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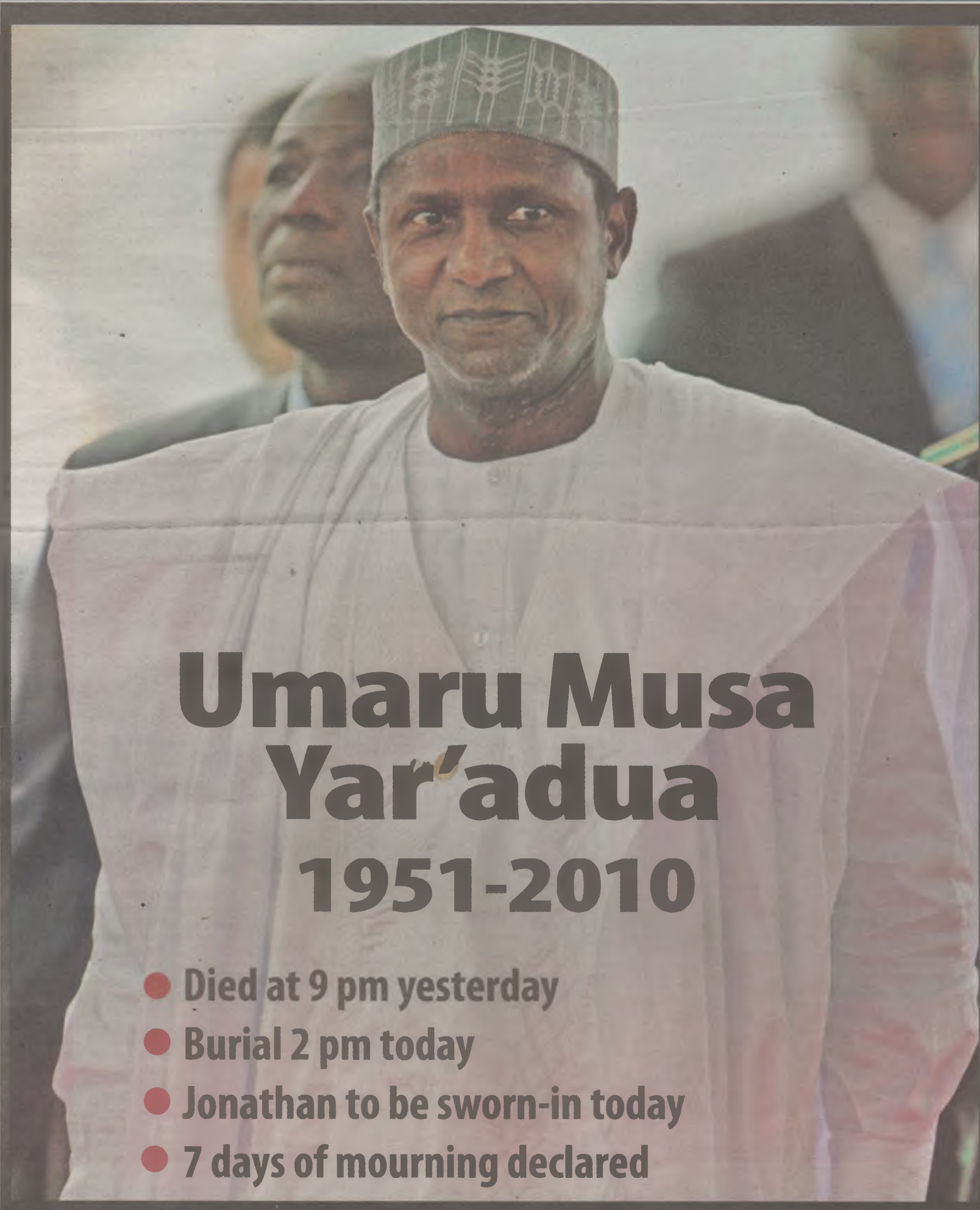
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TRUST IS A BURDEN

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Umaru Musa Yar'adua 1951-2010

- Died at 9 pm yesterday
- Burial 2 pm today
- Jonathan to be sworn-in today
- 7 days of mourning declared

Umaru Musa Yar'adua, 1951-2010

The president is dead



health began to deteriorate yesterday, and some staff members said his condition was "going up and down" throughout yesterday. Only a few family members and the late president's closest aides were at hand as his personal physician and Saudi Arabian doctors battled to save Yar'adua's life. He died around 9pm.

Late last night, the Federal Government confirmed in a statement that Yar'adua had died. The statement by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan's spokesman Ima Niboro announced that the burial will take place at Katsina at 2 o'clock this afternoon. The government declared today a public holiday in honour of the departed president and also declared 7 days of national mourning.

Since his controversial secret return to the country last February, the late president had been kept away from public view inside the Presidential Villa in Abuja. Although his family members and close aides generally said his health was improving since he returned to the country, he occasionally suffered a relapse. Two weeks ago, his wife Hajia Turai told friends who visited her that she was "full of worry" for her husband's health. She said the

She said the biggest problem was his inability to speak, due to a device inserted into his throat by the Saudi Arabian doctors during his 103-day hospitalisation in Jeddah

biggest problem was his inability to speak, due to a device inserted into his throat by the Saudi Arabian doctors during his 93-day hospitalisation in Jeddah.

According to the now widowed First Lady, the main reason why the family held Yar'adua out of public view was because his doctors dictated for him a very light dress so that he would receive maximum ventilation. She reportedly said it was not possible for him to appear in public in that very light dress.

The president's tragic passing and a tenure dogged by illness will be formally closed this afternoon when he is buried in Katsina. Yar'adua was the Mutawallen Katsina and was for 8 years the governor of Katsina State. It will be completed with the formal swearing-in of Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, who will make the transition from Acting President to substantive President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

By Mahmud Jega

PRESIDENT Umaru Musa

Yar'adua's long battle with chronic kidney and heart disease ended last night when he died inside

the Presidential Villa in Abuja. He will be buried at his family home in Katsina at 1 o'clock

this afternoon. Very few details were available last night, but *Daily Trust* learnt that Yar'adua's

Umaru Musa Yar'adua, 1951-2010

The last days of Yar'adua

By Habeeb I. Pindiga

EVER since Alhaji Umaru Yar'adua left Nigeria for a medical trip to Saudi Arabia on November 23 last year, everything that was heard about him was mainly in the realm of rumour and speculation. He was last seen in public on November 20 at the Friday prayers in Abuja, and the following Sunday, his office issued a statement saying he was travelling abroad to treat acute pericarditis. He was not seen the public since then and there was no concrete official information about him.

That was until his death last night. Soon after Yar'adua left Nigeria, rumours began circulating that he was dead. On November 26, when anxiety about his state of health heightened, Nigerian envoy in Saudi Arabia Abdullahi Aminchi said the president was not in a precarious condition and that he was recovering. This doused the tension, but only for a little while.

Agitations followed from various individuals and groups for Yar'adua to submit a letter of vacation to the National Assembly, so proclaimed acting president, or even resign outright on account of ill health.

But on December 2, 2009, the Federal Executive Council unanimously resolved to dismiss calls for the president's resignation. The council also said there were no grounds to declare him permanently incapacitated.

Two weeks after, on December 19, the Niger Delta rebel group MEND carried out their first attack on an oil pipeline since the amnesty offer, saying the absence of the president was delaying the programme.

Meanwhile rumours kept popping up once in a while suggesting the president's health condition had dipped. The rumours reached a climax on January 11, when blogs on the internet declared that Yar'adua had died.

To stave off the rumours, Yar'adua's men arranged for the BBC radio to interview him. In his first public comments since November 23, Yar'adua spoke on the BBC on January 12, 2010, saying he was recovering from illness and hoped to return home soon.

But this did not satisfy those calling for his head. Many skeptics said it was an impostor who pretended to be the president on BBC.

On February 3, Information Minister Dora Akunyili presented a memo to the Federal Executive Council, urging it to declare Yar'adua permanently incapacitated. The memo generated acrimonious debate among ministers and split the cabinet into two camps of pro-Yar'adua and pro-Jonathan.

On February 9, the National Assembly caved in to pressure and declared Goodluck Jonathan as acting president. The next day,



RUSSIAN President Dmitry Medvedev (left) with President Umaru Musa Yar'adua during the Russian President's visit to Abuja in November.

Jonathan chaired the first FEC meeting as acting president, and immediately removed Yar'adua's staunch supporter and powerful Attorney General Michael Aondoakaa. Aondoakaa had been among ministers who insisted there was no need to formally transfer power to Jonathan during Yar'adua's absence.

A week after this, moves to declare the 58-year-old president incapacitated was again rejected by FEC, still made up of ministers appointed by Yar'adua. The

council instead raised a team to visit the ailing president at his hospital bed in Saudi Arabia for an update on his health.

However, soon after the FEC team arrived in Saudi Arabia, Yar'adua returned to Abuja in the early hours of the day. But he remained closely kept away from the public at the Villa. Acting President Goodluck Jonathan was not able to see him till he died last night.

Meanwhile, it emerged after a few weeks that Yar'adua was seen

by very close relations, including his mother and a cousin Zubairu Ali, who told Al Jazeera TV channel that the president was recovering.

Towards the end of March a fresh wave of rumours came up about the president, this time suggesting that he would return to work by the end of the month. He did not re-appear. Instead, on April 1, four Islamic clerics, led by Ustaz Musa Mohammed, met with him at the villa. They were the first set of non-relations to

publicly confirm seeing Yar'adua since his return. The visit by the Muslim clerics sparked a row, and, apparently to douse it, four days later three Christian clerics also met the president. Reports also said the late president met with his in-law, Governor Isa Yuguda of Bauchi State, and a number of other associates.

As visitors trickled in to see the president, rumours kept gaining ground of his imminent comeback. It was a comeback he never lived to make.

Umaru Musa Yar'adua, 1951-2010

An unsteady 35 months



MALAM Umaru Yar'adua, with Dr. Goodluck Jonathan on his left, receiving his certificate of Return from INEC in April 2007.

By Mahmud Jega

FROM the very beginnings of his sudden and almost miraculous rise to the Presidency in 2007, Malam Umaru Yar'adua was dogged by illness and constant rumours of death. From the very day that President Olusegun Obasanjo plucked him from relative gubernatorial obscurity and dictatorially propelled him towards the PDP nomination and into eventual election, many commentators, in fact too many commentators, said Yar'adua was too sick to be president. Some said he could well die before his tenure was up; others said it was Obasanjo's plan to install an infirm Northerner into the presidency so that power would quickly rotate back to the South again.

The basis for all the worry and speculation was Yar'adua's record of ill-health in the 8 years he was governor of Katsina State. In 2001, for instance, he was away from the state for 6 months, receiving medical treatment in Germany. Obasanjo was to say at the Annual trust

“ Within three months in office, he went to Germany for a medical check up, which coincided with the G-8 Summit taking place there. Then in August 2008, he suddenly departed for a secretive medical trip to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, which was at first said to be a lesser pilgrimage.

Dialogue last January that though he knew of Yar'adua's chronic kidney condition, he knew that he had a transplant and he saw medical papers suggesting that he was now okay.

At the PDP convention grounds at Eagle Square on the night of his nomination in December 2006, Umaru Yar'adua stood unsteadily with a slight hunch. He won the nomination anyway, but within weeks, as the PDP campaign train swept through the South West, Yar'adua suddenly had a breakdown in March 2007 and at one point, rumours swept the country that he had died in a German hospital. It turned out to be exaggerated.

After he was sworn-in as President on May 29, 2007, it became

noticeable that President Umaru Yar'adua kept a very low level of presidential activity, in very sharp contrast to his hyperactive, do-before-you-think predecessor. Yar'adua almost never moved far away from his State House office and residence. In more than two years as president, he undertook no tour of the states, attended few public ceremonies, and did very little foreign travel.

Within three months in office, he went to Germany for a medical check up, which coincided with the G-8 Summit taking place there. Then in August 2008, he suddenly departed for a secretive medical trip to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, which was at first said to be a lesser pilgrimage. He stayed incommunicado at the

hospital for two weeks—a dress rehearsal for what was to happen the following year—but then he returned to Nigeria in a somewhat better shape.

From the beginning of last year, it was noticeable that Yar'adua was deteriorating physically. He was emaciated, walked with a pronounced limp, was hunched when he stood and his level of activity plummeted. All this had a telling effect on his administration's program. Yar'adua was unable to establish a firm grip on his much-touted 7-point Agenda. The agenda's flagship element, the promise to declare a state of emergency in the power sector, never materialised. However, just before he fell sick last year, he was able to restore

peace to the Niger Delta region through his amnesty program for the region's militants, the cornerstone achievement of his era.

Yar'adua was very different from Obasanjo in many other ways. He made no effort to bring the colossal PDP under his heel, made no attempt to interfere with the National Assembly, as Obasanjo regularly did, and allowed state governors to run their fiefs as they pleased. Unlike the rambunctious Obasanjo who trotted all over the African and world scene, Yar'adua went to few places. He did not appear to relish regional power and made little effort to consolidate his position as chairman of ECOWAS.

And then, last November, he suddenly took ill again and was rushed out to a Saudi Arabian hospital with what his physician said was pericarditis, an ailment of the heart's outer covering. No one knew it at the time, but it was the slow, painful beginning of the last journey from which Malam Umaru Musa Yar'adua was never to recover.

Umaru Musa Yar'adua, 1951-2010

Now that Jonathan is president



ONCE they were in tandem, but the politics of Yar'adua's long ill-health later pulled them apart.

By Ibrahim Auduson

THE direction that the presidency of Goodluck Jonathan would take became clearer from the period in February that ailing president Umaru Musa Yar'adua was flown back to Nigeria after a three-month medical trip to Saudi Arabia. It seems, in retrospect, that Dr Jonathan had concluded, perhaps from intelligence provided to him on Yar'adua's health status that it would be a matter of time before the inevitable happened and he would be president.

With the benefit of hindsight, Professor Dora Akunyili's memo to colleagues of the Yar'adua/Jonathan cabinet before it was dissolved by Jonathan takes on a new meaning. Mrs Akunyili wanted the cabinet to begin the process of convening a medical board that would eventually declare Yar'adua incapacitated, paving the way for Jonathan to be sworn in as president.

Either she had been privy to the same intelligence Dr Jonathan had, or had been hinted about it. Despite the uproar the episode caused, Jonathan kept himself above the fray; he knew that forcing issues would not be to his advantage.

Although he claimed not to have seen Yar'adua since November when the president was flown

out of the country, a number of people visited him several weeks after his return. A group of Islamic clerics first went to see him; followed later by a group of Christian leaders. The latter group, after seeing Yar'adua, went into closed-door meeting with Jonathan. It would appear that Jonathan was kept abreast of Yar'adua's health status, and he was thereby able to draw his conclusions about what course of action to take.

Patience was thus called for and, if the intelligence based on the medical report was accurate, the time was not too far off; the day would soon come. It would be prudent to wait. That day came yesterday with the announcement of Yar'adua's death at 9pm.

Jonathan has already taken bold steps to assert his authority, even while Yar'adua was reported to be recuperating, was working a few hours a day, was preparing to resume his duties, etc, according to different accounts.

If things go according to plan, Jonathan would be sworn in today as president, removing the "acting" tag that had so roiled his political base but in practice had not moderated his action.

Of course, as president, Jonathan would have the full confidence to exercise the levers of power that should be the pre-

rogative of the man that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) declared that voters in Nigeria elected in 2007.

But Jonathan is in a particularly unique position. He was chosen by the National Assembly and invested with executive powers while Yar'adua was not seen in public; now he has been "elected" by the National Assembly to replace the late Yar'adua.

Looming large over everything else, despite the short time that President Jonathan has to improve governance, is the calculation for the elections that are coming up next year. The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), to which Jonathan belongs, has a zoning formula in place that carefully balances regional interests in the distribution of party and government posts. Under that formula, the south-west was given a shot at the presidency in 1999, producing Olusegun Obasanjo, who was elected and re-elected to a second term in 2003. According to the arrangement, the presidency was zoned to the North in 2007, producing Yar'adua. Yar'adua would have been eligible to seek a second term in 2011, after which the presidency would be rotated to the South.

Unfortunately, Yar'adua could not even conclude his first term. According to the constitution,

his deputy, that is vice president Jonathan now takes over.

So what would Jonathan do in 2011? He himself was noncommittal when he told an audience in the US last month he had several options, including the possibility of being vice president again to a candidate from the North to complete the region's quota to 2015. That position was a shrewd one to take, given the sensibilities back home that Yar'adua was still alive anyway.

Now that he is president, would he respect his party's zoning arrangement? It would be quite a sight to see him agreeing to return to his original status as vice president; according to party stalwarts, it would not be unthinkable.

Indeed, some elders of the party have been vehement in their insistence that Jonathan had no other option but to abide by the party's zoning arrangement in the 2011 elections, which means that the PDP would field a candidate from the North as its presidential candidate, not Jonathan, who is not from the North, but already occupies the post.

Some have also argued that he is comparatively young; he can contest in 2015 when the zoning arrangement rotates to the South. Given the uncertainty of Nigerian politics, it would take a leap

of faith to rely on a that scenario.

On the other hand, Jonathan is quite aware that he was not elected president in 2007; he was part of a ticket that the PDP provided. Can he muscle his way through the party's already wobbling machinery and seek a jettisoning of the formula to accommodate his interests in 2011?

What about the governors, who of late had become a bulwark against some of the more assertive actions that Jonathan had taken? They acquiesced a while ago to the doctrine of necessity that made Jonathan acting president, only after a bargain over excess crude oil money was struck. Are they willing to make a bargain over this one issue too?

By all accounts, Jonathan has shown himself to be not the shouting type. He may not comment on what is going on around him; but that would not mean he does not approve of them.

Yar'adua's was a promising presidency; unfortunately, health problems beset him so that Nigerians would be unable for a long time to determine how the country would have looked like at the end of it. If there is uncertainty, or even apprehension, about which direction the country will now take with Jonathan in charge, it is precisely because Jonathan has given little away.

Umaru Musa Yar'adua, 1951-2010

The life of a president



PRESIDENT and Mrs. Turai Yar'adua during a rare foreign trip in 2007.

Early life

- *Born on August 16, 1951 in Katsina
- *Elected President in April 21, 2007
- *Two-times governor of Katsina State (May 29, 1999 to May 28 2007).
- *Son of former Minister for Lagos during the First Republic Alhaji Musa Yar'adua
- *Attended Rafukka Primary School (1958); Dutsinma Boarding Primary School (1962); Government College, Keffi (1965-1969). Barewa College (1971); Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria (1972-1975) for BSc, Education & Chemistry and M.Sc Degree, Analytical Chemistry (1978).

Professional career

- *Holy Child College in Lagos (1975-1976)
- *Lecturer at the College of Arts, Science and Technology in Zaria, Kaduna State, between 1976 and 1979.
- *General Manager, Sambo Farms Ltd. in Funtua, Katsina State (1983-1989).
- *Board Member, Katsina State Farmers' Supply Company (1984-1985)
- *Member, Governing Council of Katsina College of Arts, Science and Technology Zaria and Katsina Polytechnic (1978 and 1983)
- *Board Chairman of Katsina State Investment and

Property Development Company (KIPDECO) (1994-1996)

*Director of many companies, including Habib Nigeria Bank Ltd. 1995-1999; Lodigiani Nigeria Ltd. 1987-1999, Hamada Holdings, 1983-1999; and Madara Ltd. Vom, Jos, 1987-1999. He was Chairman, Nation House Press Ltd., Kaduna, from 1995 to 1999.

Early political career

- *Member, People's Redemption Party (1979-1983)
- *Founding Member, Peoples Front started by his elder brother Maj Gen Shehu Musa Yar'adua, which later fused to form the Social Democratic Party, during the Transition Programme of President Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida,
- *Member, 1988 Constituent Assembly
- *Secretary, Katsina State SDP
- *Contested the 1991 Governorship election under SDP but lost to Saidu Barda of National Republican Convention
- *Contested for governor again and won in 1999. He was re-elected in 2003.
- *First state governor in Nigeria to publicly declare his assets
- Presidential nomination**
- *Chosen as presidential candidate of the PDP on 16-17 December 2006

*Chose Goodluck Jonathan, then governor of Bayelsa State, as his vice-presidential candidate shortly after winning the nomination

*Elected President on April 21, 2007 and was sworn in on May 29, 2007

*Was first Nigerian president to publicly declared his assets on June 28, 2007

*Formed 39-member cabinet on July 26, 2007 including two from the opposition ANPP.

Illness

*Left Nigeria on November 23, 2009 for medical treatment

*On February 9, 2010, the National Assembly declared Goodluck Jonathan Acting President

*On February 24, 2010, Yar'adua returned to Abuja

*Died on May 5, 2010 at 9 P.M. at the Aso Rock presidential Villa.

Marriage and family

*Married Turai since 1975; they have seven children (5 daughters and 2 sons).

*Married to Hauwa Umar Radda as a second wife from 1992 to 1997; they have two children

*His daughter Zainab married Kebbi State governor Usman Saidu Nasamu Dakingari while Nafisat married Bauchi State governor Isa Yuguda.

Umaru Musa Yar'adua, 1951-2010



CHIEF Tony Anenih and Gen. T. Y. Danjuma.



DR. Bello Mohammed and Chief Justice Aloysius Katsina-Alu.



MR. Stephen Oronsaye and Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed.



SPEAKER Dimeji Bankole and Deputy Speaker Usman Bayero Nafada

At the gate of the Villa

By Mohammed Shehu

BY 12 midnight yesterday relations of the late President, family friends and few government officials began heading to the President's residence in the sprawling Aso Villa. Many however did not get any further than the outer gate which is about a kilometer to the actual residence.

Initially there was no unusual security presence but those manning the gates insisted that only those whose names have been given at the gate are allowed beyond it. One of the few government officials sighted there who eventually could not get past the gates is Amina Az Zubair who is in charge of the Millennium Development office. Former PDP Chair-

man Barnabas Gemade also made spirited effort to get cleared to go into the Villa with little success. Some other relatives of the late President eventually succeeded in being allowed in.

One middle aged man who had come to the gate of the Villa in his old car and dressed in brown Babbar riga stood motionless for more than an hour silently crying and raising his hands in prayer. By about 1 am this morning 2 black Toyota 4 wheel drive vehicles discharged some Special

Services operatives who wore black outfits complete with rain coats and hats all in black and sporting sub machine guns took up positions by the pilot gate even as more cars arrived there. This reporter and a few others includ-

ing the man who had been sobbing and praying who seem out of place there took it as a cue to take their leave. About 3 kilometres away at the Aguda House part of the State House which serves as the residence of the Acting President, a battery of government officials and power brokers seem busy going into consultation with the Acting President.

Among the early callers after the news of President Yar adua's death filtered out were the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Alhaji Yayale Ahmed, Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Senator Bala Mohammed, Chairman of the Presidential Advisory Committee, Retired General Theophilus Danjuma, PDP Chieftain Chief Tony Anenih.

All these seem to confirm the saying that the King is dead, Long live the King!

Obama saddened at death of Nigerian president - Reax WASHINGTON, May 6, 2010 (AFP) - President Barack Obama on Wednesday expressed sadness at the death of Nigerian President Umaru Yar'Adua, and praised him as a man with a passionate belief in his nation's future.

"We are saddened by the news of Nigerian President Umaru Yar'Adua's passing, and our thoughts and prayers are with the Yar'Adua family and the people of Nigeria as they mourn his loss," Obama said in a statement.

"Tonight, we remember and honour President Yar'Adua's profound personal decency and

integrity, his deep commitment to public service, and his passionate belief in the vast potential and bright future of Nigeria's 150 million people."

The Nigerian president "worked to promote peace and stability in Africa through his support of Nigerian peacekeeping efforts as well as his strong criticism of undemocratic actions in the region," Obama said.

"He was committed to creating lasting peace and prosperity within Nigeria's own borders, and continuing that work will be an important part of honouring his legacy," he said. The president of Africa's most populous nation died after more than five months of battling with a heart ailment, his office confirmed earlier.

How a Vice President would emerge

SECTION 146 of the constitution proves that in the event the office of vice president becomes vacant, the president would nominate a new vice president to the National Assembly in the following manner:

146. (3) Where the office of Vice-President becomes vacant:-

(a) by reason of death or resignation, impeachment, permanent incapacity or removal in accordance with section 143 or 144 of this Constitution;

(b) by his assumption of the office of President in accordance with subsection (1) of this section; or

(c) for any other reason, the President shall nominate and, with the approval of each House of the National Assembly, appoint a new Vice-President

Here are some facts about Jonathan

* Goodluck Jonathan was born on Nov. 20, 1957 in the Niger Delta to a family of canoe makers. He studied zoology and worked as an education inspector, lecturer and environmental protection officer before going into politics in 1998.

* He won election in 1999 as deputy governor of Bayelsa, one of three main states in the Niger Delta, as a member of the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP). He became state governor in 2005 after his boss was impeached.

* He was nominated by the PDP as Yar'Adua's running mate in April 2007 presidential elections. The polls were condemned by international observers amid widespread allegations of ballot-stuffing and intimidation, predominantly by the PDP. Jonathan was sworn in as vice president a month later.

* Jonathan took over as Acting President in February during the prolonged absence of Yar'Adua, who was receiving medical treatment in Saudi Arabia. Jonathan has since appointed a new cabinet and his own team of advisers.

'Why Sheikh Gumi is still in detention'

From Isa Liman, Zaria

THE leading preacher of the Izala group, Sheikh Ahmad Gumi, is still in detention in Saudi Arabia because the Kingdom's authorities are suspecting that the cleric has links with Umar Farouk Mutallab, Chairman of the Jama'atu Izalatul Bidi'a Wa'iqamatusunna's council of Ulama, Sheikh Yusuf Sambo Rigachikwun said yesterday.

Sheikh Rigachikwun who

spoke at a workshop organised for the group's imams in Zaria, said the Saudi kingdom had however failed to prove the allegation.

"I wonder why the authorities in Saudi Arabia are still detaining Sheikh Ahmad Gumi. From what we gathered, they arrested him because his mobile phone number was found on Umar Farouk Mutallab's, the boy who allegedly made an attempt to bomb an American plane. As I

talk to you, the Saudi authorities have established that the cleric has no link with Umar Farouk Mutallab, but they insist on detaining him," he said.

When asked how Farouk Mutallab got Sheikh Gumi's number, Sheikh Rigachikwun said Farouk's father, Alhaji Umar Mutallab, complained to the cleric about his son's sudden change of attitude and pleaded with Gumi to contact the boy to see if he (Sheikh Gumi) could

convince him to leave the camp he had joined.

"Alhaji Mutallab requested Sheikh Gumi to help him withdraw his son from Yemen and if possible to bring him to Saudi Arabia to continue with his studies. That is why Sheikh Gumi tried to contact Umar Farouk. In his 12 attempts, the boy only picked the Sheikh's call twice," he added.

He said the Izala group had set up a committee to ensure the cleric's release.

Judiciary workers' strike effective in Jigawa

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

THE on-going strike by the Judicial Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN) is effective in Jigawa State as the only the Federal High Court in Dutse, the state capital was yesterday under lock and key.

When our correspondent visited the court yesterday, he observed that the court premises was deserted. Chairman of JUSUN, Jigawa State chapter Alhaji Abdullahi Umar Shehu said the strike only affects Federal High Courts. He said state courts are not involved because the CONJUSS had been implemented.

"Last month all state High Court workers collected the new salaries, this month, workers in Shar'ah Courts will receive their own and next month, it will be the turn of staff of the state Judicial Service Commission (JSC)," he said.

UNICEF to spend N100m in Anambra

UNICEF is to spend over N100 million on intervention programmes for Anambra in 2010, the state Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, Prof. Chinyere Okunna has disclosed.

Okunna disclosed this in Awka Wednesday at a ceremony where equipment and tools aimed at boosting non-formal education and early child care were donated by UNICEF to communities and the State Universal Basic Education Board.

She said UNICEF spent N65 million in 2009 on the intervention programmes in the state, explaining that the state government provided 50 per cent of the funds. Some of the equipment and teaching aids presented to ASUBEB for early child care education included television sets, DVD players, generating sets and relevant software.

While the equipment for non-formal education included baking ovens, popcorn machines, soap making equipment, among others.

The benefiting communities for the programme were each chosen from the 21 local council areas of the state. "We are deeply indebted to UNICEF for what it is doing for the children and women in Anambra. We urge all line ministries to come forward with innovative proposals for projects that will improve the life of our people, in furtherance of the gains of Anambra Integrated Development Strategy," she stated.

The Commissioner said that a monitoring team would move around to ensure that the tools and equipment were properly utilised. (NAN)



PROTESTERS run away from a shock bomb thrown by riot police during clashes in the centre of Athens over taxes yesterday

"Juju" scare in Ondo assembly

THE Ondo State House of Assembly was in a state of confusion Tuesday following the discovery of fetish materials consisting of blood and feathers in the office of the Deputy Speaker, Mr Dare Eniola.

Following the development, the Speaker of the Assembly, Mr

Samuel Adesina, directed that the door to the office of the Deputy Speaker be changed immediately.

In an interview with newsmen in Akure, Eniola confirmed the incident, but wondered what could be the motive of the person who placed the items. He said a worker confirmed that the spare

key to the office was kept with the security men.

"I have always said that God gave me the post of Deputy Speaker, I never fought or asked for it. So, anyone who fights me is fighting God," he said. It would be recalled that the Assembly recently removed the former

Speaker Mr Taofiq Abdulsalam and his Deputy Mr Mayowa Akinfolarin for alleged incompetence.

The former leaders were later suspended indefinitely for alleged refusal to release their official vehicles as directed by the Assembly. (NAN)

Assembly faults Dangote Cement on corporate responsibility

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE Kogi State House of Assembly has expressed displeasure with the management of Dangote Cement Company for not meeting its obligations to host com-

munities of Oyo, Iwa, Obajana and Akpata, all in Kogi State.

This followed a motion titled, "Matter of Urgent Public Importance" by the member representing Lokoja II, Danladi Bababudan.

Speaking on the floor of the House yesterday, Bababudan said the issue became necessary in view of the negative effects of the activities of the company on the people and the neglect of the communities.

The lawmaker said apart from the neglect and damages caused the people, the management of the company through its General Manager Special Duties, allegedly misinformed the public that the company had spent about N1bil-

lion on community projects in the state. He called on the House to compel the state Commissioner for Commerce and Industry to look into the matter and impose necessary sanctions. The House adopted the resolution.

Sale Maina charges Plateau stakeholders on peace, unity

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Commander of the Special Task Force in Jos, Plateau State Major General Sale Maina has charged stakeholders in the state to promote unity and peaceful co-existence among the people.

The commander who made the call at the inauguration of a court martial panel at the 3rd Armoured Division Tues-

day in Jos, said there was a need for the leaders to ensure that peace reigned in the state.

"I urge some of the leaders who are still beating the drums of war to please desist. I saw an article by a legislator where he was pointing accusing fingers, they should please realise that without peace and security, there will be no development. Plateau has suffered so much as a result of conflicts, let us put our resources together to make Jos

better", he said.

General Maina commended the state government for its contributions towards peace in the state and charged journalists in the state to put into consideration national interest in the course of their duties. He added that the task force recently held a meeting at Riyom Local Government and that all the stakeholders were there, including the chairman of the LG, Fulani and Berom leaders.



PIC: AFP

A street cleaner passes the front door of 10 Downing Street in London yesterday on the eve of a general election in Britain today.

El-Rufa'i has questions to answer –Dantiye

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

FORMER Minister of the Federal Capital Territory Malam Nasiru El-Rufa'i has many questions to answer bordering on misappropriation of public funds while he was FCT Minister and director-general of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE).

A former member of the House of Representatives and also member of the committee that investigated the sale of NITEL to PENTASCOPE as well as some activities of the BPE, Alhaji Nasiru Garba Dantiye, said yesterday that the former minister should be made to explain the whereabouts of about N100 billion lost by Nigeria to PENTASCOPE.

"The committee established that Nigeria lost about N100 billion to PENTASCOPE in the NITEL/PENTASCOPE transaction", he said.

He added that findings showed that PENTASCOPE was not a registered company when the former minister sold NITEL to it.

Lamido swears-in new Perm Sec

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

GOVERNOR Sule Lamido of Jigawa State yesterday swore-in the new Solicitor General and Permanent Secretary in the state Ministry for Justice Alhaji Muhammad Abdu Sambo. Alhaji Sambo replaced the former Solicitor General and Permanent Secretary in the ministry Nana Aisha Abdullahi who was recently elevated to the status of a High Court Judge.

Until his appointment, Alhaji Abdu Sambo was the Director, Legal in the state Ministry of Justice. At the swearing-in ceremony, Governor Sule Lamido urged the new Permanent Secretary to be committed to his duties, saying the present administration had zero tolerance for laxity. Governor Lamido urged the new Permanent Secretary to emulate his predecessor who he described as a committed civil servant.

The governor pledged his administration's continued support for the judiciary, noting that as the third



GOV. Sule Lamido

tier of government, it had a vital role to play in ensuring sustainable democracy in the country. The Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice Barrister Tijjani Inuwa Dutse administered the oath of office.

Acting NIPSS DG takes over

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Acting Director General of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies Kuru, near Jos, Plateau State, Professor Tijjani Muhammed Bande, has taken over from the former director general of the institution, Professor Ahmed Danfulani.

Professor Danfulani was last week directed by Acting President Good Luck Jonathan to proceed on a terminal leave and consequently appointed Professor Bande, a former director general of the Morocco based African Training and

Research Centre in Administration for Development. Bande is to function in acting capacity until a substantive director general is appointed.

The Public Relations Officer of NIPSS Mr. Cirman Nimfel told our correspondent that Dan Fulani handed over to the new acting director general yesterday at about 10:30 am.

Dan Fulani, a former lecturer at the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria took over from former acting director general of the institute, Mr. Yakubu Sankey in March 2009.

FRSC moves against overloading in Nasarawa

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) will no longer tolerate overloading by commercial vehicle operators on highways and major roads in Nasarawa State, the state Sector Commander of the FRSC Mrs. Susan Ajenge has said.

She said the commission in Nasarawa State would soon crackdown on defaulting drivers, since a warning issued to members of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) was being ignored.

Mrs. Ajenge who spoke with our correspondent yesterday said, "We observed that many drivers in the state overload their vehicles and we issued a circular and followed up with a campaign. But they have gone back to the act after the initial compliance. We have written the NURTW and we are going to commence an operation against this, it must stop."

Our correspondent observed that vehicles which are supposed to carry two persons – the driver and the passenger in the front seats, carry three and in some cases four persons.

"Even when drivers are not willing, some desperate passengers will insist and find their way into vehicles that are already filled up. It has become a standard practice here in Nasarawa", a resident of Lafia said.

“Bande has taken over from the former Director General of the institution, Professor Ahmed Danfulani

Reps move to save Nigerians on death row in Indonesia

By Turaki A. Hassan

THE House of Representatives has urged Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to wade into the case of 18 Nigerians sentenced to death in Indonesia.

The decision was reached at yesterday's plenary session after the House debated and subsequently adopted a motion sponsored by the chairman House Committee on Diaspora Rep. Abike Dabiri-Erewa (AC, Lagos).

She said the convicts alleged that Indonesian promised to review their cases if the pay between \$15,000 to \$20,000" she said.

But Rep Nelson Belief (PDP, Bayelsa) expressed stiff opposition to the adoption of the motion, saying "What did they go to Indonesia to do? If it is the offenses of drugs peddling you cannot violate other people's law and expect to be set free. We should not encourage this."

The House mandated its committees on Diaspora, Foreign Affairs and Justice to lead delegation to the Indonesian Embassy for a 'passionate appeal' on behalf of the convicts.

Senator: Lack of funds threatens MDGs

By Ruby Leo

THE Millennium Development Goals especially those concerning women and children cannot be met because funds meant to tackle them are not channeled appropriately, Senator Iyabo Obasanjo has said.

Iyabo Obasanjo, who is chairman Senate Committee on Health, lamented that the funds meant for MDGs are distributed haphazardly without taking into consideration the real issues that lead to the demise of women and children in the country.

The senator said during a press briefing on the forthcoming Mother's Night dinner that "We might not be able to meet the MDGs because we still have a long way to go."



FROM left: Head of Section, Institutional and Economic Reform, Mr. Augustin Oyewe, Charge 'd' Affaires, Mr. Philippe Pierre, Head of Politics, Trade, and Economics, E.U Delegate, Nigeria, Mrs. Belen Calvo Uyarra and Head of Section, Regional Integration, Mr. Manuel Roa-Iglesias during a luncheon by the European Union on the occasion of Europe Day in Abuja yesterday.

Extra \$200m needed to eradicate polio – Pate

By Ruby Leo & Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

NIGERIA needs an extra \$196million to eradicate polio by 2010, Executive Director of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) Dr Muhammad Ali Pate has said.

The NPHCDA's boss said this during a polio stakeholders' meeting with the United States special envoy to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Mr Rashad Hussain.

Pate said if the deficit of about \$196 million is not provided, it will hinder the interruption of the virus.

Represented by the director of special

duties, Dr Mahmud Mustapha, Pate said so far, efforts against the virus has yielded much as in 2009 a total of 388 cases where recorded wherein in 2010 only 2 confirmed cases have been recorded.

He explained that Nigeria can and will eradicate polio if the political will so far witnessed is maintained at all level of government.

Earlier the US envoy Mr Rashad Hussain called for collaborative strategies among leaders to ensure that citizens receive the best in terms of health, education and other social amenities, adding that the US will support any initiative geared towards humanity.

Meanwhile, Executive Chairman of the Bauchi State Primary Healthcare Develop-

ment Agency Dr. Musa Mohammed Dambam said the state recorded only one case of polio in the last 12 months as against the 40 cases recorded last year.

Dr. Dambam, who was speaking to our correspondent on the recent immunization exercise, said such achievement was as a result of the massive enlightenment campaigns by the agency in recent times with the support of traditional, religious and other stakeholders.

According to him a few days to the 4-day exercise a committee of traditional leaders headed by the emir of Dass, Alhaji Usman Bilyaminu Othman, toured all the high risk local governments in the state to educate parents on the need to immunize their children.

Minister tasks youths on unity, credible election

By Romoke W. Ahmad

MINISTER of Youth Development Senator Akinlabi Oluosunke has urged members of the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN) to eschew disunity and conduct a credible election.

He said doing this will make the council a virile

agent of development and an effective umbrella organization for Nigerian youth.

The minister said this while addressing the national reconciliation and mobilization meeting of the youth council attended by past and present youth leaders from all over the country in Abuja.

"Your ability to run a development oriented organization under a democratically elected leadership will go a long way to position you for national leadership in the nearest future," the minister was quoted as saying in a statement by

his special assistant Mr. Olawale Rashied.

He said his youth development ministry urged the youth council to adhere to the constitution of the council and join the government in finding solution to youth unemployment, widespread drug addiction and abuse, economically driven restiveness and general disconnection from the mainstream of the society" the minister noted at the meeting.

Children call for support to produce own movies

By Akor Ojoma

NIGERIAN children have called on the government and all stakeholders to give them support to produce their own movies.

The children made the call yesterday while briefing newsmen at the maiden edition of the International Children Film Festival in Abuja.

The festival which is being held under the platform of Zuma Film Festival is convened by Teens Resource Centre in partnership with White Plains British School and other schools in the country.

President of Students Parliament, White

Plains British School Abuja, Bayode Damilola Buari, said film has remained a medium of touching lives and achieving results and as such children need the medium to tell their own story.

He said it is time to produce films that speak for children, by children and for children.

Project Coordinator of Teens Resource Centre Mr Obong Martins Akpan said there is dearth of children films in Nigeria adding that the idea of adults pretending to be children to act films or adults producing films for children in the country does not tell the children story.

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148 HIV positive persons marry in Bauchi

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

THE Executive Secretary of the Bauchi State Agency for the Control of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Malaria (BACATMA) Dr. Rilwanu Muhammad yesterday said 148 HIV positive persons have been

joined together in marriage by the agency to reduce the spread of the disease from 2007 till date. He added that 48 of the women had delivered HIV-negative babies. He said they were introduced to one another during counselling. Dr. Rilwan added that the agency also linked the couples up with

hospitals where mother to child transmission of the virus could be prevented and where they would be able to receive treatment, care and support. He said if people who had tested positive to the disease wed each other, it would reduce the spread of the virus and also cushion the psychologi-

cal effect of isolation suffered by victims. He added that polygamy was increasing the spread of the disease in the country. Statistics from the agency show that only 18,000 out of the estimated 158,000 HIV/AIDS positive persons are receiving ART treatment in the state.

NDE trains 200 widows in Katsina

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

THE National Directorate of Employment (NDE) in Katsina State has trained 200 widows in cosmetology and related fields to encourage self reliance. The Coordinator of the directorate in Katsina Engr Yakubu Umar Mani who spoke at the graduation ceremony of the widows said the women were selected from the disabled and vulnerable groups in the society.

Yakubu added that the directorate had plans to resettle the widows with grants and working tools to enable them use their newly acquired skills. The widows were trained in shoe and bag making, body sprays, creams, and room fresheners.



PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

FROM left: Deputy Governor, Corporate Services, Central Bank of Nigeria, Alhaji Sulaiman Barau, Accountant General of the Federation, Alhaji Ibrahim Dankwambo and Chairman, African Rural and Agricultural Credit Association, Mr. Edmund Mikwawa, at the 4th African Rural and Agricultural Credit Association, Agribanks Forum, in Abuja yesterday.

Bauchi records one polio case in 12 months

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi & Ruby Leo

THE Executive Chairman of the Bauchi State Primary Healthcare Development Agency Dr. Musa Mohammed Dambam has said that the state recorded only one polio case in the past 12 months as against 40 cases recorded in the previous year.

Dr. Dambam who spoke with our correspondents on the recent immunization exercise said the achievement was due to enlightenment campaigns by the agency in collaboration with traditional and religious leaders in the state.

He said a few days to the 4-day exercise, a committee of traditional leaders headed by the Emir of Dass Alhaji Usman Bilyaminu Othman toured all the high risk local government areas of the state to educate parents on the need to immunize their children.

The PHCDA boss maintained that the tour was mainly to reduce non compliance by parents, adding that a rapid response team was also formed under the leadership of the Emir of Dass to ensure compliance.

Group faults Edo rally

THE Edo Youth Vanguard (EYV) has picked holes in the recent rally organized by Governor Adams Oshiomhole in Benin City to concretise his One Man One Vote campaign.

A statement from the National Coordinator of the group, Barrister Mathew Idemudia, said the rally turned out to be an avenue to endorse former President Ibrahim Babangida. The youth group wants Oshiomhole probed by the EFCC, while commending Nobel Laureate, Professor Wole Soyinka for boycotting the rally.

But Governor Adams Oshiomhole has said that the One Man One Vote rally was convened

to discuss the nation's electoral process, and not for anyone's political ambition.

Oshiomhole told newsmen in Benin after the rally, "If I were still to do it tomorrow, I will invite as many people as I can. And I would rather invite those I suspect that are not yet on board than limit myself to people who will be singing the same song. The challenge of democracy is to tolerate another viewpoint. In my remark, I said the gathering was not partisan".

He said the rally was neither partisan nor an AC gathering, even though it was political. "It is non-partisan in the sense that members

of PDP spoke, AC and ANPP people spoke. civil society people also spoke. We invited the conservatives, the progressives and the radicals. No one was excluded and nobody was gagged. Everybody was allowed to speak his mind and we all went home. What can be more democratic than that? Some people stood up to say whatever they wanted to say. They said it and went home. It was an open arena. For me, this is the minimum rigour of democracy. It doesn't allow us to discriminate, particularly when a national issue is on discourse. I respect their judgment but I don't agree with it", the governor added.

Woman in prison for hurting husband's scrotum

From Adewale Giwa, Akure

A 32 year old woman, Mrs. Aina Akunuli and one Ibu Moses have been ordered to remain in prison until June 5 by Idanre Magistrate's Court for allegedly hurting her husband's scrotum during a quarrel.

The two were recently arraigned in court for unleashing violence at Mr. Akinuli's residence, causing him injuries.

According to the prosecutor, the accused were alleged to have on March 31, 2010 at about 12:30pm at

Ubi Camp Via Idanre, committed the offence.

They were alleged to have chased the man with a cutlass in his cocoa farm, thereby threatening to kill him. They were also alleged to have conducted themselves in a manner likely to cause breach of peace. Aina Akunuli was also alleged to have assaulted her husband by biting him on his top right finger. They pleaded not guilty but the Chief Magistrate, Mrs. A.I Oyedele in her ruling, ordered that they be kept in prison till June 5.

Military era cost Nigeria 20 years of research

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

EXECUTIVE Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC) Prof. Julius Okojie on Wednesday said Nigeria lost about 15 to 20 years needed for education research due to military rule.

He also said incessant strikes in the sector, which accumulated to about 15 years was responsible for the dwindling fortunes in research development. The NUC scribe made these remarks at the opening ceremony of the first international conference of private universities in Africa held at the BABCOCK University, Ilisan-

Remo, Ogun State. Okojie in his key note address noted that the inability to embark on effective and result-oriented research had cost the country a major set back in the global education rating.

The NUC scribe, who represented the Minister of Education Prof. (Mrs) Ruquyyatu Rufai at the ceremony observed further that without research, the efforts by government at the centre, "particularly on MDS and Vision 2020 cannot be achieved. We must prioritize and strategize to make change in our research. We have lost about 15-20 years of military era because funds were not released. The

incessant strikes too have not helped matters, because about 15 years of strikes in the public tertiary had been wasted", he said.

In his opening remarks, the Vice Chancellor of the BABCOCK University Prof. Kayode Makinde observed that while the road had been rough for private universities operating in a public regulatory environment within a less than ideal social, political and economic turmoil, all great universities have come to terms with even greater challenges that continue to unfold with each new vision caught, each new level attained."

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



KANO State Gov Ibrahim Shekarau

2011: Shekarau endorses Takai

ALHAMDULILLAH. Kudos to Sardaunan Kano, Nigeria sai Malam Shekarau... Kano Sai Malam Salisu Takai. We cherish the choice and will work and pray hard for the success at the polls come 2011. May Allah help us. Ameen.

Shariff Nasir

snasabba@yahoo.com

It seems Shekarau has forgotten the politics of Kano so soon. The political philosophy of NEPU (which is NO!) is still with the Kano people. The same principle brought Shekarau to power and he is now playing with it. Wish you all the luck, Shekarau.

Mamza

jmamza@udbn.com

Haba Sardauna! Why imposing a candidate that is not supported by 80% of the common people of Kano on us? I think this will be the greatest mistake you will ever make and that will mark the downfall of ANPP in Kano. Please think twice.

Muhammad

lulaby4u@yahoo.com

Appeal Court sacks PDP Rep

NIGERIA needs serious reforms with regard to handling election petitions. The rightful owner of the seat will only enjoy it for one year while an illegal occupant enjoys it for three years. Nigerians are the losers. The legal occupant will now be paid arrears for all the three years while the illegal one will not repay a single kobo. This is very absurd. All cases should be finished before swearing-in to avoid this kind of situation. I hope the speaker will agree to swear him unlike the case in the Senate.

Usman

shehudal@yahoo.com

...Kudos to the judiciary which has always been on the side of the populace. We are expecting good news from Ekiti.

Adeyemi

tadesol78@yahoo.com

Jos Task Force inaugurates court martial panel

THE court should also try arrested civilians who dressed in military uniforms.

Baba Buba

mnsyalun@yahoo.com

After 9 hours' grilling... El-Rufai to be charged to court tomorrow

TAKING the matter to the court is what most people think to be of good idea. This is because people have more faith in the judges than in EFCC officials who are often swayed by the political class. The question here is why was the EFCC boss not at the interrogation panel?

Buhari Sani Gusau

sanibuhari@gmail.com

Finally he decided to show up. If found guilty, the EFCC should make sure he pays back all the money.

Bode Adekunle

bodeadekunle@yahoo.com

This is the right time to prove to Nigerians that EFCC is not an extension of a particular political

party in Nigeria. The former minister and his likes should be brought to justice. N35 billion is a huge amount of money. Where on earth can a single individual or group of people mismanage, pocket or steal such amount of money from the public treasury and be left to go free? In some countries like China it attracts the death penalty. If true, this amount of money could not have been squandered by el-Rufai alone. There must be other associates involved. I think EFCC should have this at the back of their minds and trace whoever is part of this unpatriotic act and bring them to justice. We shall never forgive those that open their hungry and greedy mouths and use their cor-



FORMER FCT Minister Nasir El-Rufai

rupt minds to destroy our beloved nation. Allah will surely judge on the day where there is no Godfather, the day in which lies can never be

told, the day in which only the truth manifests.

Hayatuddeen Tanimu

hayatyaradua@yahoo.com

Ex-govs want two-party system

IT is very obvious how power hungry our elites are. After falling out of grace in the current political equation, they want a two party system so that they can get back in power. It is high time we stop them in the interest of our country.

Rabiu Muhammad

muhammadrabiu09@yahoo.com

These people have lost out in their respective states and so they are looking for short cuts to bounce back. Their belief is that if we are to fall back to two political parties at this point in time, they will use their loots and hijack the parties. Don't forget the fact that they are the richest people in this country today. This group never respected the wishes of the common men when they were in control of their respective states.

Akase Aondowase Chris

c.akase@yahoo.com

The former governors should be

reminded that they were accomplices in Obasanjo's deliberate action to weaken the opposition and refused to allow multi-party democracy to thrive. What happened in Ekiti, Osun, Katsina, Adamawa, Taraba, Niger, Oyo are cases in point. We don't need an act to regulate political parties. Let the masses votes count and popular parties will emerge without regulation.

Babangida Dangora

babangidadangora@yahoo.com

It is a nice idea but the number of the parties should be 5 and not just 2.

Ibrahim Usman

ustypublik@yahoo.com

Their observations are a welcome development because this country really needs a two-party system so as to improve the political terrain.

Abdulhamid Danfulani

abdulhamiddanfulani@yahoo.com

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

THIS is really a shameful thing to have happened.

Buhari Sani Gusau

sanibuhari@gmail.com

This is despicable and goes to show how the minds of some people is diseased. The unfortunate thing is that the judicial process of bringing this rapist to justice is very slow and most atime the end of justice is defeated. The Ministry of justice must ensure that this matter is prosecuted so that the full weight of the law is brought to bear on the rapist.

Ibrahim T. Ibrahim

elkutigi@gmail.com

Does this guy deserve to live? Human beings are fast becoming worse than animals really. No mercy, no pity on this small girl? I think there should be more stringent measures for this kind of crime, not the usual 2 or 3 years given. They are better sent to prison for life after checking them at a psychiatric hospital. I believe justice will be serve

right in court 10 because the judge there is a no nonsense judge. God will help her to deal very well with this man.

Aji Isuwa Suleiman

suleimanaji@yahoo.com

He who pelts others with pebbles asks for rocks in return. Free him and let him face the unavoidable punishment of God for his unconventional crime. Similarly, prominent politicians should be monitored as well because they too are obviously found committing such crimes and they go to the extent of using human beings for money rituals.

Mohammed Abdulsalam

yinkuz20@yahoo.com

Despicable acts like the above are what the NGOs should concentrate on fighting to eradicate and not the overblown issue of marrying a minor that is both culturally and religiously acceptable to Muslims.

Kabir Tsakuwa

tsakuwa2000@yahoo.com

Yarima: Not in this day and age

YARIMA'S case is purely religious and private and Yarima happens to be Muslim while you (Mathias) are Non-Muslim thus it's advisable you distance yourself from a discussion topic that you have no knowledge of. The fragile peace in the north is something to consider when making comments on issues.

Faruq

faruqmabubakar@yahoo.co.uk

This sounds better than what all the Imams, Mallams, Limans, Ustaz, and all the defenders of this act by Yarima are saying. This is indeed an objective write-up in my judgment.

Abu Ibrahim

abufunny5@yahoo.com

Yarima's abuse of religion

KAI Muhammad Haruna! You are making a lot of mistakes. I as a Muslim did not expect something like this from you as a Muslim. You said "technically speaking; therefore Yarima did no wrong by paying 100,000.00 dollars or roughly 15,000,000.00 Naira as bride price.

Here again, however, the devil is in the context. Yarima as a Muslim has all the right to marry". Based on what you said, you have contradicted yourself. You said and I quote "Indeed Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) married Ai'sha at the age of seven, some say six, and consummated the marriage at nine."

Now Yarima married a lady at the age of 13 and you are complaining that in this our

time it is wrong. Where were you when a lady, at 8, gave birth in America? Where were you when a man in Niger State married 86 wives? Yarima married as directed by the Prophet of Islam.

Kabir Ibrahim Gusau

ahlulzikri@yahoo.com

Please let the columnists answer these questions: is there freedom of religion in the Nigerian constitution? Is the act you are referring supreme over the constitution? As a Muslim, can you give any Islamic proof that will show that what Yarima did contravenes the teachings of Islam?

Nasiru Abdulmalik

nasiruabdul75@yahoo.com

New houses for traditional rulers in Shagari

WHAT is wrong with the houses the traditional rulers are leaving in presently? Can't the money be channeled to more viable projects? The chairman should tell us how much he has set aside for educational development in his local council.

Building houses for the traditional rulers is certainly a misplaced priority. Our politicians can do anything imaginable now

that the elections are around the corner. Sokoto State is one of the states in the north that always have a dismal result in the WAEC and NECO.

Our council chairmen should lend a helping hand in improving education in this region and also try to solve the vexing issue of Almajiranci.

Abdullahi Ibrahim

giriabdul@yahoo.com

El-Rufai, Ibori and the law

To the glory of God, in the early hours of last Saturday May 1st, the former FCT Minister, Mallam Nasir el-Rufai, who has been in self-exile since much of the presidency of Umaru Musa Yar'adua, arrived back to his fatherland safe and sound. It is very important to note that SSS and EFCC agents were not on hand to give him a most rude and nasty welcome.

The situation would certainly not have been the same for el-Rufai if Yar'adua had not been sidelined by illness. If el-Rufai had chosen to come back when Yar'adua was in-charge, as he once tried to do last year, he would have arrived Nigeria not into the warm embrace of his friends and members of his family but into the callused hands of security agents. The SSS and the EFCC would have been waiting at the airport with leg and hand chains to take him to their dungeon because he was seen as the public enemy number one by the Yar'adua government. In fact NTA cameramen would have been strategically positioned to record the nasty welcome and bring it in living colours to Nigerians to the obvious delight of those who wanted the man humiliated. But see what the absence of one man and the emergence of another can do to change things for individuals as well as the nation.

Similarly, before November 23 last year when Yar'adua's health deteriorated

See what the absence of one man and the emergence of another can do to change things for individuals as well as the nation

sharply and he had to be flown to Saudi Arabia for treatment, former Governor of Delta State, Chief James Onanefe Ibori was one of the most powerful men in the country. He was the quintessential godfather and power behind the throne, in our case, the Yar'adua throne. Everybody in Nigeria knew that Ibori was even more powerful than Dr Goodluck Jonathan who was officially the number two man in the country. Ibori was so influential that he was widely acknowledged to be instrumental to the appointment of certain key officials in the Yar'adua government.

But today, since the event of November 23 and more especially since the event of February 12 when Goodluck Jonathan became president, the tables have turned for James Onanefe Ibori. Right now Ibori, a declared fugitive, is being hunted by a force far superior to the usual task force our governments usually set up to confront very serious problems or serious challenges to their authority.

Today, an armada comprising the police, army, navy, air force, the SSS, the EFCC, and I will not be entirely surprised if agents of the foreign intelligence service the NIA are also part of the search party for Ibori, to hunt him down and bring him to face justice. It is possible that very soon local hunters in the creeks of the Nigeria Delta will also be recruited in the hunt for Ibori.

Idang Alibi

Idangalibi@dailytrust.com; 08036938729

As Ibori hides either in the creeks or in the alleys of a foreign country, I am sure he will be wondering to himself why God has allowed Yar'adua to be so ill that he is not in power to offer him protection.

The example of el-Rufai and Ibori and other numerous examples we have seen in our country in recent times point to one fact: the law which is supposed to be an instrument for regulating political and other forms of human conduct has in our country Nigeria become an instrument to serve the cause of politics. The bogey of the law is used to victimize a man or woman that those wielding political power do not like. A man is a criminal or a clean man depending on who is in power at any particular time.

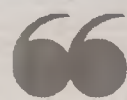
In other words, the law is a thermometer in Nigeria. It rises and falls according to the heat generated by the man in Aso Rock. Law enforcement agents are no more than attack dogs in the hands of a master hunter. The law is a perfect tool for setting up ambush for his enemies. A situation whereby the freedom or incarceration of a citizen is dependent on the disposition of the man in Aso Rock towards him is simply unacceptable in a society that claims to be egalitarian, law-governed one.

Bending or twisting the law to serve political ends is worse than rigging election. A society can endure leaders with stolen mandate but it cannot survive lack of respect for its law. Law is the foundation that binds any modern society. Any society that therefore chooses to use the law in a cynical manner is actively digging its collapse because it is inviting anarchy. When there is no respect for the law people recourse to self-help.

Because of the way the law is invoked to serve dubious purposes, when any political figure is made to account for some misdeeds many people tend to see that man more as a victim of political witch-hunt than as a possible offender who is required to account for his acts of omission or commission. For instance, Ibori is now becoming the object of sympathy of some Nigerians who can swear that he really has a case or two to answer.

The most amazing thing with us as a people is that when those in power use the law to fight their political battles against one another of their class or to deal with innocent people, we do not scream. In 2007 every reasonable man in Nigeria who knows the unscrupulous manner our leaders use the law to achieve sinister political purposes knew that the sole purpose the Senate's FCT Committee decided to investigate the FCT Administration between 2003 and 2007 was to carry out a vindictive hearing on el-Rufai whose action-packed tenure had ruffled some powerful feathers. Its goal was to demonise el-Rufai to satisfy those who had cause to hate some of the painful but necessary things he had to do to restore Abuja to glory.

Yet we all saw nothing wrong with the charade. We pretended that el-Rufai was facing the law in the spirit of accountability.



By Ugonna Eme

Atiku's rough ride back to PDP

There appears to be a harmony between what philosophers have said about the pathway of the eagle and the life of former Vice-President, Atiku Abubakar. The pathway of the eagle in its literal sense denotes the difficulties and challenges that naturally dots the way of an eaglet in its attempt at flying. Unlike other birds of the air, the eagle's way to the sky is usually rough and tortuous; even when in the end, no bird can engage the eagle in a flying contest. Lesser endowed birds do not encounter the kind of initial stress and quantum of obstacles in learning how to fly as the eagle does. The story of the life of the eagle and its symbolism is an interesting and awesome one that holds a lot of lessons for mankind in all aspects, including politics.

Atiku Abubakar's story is no longer news to the Nigerian people and all those who are interested in public affairs; the tales of his humble and deprived beginning and meteoric rise to the near pinnacles of economic and political heights in Nigeria. All these according to information available to the public are products of golden patience, uncommon perseverance and audacious determination to survive and succeed. Atiku is a rough rider and he appears to be comfortable getting good things after passing through the proverbial eye of the needle as this pattern has become a central path of his life. It works for Atiku Abubakar! His opponents may not have known this. Some individuals' fate is like that. They hardly get anything that is good without going through "fire". They naturally succeed, oppositions do not stop them. I think Atiku seems to have that kind of destiny.

Atiku Abubakar's story is no longer news to the Nigerian people and all those who are interested in public affairs

Fate appears to be playing a game with Atiku Abubakar and Murtala Nyako.

Recently Atiku confirmed to the world in a World Press Conference that he has returned to his original political party, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) of which he contributed immense time, energy and resources to its formation. It did not take time for Governor Murtala Nyako to counter what may be termed all the claims of the successful return to the party by the former Vice-President. Many political watchers have been wondering why a return of a politician to his original political party would generate this level of rancour and bitterness among his kinsmen; particularly when cross-carpeting and joining and retuning of politicians to political parties in Nigeria have never been very serious matters. For, instance in Imo State, Ifeanyi Ararume was denied the party

ticket he won and the chance of contesting the governorship election in Imo state in 2007. This was restored by the Supreme Court which enabled Ararume to contest the election. The PDP expelled Ararume for taking the party to court. Ifeanyi Ararume and his major opponents like the Governor of Imo State Ikedi Ohakim who left the PDP in 2007 for the newly formed Peoples Progressive Alliance (PPA) have all returned to the PDP and are sharing the umbrella with former political opponents like the former governor of Imo State and the immediate past Minister of Industries, Chief Achike Udenwa. The return of the opposing politicians to one political family did not generate the level of crises the nation has witnessed in Adamawa. In Rivers State, Chibuike Amaechi was expelled by the Party in 2007; today he is back and there was no noise in Rivers State. Even in Kano State where former Governor Kwankwanso and Umar Ghali Na'abba and the late Abubakar Rimi had disagreed and they left the PDP for the Action Congress. It did not take time before Na'abba and Rimi returned to the party before the latter's death.

Is it that Adamawa people do not know how to play politics without bitterness which ironically was the political principle one of their leading political lights from the North east in the Second Republic; Alhaji Ibrahim Waziri of the now defunct Great Nigerian Peoples Party (GNPP), tried to bequeath to the nation. Or could it be that Politicians in Imo State or Rivers due to the educational level of the states appreciate the provisions of the Nigerian Constitution and its abstractions from the provisions of the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights of the United Nations and the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights which guarantee for all, the freedom of political association? Could it still be that it is Atiku's fate to go through these perceived unnecessary but necessary challenges to his own political greatness?

In pure concrete legal and political terms, the political antics of the Atiku opponents in Adamawa are anti-development and retrogressive because there is no law that restricts anyone from joining a political party. A political party is an open democratic association which requires very permissive conditions for entry and exit; and even re-entry under the Universal Adult Suffrage. The political bickering and national noise, the return of Atiku is generating in Adamawa and in Nigeria constitutes a huge distraction to the Nigerian people. The anti-democratic elements in Nigeria seem to be dominating the political space in a manner that is unhealthy for the collective survival of the Nigerian nation and its democracy. Again some analysts have also seen it through the prisms of socio-cultural differences between the north and south of Nigeria. This school of thought believes that the northern part of the country has done more to drag the nation backwards even in its politics. The conduct of the Adamawa political elites is given as a case in point.

Eme is of Dept of Sociology, Imo State University, Owerri.



By Aisha Muhammad

Gaidam breaks a vicious cycle in Yobe

For many in Yobe, it was easy to bet that Alhaji Adamu Maina Waziri, the minister of police affairs will never share the same roof with any ANPP government in the state. Waziri, two-time PDP governorship candidate and de facto leader of PDP in Yobe was previously known to keep the ANPP governments in the state at arm's length. Bold as ever, he had never hidden his aversion for the previous ANPP-led administrations in the state so, when the news filtered that the newly-appointed police affairs minister was visiting Yobe Governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam on April 22, 2010, a lot of people couldn't believe what they heard.

Still in disbelief, politicians cutting across all political parties, civil servants and observers trooped into Government house Damaturu while others lined up the street to catch glimpse of the minister, clear doubts and make date with history that Alhaji Adamu Maina Waziri was visiting Yobe ANPP governor.

At about 12.50 pm, the impossibility became reality. Alhaji Adamu Waziri, with full entourage including Deputy Inspector General of Police, Olusegun Efunfayo were in the council chambers, Government house Damaturu.

Surprising as the minister's visit was, his speech was more surprising! When Waziri stood up to address the governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam humbly requested him to remain seated but, the minister insisted as a mark of respect, to address the governor standing.

In an emotion laden voice, Waziri, almost choked up by his words described Governor Gaidam as an epitome of humility and leader with unique human relations. He confirmed that he was at the Government House of his home state for the first time in 10 years to thank the governor for the honour done to him by Governor Ibrahim Gaidam.

"Your Excellency, I am here today to say thank you for confirming my reappointment as a minister in the federal executive council. Despite our political differences, when contacted by the acting president for your views on my reappointment, which ordinarily would have attracted negative response, you graciously gave approval. For this, I am very grateful" Waziri stunned the listening public.

The provision of infrastructures across the state were empirically evidenced and well merited to have attracted commendation from the minister, who is known to be point-blank, no matter whose ox is gored.

Impressed with the obvious departure from what became associated with the old order of waste and acknowledgement of the new trend of inclusiveness in the politics of Yobe, the minister proudly associated himself with the state government and declared his interest to contribute to the government of Governor Gaidam in the collective interest of the people. He promptly showcased his commitment for partnership with a request for a plot of land for the building of a youth skill acquisition centre in Damaturu.

Political observers in the state were of the belief that, Governor Gaidam has introduced a new and healthy political development with the tendency of winning the heart of all politicians including adversaries and, attracting development to the state.

Similarly, the declaration of 'no victor, no vanquished' by the governor after the Supreme Court judgment which gave him victory over Senator Usman Albishir, personifies humility and accommodation required in any leader. It was clear that, the declaration was intended to give a sense of belonging to the then factional leader and other members of the party.

The reconciliation committee constituted by the ANPP also provides opportunity to party members with genuine concern for the state to join hands with government and contribute to the development of the state.

Sadly however, selfish ambitions and desperation for power in some politicians beclouded their thinking against collective interest and, looked for possible platforms to achieve such personal ambitions. But in appreciation of the socio-economic and political developments in the state, almost every important Yobe politician, including legislators in the state and national assemblies, refused defecting to PDP with Albishir despite the support some gave him during the trial period.

It is evidently clear that, the massive and unprecedented provision of infrastructures by the Ibrahim Gaidam administration has endeared those with sincere and unadulterated love for the state to support government to consolidate the achievements recorded.

Muhammad writes from Ali Marami Estate, Damaturu.

Your Letters

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ACF's advice not valuable

The Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) recently held its 10th Anniversary and its elders were also reported to have met secretly with the Acting President to discuss the state of the nation. But it is surprising that the so-called elders betrayed their thinking when they moved to present a northern VP should the need arise. The ACF elders should know better.

It is quite unfortunate that they could be pushing for a northern VP when they are supposed to use their experience to unite Nigeria. This group of people was also reported to have been canvassing that a northerner becomes the president come 2011. I therefore

make bold to say that the ACF elders' advice is neither valuable nor respectable. Any group that regards itself as elders should be looking for ways to integrate the different tribal and ethnic groups in the country rather than promote sectionalism and ethnicity. Little wonder the EFCC chairperson came down heavily on the northern leaders when delivering a speech at the ACF's 10th Anniversary. The President-General of the Arewa Youth Consultative Forum (AYCF), Alhaji Yerima Usman Shettima also said "the leaders of the ACF do not have the credibility to speak for the north having failed the region and the nation at critical times when they were in position of authority". Also speaking at the ACF 10th Anniversary celebration, Governor of Niger State and the Chairman of the Northern Governor's Forum, Dr. Aliyu Mua'zu Babangida, criticized the PDP's

zoning arrangement and told the northerners that the presidency is not their birthright.

Come to think of it, the north which the ACF are canvassing for a Vice-President and President in the 2011 elections still has a large population of economically challenged people. One would have thought that the ACF elder's canvassing was to change the sorry state of the people of the north but this is least on their agenda.

I think the ACF needs to re-examine the purpose for which it was established and also take a firm stand on issues. One moment, it declared Yar'adua incapacitated and unfit. The next time, it is canvassing for a northern VP and also a president in the 2011 election. Therefore, ACF leaders should get their house in order and find ways of uniting Nigeria.

Bolaji Samson Aregbeshola, Lagos.

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Shape of things to come

IF Ekiti State alone required 6000 policemen from 5 states to monitor rerun election, what happens to the country if we have general elections? Would we import from Niger, Chad, Benin or what? 08033210307.

What about us?

MUSLIM and Christian clerics have gone to see ailing President Yar'adua. It is only fair that pagans and practitioners of traditional

religion should also be given the chance to see him too.

YUSUF Shamaki Kono, 08022258838.

Democrats don't act like this

WOLE Soyinka refused to attend a democracy rally organised by Gov Adams Oshiomhole of Edo State simply because Babangida was also attending; yet he accepted to serve as chairman of Save Nigeria Group. This is utter hypocrisy, considering the source of funding of the group. One can only conclude from this that Soyinka's agenda has nothing to do with democracy in Nigeria.

ASHIRU Muhammad Usman, Kaduna, 08023293781.

Before Kogi recruits more teachers

IT was reported that Kogi state needs additional 3,500 teachers. The question I want to put to the government is this: have you finished paying the current ones their salaries?

ALHASSAN Dekina, Abuja, 08099603641.

Poor vision

WHY would the Nigeria Labour Congress press for salary increase for workers, while a lot of our productive youths, are still on the streets without jobs, without a mouth-piece?

DAVID, Abuja, 07039222955.

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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The next helmsman at NCC

The tenure of the pioneer Executive Vice Chairman of the Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC), Mr Ernest Ndukwe came to an end early last month. The Federal Government is yet to appoint a substantive replacement. In the meantime, a senior director in the commission is holding forth pending when the government decides to announce a new EVC to replace Mr Ndukwe.

There is no doubt that since the advent of the global system for mobile communications (GSM) in the country nearly a decade ago, its growth since then has been phenomenal. In fact the nation's telecommunications industry is the African continent's fastest-growing. It is to Ndukwe's credit that he was instrumental to assembling the National Communications Act to address issues in the industry.

From a few hundred thousand landlines managed by the government's monopoly, the Nigerian Telecommunications Company Limited (NITEL), the country now boasts of many private service providers with a combined subscriber base of over seventy million customers. Directly, these telecommunication companies employ over three thousand highly skilled staff. The industry has indirectly created some six million jobs, in call centres and handset repair salons, for instance.

As the government's agency responsible for licensing, registering and regulating private telecommunication operators in the country, the NCC has an enormous task of ensuring the consumer gets a fair deal, the government gets appropriate returns in form of taxes, and the firms get handsome returns on their investments.

However, it is in this area that the NCC has been found short. Under Ndukwe, some service providers obtained scandalous waivers on duty remittances to government while consumers sustained high costs even for call drops and uncompleted calls. The government also shares in the blame for even considering such waivers in the first place. As events have subsequently proved, such waivers were unnecessary, because the firms in question made stupendous profits several times over their initial investments.

Another drawback was the fact that the service providers were already up and running before the national Communication Act came into force in 2004. Therefore some aspects of their operations are not covered in the Act. A proposal to amend the Act to address challenges that have arisen in the implementation of the National Communication Policy is before the National Assembly.

There also been the lingering public spat between officials of the commission and the commission's supervising Ministry of Information and Communication over who should have the last say in matters concerning spectrum allocation, a responsibility that now needs to be streamlined between the NCC, the ministry, the Ministry of science and Technology, the Nigerian Communications Satellite Company (NIGCOMSAT) and the Nigerian Broadcasting Commission (NBC).

In appointing a new EVC and Chief Executive for the NCC, government must take cognizance of all these factors. It should persuade the National Assembly to speed up passage of the amendments to the NCA of 2004. We recommend that the issue of the independence of the commission from political interference should be addressed. This can be done through the excision of all telecommunications related matters from the Ministry of Information. The National Frequency Management Board (NFMB), which is currently under the supervision of the Ministry of Information, should be made independent, and form the nucleus of an autonomous agency responsible for spectrum allocation and regulation. Some functions of the NCC that impinge on this aspect should be transferred to this new agency too. The government should be represented in these organisations by experts in the relevant fields; that way, political interference is minimised while the government through its representatives can monitor the organisations' operations to ensure that they do not infringe provisions of the National Communication Policy.

The turbulence we have witnessed during Engineer Ndukwe's two-term tenure should guide the government in streamlining the activities of each agency in the communications industry in order that the boards and their principal officers do not get entangled in controversies instead of implementing programmes that would satisfy all stakeholders.

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IDB meeting in Jeddah: Rewarding excellence (II)

There is little virtue in riches but there is virtue in the character of people in their service to humanity
-- Anon

The sun was just rising and the morning was still cool as it often is in a desert city. I sat on the balcony of my hotel room watching the city wake up. I also reflected over the deliberations of the previous day at the meeting of the Selection Committee of the Women's Advisory Panel of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia from April 17-18 2011. It was the bank's 5th Annual IDB Prize for Women's Contribution to Development and on the first day of the meeting we had selected three outstanding nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) that were implementing innovative and creative development projects that had impact in their communities. Many of them were doing similar things with the NGOs I knew back home and I wondered when rich people in my own country will stop stashing money some of it looted from public kitty in foreign bank accounts and instead feel a sense of fulfilment in serving the poor and establishing foundations that will serve humanity.

One of the winners selected the previous day is a youth serving NGO from one of the Gulf States while the second which is from Africa provides orphans and underprivileged women and girls with opportunities, in an enabling environment, particularly the girl child, to have access to quality education that will empower them to be good citizens while contributing to the development of their country and humanity at large. The third is an NGO in a poor rural community of one of the autonomous Republics of the former Soviet Union. The NGO provides micro credit to needy people and so far about 650 women have benefitted from its services.

On the second day we deliberated on the submissions for outstanding individuals whose profiles had been presented to us by the consultants commissioned for the assignment, the Jeddah based Effat University (EU), the first women's private non-profit university, which maintains a strict adherence to the development of women in keeping with Islamic laws and ethics. Both institutions thus believe that the Annual IDB Prize for Women's Contribution to Development is one of the best methods of educating women, organizations and communities, by example, the value of women's contributions to the socio-economic development of their societies. As with the organisational award examined on the first day of the meeting, the applications shortlisted for individual awards were so good and motivating that the Selection Committee members had a difficult time deciding on the winners. They deliberated

Civil Society Watch

By Hajiya Bilkisu (mni)

for a long time and weighed all the outstanding issues that gave the selected individuals an advantage that earned them more points during the scoring process.

The identity of the winners will not be disclosed until the bank officially announces it. The Committee selected two winners. The first whom I will call Lady A is from a remote area of China which struggles with poverty and natural disaster like drought. She has struggled for seventeen years to support young Muslim women in their struggle to get educated.

“The Selection Committee was impressed by the commitment of Lady B who could have remained at her job in the city as most young people her age would have done”

A victim of early marriage herself, Lady A yearned for education and decided to make it possible for others. In 1997, a small incident set her on the road of supporting young women as she met a very sad girl called Yang, who was lingering around a school and, when Lady A asked her, the girl said she had received permission to enrol in the school but her very poor family could not afford to pay her tuition fees or accommodation.

This incident triggered Lady A's will to support these girls. With the help of her husband, she used her house to accommodate girls from the surrounding mountainous region who wished to go to school. The girls lived with Lady A's family in their small house. From the three girls Lady A started with in 1997, the family grew to 256 girls in 2009. Lady A had to establish the "Girl Students' Home" to help these young seekers of knowledge. The Committee noted that her work has had a tremendous social impact on these girls as they developed as educated beings. They all graduated from their secondary schools and more than 130 of them entered colleges or universities. This social development will in turn affect them financially as they are expected to have better jobs and a better quality life. Lady A provided the accommodation free of charge to the girls as well as some partial support for their food, their tuition fees as well as medical services. Hence, she has contributed to alleviating poverty

for these girls and she did all this from her own small budget, with the help of her husband, who is also a great supporter of these girls."

The second winner Lady B lives in a North African village inhabited by a minority ethnic group. The story of Lady B as told by those who nominated her began "when girls and women neighbours began coming to ask Lady B advice on various matters, including health and education. Lady B was fortunate to be educated and had worked in an architect's office in the capital city. Some of the women asked her to teach them to read. Beginning with a class of 15 pupils - after permission was obtained from the Education Ministry to use a classroom - her students grew to 69 women who enrolled two weeks later. Other villagers made fun of these women (*what would they want to learn to read for?*) and so

the adult pupils hid their school-books under their jellabiahs. Inspired by the tenacity of these isolated village women, whom Lady B referred to as her 'real live militants', she decided to establish an organisation to implement her popular education project. The organisation was established in 1999. At that time Lady B was only 24 years old. The Selection Committee was impressed by the commitment of Lady B who could have remained at her job in the city as most young people her age would have done. However she devoted her life to working in poor, rural areas to bring dignity and some autonomy to women there. The name of her NGO means "well-being" in the local dialect.

What started as a development association that organized adult women's literacy programmes, the first one in Lady B's home village became an avenue for revolutionary change in the region by transforming the lives of rural women. Lady B has a bigger vision and is currently planning a hostel project for young female students so that they will assured of accommodation that is safe in the cities and can thus pursue their education to university level. She believes that girls from rural areas have the right to go to university too and plans to make this a reality. The organisational and individual winners will be announced and presented with their award at the next Annual General meeting of the IDB coming up in Azerbaijan later in the year.

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AFRICA REPORT



AT least 24 people died and 15 were badly injured when an unroadworthy bus overturned in South Africa

At least 24 dead in South African bus crash

AT least 24 people died and 15 were badly injured when an unroadworthy bus overturned in South Africa yesterday, raising concerns about transport ahead of next month's World Cup. "We have been informed that some of those (killed) were children, but we don't know their age and how many," Western Cape community safety spokesman Xenophone Wentzel told AFP.

Wentzel said 24 people had died and 15 had been taken to hospital by ambulance and helicopter.

The accident happened near Worcester, around 150 kilometres (90 miles) northwest of Cape Town, as the bus travelled from the Eastern Cape province carrying around 60 passengers.

"The driver lost control of the bus, it then went through a barrier, overturned and then landed in the opposite direction it was travelling," Wentzel said. "There was no other vehicle involved."

South Africa is one of the most dangerous countries in the world for drivers, with around 16,000 people killed on its roads every year -- an average of 45 a day.

A World Health Organisation study last year found South Africa ranked ninth in the world in traffic fatalities, despite having a relatively small vehicle fleet of 9.2 million.

The government has spent 2.6 billion dollars (1.9 billion

euros) on transportation infrastructure ahead of the World Cup, including billions of rands to upgrade roads and poor public transport systems.

But some transport analysts say fans will still find it difficult to travel between and around the nine host cities during the June 11 to July 11 tournament in a country more than three times the size of Germany.

The privately-registered bus in Wednesday's accident was on the road despite being suspended for poor roadworthiness, authorities said.

"It was not supposed to be ferrying passengers. We do not know why it managed to get on the road," said provincial transport spokesman Solly Malatsi.

"This is blatant disregard for the law and we will ensure that there are serious consequences for the bus company or the owner concerned."

Several foreign embassies advise citizens to be cautious while driving in South Africa.

"Road conditions are generally good in South Africa," says the web site of the United States government.

"However, excessive speed, poor lighting on rural roads, and insufficient regulatory control of vehicle maintenance and operator licensing have resulted in a high and increasing number of traffic fatalities."

Somali pirates hijack China-bound oil tanker

SOMALI pirates yesterday hijacked the China-bound oil tanker MV Moscow University 350 miles (565 km) off the coast of Yemen with 23 Russian crew and crude oil worth \$52 million (34.5 million pounds) on board.

"The oil is Chinese. It belongs to Unipet. It was sailing to (the Chinese) port of Ningbo," said a Rus-

sian shipping source.

Maritime experts said the Russian-owned tanker had a deadweight of 106,474 tonnes and a Russian shipping source said the vessel had begun its journey from Sudan with a cargo of 86,000 tonnes of oil.

"This morning we had an attack on a Liberian-flagged ship Moscow Uni-

versity in the northeastern horn of our operation," Commander Rear Admiral Jan Thornqvist of the European Union's Navfor naval force told reporters in the Kenyan port of Mombasa.

"The crew members locked themselves in the radar room.

This ship has been hijacked."

Somali sea bandits con-

tinue to outwit an international fleet of warships in the busy shipping lane linking Europe with Asia, raking in tens of millions of dollars in ransoms.

One pirate who identified himself as Abdi said the tanker was headed to a pirate lair on the coast of central Somalia and warned against any rescue mission.

Congo soldiers convicted of journalist's murder

TWO Congolese soldiers and a civilian have been sentenced to death by a military court for the murder of a high-profile journalist in eastern DR Congo in 2008, a judge said yesterday.

Didace Namujimbo, 34, was a journalist for UN-sponsored Radio Okapi when he was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo town of Bukavu in November 2008.

He had been dropped off at his home minutes earlier by a vehicle belonging to MONUC, the UN peacekeeping mission.

The two soldiers, Sergeant-Major Seba Tandema and Sergeant Oscar Tchenda Kashama, were sentenced to death by the court late Tuesday, along with a civilian named only as Mushamuka, the military judge at the Bukavu garrison said on condition of anonymity.

Prosecutors had demanded the court impose the death sentence on six soldiers, as well as the civilian. The others were sentenced to five years in prison, the judge said.

The state and the three convicts must also pay damages of 500,000 dollars (385,000 euros) and 250,000 dollars respectively to the widow and father of the victim.

The death sentence is imposed for capital crimes in the DR Congo, but since 1999 has been commuted to life imprisonment.

Six journalists have been killed in the volatile eastern Democratic Republic of Congo since 2005.

Congolese media rights group Journaliste en Danger (JED) has previously denounced "intimidation, denigration and threats" against journalists in the region, which for a decade has been the theatre of ongoing clashes between the army and several rebel groups.

In a statement to coincide with World Press Freedom day, the government on Monday called for a united effort to protect journalists from assassination, but also to ensure that such crimes are not "manipulated" to appear as if the government had something to do with the murders.

Government spokesman Lambert Mende lashed out at what he said was a bid to link the government with "supposed systematic violations of press freedoms" and a "pre-supposition that the government is in some way an enemy of this freedom."

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MIDDLE EAST

Syria says US sanctions on Damascus fuel hostility

SYRIA yesterday criticized the United States' renewal of sanctions against Damascus and warned that the penalties reinforce hostilities in the region.

The US renewed the six-year-old economic and diplomatic sanctions Monday, saying Syria has made some progress containing terror networks that Washington says use the country to

infiltrate Iraq but that Damascus continues to support terrorists and pursue weapons of mass destruction.

The Obama administration has reached out to Syria, trying to pry it away from the influence of Iran and encouraging it to end its support for Lebanese and Palestinian militant groups.

Deputy Foreign Minister Fay-

sal Mekdad said the sanctions decision shows Washington "has lost its credibility" and failed to live up to its promises to Syria.

Mekdad acknowledged that privately the tone from Washington was more positive.

"What is being heard publicly from the Americans is exaggerated and what is happening behind closed doors is the exact

opposite," he told the Al-Watan daily.

The Al-Thawra newspaper, considered a government mouthpiece, called the sanctions "a disappointment" but added that Damascus was not surprised. It warned that the U.S. decision "would keep the region in a state of antagonism and wars."

Obama's predecessor, former

President George W. Bush, first imposed the sanctions in May 2004, accusing Syria of supporting terrorism, pursuing weapons of mass destruction and undermining U.S. operations in Iraq.

The recent U.S. outreach has included high-level diplomatic contacts with Damascus and a decision to send an ambassador to Syria after a five-year absence.

But the ties suffered a setback after Israel accused Syria last month of sending Scud missiles to Lebanon's Hezbollah militants. Syria denies sending any weaponry to Hezbollah. The Shiite militant group and Lebanese government officials have also rejected the accusation.

Addressing the Israeli claim, the U.S. said last month that it was increasingly concerned about what it described as the transfer of more sophisticated weaponry to Hezbollah.

Yesterday, the commander of the U.N. peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon told the An-Nahar newspaper his forces had no evidence that Scud missiles had been sent to Hezbollah.

Maj. Gen. Alberto Asarta Cuevas told the Lebanese newspaper it would be difficult to hide such large weapons systems from the 12,000 peacekeepers and three Lebanese army brigades that patrol the area near the border with Israel.

Hezbollah says it has rockets and missiles capable of reaching anywhere in Israel, but the group is not believed to keep its longer range missiles in the U.N. force's area of operations, where the international patrols closely watch for suspicious activity.



SYRIAN soldiers walk in front of a restaurant where a picture depicting, from left, the Iranian President.

After lengthy diplomacy, Mideast peace talks begin

A U.S. mediator launched Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations yesterday after a break of more than a year, starting a shuttle mission between a hard-line Israeli government and a Palestinian administration in control of only part of its territory.

President Barack Obama's Mideast envoy, George Mitchell, met for three hours with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to start the indirect negotiations. In a statement, Netanyahu's office said the talks would continue on Thursday. No details were released.

Mitchell will travel between Netanyahu's office in Jerusalem and the headquarters of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank city of Ramallah, less than half an hour's drive away.

But the positions of the two sides are worlds apart, and Mitchell's shuttling would be considered a success if he managed no more than to persuade the Israelis and Palestinians to sit down at the same table — something they did for nearly two decades before the last round of talks ended in January 2009.

The two could not even agree about the technicality of whether the talks had begun. Israel labeled the Mitchell-Netanyahu meeting Wednesday as the beginning of the mediation, while Palestinians insisted they still had to give formal approval to the process over the weekend.

Restarting the talks after a year of intensive diplomacy could give the Obama administration a badly needed foreign policy achievement, but it would be a temporary gain unless progress is made.

Abbas is allocating four months for the indirect talks, insisting that the main disagreements must be discussed: control of Jerusalem, Palestinian refugees, borders and Israel's West Bank settlements.

"Negotiations will focus on final status issues and there's no need to enter into details and small matters, because we have had enough of that in the previous negotiations," Abbas said after talks with Jordan's King Abdullah II in the Jordanian capital.

"We said the indirect negotiations will last only four months," Abbas said. "After that, we will go to the Arab League to consult on whether to continue or what to do." Mitchell is due to meet Abbas later in the week.

The Palestinians have refused to hold direct talks with Israel until it freezes all Jewish construction in the West Bank and east Jerusalem. Netanyahu agrees to talk about everything but has made it clear that his priority is safeguarding Israel's security.

Over the past decade, the two sides have come close to a comprehensive accord twice, but talks broke down both times in disagreement over core issues, especially Jerusalem, home to holy sites revered by Christians, Jews and Muslims.

Taliban attacks government compound

AT least 12 people have been killed, including a provincial council member, during a Taliban attack on a government compound in southwestern Afghanistan, officials said.

Nine fighters armed with guns and suicide vests launched the attack in the town of Zaranj, the capital of Nimroz province yesterday, police and local officials said.

Eight of the attackers managed to detonate their explosives at three separate locations in the town — the governor's compound, the justice department and the court house, Abdul Jabar Pordeli, the provincial police chief, said.

The attack sparked a nearly two-hour-long gun battle with security forces, in which a ninth fighter was shot dead by police, he said.

"One female provincial council member and two soldiers were killed in the attacks." He said 11 people, including four civilians, had been wounded.

Gul Maki Wakhali, a female member of the Nimroz provincial council, was killed by crossfire, Sadeq Chakhansori, a member of the Afghan parliament who was in Nimroz for a meeting, said.

"It was very heavy fighting. Very bad conditions," The Associated Press news agency quoted him as saying. "There was one-on-one fighting." The Taliban has claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was aimed at government officials.

"Seven bombers and two gunmen are involved in the attack. Two of the bombers have set off their explosives and the others are locked in a gunbattle," Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, a Taliban spokesman, said, before police announced the fighting had ended.

He said his group carried out the attack because provincial officials were trying to persuade Afghans to turn against the Taliban.

WORLD

Scotland, N/Ireland airspace closed yesterday over ash



AIRPORT staff secure dust covers on the engines of a passenger aircraft at Belfast City Airport.

THEY also warned the ash cloud may float further south and close airports in other parts of Britain. "Forecasts show that levels of ash in the atmosphere over Scotland and Northern Ireland will exceed the concentrations that engine manufacturers have agreed are

safe for operations," said Britain's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) in a statement Tuesday.

"Unfortunately, this means that the CAA anticipates all Scottish and Northern Ireland airports will be closed from 07:00 local time tomorrow." The CAA

gave no indication when the airspace might reopen. "The UK Met Office (weather forecasting service) has informed the CAA that ash over UK airspace has increased in density as ash emissions from the Icelandic volcano... have become stronger," said the statement. "The

forecasts also show that it is likely that the ash cloud will continue to move south, potentially affecting airports in the northwest of England and North Wales" on Wednesday, it said. It advised passengers to check airlines to see whether their flights were running.

UK leaders in final push for votes

PARTY leaders are criss-crossing Britain in a frantic final day of election campaigning as they try to win over undecided voters ahead of what is expected to be the closest ballot in a generation.

In the face of polls showing the opposition Conservatives ahead in the race, Gordon Brown, the prime minister, made an early morning stop in Leeds yesterday before travelling through northern England on his way to Scotland.

David Cameron, the Conservative party leader, campaigned through the night, talking to fishermen, firemen and ambulance drivers in marginal seats in northern England that his party must win to take back power.

Nick Clegg, the leader of the third-biggest party, the Liberal Democrats, was making a last bid for votes across England in Eastbourne, Durham and Sheffield.

Aides said Cameron's 24-hour blitz across the country was the leader's answer to his opponents'

claim that he is complacent and was taking victory for granted.

"I never believed this election was going to be easy," Cameron told GMTV, a breakfast television programme, yesterday.

"I mean, elections are meant to be a challenge. The British people don't hand you the government of the country on a plate. Quite rightly, they are making us work for it," he said.

The latest polls showed the Conservatives would win the most seats, but not enough to form a government on their own, leading to a hung parliament.

A ComRes poll for ITV News and The Independent newspaper showed no change on the previous day, with the Conservatives on 37 per cent, Labour on 29 per cent and the Liberal Democrats on 26 per cent.

Clegg has enjoyed a surge of support in the election campaign on the back of his performance in the country's first-ever televised leaders' debates.

"It's the first time the UK has had these live election debates and Nick Clegg did particularly well in the first one, and that effectively created a three-horse race.

"It's worth noting ... that because of the way the seats, the constituencies, are distributed in the UK, it could be the case that the Conservatives get the biggest number of votes, but they could get beaten by the Labour party in terms of the number of seats in parliament."

Speaking to Al Jazeera, Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, a regular contributor to The Independent and London's Evening Standard newspapers, said: "It's not been the web election, unlike the US election where so much happened out there on the ether, with bloggers, and all the campaigning was twitters and blogs.

"Here, traditional TV seems to have captured the imagination of the public. "I think the press has had some impact, but I really think TV has come into

its own here." In the latest celebrity endorsement, Simon Cowell, the television and music mogul, has backed Cameron for prime minister.

Writing in The Sun newspaper on yesterday, he said: "I believe he is the prime minister Britain needs at this time. "He has substance and the stomach to navigate us through difficult times."

Some of Brown's cabinet colleagues took the unusual step on Tuesday of calling on voters to choose the Liberal Democrats in seats where Labour had no chance of winning.

Tactical voting in the marginal constituencies, which will essentially decide the outcome of the election, could keep the Conservatives out of power, some ministers suggested. However, in an interview with The Times newspaper, Brown refused to advocate tactical voting. "I am asking people to vote Labour because I want to get out the maximum Labour vote," he said.

Riots erupt in Athens, 3 bank workers killed

RIOTS over harsh new austerity measures left three bank workers dead and engulfed the streets of Athens yesterday, as angry protesters tried to storm parliament, hurled Molotov cocktails at police and torched buildings. Police responded with barrages of tear gas.

Tens of thousands of people took to the streets in a nationwide strike to protest new taxes and government spending cuts demanded by the International Monetary Fund and other European nations before heavily indebted Greece gets a euro110 billion (\$141 billion) loan package to keep it from defaulting.

The three bank workers — a man and two women — died after demonstrators set their bank on fire along the main demonstration route in central Athens. As their colleagues sobbed in the street, five other bank workers were rescued from the balcony of the burning building.

"A demonstration is one thing and murder is quite another!" Prime Minister George Papandreou thundered in Parliament during a session to discuss the spending cuts he announced Sunday — measures even the IMF has called draconian. Lawmakers held a minute of silence for the dead — the first deaths during a protest in Greece since 1991.

"We are all concerned by Greece's economic and budgetary situation but at this time our thoughts are with the human victims in Athens," European Union President Herman Van Rompuy said in Brussels.

Raiders smash and grab jewels at London Mall

THIEVES used sledgehammers to break into Westfield mall in the early hours of yesterday morning. An alarm alerted security to the gang but the raiders sped off in several cars.

It is the first time the complex, which is Europe's largest urban mall, has been burgled in this way. The attack on De Beers and Tiffany & Co appears to be the latest in a series of smash-and-grab raids on jewellers and luxury shops in London.

Valuables worth more than £4m have been snatched from stores including Dolce & Gabbana, Cartier and Watches of Switzerland.



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- * Excel College Kano, 5 Yautai Link, Off Maiduguri Road, Kano.
08038028353, 08096519095
- * Esteem International School, No 7 Safi Street, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja
- * Legacy School Kaduna, No 1 Muktar Mohd Road, Unguwar Rimi GRA 08033839881
- * Skye Bank, Murtala Mohammed Way, Kano.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

Date: Saturday 15th May, 2010

Venue: School Premises, Kano.

Time: 9:00am

* Late Entrance Examination Date To Be Announced Later



EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION, ABUJA - NIGERIA

EUROPEAN INSTRUMENT FOR DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS COUNTRY-BASED SUPPORT SCHEME (EIDHR CBSS) CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2009

Notice on Extension of Submission Deadline and Information Seminar Venues

Potential applicant organisations are hereby notified that the deadline for the submission of applications under the above call for proposals is hereby extended to **Friday, June 11, 2010 at 12:00 hrs local time**. Any application received after this deadline will not be considered.

Information sessions on this call for proposals will also be held in Abuja, Kaduna, Enugu, Port-Harcourt and Lagos on the dates listed below:

Enugu

Date: Monday, May 10, 2010

Venue: Nike Lake Resort, Nike Lake Road, Abakpa-Nike, Enugu

Time: 10.00am-1.00pm prompt

Port-Harcourt

Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Venue: Le Méridien Ogeyi Place, 45 Tombia Street G.R.A II, Port Harcourt

Time: 10.00am-1.00pm prompt

Lagos

Date: Monday, May 17, 2010

Venue: Sheraton Lagos Hotel, 30 Mobolaji Bank Anthony Way, Maryland, Lagos

Time: 10.00am-1.00pm prompt

Kaduna

Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Venue: Adriel Hotel, 4 Bank Road, off Ahmadu Bello Way, (behind Savannah Bank building)

Kaduna

Time: 10.00am-1.00pm prompt

Abuja

Date: Thursday, May 20, 2010

Venue: New Chelsea Hotel, Plot 123, Cadastral Zone, Central Business District, Abuja

Time: 10.00am-1.00pm prompt

Potential applicant organisations are advised to check the websites listed below for any changes to the above listed dates, venues and timings:

- * European Union Nigeria Delegation website: www.delnga.ec.europa.eu
- * Europe Aid website: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome>

Potential applicant organisations wishing to participate in the information seminars are requested to send an e-mail to: delegation-nigeria-microprojects-eidhr@ec.europa.eu, providing the following information only:

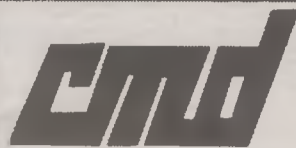
- * Name of organisation;
- * Number of persons representing the organisation (not more than 2 per organisation); and
- * Preferred information seminar location (Abuja, Kaduna, Enugu, Port-Harcourt or Lagos).

Please be informed that the Delegation will merely note the information received regarding participation at the information seminars. Potential applicant organisations will not receive a reply.

Potential applicant organisations are strongly advised to send two representatives: one each from the projects/programmes and finance/accounts sections of their organisation. As the information seminars will provide guidance on how to fill in the call for proposals application form and annexes (budget and logical framework), representatives of potential applicant organisations must familiarise themselves with these documents before the information seminars.

Participation at the information seminars is free.

David McCrae
Head of Delegation
Delegation of the European Union to the Federal Republic of Nigeria



CENTRE FOR MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT



NOTICE FOR ACCREDITATION AND REGISTRATION OF MANAGEMENT TRAINERS AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS IN NIGERIA

Human Capital development is an important instrument in management process, corporate governance and achievement of national goals. The activity has become more strategic in today's competitive global environment where excellence and best practice are key requirements for success. The human capital development function has to be performed professionally and competently.

Any keen observer of training delivery in Nigerian in recent times will admit that the activity has become an all-comers affair. Operators show complete disregard for professionalism, competence and ethical values. Many of those who provide the service lack the basic education, knowledge, training, experience and competence to do so. Much of the investment in training, consequently, does not yield the desired benefits. This trend has to stop.

At a recent meeting at the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation and Department Training Officers of Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), it was resolved that capacity building activities in the country have to be streamlined and that, henceforth, only institutions and individuals accredited by NCMD shall be engaged to provide training in the public service. The NCMD Act CAP N99 laws of the Federation of Nigeria (2004) which established the Nigerian Council for Management Development (NCMD) empowers it to set up and maintain standards in management education, training and development in the country, including accreditation of trainers and training institutions.

As the operational arm of NCMD, the Centre for Management Development (CMD), has for some time now embarked on sensitization and public enlightenment campaigns to articulate this mandate and reverse the current uncontrolled state of training in the country.

The Centre wishes to inform all management training providers and users of training services, public and private sector organizations as well as the general public that henceforth, only accredited management trainers and training firms will be allowed to provide such services in the country.

Consequently, all management trainers, training firms and institutions, not yet accredited are hereby invited to seek accreditation and registration of their training services with the Centre for Management Development. All firms operating in Nigerian which have training departments or schools for their employees are also expected to seek accreditation for their training staff, departments and schools.

Accreditation and registration of training providers is aimed at ensuring quality and checking the incidence of unqualified people parading themselves as trainers. It is aimed at developing a culture of training that is guided by professional ethos and competence. It seeks to standardize management training in the country with a view to benchmarking performance against global best practices.

Category A: Public Training Institutions established by Act/Law and private organizations of similar standing.

Those in this category are Management Development Institutions (MDIs), public and private Universities, International Institutions, Professional Bodies and Departments or Schools of Training in corporate organizations.

To be considered for registration and accreditation, the institutions must obtain and complete the relevant application form upon payment of N100,000 (One Hundred thousand Naira). The requirements for accreditation for this category are as follows:

1. Certificate of incorporation or enabling law or Act
2. Location/Address
3. At least three accredited individual trainers, one of whom must be on the company's payroll
4. A well-equipped library
5. Functional training facilities e.g. Training Room(s), Audiovisual Equipment, Computers etc.

Category B: The Procedure and Requirements for Accreditation and Registration of Training Firms

To be considered for registration and accreditation, a training firm must obtain and complete the relevant application form upon payment of N40,000 (Forty Thousand Naira). Training firms seeking accreditation must provide the following:

1. Certificate of incorporation
2. Location/address

3. At least three accredited individual trainers, one of whom must be on the company's payroll
4. At least three years of relevant management training experience
5. A well-equipped library
6. Functional training facilities e.g. Training Room(s), Audiovisual Equipment, Computers etc.

Category C: The Procedure and Requirements for Accreditation and Registration for Individual Trainers

Candidate will be required to pay a fee of N20,000 (Twenty Thousand Naira) to obtain the application form and must:

1. be graduate of recognized Universities, Polytechnics or other similar institutions of higher learning in Nigeria or abroad.
2. be a holder of a professional qualification e.g. ICAN, ACA, ACCA, CIPM, AIB, ACIS etc as approved by Government.
3. be holders of CMD's Train-The-Trainers' (Basic and Advanced MANDEV) certificates or equivalent from any other recognized Management Development Institution (MDI), e.g. ASCON, ITF, NIM, FITC, Lagos Business School, etc. (of not less than two weeks duration).
4. have at least three years post-graduation training experience.

Renewal of Membership Certificate and Attendance at Training forum

1. Membership Certificates for the training institutions, firms and individual trainers are subject to renewal after 5 years.
2. Individual trainers seeking renewal must participate at least once in the Centre's annual management training forum and update their skills in their areas of specialization e.g. Human resources Management, Financial Management, Entrepreneurial Development, ICT etc.
3. Training institutions and firms seeking renewal must have their accredited training staff participate at least once in the Centre's annual management forum as in the case of individual trainers.

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| 4. Fees for Renewal forms are: | |
| Training Institutions | N50,000 |
| Training firms | N25,000 |
| Individuals | N10,000 |

Method of Payment

Payment for application forms and renewal can be made in cash, bank draft or certified cheque made payable to CMD.

Application forms are available in our Lagos Offices and in any of our Area Offices (Abuja, Kano, Owerri and Uyo). All enquiries should be directed to:

**The Director-General,
Centre for Management Development,
Management Village, Shangisha,
Off Lagos-Ibadan Expressway,
P.M.B. 21578,
Ikeja, Lagos.
Tel.: 01-7748165, 017616794, 017616795, 08037120043.
e-mail: cmdtdev2001@yahoo.com**

**The Resident Consultant
Abuja Area Office,
Plot 688, Aminu Kano Crescent,
Off Ahmadu Bello Way,
Wuse 2, Abuja.
E-mail: cmdabuja@cmdonline.org
Tel: 09-5237487**

**The Resident Consultant
Kano Area Office,
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F1, Sanni Abacha Way,
P.O. Box 586, Kano.
E-mail: cmdkano@cmdonline.org
Tel: 064-632684, 08055310500**

**The Resident Consultant
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No. 131, Udo Umama Street,
Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.
Tel: 08033309265**

**The Resident Consultant
Owerri Area Office,
289, Okigwe Road,
By Belview Bus Stop
Orji-Owerri, Imo State
Tel: 082-552686, 08033073391
E-mail: cmdowerri@cmdonline.org**



EDUCATION TRUST FUND

WORKSHOP ON RESEARCH METHODOLOGY FOR LECTURERS OF TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IN NIGERIA

The Education Trust Fund (ETF) is organizing a five (5) Day Research Methodology Capacity Building Workshops for lecturers of Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria.

The Workshops which are intended for Graduate Assistants, Assistant Lecturers, Lecturers I and II as well as Principal Lecturers will focus on improving their capacity in the following areas:

- (a) Qualitative Research methods as they apply to the relevant research fields.
- (b) Quantitative Research Methods.
- (c) Research design, proposal writing of theses, dissertations, book reviews, research reports and academic papers.
- (d) Approaches and methodological challenges of multi-disciplinary research.
- (e) Research and Professional ethics.

The dates and venues for the workshops are as follows:

| S/N | GROUP | VENUE | DATE |
|-----|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Social Sciences | Chief Emmanuel Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University of Port Harcourt | 26 th – 30 th April 2010 |
| 2 | Engineering and Technology | Hall of Mercy, Federal University of Technology, Owerri | 26 th – 30 th April 2010 |
| 3 | Humanities | Main Auditorium, Aminu Kano Centre for Democratic Research & Training Mambayya House, Gwammaja, Kano | 10 th – 14 th May 2010 |
| 4 | Agric, Physical and life Sciences | Main Auditorium, Arewa House, Kaduna | 10 th – 14 th May 2010 |
| 5 | Medical & Health Sciences | Conference Centre, University of Ibadan, Ibadan | 24 th – 28 th May 2010 |
| 6 | Education | Conference Hall, Hydro Hotel, Tunga, Minna | 24 th – 28 th May 2010 |

The Special Guest of Honour, is the **Honourable Minister for Education, Prof. (Mrs) Ruqayyatu Ahmed Rufa'i, OON.**

All invited Participants are expected to attend please.

ETF — championing efficient and effective service delivery in the education sector.

Signed: Management

Education Trust Fund
No. 6, Zambezi Crescent,
Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street
Maitama, Abuja, FCT
Phone: 09-4139101, 4139111-2



Job Vacancies

Nigeria LNG Limited (NLNG), a world-class company helping to build a better Nigeria, seeks to engage personnel for immediate employment in the following positions:

A. NETWORK ENGINEER SERVER

REF: IMT/2010/001

Location: Bonny

The Job: The appointee will be required to ensure the successful operation of NLNG's Server infrastructure through administration and maintenance to meet agreed service levels as well as satisfy the business requirements with particular focus on the user (NLNG Staff) needs.

Scope: Servers, UPS, Operating Systems, Active Directory, SAN, Back-Up, Email and Internet Services.

The duties will include, but are not limited to the following:

- Undertake all work in accordance with required technical and quality standards, selecting and using appropriate methods and tools in order to achieve well-engineered products which exhibit the necessary attributes such as fitness for purpose, reliability, efficiency, security, safety, maintainability and cost effectiveness.
- Document all work using appropriate standards, methods and tools, including prototyping tools where appropriate.
- Prepare, or contribute to, project and quality plans taking account of the requirements for functionality versus the constraints of time, cost and quality
- Give technical leadership to small teams. Planning, estimating, controlling and reporting on work performed accurately and effectively in order to achieve targets
- Carry out full impact analysis of new software releases and recommends upgrade plans. Reviews upgrades and fixes available from system software suppliers and identifies those which merit action.
- Investigate potential and actual service problems and recommending solutions. Develop and use formal procedures to plan and test proposed solutions.
- Develop and use procedures for collection of critical information in the event of system failure.
- Analyse documentation, storage dumps and logs relating to system failures to identify the failing component. Isolates failures and recommends actions to circumvent problems and enable the restoration of services with minimum business impact.
- Liaise with suppliers to obtain corrective code, installing

and testing the code to ensure a permanent resolution.

- Ensure that operational documentation for relevant system products is fit for purpose and current. Provides advice and guidance to systems development and service delivery staff on the correct and effective use of system software.
- Monitor system efficiency against published service level agreements. Monitors both resource usage and failure rates of installed systems and provides detailed feedback to management.
- Produce procedures such as the CM plan, defect/problem reporting procedures, change control procedures, etc, ensuring their compatibility with prescribed standards
- Provide input for procurement of spares, tools and other required equipments and services related to systems supervised
- Ensure compliance with safety requirements and conduct work and activities safely.

The Person: The right candidate should:

- Possess a Bachelors degree in Electrical & Electronics Engineering or Computer Science or Computer Engineering obtained at a minimum of Second Class (Upper Division)
- Possession of MCSE Certification 2003 and above is mandatory.
- Possession of CCNA/CCNP is an advantage.
- 3 - 5 years' experience in Server Administration and Networking
- Be between 28 to 35 years old.
- Possess good communications skills

B. SENIOR QUALITY CONTROL & QUALITY ASSURANCE ENGINEER

REF: PE/2010/001

Location: Bonny

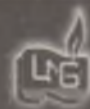
The Job: The appointee will be required to co-ordinate the QA/QC activities to meet company objectives for Asset Information Management. He/She will ensure that all



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Job Vacancies



Nigeria LNG Limited

QA/QC activities relating to Asset Information Management are delivered with no defects to the NLNG Production Division.

The duties will include, but are not limited to the following:

- Co-ordinate QA/QC activities related to Asset Information Management for all Engineering disciplines
- Ensure that all QA/QC activities are executed in accordance with the requirements stipulated in the SAIM module of Gas-GAME, applicable Engineering standards and with first class skills and workmanship
- Develop and maintain for Asset Information Management the QA/QC Definitions, Policies, Strategies, Guidelines and Work Instructions
- Execute regular QA/QC internal audits and audits of the Unit's Engineering Service Contractor(s)
- Contribute to the development and implementation of QA/QC of the SAIM Module up to level 6 in the short term and to level 9 in the long term
- Implement contract strategies for Engineering Services Contract(s) in line with work volumes in QA/QC Management to cater for the elimination of backlog in document upgrades and "As Built" within 2 years
- Co-ordinate the QA/QC performance of the Unit's Engineering Services Contractors while identifying opportunities for improvement
- Oversee the QA/QC activities related to Asset Information Management to ensure effective planning and execution of all QA/QC activities, including but not limited to Quality Control of definitions in the Common Directory while ensuring alignment with NLNG and International Standards

The Person: The right candidate should:

- Possess a Bachelor's degree in Engineering obtained at a minimum of Second Class (Upper Division)
- Possession of a Lead Quality Auditor Certification is an added advantage
- Have a minimum of 5 years' post-graduate work experience, at least 3 years of which should have been spent in a QA/QC, Asset Information Management position in a reputable company
- Be thorough and accurate in his/her dealings as well as good problem solving skills
- Be a good communicator
- Not be more than 35 years old

C. HEAD, PROJECT CO-ORDINATION

REF: HRF/2010/001

Location: Shore Position - Lagos

The job: The position is a Fixed Term Contract position for two (2) years. The appointee will be required:

- To provide advisory support for NLNG Ship Manning

Limited (NSML), a subsidiary of Nigeria LNG limited to position the organization as a fully fledged Manning Company.

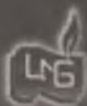
- To lead in the definition of structures, systems and processes required to upgrade to best in class standards manning operations.
- To guide the new organization in the acquisition of experience and network of relationships with IMO, ITF, UK MCA and relevant bodies in the international maritime industry.

The duties will include, but are not limited to the following:

- Support NSML in the articulation of strategic objectives and set milestones for achieving the set vision.
- Initiate and develop procedures & processes for efficient and effective management of NSML
- Provide internationally recognized 'templates and Standards' of policies and guidelines for Seafarers development / deployment meeting established best practices.
- Provide guidance for NSML shore based personnel Competency Assessment and Development of personnel to close out identified gaps.
- Liaise with partners (Fleet Managers for own vessels and other ship charterers to Nigeria LNG Limited) to find placement for short-term attachment and cross posting opportunities for NSML personnel.
- Participate in negotiations with Unions and ITF in setting and agreeing Terms & Conditions of Employment and Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs)
- Act as Focal Point for Quality Assurance and compliance with international manning industry standards and practices including but not limited to provision of tested technologies to automate work processes.

The Person: The right candidate should:

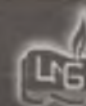
- Possess a Class 1 (Deck) Certificate of Competence or a good university degree in Humanities or Social Sciences with Commercial Shipping Knowledge.
- Should be a Captain/Master or Chief Officer with 3 - 5 years' experience in the running of a Manning Agency; or degree holder with 10 or more years cognate experience in HR practices, 5 years of which must have been spent at the level of Head of core Manning function in a reputable International Manning Company.
- Evidence of a sound knowledge of processes and functions in the management of a manning agency.
- Evidence of networking contacts at IMO, ITF and other Maritime Regulatory bodies in UK (MCA) and other jurisdictions.
- Basic knowledge of IT & Project Management (setting priorities)



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Job Vacancies



Nigeria LNG Limited

D. 3rd ENGINEERS

REF: HRF/2010/002

Location: Onboard NLNG Ships

The Job: The appointee will be required to ensure safe operation of the electric power generation system and maintain the engine room fire and safety equipment. The duties will include, but are not limited to the following:

- Ensure the efficient operation and maintenance of the ship's power generation and distribution systems
- Maintain the engine room fire and safety equipment
- Ensure the safety of persons working directly under his supervision
- Maintain records associated with maintenance of fire and safety equipment
- Keep a safe and efficient engine room watch
- Maintain records associated with shipboard planned maintenance scheme

The Person: The right candidate should:

- Possess a Minimum of Class 4 Certificate of Competency (CoC).
- Possession of HND/BSc will be an added advantage.
- Possess 5 years' seagoing experience.
- Possession of 1 year experience on LNG/LPG carrier will be an added advantage.
- Possess knowledge of Shipping Operations in the Shipping and marine industry.
- Be a team player with excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

E. 4th ENGINEERS

REF: HRF/2010/003

Location: Onboard NLNG Ships

The Job: The appointee will be required to ensure safe operation of the fresh water and sewage system and maintain the engine room fire and safety equipment. The duties will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Ensure the efficient operation and maintenance of the ship's water generation and sewage treatment systems.
- Maintain the engine room fire and safety equipments.
- Ensure the safety of persons working directly under his supervision.
- Maintain records associated with maintenance of fire and safety equipments.
- Keep a safe and efficient engine room watch.

The Person: The right candidate should:

- Possess a Class 4 Certificate of Competency (CoC)
- Possession of HND/BSc will be an added advantage.

- Possess 3 years' seagoing experience
- Possession of 1 year experience on LNG/LPG carrier will be an added advantage
- Possess knowledge of Shipping Operations in the shipping and marine industry
- Be a team player with excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

F. 2nd OFFICERS

REF: HRF/2010/004

Location: Onboard NLNG Ships

The Job: The appointee will be required to keep a safe navigation and cargo watch and maintain the navigation equipment and publications deck fire and safety equipments.

The duties will include, but are not limited to the following:

- Ensure the safety of all personnel working for him, especially at the aft mooring station when arriving and leaving the ports
- Responsible for the Medical locker and ensure the administration of first aid and medical treatment to Shipboard personnel.
- Ensure that the breathing apparatus and oxygen resuscitation equipment are in working condition and all associated records are properly maintained.
- Maintain the Bridge information book and associated records
- Act as nominated officer for the GMDSS station, when required, with responsibility for associated tests and records
- Maintain navigational watch when vessel is at sea and cargo watch at loading/discharge ports
- Plan and prepare vessel voyage charts tracing the routes and update the charts
- Liaise with Chief Officer to order navigational chart and other admiralty materials for the safe navigation of the ship.

The Person: The right person should:

- Possess a Class 3 (Deck) Certificate of Competency (CoC)
- Possession of HND/BSc will be an added advantage.
- Possess 5 years' seagoing experience
- Possession of 1 year experience on LNG/LPG carrier will be an added advantage
- Possess knowledge of Shipping Operations in the Shipping and marine industry
- Be a team player with excellent interpersonal and communication skills.



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Job Vacancies



Nigeria LNG Limited

G. 3rd OFFICERS

REF: HRF/2010/005

Location: Onboard NLNG Ships

The Job: The appointee will be required to keep a safe navigation and cargo watch and maintain the deck fire and safety equipment.

The duties will include, but are not limited to the following:

- Ensure the safety of all personnel working for him, especially as the aft mooring station when arriving and leaving the ports
- Maintain and ensure all deck portable fire fighting equipment, life saving appliances and associated records are properly kept
- Ensure the safe working of the navigational equipment and conduct routine checks and tests of these equipments

- Act as nominated officer for the GMDSS station, when required, with responsibility for associated tests and records
- Maintain navigational watch when vessel is at sea and cargo watch at loading/discharge ports

The Person: The right person should:

- Possess a Class 3 (Deck) Certificate of Competency (CoC)
- Possession of HND/BSc will be an added advantage.
- Possess 3 years' seagoing experience
- Possession of 1 year experience on LNG/LPG carrier will be an added advantage
- Possess knowledge of Shipping Operations in the shipping and marine industry
- Be a team player with excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

Method of Applying

Interested applicants should apply to The Manager, Manpower Planning & Resourcing, through ANY of the following addresses:

Nigeria LNG Limited
C & C TOWERS
PLOT 1684 SANUSI FAFUNWA ST
VICTORIA ISLAND
PMB 12774
LAGOS

Nigeria LNG Limited
AMADI CREEK
INTEGRATED SERVICE BASE
OFF EASTERN BYE-PASS
PORT-HAROCURT
RIVERS STATE

Nigeria LNG Limited
PLANT COMPLEX
BONNY ISLAND
RIVERS STATE

Nigeria LNG Limited
8TH FLOOR
CHURCHGATE TOWERS
CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
ABUJA

Forwarding their handwritten applications, photocopies of their credentials and detailed curriculum vitae. The reference number of the position applied for should be clearly indicated at the **top left-hand corner** of the envelope, which should reach the addressee within **two weeks** from the date of publication of this advertisement. Only shortlisted applications will be acknowledged.

The curriculum vitae should be formatted in the order listed below:

- SURNAME
- FIRST NAME/INITIALS
- DATE OF BIRTH
- AGE
- STATE OF ORIGIN
- SEX
- MARITAL STATUS
- CONTACT ADDRESS (Not P. O. Box)
- TELEPHONE NUMBER
- E-MAIL ADDRESS
- INSTITUTION(S) ATTENDED WITH DATES
- DEGREE(S) OBTAINED WITH DATES
- CLASS OF DEGREE
- PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE
- REFEREES



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Invitation for Bids (IFB)

TARABA STATE MINISTRY OF HEALTH
HEALTH SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT –II
CREDIT No: 4522-NG
IFB No. TR/HSDP II/NCB/CW/01/2010
Bid Issuance Date: 6th May 2010

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in Daily Trust Newspaper of 2nd April 2009 as published by Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria.
2. The Federal Government of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association toward the cost of Taraba State Health Systems Development Project II, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for construction works and drilling of boreholes as per table below.
3. The Taraba State Health Systems Development Project II now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the under listed contract:

| Lot No. | Contract Description | Bid Security | Location | Duration |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1 | Construction of one block of junior staff quarters | ₦ 210,000.00 | Murzazalle, Karim-Lamido LGA | 12 Weeks |
| 2 | Construction of one block of junior staff quarters | ₦ 350,000.00 | Sunkani, Ardo-Kola LGA. | 12 Weeks |
| 3 | Construction of one block of senior staff quarters | ₦ 250,000.00 | Sunkani, Ardo-Kola LGA | 12 Weeks |
| 4 | Construction of one block of junior staff quarters | ₦ 210,000.00 | Kumbo, Donga LGA | 12 Weeks |
| 5 | Renovation of one block of junior staff quarters | ₦ 200,000.00 | Monkan, Zing LGA | 12 Weeks |
| 6 | Renovation of one block of junior staff quarters | ₦ 240,000.00 | Ibi, Ibi LGA | 12 Weeks |
| 7 | Construction of a Library block | ₦ 860,000.00 | College of Health Technology (COHT), Takum, Takum LGA | 12 Weeks |
| 8 | Construction of a storey block of 3 classrooms | ₦ 420,000.00 | COHT Takum, Takum LGA | 12 Weeks |
| 9 | Construction of male hostel | ₦ 860,000.00 | COHT Takum, Takum LGA | 12 Weeks |
| 10 | Construction of female hostel | ₦ 860,000.00 | COHT Takum, Takum LGA | 12 Weeks |
| 11 | Construction of LSS training centre | ₦ 660,000.00 | Specialist Hospital Jalingo, Jalingo LGA | 12 Weeks |
| 12 | Two motorised solar borehole and overhead tank | ₦ 580,000.00 | COHT Takum, Takum LGA | 12 Weeks |
| 13 | One unit motorised solar borehole and overhead tank | ₦ 280,000.00 | Specialist Hospital Jalingo, Jalingo LGA | 12 Weeks |

4. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Taraba State Health Systems Development Project II, at Essential Drugs Programme Premises, Behind Taraba State Broadcasting Service (TSBS) Office Complex, Jalingo, Taraba State – Nigeria and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00am – 4:00pm, Mondays – Fridays.
6. Qualifications requirements include: Verifiable evidence of similar jobs done in the last 5 years, audited financial report for the last 3 years, proof of liquid assets/credit facility. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
7. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee of Ten Thousand Naira (N10, 000) only, for the first set and Five Thousand Naira (N5, 000) only for additional set, or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency. The method of payment will be by cash or bank draft to Taraba State Health Systems Development Project II. The Bidding Documents will be sent by courier service on request or to be collected by representative of the bidder.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 10:00am, Tuesday 15th June 2010. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at General Sani Abatcha State Secretariat Conference Hall Jalingo – Taraba state at 10:30am, Tuesday 15th June 2010.
9. Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by bid security as per Table above or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. The bid security shall be in the form of a bank draft or bank guarantee as in the form provided in the bidding document from a reputable commercial bank in Nigeria.
10. The address referred to above is:
The Project Manager,
Taraba State Health Systems Development Project II, at Essential Drugs Programme Premises,
Behind Taraba State Broadcasting Service (TSBS) Office Complex,
Jalingo, Taraba State – Nigeria.
Telephone: +23480343530816, +2348036156915
Electronic mail address: bjpaninga@yahoo.com,
drdgarba@yahoo.com



Invitation for Bids (IFB)

TARABA STATE MINISTRY OF HEALTH
HEALTH SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT –II
CREDIT No: 4522-NG
PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLES
IFB No. TR/HSDP II/NCB/GOODS/01/2010
Bid Issuance Date: 6th May 2010

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in Daily Trust Newspaper of 2nd April 2009 as published by Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria.
2. The Federal Government of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association toward the cost of Taraba State Health Systems Development Project II, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for procurement of vehicles.
3. The Taraba State Health Systems Development Project II now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the under listed contract:

| Lot No. | Contract Description | Quantity | Bid Security | Bid Validity | Location | Duration |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1 | Four Wheel Drive Double Cabin Pick Up with delivery van, 2.7 Litre Engine | 1 | At least 2.5% of Bid Price | 90 Days | Taraba State Health Systems Development Project II, at Essential Drugs Programme Premises, Behind Taraba State Broadcasting Service (TSBS) Office Complex, Jalingo, Taraba State – Nigeria | 60 Days |
| 2 | Four Wheel Drive Double Cabin Pick Up 2.7 Litre Engine | 4 | | | | |
| 3 | Saloon Vehicle GLI 1.8 Litre Engine | 1 | | | | |

4. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Taraba State Health Systems Development Project II, at Essential Drugs Programme Premises, Behind Taraba State Broadcasting Service (TSBS) Office Complex, Jalingo, Taraba State – Nigeria and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00am – 4:00pm, Mondays – Fridays.
6. Qualifications requirements include: Verifiable evidence of similar job executed, audited financial report for the last 3 years, manufacturers authorization letter. A margin of preference for certain goods manufactured domestically shall not be applied. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
7. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee of Ten Thousand Naira (N10, 000) Only or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency. The method of payment will be by cash or bank draft to Taraba State Health Systems Development Project II. The Bidding Documents will be sent by courier service on request or to be collected by representative of the bidder.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 10:00 am, Tuesday 8th June 2010. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at General Sani Abatcha State Secretariat Conference Hall Jalingo – Taraba state at 10:30 am, Tuesday 8th June 2010. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of at least 2.5% of bid price or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. The bid security shall be in the form of a bank draft or bank guarantee as in the form provided in the bidding document from a reputable commercial bank in Nigeria.
9. The address referred to above is:
The Project Manager,
Taraba State Health Systems Development Project II, at Essential Drugs Programme Premises,
Behind Taraba State Broadcasting Service (TSBS) Office Complex,
Jalingo, Taraba State – Nigeria.
Telephone: +23480343530816, +2348036156915
Electronic mail address: bjpaninga@yahoo.com,
drdgarba@yahoo.com

»» Access Bank Plc RC125384

access »»

Unaudited Accounts as at March 31, 2010**BALANCE SHEET**
as at March 31, 2010

| | GROUP MARCH 2010 N'000 | GROUP MARCH 2009 N'000 | BANK MARCH 2010 N'000 | BANK MARCH 2009 N'000 |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ASSETS | | | | |
| Cash & Balances with CBN | 29,624,961 | 58,554,262 | 19,397,125 | 47,208,865 |
| Due from Other Banks & Fin. Inst | 115,843,927 | 94,474,707 | 91,758,264 | 88,114,393 |
| Short Term Investments | 64,729,820 | 20,184,922 | 53,568,976 | 18,387,927 |
| Loans and Advances | 358,054,614 | 421,920,253 | 333,695,356 | 395,414,453 |
| On-Lending Asset | 4,782,980 | 5,092,026 | 4,398,411 | 5,092,026 |
| Other Assets | 33,014,488 | 17,846,304 | 27,191,092 | 15,845,552 |
| Long Term Investments | 38,880,883 | 65,599,796 | 58,678,346 | 85,078,156 |
| Equipment on Lease | 2,005,278 | 1,591,555 | 1,994,377 | 1,591,555 |
| Fixed Assets | 25,948,592 | 23,390,108 | 19,377,017 | 18,132,114 |
| Intangibles | 1,738,148 | 1,738,148 | | |
| Total Assets | 674,624,258 | 710,392,081 | 610,058,964 | 674,865,041 |
| LIABILITIES | | | | |
| Deposits | 433,808,807 | 430,096,946 | 374,521,970 | 405,657,055 |
| Due to Other Banks and Fin. Inst | 24,998,013 | 30,183,025 | 24,388,845 | 30,511,299 |
| On-lending Liabilities | 4,782,550 | 5,143,461 | 4,398,811 | 5,143,461 |
| Taxation Payable | 6,982,030 | 6,586,353 | 6,736,626 | 6,471,362 |
| Other Liabilities | 30,507,002 | 44,166,984 | 20,022,858 | 33,289,918 |
| Long Term Borrowings | 2,604,277 | 8,961,189 | 2,604,277 | 8,961,189 |
| Total Liabilities | 503,682,679 | 525,137,958 | 432,672,387 | 490,034,284 |
| CAPITAL AND RESERVES | | | | |
| Capital | 8,131,024 | 8,071,252 | 8,131,024 | 8,071,130 |
| Reserves | 161,865,719 | 176,154,338 | 169,254,955 | 176,759,627 |
| Total Capital and Reserves | 169,996,743 | 184,225,590 | 177,385,979 | 184,830,757 |
| Minority Interest | 944,835 | 1,028,533 | | |
| Total Liabilities & Reserves | 674,624,260 | 710,392,081 | 610,058,964 | 674,865,041 |
| Off Balance Sheet Engagements & Contingencies | 153,375,301 | 142,633,973 | 158,907,483 | 134,224,075 |

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS

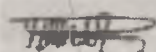
for the 1st Quarter ended March 31, 2010

| | GROUP MARCH 2010 N'000 | GROUP MARCH 2009 N'000 | BANK MARCH 2010 N'000 | BANK MARCH 2009 N'000 |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Gross Earnings | 27,378,437 | 26,624,050 | 24,893,659 | 28,171,615 |
| Interest & Discount Income | 18,980,870 | 21,994,195 | 17,248,167 | 20,357,539 |
| Interest Expense | (9,370,245) | (9,460,595) | (8,781,267) | (10,052,746) |
| Net interest and Discount Income | 9,610,725 | 12,533,599 | 8,466,900 | 10,304,793 |
| Other Income | 8,797,467 | 7,712,839 | 7,644,492 | 7,814,077 |
| Operating Income | 18,408,192 | 20,246,438 | 16,111,392 | 18,118,869 |
| Operating Expenses | (12,040,493) | (11,529,355) | (8,894,012) | (8,904,623) |
| Provision for Risk Assets (Net) | (1,077,298) | (4,294,630) | (1,181,508) | (4,456,619) |
| Net Profit before Tax | 5,290,404 | 4,422,453 | 5,076,872 | 4,757,628 |
| Taxation | (1,269,696) | (1,061,389) | (1,218,449) | (1,141,831) |
| Profit (loss) after Tax | 4,020,708 | 4,850,288 | 3,858,423 | 3,615,797 |
| Minority Interest | (28,815) | (1,054,531) | | |
| Profit after tax and minority interest | 3,991,893 | 3,795,756 | 3,858,423 | 3,615,797 |

KEY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

as at March 31 2010

| | GROUP MARCH 2010 N'000 | GROUP MARCH 2009 N'000 | BANK MARCH 2010 N'000 | BANK MARCH 2009 N'000 |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Total non-performing loans and advances | 34,215,740 | 9,672,975 | 28,108,460 | 8,765,935 |
| Total non-performing loans to total loans and advances | 9% | 2% | 8% | 2% |
| EPS (Basic) | 0.25 | 0.30 | 0.24 | 0.22 |
| EPS (Diluted) | 0.25 | 0.30 | 0.24 | 0.22 |


Sunday Ekwochi
COMPANY SECRETARY

RE: PLATEAU STATE GOVERNMENT CANNOT STOP PDP CONGRESSES IN THE STATE

Our attention has been drawn to a rejoinder in the Nation of Wednesday, 28th April, 2010, written by some so-called Executive Committee, Elders/Stalwarts and Stakeholders of our great Party, the PDP in Langtang South LGA.

In the write-up, they claimed that Hon. Joyce Lohya Ramnap, a progressive member of the Plateau State House of Assembly, who currently represents Langtang South Constituency, did not append her signature on the said publication, and that it was fraudulently and maliciously obtained. Knowing the progressive, that Hon. Ramnap is, she could not have allowed herself to be left out in a move to curb the executive recklessness by the Jang administration, which doesn't differentiate between governance and Party politics and administration. She has always identified herself with all the progressive members of the House

It is most uncharitable and disrespectful to refer to the signatories of the said publication as faceless makers. Certainly, the authors of that document, made up of esteemed personalities cutting across the length and breadth of the State and who include the immediate past Deputy Senate President, a former Executive governor, National Assembly Members, Ministers of the Federal Republic, her most respected colleagues in the House, and other distinguished public office holders and party chieftains cannot be said to be faceless.

It is curious that this bundle of political hangers – on and opportunists who have no clear records of contributing to the development and growth of our great Party would be the ones to “carry” Hon. Ramnap's cross. Nothing could be more fraudulent than including the member's name on their rejoinder, which never carried her signature. Can you fight more than the assaulted, or mourn more than the bereaved or indeed be more Catholic than the Pope?

A careful look at the list of signatories to this rejoinder reveals that most of them are merely acting in an attempt to defend their 'bread' in the Jang Administration. For some of them, when the struggle to build the Party was on, they were somewhere in their air – conditioned offices in

some hospitals in Abuja or elsewhere and always hanging on the fence when it mattered most. Some are mere impostors as there are presently no Exco of the Party at any level in the State.

We find their pledge of allegiance to the National Working Committee (NWC) a contradiction of what they claim to stand for. It should have been clear to these elements that the Congresses they are stiffly opposed to is a product of the NWC of our great Party. Their pledge of loyalty to the dissolved Dakum Shown – led Exco is an insult on the entire leadership and membership of the PDP.

We hereby call on party faithful in Langtang South to ignore the rantings and antics of these political failures who are only out to seek relevance, albeit wrongly.

In conclusion, we commend Hon. Joyce Ramnap for all her contributions in the House as a Principal Officer. She should not allow herself to be distracted by those who do not care well for her and the netire members of her Cnstituency.

Signed:

| S/N | NAMES | POSITION | SIGN |
|-----|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------|
| 1 | Hon Solomon S. Dalung | Former Chairman L/South L.G.C | |
| 2 | Hon Nimir Sella | Former PDP Chairman L/South L.G.A | |
| 3 | Hon Stephen Yokzak | Former Special Adviser to Chairman L/south L.G.C | |
| 4 | Engy. Jimmy Z. Cheto | Aspirant PDP Governor PL/State | |
| 5 | Joshua Lohven | Stake Holder L/South L.G.A | |
| 6 | Hon Kwankur Z. Sillis | Former Commissioner for Pasastatal PL/State | |
| 7 | Hon Nansel Joel | Former Deputy PDP Chairman L/South L.G.A | |
| 8 | Bintim Bonko (Jas) | Former Supervisory Councilor for Health L/S L.G.C | |
| 9 | Nanya Zaki | Stake Holder L/South L.G.A | |
| 10 | Hon Samson Vangtau | Former PDP Chairman L/South L.G.A | |
| 11 | Hon Gochwin B. Audu | Former Chairman L/South L.G.C | |
| 12 | Rtd Asp Kartim Mammyong | Elder PDP L/South L.G.A | |
| 13 | Hon Selbol Danladi | Former PDP Secretary L/South L.G.A | |
| 14 | Maimako Sambo | Former PDP Administrative Secretary L/South L.G.A | |
| 15 | Lohnap Nimmeyel | Stake Holder L/South L.G.A | |

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536

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+234 705 666 9020
 web: www.oas-helicopter.com
 E-mail: contact@oas-helicopters.com

Senate passes Assets Management Bill

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE Asset Management Bill seeking to establish a body to manage toxic assets and non-performing loans of distressed banks yesterday passed third reading on the floor of the Senate.

The approval followed consideration and adoption of the report of the Senate Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions on the establishment of the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON).

Briefing newsmen shortly after passage of the bill, Chairman of the committee, Senator Nkechi Nwaogu (PDP, Abia Central) said when established AMCON is to provide liquidity through management of their toxic assets.

According to her, "The Corporation will assist conventional banks in providing liquidity through purchase of their toxic assets to raise liquidity so that the banks can resume full banking operations. Some of the banks faced illiquidity because of the bad management and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) had to come in to bail them out."

Nwaogu said since the emergence of distress in the banking sector "Some of them are yet to commence full banking activities and lending has been in low ebb. Perhaps if it hadn't been for the CBN bailout we could have been talking about many more banks failures by now."

She said unlike the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) which takes care of payment of depositors funds after collapse of the banks "AMCON is to as much as possible reduce the number of banks that would fail. It does not totally obliterate banks failure. NDIC only takes care of banks when they are proscribed dead, they are like undertakers but AMCON is to prevent that."

Highlight of the bill indicates that it provides for punishment to those that declare false collateral in the process of accessing bank loans which is the major cause of Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) that lead to most banks failures.

Section 53 of the bill provides that "(1) Any person who- (a) Makes any false claim in any material respect in relation to any movable or immovable property used as collateral for any loan with a view to defeating the realization of the debt commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not less than five million naira or imprisonment for a term not less than three years or to both fine and imprisonment; (b) Is charged with an offence under this act but the evidence establishes an attempt to commit the offence may be convicted of attempt to commit that offence, although the attempt is not separately charged, and punished as provided under this act;"

Nwaogu said the bill also provides penalties for banks officials found to have conspired in granting dubious loans and other fraudulent activities that could lead to banks failure.



OLUSEGUN Aganga, Minister of Finance

FG reconstitutes Economic Team

By Idris Ahmed

THE Federal Government yesterday reconstituted the National Economic Management Team (NEMT), which is smaller than the initial one before the cabinet was reshuffled.

Minister of Finance Segun Aganga is the chairman of the new team. Before the cabinet's dissolution, former minister of finance Mansur Muhtar chaired the team.

Members of the new team include: Ministers of Finance (Chairman), National Planning Commission, Power, Petroleum Resources, Agriculture, Works, Commerce and Industry, Transport and minister of State for Finance. It also has representatives from the Central Bank Governor, office of the Acting President, Adviser on Anti-corruption and Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance (Secretary).

The team meets weekly and also briefs the Acting President and the nation regularly on the state of the economy.

The Economic Team's responsibilities include reducing the national infrastructure deficit, tackling the current high level unemployment, growing the economy, improving national economic management, greatly enhancing fiscal federalism, evolving an effective monitoring and evaluation framework and diversifying the economy.

The NEMT would also regularly brief the National Economic Development Council (NEDC) which has been put in place to ensure continuity in economic policies and serve as an advisory body providing ideas on initiatives and strategies that are central to the economic development of the country.

Reconstituting the Committee, the Minister of Finance, Mr. Segun Aganga, remarked that given the limited time available to the present administration and the need to rejuvenate economic activities, the government found it most necessary to reconstitute the National Economic Management Team.

He said that the present administration was intent on developing a national economic blue print for development which would yield economic and social benefits to the people.

BRIEF

Share prices rebound on NSE

SHARE prices on the Nigerian Stock Exchange continued to rebound on Wednesday with the cumulative price rising by 0.96 per cent.

A total of 508.26 million shares worth N4.65 billion changed hands in 7,841 deals on Wednesday against 500.30 million shares valued at N3.91 billion traded on Tuesday.

The market capitalisation grew by N63 billion to close at N6.554 trillion from N6.491 trillion achieved on Tuesday. All-Share Index also rose by 256.17 points to close at 27,095.20 from the opening index of 26,837.03. The banking sub-sector dominated transactions, trading 200.71 million shares valued at N2.16 billion in 3,369 deals. The performance of the sub-sector was boosted by the shares of Guaranty Trust Bank which had 45.06 million shares worth N800.06 million traded in 563 deals. The insurance sub-sector followed with N130.95 billion invested on 133.33 million shares in 678 deals. The food, beverages and tobacco sub-sector traded 43.68 million shares worth N803.74 million in 1,080 deals. Prices of 58 stocks appreciated while those of 28 shed prices. Benue Cement Company topped the list of price gainers, adding N1.48 to close at N66.10 per share. (NAN)

STOCK MARKET INDEX

| | |
|---------|------------------------|
| Date: | Wednesday, May 5, 2010 |
| Index: | 27,095.20 |
| Deals: | 7,841 |
| Volume: | 508,259,647 |
| Value: | N 4,652,449,587.18 |
| Cap.: | N6,553,662,659,204.15 |

TRUST INDEX

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Inflation | 11.8% |
| GDP | 6.68% |
| Budget | N4.6tr |
| Ext. Reserves Acct | \$40.1bn |
| Excess Crude Acct | \$3.9bn |
| Poverty Ratio | 54.4% |
| Monetary Policy Rate | 6% |
| Banks | 24 |
| Oil Price | \$84.3 a barrel |
| Power Supply | 3,700MW |
| Oil output per day | 2.6mbd |
| Broad Money Supply | N11,010,063.6m |
| Credit to Private Sector | N10,037,422.5m |
| Inter-Bank Rate | 1.2000% |
| Treasury Bills | 2.02% |
| Deposit Rate | 7.51% |
| Prime Lending Rate | 18.06% |

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

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

Bureau de Change Rates

| BUYING | |
|---------|------|
| Dollar | N151 |
| Euro | N204 |
| Pound | N234 |
| SELLING | |
| Dollar | N152 |
| Euro | N206 |
| Pound | N236 |

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



Star Feature

In Kano, new bo

As countries and communities around the world preserve their architectural heritage, the culture of traditional architecture is fast vanishing in Hausa land. However, there is the recent emergence of youth groups in Kano who are working to restore the fading art.

From Hassan A. Karofi, Kano

HAUSA civilization is believed to have existed since the year 1000 CE. The people who formed this ethnic group have developed distinctive cultural identity in all spheres of human activity. This traditional way of life can be found in most popular cities that formed this ethnic group, such as in Daura, Kano, Gobir, Katsina, Zaria, Biram and Rano. This includes several hundreds of towns, cities and communities in Nigeria, Niger republic, and across the length of West Africa.

Even the nineteenth century Fulani jihad which established the Sokoto caliphate in Hausa land, a mainstream historical event which further galvanized the growth of this people, was not able to tamper with their cultural as well as spiritual identity, which continues to be unique.

Beyond this cultural identity lies the great architectural prowess of this people. The aesthetic magnificence of the typical Hausa building, makes a clear distinction from other buildings by other groups in the country.

Daily Trust also establishes that unlike the modern building, the Hausa traditional building, not only serves as a sustainable housing system, it is environmentally friendly, cost effective and accommodating to all manner of seasons.

For instance, the Hausa tradi-

tional building is cool during the hot season, and it is warm as well, during the winter.

Despite these advantages of the Hausa traditional architecture over the modern ways of block building, communities in Hausa land have abandoned the rich culture, leading to the threat of these becoming extinct.

A resident of Rijiyar Zaki in Kano, an emerging settlement at the outskirts of the city, Malam Haruna Sani, described the preference to modern buildings, as a result of the advantage of quality and beauty to the traditional architecture.

"You see people are now running away from the old ways of building, because the modern system is more beautiful, more qualitative and attractive," he said.

So many people interviewed described the traditional building as old fashioned, unattractive and lasts for a shorter period, as compared to modern buildings.

Garba Sale is Sarkin Gini in Hausawa quarters of Kano, and he said that even traditional masons are now forced to learn and build in modern ways, and laments the dearth of interest in the traditional ways of building.

"We are forced to learn to



SOME youths learning new building techniques.

build with cement, as no one will demand for clay or mud buildings, except the poor or the traditional rulers, who are forced by the circumstances to stick to such technology," he said.

The Sarkin Gini added that

Hausa traditional buildings are now left to traditional rulers, monuments and historical places, whereas in modern communities, old traditional buildings are preserved as national monuments, he said.

Malam Garba however revealed that unknown to many people, the traditional building is more conducive, cheaper, lasts longer, and is resistant to fire disasters, and other natural disasters, if built well.

"The traditional building can last 500 years, and can resist a lot of disasters. But the modern ways of cement building cannot last that long, is prone to fire disaster and other calamities, and is environmentally uncondusive," he added.

While lamenting the dearth of Hausa traditional buildings, Sarkin Gini warned that the Hausa people are witnessing a dangerous trend, in which they are abandoning their traditional architecture for modern cement systems.

"I just wonder when I see foreigners coming here to preserve our way of life, when they come to admire and just see for satisfaction, how we build our traditional

houses, yet our own people have no concern at all," he added.

Despite these concerns however, in Kano various groups have emerged working to restore the rich Hausa traditional building, and the mission is gaining momentum across the state.

Coordinating the affairs of these groups, is an expert on Hausa traditional building, Architect Rukayya Bashir Othman Tofa, who explained to *Daily Trust* why she chose to work in the area of restoring the rich traditional Hausa architecture.

Rukayya is the Development Manager of the Prince Charles led international organization. She describes a typical Hausa building as follows, "a typical Hausa building is made up of traditional oval mud bricks. This mud is preserved using age long technologies to solidify its substance, to enable it withstand any stormy weather, and suits environmental changes."

According to her the typical Hausa walls are built out of mud brick, whilst palm trunks split into beams (azarori) are used for roofing. Unlike most other areas of West Africa, Hausa architecture is in the hands of a hereditary group of trained masons who are organized into guilds. These trained masons have been responsible for some of the most celebrated architecture in West Africa.

She revealed that the greatest challenge facing traditional architecture, is the fact that even the people do not understand their own history "If people fail to understand their history, how could they understand its sig-

“The Hausa traditional building is cool during the hot season, and it is warm as well, during the winter.”



A Hausa visual art design.

ost for Hausa art



“We are forced to learn to build with cement, as no one will demand for clay or mud buildings, except the poor or the traditional rulers.”

Arc. Rukayya further explained that buoyed by the responses she has been receiving from youths, she collaborates with the International Network for Traditional Building, Architecture and Urbanism (INTBAU) to organize workshops for students of architecture and traditional masons, on the significance of Hausa traditional architecture in the modern world.

“We have so far trained several youths in the art of traditional building, and by June this year, we are working on training more on the techniques of using clay as a methodology to fight global warming,” she added.

While describing the advantages of traditional building to the environment and the people, she said the modern technique that uses cement for building, creates higher and extensive pollution to the atmosphere. It also destroys the ozone layer, and



ARC Rukayya Tofa (far right) with other youths, showcasing their new Hausa architectural edifice built during a workshop.

causes further global warming.

“The traditional way of using clay or mud, on the other hand, absorbs heat, provides conducive atmosphere for users, and has less or non-existence of any environmental hazard, that could harm the ozone layer,” she added.

Nura Yakasai is a renowned Hausa mason who recently won the best visual art contest in traditional architecture, organized in Algeria. He explains that due to the characteristic feature of Hausa architecture, its ability to suit any

weather has been its most fantastic attribute, that should make it a focus in modern housing provision.

“You can see that from its domed roof, formed by a number of intersecting arches projecting from the walls of the building, the arches which up are made of lengths of palm wood set into the wall and projecting at increasing angles, serves as the most conducive shelter, especially in the hot and cold season,” he added.

This traditional way of building has, of course, in recent years faced tremendous threat of extinction. He stressed that most people now prefer modern ways of building, using cement blocks, instead of the traditional mud blocks.

“The trend has not only caused economic chaos to families, who hitherto were traditional masons, but extended this to an entire way of life of a people, and this is the challenge,” he added.

Nura however, said that with the mobilization going on, and the number of responses from both the people, governments and NGOs, reversing the sad trend is possible.

“I think it is possible that we could reverse the trend, no matter how long it will take. The response of stakeholders in realizing the challenges, has raised our feeling that hope is not entirely lost,” he said.

He called on Hausa people to cherish their ways of life, and added that apart from traditional buildings, the Hausa visual art is

another way that promotes the culture and earns it respect worldwide.

“We have to understand that our culture is unique, and has the capacity of being recognized worldwide, especially in the visual arts, architecture, and clothing and oral prowess,” he added.

As the mobilization continues Arc Rukayya disclosed that INTBAU will continue to work with stakeholders in Nigeria, to promote and preserve Hausa traditional architecture.

“We have recently conducted a 3-day workshop in traditional Hausa architecture. The event took place in Kano, Nigeria, and Kano was chosen because of its famous and massive encircling earth wall, and for its advanced earthen building tradition. We are also working with some Universities, notably ABU for the establishment of a centre on Hausa traditional architecture, to help restore this unique way of life,” she said.

Meanwhile, she called on the state governments, individuals and organizations, to work hard in educating the people about the rich culture, and the opportunities in restoring the Hausa traditional building.

“Lack of educating local inhabitants on the importance of the walls and traditional Hausa buildings as tangible heritage to the Hausa people, effects of overpopulation and poverty in Kano State, and Modernity in Hausa-land, are some challenges responsible for the threats of extinction the Hausa traditional building is facing.”



Gidan Bisallah, a classical example of traditional Hausa architecture now facing extinction.

Business/International

World Bank bans Macmillan for Sudan

THE World Bank said it had banned British publisher Macmillan from taking up its contracts for six years after the company said it paid bribes to secure a deal to print textbooks in south Sudan.

Macmillan said it made "corrupt payments" in a bidding process for an education project supported by a World Bank-managed fund in the African region, the bank said in a statement.

"The World Bank Group has debarred Macmillan Limited ... declaring the company ineligible to be awarded Bank-financed contracts for a period of six years in the wake of the company's admission of bribery payments relating to a Trust Fund-supported education project in Southern Sudan," read the statement.

International donors have pumped millions of dollars into development projects in war-ravaged south Sudan through a Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) managed by the World Bank.

Macmillan, which publishes a wide range of books, on Wednesday did not respond to a request to talk about the detail of the Sudan bid. "We will not tolerate improper behaviour as a company, and the fact that we have worked closely with the World Bank to reach this agreement is evidence of that," said a Macmillan spokesman in a statement.

"There is no suggestion that these concerns have affected any of Macmillan's other principal businesses, and it is the case that they are confined to a limited part of our education business," Macmillan had agreed to roll

out a "compliance monitoring program" and cooperate with the bank's efforts to fight fraud and corruption, the World Bank statement read.

"Macmillan admitted engaging in bribes in an attempt to get a contract to print textbooks for the education rehabilitation project in south Sudan," a World Bank official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters. "This happened during the bidding process and Macmillan did not get the contract."

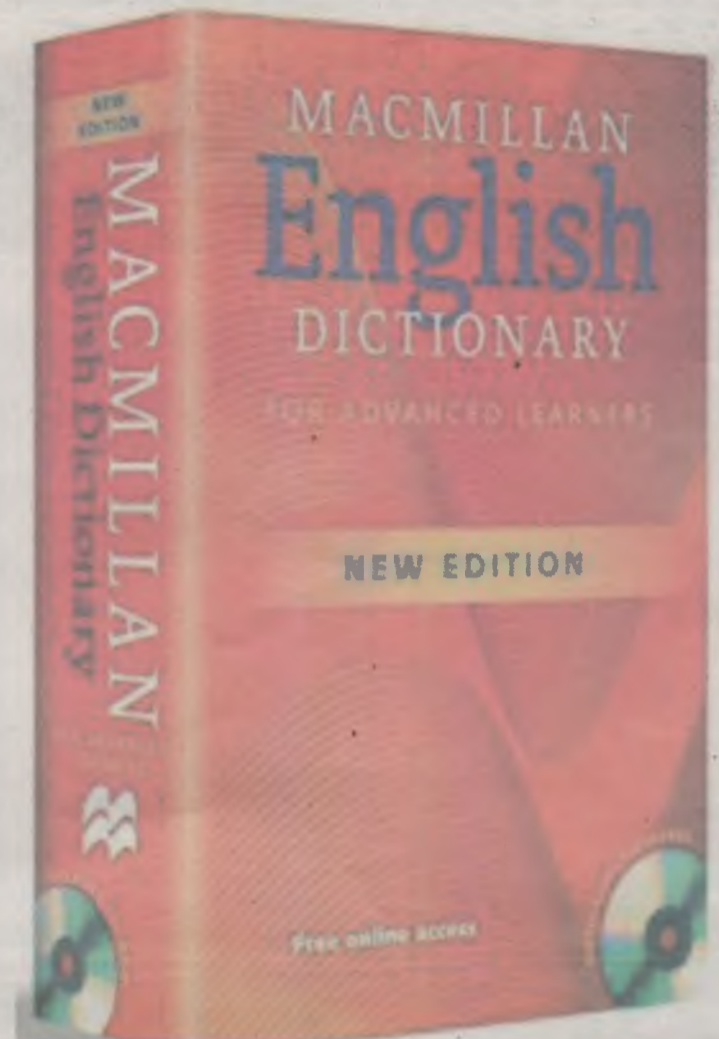
The official, based in Washington, said the payments were offered between 2008 and 2009. The Trust Fund was set up in 2006 to finance the rebuilding of south Sudan's economy, government, health and education systems devastated by decades of civil war.

Macmillan, a privately-owned company, links to the text of an "Anti-bribery policy" on its website (international.macmillan.com).

The document, which does not mention the Sudanese deal, said Macmillan's board had adopted a "zero tolerance approach to acts of bribery and corruption," acts which it said harmed societies in which they were committed.

The World Bank said the six-year ban could be cut in half if the publisher continued to cooperate with its staff.

The debarment, which currently runs until 29 April 2016, had already been reduced from eight years because of how quickly Macmillan admitted the "corrupt payments" said the bank's statement. Reuters.



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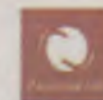
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Business/Finance

We pay pensioners before we pay salaries – CIPPO Director

Alhaji Abdurrashid Maina is the acting Director of Customs, Immigration and Prisons Pension Office (CIPO). In this interview anchored from Kano, Maina explains, among other issues, why his office pays pensions before salaries of his workers.

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

PENSIONERS claim that Harmonized Paramilitary Salary Structure (HAPSS) and Compromised Paramilitary Salary Structure (COMPASS), have been approved and paid to you by the Federal Government, why are beneficiaries yet to receive it?

It was not true that the money was in the CIPO account. The government has not yet released it. We have just finished computation of the six percent and 15 percent salary increment and we also informed the National Pension Commission about the COMPAS issue and government is looking into right now. Actually there are no such funds, it is all speculation.

Some pensioners also allege that those close to you get their money on or before 25th of every month, and those not close to you receive theirs much later, what is the true situation?

You see the issue of payment is something you can verify, I can assure you that the April pension is ready now (14-04-10). I can tell you that anybody who tells you that he is collecting his/her money beyond 25th of every month is telling a lie. I think to be more convinced, you can go to some of the banks and verify. Whoever makes such claims is not being fair to himself if he is a pensioner. As I said earlier, CIPO pays between 20th and 25th of every month, you can go to any of these banks and verify.

Don't you think the problem may be that of e-payment or some other bank related

problems and not specifically bureaucratic issue?

No, I have discussed with the banks and immediately I took over, I called a meeting with banks in conjunction with the National Association of Paramilitary Retired Officers. In that meeting I told the banks that I would not sit down and fold my arms to see a bank not paying somebody his money after I had released the money to the banks. So I am sure the banks are complying with the directives. I have set certain machinery in motion to ensure that the banks pay these pensioners immediately we release those payments.

How much do you pay pensioners every month?

On actual fact, we just conducted a nationwide verification exercise. And when we conducted the verification exercise you have certain number of pensioners who may not come for verification. Some pensioners do regularly come for verification, while some would not come for that. I might be lying if I tell you the exact figure of the amount. I can conveniently say how much would be paying monthly.

What of the number of verified pensioners?

Right now, we have about 17, 255. Due to one reason or another, some could not attend the verification exercise. In this case, we ask them to come forward and get verified, because whoever fails to show up at the verification exercise is presumed dead. The verification exercise saves a lot of money for government because some pensioners, when they died, their families don't report their

death. They will simply continue receiving the money. In this case, we have so many things in place to curb that. We ask pensioners to open a saving account at designated banks approved by the Accountant General of Federation because in a savings account, only the owner of the account is authorized to withdraw. However, as soon as there is no activities in such an account for sometimes, the banks will then inform us, we will then go and check and see whether the pensioner is dead or alive.

How was the situation before your assumption of office?

Well, I am an acting director, anyway. I would not be able to talk on that. But all I can tell you up and doing and we are paying as and when due. The fact is that the pensioners are happy with the way we run the affairs of the office. My office is concentrating on clearing backlog of debt, and I can tell you that we rarely receive complaints to this effect. We settle pensioners between 25th and 29th of every month. As I said earlier, the plight of the pensioners is what we first focus on before we pay salaries. Of course, I am following the directives of the Head of Service, who keen and passionate on seeing all pensioners are paid as and when due.

Some pensioners complain omission of names, under payment, among other complaints, what is your office doing to tackle the issue?

What we do was that I set up a kind of file treatment squad, what they do is to promptly respond to the complaints and remedy the problem. Immediately there is



ALHAJI Abdurrashid Maina

complaint from any of the service retiree services of Immigration, Prisons and Customs, they spring into action. We divided them into three squads, each squad has about 25 people, their jobs is to ensure that pensioners claims are treated within 24 hours and if it is not treated, that group will be queried, because I take charge of all the groups.

I ensure they do their jobs and that was why you will see CIPO going out from next week to start payment of omission, short payment, among others. These groups have been able to sit down and compute a lot of the omissions. We just do that to ensure that we treat pensioners' files immediately. Now if you come to CIPO, you will not see any pensioner lying down, wait-

ing to be paid. They can attest to this. My idea is to inculcate the sense of compassion for the cause of the pensioners into the minds of our staff. Motivation is also a mechanism we employ for good output. Our staff regularly go to trainings and workshops to equip their minds as well to enhance their efficiency. All these are for the betterment of pensioners. As a result of a series of trainings virtually all of our staff are computer-literate. This has made them abreast of issues relating to computer, automated gadgets and other modern equipment.

The taste of pudding is said to be in the eating. You can verify this from the banks we operate and you can also see the way the pensioners are thanking me today.

Pepsi Nigerian sees N760m profit in Q1

NIGERIAN Pepsi franchise Seven-Up said on Wednesday it expects its first quarter pretax profit to hit 760 million naira (\$5 million) on a turnover of 11.96 billion naira. Seven-Up did not give a comparable figure for the estimates. REUTERS.

Julius Berger Q1 pretax profit falls

NIGERIA'S biggest construction firm Julius Berger said on Wednesday its pre-tax profit fell 39 percent to 1.42 billion naira (\$9.5 million) in the first quarter to March. Turnover declined 15 percent to 31.4 billion naira in the same period compared to the previous year, the firm said in a filing to the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

World Bank supports Nigeria's agric sector

From Halima Musa, Kano

THE World Bank has reaffirmed its determination to support commercial agriculture in Nigeria, World Bank Country Director Mr Ruhi Onno has said. In a goodwill message at the Commercial Agriculture Development Project, Kano State 4th Bimonthly meeting, held at Tahir Guest House, Onno said World Bank was ready to assist in making commercial agriculture project a reality in Nigeria. He said: "The world Bank will not hesitate to support any project that will reduce the importation of food to Nigeria and increase its exportation to the outside world." In his speech the

National Coordinator of Commercial Agriculture, Dr Aminu Babandi said the meeting was aimed at bringing together all stakeholders from the five states where the project is currently taking place, to share experience and proffer solutions to any noticeable problem hindering the implementation of the project in these states. The five states are: Lagos, Kano, Kaduna, Cross River and Enugu. In his welcome address, the state commissioner of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Alhaji Musa Suleiman Shanono said the state government has from 2003 to 2009 spent over N20 billion to support various agricultural activities in the state.

Lafarge Nigerian unit sees Q3 profit down by half

LAFARGE Cement Wapco, the Nigerian unit of the world's biggest cement maker Lafarge (LAFPA: Quote), expects third quarter pre-tax profit to halve to 3.4 billion naira (\$23 million) from a year earlier.

The company on Wednesday forecast turnover for the three months to Sept. 30 at 14.6 billion naira compared to 35.1 billion naira reported in the same period last year. REUTERS.

Northern Business

In Bida, foreigners troop in weekly for a piece of glass work

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

GLASS work as it is called by the craftsmen is used to make beads in Niger State. The trade has over time become a lucrative one as the makers produce their art work in commercial quantities for the surging market from within and outside Nigeria.

Before venturing into commercial trading with beads, the originators of the art works in Bida area of Niger state were officially commissioned by the Nupe kingdom to decorate princesses in the palace.

Then, they were commissioned by the emirate council to make beads for wives of nobilities in the kingdom for different occasions ranging from marriages, cultural displays and regular outfits for outings.

According to Alhaji Abubakar Ndagana, the business of beads has been in Bida for over 500 years. He said they used to produce the glass materials by themselves which he said used to baffle Europeans who troop to the place to see for themselves.

He said that most of the foreigners who visited the place did so purposely to learn from them the kind of glass materials they use in making the beads, adding that they take them to laboratories for analysis.

"We have our own special method of extracting glass from a mixture of red clay combined with alum which we use to craft out our beads into different types of exotic designs.

"They (Europeans) who come here sometime take out time up to three months to learn our ways of making beads but they end up using plastics as they confirmed that our process is too rigorous and sophisticated for them to put up with.

"The berkini, the raw combination they use in making glass has been part of their bead making culture for centuries. The quality of what we use starts us out where other people make similar art," Abubakar said. He said that the glass work could be coloured



GLASS making in Bida.

to suit different interests and occasions, and that the appearance are blended with the systematic use of fire and colours to heat up the berkini during production.

The berkini is produced from a special combination of red clay which is found several meters deep into the soil. It is then measured adequately for preparation.

The alum combination must be well mixed to get berkini in its solid state.

Ndagana told Daily Trust that they usually measure four pounds of the special clay to be added to half a litre of alum which he said will be heated for two hours and then allowed to dry for it to be

ready for use.

"The berkini which is ready for use is always as hard as rock and very black in colour. We normally cut the solid berkini to the shape and size we need according to the type of bead we want to make," he said.

Daily Trust learnt that Egyptian bead makers found their way to Nupe kingdom many years ago by fate as the first of the immigrants took opportunity of the hospitality given them by the ruler of the kingdom in those ancient times to engage in the business of bead making.

Yahaya Iyagana told this reporter that most of the designs

used to make the beads have been what their ancestors took from the Egyptian cultural heritage, which has all the flavours of what the Pharaohs used.

He disclosed that it is the mixture of the Egyptian and Nigerian culture that makes the glass work of beads in Bida to stand out among others in the world as it has its own unique blend that makes it a class of its own.

"Our beads are a combination of Egyptian cultural heritage and the blend here in Nigeria which gives us the advantage of variety and good finishing which people from different parts of the world admire. Though the number of

people who troop into the country to buy our work fluctuates but on an average, we receive visitors from outside Nigeria at least once every two weeks.

While they buy what we have in our production workshop for the purpose of reselling them in their country, others bring designs back to us so that we can produce work for them according to their specification," he said.

He stated that they have over the years resisted attempts to allow use of other materials aside the berkini to be used for their glass work, adding that their originally refined material has been their trademark for years.

Niger produces anti chemical bags for cowpea storage

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

IN an effort to promote chemical free storage of cowpea, Niger State Agriculture Development Project (ADP) has embarked on the production of three bags in one anti-chemical preservative storage bags.

The coordinator of the special storage bags under the ADP, Hajiya Hassana Garba, speaking with our correspondent yesterday in Minna stated that the move is to reduce to its barest minimum the incident of food

poisoning.

"The technology for the special bags is that it consists of three bags in one set where the first two bags are polyethylene of 80 micron thick, air tight and water proof while the third bag is a normal woven storage bag.

The insects that consume cowpeas are trapped in the bags as they cannot survive the airtight condition of the bag which prevents them from causing further damage to the crop as they die off", she said.

Hassana who is also the Head Women in Agriculture in Niger state explained that the initiative will help boost cowpea production in the state, adding that it would also be chemical free as there won't be need to dress the produce in chemical.

She said that Niger State government under the international Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) disclosed that a total of 550 villages are expected to be covered as five farmers in each of the targeted villages is to be involved in the use of the special

bags.

The coordinator said that at least 3,355 free bags have been distributed to farmers for the purpose of demonstrating the usage of the special bags ahead of this year's cropping season.

He added that that a total of 5000 pieces of the special bags have been sold to farmers across the state after been subjected to six months experiment which proved that the method of storage is hundred percent safe as a preservative for cowpea.

Business/Finance

Pension funds hit N1.6tr - PENCOM

By Sunday Williams

THE Director General of Pension Commission (PENCOM) Alhaji Muhammad Ahmad has said that the Pension funds accumulation now stood at N1.6 trillion as at March 2010.

Speaking when he received the Director General of Centre for Management Development (CMD), Dr. Kabir Usman on a courtesy call, the PENCOM Director General said the fund is from both private and public sectors.

He said the Commission which came to existence in the last five years has under the new pension reform scheme registered with 38 operators which have over 4 million con-

tributors nationwide.

He said the courtesy call by the DG of CMD, for the sensitization and enlightenment on the new role the centre is set to play in manpower development and capacity building of the country's work force is a welcome development.

He said PENCOM will be willing to partner with CMD especially in areas of capacity building, adding that CMD was responsible for the training of 120 out of its 180 staff in 2009.

He said: "PENCOM organizes specific training especially in pension related matters. We need to go beyond that and given the capacity of what you have, perhaps we shall collaborate on specific issues of need on the industry

whether they are interrelated or on issue relating to organization, process and procedures, we shall be able to tackle so that PENCOM can benefit from you."

Ahmad said that PENCOM has been seriously faced with the challenge of lack of data in the past and will appreciate leveraging on CMD for its collaborative endeavour with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) for support.

Speaking, the Director General of CMD, Dr. Kabir Usman said though the centre was established over 30 years ago, some of its roles in national development has been largely misconstrued and misunderstood both in the public and private sectors.

Banks alone can't finance agriculture – Sanusi

By Idris Ahmed

BANKS alone cannot finance the expected growth in agricultural sector in the Sub-Saharan Africa and they must attract long term financing from other sources, says Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

Sanusi Lamido Sanusi said this yesterday in Abuja at the 4th Agricbanks forum of the African Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (AFRACA) with the theme: "Financing Options for Agricultural and Rural Development in Sub-Saharan Africa."

More than 70 percent of the entire population in the region are engaged in agriculture and the sector contributes between 30 to 40 percent to its GDP.

Its is estimated that the annual demand for agribusiness financing over the next forty years is \$6.5 billion per annum, compared to the current annual supply of \$1.5 to \$5 billion.

In Nigeria, the government has set aside N200 billion for commercial agriculture. N40 billion of this amount is set aside for onward lending to small farmers.

The CBN Governor said with the current financing gap in the agriculture sector in the African region, the future of agriculture is clouded with several "uncertainty that include increasing resource scarcity, heightened risks from "climate change", among others.

He was represented at the occasion by the CBN deputy governor, corporate services Suleiman Barau.

"The formal banking system in the sub-continent does not have the capacity, skills and resources to single-handedly finance the expected exponential growth in agricultural sector", the governor said.



FROM left: IBRAHIM Hassan Dankwambo, Accountant-General of the Federation, Suleiman Barau, CBN Deputy Governor (Corporate Services) and Babale Girei, Managing Director/CEO, Nigeria Agricultural and Rural Development Bank at the 4th African Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (AFRACA) forum in Abuja, yesterday.

NBTI, NUC in fresh deal to create entrepreneurs

By Sunday Williams

THE National Board for Technology Incubation (NBTI) and the National Universities Commission (NUC) have signed a memorandum of understanding to develop an entrepreneurship education curriculum in Nigerian universities aimed at cultivating a durable culture of entrepreneurship in higher institutions of learning in an effort to bolster the country's economy towards 2020.

A statement signed by the spokesman of the NBTI Malam Uthman Abubakar, said the Director General of NBTI, Professor Gambo Laraba Abdullahi, and the Executive Secretary of the NUC, Professor Julius Okojie, signed the MoU on behalf of the two agencies recently.

Professor Gambo, said at the occasion that NBTI was partnering the NUC, the regulator of the Nigerian universities education, to fashion out an education programme leading to the setting up of Technology Incubation Centres in the Nigerian universities.

The NBTI chief executive announced that her agency had already fashioned out a plan covering the commencement of the pilot scheme of the programme. The plan involves the establishment of six standard institution-based Technology

Incubation Centres in six universities to be named by the NUC for the pilot scheme.

She explained that the proposed Technology Incubation curriculum in the institutions is an essential component of entrepreneurship education.

The NUC Executive Secretary, Professor Okojie, in his remarks, welcomed the signing of the MoU, describing entrepreneurial studies as vital in the Nigerian university system to equip graduates with the necessary skills they require to face the challenges of the current technological age, observing that Nigerian universities had responsibilities to teach, conduct research and contribute ideas to boost community development. He commended the NBTI for being proactive on the collaboration initiative.

The MoU required, among others, that both parties developed workable modalities for managing and implementing an institution-based technology incubation programme in Nigeria and provide technical support to the institutions in setting up the technology incubation centres (TICs); provide periodic training and human capital development to managers and incubators at the TICs; and to ensure compliance with national policies and guidelines on technology incubation.

Telecoms subscribers want N20 cap per minute

By Zakariyya Adaramola

THE National Association of Telecoms Subscribers of Nigeria (NATCOMS) says the proposed telecoms price cap should be fixed at N20.

In an interview with Daily Trust yesterday, the president of NATCOMS, Chief Deolu Ogunbanjo said it is only when the

Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) reduced the Price Cap to N20 per minute that the impact would be felt on the masses.

According to Ogunbanjo, telecoms operators have long long been taken subscribers for a ride for their tariffs over the years.

He said SMS ought to have been free in the country as some African countries are now enjoying free SMS.

Oceanic: Aero credit facility has expired

By Jibrin Abubakar

THE Management of Oceanic Bank International Plc has said continuing to disburse funds to Aero Contractors on their expired credit facility with the Bank will be tantamount to putting depositors' funds at risk.

The Bank's management explained that Aero originally had a series of short-term facilities at an interest rate of between 17 and 19 per cent per annum with the Bank. These facilities expired in September 2009.

A renewal offer from the Bank which substantially increased the tenor of the facility from between three months and one year to a 10-year period at a reduced interest rate of 12.5 per cent has been on the table for Aero since December 15, 2009. To date this offer has not been accepted by the board and management of Aero.

"Whilst Oceanic Bank remains committed to supporting Aero, the absence of a valid contractual loan agreement will put depositors' funds at risk," the Bank's management said.

This follows what the bank describes as insensitive statements in the media by Aero Contractors including a spate of reports portraying Oceanic Bank as starving Aero of operational funds. "Our transaction with Aero is transparent and indicative of our commitment to supporting businesses in a manner that provides equity and mutual benefit to the Bank and its customers."

"We have bent over backwards to support Aero and have been waiting for an acceptance of our credit renewal since 15 December, 2009. We are very certain that the level of positive support given to Aero by Oceanic will be very difficult to replicate by any bank in this environment."

Business/International

W/Bank approves \$160m in loans to Kenya

THE World Bank approved two loans to Kenya worth a total of \$160 million to boost urban infrastructure and youth employment.

One loan, worth \$100 million, is directed at strengthening local governance, institutions and infrastructure in the east African nation's five largest cities, the World Bank said in a statement late on Tuesday.

"Rapid urbanisation has left Kenyan cities with a huge unmet demand for critical infrastructure and basic services," said Johannes Zutt, World Bank country director for Kenya.

The other loan, for \$60 million, will support the

government's youth-targeted temporary employment programmes, the World Bank said, adding that the overall unemployment rate for youth in Kenya is double the adult average.

"While Kenya's youth can be an asset and a source of growth, if they are neglected or marginalised they can also be a potent source of crime and violence," Zutt said in the statement.

Unemployed youth in the sprawling slums of the capital, Nairobi, were heavily involved in the deadly violence that gripped Kenya during post-election turmoil in early 2008.

Kenya is east Africa's larg-

est economy and last year the nation received more than \$300 million in loans from the World Bank for a range of agriculture and infrastructure programmes. (Reuters)



PRESIDENT Mwai Kibaki of Kenya

Ivory Coast says cotton output to rise by 25%

COTE d'Ivoire's cotton output in 2010/11 could increase by up to 25 per cent in the season as higher prices encourage production, a top industry official said.

But cotton output remains



PRESIDENT Gbagbo of Ivory Coast

just over half its level before war divided the nation.

Kouadio N'Guetta, executive secretary of the cotton growers' association, told Reuters that high prices had attracted tens of thousands more farmers to the crop since the 2009/10 season finished with 200,000 tonnes of cotton produced.

"Our forecast for the next season currently ranges from 220,000 to 250,000 tonnes," N'Guetta said.

Cote d'Ivoire, the world's number one cocoa grower, once produced 400,000 tonnes of cotton annually until the 2002-3 civil war left its drier cotton-producing north in rebel hands, despite

numerous peace deals and promises of post-war elections.

Official output fell sharply, although no one knows how much cotton is being smuggled out of the country by rebels through northern neighbours like Burkina Faso and Mali.

N'Guetta said the number of cotton farmers should increase sharply this season because the farmgate price for 2010/11, set in mid-May, will rise at least to 200 CFA francs per kg compared with 175 CFA francs last season.

This was possible because of firm international prices, he said. (Reuters/NAN)

China denies exporting inferior products to Africa

THE Chinese government has dismissed as incorrect, assertions that the Asian country exports inferior products to Africa, saying it has a whole range of products from which importers can choose.

Responding to questions from journalists from the continent over the growing belief that China produces poor quality products, Vice Foreign Minister in charge

of African Affairs Mr Zhai Jun said the money offered by the consumer always determined the quality of product they would get.

"All our products are of high quality; that is why we are the world's biggest exporter. Today's China practices the market economy and Chinese companies conform to market dictates.

"Some products are

made according to the price offered. If you offer the lowest price, you get poor products," he said.

As the world's 'workshop', China manufactured a variety of products to suit all market categories.

However, consumers in Zimbabwe and other countries in Africa have often been under the general impression that the Asian giant only produces low-

EU sees stronger euro zone growth, markets a risk

EURO zone economic growth should be stronger this year than previously thought and the budget gap lower, the European Commission said.

It, however, warned of risks to recovery from financial market tensions sparked by Greece.

In its twice-yearly economic forecasts for countries of the 27-nation European Union, the bloc's executive said economic growth in the 16 countries using the euro would be 0.9 per cent this year.

"This is against previous 0.7 per cent it projected in February. This is because stronger global growth is likely to drive demand for euro zone exports," the commission said.

But tension on sovereign-

bond markets, triggered by concern over the ability of Greece to pay back its debts, could derail the recovery if it spreads to other euro zone countries with large deficits and slow growth.

The countries are Portugal and Spain, Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn said.

"In order to safeguard the economic recovery, which is still rather modest and somewhat fragile, it's absolutely essential to contain the bush fire in Greece. Such action will ensure that the bush fire will not become a forest fire and a threat to financial stability for the European Union and its economy as a whole," Rehn told a news conference.

"The euro area is taking care of the Greek case. I'm

confident we will succeed to turn things around concerning Greece," Rehn said.

The euro zone and the International Monetary Fund have promised Greece 110 billion euros (146.5 billion dollars) in loans. The credit will allow the debt-stricken country not to ask markets for credit for about two years while it overhauls public finances.

"I'm confident that the figure of 80 billion euros from euro zone states and 30 billion from the IMF will suffice for the financing needs of Greece for the next two years," Rehn said.

Markets have been speculating that Portugal and Spain might also need emergency loans, but Rehn dismissed such talks. (Reuters/NAN)

Greek economy to shrink

THE European Commission has said it expects the Greek economy to shrink by 3 per cent this year, amid continued market jitters over the country's debt crisis.

The Commission said the eurozone countries as a whole would see growth of 0.9 per cent - an improvement on the 0.7 per cent forecast earlier this year.

But it admitted that the recovery in Europe "continues to be surrounded by high uncertainty".

The commission cited "recent tensions" in the markets as a concern.

The euro hit new lows against the dollar and pound on Wednesday, with investors concerned over Greece's ability to impose austerity measure on a disgruntled public, following riots against spending cuts in Athens.

There are also fears that the

Greek debt crisis could spread to other eurozone countries including Spain and Portugal.

The euro fell to its lowest level against the dollar in more than a year, at \$1.2896, and was also down against the pound, with one pound worth 1.1706 euros.

Rating agency Fitch added to the uncertainty by announcing that Portuguese government bonds could now be downgraded - a move that would make it more expensive for Portugal to borrow money.

"This is the most severe crisis Europe has faced in decades," said Julian Callow, chief Europe economist at Barclays Capital.

"The problem is no one has a clear idea of how we're going to get out of this situation."

Portugal's economy is forecast to grow by 0.5 per cent after shrinking by 2.7 per cent last year, the European Com-

mission said.

Spain - another country under scrutiny from investors - is expected to see its economy shrink by 0.4 per cent this year, which is better than the 0.6 per cent fall in GDP previously forecast.

European stock markets again saw steep falls in share prices on Wednesday due to investor concerns, adding to Tuesday's heavy losses on world markets.

Continue reading the main story It is absolutely essential to contain the bush fire in Greece so that it will not become a forest fire

At the weekend, European finance ministers agreed a 110bn-euro (\$143bn; £95bn) bail-out package for Greece, to help it pay off its huge debts.

But the deal still requires the approval of several EU states, and faces opposition among the Greek public. BBC.



CHINESE President Hu Jintao

Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

| COMPANY Name | No of Deals | Quot. (N) | Quantity Traded | Value of Shares (N) |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 2ND-TIER SECURITIES | | | | |
| ADSWITCH PLC | 3 | 2.00 | 5,000 | 9,500.00 |
| CAPITAL OIL PLC | 7 | 0.50 | 265,810 | 133,481.17 |
| SECTOR Totals | 10 | | 270,810 | 142,981.17 |
| AGRICULTURE | | | | |
| FTN COCOA PROC. PLC | 36 | 1.00 | 2,485,921 | 2,483,421.00 |
| LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC | 14 | 0.90 | 751,381 | 676,242.90 |
| OKOM O. PALM COY PLC | 1 | 16.75 | 418 | 6,654.56 |
| PRESCO PLC | 9 | 7.50 | 89,000 | 671,980.00 |
| SECTOR Totals | 60 | | 3,326,720 | 3,838,298.46 |
| AIR SERVICES | | | | |
| AIRL/SERV & LOG. PLC | 7 | 3.92 | 210,000 | 823,900.00 |
| NIG/AV. HAND. COY PLC | 117 | 13.28 | 662,395 | 8,796,605.60 |
| SECTOR Totals | 124 | | 872,395 | 9,620,505.60 |
| AUTOMOBILE & TYRE | | | | |
| R. T. BRISCOE (NIG.) PLC | 29 | 5.71 | 818,884 | 4,742,299.45 |
| SECTOR Totals | 29 | | 818,884 | 4,742,299.45 |
| BANKING | | | | |
| ACCESS BANK PLC | 238 | 9.60 | 13,707,331 | 135,350,236.75 |
| AFRIBANK NIG. PLC | 116 | 2.40 | 7,102,100 | 17,050,803.35 |
| DIAMOND BANK PLC | 121 | 8.40 | 4,751,556 | 39,881,647.58 |
| ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC | 56 | 5.49 | 849,153 | 4,657,603.35 |
| FIR/CITY MON. BNK PLC | 52 | 8.11 | 1,408,520 | 11,410,148.80 |
| FIDELITY BANK PLC | 203 | 3.11 | 16,159,954 | 49,724,166.25 |
| FIRST BANK OF NIG. PLC | 758 | 15.08 | 9,044,057 | 136,384,379.56 |
| FINBANK PLC | 99 | 0.63 | 9,604,636 | 6,200,434.62 |
| GTBANK PLC | 563 | 17.50 | 45,064,622 | 800,063,301.01 |
| STANBIC IBTC BNK PLC | 47 | 9.90 | 1,267,852 | 12,551,734.80 |
| INT/TINENTAL BNK PLC | 35 | 1.79 | 772,062 | 1,381,990.98 |
| OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC | 83 | 1.98 | 1,870,496 | 3,703,201.58 |
| BANK PHB PLC | 47 | 1.49 | 1,224,630 | 1,824,698.70 |
| SKYE BANK PLC | 106 | 7.82 | 11,642,357 | 91,043,231.74 |
| SPRING BANK PLC | 11 | 0.98 | 289,108 | 286,249.07 |
| STERLING BANK PLC | 29 | 2.13 | 766,466 | 1,632,572.58 |
| UNT/BANK FOR AFR. PLC | 211 | 12.96 | 29,110,504 | 377,272,131.84 |
| UN/BANK OF NIG. PLC | 153 | 5.79 | 2,533,221 | 14,758,394.29 |
| UNITYBANK PLC | 48 | 1.11 | 9,470,926 | 10,139,984.00 |
| WEMA BANK PLC | 64 | 1.17 | 4,927,561 | 5,847,717.91 |
| ZENITH BANK PLC | 329 | 15.02 | 29,147,587 | 437,819,402.13 |
| SECTOR Totals | 3,369 | | 200,714,699 | 2,198,984,080.97 |
| BUILDING MATERIALS | | | | |
| ASHAKA CEMENT PLC | 165 | 22.50 | 1,708,123 | 38,430,483.89 |
| BEN/CEMENT COY PLC | 81 | 66.10 | 5,561,937 | 367,681,632.68 |
| CEM. CO. OF N/NIG. PLC | 25 | 21.18 | 166,710 | 3,530,917.80 |
| LAFARGE WAPCO PLC | 84 | 41.53 | 1,129,112 | 46,929,395.40 |
| SECTOR Totals | 355 | | 8,565,882 | 456,572,429.77 |
| CHEMICAL & PAINTS | | | | |
| BERGER PAINTS NIG. PLC | 18 | 8.33 | 162,642 | 1,292,534.64 |
| CHEM/ALLIED PROD. PLC | 2 | 31.15 | 595 | 19,456.50 |
| DN MEYER PLC | 7 | 5.53 | 98,248 | 543,311.44 |
| NIG-GERM. CHEM. PLC | 2 | 14.29 | 2,093 | 28,422.94 |
| P/LAND P. & PROD. NIG. PLC | 1 | 5.67 | 51,875 | 294,131.25 |
| PREMIER PAINTS PLC | 1 | 13.40 | 250 | 3,182.50 |
| SECTOR Totals | 31 | | 315,703 | 2,181,039.27 |
| CONGLOMERATES | | | | |
| A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC | 14 | 4.20 | 173,215 | 718,020.75 |
| CHELLARAMS PLC | 9 | 10.98 | 153,112 | 1,681,169.76 |
| PZ CUSONS NIGERIA PLC | 57 | 30.80 | 441,269 | 13,640,611.24 |
| TRANS. CORP. OF NIG. PLC | 33 | 0.51 | 3,273,891 | 1,670,145.50 |
| UAC OF NIGERIA PLC | 70 | 53.00 | 1,223,070 | 64,860,330.87 |
| UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC | 95 | 27.50 | 1,142,183 | 31,620,990.92 |
| SECTOR Totals | 278 | | 6,406,740 | 114,191,269.04 |
| CONSTRUCTION | | | | |
| COSTAIN (WA) PLC | 38 | 8.78 | 356,575 | 3,130,728.50 |
| G. CAPPAL PLC | 1 | 14.46 | 600 | 8,244.00 |
| JUL/BERGER NIG. PLC | 52 | 54.00 | 551,982 | 30,089,773.39 |
| MULTIVERSE RES. PLC | 2 | 0.50 | 101,000 | 50,500.00 |
| SECTOR Totals | 93 | | 1,010,157 | 33,279,245.89 |
| FOOD/BEV. & TOBACCO | | | | |
| 7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC | 18 | 42.42 | 40,002 | 1,781,689.08 |
| BIG TREAT PLC | 73 | 0.87 | 6,423,605 | 5,488,084.95 |
| CADBURY NIGERIA PLC | 162 | 26.02 | 18,621,999 | 454,447,140.79 |
| DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC | 275 | 23.96 | 3,281,042 | 78,613,766.32 |
| DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC | 178 | 19.99 | 6,023,908 | 121,036,404.73 |
| FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC | 113 | 72.50 | 1,275,311 | 91,724,544.03 |
| H/WELL FLOUR MILL PLC | 34 | 8.40 | 1,201,080 | 10,095,778.92 |
| NAT. SALT COY NIG. PLC | 24 | 9.32 | 262,330 | 2,444,915.60 |
| NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC | 33 | 34.63 | 188,601 | 6,834,099.83 |
| NESTLE NIGERIA PLC | 51 | 314.00 | 67,988 | 21,794,150.71 |
| N/NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC | 6 | 37.19 | 31,840 | 1,125,225.60 |
| TANTALIZERS PLC | 67 | 1.20 | 3,691,694 | 4,447,028.62 |
| UTC NIGERIA PLC | 46 | 1.52 | 2,572,816 | 3,910,680.32 |
| SECTOR Totals | 1,080 | | 43,682,216 | 803,743,509.50 |
| HEALTHCARE | | | | |
| EVANS MEDICAL PLC | 20 | 1.62 | 389,580 | 650,020.84 |
| FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC | 88 | 3.00 | 6,992,648 | 21,851,450.35 |
| GLAXOSM. CONS. NIG. PLC | 11 | 21.89 | 47,426 | 1,089,849.48 |
| MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC | 17 | 7.61 | 238,873 | 1,838,844.80 |
| MORISON INDUSTRIES PLC | 1 | 11.67 | 100 | 1,167.00 |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC | 9 | 3.24 | 55,577 | 171,177.16 |
| UN/DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC | 79 | 0.73 | 13,704,832 | 10,416,368.96 |
| SECTOR Totals | 225 | | 21,429,036 | 36,018,878.59 |
| HOTEL & TOURISM | | | | |
| IKEJA HOTEL PLC | 36 | 2.41 | 1,304,600 | 3,140,621.85 |
| SECTOR Totals | 36 | | 1,304,600 | 3,140,621.85 |
| INDUSTRIAL/DOM. PROD. | | | | |
| NIG. ENAMELWARE PLC | 7 | 45.32 | 55,800 | 2,436,648.00 |
| VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC | 18 | 6.82 | 136,100 | 921,391.63 |
| VONO PRODUCTS PLC | 4 | 0.52 | 37,500 | 18,890.00 |
| SECTOR Totals | 29 | | 229,400 | 3,376,929.63 |
| INF. & COMM. TECHN. | | | | |
| CHAMS PLC | 24 | 0.88 | 5,027,120 | 4,423,865.60 |
| MASS TEL. INNOV. NIG. PLC | 1 | 0.50 | 1,500 | 750.00 |
| STARCOMMS PLC | 27 | 2.10 | 1,193,374 | 2,536,652.43 |
| SECTOR Totals | 52 | | 6,221,994 | 6,961,268.03 |
| INSURANCE | | | | |
| AFRICAN ALLIANCE INS. PLC | 2 | 0.50 | 35,000 | 17,500.00 |
| AIICO INSURANCE PLC | 149 | 1.45 | 15,193,874 | 23,005,884.87 |
| CONTINENTAL REINS. PLC | 32 | 1.49 | 12,885,096 | 19,089,888.30 |
| CORNERSTONE INS. CO. PLC | 55 | 0.81 | 6,821,466 | 5,467,302.67 |
| CUST/ALLIED INS. PLC | 12 | 3.65 | 758,369 | 2,757,477.45 |
| GREAT NIG. INS. COY PLC | 1 | 0.50 | 500 | 250.00 |
| GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC | 15 | 0.82 | 4,322,431 | 3,551,883.62 |
| GUAR. TRUST ASSUR. PLC | 73 | 2.80 | 8,715,714 | 24,596,667.21 |
| GUINEA INSURANCE PLC | 1 | 0.50 | 5,000 | 2,500.00 |
| CONS. HALLMARK INS. PLC | 1 | 0.50 | 1,250 | 625.00 |
| INT. ENERGY INS. COY PLC | 22 | 0.64 | 3,284,611 | 2,102,151.04 |
| LASACO ASSURANCE PLC | 34 | 0.50 | 4,987,200 | 2,502,692.00 |
| L/UNION & ROCK INS. PLC | 12 | 0.59 | 5,105,770 | 3,012,404.30 |
| LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC | 2 | 0.50 | 500,000 | 250,000.00 |
| MUTUAL BENEFITS ASS. PLC | 26 | 0.50 | 1,162,500 | 600,968.46 |
| N.E.M. INS. CO. (NIG.) PLC | 114 | 0.60 | 56,015,834 | 33,614,853.16 |
| NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC | 23 | 1.19 | 1,806,679 | 2,082,795.05 |
| PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC | 3 | 3.81 | 10,000 | 38,100.00 |
| REG/ALLIANCE INS. COY PLC | 2 | 0.50 | 541,676 | 270,838.00 |
| STACO INSURANCE PLC | 24 | 0.54 | 2,523,827 | 1,347,230.04 |
| STAND. ALLIANCE INS. PLC | 34 | 0.54 | 2,363,233 | 1,290,135.52 |
| UNIC INSURANCE PLC | 24 | 0.84 | 5,354,292 | 4,486,178.33 |
| UNIV. INSURANCE COY PLC | 3 | 0.50 | 42,421 | 21,210.50 |
| INTERCONT. WAPIC INS. PLC | 14 | 0.93 | 896,216 | 839,660.88 |
| SECTOR Totals | 678 | | 133,332,959 | 130,949,196.40 |
| MARITIME | | | | |
| JAP/OIL & MARIT. SERV. PLC | 97 | 1.70 | 4,064,523 | 6,909,689.10 |
| SECTOR Totals | 97 | | 4,064,523 | 6,909,689.10 |
| MEDIA | | | | |
| AFROMEDIA PLC | 18 | 0.67 | 1,038,027 | 719,283.36 |
| DAAR COMMUNIC. PLC | 23 | 1.09 | 197,000 | 204,880.00 |
| SECTOR Totals | 41 | | 1,235,027 | 924,163.36 |
| MORTGAGE COMPANIES | | | | |
| ASO SAVINGS & LOANS PLC | 122 | 0.50 | 36,960,457 | 18,538,272.50 |
| RES. SAVINGS & LOANS PLC | 4 | 0.50 | 700,500 | 350,250.00 |
| UN/HOMES SAV/LOANS PLC | 38 | 0.97 | 1,632,094 | 1,566,952.24 |
| SECTOR Totals | 164 | | 39,293,051 | 20,455,474.74 |
| OTHER FINANCIAL INST. | | | | |
| CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC | 17 | 0.97 | 677,310 | 655,492.70 |
| D/CAPIT. MANAG/TRUST PLC | 1 | 2.02 | 1,500 | 3,030.00 |
| ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC | 10 | 0.79 | 512,872 | 388,263.10 |
| SECTOR Totals | 28 | | 1,191,682 | 1,046,785.80 |
| PACKAGING | | | | |
| NIG. BAG MAN. COY PLC | 75 | 3.33 | 1,458,071 | 4,855,376.43 |
| BETA GLASS CO. PLC | 3 | 15.20 | 240 | 3,511.20 |
| NAMPAK NIGERIA PLC | 11 | 6.01 | 50,021 | 285,619.91 |
| GREIF NIGERIA PLC | 3 | 15.03 | 30,712 | 438,567.36 |
| SECTOR Totals | 92 | | 1,539,044 | 5,583,074.90 |
| PETROLEUM (MARKETING) | | | | |
| AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC | 71 | 39.51 | 190,439 | 7,638,305.40 |
| BECO PETROL. PROD. PLC | 20 | 1.70 | 407,800 | 687,879.00 |
| MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC | 6 | 69.79 | 1,469 | 107,633.63 |
| CONOIL PLC | 52 | 50.67 | 248,515 | 12,595,455.19 |
| ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC | 34 | 7.98 | 2,691,279 | 21,476,406.42 |
| MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC | 71 | 167.20 | 387,337 | 64,776,155.10 |
| OANDO PLC | 228 | 114.00 | 1,665,502 | 194,441,713.60 |
| TOTAL NIGERIA PLC | 40 | 195.00 | 122,204 | 24,909,498.51 |
| SECTOR Totals | 822 | | 5,710,849 | 326,638,036.85 |
| PRINTING & PUBLISHING | | | | |
| LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC | 9 | 9.46 | 71,190 | 681,569.10 |
| UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC | 29 | 7.18 | 258,108 | 1,879,802.60 |
| SECTOR Totals | 38 | | 329,298 | 2,561,371.70 |
| REAL ESTATE | | | | |
| UACN PROP. DEV. CO. PLC | 20 | 24.00 | 600,767 | 14,543,724.90 |
| SECTOR Totals | 20 | | 600,767 | 14,543,724.90 |
| ROAD TRANSPORTATION | | | | |
| ASSOCIATED BUS COY PLC | 17 | 1.05 | 409,894 | 437,897.75 |
| SECTOR Totals | 17 | | 409,894 | 437,897.75 |
| THE FOREIGN LISTINGS | | | | |
| ECOBANK TRANS. INCORP. | 61 | 19.97 | 19,827,888 | 395,896,885.76 |
| SECTOR Totals | 61 | | 19,827,888 | 395,896,885.76 |
| OVERALL Totals | 7,841 | | 508,259,647 | 4,652,449,587.18 |

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

Googl

| GAINERS | | |
|-----------|------|--|
| BCC | 1.48 | |
| FLOURMILL | 1.30 | |
| CADBURY | 1.23 | |
| DANGFLOUR | 1.14 | |

| LOSERS | | |
|--------|------|--|
| MOBIL | 8.79 | |
| OANDO | 6.00 | |



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION
Shehu Shagari Complex, Asokoro, Abuja.

PAYMENT OF ARREARS OF MONETIZED FRINGE BENEFITS TO STAFF OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PARASTATALS AND AGENCIES FUNDED UNDER THE FEDERAL BUDGET.

In line with the decision of the Federal Government to pay arrears of monetized fringe benefits to staff of Federal Government Parastatals and Agencies funded under the Federal Budget, arrangements have been concluded for the commencement of the second and final payments to beneficiaries whose claims were earlier **verified and part-paid**.

2. Accordingly, Agencies whose claims were earlier verified and part-payment made to affected staff during the first batch payment exercise are to **UPDATE** the bank account details of such staff, where necessary, to avoid the reoccurrence of the numerous problems encountered in the first batch payment due to irregularities in bank account details. This update should also include beneficiaries who are yet to receive their payments due to bank details irregularities.
3. The submission should be made using Microsoft Office Excel in the following format:

| S/NO | NAME | AMOUNT VERIFIED | BANK | ACCOUNT NO. | SORT CODE | BRANCH |
|------|------|--------------------|------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| | | | | | | |

4. The soft copy and three hard copies (Spiral-binded) of the updated document signed by the Agency's Chief Executive and Head of Accounts should be submitted to:

Chairman Verification Committee on Monetization
Office of the Secretary to the Govt. of the Federation
Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase I
Room 2.25 (2nd Floor)
Abuja.

All submissions are expected to be received not later than **6th June, 2010**.

5. All affected Agencies should please, note that:
 - (i) For effectiveness and ease of software compatibility, **bank account details** of Financial Institutions that are non conventional Commercial Banks, that is, Financial Institutions that do not go through Clearing House Settlement System like Micro-Finance and Cooperative Banks, will not be accepted. Agencies should note this emphatically;
 - (ii) Under no circumstances should the same account detail be submitted for payment to more than one beneficiary;
 - (iii) Where beneficiaries are no longer in Service due to death, retirement or severance etc, and difficulties are being encountered in capturing their relevant bank account details, such cases should be treated under a separate caption in the submission;
 - (iv) Updating is only required regarding account details of beneficiaries where it is absolutely necessary. All other verified details should not be altered and or be different from those earlier endorsed by both parties during the verification exercise. Any alteration would cause delay in effecting payment;
 - (v) All cases of claims of omitted names from earlier verified list will not be entertained at this stage and should not be included in the updated submission.

Note: This message is available on the OSGF website: www.osgf.gov.ng

Signed:
Verification Committee on Monetization

DIGEST

Schoolboy, 7, talks to teacher for first time after 'selective mutism' therapy



LEWIS Fawcett astounded his parents after speaking for the first time to strangers.

A schoolboy, Lewis Fawcett, stricken with an anxiety disorder has finally learned how to speak to adults after being too terrified to talk to adults and teachers.

The seven year-old suffered from "selective mutism", which meant he could only talk to adults who were close relatives.

The condition, which affects about six in 1000 children, is often mistaken for shyness, as it leaves sufferers too afraid to speak when he or she would normally be able to talk in home situations.

Lewis, from Emsworth, Hants, would happily talk to his classmates, but whenever an adult

came near or a teacher asked him a question he would be too terrified to talk.

But he has started speaking in class for the first time and even managed to address assembly at St James Church of England Primary School after special help from his teacher Erika Biddlecombe.

"With perseverance and involvement from Erika over the past two months we have made major advances," said his mother, Lisa.

"She went above and beyond the call of duty.

"She is one in a million and a true shining star. She will always be in my heart as the special teacher that helped my son overcome such a massive anxiety issue."

The family discovered Lewis suffered from the condition after watching a BBC documentary, in 2006 when he was in nursery and later properly diagnosed.

Mrs Fawcett, a 36-year-old pharmaceutical company administrator, said the family did not know what had caused the condition but she believed an accident, which left him with a split tone when he was an infant, could have been the trigger. Lewis started making progress a couple of months ago after he started emailing his teacher at home before moving on to leaving voicemail messages.

This then progressed to evening phone calls, during which he would read his book to her down the phone and talked about Top Gear, the BBC show.

He later developed enough confidence to read to his teacher at school but only after gentle encouragement from his mother.

“She will always be in my heart as the special teacher that helped my son overcome such a massive anxiety issue”

"Last Monday I received a text message from her to say that Lewis put his hand up in class and answered a question," she said.

"Erika and I are so thrilled at the progress Lewis has made, we would like to make other schools aware of this disorder and how we overcome it."

Mrs Biddlecombe, 50, said she was proud of her student.

"I'm so proud of Lewis and the progress he's made. For me it's been about never giving up on a child," she said.

"It's worked because we've been honest and upfront with Lewis that we wouldn't make him do anything he wasn't happy about. We built trust from there."

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

Spouse of dementia sufferer 'six times more likely' to develop same condition

SPOUSES of dementia sufferers are six times more likely to develop the condition themselves, researchers have found, suggesting the stress of looking after them may be a factor.

A study of elderly couples from America has found that where one partner has dementia and the other is their primary carer, the spouse is at increased risk of developing the condition.

The researchers from Utah State University, in America, took into account environmental factors that might have caused the condition in both partners and so have suggested that the reason for the link is the stress caused by caring for someone with dementia.

Carers often report that looking after someone with dementia is more demanding than looking after someone with only physical disabilities.

A combination of genetics, age, medical history and lifestyle are thought to be responsible for causing dementia.

The findings are published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society.

Lead researcher Dr Maria Norton said: "Future studies are needed to determine how much of this association is due to caregiver stress compared to a shared environment. "On the positive side, the majority of these individuals, with spouses who develop dementia, did not themselves develop dementia, therefore more research is needed to explore which factors distinguish those who are more vulnerable." "Given the significant public health concern of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, and the forthcoming shift in population age composition, continued research into the causes of dementia is urgent." There are 750,000 people with dementia in Britain and this is predicted to rise to 1.7 million by 2050.

One in three people over the age of 65 will develop dementia.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

Children who watch television 'more likely to be bullied'

TODDLERS who are allowed to watch more than two hours of television a day become less clever and fatter than other children, a study has found. Research conducted over eight years discovered a direct correlation between the amount of television a child watches at a young age and their academic development. Results of the trial showed that two-year-olds who spend a couple of hours a day in front of the television were more likely to grow up to be obese and would already be suffering at school by the age of 10.

Children who watch the most television are the least likely to take part in physical activities and are more likely to eat junk food and consume fizzy drinks, the study found. It discovered that the increased likelihood of obesity and disengagement from the classroom caused by watching television would lead to a greater chance of being bullied at school, and concluded that most parents were probably unaware of the potential damage they were causing to their children.

Researchers at the Universities of Montreal and Michigan examined the television viewing habits of more than 1,300 children between the ages of two and four. Their academic performance and body mass index were then measured once they reached the age of ten. Toddlers who watched more than two hours of television a day showed, on average, a 7 per cent decrease in classroom performance and 10 per cent increase in the chances of them being bullied.

Dr Linda Pagani, of Montreal University, said: "Early childhood is a critical period for brain development and formation of behaviour. "High levels of TV consumption during this period can lead to future unhealthy habits.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

Sign Language



Are you smart enough to ride in my taxi?
 Photo location: Mumbai, India, by Gazza 54.
 Culled from www.signspotting.com

STAR SOLVE

In each star section, there are five letters. Add the "I" from the center circle to each group and form five common 6-letter words; however, your words may NOT start with "I." Then, take the first letter of each word you formed, add the "I," and form one final 6-letter word, which MUST begin with "I."



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Additional word:

SOLUTION TO SPELLBOUND

1. Marc Chagall; 2. Marlon Brando;
3. Ronald Reagan; 4. Aretha Franklin;
5. Shelley Winters; 6. P.G. Wodehouse;
7. Andre Agassi; 8. Teri Hatcher;
9. G. Gordon Liddy; 10. Neil Simon.

SUDOKU

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

143

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

Solution to Sudoku 142

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

News Extra

Can UK leaders learn from African elections?



LABOUR Party leader Gordon Brown and his wife Sarah



CONSERVATIVE Party leader David Cameron and his wife Samantha



LIBERAL Democrat leader Nick Clegg

BBC's JOSEPH WARUNGU identifies some aspects of the 2010 British general election that African voters may find familiar.

Buckingham Palace is an impressive place. I have never been invited inside, unfortunately, but from the outside it is a majestic and elegant building which attracts thousands of tourists each year.

I was there amongst the throng of tourists at the beginning of the election campaign when, on 6 April, Prime Minister Gordon Brown knocked on the door for a formal cup of tea and informed Her Majesty that he was calling an election.

It was all very low key - no motorcades of cars sweeping by as there would in Africa, no stern-faced security personnel to push people out of the road, nothing to suggest this was the start of one of the most exciting campaigns the UK has seen in years.

Shortly after polling, one of three men, Gordon Brown, David Cameron or Nick Clegg, should head to the Palace to inform the Queen that he is ready to form the next government.

However, if the race is tight and there is no outright winner, the Queen may have to keep the kettle boiling for a while as the three key players decide who among them gets to sip the Royal brew and move into Number 10 Downing Street.

Stones unturned

From the conversations I have had with voters in the course of



QUEEN Elizabeth



BUCKINGHAM Palace

the campaign, I am not surprised the Queen and her tea may be kept waiting.

Everyone I have met is angry over an issue that came to light about a year ago. Sleaze. The public are angry at politicians on all sides, so many have no idea who to vote for.

Although the scandal over MPs' expenses may have died down, and many MPs have decided not to defend their seats, many British voters are still seething. I was amazed that the politicians did not highlight corruption more during the campaign.

As an African journalist, I can relate to the British pain. Back home, corruption is at the top of the list of most voters' concerns.

In many African elections, leaders place corruption at the heart of their manifestos.

They promise "new begin-

nings", that "no-one will be spared" in the clean-up and that "no stone will be left unturned" in the fight. But parliaments come and go, and many of the boulders appear immovable.

And as if corruption is not a big enough headache, the British

Everyone I have met is angry over an issue that came to light about a year ago. Sleaze.

voter may end up sharing another experience with the Kenyan and Zimbabwean electorate - a hung parliament.

Forced to share

Zimbabwe's fiercely disputed elections could only be resolved with a power-sharing arrangement between President Robert Mugabe and Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai.

The two former enemies have exchanged bitter words. Mr Mugabe called Mr Tsvangirai a "white man's puppet" and he in turn referred to the president as an "old dictator".

That the two can now work together in government reasonably well is a marvel.

The violence following Kenya's presidential poll in 2007 was only stemmed with a deal that allowed the main opposition candidate,

Raila Odinga, to share power as prime minister with President Mwai Kibaki.

The outcome of these forced solutions in both countries has been damaging in-fighting in government, indecisive leadership and contradictory government policies on most issues.

Opinion polls suggest British voters could end up producing a result today which tosses the three leaders into one bed, asking them to share the duvet. It will be the first time that has happened since 1974.

While relations between the three main British parties are not nearly as bad as in Kenya and Zimbabwe - no-one has been killed in this campaign - recent experience from Africa suggests they may not find sharing power all that comfortable.

News Extra

Osama bin Laden is 'alive, well, and hunting falcons in Iran', documentary claims

...He's not in Iran, he's in Washington, says President Ahmadinejad

Osama bin Laden is alive and well and living in luxury in Iran. At least, that's the astonishing claim made in a new documentary shown at last week's Tribeca Film Festival in New York.

According to 'Feathered Cocaine', a film about the illicit multi-million-dollar trade in hunting falcons for Middle East oil sheikhs, bin Laden has been living in a guarded compound north of Tehran with his wife, several children and grandchildren since 2003 - protected by the Iranian regime.

In the film, a disguised falcon smuggler from the former Soviet Union identified only as 'T-2' says he first met bin Laden in 2004 at a falcon-hunting camp in north-eastern Iran.

'I met him five times after 2004,' says the smuggler.

'The last time we met was in October 2007. Every time, it was in Iran.'

Falcon hunting is an exclusive hobby practised by some of the richest men in the Middle East, who travel to luxurious desert retreats to pursue the sport. A bird's value can reach one million dollars.

The claim contradicts the common theory that Bin Laden is living in an isolated network of fortified caves somewhere in the mountainous border region between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

His son Omar bin Laden, who married a British woman and broke with his father before the 9/11 attacks, revealed last year that seven of his siblings were living in Tehran and trying to leave.



OMAR bin Laden



OSAMA bin Laden

Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has dismissed the claim - and, apparently sarcastically, counter-claimed that bin Laden is hiding in Washington, D.C.

He told ABC News: 'Your question is laughable. Our position is quite clear.'

'Some journalists have said bin Laden is in Iran. These words don't have legal value. Our position towards Afghanistan and against terrorism is quite clear... I don't know such a thing. You are giving news which is very strange.'

'I heard that Osama bin Laden is in Washington, D.C.,' he added.

'Yes, I did. He's there. Because he was a previous partner of Mr. Bush. They were colleagues in fact in the old days. You know that. They were in the oil business together. They worked together.'



HE'S not in Iran, he's in Washington: Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, shown here at UN headquarters in New York Tuesday, has sarcastically dismissed the claims

Bin Laden practices Wahhabism, a fundamentalist sect of Sunni Islam that is famously militant.

For that reason many experts have dismissed ideas that he could be in Iran - the largest country in the Middle East to practice Shia Islam.

But Alan Parrot, an American falconry expert who used to train falcons for Middle East millionaires, said the evidence unearthed during research for the film was so convincing he hatched a plan to kidnap bin Laden.

He claimed he was warned off by US government officials.

Parrot said bin Laden's royal

hunting friends brought him 'hundreds of millions of dollars' in cash during these expeditions, as well as military equipment.

The film shows a U.A.E. military C-130 transport plane delivering equipment to the camps.

Bin Laden's penchant for falcon hunting gave the CIA an opportunity to assassinate him in 1999, according to the final report of the 9/11 commission.

He was spotted in a hunting camp in Afghanistan serving one of the Gulf royal families and CIA Director George Tenet asked President Bill Clinton for permission to launch a cruise missile strike on the camp on February

8, 1999.

The mission was aborted on orders from the White House.

'T-2' gave the filmmakers the frequencies of tiny radio trackers attached to bin Laden's hunting falcons.

John Loftus, an American lawyer with connections to U.S. security agencies, said the CIA could use the frequencies to lead them to bin Laden's falcons - and so to bin Laden himself.

Loftus said he offered the information to the CIA and other U.S. intelligence agencies but got no response.

Loftus and the filmmakers even approached 'Rewards for Justice', the State Department office offering a \$50 million reward for information leading to bin Laden's capture, but never received a reply.

Investigative reporter Ken

Timmerman, who also appears in the film, interviewed a U.S. intelligence official who said that electronic intelligence intercepts appeared to back up the story, 'indicating the presence of a very important person in the region at the dates "T-2" mentioned.'

'Iranian authorities were moving the VIP from Tehran to Zahedan, a centre of the falcon-hunting grounds, which were closed off to all foreign visitors for security reasons,' said Timmerman.

'There was no doubt in my mind that they were expecting a big shot, and it makes sense to think it was bin Laden,' he claimed the U.S. official said.

ENVIRONMENT environment@dailytrust.com HOTLINE: 07041632079

Volcanic ash causes travel chaos... again

HUNDREDS of flights have been grounded as another volcanic ash cloud looms over Ireland and parts of Scotland.

Thousands of travelers faced further misery as a six hour no-fly zone was imposed across the Republic and Northern Ireland.

Airspace over the Outer Hebrides was also closed to operations last night. Airlines warned passengers not to travel to airports without checking on-line that their flight is departing.

Flights from continental Europe will not be impacted by the plume of ash from Iceland's volcano Eyjafjallajokull,

which caused travel chaos when it forced the closure of much of Europe's airspace for almost a week last month.

The Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) and UK's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) are monitoring the latest situation after it was predicted ash concentrations would exceed acceptable engine manufacturer tolerance levels.

Global warming: Lagos asks governors to prepare common front

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

THE Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babatunde Fashola, has called on governors of the 36 states of the federation to prepare a common front to confront imminent challenges of effects of climate change in the country.

Fashola made the call on Tuesday during the opening ceremony of the 2nd Lagos Climate Change Summit at Eko Hotel on Victoria Island, Lagos saying the need for the governors to prepare a common front has become inevitable noting that some states are getting assistance for ecological disasters while some never got.

Addressing participants that include Governor Namadi Sambo of Kaduna State, Ali Modu Sheriff of Borno, Adams Oshiomole of Edo, Dr. Babangida Aliyu of Niger State and representatives of other governors, Fashola explained that "The reality of climate change is that the threat to environment anywhere is a threat to environment everywhere.

"We have experienced trans-boundary effects of climate change from the impact of the volcanic ash incident. Depending on which side of the planet you were in, the impact varied from loss of hotel bookings to overbooked hotels, the aviation industry lost billions of dollars, which may yet translate to company collapses and job losses," he emphasized.

However, he urged Nigerians across board in all states, cities and villages, to always ensure they switched-off all electrical appliances that are not in use before leaving home, walk short distances instead of driving and engage in practical conservation practices to fight the threat to the planet.

The Minister of Environment, Mr. John Odey, said he was concerned that research had painted a bleak picture for the country, with sea levels rising along the 800km long coast line, droughts, desertification, erosion and floods while land degradation has been increasing in frequency and density.



A man runs at the roadside to take pictures of the Eyjafjallajokull recent volcano as it continues to billow smoke and ash

Sokoto experiences first rain of the year

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

PEOPLE in Sokoto metropolis yesterday heaved a sigh of relief as the first rain of the year was recorded in the state capital.

This is coming on the third day of the fifth month of the year.

The rain which started at about 3.00am and lasted about 40minutes fell again at about

5.00am and lasted about 30minutes.

It came very heavy and by day break many areas in the metropolis where flooded with water from blocked drainages.

However it did not come with the usually strong winds which often destroy things.

But the rain was a great respite as the weather had been very hot and discomforting with many resorting to various measures such

as sleeping outside and having shower more than thrice during the day to cool themselves.

Throughout yesterday the weather was mild as the rain brought changes in the climate.

But many wished it does not take long before the next rain falls to check such extremely hot weather that was experienced before this first rain.

Kano gets respite from heat after rainfall

AFTER many weeks of intense heat, residents of Kano are feeling a sense of relief with the coming of the rains.

The hot weather subsided after some areas, such as Gyadigyadi, Hotoro and Kurnar Asabe experienced some rainfall three days ago.

The rains cooled the atmosphere, resulting to a drop in the temperature from 43 degrees Celsius to 37 degree Celsius, according to weather reports.

Following the the drop in temperature, inhabitants of the city, who hitherto slept in the open because of the heat, slept in their rooms.

Mrs Hajara Muhammad, a housewife, said that the change in weather had given her and members of her family some respite.

"My children and I used to sleep in the corridor of our house because of the intense heat but since the onset of the rains, we have been sleeping inside our rooms and we sleep

very well too," she said.

Another resident, Malam Dalhatu Isiyaku, a commercial bus driver, said the change in weather had compelled him to return home early to be with his family.

"Before now, the intense heat had forced me to stay outdoors and go to areas where I could have some breeze and take some nap before returning to the congested city," Isiyaku said.



Invitation for Bids

The Federal Government of Nigeria

Sokoto State Health System Development Project II

(Procurement and Installation of Medical Furniture and Equipment)
Credit No.4522 UNI-IFB No. SO/HSDPII/AF/GD/007/NCB/10

1. This invitation for Bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Daily Trust Newspapers of April, 2nd 2009 as published by Federal Ministry of Health.

2. The Federal Government of Nigeria has received credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of Health System Development Project II, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for Procurement and Installation of Medical Furniture and Equipment.

3. The Sokoto State Health System Development Project III now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and installations of the following items.

LOT 1: MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

| LOT | DESCRIPTION | QTY | DELIVERY SCHEDULE | BID SECURITY |
|-----|------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Sterilizer Medium | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 2. | Sterilizer Big | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 3. | Ancipid Sphygmomanometer | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 4. | Stethoscope, Accuson | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 5. | Clinical Thermometer | 30 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 6. | Adult Weighing Scale | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 7. | Standard Diagnostic Set | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 8. | Urinal | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 9. | Bed pan | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 10. | Angle poise Lamp | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 11. | Laryngoscope Adult | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 12. | Centrifuge | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 13. | Microscope Binocular | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 14. | Electronic weighing balance | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 15. | Glassware Basket | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 16. | Water bath | 2 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 17. | Beaker | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 18. | Universal Container Bottles | 20 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 19. | Centrifuge Bench Top | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 20. | Aneroid Sphygmomanometer | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 21. | Petri Dishes | 8 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 22. | Pasteur Pipettes | 8 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 23. | Volumetric Flask | 6 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 24. | Glass Funnel | 6 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 25. | Disposable Pipette Tips | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 26. | Test Tubes, assorted | 20 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 27. | Pestle and Mortar glass | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 28. | Galipot small | 6 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 29. | Cuscoes Vaginal Speculum | 6 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 30. | Foetal Stethoscope | 6 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 31. | Episiotomy Scissors | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 32. | Toothed dissecting forcep large | 12 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 33. | Standard Paediatric Basic Minor Pack | 2 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 34. | Standard Adult Basic Minor Pack | 2 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 35. | Wheelchair | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 36. | Instrument trolley | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 37. | Dressing trolley | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 38. | Examination Couch | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 39. | Bed screen | 6 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 40. | Kick about | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 41. | Deliver bed | 2 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 42. | Instrument cupboard | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 43. | Medicine Cupboard | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 44. | Children cot comprising steel main frame | 6 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |

| | | | | |
|-----|------------------|----|---------|--------------------------|
| 45. | Hospital bed | 30 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 46. | Patient mattress | 30 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 47. | Bedside locker | 30 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 48. | Drip stand | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |

LOT 2: MEDICAL FURNITURE

| LOT | DESCRIPTION | QTY | DELIVERY SCHEDULE | BID SECURITY |
|-----|----------------------|-----|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Bed sheet | 30 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 2. | Blanket | 30 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 3. | Pillow cases | 30 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 4. | Bed elevator | 6 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 5. | Executive table | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 6. | Executive chairs | 6 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 7. | Wooden stool | 6 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 8. | Office metal cabinet | 6 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 9. | Wooden cupboard | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 10. | Drugs shelves | 4 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 11. | Refrigerator small | 6 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 12. | Refrigerator large | 6 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |
| 13. | HP Air Conditioner | 12 | 60 Days | At least 2% of Bid Price |

Also bidders may bid for any one or more lots and discounts offered for the award of combined lots would be considered in bid evaluation.

4. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from (SHSDP II Office) and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 9.00am to 3.00pm on Monday to Thursday & from 10.00am to 10.00pm on Fridays, commencing on the Thursday 6th May, 2010 except on public holidays.

6. A complete set of bidding documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Ten Thousand Naira (N10,000.00/or in equivalent of US Dollars). The method of payment will be Bank Draft or Cash to Sokoto State Health System Development Project II. The document will be collected by hand or sent by Courier Services on request.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 10.00am local time on Wednesday 2nd June, 2010. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of at least 2% of bid price or an equivalent amount freely convertible currency. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 10.00am local time on Wednesday 2nd June, 2010.

The Project Manager,
Sokoto Health System Development Project II,
Shehu Kangiwa Secretariat, Block 13, 2nd Floor.
Tel/Fax: 234 60-23705 or GSM No. 080-36271172, 08035044025
E-mail address:- shammaali2@yahoo.com



FEDERAL COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE TECHNOLOGY, KANO

P.M.B. 3013, KANO
Plot 54-56, CBN Quarters Road, Hoto GRA, Kano.
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION TO TENDER

The Federal College of Agricultural Produce Technology, Kano hereby invites reputable, qualified and registered Contractors to apply to be considered to tender for contracts in the College under the 2010 Appropriation Act.

A. Construction Works

- Lot 1.1 Completion of construction of Library building.
- Lot 1.2 Completion of construction of (2) two Classroom blocks and Staff Offices
- Lot 1.3 Construction of Library Annex

B. Pre-qualification Requirements

1. Name of Company
2. Brief history of the Company stating the nature of works undertaken
3. Evidence of Incorporation by the Corporate Affairs Commission
4. Tax Clearance Certificate for the last (3) three years
5. Current VAT certificate
6. Evidence of similar jobs successfully completed in the last (3) three years
7. List of ongoing projects with their cost(s) and evidence of award
8. List of equipment to be used for the project and their locations (where applicable)
9. List of Key Personnel /Officers attached to the projects and their qualifications, photocopies of professional certificate as well as evidence that none of the Company's Directors has been convicted of any criminal offence relating to fraud or financial impropriety or criminal misrepresentation, falsification of fact relating to any matter
10. Evidence of financial capability. A bank reference indicating readiness to finance the project if the applicant's pre-qualification is successful as well as audited accounts for the last (3) three years
11. An affidavit disclosing whether or not any Officer of this College's relevant committee(s) on procurement is a former or present Director, shareholder or has any pecuniary interest in the applicant's company
12. Relevant information concerning contacts, eg. Telephone numbers, fax, e-mail, etc.

C. Additional information

This invitation is not to tender but for a pre-qualification exercise of which, only successful applicants will be short listed and invited to tender. The College shall not bear the cost of preparation of applications or any other cost(s) related to application for pre-qualification.

D. Submission of Application

Applications for pre-qualification clearly marked must be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the undersigned. The documents must be dropped in a specified box provided in the office of the Registrar, on or before, 1.00 pm on Tuesday, 18th May, 2010. Documents submitted by any applicant after the specified date and time will not be considered.

Signed.

Ag Provost
FEDERAL COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE
TECHNOLOGY, KANO
PMB 3013, KANO.



The Federal Government of Nigeria

Sokoto State Health System Development Project II
(Procurement and Installation of Medical Furniture and Equipment)
Credit No.4522 UNI-IFB No. SO/HSDPH/AF/GD/007/NCB/10

1. This invitation for Bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Daily Trust Newspapers of April, 2nd 2009 as published by Federal Ministry of Health.
2. The Federal Government of Nigeria has received credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of Health System Development Project II, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for Procurement of VEHICLES.
3. The Sokoto State Health System Development Project III now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of the following:

| LOT: | Item | Qty | Bid security | Delivery location | Delivery schedule |
|------|----------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. | 4 x 4 Wheel Drive (Double Cabin) | 2 | At least 2% of Bid Price | SHSDPH Office | 60 days from the date of contract award |
| 2. | Ambulance Vehicles | 2 | At least 2% of Bid Price | SHSDPH Office | 60 days from the date of contract award |

Bidders may bid for any one or more lots and discounts offered for the award of combined lots would be considered in bid evaluation.

4. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from (SHSDPH Office) and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 9.00am to 3.00pm on Monday to Thursday & from 10.00am to 10.00pm on Fridays, commencing on the Thursday 6th May, 2010 except on public holidays.
6. A complete set of bidding documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Ten Thousand Naira (N10,000.00) or in equivalent of US Dollars. The method of payment will be Bank Draft or Cash to Sokoto State Health System Development Project II. The document will be collected by hand or sent by Courier Services on request.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 10.00am local time on Wednesday 2nd June, 2010. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of at least 2% of bid price or an equivalent amount freely convertible currency. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 10.00am local time on Wednesday 2nd June, 2010.

The Project Manager,
Sokoto Health System Development Project II
Shehu Kangiwa Secretariat, Block 13, 2nd Floor
GSM No. 080-36271172, 08035044025



CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA NIGERIAN TREASURY BILLS

TENDER NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by the Central Bank of Nigeria that the Federal Government of Nigeria Treasury Bills of 91, 182 and 364-day tenors amounting to N5,110,449,000, N30,000,000,000 and N30,000,000,000 respectively would be issued by Dutch auction on Thursday, 13/05/2010.

All Money Market Dealers should submit bids through the CBN TEMENOS INTERNET BANKING between 9.00a.m and 11.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 12/05/2010.

Each bid must be in multiple of N 1, 000 subject to a minimum of N 10, 000. Authorized Money Market Dealers are allowed to submit multiple bids. A bid may be for authorized Money Market Dealers own account, Non - Money Market Dealers or interested members of the public. The result of the auction would be announced by 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 12/05/2010. The Bank reserves the right to reject any bid.

Allotment letters would be issued for successful bids on Thursday, 13/05/2010, while payment for the successful bids should be made to your account with Central Bank of Nigeria not later than 11.00am on Thursday, 13/05/2010.

*The Bank reserves the right to vary the amount on offer in line with market realities prevailing as at the period of auction of the Nigerian Treasury bills.

Government Securities Office
Financial Markets Department
Central Bank of Nigeria
Abuja

Environment



environment@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

FG to establish metal recycling plants

THE Federal Government will soon establish metal recycling plants in Oyo and Rivers States, a top official of the Ministry of Environment said yesterday.

Dr Oludayo Dada, the Director, Pollution Control Department, who dis-

closed this in Abuja in an interview, said "the project is about to commence; the fund needed for it is in the capital budget for 2010 and now that the budget has been signed, we are set to start," Dada said.

He said the project would be imple-

mented over a period of three years.

He said work on the first of such plants located in Kaduna State, was still ongoing due to inadequate funding in 2009, adding that other geopolitical zones would benefit in due course.

"The premises of the Kaduna scrap

metal recycling plant has been fenced off," the director said, adding that the necessary equipment had also been procured.

He said that Abia might be the next beneficiary as the government had indicated interest in the project. (NAN)

'Emulate Australia in banning tobacco promotion'

By Nasir Imam

THE Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria (ERA/FoEN) has called on the federal government to emulate Australia's move to ban the promotion of tobacco.

The Australian government last week announced that by July 2012, all cigarettes sold in that country will have to be in plain packaging - meaning no tobacco industry logos, no brand imagery, no colours, and no promotional text other than brand and product names in a standard colour, position, font style and size.

In a statement issued in Lagos, ERA/FoEN Programme

Manager, Akinbode Oluwafemi said, "The Australian government's move complements global efforts to curb the gale of deaths spurred by the deceptive promotional packs of the tobacco industry. It is highly commendable and timely in nipping the renewed efforts to woo underage persons into smoking through beautiful packs, colours and logos."

"This enviable move by the Australian government should ginger our lawmakers to expedite action on the National Tobacco Control Bill (NTCB) currently stagnating in the hallowed chambers of the National Assembly. It is ironic that Nigeria which signed the FCTC in 2004 and ratified in 2005 is still lagging behind and prevaricating

on domesticating the FCTC in form of state and national laws," Akinbode noted.

The National Tobacco Control Bill was sponsored by Deputy Minority Leader Senator Olorunnibe Mamora and scaled the second reading in February 2009.

A public hearing on the bill was also held on July 20 and 21 last year by the Senate Committee on Health, Chaired by Senator Iyabo Obasanjo-Bello.

The committee is expected to send the reports of the public hearing to the Senate plenary after which a vote will be taken on the bill. Senate President, David Mark had also hinted that the Senate will vote individually as against the usual practice of a voice vote.



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Environment



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'Climate change can increase poverty'

CLIMATE change can significantly reverse the progress toward poverty reduction and food security in Africa, according to a paper presented to the FAO regional Conference for Africa.

A statement issued by the FAO in Abuja on Wednesday, said the conference was currently holding in Luanda.

The paper was titled "Climate Change Implications

for Food Security and Natural Resources Management in Africa." It warned that business as usual was no longer an option and urged African governments to "prioritise and implement measures to develop agriculture and sustainable natural resource management."

It said the main consequence of higher temperatures and more unpredictable weather was a likely reduction

in crop yields (about 6.9 per cent in the case of maize, an important staple) and a heightened risk of food insecurity.

It noted that one-third of the African population lives in drought-prone areas while six of the 10 largest cities in Africa were located on the coast.

These are both areas susceptible to climate change, the statement said. (NAN)

NIMASA clears Lagos waters

From Sunday Ejike Benjamin, Lagos

THE Marine Environment Management Department of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) has commenced the physical removal of waste materials from the waters in Lagos state.

Director, NIMASA Marine Environment Management Department, Mrs. Juliana Gunwa, who led other officers in the waste removal effort, said that the exercise will be a continuous one, and will be carried out nationwide.

Gunwa said officers of her department will henceforth monitor and ensure that all vessels dispose of their waste through the appropriate channel, adding that anyone found patronizing unapproved waste collectors will be sanctioned.

She said, aside from its unsightly appearance and potential impact to human health, marine debris has harmful effects on wildlife as fish, birds, marine mammals, reptiles and other animals can become entangled in discarded sea debris.

Improving the general public's awareness and attitude towards littering, reducing the use of plastic and other materials for disposable packaging and enforcing existing laws, especially at the sea, to punish habitual litterers, experts said can help in addressing the persistent indiscriminate waste disposal in the nation's waters.

Panasonic ideas for life

ADVANCED PLUS
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Panasonic Super Tropical Compressor has a high efficiency compared to reciprocating type compressors and therefore achieves high efficiency under high load conditions.

Cooling is possible even when the outside temperature is 55°C. Units feature a highly durable compressor and fan motor to maintain room comfort even under the hottest conditions.

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 Tel: 09-7800455, 08054722547, 07058721632, 07029078158, 08191117899.
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labour report

CAPAM conference tackles trust in government

By Francis Okeke

COMMONWEALTH Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) conference slated for Abuja on the 17th of this month will focus on public confidence in ability of government to address the needs of its citizens.

CAPAM is a non-profit organization established in 1991 to facilitate the exchange of information and knowledge on public administration among the 54 member countries of the Commonwealth.

Chairperson of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for the conference and former Head of Civil Service of the Federation, Ms Amal Pepple who said the meeting would hold between 17th and 19th April said the aim of the conference would be to project the fact that democracy, international alliances and individual relationships depend on the solid framework of trust.

"For many countries, the decline in public confidence in government has been fuelled by high profile ethical failures in public and private sectors, and citizen disappointment as governments struggle to address issues such as poverty, economic development, terrorism" amongst others.

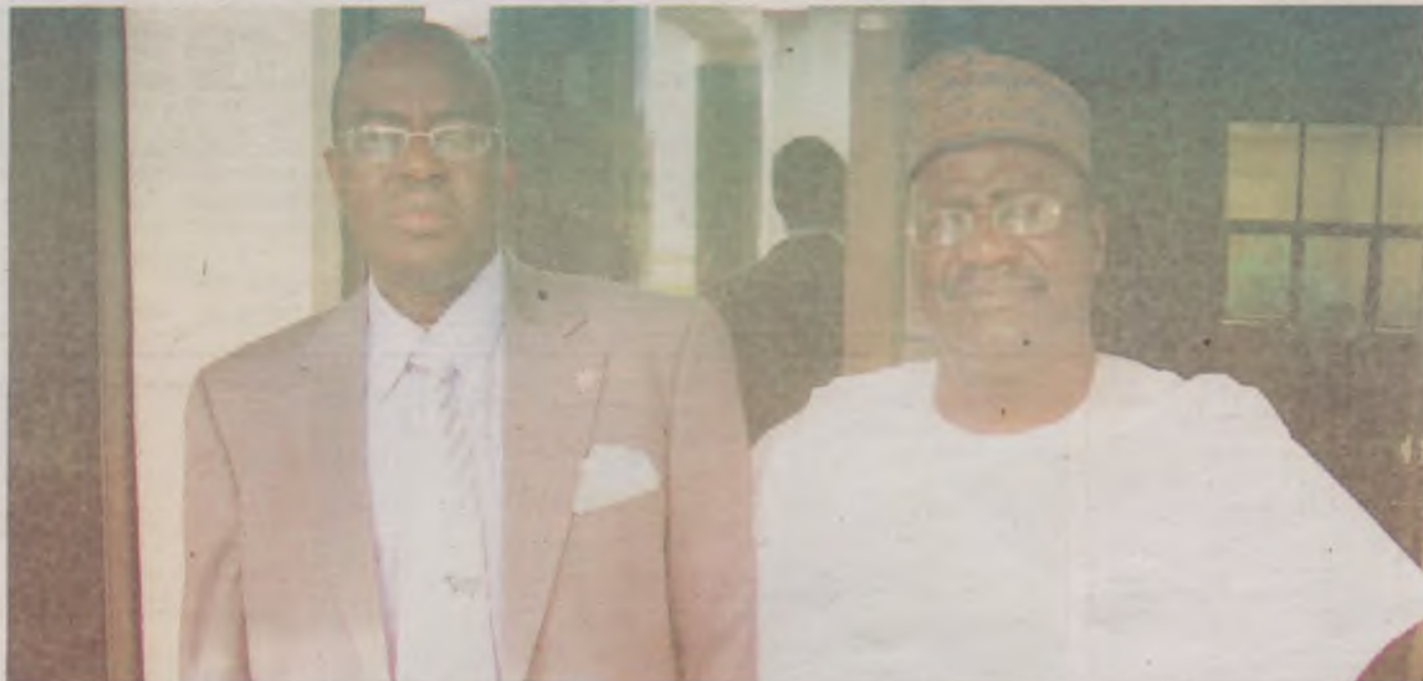
She said "the origin of CAPAM lies in the initiative to define and promote the practical requirements of good governance, just and honest government and fundamental political values outlined in the declaration of the Commonwealth Heads of Government at its meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1991."

According to her, CAPAM had since inception been providing the forum for the active exchange of innovations, knowledge and practice in citizen-centred service delivery, leadership development and growth, and public service management and renewal.

She said the conference, which would be declared open by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan will explore the relationship between citizens and political leaders, the relationship between political leaders and the public service, and the relationship between the public service and the citizens.

With theme "Good Governance, Accountability and Trust" Ms Pepple said the conference is the first of CAPAM's events to be hosted by Nigeria, explaining that apart from delegates of member countries, students from selected universities across the geopolitical zones of the country will also participate in the event.

Keynote speaker at the conference would be former Secretary-General of Commonwealth Chief Emeka Anyaoku.



DIRECTOR-GENERAL Nigeria Employers Consultative Assembly Segun Oshinowo (left) and NDE DG Abubakar Mohammed after a meeting in Lagos on their desire to partner on training the unemployed.

NDE boss blames globalisation for unemployment

By Francis Okeke

DIRECTOR General of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) Malam Abubakar Mohammed has blamed the negative effects of globalisation for being responsible for increased poverty, rising unemployment and continued dislocation in the economies of developing countries including Nigeria.

A statement by the spokesman of NDE Nnamdi Asomugha said Mohammed stated this in Lagos during a consultative meeting with the Director General of the Manufacturing Association of Nigeria (MAN) Mr. Jide Mike.

The NDE chief executive was in Lagos to hold partnership discussions with leaders of the private sector, seeking support for the directorate's job creation efforts where he said that globalisation has "brought about job crises of uncommon proportion" especially across Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and republics of the former Soviet Union.

"These countries have largely been unable to increase their integration into the world's unfair and unjust global economy and their economies have therefore contracted, poverty has risen, and education levels have risen less rapidly than in the more globalised countries" Mohammed said.

He said that apart from few countries like India and China, globalization has been responsible for widening income gaps amongst nations and even within country-specific borders as well as deepening the rate of unemployment.

Mohammed cited the recent view of the President of the World Bank, Robert Zoellick who said that "given the unfair practices of globalisation, developing countries need to do a rethink and come up with sustainable policies that would ensure that growth benefits poverty alleviation and job creation.

"A situation that shows that more Nigerians are better clothed today while the textile industries are dead or comatose is unreasonable" the Director-General said.

...tells workers, unemployed youths to embrace skills acquisition

By Francis Okeke

DIRECTOR-GENERAL of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) Malam Abubakar Mohammed has called on Nigerian workers and the unemployed who are actively seeking employment to embrace the challenges and the corresponding opportunities posed by the local economy.

Malam Abubakar Mohammed observed that the recent celebration of May Day was an apt occasion for workers to rekindle their commitment to the Nigerian project through increased productivity enhanced by skills acquisition.

The NDE boss in a chat with journalists in Abuja on the significance of the May Day celebrations said that for the "unemployed

youths who are workers-in-waiting, the need to embrace skills training and self-employment which is the focus of the NDE job creation programme cannot be overemphasized.

"Every generation has its challenges and corresponding opportunities. The challenges for this generation are unemployment and poverty. Today's youths should utilize today's opportunities to fight today's challenges."

COEASU chides Kaduna for non-implementation of CONTISS

Abdullahi Yahaya Bello

THE Zonal Delegate Conference (ZDC) of the North Central Zone of the Colleges of Education Academic staff union (COEASU) has called on the Kaduna state government to start paying the Consolidated Tertiary Institution Salary Scheme (CONTISS) it promised to pay lecturers at the Kaduna state college of Education, Gidan Waya, since 2007.

In a communiqué signed by the union's Zonal Coordinator Comrade Nuhu Ogirima and its Zonal Secretary Aliyu Mohammed at the end of a zonal meeting held in Gidan Waya, yesterday, the ZDC warned that the continued payment of the academic staff emolument with defunct HATISS by the

Kaduna State government portends grave implication not only for the existing cordial mutual industrial relationship in the institution but also could constitute an impediment to the peaceful academic atmosphere in the College.

The Communiqué also decried the "constant changing of ministers of education" which they say causes policy inconsistencies. They called on the Federal Government to sustain the Road-Map for the Education Sector embarked upon by the former Minister of Education, Dr Sam Egwu, which was adjudged crucial to revamping the education sector by critical players as well as other stakeholders in the system but wasn't launched until his ouster.

The ZDC implored the Federal Govern-

ment to be committed to the full implementation of the "just endorsed agreement on the renegotiated issues" while urging the various state governments to implement in full the agreement in their respective colleges of education. The Communiqué called on the Judiciary in Oyo state to note the attitude of the Oyo state government in a case before the Arbitration panel on the wrongful termination of appointment of leaders of COEASU at the Emmanuel Allayande College of Education, Oyo.

The Group while commending the effort of the Federal government in handling the recent Jos crisis, called for a permanent solution by identifying the root cause of the crisis and deal with them squarely.

EDUCATION

E-MAIL: education@dailytrust.com

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NAPTAN tasks FG, stakeholders on WAEC, NECO failure

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

THE National Parent Teacher Association of Nigeria (NAPTAN) has called on the Federal Government and all stakeholders in the education to find lasting solutions to students' massive failure in public examinations conducted by National Examination Council (NECO) and the West African Examination Council (WAEC).

The association made the call in a communiqué issued at the end of its 14th National Executive Council (NEC) meeting in Abuja.

The communiqué jointly signed by the president of the association Alhaji Haruna Danjuma and the general secretary Mr Akula Bula, attributed the recent mass failure by candidates in NECO examination to the inherent problems in the system.

"One of such major issues that needs to be tackled immediately is the poor teaching due to lack of adequate inputs from teachers," the association said.

The association called on governments and well-meaning individuals as well as corporate organisations to salvage the situation by way of provision of teaching and learning materials.

The association also called on parents, teachers and students to change their lackadaisical attitude towards education in order to move the sector forward and make it failure and malpractice free.

On the new nine-year basic education curriculum introduced by the National Education Research and Development Council (NERDC), the association called on the Federal Government to give the necessary back-up to the implementation of the curriculum.



MINISTER of Education Professor Ruqayyatu Ahmed Rufai and the Vice Chancellor of University of Calabar Professor Bassey Asuquo at a function in Calabar, recently.

PTDF trains 500 youths on welding

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) is partnering with the Nigerian Institute of Welding to train 500 youth selected from across the country on welding for the oil and gas sector.

Speaking during the flag-off of the Kaduna Polytechnic centre, head of PTDF's downstream sector Mr. Usman Pindar said the training was conceived to address the dearth of qualified welders in the country.

He said the training, which would last for three months, will afford the participants to have a thorough grasp of welding especially as it concerned the oil and gas sector.

"The training programmes are being carried out in 12 centres now including Kaduna Polytechnic. In the pilot programme, we are training 500 youth selected from across the country. But in all, we intend to train 2500 qualified welders and they are going to be certified by the Nigerian Institute of Welding," he said.

He advised the beneficiaries to utilise the opportunity offered by the training to move to the next level in life, saying there a lot of vacancies waiting for them in the oil and gas sector.

In his address, the president of the Nigerian Institute of Welding (NIW), Mr. Solomon I. Edeberi said his institute would see to the technical aspect of the training.

EI organises exam ethics week May 15

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

ARRANGEMENTS have been concluded for this year's Exam Ethics Week, scheduled to take from 15th to 21st of May, 2010, chairman of Exam Ethics International, Mr Ike Onyechere, has said.

Addressing journalists in Abuja, Mr Onyechere said that the annual event is aimed at creating a platform for stakeholders to work together to protect the integrity of public examinations in the country.

He said it is the individual and collective responsibility of all stakeholders to take drastic actions to put an end to the high rate of avoidable cases examination malpractice.

"Examination malpractice will be eradicated in Nigeria if federal, state and local governments, private sector organisations, civil society organisations, faith-based organisations, educational institutions, student union governments, parents, teachers, journalists, politicians and what have you work together," he said.

He said activities lined up for this year's event include massive campaigns in churches and mosques, special sensitisation events in schools, special training workshops for exam ethics marshals and presentation of exam ethics campaign strategic documents, among others.

Minister: FG worried over non-use of Step-B funds

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

MINISTER of Education Professor Ruqayyatu Ahmed Rufai said Federal Government is dissatisfied with the low level of access to the \$180m Step-B World Bank assisted fund, saying that only 35 percent of the fund has so far been accessed.

The minister, who stated this in Abuja while receiving a team of World Bank officials, also appealed to World Bank to relax some of the conditions for accessing the funds so that the set objectives can be achieved without compromising standards.

She said that steps would be taken to remove obstacles impeding access to the funds by the targeted institutions in order to promote the study of science and technology education in Nigeria.

She also directed those handling the projects to come up with realisable action plan, saying that every

grant given must be utilized for concrete projects that would deliver quality education to Nigerians.

In his remarks, Permanent Secretary in the ministry Professor Oladapo Afolabi stressed the need for follow-up in project implementation and proper briefings by the relevant officials to allow for effective coordination.

Earlier, the Representative of World Bank Dr Kunle Adekola said meeting the Education For All (EFA) goals still remains the focus of the bank in its collaboration with federal and state governments to improve education service delivery.

Meanwhile, the Education Minister has said that Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has become the language for survival and bedrock of development of any nation in this present day technology driven world.

The minister said this at the

launching of the Computer Acquisition Scheme and Award Ceremony of ICT training programme for staff of ministry.

She said the ministry has made concerted efforts to fast-track the integration of ICT in education in recognition of the vital role and place of ICT in human capital development.

She said the Computer Acquisition Scheme targets the provision of computers to staff of the ministry and Federal Unity Colleges under a consumer-finance arrangement.

She said that other initiatives put in place by the ministry towards ensuring availability and accessibility of ICT infrastructure and services include provision of 2,200 computers and accessories, internet connectivity and local area network in the ministry and all Federal Unity Colleges and provision of 1,200 laptops to all directorate and key staff of the ministry.

ETF commissions electronic data management system in six institutions

By Maureen Onochie

THE Education Trust Fund (ETF) has commissioned Electronic Data Management System (EDMS) in University of Lagos, Anambra State University, Adamawa State University, Cross Rivers State University of

Science and Technology, Federal College of Education Bichi and Federal University of Technology Minna.

This was contained in a statement signed by ETF's spokesperson Mr Jacob Alada.

According to the statement, the EDMS was commissioned

in the institutions to provide archive of data which will ensure easy retrieval of information and effective management of records.

It also stated that the total cost for deploying the project to the various institutions was N167,055,000 with each costing N27,842,500.

CAMPUS ROUNDUP

E-MAIL: campusroundup@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 08035910371



A woman selling *okirika*. Inset: Another woman displaying *okirika*.

Students' unending love for *okirika*

Okirika, widely known as 'first grade commodities' on campuses across the country, is becoming increasingly popular among students of tertiary institutions, obviously because of their low price and durability. Olusegun Adegbenro, a 400 level student of University of Ado Ekiti interacts with students on why they keep a date with *okirika*.

'EEH fine girl this is for you,' 'bros na your size be dis,' 'sister don't miss this bra, it is just N200.' These are some of the phrases used by those selling *okirika* or first grade commodities on campuses to attract students.

First grade commodities are quality commodities such as cloth, shoes, jewellery and electronics are sold at a give-



Most campus big boys and girls wear *okirika* products and feel too big because the materials are very good, long-lasting and cheap. *Okirika* products are not common like the expensive ones being sold in boutiques, if you buy one, you hardly see its type on someone. This is quite unlike the cloths you buy in boutiques.

away prices. They could be new, fairly used, outdated and what have you. For students, *okirika* is the latest collection of wears in vogue at bought at a very cheaper rate compared to how it is being sold in boutique.

Most campus big boys and girls wear *okirika* products and feel too big because the materials are very good, long-lasting and cheap. *Okirika* products are not common like the expensive ones being sold in boutiques, if you buy one, you hardly see its type on someone. This is quite unlike the cloths you buy in boutiques.

Investigations revealed that the trade of *okirika* succeeded to a large extent during President Olusegun Obasanjo's administration as a result of ban on the importation of foreign goods. This proved the point that made in Nigeria cloths are treasures.

The bulk of these *okirika* comes from Anambra and Aba, and are being highly utilised by students tertiary institutions in the country. *Okirika* is really becoming increasingly dashing to students as materials for fashion and design on campuses.

Students say that the increasing rate of patronage of *okirika* is the direct manifest of the consequences of the global economic meltdown, which affects the economic status of their parents. That significantly explains why majority of students across the country now prefer to use *okirika* to expensive wears.

Most students say that they use *okirika* not just because

of special love or preference for it but because of their inability to buy sophisticated and expensive wears at super-markets.

There are quite a number of markets where students get *okirika* products. In Adekunle Ajasin University (AAUA), there are two markets often patronized by students namely Ibaka market and Second Ibaka market. In University of Ado Ekiti (UNAD), there are Oja Bisi and Oja Oba markets while in Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) there are Aluta market and Old market. They are highly patronised by students because they are on campus.

The largest markets for *okirika* products that are not on campus are located in Yaba, Oshodi, Oyingbo and Ketu, all in Lagos State.

Apart from these markets, some students also combined room to room selling of *okirika* products with their studies in order to make ends meet. This is exactly the case of Oluchi Ejimorfor and Ifedayo Martins, 400 level students of Banking and Finance and History respectively. They have recorded massive profits in their campus *okirika* business.

They told Campus Roundup that "Ejimartins and Co was born to meet up with the demands of students' desire and love for first grade commodities. We conceived the idea because of the need to balance the taste of a poor man pikin and that of a rich *man pikin*. Even rich man pikin now prefers to use *okirika* materials from Aba or Onitsha."

CAMPUS

ROUNDUP



PRINCIPAL of Lagos State Government Senior College (second left) Mr. Babatunde Phillips receiving insecticide treated mosquito nets for staff and students of the college from the Manager, Research and Documentation of Friends of the Global Fund Africa Dr. Ebele Oranuba (second right), Head of Corporate Affairs and CSI Bimbola Ashiru (right) and Mrs. Anel Troost (left) of the Human Resources Department of Stanbic IBTC.

Chinese man stabs students, teacher at primary school

A man stabbed 18 students and a teacher at a primary school in southern China, the same day another man was executed for stabbing to death eight school children last month.

The middle-aged man broke into a school in Leizhou, in the southern province of Guangdong at around 3 pm, the official Xinhua news agency said.

It was not immediately clear if anyone had been killed.

The man had been arrested by police after the attack, the report said, without giving further details.

Earlier on Wednesday, Zheng Minsheng, who had killed eight small children with a knife in front of a school gate in Fujian province last month, was executed, state media reported. (Reuters/NAN)

Rainstorm damages UNILORIN properties

From Kassim Mufta'u, UNILORIN

WHEN the heaven begin opening up in the rainy season, people are filled with joy for good reason, especially when it comes as a relief to a long period of harsh weather.

Penultimate week, there was a heavy rainfall in Ilorin, Kwara State. The heavy rainfall made parts of the University of Ilorin main campus disaster zones.

For those who were in their offices till about half past six that evening, it was a day to remember as a moment of truth on man's helplessness in the face of fury of nature as masts fell, tree branches broke and iron roofing sheets flew about like birds with no destination.

The roofs of Faculty of Science Office, the Science Lecture Theatre, the Faculty of Agriculture, the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Education were not spared. The infrastructure damage to university properties was also recorded in the staff quarters and the University Primary School.

At the university farm, the poultry and some birds were adversely affected by the heavy rainfall.

Meanwhile, representatives of the Faculty of Science, University of Ilorin, have emerged winners of the highly competitive annual quiz competition.

The faculty was represented by Busari Abdulhafeez, Feyisitan Adekunle and Oyawoye Temitope. They won the competition with 770 points against the 740 points scored

by representatives of Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Kolapo Abdulrahman, Adebayo Ahmed and Anthony Osagie.

Chairman of the occasion, Professor S. A. Abdulkareem commended the participants at the end of the competition for giving a good account of themselves, and urged all students to continue to develop themselves academically and to also develop themselves in sports and other extracurricular activities.

He also presented prizes participants from Faculty of Science, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences and Faculty of Law that emerged first, second and third at the competition respectively.

PLSG, Langtang South to assist UNIJOS on biotechnical research

From Musliudeen Adebayo, UNIJOS

THE University of Jos has secured the commitment of the Plateau State government and the Langtang south local government towards the enhancement of biotechnology research in the area of Artemisia plant production for the treatment of malaria.

The project, under the Science and Technology Education Post Basic STEP B programme, is funded by the World Bank and has the support

of federal agencies such as National Biotechnology Development Agency (NBDA) and the Raw Material Research and Development Council (RMRDC).

The university had recently organized a national workshop to train local farmers on how to cultivate the plant whose active ingredient, Artemisia, is useful in the treatment of malaria and control of mosquitoes.

Under the arrangement, Plateau State Gov-

ernment will donate 1,300 hectares of farmland at Gungnim, Langtang South Local Government to the university for the establishment of a nursery and plantation for the plant while the local government will provide security for the facilities and additional farmland at Mabudi to expand the project.

Already, Chairman of the local government Mr Hitler Dadi has appointed a supervisory councillor to supervise the project.

Kebbi varsity gets acting VC

THE Governing Council of Kebbi State University of Science and Technology, Aliero, has approved the appointment of Prof Zainab Abubakar as acting Vice Chancellor of the university.

Zainab replaced Prof Abubakar Mohammed, who was recently appointed as the Minister of Science and Technology.

This was contained in a statement issued by the Principal Information Officer of the institution, Usman Adamu.

The statement said that the Chancellor, a retired Justice of the Supreme Court, Justice Umar Kalgo, signed her letter of appointment.

ADSU matriculates 359 postgraduate students

From Mohammed Yunus, ADSU

ADAMAWA State University Mubi (ADSU) has organised its maiden matriculation ceremony for the first set of postgraduate students on Friday, April 30, 2010. A total of 359 students were matriculated in the three faculties of the university.

The breakdown shows that 13 students are undergoing PhD programmes, 217 for Masters and 129 are

enrolled for PGD programmes. A total of 30 Academic Staff of the University are among those enrolled.

Speaking at the matriculation exercise, Vice Chancellor of the university Dr Alkasum Abba said the university intends to give prizes to the best postgraduate thesis presented and the first one to be presented and evaluated. He said the National Universities Commission (NUC) also has a prize for the best thesis presented from all Nigerian universities.

He said the process involved proper evaluation, adding that plans are on to ensure that all thesis presented are not just properly evaluated but defended openly before academic staff and fellow students.

Commenting on the large number of ADSU Academic staff undergoing postgraduate training, Dr Abba reiterated the commitment of the current leadership to ensuring that the university develops the quality academic staff to meet its growing needs.

CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513
email: citynews@dailytrust.com

Policeman kills water vendor at Mararaba

By Abubakar Yakubu

A 21-year-old water vendor, Isiaka Haruna, was on Sunday evening allegedly killed by an armed policeman, behind Cultural Centre, Mararaba in Nasarawa State.

Isiaka was shot in his neck when he approached two policemen alongside his kins men to appeal that N6,000 and two handsets they took from his brother be returned.

The armed policeman also shot one Hamada Habu Dantani on his neck and arm, and the victim is presently at the National Hospital Abuja.

Late Isiaka's brother, Umar Haruna, said he was in a nearby open bush urinating at 7:30 pm, when two policemen, who were hiding in the bush, jumped on him and dragged him further in before removing his two handsets as well as N6,000.

"I was surprised of the attack and went to tell my brothers and some neighbours of what happened and they decided to follow me to meet the policemen to explain that I am a resident of the area so that they refund what was seized from me," Umar said.

He said when they got to where one of the policemen was standing and about to explain, the other policeman, who was hiding fired several shots at them, which killed

Isiaka his blood brother as well as injured Hamada, a resident of the area.

Alhaji Usman Suleiman, a resident of the area, who expressed surprised at the action of the policemen, said policemen, who patrol their vicinity are always friendly.

"When Umar told us of what happened to him in the bush, we followed him to explain to the policemen that he is a resident of the area but were accosted by gunshots," he said.

He said immediately residents saw two of their members on the ground with blood flowing on their bodies; they caught the policeman they were talking to, while the armed policeman that fired the shots took to his heels.

Alhaji said they took the suspect to Mararaba Police Station, where the divisional police officer informed them that the case was under the jurisdiction of Abacha Road Police Station and provided a vehicle to take the suspect there.

At the Abacha Road Police Station, a policeman said the suspect narrated that they were on guard at Dantata Quarters when Isiaka brought a mob to attack them, a claim residents of behind Cultural Centre Mararaba denied and said the open bush where the policemen disposed the water vendor of his belongings was far from



UMAR Haruna (left) narrating how he was dispossessed of N6,000 and two handsets by two policemen at Mararaba yesterday.

Dantata Quarters and close to the Cultural Centre.

The residents also disclosed that they have experienced several robbery incidents in the area in the past and suspected uniformed personnel because of the skills displayed by the robbers as well as the arms they carried.

"One of our members is presently in the Intensive Care Unit of National Hospital and the question is what were the policemen doing in the bush at that time? A neighbour asked.

Residents of the area said the police at Abacha Road informed them that the corpse has been

taken to Keffi, while the Nasarawa State Police Commissioner will want to see them at Lafia to hear their side of the story.

When contacted on phone, the Nasarawa State Police Public Relations Officer, Richard Akoji, said he is not aware of the incident.



THE recovered Toyota Navigator Jeep found at Madalla-Suleja road Friday.

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

A gang of eight armed robbers Thursday evening raided residents of New Kutunku Layout Phase 2 and 3 at Gwagwalada, in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

One of the victims, Nasiru Akun, managing director of Nalex

Table Water and his two wives were brutalized by the robbers when they besieged his apartment at the Phase 3 area of the town.

A witness in the compound told our reporter that two of the robbers gained entrance into the compound by pretending they wanted to buy sachet water at 7.30pm.

Robbers raid Gwagwalada residents

He said once inside the compound, the robbers brought out sophisticated guns and ordered everyone inside the compound to lie on the floor.

"One of the robbers brought out a phone and called the rest gang members and they marched into the residence, where they met the madam of the house eating and brutalized her," he said.

He disclosed that the robbers dragged one of Akun's wives at gun point into her room and collected N280,000, 11 mobile phones as well as jewelries from her.

The witness said as the robbers were busy ransacking two rooms at gun point, he immediately placed a call to Mr Akun, who was in a separate room in the compound with his accountant officer.

"Mr Akun was with the company's accountant in one of the rooms at the back yard and after robbing the main house, the robbers forced his wife to lead them to where he was and dragged him out, stripping him naked," the witness added.

He narrated further that the robbers left with Mr Akun in a jeep from the compound after over three hours operation.

Residents and members of the victim's family complained that the police in the area were slow in responding to their distress call.

A member of the victim's family said he place a call to the police but received no response until one Sergeant Isah was contacted, who said he was not on duty but will contact a patrol team.

"The robbers fled with a jeep on sighting the presence of policemen," the family member said.

Manager of Nalex Guest Inn, Mr. Yahaya Haruna, said the robbers after attacking his master's residence moved straight down to the guest inn and robbed all the guests lodging inside the place, collecting collected their money, laptops, and mobile phones.

"I was at the gate when I saw Oga's (boss) jeep coming and we opened the guest inn gate think-

ing he was the one driving," the manager said.

He disclosed that four armed men jumped out of the vehicle with their boss, who was naked and ordered him to lie down.

The manager said the robbers went round 20 rooms and robbed guests of their valuables, before leaving with the jeep.

Our reporter learnt that Mr Akun's family members leaving at Suleja, Maddalla mounted surveillance for his vehicle and found it abandoned at Madalla, along the Suleja road on Monday morning.

When contacted, Gwagwalada Divisional Police Officer, Mr. Charles Mozie, confirmed the incident, but denied that his men arrive the scene late before the robbers fled.

He said investigations are still ongoing to trail the fleeing armed robbers.

It will be recalled that last Sunday, one Sunday Acheneje, of Phase 3, Gwagwalada, was also attacked by suspected robbers at his residence, who carted away valuables and an undisclosed amount of money.

Police nab securitymen over negligence

By Ogechi Ohalee

POLICEMEN at Life Camp have arrested two security officers working with Rain Integrated, Jabi, for alleged negligence.

The station's Divisional Police Officer

(DPO), Umar Mahmud, a chief superintendent, said armed robbers invaded the duty post of the security men and stole expensive cables.

He alleged that the security men were negligent in their duties.

The DPO however assured that his men are working round the clock to fish out those that committed the crime, adding the investigations is ongoing.

The security men when questioned maintained that they knew nothing con-

cerning the theft of the cables until they were arrested by the police.

When our reporter visited Rain Integrated Company, a security man said he would not speak on the issue as the police were still investigating the case.

AEPB denies abusing hawkers

By Usman A. Bello & Hussein Yahaya

THE Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) yesterday denied allegations that its sanitation task force officials abused hawkers that were arrested by them.

The board's Director, Abubakar Yabo, who reacted to a newspaper's publication of the abuse, said the task force was created to ensure the enforcement of environmental laws designed to maintain a sustainable and viable environment and not as a money making venture as postulated in the report.

"The said hawker, Beauty Ogude, was arrested in front of Wuse market hawking GSM Sim packs together with other hawkers who were selling recharge cards.

"She was arraigned before a court of law where she pleaded guilty and was remanded in prison custody until the following day when her case was struck out on technical grounds as against the opinion of the newspaper's publication and was not brutalised in any form as the records are there for every one to see," he said

Yabo said authors of the said publication neither conducted thorough investigations nor got the board's side of the story, before going public and casting assertions on the board, adding that the board welcomes genuine criticisms that will assist on its mandate.

He called on journalists to partner with the board rather than misleading the public with such publications solely designed to tarnish the image of the board and the FCTA Administration.



PIC: ABUBAKAR YAKUBU

WATER vendors at Mararaba yesterday.

Commercial tricycle operators appeal for land

By Sunday Williams

THE Association of Keke NAPEP Operators in Abuja has appealed to the FCT minister and NAPEP national coordinator to facilitate their request for land in order to enable them set-up a mechanical workshop where new tricycles can be assembled with minimum difficulties.

The group's leader Augustine Ameh, stated this yesterday in Abuja when their executives visited NAPEP's national Coordinator, Dr Magnus L.Kpakol.

The association complained that they are being harassed daily by the Abuja Environmental Protection Board, the Directorate of Road Traffic Services and FCT Administration officials, who have threat-

ened to ban their operations in the city.

The group also lamented over the imposition of between N25,000 and N30,000 as license fees, which they said is far above their capacity.

The officials appealed to the National Coordinator of NAPEP to intercede on their behalf by ensuring that the FCT Administration grants them their own parking lots within or near the city markets in the FCT.

They assured government that their members will avoid any form of rancour or clashes with market authorities.

Reacting, NAPEP's National Coordinator, Dr Magnus Kpakol promised to convey their problems to the FCT Minister Sen. Bala Mohammed Kaura, with a view to finding appropriate solutions.

Jikwoyi residents decry bad roads

By Romoke W. Ahmad

RESIDENTS of Jikwoyi, a suburb of Abuja, yesterday decried the poor state of roads in their areas and called on the FCT Administration to help construct their roads.

They complained that government has neglected them for a very long time by not giving them the necessary infrastructural amenities to make them comfortable.

Mrs. Ebea who has been staying in Jikwoyi for the past 11 years

lamented that they have no motorable roads.

"When we first moved to Jikwoyi, it was a foot path and my husband with two persons in the area took it upon themselves to call meetings where it was agreed to construct a road so that cars can pass through the area," she said.

Mr. Ezekiel Dauda, another resident, lamented that there is no good roads in Jikwoyi, adding that residents will go through difficult times passing through such road during the raining season.

Pregnant women hail hospital over ante-natal services

By Hussein Yahaya & Usman A. Bello

PREGNANT women at Bwari General Hospital yesterday commended the hospital's services.

They praised the hospital's neatness and attitude of the staff in attending to patients problems.

At the ante-natal section of the

hospital, some pregnant women said ante-natal services in the hospital are completely free and that they are being attended to promptly by doctors.

A pregnant woman, who craved anonymity, said she has not paid a dime to the hospital since she started attending ante-natal sessions in the hospital.

"Although I collect N500 from my husband any time I come for ante-natal sessions, honestly I don't pay a dime to the hospital and collect drugs free of charge," she said.

She said doctors lecture them on what to eat and physical activities they should engage in to make them healthy.

Another pregnant woman appealed to the FCT Health Service Department to make available mosquito treated nets to all pregnant women in the FCT in order to eradicate malaria.

At the post-natal section, our reporter observed babies receiving oral vaccines from hospital's staff, while their mothers were

counselled on the need to give their baby's breast milk.

The hospital's chief medical director was not on seat when our reporters called in his office but an official of the hospital said the hospital's management will not relent in their efforts to render effective and professional services to patients.

PIX: ABUBAKAR SADIQ ISAH



A cultural troupe during the recent FCT food festival in Abuja.



A physically-challenged person, Ahmed Daku, of FRCN Gwagwalada lecturing Fadama user groups that comprised of Lepers at Yangoji village recently.



ALH. Abubakar Saliu Slan right presenting an award to Mal. Tauheed Muhammed at a Quranic graduation ceremony at Abaji recently.



MALAMA Hafsat Suleiman presenting a certificate to one of the graduates of a Quranic school in Abuja recently.



UMAISHA Youths advocating for development in their area at the weekend.



Federal Republic of Nigeria
Ministry of Mines and Steel Development

Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources Project

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR EXTENSION
 OFFICERS FOR ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE MINING OPERATORS.

Credit No: 4012-UNI
 May 6, 2010

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Federal Republic of Nigeria has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for this consulting service. The consulting service is on the Extension Service for the Artisanal and Small Scale Miners. The consultant will assist ASM small grant beneficiaries in the following areas:

- i) Prospecting/Exploration techniques: this services will be provided for grant beneficiaries determine the geological setting, structure and nature of occurrence, quantity and quality of the minerals being mined;
- ii) Mineral reserve evaluation skills including feasibility and pre- feasibility studies, as well as mineral testing standards for the determination of mineral grades;
- iii) Development of appropriate mine design and planning methodology suitable for the efficient and appropriate mining of the resources;
- iv) Provision of regular technical update of the beneficiaries in mining skills and methodology and appropriate mineral processing technology skills to enable the beneficiaries meet market demand and to optimize profit;
- v) Provision of regular guidance in the procurement and fabrication of affordable simple rugged mining equipments locally;
- vii) Provision of basic environmental guidelines

The Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources Project now invites eligible Individual Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested Consultants must provide the information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (CVs, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, etc).

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (May 2004 edition).

The selection Method is INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT

Interested Consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours - 0800 to 1600 hours local time.

Expression of interest must be delivered to the address below not later than 1600 hours on May 20, 2010.

Project Coordinator,
Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources Project (SMMRP),
No 6 Marte Close, Off Misau Crescent, Garki II
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Inside Politics

Senator Gaya says Shekarau has lost grip of Kano

By Turaki A. Hassan

THE recent endorsement of Alhaji Salisu Takai, Kano State commissioner for local governments by Governor Ibrahim Shekarau to succeed him in 2011 is an indication that he (Shekarau) has lost grip of Kano State, Senator Kabiru Ibrahim Gaya (ANPP, Kano South) has said.

Speaking exclusively to *Daily Trust* yesterday in Abuja, Senator Gaya who is Deputy Minority Whip

of the Senate said the endorsement will not translate into victory for the ANPP in Kano.

He disclosed that seven other aspirants are aggrieved because they were not contacted and have commenced negotiation with a view to adopting a consensus candidate that will challenge the governor's candidate.

"I have no grudges against any individual in Kano, including the governor, but let me say that the

person he is putting or suggesting as his own personal candidate has not even won his own local government. We (ANPP) lost in his local government. So I can't expect us to put somebody and in the end we lose the election," Senator Gaya said.

"With him as the candidate, ANPP is not going anywhere. In any case most of the aspirants like myself, the deputy governor, the person in charge of the welfare of

the pilgrims in Kano state, Senator Muhammadu Bello, Honorable Sale Munjibir, Honorable Habibu Dukawa and another commissioner in charge of ministry of works were sidelined in the decision. I think this is not fair after all our logo is Adalci which means fairness. The governor is supposed to be father to all of us but he decided to pick a young chap for a fight that we need to have a strong candidate," he added.

"The seven of us who are aspirants are teaming up on one side and the other candidate who lost his local government is on the side of the governor. In Kano politics, you cannot force a candidate on the people," the Senator warned.

Governor Shekarau had last Tuesday formally endorsed the candidature of his commissioner for local government Alhaji Salisu Takai for the governorship election in 2011.

PSP dissolves National Executives

From Halima Musa, Kano

THE People's Salvation Party (PSP) has dissolved its National Executive Committee (NEC) at a meeting in Kano during the weekend. The dissolution followed a vote of no confidence passed on the party's National Chairman, Dr Junaid Muhammad.

This was contained in a statement signed by Committee Chairman, Muhammad Danbaba Adamu. A six-member caretaker committee was appointed to run the affairs of the party for 4 weeks.

The statement accused the National chairman of failure to call meetings of the National Directorate, which it said was contrary to the Article 16, Section 4 (1) (b) of the party's constitution.

The 6 member caretaker include Mr Frank Kenmi, Acting National Chairman, Yusuf Hamza, Secretary, Amina Idris, Organising Secretary, Buhari Ahmad, PRO, Baba Sarki, National Treasurer and Muhammad Danbaba Adamu as Chairman Board of Trustees.

ANPP wins legal battle in Sabon Gari Federal Constituency

THE Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has lost another seat in the House of Representatives in a legal tussle between the party and the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) over the Sabon Gari Federal Constituency at the Court of Appeal in Kaduna.

The court, presided over by Justice Mohammed Garba quashed the verdict of the lower court which ordered that a by election be conducted in nine polling units of the constituency.

Mohammed Sale (PDP-Kaduna), was therefore returned by INEC as the winner of the elections from the results of the by elections.

Mohammed Soba (ANPP-Kaduna) had challenged the return of Sale at the Elections and Petitions Tribunal in Kaduna on the ground that he did secure the high-

est number of valid votes cast at the election.

But Justice Ali Garba led tribunal instead gave a consequential order for the re-run of elections in nine polling units of the constituency.

The tribunal argued that the difference in the election results between the ANPP candidate and PDP was too narrow for the court to determine a clear winner without considering the nine polling units where elections did not hold.

The tribunal, therefore, ordered INEC to conduct rerun elections in the nine wards to determine a clear winner from the polls.

But the rerun elections were also disputed by the appellants on grounds of irregularity and substantial noncompliance with the provisions of the Electoral Act 2006. (NAN)



DEPUTY Speaker House of Representatives Rep. Bayero Nafada (right) and former PDP National Chairman Chief Audu Ogbeh during their visit to the National Assembly in Abuja recently.

Lame condemns Aliyu over presidency

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

FORMER Minister of Police Affairs Ibrahim Yakubu Lame yesterday condemned Niger State Governor Muazu Babangida Aliyu over his comment that the north should forget about the presidency and look for a credible candidate from any part of the country.

Lame said Governor Aliyu does not know much about political intrigues because he was merely picked by the former President Olusegun Obasanjo from civil

service to contest the governorship election in 2007.

"He (Governor Aliyu) didn't know much about democracy. He was somewhere as a civil servant and Obasanjo picked him to contest for governor. In fact he doesn't know how the PDP was formed," Lame told Radio France International (RFI) Hausa Service.

He also insinuated that Aliyu's target is to be fielded as Vice President in the event that President Umar Musa Yara'dua is declared incapacitated. He said the gover-

nor will be made with stiff resistance.

But spokesperson to the Niger State governor Bala Abdulkadir disputed Lame's claim that Governor Aliyu is pushing to become vice president. He said such insinuations were meant to smear the governor's political career.

LAME had earlier advised Governor Aliyu to concentrate on delivering dividends of democracy to the people of Niger State rather than making 'unguarded utterances' that are capable of heating up the polity.

Civil defense vows to tackle thugs in 2011 polls

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE Deputy Director Operations of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) Mr. Evans Ewurum has stated the commitment of the organisation in combating electoral thuggery

The Director made this known yesterday in Minna while on a courtesy visit to the governor of Niger State Dr

Muazu Babangida Aliyu, where he maintained that the corps can tackle activities of thugs even without weapons.

He disclosed that the organisation has planned to engage 35,000 new staff in its on-going recruitment exercise, adding that if the staff strength scales up, crime prevention will become easier to manage.

"It will no longer be business as usual for electoral thugs who specialize in disturbing the peace during elections as

we in the civil defense have resolved to stand our grounds in making sure that law and order is maintained in the 2011 general elections," he said.

In his remarks, Governor Aliyu has called for attitudinal change among Nigerians as the general election in 2011 draws near. He also acknowledged the role of the civil defense corps in combating crime in the country and urged the Federal Government to improve their salaries.

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NFF: Why we approved Hampshire Hotel

THE Nigeria Football Federation yesterday gave detailed explanation of how it arrived at approving the now-dumped Hampshire Hotel, Ballito as the Super Eagles' World Cup team base hotel.

NFF General Secretary, Dr. Bolaji Ojo-Oba said that the decision was taken in the best interest, to satisfy the Head Coach and also based on experience at a previous tournament.

"It is unfortunate that the whole thing is now being made to look like the NFF had any motive other than the team's best interest. We believed, and still believe, that the Head Coach is best-placed to determine the best possible site for his team to train or use as abode for a tournament, and in this case, at the time we were looking for a Team Base Camp in December 2009, that Head Coach was Shaibu Amodu.

"Really, we gave him a mandate to look out for somewhere good enough for the team and which cost would not be exactly on the steep side, fully aware of our financial situation. He went in search of this place with Mr. Peterside Idah, a former Nigerian international player who is also a member of the team's technical crew and who lives in South Africa. We expected them to be capable of choosing a place good enough, at considerable prize.

"In the end, they found this Hampshire Hotel, new structure, with a firm pledge by the hotel Management that they would be able to finish everything with two months left to the World Cup and also meet our other specifications. We sent other officials there and the hotel Management confirmed the same thing. And it was on this basis that we approached FIFA to approve the place for us since our Head Coach wanted the place.

"I had before now given the instance of the place where our



NIGERIA Football Federation has blamed former Eagles coach Shaibu Amodu for the choice of the New Hampshire Hotel as the national team's 2010 World Cup camp hotel.

team stayed at the 1994 World Cup in the United States, which was quite big and had enough room for distractions and trouble-makers. Most of the players blamed the hotel's distractions for the loss to Italy in the Round of 16.

"There were no shady deals, and we challenge anyone to fully investigate the matter. All we wanted,

all the Head Coach wanted, was a quiet place that would suit the team. At the time we were looking for a place in December 2009, no one knew Shaibu Amodu would not be the man to lead the team to the World Cup. Things only happened thereafter.

"Also at that time, the hype about security issues was not so pro-

nounced. The Hampshire Hotel management promised to do the fence by April 28 but they failed, and now gave us a new date of May 6, which we rejected.

"The Protea Hotel Waterfront was always on our cards, moreso because we had booked the place as pre-World Cup training camp. It did not drop from the sky. We have

booked the place earlier, and we always made it clear to Hampshire Hotel people that we would opt out if they failed to meet our specifications by deadline day.

"Whatever we did was in consideration of the best interest of the team. We always had a second option, which we have now fallen back on," he said.

Wigan boss marvels over Moses

A dramatic run from the flank and super goal with a carpet-searing shot against Hull City has taken Wigan Athletic's Nigerian-born winger, Victor Moses another step higher into the folklore of The Latics.

This is sequel to a verdict from Wigan coach, Roberto Martinez, who has lavished praise

on Moses, and declared that the youngster is a "joy to watch", as the 19-year-old former Crystal Palace striker scored his first goal for The Tigers on Monday, after cutting in from the left to hit past the 'keeper.

Martinez confessed that the strike had him spellbound and the Spaniard believes the goal has

come as a result of constant development of Moses, who he believes will be a force to reckon with for club and country in the coming years.

"He is progressing in every game, he has been growing in every session, he works really hard and he has a better understanding of the ball.

"There are not many players like Victor in that respect. He has got that raw talent and if you allow him to be in a wide position one-on-one.

"He has the quality to score out of nothing. He is a real joy to watch. He is a huge asset for ourselves," said Martinez with superlatives rolling from his heart at will.



MOSES



Serena Williams in action against Andrea Petkovic during Day Three of the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour at the Foro Italico Tennis Centre in Rome, Italy, yesterday. Serena won the game 6-2, 3-6, 6-0.

NFF, Adidas sign improved contract

THE Nigeria Football Federation and world renowned sportswear company, Adidas will today in Abuja sign an improved contract that will better benefit Nigeria football.

The new contract, according to NFF's Head of Marketing, Idris Adama, is worth Euro 3,200,000 over a period of four years (2011-2014). This amount excludes annual royalty, bonuses for qualification for major tournaments and the value of the equipment that will be supplied to each of the 11 national teams on annual basis.

The present NFF administration inherited a contract worth only Euro 300,000 from its predecessor, but has since gradually reviewed the contract worth.

Adidas is also fully involved in the football development programme of the Nigeria Football Federation and has contributed greatly to this project.

The contract signing ceremony takes place at the NFF Secretariat at 11am and there will be a football match between the Nigeria U-13 boys' team and FOSLA Academy U-13 boys' team at the FIFA Goal Project Turf at 4pm, to entertain the visiting Adidas officials.

Basketball: Delta fell to AHIP 51-71

SURPRISE results continue to rule the second phase of the Nigeria Basketball Federation, NBBF organized Zenith Bank Women Premier League as team considered to be outsider are chunning out great results day after day.

First it was FCT Angels of Abuja who shocked the Nigeria basketball circuit with a 47-43 points win over highly rated Dolphin of Lagos on Tuesday, and now it is the turn of fast rising AHIP basketball club of Kano to

prove a point that they have learnt one or two tricks from the bigger when it down home girls Delta Force basketball club of Asaba by 71-51 points.

The win by AHIP over Delta Force remind basketball faithfuls of the scintillating performance the Kano-based youthful outfit put up against First Bank of Lagos during the first phase of the league in Kaduna last year.

First Deepwater continued from where they left off with a five star performance against Nigeria

Immigration whom the Oil and Gas Ladies down by 94-59 points to keep a clean slate.

Nigeria Customs failed to show-up in Asaba and were therefore walked-over for the third time in the second phase of the league while Plateau Rocks had a slim 52-51 points win over FCT Angels with First Bank regaining composure from the first phase set-back to beat Sunshine Angels of Akure by 81-50 points to occupy the second spot behind league leader, First Deepwater.

Five games will be decided in the fourth day of the phase with FCT Angels battling it out against AHIP in a match-up of giant killers at 09H00; Nigeria Immigration and Sunshine Angels will entertain the fans at 11H00.

Dolphin and Delta Force will continue their rival at 13H00; Plateau Rocks will test the strength of First Deepwater at 15H00 while two old rivals Nigeria Customs and First Bank will take their turn at 17H00 for the last game of the day.

50 polytechnics in Zaria for NIPOGA

FIFTY polytechnics from across the country are expected to take part in the 16th Nigerian Polytechnic Games (NIPOGA) opening on May 8 in Zaria, according to the Chairman of the organising committee, Marcus Boman.

The Nuhu Bamali Polytechnic, Zaria is to host the Games.

Boman told journalists on Wednesday that no fewer than 3,000 athletes would participate in the fiesta, which could feature more than 13 sports. He said participants were expected to arrive at the Games Village on Thursday, May 6. Boman, the Deputy Rector of the institution, explained that the Kaduna Government spent N91 million to assist the host polytechnic to prepare for the fiesta.

He said the Education Trust Fund, which was also involved in the Games, spent N50 million on the construction of the Games Village as well as other facilities.

Athletics, badminton, basketball, chess, handball, hockey, scrabble, soccer, squash, table tennis, taekwondo, swimming and volleyball are expected to feature in the games.

NTTF second phase trials kick off May 6

NIGERIA Table Tennis Federation (NTTF) has fixed May 6 to May 10 for the second phase of its national trials ahead of the Commonwealth Games.

NTTF Secretary, Segun Oguntade, said yesterday in Lagos that the trials would hold at the Liberty Stadium, Ibadan.

According to him, it will fea-

ture players who excelled at the first phase of the national trials held between April 23 and April 25 at the same venue.

Oguntade said the second phase would be more comprehensive than the first. He said that a total of 57 players, comprising 25 females and 32 males had been invited to the trials to

enable the federation make its final selection. "Participants all over the federation had the opportunity to exhibit their skills at the Open National Championship. "The invited players are the ones who exhibited brilliant performances at the championship," he explained. Oguntade said that 40 players - 20 males and 20

females - will be finally selected and called to camp. "We want to have enough players because we don't know how many of them who the NSC will approve.

"The Commonwealth Games, scheduled for October in India is a highly competitive competition and, therefore, requires adequate preparation," he added.

Woods: Off-course pressures affecting my game

TIGER Woods has admitted that he is at a low ebb as he prepares for this week's Players Championship, at £6.2m golf's richest event. Four days after crashing to a 79 and missing the cut at Quail Hollow by eight shots, Woods looked and sounded thoroughly down as he prepares for the event.

Amid reports his wife is seeking a divorce over the sex scandal

that broke five months ago, the world No1 admitted his emotions are having an impact on his golf. Woods, who has Ian Poulter as one of his two partners in the opening two rounds at Sawgrass, could lose top spot in the rankings to Phil Mickelson if he is outside the first five on Sunday. "I've had two different low moments," he said. "Obviously what I'm going

through now and then my father's death."

This is the third event of his comeback. In the first Woods managed what many considered, given the circumstances, a brilliant fourth place in the Masters, but last week was arguably the worst of his career. Invited to compare this return to golf to last year after an eight-month injury

lay-off he said: "This is more taxing certainly away from the golf course with paparazzi following me and all those kind of things. I didn't have the distractions getting ready for events. You know, helicopters don't normally fly over you on the range and kind of hover and film you. That wasn't the case then, but that's the case now."



WOODS

Blatter: England have convinced us on 2018 bid

ENGLAND have already convinced FIFA that they can host the 2018 World Cup - but Russia's 'remarkable' bid is the latest threat to the Football Association's hopes of bringing football home.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter, who visited Russia earlier this year, has admitted: 'England's bid is the easiest bid in the world.'

'They have the football already organised. They have everything. England has no problem in delivering a World Cup.'

'The other bidders must convince the executive committee. England does not have to convince us.'

However, Blatter insists it is far from cut and dried for the FA, adding: 'For 2018 it will be a European candidate - but apart from England you have the bid from Spain and Portugal, the small but very pleasant bid of the Netherlands and Belgium, and the big Russia also wants to come in.'

'I was there recently and what they present is remarkable. Russia is not a country but a continent and Russia has big plans to expand.'

FIFA will reveal who will be hosting the 2018 World Cup in December.



BLATTER

Valcke criticises Brazil's delays

FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke has criticised Brazil for the country's severe delays on preparations for the 2014 World Cup.

Valcke said he received a report last morning showing that various host cities are already behind schedule.

'I have to say it is not very nice,' he revealed.

'It is amazing how Brazil is already late. And I am not just talking about Morumbi or Maracana stadiums, I am talking about a number of stadiums.'

The secretary general explained that it is still too early to consider the exclusion of one or more of the 12 host cities for not delivering what has been promised.



FC Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola (right), with Hassan Al Thawadi, left, CEO of Qatar 2022 World Cup bid, and Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, president of the Qatar FA.

Qatar's World Cup bid could transform Middle East image

IN a part of the world that is not exactly renowned for good news, the bold bid by the Gulf state of Qatar to stage soccer's World Cup in 2022 has the potential to transform the region's image throughout the world.

Qatar knows it will face stiff competition from the United States and Australia to stage this prestigious event when its "bid book" is formally submitted next month. But there is nevertheless a quiet confidence at the bid team's Doha headquarters that staging a world cup in a region that has never previously hosted an international tournament of this stature will be an attractive proposition for the FIFA judges.

After FIFA took the bold decision to stage this year's finals in South Africa, Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the enthusiastic young Qatari prince who is masterminding the emirate's bid, believes there are compelling arguments for awarding the event to the Middle East.

"The best thing FIFA ever did was to give South Africa the World Cup," said Sheikh Mohammed, 22, when I met up with him in Doha. "If FIFA lets us stage the games it will be a massive boost for the sport. If you are talking about expanding the game the Middle East is a relatively untapped market."

Soccer is immensely popular throughout the Arab world, and Iraq's victory in the 2007 Asia Cup was one of those rare moments that succeeded in persuading the vast majority of Iraqis to set aside their sectarian and political differences to savour a moment of national glory.

Staging the World Cup in the Middle East could have a similar unifying effect throughout the region as it would give the wider Arab world a rare opportunity to forget their everyday travails and revel in the excitement of having a prestige event taking place in their midst.

Sheikh Mohammed also

believes that size is not an issue when it comes to Qatar's bid. With a population of just under one-and-a-half million, he believes one of Qatar's great attractions would be its compactness as a World Cup venue.

"Unlike other World Cups where fans have to take planes to fly from one venue to another to see their team, you would just need one plane ticket to Qatar and then you would have easy access to all the venues," he said. The close proximity of the stadia would also benefit the competing teams, as they would not need to make exhausting journeys to different venues.

The Qataris are also working hard to overcome their greatest obstacle - the weather. The combination of the stifling heat and humidity that descends on the Gulf during the summer is not ideal for sport, but the Qataris are developing a new cooling system that will ensure that temperatures at all the main venues never

exceed 28c, which would make Qatar a lot cooler than Mexico.

The new cooling system, which is being developed with the help of German engineers, is one of the many legacy issues the Qataris hope will help to secure them success when the FIFA judges make their final decision on which countries will host the 2018 and 2022 World Cups at the end of the year. While the thrust of England's bid is to secure the 2018 event, the Qataris are concentrating all their efforts on 2022 with the bold motto: "Expect Amazing".

It certainly will be amazing for both Qatar and the wider Middle East if its bid is successful, as it will help to give the region an enormous confidence boost, in the same way that South Africa will benefit from this year's event. "Football can succeed in bringing people together where politics cannot," says Sheikh Mohammed. And for that reason alone we should all wish the Qatari bid every success.

Japan 'to drop 2018 World Cup bid' for 2022

JAPAN is likely to abandon its attempt to host the 2018 football World Cup to concentrate on bidding for the 2022 tournament, it was reported yesterday.

"We are going to decide on it officially at the bidding committee meeting next Tuesday," Japan Football Association President Motoaki Inukai was quoted as saying by sports daily

Sports Nippon on Wednesday.

Education, Culture, Sports and Science Minister Tatsuo Kawabata, who visited FIFA President Sepp Blatter in Zurich with Inukai, said the Swiss told them it would be better to bid for the 2022 World Cup, as there would be tough competition from European nations to host in 2018.

FIFA requires World Cup host

countries to have about 12 stadiums with more than 40,000 seats, and at least one with more than 80,000, but Japan's largest venue, the International Stadium in Yokohama, has a capacity of only 72,000.

Japan co-hosted the 2002 World Cup with South Korea, the first time football's premier tournament has come to Asia.

African countries are barred from bidding for the 2018 tournament as the 2010 World Cup will be staged in South Africa, while Latin American countries are ruled out of competition for both 2018 and 2022 as Brazil is hosting in 2014.

FIFA will choose the hosts of both 2018 and 2022 tournaments in December 2010.

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Capello wants to be England's ghostbuster

■ And lay to rest past World Cup failures

ENGLAND manager Fabio Capello is confident he can lay to rest the ghosts of past World Cup disappointments this summer in South Africa, just as he has exorcised his squad of their failures of the past since joining the Three Lions in 2008.

Since arriving in the country the Italian has been unable to avoid constant references to England's last World Cup success — in 1966, fully 44 years ago — but believes that, after two years of hard work, he finally has the players and system in place to end that losing streak in South Africa this summer.

"I like the Ghostbusters idea. Let's go with that because I want to take this team as far as possible," Capello told Eurosport.

"I have tried to take a detached from this 'not having won in 44 years' idea.

"When I first got here we had this Croatian ghost [the Wembley defeat under Steve McClaren that saw England miss out on Euro 2008]. I hope the same thing happens with the ghost of '66."

The Italian initially feared that Champions League commitments would keep many of his squad players from attending England's first training camp on May 17 at their Irdning base, but the failure of English clubs to reach the semi-finals means only Chelsea's players and Portsmouth's David James — who have the FA Cup final to prepare for — will be delayed in joining up with the squad.

Capello admits such a situation is both a good and bad thing — as he would prefer many of his players to be in high spirits having just finished successful cam-



ENGLAND manager Fabio Capello is confident he can lay to rest the ghosts of past World Cup disappointment.

paings.

But the former Real Madrid and Juventus boss believes the English clubs only have themselves to blame for their recent failings.

"It is always better to have players who have been winning than ones who are unhappy because of the national championship or Champions League went wrong," he said.

"But Liverpool sold players and those who arrived didn't meet the expectations. Arsenal were unlucky because they also sold

some players, didn't get any others and important ones who were left were injured at key moments.

"Manchester United sold Cristiano Ronaldo and Carlos Tevez and the players they got instead are maybe not as good. Chelsea did buy Zhirkov, but nothing more.

"None of those teams strengthened. In England, only Manchester City did. In Italy, Inter Milan bought six players.

"If you sell your good players, obviously you will get a lot of money, but you have to buy other

players to strengthen your team.

"Maybe because of the financial crisis, this clearly didn't happen."

Talisman Wayne Rooney's fitness has been a central concern to both Manchester United and Capello in recent times, after the 24-year-old picked up an ankle injury in the club's Champions League quarter-final against Bayern Munich.

Having come through Sunday's game against Sunderland without a problem the striker seems to be fully fit, and Capello

admits that he is crucial to England's summer plans.

"He is very important because when the team is falling asleep, he is the one who can give them a boost," said Capello.

"Sometimes it is possible to put the other team to sleep, to dupe it, and know you can score any time because they are not dangerous."

Indeed, the Italian can only remember previously managing two players who possess Rooney's enviable quality.

"Rooney reminds me of Baresi and Raul. They say 'we have to do something [on the pitch]'"

With Rooney by his side, Capello is ready to take on his challenge to be a nation's Ghostbuster. But he admits he still needs to get the players to believe in themselves, and that a lot will depend on the physical fitness of his squad when the tournament kicks off.

"Winning Euro 2008 provided Spain with a great trust in their ability to reach the top and Brazil don't play the way they used to but they are a hard team to beat," said Capello.

"But my team can be competitive against anyone. Apart from Argentina we have played against the best teams in the world. I think my team is very good.

"My only hope is that we'll get to the World Cup in the same physical shape we were in at the beginning of the season.

"We have to recover from a tough season, where we play more matches than anywhere else.

"I hope that has not dried up the mental and physical energy of the players."

Half of tickets remain unsold

WORLD Cup organisers have admitted that more than half of the 500,000 match tickets offered for cash sale are still unsold, just over a month before the tournament starts.

Business appeared to be brisk when the fifth and final phase of sales opened in South Africa on 15 April, sparking long queues, but interest now appears to have cooled.

Greg Fredericks, who heads the office of the World Cup local organising committee CEO, Danny Jordaan, told Johannesburg city councillors that under 300,000 tickets remained for the tournament.

A FIFA spokeswoman, Delia Fischer, confirmed that 230,000

of the allotted 500,000 phase-five tickets had been sold.

FIFA moved to cash sales after widespread criticism that its online-only system was too complicated and effectively excluded millions of Africans who do not have access to computers or credit cards.

Fredericks said matches in Johannesburg, which will host the opening and final matches, and Pretoria were sold out but there were still many tickets available for matches in Polokwane, Port Elizabeth and Nelspruit.

He also said the government would soon release a transportation timetable for planes, buses and other public transport for the month-long event.

Cannavaro to end career at World Cup

ITALY captain Fabio Cannavaro is planning to retire from the national team after the World Cup.

Speaking at the conclusion of a two-day training camp Wednesday, the 36-year-old Cannavaro said he's already been labeled too old, "so I can only imagine what they would say in August."

This year's World Cup in South Africa runs from June 11 to July 11.

Cannavaro took over the captaincy when Paolo Maldini stopped playing for Italy after the 2002 World Cup. He broke Maldini's previous record of 126 appearances with the Azzurri last year, and currently has 132.

On the night of his 100th appearance at the 2006 World Cup, Cannavaro lifted the trophy for Italy.



CANNAVARO

NFF rejects Bafana friendly

WORLD Cup-bound Nigeria have rejected proposals to tackle South Africa and Jamaica ahead of the tournament next month, officials have disclosed.

Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) secretary-general, Bolaji Ojo-Oba, said the country could not raise a team for a proposed May 16 warm-up against World Cup hosts Bafana Bafana of South Africa.

"It would have been great to play this match, but the snag is that we may not be able to raise a team for that date as most of our players would only just be finishing the season at their European clubs," said Ojo-Oba.

Lagerback has also rejected a chance to take on the Reggae Boyz of Jamaica in London.

Nigeria have confirmed that they will take on Iceland on May 26 and four days, tackle Colombia, all in London, before their final preparatory match against North Korea on June 4 in South Africa.

THE THURSDAY COLUMN

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Maurice Iwu: Ali Baba is gone, long live the 40 thieves

A few months ago, Maurice Iwu came on a charm offensive to the Media Trust corporate headquarters in Abuja. The backdrop was that his tenure was about to expire and the electoral Czar detested by most Nigerians was desperate for the renewal of his position. Iwu attempted to present himself as misunderstood, certainly maligned by some politicians but well-meaning. He engaged in a revisionist remembrance of recent electoral events and times we all lived through: from the conspiracy against Atiku Abubakar; the acquiescence with Obasanjo's intrigues in serially subverting the electoral process to the fact that INEC awarded Andy Uba more votes than the registered voters in 2007 in Anambra state.

What stood out was the pitiable sight of a thoroughly discredited man that has chosen to combatively live in denial almost as if he went through a personality-altering lobotomy. Maurice Iwu was desperate to return as INEC chief and employed various tactics, from replying almost every criticism in the media to renting crowds to sing his praises. And like a thief who knew how to distribute portions of the loot to ensure that others were also complicit, he even got leading members of the political elite in the National Assembly and in the Executive to root for his retention. We have witnessed how Senators who were supposedly in-charge of INEC oversight, were rooting for his retention, just as state governors were buying advertisement space in newspapers to congratulate him on his birthday. It would have surprised, until one recollects that it was Iwu that assisted to midwife the badly-rigged elections which brought them to office in the first place.

In the end, Acting President Jonathan chose not to re-appoint Maurice Iwu. There were many factors at play which sealed the fate of the most controversial electoral chief in recent Nigerian history. The truth is that instinctively, Goodluck Jonathan would have been happy to return the man, having been a beneficiary of his "largess" of a rigged election, as vice president and a PDP member. However, Jonathan needed to show the Americans that he was embarking on a process of sanitization of the nation's electoral system to continue to be in the good books of the "international community". There is also the "small matter" of his own interest in running for president in 2011, which might be enhanced by such a step. Besides, there is also the domestic constituency of NGOs and vocal critics who have demanded the removal of Iwu, who needed to be appeased because they are a vital component of the project for Jonathan's presidential ambition and project for 2011. In Jonathan's estimation, if Maurice Iwu is sacrificed and he eventually chooses to run in 2011, these vocal elements who have a long-standing media constituency could become his allies to fight the PDP leadership's insistence that power has been zoned to the North.

The removal of Maurice Iwu has generally been positively received around Nigeria and it is a sign of the depth of dishonour reigning inside that electoral body that the acting chairman, Philip Umeadi, who has a previous record of a gung-ho defence of actions taken by Iwu, suddenly remembered that he was not really in good terms with the man. Even amongst members of an elections-rigging commission, there was expected to be a modicum of honour. But living with an equally worrisome delusion that he might be appointed the next substantive INEC chairman, Philip Umeadi chose to contemptuously march on

the back of a man that was already thrown off a perch that he so desperately wanted to retain. It speaks poorly of our nation's leadership recruitment regime that it is characters as controversial as Maurice Iwu and Philip Umeadi that will be given the assignment to supervise Nigeria's elections. They made a complete mess of it. And when that is hitched to the characters we recruit in the political system, it is no wonder that Nigeria's car continues to be driven in reverse gear by drivers who seem permanently to be on drugs. That is why progress has eluded us in so many vital areas, especially since the return to civil rule in 1999.

Those, like General Buhari, who cautioned against jubilation because of the removal of Maurice Iwu, are right. The man while being very culpable, is nevertheless, not singularly responsible for the nation's electoral crisis. One point that I

have argued here, is that as a Political Scientist and Journalist, it will be very difficult for the ruling regime and party, to accept an electoral reforms regime leading to genuinely free and fair elections for the simple reason that wherever there is a preponderance of population of Nigerians, they do not tend to vote for the PDP. Just check it out: they don't vote PDP in Lagos, Kano, Onitsha, Maiduguri, Ibadan, Sokoto, Kaduna, and other urban cities, save a few. It is only a patriotic national movement, with critical international support, that can force such a process. But as we saw with the massively rigged elections of 2007, if we do not act nationally and build a people's movement for a genuine electoral reform, the international community will make the right noise for a while and then continue business as usual

with whoever is rigged into power by a compromised electoral commission. The African peasants say that our rice will cook only in our pot, meaning that we must master our own destiny, including the electoral, and not wait for outside prodding. The removal of Maurice Iwu is therefore like the tale of Ali Baba and the forty thieves; everybody was jubilant that Ali Baba has left the scene but they forgot about the forty thieves. Things will remain pretty much the same.

Plateau State: The story of Yusuf and Ezekiel: From London with love

One of my favourite haunts in London is the Victoria Pub (AKA Tah Ndi) on Queensbridge Road, in the Eastern part of the city. The grilled fish and plantains as well as the oxtail pepper soup are always a delight, within an ambience of good African music and the habitues nostalgia for their homelands. Two Thursdays ago, I went back for my helping of grilled fish when I overheard two guys speaking in Hausa. I moved close to know who they were; one was Yusuf a Hausa (and a Muslim) and the other was Ezekiel (a Christian). "We are both from Jos", they told me. Knowing how tragic life has become in their city and the deep-seated angst on both sides of the divide, I did not ask them any questions about Jos. Yusuf was drinking Coca Cola while his friend drank beer. The crowning moment for me was when their plate of fish and plantains was served; they actually ate together from the same plate! I was moved by the experience and that gave me hope that we can still find a silver lining in the very dark clouds of mistrust, prejudice and tragic killings enveloping good old Jos and other parts of our country. Yusuf and Ezekiel taught lessons of brotherhood in London which must be re-discovered at home.



In Jonathan's estimation, if Maurice Iwu is sacrificed and he eventually chooses to run in 2011, these vocal elements who have a long-standing media constituency could become his allies to fight the PDP leadership's insistence that power has been zoned to the North

SPORTS REPORT



THE win for Luka Modric and Spurs has secured fourth place and a slot in next season's Champions League for the first time in club history

Spurs beat Man City, pick UCL spot

Tottenham Hot-spurs guaranteed a top-four finish in the Premier League when Peter Crouch struck late to earn a 1-0 win at Manchester City yesterday.

The match, dubbed a Champions League playoff, was a tense affair with City desperate for the win that would have

made them favourites to claim fourth spot ahead of the final round of matches.

Striker Crouch's 82nd-minute header after a parry by keeper Marton Fulop put Tottenham four points clear of City and made sure they will compete in Europe's top club competition for the first time since 1962.



DIEGO Milito of FC Inter Milan celebrates the goal during the Coppa Italia final against AS Roma

Inter lift Italian Cup

Imperious Inter Milan seized the first part of a potential treble by using all their might and muscle to overcome AS Roma 1-0 in a bad-tempered Italian Cup final yesterday.

Striker Diego Milito fired home from the edge of the area on 40 minutes in the fifth Cup final between the sides in six years.

Serie A leaders Inter, two points clear with two games left, are also battling Roma for the title and face Bayern Munich in the Champions League final on May 22.

