagram. The words are always in a straight line and may read up, down, forward, backward, or diagonally. Cross a word off your list once you have circled it. Many words will overlap.

40

Weather news

N	O	I	T	A	R	U	T	A	S	F	Q	W	N	T
F	R	E	E	Z	E	N	O	L	C	Y	C	N	R	R
P	F	R	O	S	T	S	R	U	B	N	W	O	D	E
O	N	I	N	L	E	T	F	M	I	V	P	O	R	W
L	C	U	Q	M	M	R	A	A	M	I	T	S	I	O
A	L	L	E	F	O	E	R	H	C	H	W	N	Z	H
H	I	I	O	N	R	S	Q	S	G	S	U	O	Z	S
A	M	G	T	T	A	N	O	U	B	U	N	M	L	N
C	A	H	S	B	B	C	O	L	I	E	O	O	E	O
E	T	T	I	V	O	R	I	O	S	N	L	R	W	D
R	E	N	E	R	D	Z	H	R	H	T	O	E	T	A
J	R	I	O	G	Z	F	A	S	R	P	I	X	D	N
R	N	N	A	A	D	H	I	G	H	U	Y	C	W	R
Y	A	G	R	A	B	I	L	L	I	M	H	T	E	O
R	E	D	N	U	H	T	R	L	X	W	M	U	D	T

- Halo
- High
- Hurricane
- Jet
- stream
- Lightning
- Low
- Millibar
- Monsoon
- Ozone
- Rain
- Ridge
- Saturation
- Shower
- Snow
- Solstice
- Thunder
- Tornado
- Tropics
- Trough
- Typhoon

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|---------|---------|
| Barometer | Dew | Equinox | Thunder |
| Blizzard | Down-burst | Fog | Tornado |
| Climate | Drizzle | Freeze | Tropics |
| Corona | Drought | Front | Trough |
| Cyclone | El Nino | Frost | Typhoon |
| | | Hail | |

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE No. 39

R	R	O	G	O	P	P	P	I	Z	Z	Z	Y	P	U	
X	I	A	D	S	R	K	N	N	L	P	Z	G	C		
P	I	Z	Z	I	C	A	T	O	Z	U	O	A	U	S	
U	N	I	Z	Z	A	B	Z	O	Z	Z	Z	Y	Z	B	
Z	Z	I	D	E	U	M	U	Z	Z	Z	L	E	Z	W	
Z	Z	N	P	A	N	B	E	E	I	Z	Z	L	E	X	
E	A	O	I	W	E	R	E	Z	Z	L	E	E	E	H	
R	U	R	A	L	B	G	A	I	O	Z	B	M	L	N	
I	X	A	Z	Z	E	E	Q	S	S	F	R	Z	Z	Y	
A	G	Z	Z	U	L	G	N	O	D	Z	E	N	Z	Z	
F	A	Z	A	T	Z	Z	E	L	Z	Z	A	R	D	U	Z
O	L	I	U	A	Z	J	E	L	Z	Z	A	U	B	U	U
E	S	G	S	Z	I	A	E	U	O	G	E	K	B	M	
S	X	L	O	Z	R	E	L	Z	Z	Z	I	S	B	G	N
P	F	C	O	A	O	I	Z	Z	Z	Y	L	C	F	M	U

PROPERTY

HOTLINES:

08064416006, 08035946883

Court rejects application to re-open Abuja parks

The Abuja High Court sitting in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) yesterday threw out an application by park operators for the re-opening of sealed parks in the city. Justice Danladi Senchi, presiding Judge of the Court located in Wuse Zone II area of the nation's capital while ruling on the application brought forward by park operators through Prince Orji Nwafor Orinzo, their Counsel said that the application can not be granted until the preliminary objection from the FCT administration, the defendant is heard. The Counsel to the Park operators had prayed the Court to grant his clients the permission to resume operations at the parks pending the preliminary objection by the defendants. But Barrister Benson Igbanoi, Counsel to the FCT administration and the Department of Parks and Recreation in his argument objected that it would be wrong to grant the prayers of the plaintiff without hearing from the defendant (FCTA). The decision of the Court therefore compels the parks to remain close until May 20th when the FCTA will present its preliminary objection.

It will be recalled that several parks in Abuja were sealed by the department of parks and recreation due to sale of alcohol and violation other park regulations in the city.

Firm to open five new outlets across Nigeria

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

Lagos-based automobile firm, Hyra Motors has disclosed that it would open five new outlets across the country before the end of the year in its ongoing expansion programme. Speaking with news men in Lagos yesterday, the Managing Director of the firm, Mr. Seyi Oyinlola said the company's plans to expand its business activities to five other major cities apart from Lagos and Abuja. He said that the company planned to open five new outlets before the end of the year. "We are on the verge of opening up in Kaduna and Port Harcourt, Uyo and Calabar will follow thereafter," he said. He also disclosed that the firm had concluded arrangements to move into its new facility on Apapa -Oshodi Expressway, Lagos.

He said it is a 4S facility, serving as a sales, spare parts and service centre, describing it as a five star for automobile. "There, we are going to be having an impressive showroom for the Geely and the Brilliance brands," he said, adding that the facility would house the company's head office with a state-of-the-art workshop.

Meanwhile the MD said the ongoing economic crisis and the inability of most banks to lend customers money to finance the purchase of automobile, has prompted Hyra Motors to unfold a new finance arrangement for the purchase of new vehicles by corporate organisations.

Under the new finance arrangement, any registered corporate organization will be required to pay 50 per cent of the cost of each vehicle while the balance is spread over a period of six months. He said that the Hyra "Auto Lease Facility" was introduced "because of the ongoing economic crisis and the inability of most banks to lend our customers money to finance the purchase of automobile."

He said the new package is coming ahead of at least four new Geely models expected to be delivered to the country through Hyra by the China-based auto manufacturer this year. He said, "We are looking at leasing vehicles to credible registered companies in Nigeria. "We want to give the vehicle to them for six months. The first payment is 50 per cent of the total cost. And they will pay back the remaining 50 per cent on monthly basis."

The Hyra Motors boss said he was satisfied with the response of companies already introduced the offer to, describing it as encouraging. Although Oyinlola acknowledged that the effect of the falling naira and global economic recession were already being felt in the auto industry, he said it was a different experience at the Hyra.

KTSG sets up c'ttee on land owners' complaints

The Katsina State Governor, Ibrahim Shehu Shema, has approved the setting up of a committee to look into the grievances of land owners whose farmlands, houses and other property are affected by road construction and expansion of the new GRA in Katsina metropolis.

This was contained in a statement by the Special Adviser to the Governor on Media and Public Relations, Alhaji Nasiru Abdul. The committee has the state's Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Alhaji Muntari Ibrahim Katsina as chairman, with representatives from the Ministries of Lands, Survey and Environment; Works, Housing and Transport as members.

Others are representatives of Katsina state House of Assembly, Katsina police command, department of State Security Service, Katsina Emirate Council and the Chief Imams of Katsina Central Mosques, Liman Malam Lawal and Liman Abba Aliyu.

The Office of the Secretary to the Government of the State will provide secretary to the committee.



A newly completed commercial complex in Jabi district, Abuja

How economic meltdown affects real estate - Adediji

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

Although the contribution of real estate sector and the construction industry to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is less than 5%, it is usually the first victim of an economic downturn and it is usually the last to recover, Mr Bode Adediji, a renowned estate surveyor has noted.

Assessing the impact of the global economic crisis on real estate investment in Nigeria, Mr Adediji further said that there is now a fall in the value of property due to fall in demand. "The problem of demand for real estate outstripping the supply becomes even more pronounced in the face of crumbling financial infrastructure occasioned by acute shortage of capital and entrepreneurship," he said.

The estate surveyor made this known in a paper, titled "Effects of the global economic crisis on the real estate investment in Nigeria vis-a-vis the challenges of real estate professional

practice," which he presented at the 2009 Mandatory Continuing Professional Development (MCPD) seminar of the Kaduna chapter of the Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers recently. Mr Adediji who is the principal partner of the Lagos-based Bode Adediji Partnership Estate Surveyors, Valuers and Property Consultants, said that as a result of the devaluation of the naira, the cost of construction is rising because the bulk of the materials are imported. He said that there is now an escalation of mortgage related crisis as the value of the real estate assets are far less than the amount of outstanding mortgage loans.

According to the estate surveyor, the current economic crisis is not new because "the world has experienced it about 41 times since 1802, the worst being

the recession of 1929. He noted that in recent times, Nigeria has also witnessed economic recessions in 1984/85 and 1993-1995 which "were characterised by stagflation, collapsed production and industrial capacity, currency devaluation, mass unemployment, youth migration to overseas etc"

Mr Adediji said that in spite of the assurances of the Central Bank governor that Nigeria is immunised from the global economic meltdown, unfolding economic indices present a contrary scenario. He noted many industries and textiles have wound up operations since 2008. In addition, there is a drastic reduction of national revenue generation accruing from oil, he further said. Also, the stock market is down from its capitalisation of about N15 trillion between 2007/2008 to less than N5 trillion he added.

Inflation rate has risen from 8.0% in 2008, according to Adediji, to 14.0% in January 2009 and it is still

rising. In addition, there is a 50% reduction in the production capacity of the manufacturing sector with the attendant mass unemployment, he further said. According to the estate surveyor, the nation's ports are now congested with ships and ocean liners laden with imported goods.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Alhaji Abdulrahman Ahmed, the chairman of Kaduna state chapter of NIEV said that the choice of the topic for this year's MCPD seminar is timely because the reality of the economic meltdown is daily facing estate surveyors. According to him, Kaduna chapter of NIEV considers this as the "right time to diagnose the matter for our members to brace up to the challenges."

He noted that President Umaru Musa Yar'adua's dream of making Nigeria one of the leading 20 economies in the year 2020 is being threatened by the current economic meltdown

Developer vs PMI: Court fixes May 18 for judgment

By Nasir Imam

A Federal Capital Territory (FCT) high court sitting at Gudu District, Abuja, has fixed May 18, 2009, to deliver judgment in suit No. FCT/HC/CV/384/08 between Messrs Philcruz W/A Nigeria Ltd and Intercontinental Homes Savings and Loans Plc.

The court presided over by Justice (Mrs) Adebukola Banjoko, fixed that day for judgment after it received addresses from counsels to the plaintiff, Mr. Rilwan A. Sadiq and Mr. Francis Gigi for the defendant.

Messrs Philcruz who are estate developers are seeking the court's order that the Primary Mortgage Institution (PMI),

Intercontinental Homes Savings and Loans Plc, erred when "sometimes in February 2007, under the guise of assisting beneficiaries who bought homes from its estate in Kubwa, Abuja, to transfer title to them, the bank unlawfully deducted the total sum of N8m from the plaintiff's account with the bank to perfect the transaction.

In a 15 paragraph amended statement of claim dated June 3, 2008, the plaintiff had among others claims, urged the court to order the bank to refund the N8m unlawfully deducted from the plaintiff's account

allegedly to facilitate the transfer of title to beneficiaries of the sale of houses from Phillip Mbagwu's Estate, Kubwa, pay 20% interest on the total sum of N8m as prejudgment sum from the date deductions were made till judgment, pay 10% interest on the judgment sum from date of judgment until it is liquidated and N2m as general damages.

Meanwhile, the bank had in their amended statement of defence dated June 18, 2008, admitted paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the amended statement of claim by the plaintiff.

However, the bank denied liability for paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of the

amended statement of claim but however admitted deducting N6.450m only from the plaintiff's account for the perfection of the relative Deed of Subleases and Deed of Legal Mortgage and not N8m as contended.

In their defence, the bank denied paragraph 10 of the plaintiff's amended statement of claim but averred that "though there are general rules by the Federal Mortgage Bank on all Primary Mortgage Institutions (PMI), the determinant factor as to who bears the cost of perfection is the transaction dynamics which varies from transaction to transaction and from PMI to another.

ENVIRONMENT



A demonstration on fire fighting techniques at Wuse Market, yesterday

Katsina reviews environmental laws

Any corporate body in Katsina state that violates environmental law is to pay N1million without any option of a fine. Similarly, henceforth, impersonation as staff of State Environmental Protection Agency will attract a fine of N50,000. These measures were taken by the state House of Assembly after amendment of the law that established the agency. The amendment also slated last Saturday of every month as sanitation day while the penalty for breaching the law during the exercise was raised from N400 to N2,000 and prison term of two to four month. Our correspondent who covered the deliberation of the House, reports that part of the modified section of the law included section eight sub-section one which empowers the agency to perform additional functions.

Section nine of the principal law was also amended thereby to empowering the agency to relate with the state sanitation monitoring and enforcement committee in order to have access to any public private property.

Meanwhile, the Speaker of the House, Alhaji Ya'u Umar Gwajo-Gwajo has directed the legal department of the House to compile a fresh copy of the law for passage to the governor for ascent.

Saraki counsels communities on water, sanitation

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

The wife of the Kwara State Governor and founder of the Kwara Well-being Trust, Alaafia Kwara, Mrs. Oluwatoyin Bukola Saraki, has called on communities in the state to ensure safe, clean water and good sanitation practices for their families. A statement by the first lady's Special Assistant, Media and Strategy, Adeniran Adedokun, said that the call came to mark the 2009 edition of World Water Day in the state. Mrs. Saraki noted that water is essential to life and keeping it clean is to stay healthy.

She said close to 80 percent of most serious illnesses in the developing world are related to water and called on communities to realise that the survival of their family members has much to do with water and proper sanitation.

The wife of the governor said that though women and children were mostly responsible for the supply and keeping of water in homes, "every member of our communities in Kwara must realize that we all have a role to play in keeping water safe and our environment clean".

FCT administration sensitises traders on fire prevention

By Nasir Imam

Piqued by the spate of fire outbreaks in markets across the country, the FCT Administration has stepped up effort to sensitize traders and other market users in the territory on fire safety measures.

This was the motive behind a fire drill organized yesterday by the Administration and the Federal Fire Service at the Wuse Modern Market, where all the stakeholders were drilled on various safety routines relating to fire fighting and prevention.

According to Mr. Salisu Abdulsalam, Ag. Managing Director, Abuja Markets Management Limited, Managers of all FCTA owned markets and neighbourhood centers, the exercise has been a routine part of their Facility Management Functions

which has always been done with the security personnel because they are the one who are always around even in the night to respond to any eventuality.

He however noted that they had to take the sweat further to involve more stake holders in the drill to ensure that no stone is left unturned in their effort at preventing fire disaster in FCT markets.

His words: "This drill is an on-going thing, we have it in all the markets we manage, we have always been prepared for emergency, but with these news about fire outbreak all the time-just few days ago, a market in Enugu was razed, shortly before that, there was another case in Katsina and it has been like that of recent, so we feel here in Abuja, though we are

prepared to avert any eventuality, we need to be more prepared, hence the exercise"

With the aid of Fire fighting equipment, a team from the Federal Fire service led by the Wuse Zonal Commander, Mr. Ben Ownuanibe lectured and drilled the traders, security men and Market Management officials on various measures and techniques of preventing and fighting fire especially when it is at its infant stage.

"We are not trying to make you fire fighters, but with the knowledge of all these, you should be able to prevent its occurrence or at most subdue fire before it escalates, because most fire outbreaks start small", Mr. Ownuanibe cautioned.

A trader Alh. Lokoja, who spoke to leadership, while thanking the Abuja

Markets Management Limited for giving him the opportunity to gain wider Knowledge on fire safety, wanted the exercise to be conducted more frequently, noting that "we here of what happens to our fellow traders in other parts of the country, and we pray that it doesn't befall us, but we have to do something on our own for God to hear that our prayer."

Jupiter's stormy Great Red Spot is shrinking

Everything about Jupiter is super-sized, including its colorful, turbulent atmosphere. But there's fresh evidence that one of the planet's most recognizable features, the Great Red Spot, is shrinking.

The spot, which is actually an ancient monster storm that measures about three Earths across, lost 15 percent of its diameter between 1996 and 2006, scientists at the University of California, Berkeley, have

found. It shrank by about 1 kilometer (about 0.6 miles) a day during that time period, said Xylar Asay-Davis, a postdoctoral researcher who was part of the study.

Astronomers have observed for years that the clouds of the Great Red Spot have been waning, but this newest research focused on the motion of the storm — a much more reliable way to measure its size, Asay-Davis said.

He and fellow Berkeley researchers Philip Marcus, Imke de Pater, Michael Wong and Sushil Shetty developed software that tracked the movement of the spot's cloud patterns over long periods of time.

"It's not just the motion of the spot as a whole object. Within it, it has a very complicated swirl to it — sort of a thin ring on the outside and then a sort of quiet area in the center — and that shape of it has been

changing over time," Asay-Davis said.

"What we actually look at is where the winds are the strongest in the vortex. It's the ring where they're the strongest, and that ring has been shrinking over time."

The researchers do not know why the storm is shrinking. In fact, little is known about the Great Red Spot at all. Even the exact cause of its distinctive color is a mystery.

"We don't actually know what causes any of the colors on Jupiter," said Amy Simon-Miller, chief of the Planetary Systems Lab at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. "One of the leading theories is that [the storm] is dredging up stuff from much deeper below in the atmosphere that turns red when it's exposed to sunlight."

The spot isn't always bright red; sometimes it's actually quite pale, Simon-Miller noted. -CNN



IBB INTERNATIONAL GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, ABUJA NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE 11TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF CLUB WILL BE HELD IN THE CLUBHOUSE ON SATURDAY, 25TH APRIL, 2009 AT 1.00PM FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES:-

1. Reading and adoption of the Minutes of the 10th AGM held on Saturday, 26th April, 2008.
2. Matters Arising.
3. Adoption of Captain's Reports for the year 2008/2009.
4. Auditor's report.
5. Adoption of the Accounts for the year 2008
6. Adoption of the Budget for the year 2009
7. To Consider Motions (if any).
8. Any other Business.
9. Dissolution of the Executive Committee of 2008
10. Election of the Executive Committee for 2009

By order of the Executive Committee.

Dr. Peter J. Deshi
Hon. Secretary
20/03/2009



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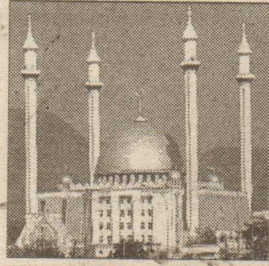
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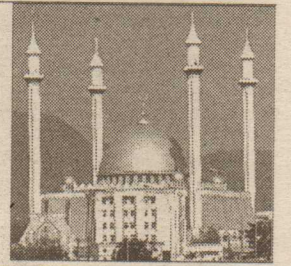




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In the name of Allah the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful. All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. We testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, and that Muhammed (peace be upon him) is His prophet and messenger. May the benediction and blessings of Allah be on Prophet Muhammed who is the noblest of mankind, his household, his companions and those who follow their foot steps till the day of resurrection.

Calling to Allah by helping others

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) returned from the Cave of Hira after his first-ever encounter with the angel Gabriel. His mission had just been proclaimed to him and he had received his first revelation from his Lord.

He was, to say the least, frightened and bewildered. It was Allah's blessing to him that the person he turned to at this time was his very intelligent and sensible wife Khadijah. No sooner did he tell her what had happened and told her of his fear than she replied to him with resolve and assurance that he had nothing to worry about. She could make this claim with confidence, on the strength of her intellect, maturity, sense of history, and her deep personal knowledge she had acquired of Muhammad's noble character over the course of fifteen years of marriage.

She answered him without hesitation: "Do not worry," she said, "for by Him who has dominion over Khadijah's soul, Allah would never humiliate you, for you uphold close ties with your relatives, you bear others' burdens, you provide for the destitute, you show hospitality to the guest, and you help those with a just claim to secure their rights."

Our mother Khadijah here testified to a pattern of life: which is that Allah protects His servants who are engaged in the service and benefit of their fellow human beings. He does not humiliate them or bring them to grief. Indeed, it is Allah who blessed them with their natures so that they would bring forth good in the world.

She also testified to the Prophet's noble character, which tells us that he had always possessed the generosity and nobility of purpose that he would renowned for after becoming Allah's Messenger. He had a beautiful nature long before he began receiving divine revelation.

If we consider the qualities that Khadijah mentioned, we notice that they all relate in some way to helping others. Relatives are cared for. Weak people are relieved of their burdens. The destitute are provided for. Guests are made comfort-

By Sheikh 'Abd al-Wahhâb al-Turayrî

able. People who have been wronged are helped in securing their rights.

All of these qualities were part and parcel of Prophet Muhammad's innate nature. Khadijah attested to the Prophet's noble character long before the Qur'an came with such descriptions about him. This is because she knew him better than anyone else in the world.

We have in Moses (peace be upon him) another prophetic example of helping others. When he arrived at the wells of Midian, he found the menfolk busy providing water for their flocks. He also saw two young women waiting at a distance with their sheep, unable to approach the wells.

Moses (peace be upon him) was appalled by this situation. The Qur'an relates the following [Sûrah al-Qasas: 23]

And when he arrived at the watering (place) in Madyan, he found there a group of men watering (their flocks), and besides them he found two women who were keeping back (their flocks). He said: "What is the matter with you?"

They said: "We cannot water (our flocks) until the shepherds take back (their flocks): And our father is a very old man."

What was it than made Moses take such offence at this situation? It was his upright character that made him concerned for the rights of the weak. Those who are weak and vulnerable should be cared for and given priority. They should not be sidelined and neglected

"So he watered (their flocks) for them" [Sûrah al-Qasas: 24]

His immediate response was to help them. His courageous, noble, and generous nature would allow for nothing else.

We are right to be impressed when we consider Moses's circumstances. He was a man on the run, far away from his home where he had the status of a wanted criminal. He was among strange people, none of whom he knew, and he had no provisions even for himself. He had enough problems of his own to worry

about. Nevertheless, it went against his nature to stand by and see such helpless people being neglected.

These two prophetic examples show us something very important. Allah chose people with big hearts to entrust with His Message; people who were naturally inclined to help others. It takes such people to shoulder the burden of guiding

others from the darkness into the light. Only those with compassion, mercy, and a gentle disposition can carry out such a task.

This truth is evident from the lives of the Prophets. Those who wish to be the inheritors of the Prophets should keep it in mind. The more we reflect the character of the Prophets in our own conduct, the more suc-

cessful we will be in carrying out their mission. Scholars and Islamic workers need to have a strong social consciousness. They need to be people others can turn to in need. They need to be able to address the problems of society with understanding and compassion.

This is why Allah says, addressing the Prophet (peace be upon him): "It is

due to Allah's mercy that you deal gently with them, and had you been rough, hard-hearted, they would certainly have dispersed from around you." [Sûrah Al-Imrân: 159]

If our social consciousness is not fully awakened, our success in calling others to Allah's Message will be limited. Our efforts might even yield negative results.

Zakat solution to economic meltdown, says cleric

By Abbas Jimoh

Zakat has been described as a veritable solution to the global economic meltdown.

The Chief Imam of Al-Habibiyah Islamic Society of Nigeria, Sheik Fuad Adeyemi, said yesterday in Abuja that the negligence of Zakat contributed in no small way to the meltdown that saw millions of people worldwide losing their wealth.

"Allah in His wisdom has made Zakat one of the pillars of Islam and this formed

part of the success recorded by the successive Islamic Caliphates. If the average number of Muslims obeys this injunction, the level of poverty in our society would not have reached this level or would have drastically reduced as a way of solution," Sheik Adeyemi said.

He said that it was disheartening that despite the massive human and material resources Allah has endowed Nigeria with, the

country still ranked as one of the poorest in the world with citizens living below poverty line.

"The level of poverty in the country's disheartening; There is no reason for us to be that poor that we live below poverty line despite the massive human and material resources Allah has given us.

"We should not forget that whenever we jettison the injunction of Allah, as is the case with Zakat, getting it right will automatically be-

comes a thug of war and the solution lies in our repenting and doing the right thing," he said.

He therefore advised people in authority and wealthy individuals to pay the statutory Zakat and learn the injunctions if they do not have much knowledge of the Zakat institution.

OTM organizes seminar on global financial crisis

By Muideen Olaniyi

Organisation of Thadamanul Muslimeen (OTM) Federal Capital Territory (FCT) chapter is organizing a four-day seminar to bring out solutions to the on-going global economic crisis.

Themed "Surviving in the Midst of Global Financial Crisis", the seminar would feature Islamic scholars within and outside the FCT.

A statement by the Publicity Secretary of Seminar Committee, Tajudeen Adebayo said the global economic meltdown required collective approach in overcoming its impacts on the populace.

Adebayo said various ways to mitigate the effects of the economic downturn would be proffer by the guests lecturers expected at the seminar.

While the adult male programme to be held at Berger Central Mosque, Utako District will come up between Friday, 10th to Sunday 12th April, 2009; the adult female programme slated for Nurul-Bayan International Academy, Wuse Zone 5 will hold on Monday, 13th April, 2009.

The four-day seminar will be anchored in three major languages including English, Hausa and Yoruba.

The seminar is expected to feature lecture, symposium, Qur'an memorization, hadith exposition, tafsir, Islamic etiquettes, news on global update and physical exercise among others.

Feedback

As-Salam alaykum, I read your article titled Marital Sex Is Obligatory and could not help shedding tears. I am a victim and unfortunately for me, my marriage ended as a result of it. I got married as a virgin at the age of 23 and after giving birth to a child at 24, my husband decided I've had enough of sex. It was the most horrible experience I've ever gone thru in my life. He deprived me of sex at my tender age as his wife for a year until he finally ran out of excuses and sent me back home. It could take a whole day if I were to relate my story. I would like our Muslim brothers to know that it is unfair to treat your wives this way.

Saratu Mohammed msaratu56@yahoo.com

Memory verse

"And be moderate in thy pace, and lower thy voice, for the harshest of sounds, without doubt, is the braying of the ass". Q31:19

Ask your Imam

Q: I have a big decision to make, and I have been offering the istikhârah prayer before going to bed every night now for a week, but my istikhârah prayer is not being answered. My question is: After a person prays istikhârah how, are we supposed to know if the thing is good for us or not? Aren't we supposed to see a dream or get a feeling about the situation?

A: It is Sunnah to offer the istikhârah prayer whenever we have a major decision in life. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "If one of you thinks to embark upon something, he should pray two units of prayer aside from the obligatory prayer..." [Sahîh al-Bukhârî]

It is not necessary for the person who offers the istikhârah prayer to get any indication afterwards. Istikhârah is about asking Allah to intervene directly in our affair. This is clear from what we say in the supplication for istikhârah:

...O Allah! If you know this affair to be best for me in my religion, my livelihood, and in the final outcome (or: in my immediate life and my future one), then decree it for me and facilitate it for me and then bless me in it. And if You know this affair to be worse for me in my religion, my livelihood, and in the final outcome (or: in my immediate life and my future one), then turn it away from me and turn me away from it and decree for me what is good, wherever it may be, and then cause me to be contented with it.

If we look carefully at the supplication we are offering to Allah, we are asking Him to make what we are asking happen for us if it is good for us and to prevent it from happening if it is bad for us. This does not necessitate that we will have a dream, feeling, or other inward indication. However, if we develop a strong feeling for or against something after praying istikhârah, we may choose to act upon that feeling.

Also, contrary to popular belief, sleeping after the istikhârah prayer is neither required nor recommended. It has nothing whatsoever to do with the prayer.

And Allah knows best.

Answered by Sheikh 'Abd al-Wahhâb al-Turayrî

City news

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One dies as vehicle plunges into river

One person died, while two others sustained serious injuries when a truck plunged into a river at Ahoko village, along the Abuja-Lokoja highway on Tuesday afternoon.

An eye witness said the accident occurred when the driver

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

of a Daf truck with registration number XA 463 KTG lost control while trying to dodge a pothole while at top speed.

"The truck swerved off a bridge and fell into a river, killing the driver on the spot," he

said.

He disclosed further that the truck driver was trapped in the vehicle while passersby alerted officials of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), who rushed to scene to carryout rescue operation.

The Abaji Unit Commander

of FRSC, Mr. Joseph Ojerinde, while confirming the accident said it took several hours be-

fore the trapped body of the driver was removed.

He said the injured victims

were conveyed to the hospital and the driver's corpse deposited at Federal Medical Centre's Mortuary, Lokoja.

Police nab Indian hemp dealer

The police in Abuja Monday arrested a suspected Indian hemp seller from his den at Angwar Dadi, Nyanya, Abuja.

City News learnt from residents of the area yesterday that an inspector of police was sent to invite the suspect for questioning on Monday and since then he has remained a guest of the police.

Confirming the arrest on phone, the divisional police officer said yesterday that the police raided the joint and arrested the suspect, who has been charged to court.

Residents of the area expressed their joy over the arrest but said they had expected the police to raid the place dur-

By Abubakar Yakubu & Hamisu Kabir Matazu

ing its busy period in order to arrest more suspects and fish out the criminals among them.

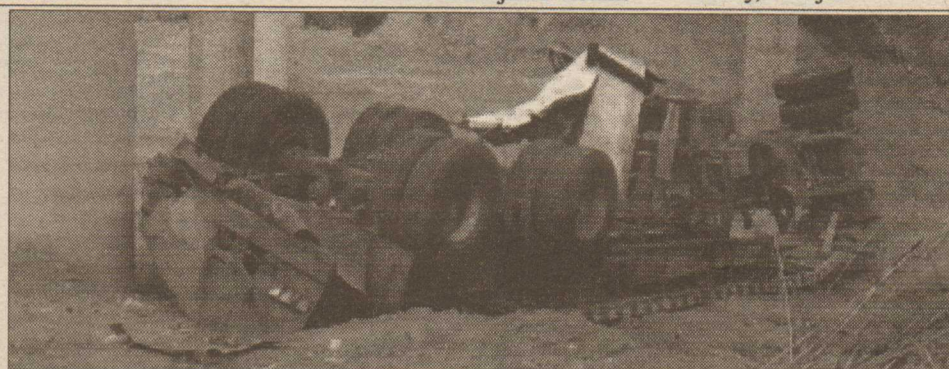
"We expected the police to raid the place in order to confiscate the deadly drug," a resident said.

Our reporter, who visited the area on Wednesday morning, observed people smoking Indian hemp inside the bush close to the suspect's den.

A resident revealed that someone in the hideout still sells the drug and he called on the police to raid the joint for the sake of children that stay in the community.

"There is the need to stop

this illicit business because of the multitude and characters of people that assemble in the den to smoke grass on a daily basis, especially during working hours," he added.



The mangled parts of a vehicle that plunged into a river along Abuja-Lokoja highway on Tuesday.
Pic: Abubakar Sadiq Isah.

Contractor charged for criminal breach of trust

A building contractor was recently arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly refusing to pay N76,000 to one Mohammed Mahdi, after he supplied him truck loads of sand.

The accused, Umar Musa Bagobiri of No 23, Ebitu Ukiwe Street, Jabi, Abuja, was said to have committed the offence in 2008.

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

Prosecutor Hosseini Emmanuel told the court that the on November 19, 2008; one Mohammed Mahdi reported to the police that he supplied 45 tipper load of sand valued at N76,000 to the accused on trust.

He said the accused used the said sand to construct a mosque at Jabi, adding that he has been

paid for the work by his client, but refused to pay the complainant his N76,000.

According to the prosecutor, the crime committed by the accused is punishable under Section 312 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail.

Magistrate Khadijat Mustapha granted the accused

bail in the sum of N50,000 with two sureties in like sums of which one of them must be a civil servant.

The magistrate also ordered that both sureties must reside within the court's jurisdiction as well as swear to affidavits to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to April 20 for hearing.



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH ANNOUNCEMENT

The Honourable Minister of Health, **PROFESSOR BABATUNDE OSOTIMEHIN** and the Honorable Minister of State for Health, **DR. ALIYU IDI HONG** in collaboration with Kano State Government invite, State Commissioners of Health, Organized Health private sector, Donor Agencies, Stakeholders, Related government Agencies and Parastatals, and the Media to the 52nd National Council On Health Meeting.

VENUE: THE AFFICIENT 42, SULTAN WAY NASSARAWA, KANO.

DATE: 2ND THURSDAY - 7TH TUESDAY APRIL, (2009).

TIME: 9 A.M DAILY.

Theme: "Meeting the Challenges of the Health MDGs"

SIGNED:

**ALHAJI GARBA BUWAI mni,
PERMANENT SECRETARY**

City news

Street sweepers appeal for reflective vests

Street cleaners in Abuja yesterday lamented the hazards associated with their jobs and appealed for reflective vests from corporate organisations.

Some of the cleaners interviewed along Obafemi Awolowo way at Jabi, told our reporter that they are paid N10,000 monthly and require reflective vests and other sanitary facilities to protect them from danger.

"We call on corporate bodies such as banks, non governmental organisations, and other well meaning private bodies to donate reflective jackets to us in order to

By Nathaniel Jonah

save us from reckless drivers," one of the sweepers said.

The sweeper also requested for warning signs to be placed on the roads whenever they are at work.

According to her, sweeping streets in Abuja is very risky and one stands the risk of being knocked down by vehicles.

Another sweeper that works with Total Facility Managers, Utako, said she is satisfied with the job she does despite its risk.

"I am very happy with my

job because I believe in the dignity of labour and cannot beg or become a nuisance in society," she added.

At the office of Total Facility Manager, an official, who declined to comment, said the executive manager had gone

out of town.

Efforts to also get the comment of the Abuja Environmental Protection Board

proved abortive as the spokesperson declined to respond to questions through the phone.

Youngsters in court over handset theft

Three youngsters were on Wednesday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly stealing a Nokia handset belonging to one Nerphet Ghariba.

The accused persons, Musa Yahaya, Khalid Haruna and Danladi Sani, all of Barnex Plaza, Wuse 2, Abuja, were reported to have conspired with one Yahaya, now at large to allegedly steal the said phone.

Prosecutor Monday Akor disclosed to the court that on March 27, 2009, one Nerphet Ghariba reported to the police that the accused persons and one Yahaya, said to be at large, stole his Nokia N73 handset valued at N37,000.

He said while the complainant was fuelling his car at Barnex Plaza, the accused persons criminally stole the handset from where it was placed in the car.

According to the prosecutor, the offences committed by the accused persons are punishable under Sections 79 and 288 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charges were read to the accused persons, they all pleaded not guilty and requested for bail.

Following the denial of the charges, the prosecutor asked the court for a hearing date and did not object to the accused persons bail.

Magistrate Rosemary Kanye granted each of the accused persons bail in the sum of N30,000 with a reliable surety each in like sums that must reside within the court's jurisdiction and swear to an affidavit to produce the accused persons in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to April 28 for hearing.

In another court, a 27-year-old man was on Tuesday arraigned for allegedly stealing a Nokia handset belonging to one Nathaniel

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

Agumon and stabbing one Moses Chukwu with a broken bottle.

The accused, Iji Isaac of Lugbe Zone 7, Abuja, was arrested by the police on March 25, 2009.

Prosecutor Jeremiah Elijah told the court that on March 25, 2009, one Nathaniel Agumon reported to the police that the accused came to his shop to download some music into his handset.

He said immediately the accused left the shop, the complainant discovered that his handset was missing, adding that one Moses Chukwu took the complainant to the house of the accused to ask him of the stolen phone.

"After leaving the accused person's house, he followed them and stabbed Moses with a broken bottle on the neck, thereby inflicting serious injury on him," the prosecutor stated.

According to the prosecutor, police investigation revealed that the accused actually stole the said handset from the complainant's shop, adding that he committed an offence punishable under Sections 288 and 247 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charges were read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail. Magistrate Akobi Ann granted the accused bail in the sum of N100,000 with two sureties in like sums, of which one of them must be a civil servant of not below Grade Level 13.

The magistrate also ruled that the two sureties must reside within the court's jurisdiction as well as swear to affidavits to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to April 14 for hearing.



Students of FGC Kwali entertaining guests at their 25th anniversary ...recently.

Pic: Abubakar Sadiq Isah.

FGC Kwali celebrates 25th anniversary

The Federal Government College (FGC), Kwali Tuesday celebrated its 25th anniversary in Kwali.

Speaking at the occasion, the school's Principal, Mrs. Imoukhuede C. Abiodun said the school is grateful to God for turning past students of the school into important people in the society.

According to her, the school has succeeded in producing great men and women that are now contributing to the development of the school and the country at large.

The principal however lamented that the school is facing some challenges that include fencing of its premises, providing street lights, lack of sufficient staff quarters and lack of electricity.

She said the school's generator cannot supply power to the staff quarters.

The principal appealed for help from traditional rulers, the ministry of education and other stakeholders in the education sector in addressing the problems facing the school.

Also speaking at the occasion, Minister of State for Education, Hajiya Aishatu Dukku, disclosed that the federal government is putting together a road map in order to revamp the education sector, including Unity Schools in the country.

The minister who was represented by the Deputy Director of the Secondary Education, Mrs. Ogumaikede Adekumbi, further revealed that the federal ministry of


By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

education has already constituted six zonal committees to go round all unity schools in the entire geo-political zones in the country in order to access the extent of problems facing the schools

as well as come up with a report to bring back the Unity Schools to its past glories.

The Etsu of Kwali, Alhaji Shaban Audu Nizazo, commended the school's management, staff and students for striving towards excellence.

He noted the importance of the efforts of the federal government in Public-Private Partnership, adding that public education needs contribution from all stakeholders in order to strengthen the standard of education in the country.



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Protea Hotel Victoria Island, Lagos	March 30, 2009	10am - 5pm
Maple Education, Lagos Office Sheraton Street, Lagos Island, Lagos	April 1, 2009	10am - 5pm
Wellington Hotel 17, Eburun Ogbe, Expressway, Yaba	April 2, 2009	10am - 5pm
Transcorp Hilton Hotel Marina District, Abuja	April 4, 2009	10am - 5pm
Royal Tropicana Hotel 77 - 79, Niger Street, Kano	April 6, 2009	10am - 5pm

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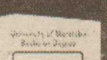
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INSIDE POLITICS

Why Akwe Doma deserves second term—Walid Jibrin

Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma deserves a second term in office because he has changed the face of Nasarawa State by the development projects he executed and also because he has achieved in less than two years what has not been done in the last 10 years since the state was created, Senator Walid Jibrin has said.

In an interview with *Daily Trust*, he confirmed the rumour that he is one of the advocates for a second term for Doma. Jibrin, who is also the Northwest vice president of the Manufacturers' Association of Nigeria (MAN), also said that his support for Doma is also

From Ibraheem Musa,
Kaduna

hinged on the peaceful co-existence in Nasarawa state.

He said former Governor Abdullahi Adamu, who is from the same western zone as Jibril, had spent eight years as governor and it is only fair to allow Doma to spend the southern zone to spend two terms as governor. After Doma exhausts his eight years, "then we should go to Akwanga zone and allow them to rule for eight years."

After that, the various components of the state would have tasted the governorship and then "we will now sit down to decide

where to zone the ticket to," he added.

Zoning of the governorship, he said, will enhance the peace and harmony which the Doma administration has brought back to Nasarawa state.

In less than two years, Doma has embarked on a massive roads development in Nasarawa state as every senatorial district and local government has benefited, he said. According to Walid Jibrin, there is a massive urban rehabilitation in the state, adding that "there is a new form of urbanisation in Nasarawa State."

The governor has built dams and in particular, Nasawara dam is about to be

built with about N1 billion and the contractors are already on site, he said. "That project will be completed before the end of this year, in fact by August or November, everything will be completed," he added. In addition, the governor has provided boreholes and has embarked on a rural electrification schemes, he said, adding that transformers have been purchased and given to needy communities.

Jibrin said Doma has commenced poverty alleviation schemes in collaboration with NAPEP. Unemployed youths are being taught skills and thereafter, government gives them start up capital, he said. This

programme has reduced the army of unemployed youths who sometimes engage in all kinds of vices, in most towns of the state, he added.

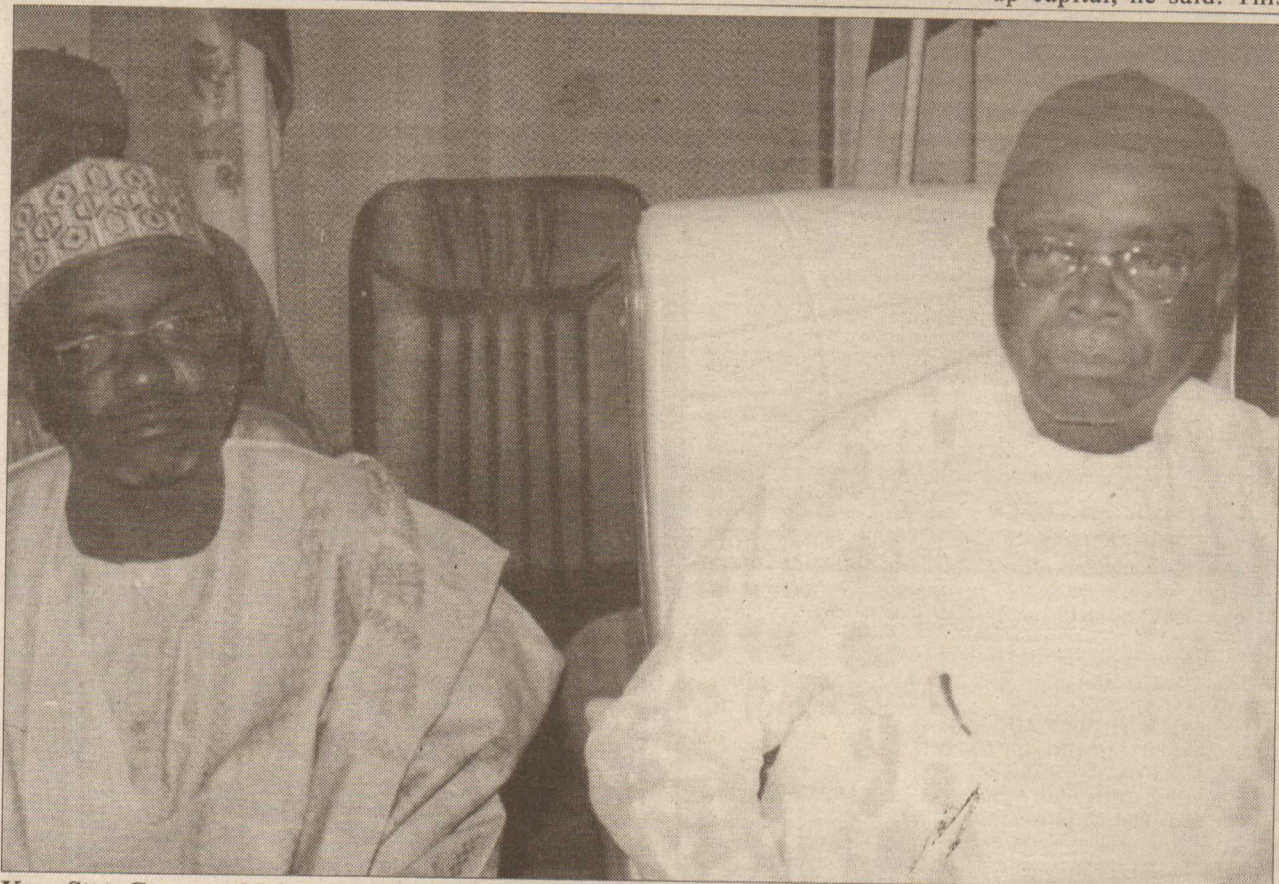
Jibril, who said that he has chosen to play an advisory role in politics as he is no longer interested in an elective position, decried the commercialisation of politics in recent times. He said politics has been so bastardised that if one does not have money to throw around, he will not get elected. He said that because of the high incidence of poverty, the people have become so easy to succumb to the lure of money and that they now have little regard for the integrity of aspirants.

He recalled that in the Second Republic, his people met and decided that he should contest the senatorial election and they sent a delegation to Kaduna, where

he was working at UNTL. "I didn't know how my form was bought, I didn't know how my campaign was financed and I won election," he recalled. However, the situation changed in 1999, when he decided to vie for governorship of Nasarawa State.

At that time, he recalled, people were openly putting leaves on their heads, signifying that they are for sale. Jibrin also recalled that on the eve of the PDP governorship primaries, assassins were even sent to his house but luckily for him, they didn't find him but they made away with the little that he had for logistics.

"Since then, I decided to stay away from elective positions," he said, adding that as a member of PDP's board of trustees, he plays an advisory role within the party.



Kano State Governor Malam Ibrahim Shekarau (left), with ANPP National Chairman, Chief Ume Ezeoke during the party's caucus meeting in Abuja, recently.

Okocha's case against

INEC for retrial Monday

The Delta State Election Petition Tribunal yesterday fixed April 6 to determine whether or not Mr Peter Okocha of the Action Congress (AC) was qualified to contest the 2007 governorship election in the state.

Justice B.S. Mohammed, Chairman of the tribunal re-constituted to retry the petition, gave the date in his ruling in Asaba. The judge also ordered that the pre-trial processes in Okocha's petition challenging his alleged exclusion from the gubernatorial polls by INEC should be closed.

The tribunal also directed parties in the matter to restrict themselves to lead evidence that could reflect whether Okocha was lawfully or unlawfully excluded from the said election.

Mohammed also implored the parties to produce lead evidence that could be used to ascertain if Okocha was also qualified to contest in the April 14, 2007 election before his alleged exclusion by INEC.

He urged the parties to deal with issues regarding Okocha's qualification in general, including constitutional qualification, nomina-

tion qualification, and qualification as prescribed by the Electoral Act 2006.

Referring specifically to Okocha, Mohammed said: "What we want is for you to call evidence in line with your qualification and then call evidence to show that your exclusion was unlawful."

The tribunal, however, admitted two exhibits to enable INEC to respond to the issues raised in Okocha's petition. INEC's counsel, Mr Olufemi Adeyemi, said the onus was on Okocha to prove that he was qualified for the said election in the first instance before talking about unlawful exclusion.

Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan's lawyer, Mr Victor Grant, told the tribunal that the crux of the matter was Okocha's valid nomination and unlawful exclusion.

"We are attacking the qualification of the first petitioner and not that he was excluded from contesting. He was not even qualified to contest," he said.

Okocha's counsel, Mr Chijioke Emeka, said that he would call one witness just like Grant and Adeyemi at the trial on April 6. Two documents presented by Adeyemi were listed as exhibits by the tribunal. They include the White Paper on the report of an administrative panel of inquiry which investigated some public officers and others for alleged corrupt practices. Adeyemi said that the report indicted Okocha. The second document is a letter, dated February 19, 2007 and written by AC to INEC, indicating the states where its governorship and deputy governorship candidates were substituted. (NAN)

Benue AC chair, others decamp to PDP

Chairman of the Action Congress (AC) in Benue State Mr. Terlumun Ahure and some party executives as well as their supporters have decamped to the People's Democratic Party (PDP).

The chairman said the decampees, who were originally members of the PDP before joining AC, were returning to the ruling party because AC was now "a boat that is irremediably sinking in the state."

He said, "As I speak to you, the national secretariat of the AC has not given a dime to the state chapters. Benue AC has not had funds from the national secretariat from the time of setting up the chapter to this day. I am tired of running a chapter without funds," Ahure told newsmen in Makurdi after a meeting of the expanded executive council of AC on Tuesday.

From Hir Joseph, Makurdi

He said he was decamping with some state executive council members, some leaders of the party at the local government and ward levels as well as their supporters.

"I have their mandate as the state chairman of the AC

to inform you and members of the public that, our party, the AC, not just at the Benue state level, but even at the national level, seemed to have derailed.

"There is visible lack of focus, the structure of the party, which is the organs that make up the party and us individuals that drive the

implementation of the policies of the party and the infrastructures of the party, for instance, the state secretariat of the party and other tangible structures of the party that you see with your visible eyes, have almost come to a level where we can say they are non-existent," he said.

Shinkafi reconciles aggrieved PDP members

Governor Mahmud Shinkafi of Zamfara State said he had reconciled aggrieved PDP members in the state. Shinkafi said this on Wednesday in Gusau at the swearing in of new commissioners and special advisers.

"Today's occasion marks our commitment to forge ahead as members of the same political party devoid of any distinction on the basis of old and new PDP mem-

bers. We are putting behind us the politics of division, rancour and bitterness," the governor said.

He expressed the readiness of his administration to carry along everyone for the development of the party and the state in general.

"I am pleased to note that this development has further strengthened peace, harmony and co-existence among politicians of various backgrounds," he said.

The governor added that the new commissioners and special advisers were appointed because of their commitment to human development.

Shinkafi urged them to discharge their duties in accordance with the law and shun any form of corruption.

"The government will not condone any act of corruption from both the civil servants and political office holders in the state," he

warned.

The commissioners are Alhaji Kabir Marafa, Water Resources; Alhaji Kabir Moyo, Youths and Skills Acquisition; and Alhaji Ibrahim Shehu, Culture and Tourism.

The special advisers include Alhaji Yahaya Chado, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); Alhaji Yunusa Abdullahi, Zamfara Comprehensive Agricultural Revolution Programme and Alhaji Modi Bukkuyum, Election Matters. (NAN)

TRUST CLASSIFIED

OAKLAND CENTRE FOR LEADERSHIP & EDUCATIONAL DEVT.

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for Registration under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. GODWIN ESEROGHENE URHIE
2. TINA USOKO URHIE (MRS)
3. AKPEVWOGHENE ILAYA

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To give good education to the up coming generation as our leaders of tomorrow
2. To provide platform for Capacity Building among Nigerian Youths.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the registrar general, Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja, within 28 days of this publication

Sign by:

SECRETARY - TINA USOKO URHIE (MRS.)

JOS CRISIS APPEAL FUND

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied for registration to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for Registration under Part "C" of the Company and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Sheikh Musa Muhammad
2. Rev. Dr. Pandang Yamsat
3. Alhaji Alhassan Shua'ibu
4. Rev. Dr. Raphael Nwankwo
5. Mrs. Sarah Pam

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To tackle the root causes of crises in Jos by ensuring compensation, conflict resolution and job stimulation.
- Members of the public who have objections to the registration are kindly requested to notify the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565 Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, P.M.B. 198, Garki, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

Clement Iornongu & Co.
Legal Practitioners

TRUMPET SOUND INLAND MISSIONS

This is to notify the general public that the above named organization has applied for registration under part (C) of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No.1 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Jacolo Tanko Garba-Paiko -Co-ordinator/Chairman Board of Trustees
2. Godwin Festus - General Secretary
3. Faustina Nwabueze - Member
4. Abraham Garba - Member
5. Lovely Onajite Ebojoh - Member
6. Tabitha Aloh - Member

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Christian Discipleship.
2. Economic Empowerment at the grassroots.
3. Educational Awareness to youths at grassroots.
4. Resource mobilization and allocation for missions.

Any objection to the above registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420B, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

Godwin Festus
(General Secretary)

URENNAIFUNANYACHI OPARA FOUNDATION

This is to notify the general public that the above mentioned foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap 59, laws of 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. OKECHUKWU OPARA - CHAIRMAN
2. CIRI MONIGOD
3. REV. FR. AUGUSTINE IBEZIMAKO
4. REV. FR. JUDE I. OFFOR
5. DR. OLUCHI UKEJE - SECRETARY

The aims and objectives are:

1. To provide funds for research into killer diseases, malaria, typhoid, hepatitis.
2. Provide support for Roman Catholic Mission and Missionary work.

Any objections to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

OKECHUKWU OPARA
BVM SOLICITORS, SUITE A19 KAYS PLAZA,
NO. 48 EBITU UKIWE STREET, JABI.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This to notify the general public of the loss of document belonging to **Mohamed** in respect of plot NO1 Agaja Road Maiduguri an area of **5013.48sqm.** certificate of occupancy **NoBo/2824**, All effort to trace the missing documents proved abortive. If found please return to the nearest police station.



NIGER STATE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the general public that the Niger State Ministry for Lands and Housing is to commence on the spot documentation of ALL existing developed structures in the state.

The exercise is in conformity with the mandate of the Ministry as well as one of its strategic plans in actualizing the state's vision 3:2020.

The documentation exercise will cover among others, Financial Institutions, Industries, Filling Stations, Private Schools, Clinics, Hotels, Restaurants and all other commercial institutions.

The Ministry wishes to seize this opportunity to appeal to all concerned to please give necessary cooperation to the committee charged with this responsibility whenever they are in their premises.

Signed:

Salome F. N. Ndakotsu (Mrs)
Honourable Commissioner
Ministry of Lands and Housing

LOWER USUMA DAM, ABUJA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Body, has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. MR. HUDU BELLO
2. ENGR. JINIYA BIDA ANJO
3. MR. JOHN OKONEDO
4. ENGR. JAFARU ALIYU NAHUCHE
5. MR. JACOB AREO
6. MRS. OLOLADE YEJIDE OKOBI
7. MR. HAPPY ENADIOSIE

THE AIMS & OBJECTIVES ARE:

1. To safeguard and promote the interest of residents in the estate on matters concerning housing and the environment.
2. To help to improve living conditions, community facilities and services for residents living in the estate.
3. To represent the views of all the residents within the estate.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja, P.M.B. 198, Abuja within Twenty-Eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

OLORI-AJE ADAM, ESQ.
(Solicitor)

CALLISTUS OPA FOUNDATION

This is to notify the general public that the above mentioned foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap 59, laws of 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. CIRI MONIGOD - CHAIRMAN
2. REV. FR. PETER I. ADOBOH
3. REV. FR. AUSTINE IBEZIMAKO
4. OKECHUKWU OPARA
5. LEONA CHINYERE OPARA - SECRETARY

The aims and objectives are:

1. Providing aid to the poorest of the poor.
2. Providing vocational training for the youth.

Any objections to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

OKECHUKWU OPARA
BVM SOLICITORS, SUITE A19 KAYS PLAZA,
NO. 48 EBITU UKIWE STREET, JABI.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

The general public is hereby notified of the loss of the original land document in respect of **Plot AHE497** of about **1219.734sqm** located at **AMAC Housing Estate Lugbe, Abuja** belonging to **WG CDR OGUNMODEDE ADEWALE STEVEN 'M'** of Nigeria Air force Headquarters, Area 7, Garki Abuja. All efforts to trace the document proved abortive. If found, please contact Zone 7, Police Headquarters Wuse Zone 3, Abuja or the nearest police state. General public to please take note.

LOSS OF OFFER GRANT/CONVEYANCE OF APPROVAL

The original letter of grant/conveyance of approval issued by Ministry for Federal Capital Territory to late Chief S.A Oladapo of upper Barracks Road, Ondo has been declared lost. Anybody that uses this does so at his/her own risk. The public should please take note.

A.A. OLADAPO
Announcer

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

The general public is notified of the loss of Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) in respect of NO.BA2353 dated 6th May, 1981 issued by Bauchi state government, belonging to Alhaji Abdul Hassan of No. 12 Ahmadu Bello Way, Opposite Ministry of Finance, Bauchi. The certificate was recently discovered missing from the file and would not be traced, hence the need for replacement by the relevant authorities.

LOSS OF BAG

The general public is hereby notified of the loss of a bag containing the following documents.

1. Bank Savings Passbook; 2. Primary School Certificate up to University Level; 3. Certificate of Foreign Institution; 4. International Passport; 5. National War College Certificate; 6. Letter of First Appointment; 7. Letter of Last two Promotions with other vital documents.

All belonging to **ALHASSAN M. KURFI** of Federal Civil Service Commission, Abuja.

If found, please return to nearest police station. General public take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly called **MRS RABI IBRAHIM BOYI**, now wish to be called **RABI MUSA SAULAWA**. All former documents remain valid. The general public to note.

I, formerly **BAMIKE OMOYENI AIYENIBE**, Now wish to be known as **BAMIKE OMOYENI OMIWALE**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly called **MISS MARYAM SHU'AIB EYYA** now wished to be called **MRS MARYAM HAMZA OTHMAN**. All former documents remain valid. ATBU, NYSC and the public to note.

I, formerly **OLUWATOYIN ANTHONIA ADAMOLEKUN** now wish to called **MRS OLUWATIYIN ANTHONIA AINA**. All former documents should remain valid. ABU Plc and general public should take note.

I, formerly **MISS HALIMA AMINU** wish to be called **MRS HALIMA AMINU MOHAMMED**. All former documents remain valid. UDUS, Law School, NYSC general public take note.

I, formerly called **MISS AISHAT AHMED** now wish to be called **MRS AISHAT MUSA BELLO**. All former documents remain valid JAMB and the public to note.

I, formerly known as **MISS ENDURANCE OVRODE**, now wish to be known as **MRS ENDURANCE ADELEKE**. All former documents bearing former names remain valid. Delta State University, Abraka and the general public take note.

I, formerly called **JOSEPH DZARMAI**, wish to be called **YUSUF DZARMAI IBRAHIM**. All former documents remain valid. General public and Nigerian Customs take note.

I, formally known as **MISS SURAYYA BELLO HABIB** now wish to be called **MRS SURAYYA ABUBAKAR HAMZA**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC, BUK and general public to note.

I, formally **MISS OYESANWO ADEJOKE BOLANLE** now wish to be addressed as **MRS ADEYEMI ADEJOKE BOLANLE**. IMSH, Owerri FCMB, Kwara Poly, Ilorin and general public take note.

I, formerly **FATI SALISU**, now wish to be called **HAUWA MOHAMMED**. Former documents remain valid. Ministry of Health, Yobe state to note.

I, formerly known as **MISS FELICIA EGELEH OYAGHA**, now wish to be called **MRS. FELICIA EGELEH CHUKWUEMEKA ANYAJIKE**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **SAIDU YAHAYA** of Yelwa Plateau State, now **ABDULLAHI SAEED YAHAYA**, Darki-Wudil LGA Kano State. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS GLORY EFFIOM OSIM**, now wish to be called **MRS GLORY RICHARD USMAN**. All former documents remain valid. Public take note.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

FIRE LIBERATION OUTREACH MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL

This is to notify the general public that the above mentioned ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap 59, laws of 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. JOHN WINNING OMOHA
2. JOY UYO OCHANYA
3. PAUL ONUCHE ADEJOH
4. JEROME YAKUBU OKOH
5. GLORY NKEM IWEREON

The aims and objectives are:

1. To propagate the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 2. To establish Christian institutions that will preach the gospel and help the needy and the privilege.
- Any objections to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

SHAIBU SANI ESQ
MANGAL PLAZA, AREA 11, GARKI, ABUJA

GIVING HOPE RESTORATION PROPHETIC MINISTRIES

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Pastor Paul Leteh Nwiyee (Chairman)
2. Mrs. Divine Baridapoo Paul
3. Bro. Kenneth Yaabari Baridam Timothy
4. Pastor Dunnamene Nwi-yo

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To proclaim the gospel of salvation our Lord Jesus Christ
 2. To establish branches of the Church within and outside Nigeria
 3. To promote and provide scriptural and secular education and evangelism
 4. To establish institutions for the purpose of (3) above for the social welfare of the needy.
- Any objective should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse, Zone 5, Abuja within 28 days of the publication.

Signed:

BARR. ROSITA A. TONY-SAMPSON
OHANEZE CHAMBERS
21, Emekuku Street,
D/Line, Port Harcourt

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY CLUB

The general public is hereby notified that the above named club has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE

1. PROF. MUHAMMED TAWFIQLADAN
2. HAJIYA SAFIYA ADAMU
3. DR. ANDREW AKUME

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To promote good governance and accountability.
 2. To Create Awareness on dangers of corruption conflict and power wrangling in our body polity.
 3. To liaise with government and other NGO's with similar objectives.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja, P.M.B. 198, Abuja within Twenty-Eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

HASSAN M. SHAGARI ESQ
Kutigi & Co., Suite 212 Anbeez Plaza, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja.
08023669770.

THAM GIRL-CHILD EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Bolaji Abdullateef
2. Hauwa Abdulmalik
3. Halima Tayo Alao
4. Abiodu Mohammed
5. Kayode Abdulrazak

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To promote the acquisition of quality and functional education for the girl-child in the society.
 2. To create conducive environment for the Girl-Child to attain her optimal potentials, educationally, socially, culturally, politically etc.
 3. To reduce extreme hunger and poverty among girls, women and youth.
 4. To organize seminars/workshops that will assist and enlighten the girl-child on the importance of education.
 5. To ensure that girl have adequate quality education at all levels.
 6. To train and empower girls to be leaders of tomorrow.
 7. To ensure appropriate response of girls, women and youth to HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other preventable diseases.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja, P.M.B. 198, Abuja within Twenty-Eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

MUSTAPHA ESQ
SECRETARY

THIS SPACE IS FOR SALE

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formally known as **MISS MAIMUNA BALA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. MAIMUNA OBADIAH**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS OLORUNLONI OLAITAN ADESANMI**, now wish to be known as **MRS. OLORUNLONI OLAITAN ADENEKAN**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS ONYIA QUEEN CHINWENDU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. EZE QUEEN CHINWENDU**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS IDONGESIT S. UMO**, now wish to be called **MRS. IDONGESIT FELIX CHIDIADI**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS OKOLO NNENNA ANNASTECIA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. AGBO NNENNA ANNASTECIA**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly known as **MARYAM HARUNA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. MARYAM HARUNA ABUBAKAR**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public to take note.

I, formerly known as **RUQAYYA AHMED**, now **MRS RUQAYYA AHMED ABDULLAHI**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **ELEGBEDE OMOTOLA SHAKIRAT** henceforth wish to be called **TERIBA OMOTOLA SHAKIRAT**. All former documents remain valid. NIS and general public to take note.

I, formerly called **OLANIPEKUN OLADUNNI COMFORT** henceforth wish to be called **MRS. OLADUNNI COMFORT BAALE**. All former documents remain valid. UBA Plc, UNIABUJA, OSCOTECH ESA-OKE and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS ANYANWU GLORIA OGADINMA**, wish to be known and addressed as **MRS GLORY VITUS OSUJI**. All former documents remain valid. Spring Bank Plc and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS COMFORT INYANG UDOFA**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS. COMFORT EMMANUEL NASAH**. All former documents remain valid. UBA, UNICAL and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **EZE ANGELA**, now wish to be called **AGU ANGELA**. Former documents remain valid. NYSC and public to note.

COCOA RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF NIGERIA IDI-AYUNRE, IBADAN

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) located at Idi-Ayunre near Ibadan is one of the parastatals in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources.

2. In pursuance of implementation of its 2009 Capital budget, invitations are hereby required from interested qualified applicants for execution of projects proposed for execution in 2009.

B. SCOPE OF WORK

The work comprises procurements, engineering works and consultancy as further described below:

- Lot 1 Procurement of agro-chemicals and field equipment
- Lot 2 Purchase of laboratory equipment
- Lot 3 Procurement and installation of air-conditioners
- Lot 4 Procurement and installation of computer systems (desktop and laptop) with accessories
- Lot 5 Purchase of 3 Nos field utility vehicles Toyota coaster (30-seater) Bus
- Lot 6 Furnishing of office complex
- Lot 7 Landscaping of ERLS building
- Lot 8 Road rehabilitation (tarring) at CRIN Headquarters
- Lot 9 Road rehabilitation (tarring) at CRIN Sub stations
- Lot 10 Renovation of buildings at CRIN Headquarters
- Lot 11 Renovation of buildings at CRIN sub-stations
- Lot 12 Procurement and installation of transformer at Headquarters
- Lot 13 Procurement of tractors
- Lot 14 Computerization of Accounting System
- Lot 15 Procurement of 1 No. field utility vehicle for National Cocoa Seed Garden Project

PRE-QUALIFICATION

Only qualified companies shall be invited to competitively tender for these services. To qualify for consideration, applicants are required to submit the following documents.

- i. Certificate of incorporation with Corporate Affairs Commission
- ii. Detailed Company Profile
- iii. Company's financial details/status for the last three (3) years
- iv. Tax Clearance Certificate (for last 3 years)
- v. Evidence of current registration of company with CRIN
- vi. Evidence of past experience in similar service on at least three projects.

Applicants should note that they are required to submit complete packages in respect of the entire scope of work.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

Pre-qualification documents of three (3) hard copies, shall be submitted in one (1) sealed envelope, clearly marked "CONFIDENTIAL: CRIN 2009 CAPITAL PROJECTS" with your company name and Lot Number on the reverse side of the envelope. The above documents should be addressed to:

The Executive Director
Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN)
PMB 5244
Kilometer 14, Ibadan-Ijebu Ode Road
Idi-Ayunre
Ibadan.
Nigeria.

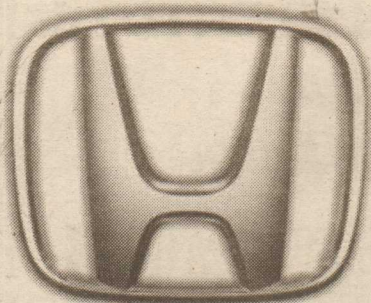
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: Two (2) weeks from date of this publication.

Please Note:

- On no account should the document be submitted in any other CRIN location other than the address given above.
- Applicants must indicate Company's Name on the sealed envelope.
- Notwithstanding the submission of the pre-qualification information, CRIN is neither committed nor obliged to include any company on any bid list or award any form of contract to any company and/or associated companies, sub-contractors or agents.
- Tender information and instruction shall be given to companies/firms that have been screened and found suitable to provide the services.
- CRIN will deal only with authorized officers of the company and NOT through individuals or agents.
- CRIN will not enter into correspondence with any company or individual on why a company was short-listed or not short-listed.

This advertisement of "Invitation for Pre-Qualification" shall not be construed as commitment on part of CRIN, nor shall it entitle Applicants to make any claims whatsoever and/or seek indemnity from CRIN by virtue of such Applicants having responded to this advertisement.

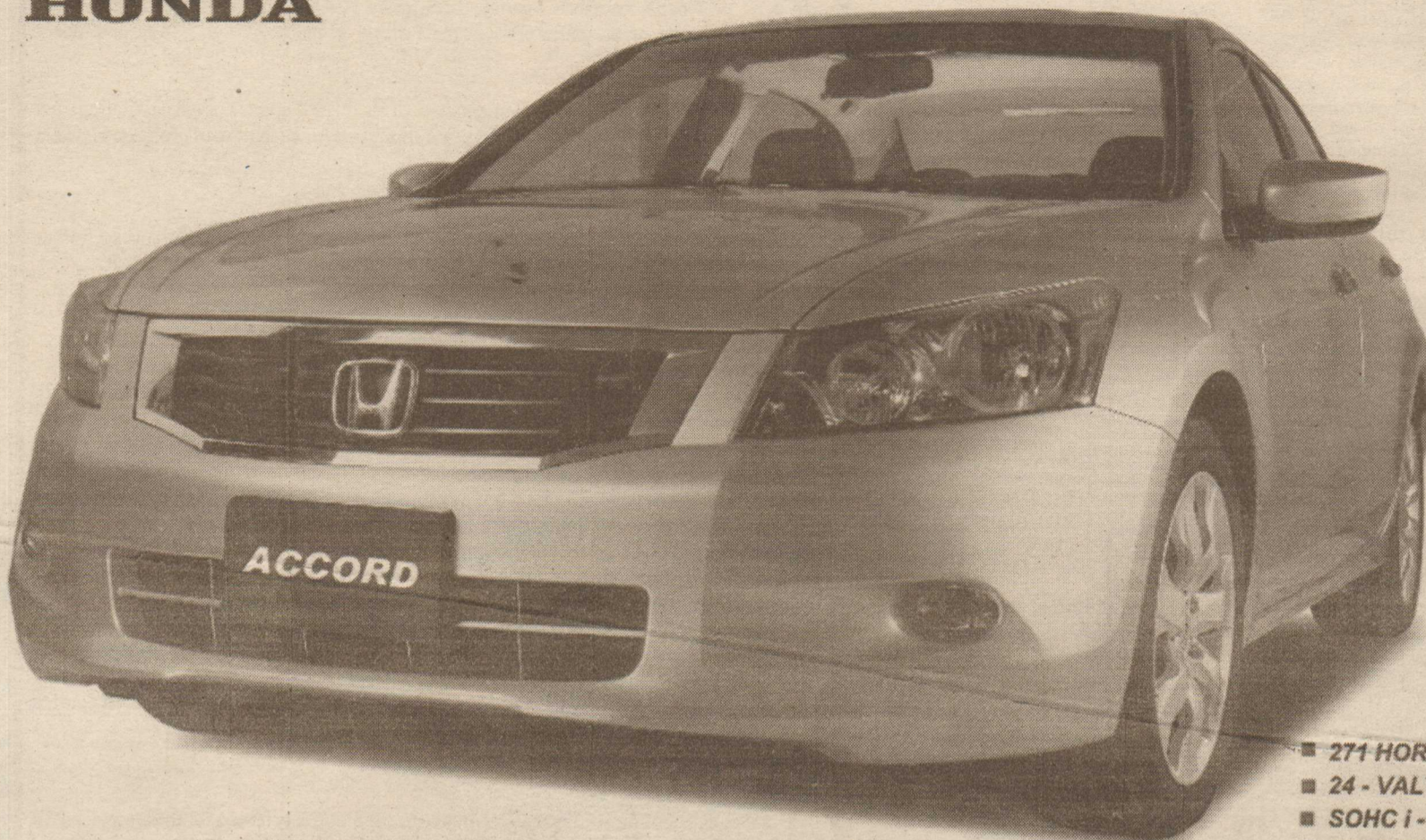
Signed: MANAGEMENT



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GLOBE MOTORS HOLDINGS (NIG.) LIMITED



HEAD OFFICE/SHOWROOM:
 Plot 637, Akin Adesola Street,
 P.O. Box 74113,
 Victoria Island, Lagos.
 Tel: 0700-GLOBE MOTORS
 26222778-9, 2623403-4, 2626207-9;
 Fax: 4619966
 E-mail: info@globemotors.net

HONDA SHOWROOM
 16C Lugard Avenue/Kingway Road,
 Ikoyi, Lagos
 Tel: 0700 GLOBE HONDA:
 01-4739261, 4447333
 Fax: 01 2613501
 Email: globemta@triviaserve.com.ng

PORT-HARCOURT:
 Arista Farm Estate,
 228, Abe Expressway,
 P.O.Box 13696,
 Port-Harcourt River State.
 Tel: 0700-GLOBE PH,
 084-250606, 232340, 462810

ABUJA OFFICE:
 Plot 616, Ekus Cloes,
 Opposite Gariki General Hospital,
 Area 6, Gariki Abuja.
 Tel: 0700-GLOBE ABUJA,
 09-8706236, 09-8706431

WORKSHOP:
 43/45, Razaq Balogun Street,
 Off Adeniran Ogunsanya Street,
 Surulere, Lagos.
 Tel: 0700-GLOBE SERVICE,
 5850990-1, 833123, 832668.
 Fax: 5850991

SPORTS

Ndanusa raises hope on U-17 World Cup budget

By Orkula Shaagee

Dark clouds over the release of the N9 billion budget for the Nigeria 2009 FIFA U-17 World Cup Local Organizing Committee (LOC) were cleared yesterday, with Minister of Sports and Chairman National Sports Commission, Engineer Sani Ndanusa saying the money will soon be released to the committee.

Speaking during a visit to the secretariat of the LOC in Abuja, Ndanusa said the delay earlier caused by Due Process Office has been cleared and the money will be made available to the committee.

According to Ndanusa, government has gone to the last level of due process and very soon money will be released to the Local Organizing Committee to begin full scale preparations for the soccer fiesta.

"The budget for the World Cup will be released to the Local Organizing Committee for work any moment from now, we have gone to the last level of due process on the issue", Ndanusa stated.

Also yesterday, the minister directed the LOC to ensure that the soccer event is held without of errors.

He told the Local Organizing Committee in Abuja that the Federal Government and indeed President Yar'adua are looking forward to hosting a hitch-free FIFA U-17 World Cup in October.

"I want to assure you that the Federal Government and President Umaru Musa Yar'adua are looking forward to hosting the world under zero error, and we have to do that because this is a test case for Nigeria to becoming one of the best 20 nations in the world by 2020.

"Our demand from you is total zero error World Cup hosting, and I will continue to monitor your activities; and I will be making unscheduled visits to ensure that everything is in place", Ndanusa said.

He added that Nigeria's credibility and image is being put to test with the World Cup hosting right, as people have already started making comparisons as to what Nigeria can do and what South Africa can deliver at the 2010 World Cup.

LOC plans 8-team test tourney for Nigeria 2009

The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for Nigeria 2009 FIFA U-17 World Cup yesterday said it would stage two 8-Nations Soccer Championships as part of efforts to test-run the facilities earmarked for the global soccer event.

Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the organizing committee, Mainasara Illo who disclosed this when he received Minister of Sports and Chairman National Sports Commission, Engineer Sani Ndanusa in his office, also said the two tournaments will provide an opportunity for the Golden

for Nigeria 2009

By Orkula Shaagee

Eaglets to test their strength ahead of the U-17 World Cup in October.

According to him, the two tournaments have become even most important, considering the failure of the Nigerian team to qualify for the African U-17 Championship in Tunisia.

He stated that the committee is determined to ensure that Nigeria does not only host a hitch-free event in October, but also show-

cases the abundant resources in the country to the rest of the world.

Illo, who also announced that the draws for the global soccer event would hold on July 31st in Abuja, added that the mascot, team song and official emblem for the World Cup currently at the design stage will soon be launched; even as he informed that FIFA is happy with the designed mascot.

He also disclosed that the Local Organizing Committee has engaged the services of

Globacom, First Bank and ThisDay Newspaper as national supporters, and that three more are being expected to swell the list to six.

Illo added that the committee is working hard to ensure that the facilities needed for the World Cup are ready before the final visit of the FIFA inspection team in the second week of May.

In his reply, Sports Minister, Sani Ndanusa assured that the National Sports Commission would give its financial and logistics backing to the LOC to ensure the success of the two 8-Nation tournaments slated for September.



Gambia's coach Tariq Saigy, right, and his players celebrate with the trophy after their African U-17 Championship triumph against Algeria in Dar el Seida in Algiers, Algeria ...yesterday.

Hotline: 08059100030 (Text Only)

Obaseki charges League Awards C'ttee

Chief Oyuki Obaseki, the Nigeria Premier League (NPL) board chairman, on Thursday in Abuja tasked its Awards Committee to ensure that the competition's best performers were adequately rewarded.

Obaseki, while inaugurating the eight-man committee at the league secretariat, said reward through recognition and honour would add value to the Globacom Premier League.

"The inauguration of the committee is something that is long overdue, but we have finally decided to take the bull by the horns and this is an indication of our willingness to move with the trend.

"You are charged with the responsibility of resuscitating the monthly and yearly awards to all the actors in the league, and you must ensure that we get the best and we honour them," he said.

NPL board member and ex-international Dr Felix Owolabi heads the committee, with Mr Isaac Ibhafidon, the NPL Head of Media and Publicity as secretary.

Obaseki, who said that the awards would add value to the league, disclosed that the awards were expected to cover all aspects of the football game including the media.

He listed the awards as Best Player, Highest Goal scorer, Best Goalkeeper, Most Disciplined Team, Best Referee, Best Supporters Club and awards for photographers and the best in the electronic and print media.

"You were carefully selected on merit and it is my belief that you will not betray the trust in the discharge of this assignment," he told the committee members.

Responding on behalf of the committee, Owolabi assured that the members would be guarded by open-mindedness and transparency.

"We are aware that only the best is good for the country, and we will not fail. We are grateful for this opportunity and the confidence reposed in us," he said.

Other members of the committee are NPL's Executive Secretary, Malam Alhassan Yakmut, Globacom Nigeria Plc official Mr. Harry Iwuala and NPL's Head of Competition Department, Mr. Tunji Babalola.

Other members of the committee are three sports journalists, Mr. Emeka Nwani of Compass newspaper, Mr. Toyin Ibitoye of Channels TV and Mr. Colin Udoh of kickoffnigeria.com, a football website.

Hoffenheim declare Obasi fit for Hamburg

Super Eagles forward, Chinedu Obasi has been certified fit and available for selection for his German club TSG Hoffenheim's next league game away to Hamburg on Saturday.

Obasi who had been out for weeks now was suffering from a muscle fibre tear and his recovery alongside fellow striker, Demba Ba and midfielder, Sejad Salihovic will be exciting news for coach Ralf Rangnick who has seen his first team depleted by injury.

Edu's injury restricted his appearances this year to only four and 16 games in total for the sea-

son with six goals to his credit. He last played for Hoffenheim on March 7 in the 0-0 draw at home with Werder Bremen and also missed Nigeria's World Cup qualifying game against Mozambique in Maputo last Sunday.

Injuries to key players including the League's top scorer, Vedad Ibisevic has seen Hoffenheim who emerged the winter Champions in their first Bundesliga season gradually slid down the table to fifth with 44 points from 25 games and they are yet to win a game since the commencement of the second stanza.

Ojo-Oba: Stolen \$200,000 has not been recovered

The Nigeria Football Federation stated on Wednesday that it had not been told by the Nigeria Police that part or whole of the about \$200,000 stolen from its offices on March 19 had been recovered. Speculations were rife that some amount of the money had been recovered from certain persons, but NFF General Secretary, Dr. Bolaji Ojo-Oba said: "We have been reading the speculations and all that some persons assumed had happened in the media just like anyone else. We have not heard anything from the Police.

"The theft was noticed on the morning of March 19 and we called in the Nigeria Police to handle the matter. Our investigators have been working on a number of theories and several aspects but we have not been told that the money had been recovered, or that someone had taken the Police to somewhere where they put the money.

"In view of this, I am appealing to Nigerians to let us be patient as the investigators are working and will definitely get around to solving the puzzle. We would not be helping the Police if we keep speculating everyday."

Quote of the Day

Whoever played against that Bolivian team would have suffered the same fate as us... Every Bolivian goal was a dagger in my heart.

—Argentina coach, Diego Maradona, commenting on his side's humiliating 6-0 mauling by Bolivia at La Paz's high-attitude Hernando Siles stadium.

Sports



Phil Mickelson heads a strong field for this week's Houston Open at Redstone Golf Club in Texas, United States.

In-form Mickelson starts Masters run in Houston

In-form Phil Mickelson heads a strong field for this week's Houston Open at Redstone Golf Club, which has again been set up to provide similar conditions to Augusta National for the U.S. Masters which follows.

The world number two, fresh from victory at the WGC-CA Championship in

his previous start, will seek his third PGA Tour title this year on a 7,457-yard layout edged by light rough and closely cropped chipping areas.

Twice a champion at Augusta, Mickelson was delighted to claim his first World Golf Championships (WGC) crown nine days ago

as part of his build-up to the opening major of the season.

"It feels great to have won because I knew that I was playing some good golf heading in," the 38-year-old American said. "It feels great because I'm starting my Masters run to Augusta. This is all part of the process.

"I enjoy this process of

competing, being in the final group, being tied for the lead ... feeling that pressure, feeling that intensity and how important each shot is throughout the entire round.

"All of that adds to helping me, or whoever, play better in the majors, as well as being able to come out on top in a World Golf Champi-

onships where we have the best players in the world competing," he told reporters.

Left-hander Mickelson, who worked hard on his game during the off-season with swing coach Butch Harmon, faces an impressive list of likely challengers at Redstone this week.

Fourteen of the world's top 20 players are competing, including eight of the top 10.

Spaniard Sergio Garcia (third), Australian Geoff Ogilvy (fourth), Irishman Padraig Harrington (fifth), Fijian Vijay Singh (sixth), Swede Robert Karlsson (seventh), Colombian Camilo Villegas (eighth) and Swede Henrik Stenson (10th) will all be in action.

Although Singh is still recovering from the effects of knee surgery earlier this year, he has a strong affinity with this tournament having won at Woodlands in 2002 and at Redstone in 2004 and 2005.

American Johnson Wagner defends the title he won by a shot last year to book his place in his first Masters.

James powers Cavaliers in win over Pistons

LeBron James had 25 points and 12 rebounds as the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Detroit Pistons 79-73, extending their win streak to 13 games.

Delonte West added 12 points for Cleveland who improved to 36-1 at home and became just the sixth team in National Basketball Association history to win 16 games in one month.

"That is amazing," said James, who was reminded the Cavs won just 17 in the season before his arrival. "Ever since the All-Star game we've been really, really focused. That's an unbelievable month for any team."

Cleveland trailed 69-67 midway through the fourth when James took over, scoring eight points and handing out an assist in a 10-0 run.

Richard Hamilton scored 13 points and Allen Iverson 11 for Detroit, who were held to 35 percent shooting.

Iverson's layup put Detroit up 69-67 with 5:24 left when James made another superb play that gave the Cavaliers the lead for good.

"That's the sign of a good team," James said. "No matter the circumstances, we continue to win. Whatever the game is, tight or a

shootout or an offensive struggle or a defensive game, we find a way to win."

With forward Rasheed Wallace back after missing 11 games with an injured left calf, Detroit had its first full roster since February 25. Wallace had nine points and nine rebounds.

On their previous visit to Cleveland, the Pistons were rocked 99-78 but they started well in this one.

Detroit held the Cavaliers to just 12 points in the first quarter and opening a 39-30 lead midway through the second quarter.

Iverson, who has come off the bench in two games since returning from injury, complained about his playing time.

"I can play 18 minutes with my eyes closed and a 100-pound truck on my back," he said. "I'm wondering what the rush was to get me back. It's a bad time for me mentally. I'm just trying to get through it

without starting a whole bunch of nonsense. I'm looking at the big picture, if I vent my frustrations, then it's on.

"Being who I am, fingers are going to be pointed at me. People are going to make a big deal out of it. I'm just trying to laugh as much as I can and stop from crying."

Allen lifts Boston to OT triumph

Ray Allen drained a three-pointer with 2.1 seconds to play to lift Boston to a 111-109 double-overtime victory over Charlotte in the National Basketball Association.

The victory put the defending NBA champion Celtics in second place in the Eastern Conference behind Cleveland.

Boston moved one game ahead of Orlando, who fell 99-95 to Toronto.

Paul Pierce led the Celtics with 32 points. Allen chipped in 21 and Rajon

Rondo scored 21 points with nine assists.

Gerald Wallace had 20 points and 10 rebounds, and Boris Diaw scored 17 points for the Bobcats, who are fighting for the last Eastern Conference playoff spot.

Charlotte fell one game behind the idle Chicago Bulls for the last playoff berth in the East.

In Orlando, Chris Bosh scored 24 points to lead the Raptors, who nearly squandered an 11-point lead but held on to stretch their winning streak to five games.

Maldini: My retirement will be sad

Milan legend Paolo Maldini admits the day he retires will be one of the saddest of his career, but he has preferred to focus on the positives.

The stopper has already confirmed his farewell to Calcio following a career which stretches back to 1978 when he joined Milan as a youth player. Having earned legendary status over the years, Maldini is ready to confront his big decision with professionalism and philosophy.

day for me

"I have always imagined how my retirement would be and surely it will be a sad day for me," Maldini told Itasportpress.it.

"However, I will live it serenely because I am leaving a sport which has given me so much. It has made me laugh and smile and it has given me plenty of satisfactions both on a professional and human level."

Maldini is proud that he

has been able to fly the flag for his club. The defender recounts his illustrious past, believing it will soften the blow of retirement.

"All the trophies I have won make me proud as well as all the things I have been able to achieve with this club," added Maldini.

"Football has been an experience which has given me many nice things, but only a few bad ones. The bad things can be attributed to some defeats, but this is part of football, and so I will accept it."

Sports

Italy vs Ireland: The ref was terrible, but Lippi was worse

In many countries, April Fools jokes are only valid until noon. In others though, including Ireland, the jokes last all day. When German referee Wolfgang Stark reached for his pocket after just two minutes to red card Giampaolo Pazzini for an unintentional brush to John O'Shea's face, you would have been forgiven for thinking that this was indeed a very bad, and unbelievable, April Fools prank.

But then Pazzini began to walk off the pitch, he continued to walk, and then it sunk in that this was no gag – this was just a simply horrific refereeing decision, one that conditioned what could have been a very entertaining World Cup qualifier.

As soon as Vincenzo Iaquinta gave Italy the lead on 10 minutes, it was obvious that the Azzurri were going to sit with their 10 men and try to protect their advantage. The remaining 80 minutes, with the exception of Robbie Keane's late equaliser, and a flurry of even later Irish openings, were dreadfully dull and predictable. I openly confess that I often had more than half an eye on Argentina and Diego Maradona's stunning self-destruction at the hands of Bolivia.

Ireland boss Giovanni Trapattoni said it best in the post-match interview, when he stated: "For the referee to make a decision like that so early into the game he has to be sure. You can tell it really wasn't serious."

Italy coach Marcello Lippi made no secret of his

Carlo Garganese,
Goal.com

disgust, and openly blamed Stark for his side's failure to win all three points.

"We played 90 minutes with 10 men for an interpretation of violence that was seen by everyone. These things shouldn't happen in international football. It's absolutely wrong," he roared.

It was absolutely wrong, but what was also wrong was Lippi's own personal performance on the night. Granted, it is difficult to play with one man less for an entire game but, with all due respect, Ireland are a very ordinary side. Their midfield of Keogh, Whelan, Andrews and Hunt, minus the services of three fine players in Damien Duff, Aiden McGeady (both injured) and Stephen Ireland (self-exiled), should have been completely out of their depth. These were Championship-standard players up against World Cup winners like De Rossi and Pirlo.

Italy should have been able to control proceedings, and for much of the first half they did do that. Pirlo was comfortably the best player on the pitch, spraying some delightful passes around, and combining superbly with the marauding Grosso, both in the build-up to Iaquinta's opener, and on other occasions. The Milan star was the only Italian prepared to put his foot on the ball to ensure Italy had some territory. But then, Lippi bizarrely substituted him at half-time for 'tactical rea-

sons', introducing the defensive Angelo Palombo. The middle of the park now consisted of three holding midfielders, and for the duration of the second half, the trio barely passed the half-way line.

This was an open, and misguided, invitation for Ireland to attack, as Lippi chose to play a deep defensive line. Without McGeady and Duff, Ireland did not have the pace or craft to hurt Italy in open spaces, and indeed their best

chance of equalising was always going to be via long balls and crosses pumped into the box in order to cause confusion. Eventually this was how the leveller arrived, as a route-one Shay Given goal kick caught out a ridiculously deep Italian defence, and substitute Caleb Folan re-enacted the famous Niall Quinn flick-on for Keane. If the Azzurri had pushed up, even with 10 men, Ireland would not have had the ability to play around, or get in

behind, them.

Lippi's second substitution was also Claudio Ranieri-esque, as he replaced an attacking wideman, Simone Pepe, with a left back, Andrea Dossena. For the last 35 minutes, Italy were playing with five defenders, three holding midfielders, and Iaquinta all by himself up-front, 10 miles ahead into the horizon. If each and every Italy player had one leg, the balance in the team could not have been any more wobbly. Where Dossena was supposed to be playing is a mystery. He popped up at left midfield, left-back, and even in the trequartista position. Yes, trequartista!

It is clear that the current squad is one of the weakest Italy has had for a very long time, and a great deal of improvement is required if they are to defend their World Cup with pride and honour. However, the pool and team could be far stronger if only Lippi would select the right players. To repeat for the umpteenth time, there is simply no attacking creativity. The team is crying out for an Antonio Cassano, Francesco Totti or Sebastian Giovinco-type support striker. Lippi appears to be going down the Inter road of trying to grind out victories, only Italy do not have Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

Lippi has often reacted to criticism that he is relying on old players by citing the presence of Giuseppe Rossi. How many minutes did the Villarreal man play during this World Cup double-header?

A big fat zero. Like Cassano, what does the 21-year-old have to do for his club? Simone Pepe can barely make the Udinese starting XI, yet Rossi is starring in the Champions League.

Spanish football expert, Ewan Macdonald says, "Rossi may not top the Liga goalscoring charts, but he is nonetheless utterly integral to the success of Villarreal, in dropping back and linking up with midfielders. He is without question one of the top forwards in a league as competitive as Spain's, which leaves one wondering what more he has to do to earn Marcelo Lippi's trust."

It was a bad night all round for Italy. Referee Wolfgang Stark deserves to be vilified for his performance and, without Pazzini's unjust red card, it is 90 per cent likely Italy would have won. But serious questions must be asked of Lippi. Just because he is a World Cup winner does not mean that he is immune to criticism. World class players will eventually lose form as they get older, this can be the case for coaches too. Lippi's squad and team selection, his tactical and formation choices, and most of all his substitutions, have question marks printed all over them.

What are your views on last night's game? How bad was the referee's decision to send off Pazzini? What do you make of some of Lippi's choices? Is this Italy team going to struggle at the World Cup unless changes are made? Goal.com wants to know what YOU think.



Lippi chose to play a deep defensive line against the adventurous Irish team.

Bolivians worthy of routing Argentina - Maradona

Argentina coach Diego Maradona refused to blame the negative effects of competing at altitude after his side were humiliated 6-1 by Bolivia on Wednesday, thus registering their worst defeat in 60 years.

Bolivia's goals came from a Joaquin Botero hat-trick and Marcelo Martins, Alex Da Rosa and Didi Torrico while Argentina found the net through Luis Gonzalez at

La Paz's high-altitude Hernando Siles's stadium.

But the former World Cup winner, who thus suffered his first defeat since taking over as coach last year, refused to explain his faltering team's performance on playing at 3650 metres above sea level.

"No, the altitude was not an issue. We came up against a team that gave very little away and basically they

were the better team," said Maradona.

"It seemed to me that Bolivia gave everything they had, they played well and showed us good football." That remark prompted applause from media representatives, apparently for Maradona's sense of fair-play.

He added: "Whoever played against that Bolivian team would have suffered the same fate as us. I suffered

with them (players). Every Bolivian goal was a dagger in my heart."

Argentinian keeper Juan Pablo Carrizo, who had a memorable night for the wrong reasons, was first beaten in the 12th minute by striker Marcelo Martins, who plays for Shakhtar Donetsk in the Ukraine.

However, the Argentinians, twice world champions, were level in the 25th minute

when Porto's Luis Gonzalez hit a shot from 30-metres without much conviction but an unexpected bounce meant it went past Bolivia keeper Carlos Arias and into the net.

Bolivia went further ahead in the 34th minute through hat-trick hero Botero of Mexican club Correcaminos, Mexico.

An inspired and motivated Bolivia went 3-1 ahead just before the break through Da Rosa and then Botero got further goals in the 50th and 66th minutes. Torrico scored the sixth and final goal with three minutes to go.

Angel Di Maria was sent off in the 63rd minute to make a terrible night even worse.

Spain show tough streak in Turkey

Spain's gritty comeback to beat Turkey 2-1 away in a World Cup qualifier earned them more respect than all the talk of beautiful football, captain Iker Casillas said.

The European champions have been lauded for the quality of their slick passing game and possession football, but there was less evidence of it in a hostile Istanbul as they were put under constant pressure by the Euro 2008 semi-finalists.

Semih Senturk gave the Turks the lead in the first half of Wednesday's match and

it took a 63rd-minute penalty from Xabi Alonso and a stoppage-time strike from Liverpool team mate Albert Riera to seal Spain's sixth win from six in Group Five.

"The three points are important because they were won in a difficult stadium and it's true some days you win better than on others," Casillas was quoted as saying in sports daily AS on Thursday.

"People will respect us more for games like these."

Spain moved six points clear of Bosnia, and 10 ahead of third-placed Turkey

with four matches left to play, and have equalled their best unbeaten run set by coach Javier Clemente between 1994 and 1998 going 31 games without defeat. "We have proved we have a winning mentality, that we grow in adversity, and when things aren't working well for us we resort to motivation and ambition to get there," defender Carlos Marchena said.

Coach Vicente del Bosque praised the players for refusing to settle for a draw: "It's a very positive sign. We are on a winning

roll and we have to make the most of it."

Turkey have a steep hill to climb if they are to make it to the South Africa finals next year with their only realistic hope being to overhaul Bosnia for the playoff place in the group.

"This could have been a historic night for Turkish sport, not just Turkish football. The team let this slip," coach Fatih Terim said.

"Our fixtures are not easy but the Turkish national team is capable of beating anyone, anywhere. Bosnia have the advantage now, we have to accept this."



Maradona

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SPORTS Bits

Gambia are African U-17 champs

Gambia have won the African under-17 championship. The Baby Scorpions beat hosts Algeria 3-1 in the final yesterday.

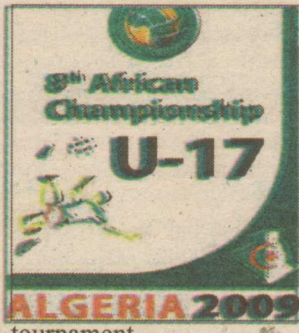
Gambia took the lead with a diving header early in the first half.

At half-time the Gambia had doubled their tally, but Algeria had claimed a goal back through a penalty to make it 2-1.

In the second half Gambia extended their lead and claimed the title 3-1.

Ebrima Bojang scored twice for Gambia and their other goal came from Alasana Camara.

It is the second time they have taken the



They triumphed at home in 2005 and the team then went on to the World Cup and beat Brazil.

Gambia and Algeria, plus beaten semi-finalists Burkina Faso and Malawi, have all qualified for this year's global event, to be hosted in Nigeria.

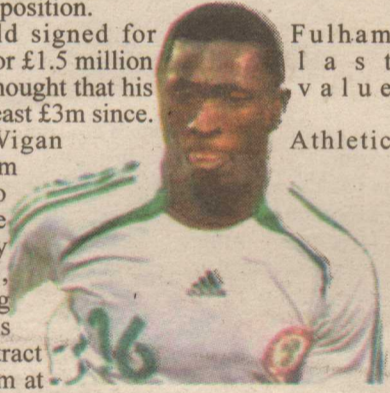
Villa, Everton chase Etuhu

Aston Villa and Everton head a queue of Premier League clubs interested in acquiring the services of Fulham's Nigerian midfielder Dickson Etuhu. The Cottagers are ninth in the Premier League table at present, just one point behind a European qualification spot.

It is claimed that Toffees manager David Moyes and Villa's boss Martin O'Neill have been impressed with Etuhu's performances this season, hailing him as having played a key role in helping the west London outfit to a top-half position.

The 26-year-old signed for Fulham last summer, but it is thought that his value has doubled to at least £3m since.

Apparently, Wigan Athletic and West Ham United are also keeping tabs on the former Norwich City star. Meanwhile, Fulham are preparing to improve the terms of his current contract in a bid to keep him at Craven Cottage.



Howard sparks Magic past Heat

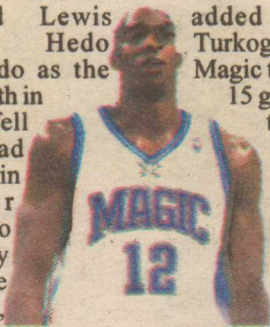
Dwight Howard scored 22 points and grabbed 18 rebounds to lead the Orlando Magic past Miami 101-95, spoiling a 42-point performance from NBA scoring leader Dwyane Wade in the process.

The Magic beat the Heat for the 12th time in their past 13 meetings, improving to 55-18 to stay ahead of defending NBA champion Boston (56-19) for the second seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs behind NBA leader Cleveland.

Rashard Lewis added 21 points and Turkey's Hedo Turkoglu added 16 points for Orlando as the Magic took a sixth win in a row and 13th in 15 games.

Miami fell to 39-35, still one game ahead of Philadelphia for fifth place in the East.

Former Heat star center Mourning had his jersey number retired in a ceremony. Mourning, a four-time All-Star who spent 11 of his 15 NBA seasons at Miami, was the first former Heat player whose number was retired.



A meeting adjourned

At the time of politics meeting is everything, because everything gets reduced to a meeting. The political party meets, the opposition meets, the Executive Council meets, the National Council of States meets, the tenders board meets, committees meet, the Kitchen Cabinet meets and some even meet about the meetings others had.

Generally speaking, a meeting is very useful device—for wasting time. But, as experience has taught us, generally nobody is speaking—about the real, important issues, that is. And more often than not, a meeting can be very long and really boring; but it may also be short and quite exciting. Its outcome, however, is not dependent on its length or its excitement or even its boredom.

A favourable outcome for any meeting largely depends on getting a capable chairman, choosing the right venue and the punctuality and positive participation of members. But more important than all these in deciding the outcome of a meeting is having the right agenda—especially if it has seven points. Not a point more, not a point less.

I must therefore say that, as a nation, we are indeed very lucky to have such a visionary leadership that can come up with such a beautifully-crafted heptagon of an agenda. But while we have such an agenda, we must not fail to note that the meeting itself is yet to commence. Wait a minute: there is a very good and valid reason for the delay.

The delay, it is said, is caused by the fact that one must prepare thoroughly before one goes for a meeting. One must study the situation carefully, understand the strength, recognize the weaknesses, count the opportunities, enumerate the threats, and plan how to deal ruthlessly and most decisively with them all; and there is the necessity to allow time for members of the meeting to thoroughly read and digest all the memoranda on the many issues brought before them; and one has to wait and see whether it is true that all those on the action sheet have really failed in their assignments, and to await the submission of committee reports—all of them; and, when they are finally submitted, to reject them. All this requires time—a lot of it. If one has to spend three years planning how to execute the job of the fourth year, why, it will have been time well-spent.

SEVEN-POINT AGENDA

1. Opening Christian Prayer
2. Matters Arising:
 - a. Megawatt Blunder
 - b. Anti-Corruption Blunder
 - c. Electoral Reform Blunder
 - d. Niger Delta Blunder
 - e. Power Probe Blunder
 - f. Security Blunder
 - g. Rebranding Blunder

3. Budget 2009

4. Burying the Opposition
5. Any Other Business
6. Date of Next Election
7. Closing Muslim Prayer

The members of the meeting will open the meeting with an inverted **Opening Christian Prayer**, asking God for His help to break His laws: Thou shall steal and Thou shall covet thy neighbour's wife, along with the nation's resources. **Matters Arising** is to consider the series of blunders committed while the nation waits for members of the meeting to read the memoranda of the meeting. The **Megawatt Blunder** would try to explain why a nation that had almost 4,000 megawatts of electricity ten years ago spent almost \$20 billion, only to drop to less than 3,000 megawatts today.

On the **Anti-Corruption Blunder**, the question to ask is: what is the current position after the botch up of the deserved humbling of the excesses of Nuhu Ribadu? Is corruption

FRIDAY
COLUMN
with Adamu Adamu
adamuadamu@dailytrust.com

now being fought? Or is it being bought? Or is it being sought? Or are they being caught?

The **Electoral Reform Blunder** is essentially for damage control to regain credibility after it has been lost in the technical rejection of the Electoral Reform Committee's work. The president had promised the nation a reform of the electoral process and then when the time came for him to prove his sincerity, the nation found him sorely wanting. Ahd now, what can he do about it? Nothing. With example better than precepts, the president's electoral reform is more properly depicted in the last local government elections than by any of the nice provisions in the Uwais Report.

The **Niger Delta Blunder** is Nigeria's evidence, if any is required, to show that a nation may have failed, even if things appear normal. The security and law and order situation have broken down; but is the solution the creation of a ministry?

The **Power Probe Blunder** promises to expose, instead of the corruption of businessmen, the corruption of legislators and the executive arm of government. The **Security Blunder** shows that whether in the Niger Delta or in the Komadugu-Yobe Delta, what are lost are lives, what are used are guns, and what is missing is the security of lives and property. This item of a blunder will consider whether the war against violent crimes is winnable in the face of corruption and extreme poverty. It is not.

The **Rebranding Blunder** will look at the efficacy of running the government as business, and the country as a product in a bargain that is without buyers; but, even without sales, the end result is individual profit. The next item of the seven-point agenda is **Budget 2009**. It is not read, and it is passed, as amended, to take care of the all the whims, caprices, greed and insensitivity of the nation's lawmakers.

The next item of the seven-point agenda is **Burying the Opposition**; and, accordingly, the opposition is buried very deep, with the enthusiastic support and active cooperation of all 47 of the 50 opposition parties. The next item on the agenda is **Any Other Business**; but there is no other business except the next item on the seven-point agenda; that is, the **Date of the Next Election**. And since this has already been fixed by tradition and convention, the only thing to consider is how, in the light of the white-papered electoral reform committee's report, the great party can convincingly win.

The last item on the seven-point agenda is the Closing Muslim Prayer, which, as usual, is about *lafiya da zaman lafiya*—peace and good health for the people, and an improved law and order situation for the nation.

It would be night when the meeting ended. The venue of the meeting would be dark—unlit, because there was no light to light it with; members, though hungry, sick and tired because of the seven-point blunders and the malicious hooliganism going on, couldn't get out and set for home because the atmosphere was tense and they were themselves frightened for their lives. And because the roads were still bad and full of potholes, it was too dangerous to drive fast because there could be an accident; and it would even be more dangerous to drive slowly because robbers and sundry area boys might attack.

At the end, the agenda and the blunder become one and the same thing; and the only thing we really understand that: at the time of politics, meetings are everything and the people, in whose name all the meetings are held, are nothing. Practically nothing! Nobody thinks of them. As they say, politician thinks of the next election; a statesman thinks of the next generation; but a politician only thinks of the next corruption—and the bigger the better. It is a meeting adjourned.