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FROM left: Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, Governor Murtala Nyako of Adamawa State, Galadiman Adamawa, Alhaji Murtala Aminu, son of the late Lamido of Adamawa, Alhaji Barkindo Aliyu Mustafa, Wakilin Adamawa, Alhaji Hassan Adamu, and former Governor of Kano State, Alhaji Abubakar Rimi, during the Fida'u prayers for the late monarch in Yola yesterday.

Jonathan sacks Federal cabinet

By AbdulFattah Olajide & Muhammed S. Shehu

FORTY two Federal ministers lost their jobs soon after yesterday's meeting of the Federal Executive Council [FEC] when Acting President Goodluck Jonathan ordered a dissolution of the Federal cabinet.

Initial claims were that Secretary to the

Government of the Federation Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, Head of Service of the Federation Stephen Oronsanye and the numerous special advisers and special assistants appointed by the ailing President Umaru Yar'adua were affected by the sack. At least 6 of the senior special advisers regularly attend meetings of the FEC. Former Minister of Information and Communication

Professor Dora Akunyili, who announced the cabinet dissolution after yesterday's FEC meeting, said Yayale and the special advisers to the president should be affected because they were regarded as cabinet members. However, Jonathan's spokesman Ima Niboro told *Daily Trust* last night that "only the ministers are members of the council."

Continued on page 5

13 killed in fresh Plateau violence

By Andrew Agbese, Ahmed Mohammed & Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THIRTEEN people were killed yesterday in a fresh attack on Biye village in Riyom local government of

Plateau state.

The attack came barely two weeks after a similar one that claimed the lives of over a hundred people in three villages in Jos South and Barikin Ladi local gov-

ernments

The marauders, according to the account of the villagers, came at about 1 am and started shooting at people who came outside on hearing the sound of gun shots.

One of the villagers, Mrs. Garos Dauda said they were sleeping in their houses when they heard the footsteps of people around and that before they knew what was happen-

Continued on page 5

Niger Assembly suspends two members

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

TWO members of the Niger State House of Assembly have been suspended for one month for fighting on the floor of the House.

Ahmed Bello, representing Agwara and Ibrahim Magayaki, representing Kontagora,

exchanged blows yesterday while the House was deliberating the removal of former chairman of Kontagora Local Government Area. A motion was earlier moved by Mohammed Tsowa to make the vice chairman of the local government the substantive chairman.

The House immediately

retired into an executive session, following the pandemonium.

At the lobby of the complex, the member representing Kontagora was attacked by persons alleged to be supporters of the Agwara member.

The attackers were immediately arrested by security agents

at the complex and a five man committee headed by the Majority Leader, Haruna Labaran, representing Rafi constituency, was set up to investigate the matter. Speaking with our correspondent after the sitting, a member said Bello and Magayaki said the fight was due to a disagreement

on the motion to give the acting chairman of Kontagora Local Government Area full powers as chairman.

He said the Kontagora member was slapped by his colleague even before the motion was brought to the floor of the House.



FORMER Minister of Health, Prof. Babatunde Oshotimehin (middle) flanked by former Minister of Works Dr. Hassan Lawal and former Minister of State, Works Mrs. Grace Ekpwhire during the Federal Executive Council meeting in Abuja, yesterday.

Adamawa kingmakers pick Barkindo as new Lamido

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, Yola

THE kingmakers' committee and the Adamawa Emirate Council yesterday forwarded the name of Ciroman of Adamawa Muhammadu Barkindo Aliyu Musdafa to Governor Murtala Nyako for approval as the new Lamido of Adamawa.

A statement from the Secretary to the State Government Mr. Kobis Aris said that the committee had forwarded the name to the governor.

The committee under the chairmanship of Galadima of Adamawa, Alhaji Murtala Aminu, received the applications of six eligible candidates who had indicated interest to the vacant throne of the Lamido Adamawa.

The statement said

committee had forwarded the name of Muhammadu Barkindo Aliyu Musdafa to the governor for consideration and approval.

At least eight candidates indicated interest to succeed Lamido Aliyu Musdafa who died last Saturday and buried the following day.

They are: Ciroman Adamawa Barkindo Aliyu Musdafa, Sardaunan Adamawa Ahmadu Aliyu Musdafa, Sarkin Dawakin Adamawa Adamu Aliyu Musdafa, former permanent secretary Lawal Gabdo, ex-banker Aliyu Gabdo, former judge Aminu Ahmed, ex-NNPC employee Ahmed Mohammed Toungo and Ahmed Ibn Lawal, the grandson of Late Lamido Ahmadu.

Sources said many candidates were persuaded to

withdraw their applications to allow the kingmakers to submit only one name to the state traditional council, currently headed by the Emir of Mubi Alhaji Abubakar Isa Ahmadu, for onward transmission to the governor.

Governor Nyako is expected to receive the name today and announce the new Lamido.

The council members had earlier met yesterday morning and asked their leader, Galadiman Adamawa Alhaji Murtala Aminu, to order the kingmakers to select the new Lamido, sources at the palace told *Daily Trust* in Yola.

The council members that met yesterday include Adamawa's Chief Imam Khadi Ahmadu Bobboi, Walin Adamawa Wali Abba, Chiroma Adamawa

Barkindo Aliyu Musdafa (the first son of Late Lamido Aliyu Musdafa and one of the contenders for the throne), former Vice President Atiku Abubakar (who is the Turakin Adamawa and late Lamido's son-in-law), Tafidan Adamawa Bamanga Tukur, former Inspector General of Police Muhammadu Gambo Jimeta, who is Dan Lawan Adamawa and few others.

Meanwhile, more state governors, top politicians and traditional rulers continued with the condolence visit to the palace yesterday. The latest are Governor Danjuma Goje of Gombe State, Kwara State Governor Bukola Saraki, former Rivers State Governor Peter Odili, Emir of Awe Abubakar Umar II and former House Speaker Aminu Masari.

Governor Suntai applauds Media Trust

GOVERNOR Danbaba Danfulani Suntai of Taraba State has applauded the management of Media Trust Limited, publishers of Trust titles for blazing the trail of good journalism through strict adherence to the tenets of profession. Suntai said this on Tuesday when the Chairman and Chief Executive officer of

Media Trust Limited Mal. Kabiru Yusuf visited him in Jalingo.

The governor commended the management of Media Trust for publishing objective and balanced stories, contrary to sensational journalism pervading the practise. He said the management of Trust newspapers had rekindled

the hope of Nigerians, who were desirous of responsible journalism.

"I am highly impressed with stories about your media organization that you are one of the few media houses who abhor corruption. With people like you in the industry, there is hope for this nation and our hopes are

rekindled. I admire you and pledge to partner with your media house. We see the way other journalists practise their own journalism irrespective of whose ox is gored as they damn the consequences of their junk and slanted reports. Your organisation has given hope to the hopeless and voice to the voiceless," he

...Kogi Assembly threatens session boycott

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE Kogi State House of Assembly yesterday threatened to boycott plenary sessions over what it described as insecurity of the members.

The resolution is sequel to last Friday's attack on the member representing Ofu Constituency, Yakubu Yunusa, at the Government House by some youths protesting the appointment of one Mallam Gambo as Special Assistant to Governor Ibrahim Idris. The youths who are alleged to have been led by the Special Assistant to the Governor on Youth Empowerment Friday Sani, had argued that Gambo recently decamped to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) from the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP). Speaker of the House Clarence Olafemi said sitting could not be guaranteed if the government did not assure them of their safety.

"The attack on the member in question in the pres-

ence of security personnel without any move to apprehend the hoodlums shows a high level of insensitivity on the part of the government and its agents. From now on, the security of lives and property of members of the House is placed squarely in the hands of the governor as the Chief Security Officer of Kogi State. We have also resolved that any appointed political officer found to have been involved in the attack on our member should be immediately relieved of his/her appointment. The government should as a matter of urgency beef up security around the houses of members otherwise the House may go on indefinite adjournment", he said.

In another development, the House insisted that the suspension of the chairman of the Ogori/Magongo Local Government Area Gabriel Daudu by the legislative council stands until allegations against him were fully investigated.

Youths prevent Bafarawa's arrest

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

YOUTHS at the premises of the Sokoto State High Court yesterday prevented officials of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) from arresting former Governor Attahiru Bafarawa. The youths who caused pandemonium at the court premises said, "We will not allow you to arrest him, we are ready to die".

With the protest, Bafarawa could not be taken into a waiting security van, but was led into the white bus in which he and others had come to the court and the bus left the court premises.

At the scene, Bafarawa's counsel, Lateef Fagbemi, was heard saying, "The court has already stayed all proceedings pending the

outcome of a motion at the Court of Appeal. You are taking law into your hands. We will sue anyone who tries to arrest him."

Earlier, Bafarawa's counsel, Lateef Fagbemi, told the court that a motion had been filed at the Court of Appeal in Sokoto asking for a stay of proceedings at the High Court pending the determination of the matter. Fagbemi said the appeal had been taken and the matter adjourned till March 23. He also complained that following the temporarily revocation of Bafarawa's bail, the EFCC wanted to arrest him despite the fact that no warrant of arrest was issued by the court.

But EFCC counsel, Chief Adeniyi Akintola, said since the bail was revoked, they did not need any warrant of arrest.

Buhari, Atiku, Tinubu to join 'modified' AC

By Suleiman M. Bisalla

PROPOSERS of the National Democratic Movement (NDM) have agreed to fuse into a 'modified' Action Congress (AC) to launch their bid to take over power from the Peoples Democratic Party in the coming general election.

Leaders of the movement including General Muhammadu Buhari, former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, former Lagos State Governor Bola Tinubu, former Sokoto State Governor Attahiru Bafarawa and others will finally ratify the decision at the meeting of the steering committee of the movement on Tuesday next week and the modified

party announced the next day after plenary.

A highly placed source at the secretariat of the NDM who confirmed this to Daily Trust yesterday, said in the new arrangement, "the AC will lose its name but retain certain features like the logo and the colours."

The reason for retaining part of AC's identity is to "protect elected members of the AC across the country from litigation," the source said.

At the moment, the AC has two state governors, Babatunde Fasola of Lagos and Adams Oshiomhole of Edo State. The party also has five senators, three from Lagos and one each from Bauchi and Ekiti states.

Senators Satti Gowgim (Plateau Central) and Salihu Ohize (Kogi Central) who decamped to the PDP are currently facing litigations.

The party also has several members in the House of Representatives and state Houses of Assembly who may incur the wrath of the constitution which requires legislators who abandon their parties to vacate their seats.

The decision to adopt AC with modifications came after several months of work by two committees (Contact and Mobilisation and Strategy) earlier set up to study and recommend the best way forward in the attempt to float a broad based political party ahead of 2011.

The decision of the NDM would have been adopted and made known last month but after a meeting at the residence of Alhaji Bafarawa in Abuja, the two committees were asked to go back and fine tune their findings and recommendations.

Buhari, who left the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) some weeks ago, only formally announced that he had joined the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC). The trio of Buhari, Atiku and Bafarawa, all presidential candidates of their various parties in 2007, had agreed in principle to play down their political ambition when they came together to kick start the movement.

FEC approves N68bn contracts

By Abdulfattah Olajide and Mohammed S. Shehu

THE Federal Executive Council yesterday approved contracts worth over N68 billion before its dissolution by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan.

The meeting, presided over by Jonathan, approved the award of contracts for the construction of nine skill acquisition centres to various contractors in the sum of N27.3 billion in the Niger Delta.

Briefing State House reporters after the meeting, former Information and Communications Minister Prof. Dora Akunyili said the council also approved the augmentation of the contract for the construction of the National Library headquarters building complex, Abuja which was awarded in 2006 at the sum of N8 billion to the sum of N17 billion in favours of Messrs Reynolds Construction Company (RCC).

It approved another augmentation for the dualisation of Onitsha-Owerri road from N19 billion to N20 billion in favour of Messrs Julius Berger (Nigeria Plc).

She said the council also approved the procurement of various brands of vehicles for distribution to all the Federal Government institutions - universities, polytechnics and colleges of education - to various contractors in the sum of N1.9 billion. The vehicles include 91 30-seater Toyota coaster buses, 27 Mercedes MBO 1721 bus scars and 20 Nissan civiliam 30-seater bus.

The council also approved the purchase of property comprising of 120 housing units for senior staff of the Nigeria Customs Services in the sum of N4.8 billion.

The purchases under the Nigeria Customs Scheme would be funded from the Comprehensive Import Supervision Scheme and the contract was awarded to Messrs Combial Limited.

The council approved additional works and price escalation on contract for the construction of Maiduguri sub-station to the tune of N425 million plus \$7.1 million to Messrs Charnel Engineering Company. The same contract was awarded to Damaturu substation to the tune of N484 million plus \$12 million.

It also approved extension of project consultancy for the Gombe-Damaturu-Maiduguri 330KV circuit transmission line to the tune of N123 million plus 1.1 million Euro to Messrs Colenco Power Engineering Limited.

Akunyili said the council has also approved the ratification and augmentation of contract for the dualisation of Sango-Otta to the tune of N1.7 billion to Messrs Boroni Prono and Company (Nigeria) Limited among other memos approved by the council.



GOVERNOR Danbaba Danfulani Suntai of Taraba State (left) with the Chairman and Chief Executive of Media Trust Ltd., Malam Kabiru Yusuf, during a courtesy call on the governor at Government House, Jalingo, recently.

Reps reject oil sector deregulation

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE House of Representatives yesterday rejected a motion which sought to deregulate the oil sector saying the attempt would further increase the suffering of Nigerians.

Rep Leo Ogor (PDP, Delta State) had in the motion sought the cooperation of the House to direct the federal government or its agencies to stop the deduction of the revenue accruing to the federal, state and local governments for purposes of fuel subsidy.

He also asked the House to declare the deductions of the revenue accruing to the federal, states and local governments in the federation account to subsidise fuel importation as illegal.

He said the deductions have not served their purposes of making fuel available to the people thereby ameliorating their suffering.

But the lawmakers rejected the motion, saying if the subsidy was removed it would further aggravate suffering of the people.

They opined that the motion was aimed at deregulating the oil

sector, pointing out that it was people-unfriendly.

Rep Labaran Dambatta (ANPP, Kano State) said the motion if accepted would add to the suffering of Nigerians, pointing out that that would defeat the purpose of having democracy dividend.

Rep Sampson Positive (PDP, Kogi State) said removing oil subsidy this time would affect Nigerians negatively, adding that the people have suffered a lot since the pronouncement to deregulate the sector by the government.

Reps Mohammed Ali Ndume (ANPP, Borno State) and Abdul

Ningi (PDP, Bauchi State) said the country would never survive without subsidy of petrol to the people, adding that the purpose of government is the welfare of their citizens.

But Rep Clever Ikisikpo (PDP, Bayelsa state) supported the motion, saying removal of the subsidy would ensure availability of the products in the markets.

When the vote was put by the Deputy Speaker, Rep Usman Nafada (PDP, Gombe State) who presided over yesterday's plenary session, the members rejected the motion.

PIC: LEKE ADELERE

Gaddafi is a mad man, Mark says

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

PRESIDENT Muammar Gaddafi of Libya is a mad man who should not be taken seriously by any right thinking person, Senate President David Mark has said.

Speaking during debate on a motion on the recent bombings in Warri by the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) at yesterday's plenary session, Mark berated the Libyan leader over his recent comment that Nigeria should be divided

into two to avoid the incessant ethno-religious crisis which has claimed thousands of lives in the country.

"Gaddafi has said the same thing about Switzerland, England and about any other country I don't think he deserves attention at all. It is not worth it," Mark said.

Gaddafi was also reported to have called for Switzerland to be divided among Italy, Germany and France.

The senate president told his colleagues that they should not waste their precious time debat-

ing what the Libyan leader said since they are words of an insane human being.

Gaddafi was reported to have said that Nigeria should be divided into two nations to avoid further bloodshed between Muslims and Christians during a speech to students.

He praised the example of India and Pakistan, where he said separation saved many lives saying, "Would stop the bloodshed and burning of places of worship," the Libyan state news agency JANA quoted him as saying.



FROM left: Deputy Rector, Academics, Yaba College of Technology, Mrs Muji Bello, the Rector, Mrs Margaret Ladipo and Deputy Rector, Administration, Mr B.E. Omokwaie at the 2009/2010 matriculation ceremony of the college in Lagos yesterday.

'Dividing Nigeria not a solution'

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

SPLITTING Nigeria into two between Muslims and Christians is not the solution to the country's religious and ethnic crises, a scholar in Art and Culture Michael M. Gujiya has said.

Gujiya who is the author of a book on Nigerian unity, titled "The Ascension of a General" said the suggestion made by the Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi that Nigeria should be divided into two nations, citing the examples of India and

Pakistan was unfortunate.

"Anybody who calls for the split of Nigeria into two does not know what he is doing. For example, I am a Christian my brother is Muslim and the other one is even traditional. We are from the same father and mother, by dividing the country you are dividing the families," he said.

He said even though his book is about the biography of the Emir of Zuru retired General Sani Sami "It is more to do with the unity of the country at large."

He said to arrest the situation

of both ethnic and religious unrest in the country, "particularly in Jos," leaders must sit down and iron out whatever problem.

"We had similar problems in Zuru but we are living together because the emir focuses on uniting the area," he added.

Some of the Zuru political representatives, he said, are not originally from Zuru "they are from Katsina. Our concern is who is developing Zuru irrespective of where he comes from, and that what it should be anywhere."

Police deploy new AIG to Jos

By Misbahu Bashir

THE newly promoted Assistant Inspector General (AIG) of Police Donald Iroham was yesterday deployed to Jos to head police operations following violence there.

Iroham was before his promotion the Commissioner of Police in charge of Border Patrol.

The Police Force Public Relations Officer ACP Emmanuel Ojukwu said the Inspector General of Police Ogbonna Onovo approved the re-deployment of Iroham as the

AIG of Zone 4 Police Command comprising of Benue, Plateau and Nasarawa to address Jos crisis.

But the new AIG will stay in Jos instead of Makurdi, the headquarters to head police operations. Former AIG of the Zone Muktar Abbas retired from the police recently.

Ojukwu said police have identified some vulnerable villages around Jos and have deployed policemen in them to keep vigil. He asked the public to report suspicious movements and activities promptly to the police.

Nigeria worried by proliferation of small arms in W/Africa

By Aisha Umar Agaie

FORMER Defence Minister Godwin Abbe said Nigeria will rally the West Africa sub-region to take action against the proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapon (SALW) in the region.

This, according to Abbe, was as a result of outbreak of violent conflicts in Nigeria like the Boko Haram, Jos sectarian crisis and the unending Niger Delta restiveness.

He spoke Tuesday at the meeting of Ministers of Defence and Security

from the region to adopt the Action Plan for the implementation of the ECOWAS convention on SALWs.

The former minister said proliferation of SALWs in the West African sub-region undermines good governance and the economic and political integration of the sub-region.

"That is why Nigeria in her position in ECOWAS is encouraging others to ratify the Conventions to give meanings to the intentions of the ECOWAS Heads of State" he stated.

Obi takes oath of office

From Beatrice Onuchukwu, Awka

ANAMBRA State Governor Peter Obi yesterday took the oath of office as governor for the second time following his re-election in the February 6, governorship election.

Obi whose first term in office expired yesterday was sworn-in alongside his deputy Emeka Sibudu by the state Chief Judge Justice PAC Obidigwe.

In his inaugural speech, Governor Obi expressed happiness with the massive turnout and show of solidarity and extended a hand of fellowship to his political oppo-

nents. Governor assured that his government would sustain the policy of accountability and transparency.

Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, who was represented by the Governor of Abia State Chief Theodore Orji, commended Obi for his faith in the rule of law and prayed God to give the governor wisdom to lead the state.

Senate President David Mark who was represented by Senator Joy Emordi enjoined the governor to continue with his people-oriented programmes in order to consolidate on the achievements already recorded.

'Jonathan needs not consult Senate to dissolve cabinet'

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE Senate yesterday said Acting President Goodluck Jonathan did not need to inform the lawmakers before dissolving the Federal Executive Council (FEC).

The FEC was dissolved yesterday after its meeting.

"The Constitution does not state that he should consult the Senate, it

is not our function and we are not involved in the matter," Chairman Senate Committee on Information and Media Senator Ayogu Eze (PDP, Enugu North) said yesterday.

Speaking to Daily Trust on phone, Eze said the Constitution does not provide that the Acting President should consult with the legislature before dissolving cabinet.

Reps to probe N200bn agric loan

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE House of Representatives yesterday mandated its committee on agriculture to investigate reasons why the ministry of agriculture failed to disburse the N200bn loan approved for farmers last year.

The committee has also been

given four weeks to submit its report to the House.

Rep Dino Melaye (PDP, Kogi State), in a motion he sponsored, expressed dismay over failure of the ministry to disburse the loan one year after approval by the federal government.

Melaye said the Central

Bank of Nigeria (CBN) had in October last year directed the ministry of agriculture to disburse the loan, yet they refused to do so.

He said the main purpose of the loan was to disburse it to peasant farmers in order to ensure food security but said the ministry kept the money in

a 'special' account where they get interest.

Melaye said the essence of the loan was defeated.

Rep Patricia Etteh (PDP, Osun State) said there was the need to go to the root of the matter with a view to expose the people that have held the money illegally.

She said: "There is need to

know the cabals that keep the money at the detriment of the Nigerians. They must be brought to book."

Rep Khadijah Bukar (ANPP, Yobe State) and Halims Agoda (PDP, Delta State) opined that the money would have been used to solve problems of youth restiveness.



GOVERNOR Ibrahim Gaidam of Yobe State (left) and former Governor Bukar Abba Ibrahim in a chat at the inauguration of a Reconciliation Committee at the ANPP Secretariat in Damaturu yesterday.

Jonathan sacks Federal cabinet

Continued from page 1

Although Akunyili said Jonathan gave no reason for the cabinet dissolution, Jonathan's spokesman Ima Niboro said last night that "the cabinet dissolution is a bid to inject fresh blood and bring even greater vigour to governance."

It is part of the larger strategy to frontally confront the core challenges that face the nation at this critical moment of our history."

Daily Trust learnt that many ministers went into yesterday's FEC meeting fully expecting a dissolution because 20 memos mostly for the award of contracts were presented at yesterday's meeting, the largest ever in the council's three year history. They also knew that Jonathan's kitchen cabinet of close advisers met until 6am yesterday and made a list of ten ministers that should be dropped from the cabinet.

However, a source said, the plan to sack the 10 ministers was

abandoned because most of them were Northerners, and it was deemed as politically indiscreet to do so, hence the decision to dissolve the cabinet altogether.

Jonathan had announced under Any Other Business that he was dissolving the cabinet. He also said some of the ministers will be reappointed, while some others will not be. Indications also were that new ministers would be named by Monday next week.

A top politician however told *Daily Trust* in Abuja last night that Acting President Jonathan was "going for broke" by dissolving the cabinet in order to make himself substantive president and also ensure that he stands for election on PDP's ticket in 2011.

He said, "This is the first move. He will now appoint ministers who are loyal to him, and who will invoke section 144 of the 1999 Constitution to declare Yar'adua permanently incapacitated. Jonathan will then become substantive president. Next, he

will move to cow the state governors by removing EFCC chairperson Mrs. Farida Waziri and appointing his own man, possibly bringing back Malam Nuhu Ribadu or appointing Colonel Dangiwa Umar.

The governors will then be forced to abandon their consensus that the PDP's 2011 presidential ticket should be zoned to the North. After that, Jonathan will initiate the sacking of the Prince Ogbulafor-led PDP working committee, to be replaced by a caretaker committee that will support his political agenda."

Daily Trust gathered yesterday that some of the sacked ministers may be reappointed by Jonathan. A Presidency source said Professor Akunyili, Mrs. Diezani Allison-Madueke, Elder Godswill Orubebe, Adetokunbo Kayode, and Chief Demola Seriki may re-emerge as ministers because "they are the acting president's loyalists". Allison-Madueke was said to have been nominated to

the former cabinet by Jonathan, while Orubebe was said to have been nominated by the Ijaw Leader Chief Edwin Clark, who is a staunch supporter of the acting president. On her part, Akunyili may be re-appointed for being in the forefront of the campaign for the transfer of power to Jonathan.

Indications that the former information minister is probably sure of being re-appointed emerged yesterday. While many of the other sacked ministers wore long faces, Akunyili was beaming with smiles while briefing newsmen after the FEC meeting.

Political sources in Abuja also told *Daily Trust* that Dr. Jonathan is likely to nominate many serving senators and members of the House of Representatives to serve in the new cabinet. The idea, sources said, is to guarantee their easy clearance in the Senate and also secure the National Assembly's cooperation when Jonathan makes his final move against Yar'adua.

Sources said last night that former Kaduna State governor Ahmed Makarfi, who is chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, is billed to take over the Finance portfolio. Makarfi however denied it last night, saying it is not true.

Other sources said former House of Representatives Speaker Aminu Bello Masari, who spearheaded a campaign to transfer power to Jonathan, may emerge as the new Federal Capital Territory Minister in the new Cabinet. Masari's former chief of staff Abubakar Sadiq Yar'adua last night refused to confirm or deny the rumour, saying only that Masari is ready to do anything that will help to stabilize the polity.

Daily Trust also learnt that the Acting President is planning to give the Petroleum Ministry to either Yar'adua's Special Adviser on Petroleum Dr. Emmanuel Egbogah or to the former Minister of State for Petroleum, Odein Ajumugobia.

13 killed in fresh Plateau violence

Continued from page 1

ing, the attackers started shooting at them. She said three people in her house were shot.

Another resident of the village, Mrs. Dachollom Pam, a pregnant woman, corroborated the account, saying the attack started shooting as they came out of their houses on hearing gunshots.

Plateau State Commissioner for Information and Communication Mr. Gregory Yenlong, who spoke to our reporter, said he went to the village and confirmed that 13 people were killed while six others were in critical condition and currently receiving treatment at the Vom Christian Hospital in Jos South.

He said, "There was an attack on Biye village in Riyom local gov-

ernment area of Plateau State in the early hours of today by Fulani militia in which 13 people have been killed, mostly women, children and the aged". He added that no arrest had been made.

Yenlong, who appealed for calm, further stated that the state government was on top of the situation and would bring the perpetrators of the act to book.

Plateau State police Command through its Public Relations Officer ASP Muhammed Lerama said the attack did take place, adding that the police had gone to the scene to ascertain what happened before they would issue any statement. As at the time of compiling this report, they police were yet to come out any official statement.

Chairman of Riyom Local Government Area Mr. Simon Mwadkon blamed the attack on

security operatives, saying they could have averted the attack if they had been more vigilant.

He said the villagers heard the attackers speaking in Fulani and Hausa languages and called the security agencies. He also said the security agencies did not reach the village until around 2:30 am, of the attack around 1am.

He wondered why since, according to him, the distance between the soldiers' road block and the attacked village was not up to one mile.

Plateau State Chairman of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) Muhammad Abdullahi Nurrudin however denied that it was the Fulani that attacked the village. He said the Fulani in Plateau State are peaceful and law abiding and should not be made

scapegoats anytime there is an attack on villages.

On its part, the Special Military Task Force in Plateau State said Wednesday morning's attack on Biye village in Riyom local government of Plateau State could have been worse if not for the timely intervention of its troops. signed by brig. oti statement Oji on behalf of the Task Force commander said its men were alerted of the presence of the assailants through its help lines and it quickly moved to the area in time to stop the assailants from carrying out further attacks on Biye and the neighbouring Baten village.

The statement said the assailants had meant to attack the other village, Baten after the attack they launched on Biyen but the men of the task force who arrived

promptly prevented them from doing so.

The task force said it arrested seven of the assailants with three locally made short guns while cartridges, bows and arrows, machetes, knives and cutlasses were recovered from the assailants.

Oji said nine people were houses were burnt in the 13 villages before the arrival of the troops.

The task force assured that it will continue to carry out its duties effectively within the ambits of the law and will not spare anyone or group whose conduct is capable of inciting further violence.

Later yesterday, Plateau State Governor Jonah Jang appealed for calm and restraint in the wake of the latest attack on two villages in Riyom Local Government Area.

Meningitis kills 26 in Bauchi

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

CEREBROSPINAL Meningitis has killed about 26 people and left over 200 others hospitalized in Bauchi State, the state Chairman of the Primary Health Care Development Agency (BSPH-

CDA) Dr. Musa Mohammed Dambam has said. Dambam told newsmen yesterday that Ningi Local Government Area was the worst hit with the largest number of deaths. He however said efforts had been intensified to curtail the spread of the disease.

He added that the agency had taken delivery of vaccines and that it had been distributed to the 20 local government areas of the state.

The chairman said research showed that Bauchi Local Government Area had a peculiar type

of the disease which had defied the vaccine, but assured that the report had been sent to the NPH-CDA which assured that the right vaccine would soon be supplied to the area. He appealed to the people to report to the nearest health center any sign of the disease for

prompt medical attention, saying all health centers in the state had the vaccine and drugs for the treatment of Meningitis.

Dr Dambam also advised people to avoid crowded rooms and ensure that they stay in rooms with adequate ventilation.

Bukar heads Yobe ANPP reconciliation c'ttee

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

THE All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) in Yobe State yesterday inaugurated a 30 man committee under the chairmanship of former Governor Bukar Abba Ibrahim to reconcile aggrieved members of the party. The state chairman of the party, Alhaji Sani Inuwa Nguru, who inaugurated the committee said there was the need for all aggrieved persons to forget the past.

"It was a simple intra-party problem and we believe that what transpired was an act of God", Nguru said.

He called on the Albishir's camp to accept the olive branch "unconditionally" for the peace and progress of the ANPP in Yobe. Nguru said the committee would contact all aggrieved members of the party. Governor Ibrahim Gaidam said the problem between the state government and Senator Albishir was a family affair and that God had resolved it.

Bukar, who is representing Yobe-East in the Senate told Albashir that, "There is no need for you to leave certainty for uncertainty because ANPP is the political party you know and you have suffered for it".



BUKAR Abba Ibrahim



GOVERNOR Jonah Jang of Plateau State (left) signing the 2010 budget of N78.66 billion into law in Jos yesterday. Right is the Speaker of Plateau State House of Assembly Istifanus Mwanasat.

12 die in Katsina auto crash

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

BARELY days after 18 wedding guests died in an auto crash in Katsina State, another 12 persons on Tuesday died in an auto crash with 15 others injured. The accident occurred along the Funtua-Zaria road in Funtua Local Gov-

ernment Area of the state when a white Isuzu Bus with registration number XE884NSR, a Starlet car number AE 493 collided with an articulated DAF with registration number XE 732DKA loaded with fuel.

The Commandant of the Federal Road Safety Commission

(FRSC) in the state Mr Hammed Ali who confirmed the incident to our correspondent said 10 people died at the spot while the remaining two died at the Funtua General Hospital.

When our correspondent visited the Funtua General Hospital, a senior nurse who pleaded anonym-

ity said three bodies were still lying unclaimed in the hospital morgue while the remaining victims were being treated for various injuries. He said the hospital management was liaising with the Funtua Local Government Welfare Department to dispose the unclaimed bodies.

...Three injured in auto crash

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THREE persons were injured yesterday when two trucks collided along the Jos-Bauchi high way. The accident occurred in Babale town when a truck in an attempt to overtake, ran into another truck with registration number XA- 563- NNG that was coming from the opposite direction. When our correspondent visited the scene of the accident, the victims had been taken to the Toro General Hospital in Bauchi State.

Confirming the incident, the Public Relations Officer of the Federal Road Safety Commission, Plateau State Command Sa'idu Badamasi said the accident was as a result of dangerous overtaking and called on motorists to always drive with caution and avoid over speeding.

Jana signs 2010 budget into law

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

PLATEAU State Governor Jonah David Jang has signed the 2010 appropriation bill into law. The Plateau State House of Assembly had on March 4 approved the budget of N78, 6 billion for the 2010 fiscal year.

Governor Jang said 2009 would go down as one of the most difficult times for both the government and the public sector saying, "We in Nigeria and indeed Plateau State cannot be isolated. The economic meltdown affected our allocation from the federation account".

He said it was due to some bottlenecks that government agencies were unable to submit their budget proposals in good time.

Kantin Kwari traders fault c'ttee

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

TRADERS in Kantin Kwari market where fire razed thousands of shops last Friday have faulted the constitution of the committee, saying at least two traders from each of the eight affected shopping complexes should have been included in the committee. Speaking on behalf of the small and medium scale traders of the market, Alhaji Nura Idris Maliya, said those affected ought to be well represented in the committee. He added that substantive market union leaders should be elected so that the traders could have confidence in those managing their affairs. He said members of the caretaker committee did not own shops in the market and would find it difficult to identify those affected by the fire.

However, the chairman of the committee on the fire, Alhaji Ibrahim Garba, has urged the victims to cooperate with the committee. Alhaji Garba, who is also the state Commissioner for Projects Monitoring and Evaluation said without the co-operation of the victims and the traders, the committee would not be able to carry out the assignment effectively.

...Bankole reassures victims of support

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu & Ruqayya Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

THE Speaker House of Representatives Dimeji Bankole has reassured victims of last Friday's Kantin Kwari market fire that the National Assembly would do something about their plight.

Bankole gave the assurance yesterday when he paid a visit to Kano to sympathise with the traders. The Speaker was received at the market by the chairman of the Kwari Market Traders' Association, Alhaji Bature Abdul' aziz, the caretaker chairman, Alhaji Tanko Gambaga, deputy chairman, Alhaji Kabiru Sarki Sagagi and elders of the market.

At the Government House, Kano State Governor Ibrahim Shekarau thanked the members for the visit, saying it was an indication of the concern the Speaker and the House had for Nigerians. The Speaker, who was accompanied by four other lawmakers also used visited the National Emergency management Agency (NEMA) and the Kano State Fire Service.



CORRECTION:- From left: Kaduna State Governor Mohamed Namadi Sambo, former INEC Secretary Alhaji Abubakar Jauro and PDP Deputy National Chairman Dr. Bello Haliru Mohammed at the INEC stakeholders meeting in Abuja. This corrects our caption for this picture yesterday. The error is regretted

Sacked LG chairmen sue Dakingari, others

From Rakiya A. Mohammed, Sokoto

FOUR former Local Government Chairmen in Kebbi state have sued Governor Sa'idu Dakingari and 26 others for illegally dissolving their councils prematurely.

The former chairmen are: Balarabe Kamba, Dandi, Ibrahim Isa, Sakaba, Muhammed Sakaba, Shonga, and Garba Takware, Jega Local Government Area.

The defendants are, Kebbi Governor, Sa'idu Dakingari, Attorneys-General of the Federation and Kebbi State.

Others include, the Accountant-Generals

of the federation and Kebbi, the State Assembly and its Speaker. Also joined in the suit are, the Sole Administrators of 21 Local Governments of the state. Addressing a news conference in Sokoto on Tuesday, the representative of the four plaintiffs, Alhaji Balarabe Kamba said that they sued the defendants at the Federal High Court, Sokoto to seek redress.

According to them, the dissolution of the duly elected local governments on Feb. 25 was illegal just as the appointment of sole administrators for the 21 local councils.

"That before the dissolution, a Kebbi State High Court had on Feb. 18, 2010 declared

section 116 of the 2008 law as unconstitutional.

"It said that it does not apply to those elected under the repealed Kebbi state local government law 2000."

They urged the court to declare that the provision of any law inconsistent with the 1999 constitution should be declared null and void to the extent of such inconsistency.

Kamba said, "we want the court to declare the dissolution of our councils illegal and direct the state government to allow us to complete the remaining one year of our tenure in line with the constitution."

Borno to spend N400m on palace renovation

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

THE Borno State House of Assembly yesterday granted a virement request from the state executive that the N300 million of the money earlier appropriated for mosques' projects in the 2010 budget be added to the

budget for the renovation of palaces in the state. The Speaker of the Assembly Goni Ali-Modu read the executive communication on the floor of the House yesterday and about 20 members at the sitting approved the request by moving N300million budgeted in subhead 40163 which deals with the

construction and rehabilitation of mosques to subhead 40127 titled renovation of emirs' palaces in the state. N100 million was initially appropriated for the renovation of palaces in the 2010 budget while N700 million was initially budgeted for the mosques' projects.

Ondo govt extols Lamido's virtues

From Leye Adwumi, Akure

The Ondo State government yesterday extolled the virtues of the late Lamido of Adamawa Dr. Aliyu Musdafa. In a statement by the Commissioner of Information Mr. Ranti Akerele, the governor described the death of

the late monarch as a huge loss to humanity. The statement read in part, "Governor Migniko while expressing his condolence notes that the departed monarch was a true leader who despite his strict adherence to Islamic injunctions loved and related with everyone".

In a related development, The Cocoa Asso-

ciation of Nigeria through its acting Executive Secretary, Mr. Segun Adewumi, said the late monarch contributed immensely to the development of cocoa in the country. The association prayed Allah to grant his family, the people of Adamawa, and Nigerians the fortitude to bear the loss.

Senate asks FG to hunt for Warri bombers

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

THE Senate yesterday asked the Federal Government to direct security agencies in the Niger Delta to track down perpetrators of the recent bomb explosion in Warri, Delta State.

A faction of Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) claimed responsibility for the

Warri attack.

The Senate also condemned the bomb blasts, which scuttled the post amnesty conference organised by the Vanguard Newspaper.

Moving a motion on the bomb attack, Deputy Senate Leader Victor Ndoma-Egba (SAN) said MEND's action was as result of statements by some government officials that it existed only on the pages of newspapers.

Senate therefore condemned such inflammatory comments which are capable of inciting violence and passion in the Niger Delta and urged the federal government "To pursue the post-amnesty programme with increased vigour, while trying to maintain peace in the region."

Deputy Senate President Ike Ekweremadu laments the ugly trend to the Niger Delta crisis saying "The issue

of terrorism is gradually getting into Nigeria. So we need to take steps that will ensure safety of lives and properties in Nigeria and also to check militancy in the country."

MEND had issued warning that it would detonate bombs at the event few minutes before the explosion bringing to question the readiness of security agencies in the country to prevent such acts.

AC asks MEND to give peace a chance

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE Action Congress (AC) has asked the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) to give peace a chance in the Niger Delta region.

AC's National Publicity Secretary Alhaji Lai Mohammed said MEND's threat to resume attacks against oil facilities and other acts of violence would not advance the course of peace. Mohammed said the explosions that scuttled Monday's post-amnesty dialogue in Warri, for which MEND claimed responsibility, negated all efforts to restore peace to the Niger Delta.

He warned, however, that all stakeholders, especially the Governors of the states in the Niger Delta, must refrain from inciting and insulting comments, calling on the federal government not to relent in engaging all stakeholders in the region. He said the little success recorded by the government through the amnesty programme should not be a reason to slow down the search for peace.

FG restates support for Uwais' report

By Boco Edet

THE Federal Government yesterday said it would implement recommendations of the Justice Lawal Uwais Electoral Reform Committee to the extent of its compliance with the 1999 constitution.

Former Attorney General of the Federation and Justice Minister Prince Adetokunbo Kayode (SAN) said this in Abuja at a Justice Sector stakeholders meeting in Abuja on Tuesday.

"We will implement the Uwais report up to the level that it complies with the provisions of the 1999 constitution," Kayode said and added that government would carry out a "detailed study of the Hon. Justice M. L. Uwais Electoral Reform Panel recommendations with a view to the immediate operationalisation of aspects that do require constitutional or legal reform." He said government is committed to evolving an electoral system vide its on-going reforms in order to achieve a free and fair electoral exercise in 2011.

Kayode also disclosed that "government has agreed to the establishment of a team of seasoned prosecutors to commence the prosecution of violators of electoral laws in future elections."

He said "since these electoral offences were not prosecuted in the past. Many have come to accept them as the norm. This unfortunate trend breeds impunity and frustrates country's effort to conduct free and fair elections."



FROM left: House of Representatives Deputy Minority Leader Suleiman Kawu (left), Deputy Senate leader Victor Ndoma-Egba and Senate President David Mark, after the Senate's plenary at the National Assembly, Abuja, yesterday.

Student, 2 others face fraud charges

By Boco Edet

A student of the University of Lagos and two employees of TNT, a courier company, have been arraigned before the Federal High Court Lagos by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on a 22 count charge bordering on conspiracy and forgery.

The suspects, named by EFCC as Stephen Nwokolo, Ajayi Abiola and Tunde Oyeyemi, have however pleaded not guilty to all the charges.

According to the anti-graft agency, Stephen who is an engineering student of Unilag was said to have gone to the office of TNT in Lagos with a parcel containing 284 units of coun-

terfeit foreign cheques and other bank notes intending to send them abroad.

Investigations revealed that the trio had been in the illegal business together for a long time before they were caught by officials of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) on a tip off.

They had been sending counterfeit notes

through the courier company abroad where other members of their syndicate reside. And for their assistance, Stephen usually gave monetary rewards to his accomplices in the courier company.

They were remanded in Ikoyi and Kirikiri prisons till March 30, when their bail application would be heard.

Senate confirms Edo NDDC representative

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

THE Senate yesterday confirmed the appointment of Mr. Donald Omorodion as Edo State representative on the board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC).

The nomination which generated heat between members of the Action Congress (AC) and a faction of the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) led by Chief Tony Anenih in the state was approved by overwhelming majority of senators after consideration of report of

the committee on Niger Delta.

Though the committee recommended confirmation of Omorodion during the debate, Senator Odion Ugbesia (PDP, Edo Central) said the nominee who is a member of AC lacks the requisite qualification to represent the state on the NDDC board.

Ugbesia and Senator Yisa Braimoh (PDP, Edo North) insist there were doubts as to authenticity of Omorodion's credentials saying records have shown that he never acquired a National Certificate of Education (NCE) as

claimed while police extract of his loss of NYSC discharge certificate is also false.

But Senator Ehigie Uzamere (PDP, Edo South) said Omorodion was fit to serve as member of the NDDC representing Edo State.

Senate President David Mark warned that the appointment to the NDDC board is a national assignment saying "This is the first time the senate is being held to ransom by Edo internal politics; we have spent over one hour on this matter that should normally take us not more than 30 minutes."

Chairman Senate Committee on Niger Delta Senator James Manager (PDP, Delta South) said Omorodion is a member of oil producing area, "a man of proven integrity, he has the minimum educational requirements, his educational qualification is in order."

After much debate, Senate voted to approve the appointment of Omorodion putting what became a political tussle between the political camps of Governor Adams Oshiomole and Chief Anenih to rest.

AFRUCA to establish office in Nigeria

From Ibrahim Chonoko, London

AFRICANS Unite Against Child Abuse (AFRUCA), a leading charity organization promoting the rights and welfare of African children in the United Kingdom, is to establish a branch office this year in Nigeria.

The Executive Director of the

organization, Ms Debbie Ariyo who disclosed this at a seminar on Child sexual Abuse in London, said the move had become imperative because most of the victims of child trafficking in the UK come from Nigeria.

She said the branch office would promote child rights awareness, organize training activities for those who work

with children, and work closely with and give advice to those who make policies on children's issues.

It would also establish projects and programmes to help relieve some of the sufferings and hardships that African children experience and support parents and work with families in crisis.

Ms Ariyo, who gave a lecture on "Witchcraft, trafficking and Sexual Exploitation" said human

trafficking was the second most profitable international criminal business after drugs.

Victims of child trafficking are subjected to horrendous physical and psychological exploitation, including sexual abuse, domestic servitude and cheap labour, she said.

She stated that witchcraft and oath-taking are used on victims to secure their compliance and

silence, adding that the impact of these on the victims may result in trauma, depression and low self-esteem, among others.

Last month, AFRUCA launched a face-book campaign against human trafficking, which aimed to attract a membership of one million Africans against human and child trafficking and sexual exploitation.

PIC: AFP



BANGLADESH firefighters try to extinguish a massive fire burning in a slum of Dhaka yesterday. Over a hundred homes burnt down as a devastating blaze raged through the slum.

Nigeria hosts utility regulators' confab

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

NIGERIA will host this year's Annual Conference and General Assembly of the African Forum for Utility Regulators [AFUR] scheduled to hold from April 19 to 20 April 2010 at the International Conference Centre Abuja.

The Administrator of the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission NERC, Imma-mudeen Talba, said at a press briefing in Abuja.

He said Conference which Nigeria will be hosting for the first time is: "The global Economic Crisis: Implications and Challenges for Utility Regulation in Africa."

He said over 300 delegates from around the world, including utility regulators, senior government officials and the private as well as representatives from international development and finance institutions, investors and utility service providers are expected to attend the conference.

A number of speakers from around the world, including Nigeria have accepted to present papers at the Conference which the NERC boss says will provide an overview of the global financial crisis, African Infrastructure Utility Regulatory Frameworks and Institutions as well as the prospects resource mobilization.

The African Forum for Utility Regulators came into being in 2002 based on clause 110 of the framework document of the New Partnership for Africa's Development [NEPAD].

It is a voluntary organization whose members are regulators of water, telecommunication, energy and sanitation in their respective countries.

It comprises 30 African countries, including Nigeria and has its secretariat in Pretoria, South Africa.

Aid groups partner ECOWAS on disaster mgt

By Romoke W. Ahmad

THE International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC/RCS) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have agreed to work together to ensure prompt response in times of disaster in the sub region.

Speaking during a reception in his honour in Abuja, Director of Africa Zone Office of IFRC/

RCS Mr Alasan Senghore said the signing of agreement between the parties was intended to translate into better activity and better response in cases of emergency.

Mr Alasan Senghore described the agreement as a platform that would help in sharing of different levels of information on how to generate prompt response and achieve efficiency in the mitigation of the impacts of disaster.

He recalled that the humanitarian organization had been instrumental in providing succour and hope to victims of disasters and noted that the renewed effort was designed to boost the results already achieved in the region.

While noting that the Red Cross remains one of the first interventionist groups to arrive disaster scenes, Mr Senghore called for further collaboration

and support from partners.

Secretary General of the Nigerian Red Cross Society Malam Bello Hamman Diram said the group plays a significant role in attending to the needs of the victims of Jos crisis.

He called on not only Plateau State government but also the federal government and every other stakeholder to work assiduously to bring peace to the suffering people of the state.

FG to institute film fund

By Atika Balal

THE Federal government has plans underway to set up a film fund in order to upgrade the current standard of the Nigerian movie industry, former Minister of Information and Communications Professor Dora Akunyili has said.

The proposed fund is expected to be used to create forums that will improve the expertise of local

script writers and technicians amongst others and also to provide funding packages to support the development and production of movies that will further uplift societal values.

Akunyili, who said this at the opening ceremony of the seventh African Film and Television Exposition in Abuja on Tuesday, reiterated a commitment to initiate policies that will build up the industry so as to ensure that no artist has to

undervalue his or her artistry or vision for commercial reasons.

"New films will not only be developed with their visions articulated for the artistry, but will now be funded for this vision to be translated into film. We will develop industry-wide channels for financing, distribution, marketing, technical improvement and promotion of Nollywood," she said.

She said in collaboration

with the existing guilds, centers of excellence for the training of artists will be set up in order to improve their skills and translate their visions.

The former minister also called on practitioners in the media and movie industry to ensure that what is fed to the public is not demeaning or negative but uplifting and encouraging as that is the only way the media can be used to develop the nation.

Warri bomb blast : We did our best -Police

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

THE police command in Warri, Delta State says it did everything within its powers to protect those who attended the post amnesty summit organised by Vanguard press on Monday in Warri.

The Assistant Inspector General of Police in charge of Zone 5 which comprises of Edo, Delta and Bayelsa States Mohammed Abubakar said this in Benin yesterday. Abubakar who was speaking on the bomb blast at the Government House annex, venue of

the summit, said security agents did what was humanly possible considering the equipment at their disposal, saying, "We don't have sweepers or detective mirrors". He said the police took measures to prevent what happened and that every vehicle

within 500 metres of the venue was thoroughly searched. He said the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) and any other person found to be responsible for the blast would be treated as terrorists. He appealed to the public, especially the

media to stop referring to MEND as militants or ex-militants since according to him, anyone who is still carrying arms after the amnesty period is a terrorist and should be treated as one. He said Nigeria was collaborating with other countries to fight terrorism.

NUJ tasks FG on petroleum products distribution

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

THE Nigeria Union of Journalists Zamfara State chapter has called on the Federal Government to do everything within its powers to ensure constant supply of petroleum products in the country. In a communiqué issued at the end of its congress in Gusau, the union lamented that there was scarcity of the products in the state due to the planned deregulation. The communiqué which was signed by the council's Secretary, Muhammad Sabiu, also condemned the crises in Jos and called on government to bring those behind it to book. The union commended Acting President Dr. Goodluck Jonathan for sending the unedited copy of the Justice Lawal Uwais report to the National Assembly, saying it was the first step to ensuring credible elections in the country.

Niger Delta Ministry to spend 4bn on new city

From Johnkennedy Uzoma, Owerri

THE Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs is to build a new city in Imo State at the cost of N4billion. The Special Adviser to Imo State Governor Ikedi Ohakim on Niger Delta Bureau Tony Eze Okere disclosed this yesterday while speaking with our correspondent in Owerri. He said the government had already acquired over 200 hectares of land for the project which had been approved by the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs. Okere said Gov. Ohakim had approved that the new city be sited at Umuagwo in Ohaji/Egbema Local Government Area of the state.

The new city according to Okere will have all the basic social amenities.

Zamfara to get varsity



GOV. Mahmuda Shinkafi

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

PLANS are under way to establish a state university in Gusau, the Zamfara State capital, a mem-

ber of the board of trustees of the proposed university, Mr. Hussein Abubakar Moriki, has said.

Moriki disclosed this yesterday when he led other members of the board to visit the state governor, Alh Mahmuda Aliyu Shinkafi.

He said quest for a university in the state was overdue, adding that a university in the state would prevent youths in the state from travelling far to study. He said the board was already reaching out to well-meaning Nigerians, especially sons and daughters of the state to ensure the success of the plan. "Funding university education is a big task. We cannot handle it alone, people must come in to contribute their own quota", he said.

Mr Moriki said the university would begin operations very soon.



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE

CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, P.M.B. 14, ABUJA

INVITATION FOR CONTRACTORS TO BID FOR ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT

- 1.0 **PREAMBLE:** Federal Ministry of Finance invites interested reputable and competent contractors, experienced in maintaining equipment to bid for consideration in tendering for Annual Comprehensive Maintenance Services Contract for its office equipment in the Ministry's Headquarters, Central Business District, Ahmadu Bello Way, Abuja.
- 2.0 **SCOPE OF WORK**
The company is to provide the following services on an annual service contract:
- 2.1 Carry out an initial maintenance audit with a view to determining the current state of the equipment viz: **Photocopiers, Shredders, Computers, Printers, Scanners and UPS.**
- 2.2 Ensure a programmed maintenance services of the equipment.
- 2.3 Carry out regular preventive maintenance to prevent break-down of equipment and replacement of faulty part(s) without recourse to the Federal Ministry of Finance.
- 2.4 Ensure functionality of all equipment.
- 2.5 Provide quality assurance of all consumables supplied in the store of the Ministry.
- 3.0 Prospective contractors will be required to submit the documents underlisted:
- 3.1 Evidence of incorporation with the cooperate Affairs Commission.
- 3.2 Evidence of three years Tax clearance Certificate;
- 3.3 Evidence of VAT registration;
- 3.4 Evidence of financial capability and bank support;
- 3.5 Evidence of Company audited account for the past three years;
- 3.6 Experiences and technical qualification of key personnel;
- 3.7 Evidence of similar projects executed and knowledge of the industry; and
- 3.8 Any other relevant information.
- 4.0 The office equipment will be available for inspection between the hours of 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. for a duration of one week from the date of this publication/advertisement. Bidders should contact the Office Manager in Room 420 phase II for accessibility.
- 5.0 Bid documents should be collected from the office of the Assistant Director Procurement after paying the mandatory registration fees.
- 6.0 For further enquires interested bidders are advised to contact the Assistant Director Procurement, Ground Floor, Phase II, Federal Ministry of Finance Headquarter, Central Business District, Ahmadu Bello Way, Abuja.
- 7.0 The closing date for the submission of Bid documents is Two (2) weeks from the date of this publication at 12.30 p.m. while the bids will opened at 1.00 p.m. on the same day at the Conference Hall 4th floor, phase II, Federal Ministry of Finance, Abuja. Interested bidders are invited to witness the opening of the bid.
- 8.0 All bid documents must be made in sealed envelopes and clearly marked 'BID FOR ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES CONTRACT OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT IN THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE, HEADQUARTER, CENTRAL BUSSINESS DISTRICT, ABUJA.

To be forwarded to:

**The Secretary,
Tenders Board, Room 040, Ground Floor,
Federal Ministry of Finance,
Central Business District,
Abuja.**

NB: This is not an invitation to tender. Full tendering will be applied only to bidders that have been pre-qualified and found capable of executing the project.

Signed:
Permanent Secretary
Federal Ministry of Finance Abuja

ECOWAS to validate strategy on climate change

By Aisha Umar Agale

THE Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is to validate the draft Regional Strategy and Plan of Action to reduce vulnerability to climate change in the region.

After a three-day meeting of experts which began on Monday, March 15, 2010 in Accra, Ghana, the revised document will be presented to a meeting of ECOWAS Ministers of Environment on Thursday, March 18, 2010.

The document was also considered at two separate meetings in Banjul in early March 2009 and Accra in July 2009 by regional experts in forestry, agri-

culture, environment and water resources.

The action plan provides a framework to support regional and national initiatives to give the region the necessary impetus to deal with climate change and build the capacity to adapt, a statement from ECOWAS commission said.

It is estimated that in 2030, all member states will have the human, technical and financial resources necessary to protect their human and natural systems from the adverse effects of climate change.

In his statement at the opening of the experts meeting, the ECOWAS Commissioner for Agri-

culture, Environment and Water resources, Mr. Ousseini Salifou said the meeting held in March 2009 in 2009 enabled the commission to measure the scale of the challenge caused by climate change as well as the activities to be undertaken in addressing the phenomenon.

In her welcome address, Ghana's Minister of Environment, Science and Technology, Ms. Sherry Ayittey, said Ghana is a net greenhouse remover "and therefore has not contributed to the problem of climate change". She however lamented that the country is extremely vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

STAFF OPENINGS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

A US based international NGO working to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide, is currently seeking to employ the following positions for its Abuja office:

- Program Manager
- Sub grant Manager
- Program Officer
- Program Assistant
- Logistics Assistant
- Accountant
- Driver

Qualifications: Highest consideration will be given to those with experience managing or working on elections programs and or civic participation preferably working with USAID funded organizations. Minimum of three years on the job experience and a bachelor degree is preferred.

A school leaving certificate and a valid drivers' license will suffice for the driver's position.

Accountant must be chartered and familiar with USAID regulations such as 22CFR226/228; A122

Sub grant Manager must have previous experience managing sub grant for non-for-profit organizations, preferably funded by USAID.

TO APPLY: Interested applicants should forward their type written application, current resume and copies of certificates, and three references no later than two weeks from the date of

Publication by email to jobsngo@ymail.com with the position applied for as the subject of the email.

Only applications sent by email will be considered and short listed candidates will be contacted.

An Equal Opportunity Employer



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE In Collaboration with the Benue State Government And RSB Holdings Nigeria Limited

The Ministry of Defence in collaboration with the Benue State government and RSB Holdings Nigeria Limited will undertake the destruction of landmines, Unexploded Ordnances and Explosive remnants of war recovered from Benue State as a result of the last Civil War.

Date: Friday 19th March 2010

Venue: NASME Range,
Makurdi Benue State

Time: 11 am

Chief Host: His Excellency, Rt.
Hon. Gabriel Suswan,
Governor of Benue
State

Special Guest of Honour: Major General
Godwin Abbe (rtd)
CFR

Honorable Minister of
Defence

Stakeholders invited: Members of Benue,
Imo, and Rivers States

Executive and Security Councils, Members of the State legislature, relevant Non-Governmental Organizations, the representatives of United Nations Mine Action in Nigeria, the Canadian Embassy in Nigeria, the European Union in Nigeria, the Norwegian Embassy and the United States Embassy in Nigeria. All invited guest and stakeholders are expected to be at the venue by 10am.

Signed
Dr. Ezekiel O. Oyemomi FCA
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Defence

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



INEC Chairman Maurice Iwu

2011 elections hold Jan or April – INEC proposes

NIGERIANS have lost confidence in Maurice Iwu as an unbiased umpire to conduct the elections in 2011. For the ongoing review and reforms of our electoral laws and system to succeed, the likes of Maurice Iwu should not be part of the forth coming election.

Ibrahim Tsadu Ibrahi
elkutigi@gmail.com

My hope is that may what INEC is saying comes to reality and not end on the pages of newspapers because our major problem in Nigeria is that we have law and order but the implementation is the problem. May God intervene is the election so as to avoid all form of rigging in the general election.

Aminu bashir
aminubashir@saudia.com

Time for election is not yet ripe because several issues are still pending and yet to be resolved. There is no way an illegal INEC could organize another chaotic election.

Adeniyi
adeniyiraheem@yahoo.co.uk

Drama as couple reconcile after divorce

WE need of this type of couple who are ready to turn back and look at the hands of time. We meet to part and we part to meet if our first parting was in peace. This was in pieces and yet they came together again. That's great.

Benley
benstudies@yahoo.com

Gaddafi says split Nigeria in two

WITH ethnicity, religious differences and regionalism deeply etched into our daily and political life - an instance of which is when people vote and support any movement for either religious or tribal reasons - which is backed with the way our news papers report differently on the same topic and with the fact that there is no country without a dominant religion or tribe, I therefore suggest that the country should be split into three. Then only will democracy prevail over fraud, justice shall prevail over injustice and government will be closer to people.

Usman Ahmed Danbaba
danbaba1986@yahoo.com

A show of insanity is what an insane person will always exhibit. Is this the best that could come from Col. Gaddafi, a leader?

Bebe Chubby
angelchubby4u@yahoo.com

Thank God that your report said that Gaddafi is known for unusual declarations. Is it not ironic that a man who prides himself as an apostle of a one African state, is clamouring for dismemberment of one of such states that he will wants to see merge as one state?

Sunusi Musa
yando22@yahoo.com

Even if Nigeria is going to split we will do it without the consent of people like him. Secondly, go to any state in the country you'll discover that even in the far north there are indigenes there who are Christians. Same goes for Muslims in the south. If Nigeria should split, it wouldn't be on the basis of religion.

Yusuf Sulaiman
ysulaiman08@gmail.com

This guy was championing ONE Africa under one ruler last

year but is now advocate the splitting of a component of his utopian dream. If Nigerian Muslims & Christians cannot live together in one nation, how will Africans of different religious beliefs come under one umbrella? Some leaders we got in Africa!

Kunle Lasisi
k.lasisi@yahoo.com

In Nigeria, the average citizen does not care where his fellow Nigerian is from. It is often the politicians that trigger violence among the various ethnic and religious groups, for personal and often political gains.

Sunday Nmadu, Dallas
chrismac9@verizon.net

President Ghaddafi has just said exactly what Nigeria needs to do to stop shedding of innocent blood in the name of religion.

Kris
krismakata@yahoo.com

The call for the compartmentalization of Nigeria into Southern and Northern parts based on religious affiliation was borne out of ignorance and little or no knowledge of Nigeria altogether. Gaddafi's assertion shows that he doesn't know anything about Nigeria at all. Because in the Northern parts there are Christians and in the south there are Muslims. So when you divide this country based on religion, where should be the destination of these people?

Zanna Baruwa Gashua
bukar.zanna@yahoo.com

Dear controversial Gaddafi, the problem is I do not whether you know Nigeria well. This is a society where ethnicity rather than religion divides communities. How then one would advocate to divide Nigeria by religious affiliation? Even Birom Muslims were recognized as indigenes in Jos. Also,



LIBYAN Leader Muammar Gaddafi

what would you do to a Christian from the states of Borno, Bauchi, Adamawa, Gombe, Jigawa, Kano, Kebbe, Niger just to mention few and, Muslims from Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Rivers, Enugu, Imo, Benue, Kogi etc. Pakistan and India speak nearly one language and are possibly one race. If he advocated for South/North division that would have been easier... but then where, when and how will we start to divide the country? As for me I wouldn't mind if Borno will be a state on her own.

Engr. Baba Shehu
ibnabubakar@gmail.com

Colonel Gaddafi does not seem to understand the way Nigeria is structured. It is not as easy as he puts it. There is no such clear line of demarcation you can use to dismember Nigeria as the adherents of the two religions abound in virtually all parts of the country. It is not clear what intentions Gaddafi has for making such a suggestion, but whatever it is, division is not going to be a solution to the cur-

rent problems in my dear country. What perhaps may work to follow the suggestions of the late Premier of the northern region to the effect that we should try and understand our differences so that we respect them.

Nuhu
nuhuwaziri@yahoo.com

This cannot work in Nigeria. Nigeria is a unique country that will continue to exist forever as one. How are we going to divide the Country? In the Northern part of the country, there are only three states that have a 99% of Muslim population.

And what about the Muslims in the southern part of the country? How to solve our problems is very simple. Our religious leaders should be stopped from preaching hatred, rather they should be preaching love and genuine friendship and our political leaders should be committed to genuine service to their people.

Tijani Haruna
haranem@yahoo.com

98.2% flunk NECO exams

PROFESSOR, please disclose what exactly happened. This is incredible. How could 98% of students fail? This is why Nigeria is always at the backward. Nothing is done on merit. Please, provide strategic measures to correct your



FORMER Education Minister Sam Egwu

current and future mistakes.

Ahmad Mustapha
mustyelpapa@yahoo.com

This is a very sad situation for a country that wants to be a top 20 economy by the year 2020. I attribute it to a lack of good foundation especially in our secondary schools and also a general failure on the part of leadership. The earlier we find solutions like focusing more on our public schools etc the better for us as a nation.

Usman Neji Mohammed
usneji2000@yahoo.com

Massive failure in the SSCE is not surprising because of how governments at all levels neglected the educational sector. The stu-

dents have really tried: the condition of most public schools which produce the bulk of the final year students grapple with non-existent or poor facilities, poor remuneration packages for the teachers, over-crowding and in recent, cult activities.

Kabiru Danladi
kblondon2003@yahoo.com

This is interesting and at the same time revealing. What is the way forward and what is the policy thrust of the Govt responsible for Education in this country?

What annoys me about all these types of information is that those in positions of responsibility who are paid to perform are not queried or brought to explain to the tax pay-

ers why they should be allowed to continue performing these duties. The Legislative oversight functions should please be extended to this area and shouldn't stop at investigating contracts award etc. The deplorable state of affairs in this country calls for everyone's concern. We must rise and demand for explanations from these people or our inaction or passivity would be paid for tomorrow.

Emeka Ofomata
emeka1505@hotmail.com

This is not the fault of only candidates but the authorities who discourage government schools and encourage private schools.

Dada
dadagambo@ymail.com



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A wonderful world

Idang Alibi

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Can they not even sweep their streets?

Many Nigerians keep wondering why the Almighty God has apparently shielded our country from earthquakes, earth tremors, mudslides, flooding, forest fires, monsoon rains and other natural disasters that have devastated and are still devastating many nations of the world today.

I think I can now hazard a guess as to why God has been so merciful to us in that respect and in many other ways. My guess is that God is aware of the man-made disaster we are creating for ourselves and has reasoned that if he also allows any of the above listed natural disasters to befall us there will be a calamity of indescribable proportion. The arithmetic goes like this: man-made foolishness plus natural disaster equals a great calamity.

And what is the man-made disaster I am referring to? It is filth.

Nigeria is gradually becoming a *filthland*. With the possible exception of Calabar and the FCT under a previous leadership, our towns and cities are being overtaken by filth. Any where you go in Nigeria, what greets you is filth. It is as if Nigerians have stopped sweeping their roads and streets.

In every Nigerian town, city or village, you see the streets littered with used sachets of 'pure water' polythene bags, computers scraps, junks of vehicle parts and since every where is becoming a mechanic workshop, you are confronted by used engine oil and all manner of waste from repaired vehicles.

For those who live in Abuja and the nearby local governments of neighbouring Nasarawa State, I invite them to take a 'confirmation trip' to a street in Nyanya called Veterinary Road. Nyanya is a satellite town in the FCT and is a fifteen-minute drive from the Abuja city centre. I call it a confirmation trip because any one who comes there will confirm for him or her self what I have said about the feature of many of our towns and cities. Veterinary Road is emblematic or a symbol of a typical Nigerian settlement.

On this road, there is a mechanic workshop that occupies a large chunk of the passer-way. Next to it is a veterinary clinic and research institute. At the beginning of this major street that is the main access to the sprawling Federal Housing Estate Phase 3, Nyanya, is a commercial cyclists' 'car park'. Next to this car park are ghetto-like houses some of which serve as brothels. Day and

night, women cook right on parts of this street. The street is not tarred and has no gutters so urine, human excreta and food waste mix with the used engine oil from the mechanic workshop to give the street an odour that says "welcome to the capital of *filthland*". After the veterinary clinic is a huge dumpsite that is home to assorted wastes from residents of the Estate. Next to this ugly dumpsite is a huge Guinness Depot with several trailers blocking a substantial part of the road on both sides. As I said earlier, Veterinary Road, Nyanya gives you a vivid picture of how Nigerians live. There is no sense of planning, of order, of cleanliness and care of the environment whatsoever. On a street, you could have a church, a mosque, a brothel, a mechanic workshop, a cyclists' car park, restaurants, a clinic, a school, a dumpsite, residential quarters and a depot for alcoholic drinks all co-existing in one hellish bedlam.

It is amazing that there is a place like Veterinary Road, Nyanya in the Federal Capital Territory. I wish the FCT minister Adamu Aliero will take a working visit to this street and to the whole Federal Housing Estate Nyanya to see for himself how some residents of a part of the FCT not far from the city centre live.

Governance is completely on leave in Nigeria. Basic things that municipal authorities are supposed to do for the health and general well-being of the people are never done. What does it cost to get our streets cleaned if anyone is committed to keeping them clean?

We have failed in several areas of our national life. But it is a scandal that to keep our environment tidy is also beyond us. I keep wondering what the foreigners in our country think of us. I am sure that some of them are moved to ask: "Can they not even sweep their streets?" I wish a government in this country will call me to offer it advice as to what to do to keep the place clean. And my answer will astound the officials who will listen to me because of its simplicity and doableness.

My answer will be that well known proverb which says that if everyone should keep his front yard and backyard clean, the whole city will be clean. We just need a crazy man in government who will employ environmental police and insist that each household should clean their front yard and backyard. Government will enter into partnership with the private sector to dispose with the waste and convert it to wealth. It is very simple if the will to do it is available.

As it is now, filth is the man-made disaster that will flatten our country if nothing is done about it. Already, diseases like polio and leprosy that have been eradicated in other countries are having resurgence in Nigeria. Dysentery, meningitis, malaria and many more diseases that are environmental related are taking huge tolls on lives in Nigeria and no one seems bothered. Is Nigeria a tragedy waiting to happen?



By Abdulhamid Babatunde

At the mercy of mercenary media

As much as one would like to stick to the role of a professional practitioner of journalism who makes a living rather than a killing from the job, the alarming turn of events pertaining to the Presidency of Nigeria and the unabashedly sinister sleight-of-hand being displayed by the Nigerian media presents a challenge all responsible Nigerian journalists neglect at their own and indeed the nation's peril. By virtue of the fact that journalism is regarded as a noble profession and a bastion of democracy, the prevailing "season of anomie" in which the nobility of the profession as well as its onerous responsibility for the sustenance of democracy have become dispensable in the pursuit of primordial and even treasonable agenda is the journalistic equivalent of sacrilege.

The most devious exploitation of the presumed nobility and indispensability of the Press in Nigeria today manifests in the callous hypocrisy, double standards and outright impunity being deployed solely for the ignoble purpose of destabilizing the leadership of the country to create undeserved and dubious scenarios for usurping political power by undemocratic means. I have found the allusion to creation of scenarios very apt in describing

The most devious exploitation of the presumed nobility and indispensability of the Press in Nigeria today manifests in the callous hypocrisy

ing the on-going media manipulations and manipulations of the media. Media manipulations have been pretty evident in the way the undoubtedly natural and unpredictable susceptibility of President Umaru Musa Yaradua to health challenges have been portrayed and pursued as a geo-political "good luck" opportunity to enthrone sectional grudge and vengeance on a democratic dispensation that is the product of a national endeavour too respect and uphold the tenets of democracy, notwithstanding our personal, group or clannish urges to the contrary. What is happening today is nothing short of the continuation of the conceited contest against the reality of the Yaradua Presidency far beyond the legal and constitutional bounds that we are all supposedly committed to as a more civilized option to jungle justice and anarchy.

Needless to remind us that we have only just managed a successful transition of power from one administration to another, a feat that former President Obasanjo was being individually recognized for in spite of his own barely concealed illicit quest to sabotage it in pursuit of life presidency. It is now "widely believed" and there is ample evidence to prove that the original sinister motive of OBJ who was sprung from prison and planted in the Presidency by the entrapped military politicians to placate the south-west for "June 12", was to avenge his own peculiar misfortune in being rejected in favour of a President

from the North, at a time he had gone far in his descent from a "nationalist" who fought for Nigerian unity to an ethnic stooge seeking forgiveness and acceptance from his tribesmen at any cost to the nation. No doubt remains about this Machiavellian intrigue after his Trust Dialogue treachery and master agent provocateur role in the run-up to the fiasco of a Goodluck Jonathan "acting Presidency" via a legislative coup that practically abrogated un-repealed sections of the Nigerian Constitution.

It remains a serious matter of professional embarrassment and desecration of the touted nobility of journalism to recall how the leading national newspapers and private TV stations who initially clamoured for "constitutionalism" in pressurizing President Umaru Musa Yaradua to do what the constitution does not require of him, arrogantly endorsed the capitulation of the Senate which arrogated to itself the unconstitutional indiscretion of bypassing provisions of the constitution in order to install an "acting" President who had presided over federal executive council meetings and deployed troops to Jos without special legislative endorsement.

It was no less astonishing to witness the Press collusion to cover up the hypocrisy and crass opportunism of Dora Akunyili, Goodluck Jonathan and their avaricious fellow travellers in the federal cabinet who callously approbated and reprobed over the capacity of President Yaradua to perform the functions of his office all within a week but were never "pressurized" to withdraw their only official memorandum on the issue if only to save their own names and faces.

Collaborating cliques and cabals of lawyers, activists, senile statesmen, defeated politicians and other hibernating political deadwoods all of them dubiously distinguished by expired and bogus mandates as well as the British and American interfering busy-bodies were given lavish headline coverage to further white wash the stained fabrics of constitutionalism and bless the aberration. Having colluded to instigate a stampede in the Senate and to prop up fifth columnists in the federal cabinet, our Press mercenaries have now turned on to the Nigerian Army in general and Chief of Army Staff, General Abdurrahman Dambazau in particular in what can only be a calculated sectional intrigue to drag the military into the fray, perhaps to create a scenario for a military mutiny to complement their civilian coup. It has been conveniently forgotten that the military top-brass including General Dambazau did not hesitate to visit Acting President Goodluck Jonathan and pledge their loyalty, indifferent to the contrived circumstances of his installation, and have always been the last resort in saving Nigeria from recurrent instability.

These disturbing examples of media manipulations of events provide ample evidence of the manipulation, if not subjugation, of the nobility of the Press and its touted essentiality for the triumph and survival of democracy, by cabals and cliques of power-hungry self-seeking political elite who are currently out of circulation and relevance in the scheme of things.

Babatunde is a Kaduna-based media consultant.



By Kunle Adebayo

2011: Dismantling gender apartheid in Kwara

It is not yet clear if Senator Gbemisola Saraki has made any moves suggesting that she is in the gubernatorial race for Kwara State. However, what I gather from media reports is that a handful of individuals from the Muslim community in the state have declared their opposition to any notion of seeking to occupy Government House, Ilorin. It is their contention that the tenets of Islam and the teachings of Prophet Mohammed do not allow for a woman to lead a community of Muslim men.

This is another reminder that all over the world, even in Europe, women continue to face gender hurdles mounted by adherents of various cultural, political, religious and misogynistic views which blatantly refuse to allow women rise from the second class status which they have been placed in over the years. These barriers continue to prevent women from fully realising their rights as equal participants with men in the society. This attitude appears to be prevalent in societies where the Muslim population is dominant.

It is however safe to say that the impression of Islam that some Muslims give to the world is largely not a true reflection of the religion.

On the political front, most Islamic scholars argue strongly that the Qur'an gives women the right to participate in public affairs. Also, Islamic teachings abound with evidence of equality of women with men even in the exercise of political rights. These include the right of election as well as the right to nomination to political offices. In Islam, a woman may voice her opinion on social issues and participate in politics. Islamic history and the holy book provide ample instance of women who participated in serious discussions and argued even with the prophet himself.

In modern times, examples abound of women who have led Muslim countries in political, social and religious spheres. In the political arena, four of the five most populous Muslim countries have, at one time or the other, had women as their leaders. Indonesia, the most populous Muslim country, elected Megawati Sukarnoputri as president; Pakistan, the second most populous Muslim country, twice elected Benazir Bhutto as prime minister; Bangladesh, the third most populous Muslim country, elected Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina as prime ministers while Turkey, the fifth most populous Muslim-majority country, elected Tansu Cillier as prime minister. Also, large numbers of Muslim women the world over hold important positions in government, political parties and corporations. Just over 100 years ago, Qasim Amin, an Egyptian lawyer and judge, who is considered the "father of Arab feminism," wrote, "The evidence of history confirms and demonstrates that the status of women is inseparably tied to the status of a nation."

The disciples of the prophet were called companions and consisted of both men and women. These disciples, both male and female, wielded great influence and political power during the movement and this was to the knowledge and approval of the great Prophet. Islam was also spread by four or five individuals who happened to be extremely close to the prophet. One of them was the prophet's wife 'Aa'isha. She is amongst the very few who have authoritatively made religious pronouncements, given religious verdicts and explained verses of the Quran, as well as sayings of the prophet.

I am as yet not aware of any comments on this matter by the human rights community within or outside the country. A colleague explains that this is probably because statements like the subject of this piece are largely inconsequential. I disagree. The fact remains that the mere thought of it brings a sour taste to the mouth. Such a position, as taken by the said individuals as few and as in the minority as they are, is contradictory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly and to which Nigeria is a state party. The convention defines discrimination against women as "...any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field." By accepting the convention, Nigeria, in 1985, has committed itself to undertake a series of measures to end discrimination against women in all forms.

Obviously, there is still a long way to go for women's advancement to take an irreversible momentum.

Adebayo wrote from Abuja.

Your Letters

Ogbulafor as PDP's albatross

Corruption is not only when you steal government money. When you are in position to work on truth and call white black then you are corrupt. When you cause confusion in places where you are supposed to create understanding, you are corrupt. Even as a politician, if you prostitute from one political party to another all just for where it would serve your personal needs better, you are corrupt. It is said "power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Prince Vincent Ogbulafor was once an ANPP stalwart and even contested Abia State governorship

on its platform. He moved over to PDP, became its General Secretary. Now he is its national Chairman whose words must always be respected. But his bad contributions to the happenings in most State chapters of PDP show that he has not done well; one can count - Plateau, Zamfara, Akwa Ibom, Enugu, Ogun, Oyo, Edo, and recently Anambra, etc are very visible. To crown this, the part he played on a serious national issue that would have brought in the military thereby truncating our nascent democracy, stands condemned. Ogbulafor's actions are not only anti-PDP but also anti-masses.

He recently went to the press to accuse the acting President of not consulting with the PDP before making a minor cabinet swap. Who

is the head of the PDP - the acting President or the national Chairman of PDP? Ogbulafor also jetted out the country to Saudi-Arabia for an unfulfilled mission of seeing the ailing President Yar'Adua and from there, according to media report, to India for his own medical (eye) checks, without consulting the acting President who is now the head of his party.

PDP Integrity Forum (PIF) in recent advertisement complained about Ogbulafor's weak leadership as the bane of the PDP. And why Nigeria should continue to be ruled by a bad party headed by a wrong person is what beats the imagination. Yet the PDP finds it difficult to do away with 'one man' that has been an albatross.

Fatima Jibril, Plot 1299 Ibrahim Taiwo Street, Asokoro, Abuja

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Why not settle on one?

WHY did INEC propose two dates in January and April 2011 for the next general elections to if the commission is truly Independent?

NDAGITSU M Bosso, Minna, 08034530957.

Two-state solution?

NIGERIANS should not heed Gaddafi's call to split Nigeria into two along religious divide as a panacea for religious crisis in the country. He failed to realize that there are Nigerian Muslims from the south and Nigerian Christians of northern extraction. Thus Gaddafi's call should be jettisoned because a sit-tight leader has nothing to offer.

KENNEDY Ololo, Abuja, 08036439596.

Nonsense

GADDAFI'S split Nigeria call is undiplomatic, a distortion of reality and disturbances of thought and language and withdrawal. He should hasten to see a psychiatrist.

UBALE Bompai, Rano, Kano State, 08033246464.

Doesn't add up

I am baffled at the ignorance on the configuration of the Nigerian society shown by President Gaddafi. An African who advocates a United Africa should obviously not be talking of balkanization sadly on religious basis. We need one another; that is assuming his proposition is feasible and Muslims/Christians live as such and there is conflict this time on ethnic ground.

PANKHINEN, Jos, 08065541524.

Who's ignorant?

IF there is any display of crass ignorance of the Jos crisis, then it emanates from people like Timawus Mathias who writes without any pretence to objectivity; God save Nigeria, 08066937401.

Any better advice?

IT'S high time for us Muslims and Christians and Hausa and Birom to unite ourselves and stop killing each other in the name of *dan kasa* and *non-dankasa*. As none of us can declare victory at the end of this animalistic conduct, regardless of whether the man in the Government House is his kith and kin.

HUZAIFAH Ismail Idris, Anguwan Rimi, Jos-north, 08032061851

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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Encoding Abuja's vehicle licence

The FCT Directorate of Road Traffic Services (DRTS) known locally as Vehicle Inspection Office (VIO) recently announced the introduction of a programme to encode vehicle documents and drivers' license for motorists in the territory. The proposed method involves the use of microchips to store all information of the vehicle and the validity of the drivers' license. Officials of the directorate have praised the strategy as a means of easing the process of documentation for motorists, and also reduce traffic congestion that occurs as a result of manual checks of vehicle particulars. The sum of N2,000 is proposed as charges for encoding the documents for each vehicle and N1,000 for the encoding of the drivers' license; motorists in Abuja have up to April 1 to comply or be sanctioned.

Any measures introduced by the authorities to cut through Nigeria's notorious red-tape should be a welcome development. Given the scanty detail so far made available by DRTS officials, we doubt whether this particular measure counts as one of them. For one thing, we are not aware of any programme of enlightenment of the public on what the measure entails, and what the benefits are, to the motorist, to the public in general, and to the implementing authorities. For another, its introduction and effective take-off date are too sudden and it would appear that the measure was not particularly well thought-out to convince the public about its merits. Moreover, and this is the bizarre aspect of the proposal, its application is limited to the FCT.

In addition, the cost to the motorist is too steep, and amounts to double taxation since the encoding would be done on the basis of existing documents previously paid for at the time of acquisition. Similarly the time frame is such that it does not take into account its potential to cause anxiety and discomfort to vehicle owners. The deadline of one month or less will almost certainly precipitate unwarranted queues at licensing offices. We can predict that the ensuing deluge will lead to system failure or breakdowns of equipment; this will create avenue for exploitation and possible frauds.

The proposal brings to mind a similar attempt by the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) to compel vehicle owners to stick reflective stickers to the rear of their vehicles; it failed, but the consultants and contractors smiled to the banks.

The proposed encoding policy is however a good initiative. It would cut down on paperwork, and save motorists the trouble of carrying various pieces of papers around. But we think it should have nationwide application. In the way it is presently conceived, more of a revenue-generating strategy than any law-enforcement consideration, what happens to vehicles that come to the FCT from other parts of the country that have not introduced the system? We recommend a minimum period of one year for the policy to take effect, and should be done when vehicle owners go to renew their expired documents.

The DRTS should withdraw its short ultimatum for a longer one; it should invite its counterpart officials in the thirty six states and map out strategies on how to apply the measure nationwide with the modifications along the lines we have suggested.

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Almajirci and the burden of guilt (I)

The Arewa Media Forum (AMF) is a Kaduna based non-governmental organisation that was established by media practitioners and other media stakeholders who are not journalists. Its objective is to serve as a networking and public policy forum. It has organised several fora where national issues and particularly those that are peculiar to or of critical relevance to the North were discussed. On Monday March 15 2010 it organised its annual lecture at the main Auditorium of the Arewa House, Kaduna. The theme was 'The Challenges of Almajirci and Destitution in the North'. The event drew participants from a broad group of stakeholders. The guest lecturer was the Governor of Kano state, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau, while the Royal Father of the day was His Royal Highness, the Sarkin Zazzau of Suleija, Alhaji Muhammad Awwal Ibrahim, the former Governor of Niger State. Dignitaries from all walks of life attended the event; among them were community leaders, government officials, academics, NGOs and CBOs, and teachers of *almajirai* and their pupils.

In his welcome remarks, the Chairman of the Arewa Media Forum, Malam Mohammed Haruna said the topic was carefully selected to address an embarrassing and lingering problem in the North. He said various states and NGOs have developed blue print for implementation of a reformation and rehabilitation project for *almajirai* in various states. He attributed the failure of these to the absence of a political will to faithfully implement the various interventions designed by these concerned groups. He welcomed all participants and hoped that the outcome of the lecture will ginger all stakeholders to take action.

In his opening remarks, the Chairman of the occasion, HRH Alhaji Awwal Ibrahim, the Emir of Suleija, said *almajirci* has been addressed by various states and he had the privilege of being the Chairman of the thirty three-member Committee on Reformation of Almajirci set up by the Niger State Government under the Chief Servant Alhaji Mu'azu Aliyu Babangida. The Committee had since submitted its report and the State Government had commenced implementation of the report. He acknowledged the work done by various states such as Kano, Kaduna, Sokoto and Kebbi on the reformation of *almajirci* from which his Committee benefitted.

The Guest lecturer Malam Ibrahim Shekarau's paper was presented by the Commissioner for Technical Education, Dr Bashir Galadanchi, an expert who had immense experience in the issue of *almajirci* reformation in Kano State. The Governor's paper was titled *Educational and Socio-Economic Problem of Almajirai of Qur'anic Schools: The Kano State Experience*. The paper made a distinction between *almajirai* and beggars on the streets. It stated that the *almajirai* are pupils of Traditional Quranic Schools (TQS)

Civil Society Watch

By Hajiya Bilkisu (mni)

also known as *tsangaya* whose parents give them out to Quranic School teachers malam also known as *alarammomi*. The schools are itinerant, with the *malam* moving around with his people according to the time of the year. He noted that the pupils resort to begging because the parents do not provide financial support for the upkeep of their children. He traced the deplorable situation of the *tsangaya* system to the neglect it suffered from the colonial era when formal schools were established and adequately funded but the *tsangaya* education was deprived of state funding. On reformation attempt, the Governor said Kano state established Office of the Special Adviser on Education and Information Technology to implement reformation of *almajirci*. The State conducted a baseline sur-

veys in the North. This he said will require legislation across the North because research has shown that 80 percent of the *almajirai* in Kaduna were from neighboring states. He listed several agencies, donors and development partners that are all working on rehabilitation of *almajirci* but lack of synergy has reduced the impact.

The next discussant was the Secretary General of the Arewa Consultative Forum ACF Colonel Musa Shehu (retired). He informed the participants that The ACF had set up a Committee to work with the 19 Northern States Governors on reformation of *almajirci*. He expressed hope that if this Committee completes its work and the action plan is implemented it will settle the issue of *almajirci* on a permanent basis. The representative of the teachers of Quranic schools under an NGO Sheikh Badamasi Abdullahi. He made a very detailed presentation on the history of the decline of the *almajirci* system. He made it clear that before colonialism derailed the

If and when it comes into being, the Commission would formulate guidelines for successful eradication of child destitution in Nigeria, advice the Federal government on the funding and orderly rehabilitation of *almajirai* system

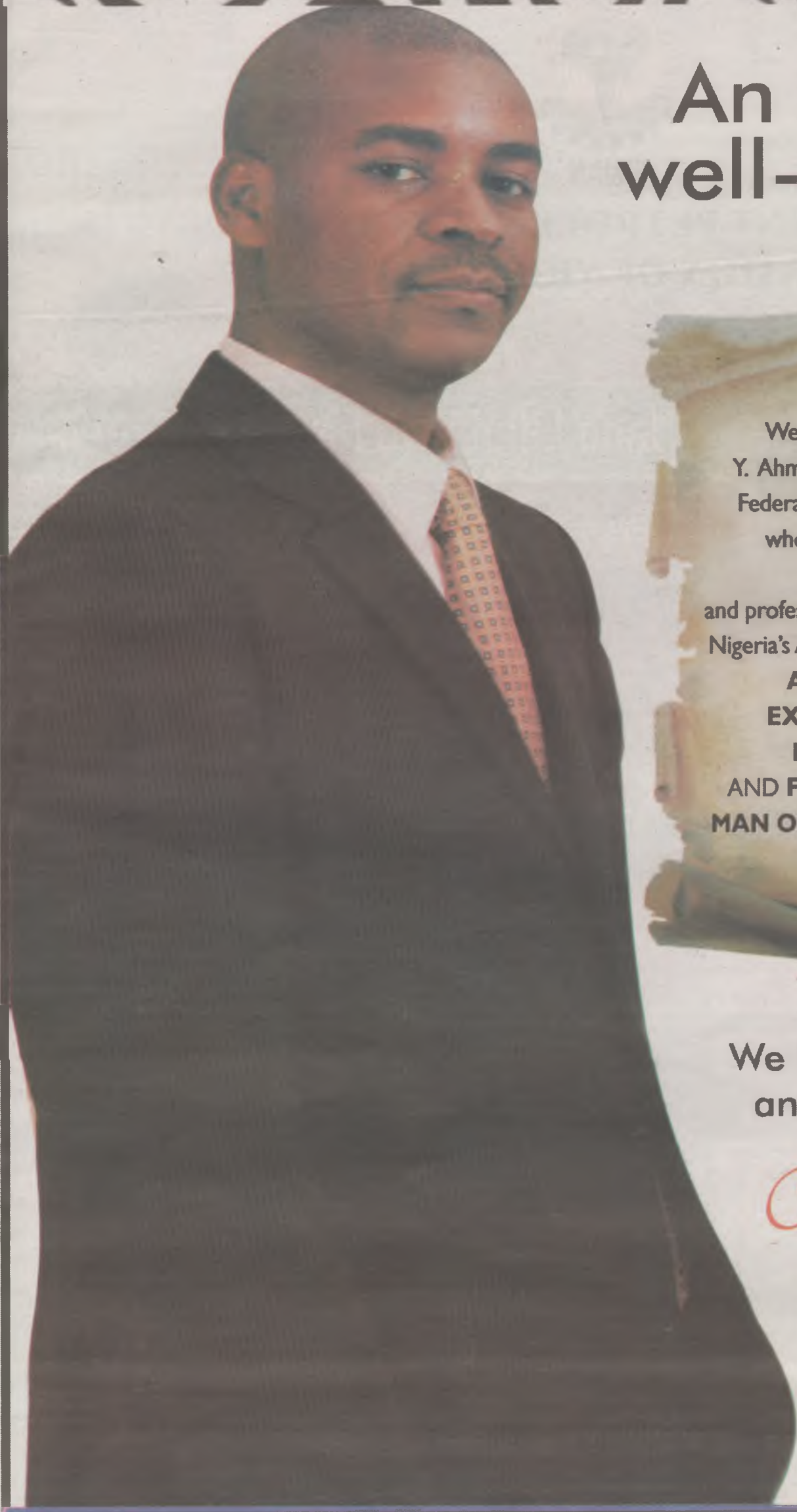
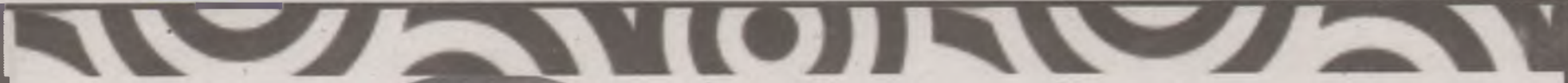
vey which showed that there were 26,000 TQS and Islamiyyah schools with 2 million pupils compared to 5,000 primary schools with 4,611 pupils. Other measures taken were: sensitization of major stakeholders of *almajirci* for over 25,000 *malams* through seminars, and these were amplified through radio and television programmes. Others were: skills development programmes in tailoring, carpentry, shoemaking, Islamic calligraphy, electrical installation etc. for the *almajirai* and 1,200 have benefited. A feeding programme was also lunched to reduce the incidence of begging among *almajirai*. Two Colleges of Qur'anic Studies Schools were also established in Gwarzo and Tudun Wada Local Government Areas. Proposal is on for establishment of a *tsangaya* Trust Fund.

There were five discussants of the paper. The first discussant was Senator Umar Abubakar, the *Tafidan* Argungu. He had taken a progressive move of proposing a Bill at the National Assembly on April 9 2008. The bill seeks the establishment of a National Commission for the Eradication of Child Destitution in Nigeria. If and when it comes into being, the Commission would formulate guidelines for successful eradication of child destitution in Nigeria, advice the Federal government on the funding and orderly rehabilitation of *almajirai* system. The second discussant was Dr Sadiq al Kafawi of the Council of Ulama who focused on the need to develop the political will to sustain the reformation of *almajirci* system by all the

tsangaya system it was a well organised system where the *malam* had a means of livelihood and parents provided financial support to the *tsangaya* schools. Today the *tsangaya* system has been cannibalised and neglected, parents do not contribute to the school, the *malam* cannot farm because has no land so the pupils are sent out to beg for their meals. He underscored the fact that the system cannot be scrapped and can only be reformed.

An *almajiri* pupil came to share his life sketches with participants. He came in his signature profile of the typical *almajiri*, garment that was dirty and he also looked unkempt. He told us that he was from Isa Local Government of Sokoto State.

He said '180 of us came to Kaduna from Isa with our *Malam* and we were lodged in Unguwar Sarki, Kaduna by one *Malam* Audu. We have a schedule for our lessons and we take a break when we go and beg for our meals. We start our day at 6am after morning prayer with Qur'anic recitation and at 8am we go to beg for our breakfast. Then we study from 10-12 noon, we break for noon prayer and resume 3-6 pm and go to beg from 6-7pm, we resume school and study from 8-10pm when we close and go to sleep.' He said they left their home state to come to Kaduna because they learn faster and better when they are away from home. He made a beautiful and heart moving recitation of the Quran.



An Honour well-deserved



We salute Alhaji Abdulsalam Y. Ahmed, Managing Director, CEO Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria whose display of hard-work, courage, dynamism and professionalism in his stewardship at Nigeria's Apex Mortgage Bank attracted **AFRICAN STAR OF EXCELLENCE AWARD IN HOUSING 2009 AND FINANCIAL STANDARD MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD 2009**

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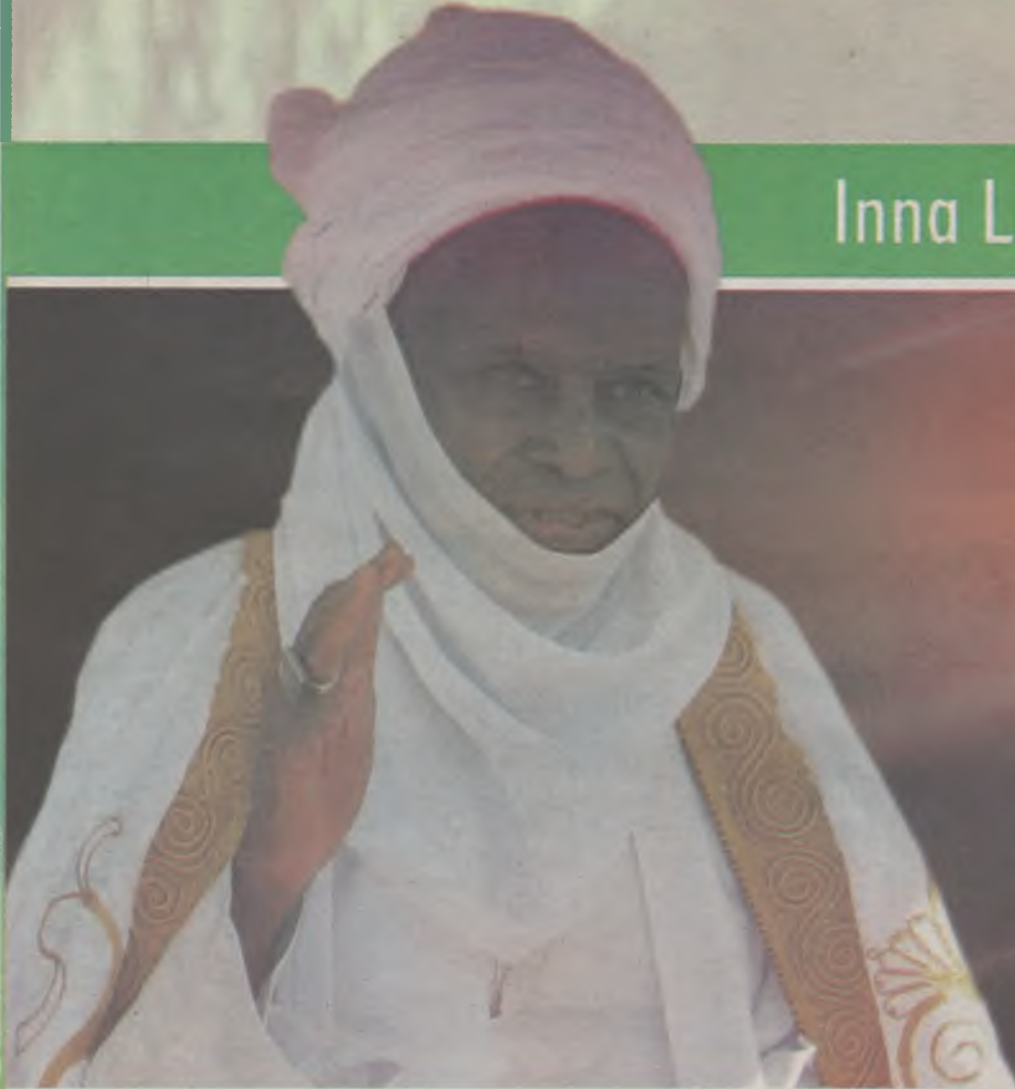
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IPMAN

INDEPENDENT PETROLEUM MARKETERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (IPMAN)

Inna Lillahi Wa Ina Ilaihi Raji'un



His Royal Highness,

**Alh. Dr. Aliyu
Mustapha** (CFR, CBE),
The Lamido of Adamawa

The National Executive Council of IPMAN wishes to condole the Adamawa State Government, Adamawa Emirate Council and the Entire People of Adamawa State on the loss of **His Royal Highness, Alh. Dr. Aliyu Mustapha, The Lamido of Adamawa** who ruled for 58 years. He led an exemplary life in all ramifications and was a role model of Peace and Unity to Adamawa, Nigeria and beyond. May his soul rest in perfect peace, Ameen.



Signed:
ALH. AMINU ABDULKADIR
National President, IPMAN

INTERNATIONAL

Zuma meets Zimbabwe leaders amid pressure for new polls



SOUTH African President Jacob Zuma (R) and Zimbabwean counterpart Robert Mugabe shake hands at Harare International Airport.

SOUTH African President Jacob Zuma met Zimbabwe's feuding leaders yesterday amid growing pressure for the fragile unity government to move toward fresh elections.

Zimbabwe's veteran President Robert Mugabe and Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai formed a unity government one year ago, but remain divided over a slate of issues, which has stymied progress toward the new polls envisioned in their power-sharing pact.

Zuma held one-on-one talks with Mugabe and then with Tsvangirai. The three were expected to meet early today. Both Mugabe and Tsvangirai were tight-lipped as they left the talks, saying only that the meetings had gone "very well."

But Mugabe's lead negotiator Patrick Chinamasa held out little prospect for an imminent breakthrough, saying lower-level talks were already planned for next week. "It will not be the end of the matter. We should meet as negotiators and conclude our negotiations, which we will do later this month," he said.

The unity government has halted Zimbabwe's spectacular economic collapse, erasing hyperinflation and posting the first growth seen in more than a decade. Tsvangirai, however, complains that Mugabe made a series of top-level appointments unilaterally and that supporters of his Movement

for Democratic Change (MDC) remain the target of official persecution.

Mugabe, in power since independence from Britain in 1980, has bitterly insisted that western nations lift a travel ban and asset freeze imposed on his inner circle before making more concessions. "This is quite a real issue for him and he needs answers on the issue of sanctions," a Zimbabwe official told AFP.

The United States and the European Union this year both extended most of the sanctions for another 12 months, and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said during Zuma's visit to London earlier this month that progress toward elections must be made before the sanctions can be lifted.

Pressure is growing for the parties to shelve their differences and focus on drafting a new constitution, which is meant to pave the way toward fresh elections.

Under the power-sharing deal, Zimbabwe was meant to draft a new charter and put it to a referendum by November 2010, with new elections by February 2011. Public consultations on the constitution were meant to start nine months ago, but are now only expected to begin in April.

Tsvangirai last week insisted that the unity government should stick to the original timetable, and called for African peacekeepers to supervise the polls to prevent a return of the bloodshed that marred the 2008 presidential race.

Sudan to sign deal with small Darfur rebel group

THE Sudanese government is to sign a deal with a small Darfur rebel group, the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM), this week as talks with the larger Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) falter, a minister said.

"The accord will be signed today in the presence of Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Taha, who is expected to arrive in Doha on Wednesday," Culture Minister Amin Hassan Omar told reporters in the Qatari capital late on Tuesday.

The deal with the LJM -- an alliance of splinter rebel factions formed last month -- comes after a deadline set for the completion of peace negotiations between Khartoum and the JEM passed without agreement on Monday.

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Date: November 1-3, 2010

Venue: Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja, 1 Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja

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N50,000 (Fifty Thousand Naira) per participant
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N20,000 (Twenty Thousand Naira) for presenting authors
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The abstract should summarize the paper, at least it should state the:

- Problem/challenge
- Approach to the solution (methodology)
- Findings
- Solutions/recommendation

Abstracts of papers should be printed in **Times New Romans** font style, of **12 pt** font size with single spacing and should not be more than one (1) page of A4 size in length and should contain sufficient details. **The Abstracts must be sent in, on or before April 30, 2010.**

Those whose abstracts are accepted will be informed and sent copies of the format to be used in preparing the final papers, which must reach the organizers before **June 30, 2010.**

EXHIBITION

Manufacturers & Technology Vendors, Analytical Laboratories, Oil Companies, Service Companies, Process Engineering Contractors and Allied Industries are invited to participate in a concurrent exhibition at the following rates

Location	Ground Space Measurement	Cost Per Booth (N)
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All exhibitors will be responsible for the construction and erection of their booths/stands. Limited spaces are available and would be on a **"first come first served basis"**.

Interested exhibitors should therefore indicate their willingness to exhibit, and forward their space requirement before **June 30, 2010**

For further enquiries please contact the underlisted

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Upstream Operators
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International

Pakistani court charges 5 Americans with terrorism



PICTURE shows five young Americans accused of plotting terrorism in Pakistan, Ramy Zamzam of Egyptian descent, Waqar Khan and Umar Farooq of Pakistani descent, and Aman Hassan Yemer and Ahmed Minni of Ethiopian descent.

A Pakistani court charged five young Americans yesterday with planning terrorist attacks in the South Asian country and conspiring to wage war against nations allied with Pakistan, their defense lawyer said.

The men — all Muslims from the Washington suburb of Alexandria, Virginia — pleaded not guilty to a total of five charges, the most severe of which carries a maximum sentence of life in prison, defense lawyer Hasan Dastagir told The Associated Press.

"My clients were in good shape and high spirits," Dastagir said.

The men, all in their late teens or early 20s, were charged by an anti-terrorism court inside a prison in Sargodha, the city in Punjab province where they were arrested in December. They were reported missing by their families in November after one left behind a farewell video showing scenes of war and casualties and saying Muslims must be defended.

Their lawyer has said they were heading to Afghanistan and had no plans to stage attacks inside Pakistan.

The court also charged the men with planning attacks on Afghan and US territory, said

Dastagir. The charges did not specify what was meant by US territory but could be a reference to American bases or diplomatic outposts in Afghanistan.

The men also were charged with contributing cash to banned organizations to be used for terrorism and with directing each other to commit terrorist acts.

"This last charge carries life in prison while the rest of the charges have lesser punishments," Dastagir said. The trial will begin on March 31, and the prosecution is slated to present more than 20 witnesses, Dastagir said.

The defense plans to bring wit-

nesses from the US and provide evidence of community service carried out by the men back home, Dastagir said.

Pakistani police have publicly made several accusations against the young men, claiming the suspects contacted Pakistani-based jihadi groups. They accused the five of using the social networking site Facebook and video-sharing site YouTube while they were in the US to try to connect with extremist groups in Pakistan.

During past court hearings, the men have claimed they were tortured by Pakistani police and FBI agents. Pakistan and the US

have denied those allegations.

The US has pressed an often-reluctant Pakistan to crack down on militants in its territory, many of whom are believed involved in attacks on American and NATO forces across the border in Afghanistan. At the same time, several recent cases have highlighted incidences of foreigners signing up to join the insurgents on both sides of the border.

The men have been identified as Ramy Zamzam of Egyptian descent, Waqar Khan and Umar Farooq of Pakistani descent, and Aman Hassan Yemer and Ahmed Minni of Ethiopian descent.

Israel lifts closure of West Bank as tensions calm



PALESTINIAN demonstrators hurl stones at Israeli troops, not seen, in east Jerusalem.

ISRAEL yesterday lifted its tight restrictions on Palestinian access to Jerusalem's holiest shrine and called off an extended West Bank closure after days of clashes between Palestinians and Israeli

security forces.

Despite moving to end the lockdown, Israel still kept thousands of police officers on alert as an uneasy calm settled over the holy city.

The recent violence has taken place against a backdrop of deep Palestinian frustration over a yearlong standstill in peace talks and dovetailed with the worst US-Israeli diplomatic feud in decades.

On Tuesday, the US and Israel signaled they were trying to move beyond the crisis that erupted when Israel announced plans to build 1,600 apartments in disputed east Jerusalem during Vice President Joe Biden's visit last week. Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke by phone Tuesday night, Israeli officials said.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the confidential nature of the conversation, did not disclose the substance of the talk.

While there were no reports of new clashes in Jerusalem, sporadic violence broke out Wednesday in the West Bank.

The most serious incident occurred in the northern city of Nablus, where dozens of Palestinian youths hurled rocks at Israeli security forces, some using slingshots and even a shovel to increase their range.

Israeli troops responded with tear gas and rubber bullets. Medics said two Palestinians were wounded.

The recent protests have been fueled by the plans for more Jewish housing in east Jerusalem and unsubstantiated rumors that Jewish extremists are planning to seize the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, Islam's third-holiest shrine.

S/Korean women caught in abortion limbo

HAVING a third child wasn't in Mrs. Kim's plans. She and her husband are already struggling to get by. But getting an abortion, once so routine here that South Korea was known as "Abortion Republic," is no longer easy. In recent weeks, the government has begun enforcing a long-ignored ban on the procedure for the first time.

It took Mrs. Kim 10 tries to find a doctor willing to perform an abortion, and he's demanding nearly \$1,000 in cash. To scrape together the money, the six-weeks pregnant woman took a second job cleaning an office building overnight for a few weeks.

"I can barely afford to have an abortion. How can I afford to raise and put a kid through college?" The 31-year-old secretary said, dunking a rag into a bucket of water. She asked to be identified only by her surname due to the sensitivity of the matter.

Governor Peter Obi of Anambra State sworn-in

PIC: NAN



ABOVE LEFT: Chief Judge of Anambra State, Justice Paul Obidigwe (left), administering the oath of office on Governor Peter Obi (third left) of Anambra State in Awka yesterday.

ABOVE RIGHT: Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, Senator Joy Emodi, member, House of Representatives, Mr Okey Udeh and former Governor of Anambra State, Chief Chukwuemeka Ezeife, at the swearing in ceremony.

LEFT: From left: Chief Judge of Anambra State, Justice Paul Obidigwe, APGA Chairman Chief Victor Umeh and APGA chieftain Chief Odumegwu Ojukwu, at the swearing in ceremony yesterday.



GOVERNOR Peter Obi (right) inspecting the guard of honour mounted by Nigerian Police, after he was sworn in Awka yesterday.



FROM RIGHT: Obi of Onitsha, Chief Alfred Achebe; former Chairman of the Intercontinental Bank Plc, Chief Raymond Obieri and former Minister of Health, Chief Tim Menakaya, at the swearing in ceremony.

To Our
Esteemed Readers,
Advertisers and
Contributors



POLICY ON PUBLICATION OF ADVERTORIALS, PETITIONS AND RELATED MATERIALS



Media Trust Limited

Media Trust Limited, publishers of Daily Trust, Weekly Trust, Sunday Trust and Aminiya newspapers take very seriously its responsibility to the public to publish all points of view, including those we do not share. We think this is the function of an independent, liberal newspaper dedicated to the pursuit of the common good. We are also conscious of the fact that it is a shortsighted business policy for a newspaper to shut out a particular point of view for its own reason or due to pressure from powerful institutions and advertisers.

But we are also aware that professional agitators can use the pages on newspapers to malign governments, companies and individuals on spurious grounds.

Caught between our desire to give voice to the concerns of the voiceless and to protect public officers and institutions from unfair and demoralizing attacks, we have been forced to develop a more stringent policy for the placement of advertorials, petitions and other related materials in the pages of our newspapers.

The new policy is depicted hereunder

1. The writer(s) of such advertorials must not be anonymous but people who can stand by what they say, with their full names and address.
2. If there is any accusation against any person or organization, such writer(s) must substantiate the claims with evidence which can stand before a Court of Law. For example, if they claim that a contract was inflated, they must show Media Trust, relevant documents to back this up.
3. The placement must be fully paid for, before it is carried.
4. The author(s) should be

prepared to accept corrections or alterations made by us but the corrected version would be shown to the author(s), before publishing.

5. The publishers have the right to reject any piece considered to be libelous, containing assertions without supporting facts and figures to prove the authenticity of such claims.
6. In the alternative, we are prepared to enter into an indemnity agreement with those who place such advertorial which will put the onus of proof squarely on them.
7. Media Trust employees that collect such materials have been instructed to contact the Advert Manager, who will also consult further with the relevant superior officers to analyze the piece before placement is made.
8. If the publishers of Daily Trust, Weekly Trust, Sunday Trust and Aminiya newspapers reject any material regarded as unprintable based on the above consideration, they will not enter into any correspondence with the author(s).

Finally, we wish to assure our readers that we will not shy away from publishing fair and balanced criticisms of any government or individuals, which is in the nature of free exchange of ideas.

This, we will continue to do in our free opinion columns and with advertorials where some readers feel strongly enough to pay for them.

We thank you for your support and assure you that we will do our best to keep your trust.

**Signed:
MANAGEMENT**

International

Two Emirates cabin crew jailed for three months after sexting in Dubai



Two Emirates airlines cabin crew have been ordered jailed for three months in Dubai over sexually explicit text messages, it emerged yesterday.

The case is just the latest in a string of indecency cases against foreigners, including two Britons facing jail in a separate case.

The pair, an Indian flight attendant and her cabin services supervisor, were convicted of 'coercion to commit sin' over the messages and initially sentenced to six months in jail. The National newspaper said, citing court documents.

The sentence was reduced on appeal last week to three months and deportation orders against the pair were lifted, it added.

Dubai's foreign population has expanded rapidly in recent years as expatriates flocked to the Gulf Arab trade and tourism hub for its tax-free earnings and year-round sunshine.

The changes have challenged the Emirati population, which is

now vastly outnumbered by foreigners.

The new population dynamics are raising local concern that their emirate's rapid pace of growth is a threat to their social and religious identity. The region remains deeply conservative.

An Emirates spokeswoman declined to comment on the case as it was still ongoing.

The paper said the case emerged after the flight attendant's husband filed a lawsuit against his wife a year ago accusing her of being in an illicit relationship with her supervisor.

It said the couple had been embroiled in a divorce battle since 2007.

The case is the latest decency case against foreigners accused of not respecting local mores.

In a separate case, a British pair caught kissing in public in Dubai is appealing a month-long jail sentence handed down after an Emirati mother complained her child had seen their indiscretion.

The pair, a British man living

in Dubai and a female friend, were arrested in November on accusations of kissing and touching each other intimately in public and consuming alcohol, their lawyer said. They were ordered jailed for a month.

In a high-profile case in 2008, a British couple narrowly escaped jail after a court found them guilty of engaging in drunken sexual activity out of wedlock, and for doing so in public on a beach in the emirate.

They were sentenced to three months in prison followed by deportation, but had their jail terms overturned on appeal.

In a separate case this year, a British couple who shared a hotel room managed to escape trial in Dubai for having sex out of wedlock by producing a marriage certificate.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/worldnews/article-1258680/Two-Emirates-cabin-crew-jailed-months-sexting-Dubai.html#ixzz0iT4ij3n4>



MAY-WELBY said: 'The concepts of man or woman don't fit me. The simplest solution is not to have any sex identification'

Briton is recognised as world's first officially genderless person

A British expat who claims to have no gender is thought to have become the first person to be officially recognised as neither male or female.

Norrie May-Welby, 48, was born a man but had a sex change operation in 1990, at the age of 28.

After becoming unhappy as a woman, May-Welby decided to become a "neuter". The 48-year-old is now officially recognised as a person of no specific gender.

May-Welby emigrated to Australia at the age of seven

after being born in Paisley, Renfrewshire.

Officials there altered the Briton's birth certificate to include the new no-gender classification after doctors were apparently unable to determine the sex of the expat's body.

May-Welby said: "The concepts of man or woman don't fit me. The simplest solution is not to have any sex identification."

The UK's Gender Trust welcomed the case. A spokesman said: "Many people like the idea of being genderless."

Culled from telegraph.co.uk



NO, THANK YOU!

We have an in-house policy of rewarding staff who keep to the straight and narrow path.

The practice of journalism today in Nigeria has acquired some odium due to the "brown envelope syndrome". For those who may want it spelt out, "brown envelope," is the practice whereby journalists, or those who pass off themselves as such, insist on being paid to cover events, write news report or feature articles (that are clearly not to be paid for). This practice is not limited to the lowly reporter; it obtains also at the high echelons in media organisations.

Similarly, many reporters and editors are offered gift and gratification, sometimes with the overt aim of influencing their work. Some of these gifts could be described as "token." If not, it may be offered in ways it would be rude or self-righteous to reject there and then.

In the circumstances, it has become necessary for us to make public our company's policy on gift-taking, so that our numerous readers, newsmakers, advertisers and other well-wishers can help us with its implementation.

It is the policy of Media Trust that its editors and reporters should not solicit for gift or gratification either through begging, flattering, cajoling or blackmailing those they encounter in the course of their work. Where a gift can be graciously declined, we expect our staff to do so. However, where it is pressed on them, they will declare it so that the company can write a letter thanking the giver and donating the gift to charity.

However, we sincerely expect those who patronize our publications as readers, advertisers and newsmakers, not to seek to influence our reporters and editors with bribe, gratification and gift.

We have an in-house policy of rewarding staff who keep to the straight and narrow path. You can assist us by reporting anyone who claims to be our staff, yet engages in such unethical conduct.

HELP US TO PRODUCE NEWSPAPERS THAT YOU CAN **TRUST**.

Thank you.

Signed:
Management

 **Media Trust Limited**





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EDUCATION TRUST FUND (ETF) SPECIAL INTERVENTION PROJECTS: INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY CONTRACTORS

A. INTRODUCTION

Pre-qualification bids are hereby invited from interested and reputable contractors with relevant experience and good track record in respect of each of the projects contained in the tables below:

I. REHABILITATION PROJECTS

LOT 1

- a Rehabilitation of Laboratory Complex in Block 2 (ground floor) for Department of Chemistry
- b Rehabilitation of Laboratory Complex in Block 4 (ground floor) for Department of Biochemistry
- c Rehabilitation of Laboratory Complex in Block 2 (first floor) and Block 6 (ground floor) for Biosciences

LOT 2

Rehabilitation of Engineering Workshops and Laboratories in Blocks 7 (ground and first floor) and Block 9 (ground and first floor)

LOT 3

- a Rehabilitation of Faculty of Education Lecture Theatre
- b Rehabilitation of Performing Arts Theatre
- c Rehabilitation of Faculty of Science Lecture Theatres: LT 1, LT 2 & SLT
- d Rehabilitation of Faculty of Engineering Lecture Theatre: LT 3, LT 4 & ELT

LOT 4

Rehabilitation of the Main Library

II. NEW CONSTRUCTION

LOT 5

Construction of Centre for Ilorin Studies: Academic Resource Centre for Arabic, Islamic and Christian Religions

LOT 6

Provision of infrastructure (Borehole, Water Reticulation, Fencing and Security Post) on a piece of land at Iyana Village/Share/Babanloma Road Junctions

LOT 7

Construction of 1 No Lecture Hall/Seminar Room with seating capacity of 100; 6Nos Academic Offices, Toilets and Stores for Department of Geology and Mineral Sciences at Iyana Village outstation

LOT 8

Construction of 5 Nos 20-bed Hostels (3 blocks for male students and 2Blocks for Female Students)

LOT 9

- a Construction of 10Nos Academic Staff Guest Rooms with Kitchens and Stores
- b Construction of Dining Hall, Kitchen and Common Room with Seating capacity of 100

LOT 10

- a Construction of Simulation Laboratory Complex, with a flow of 100 students and different skill stations in labour, delivery and neonatal and paediatric care
- b Construction of two Lecture/Seminar rooms for the Simulation Centre Complex (1 each for Paediatrics and Obstetric Departments)

LOT 11

Construction of 5 No blocks of External students' hostel. Each block made up of 10 rooms at 2 students per room and ensuite (total of 100 students)

LOT 12

Provision and improvement of dedicated water supply for use at the Simulation Centre Complex and Hostel

LOT 13

Provision and improvement of dedicated power supply: 250 KVA generating set, and installation for the Simulation Centre Complex and the Hostel

LOT 14

Construction of 7-Storey Faculty of Arts Academic complex to consist of Lecture Rooms, offices and Furnishing

LOT 15

Construction of Academic Building including the Furnishing for College of Health Sciences

LOT 16

Construction of Faculty of Science Phase III Complex including the Furnishing

LOT 17

Construction of Laboratory Complex for Faculty of Science

LOT 18

Construction of Multipurpose Hall including the Furnishing

III. PROCUREMENT

LOT 19

- a Procurement of Q600 SDT Simultaneous Differential Scanning Calorimetry and Thermogravimetry Accessories
- b Procurement of 1No. Agilent 7890A/5975 Inert GC/MS; ALS and

Headspace Sampler

- c Procurement of 2No. Water Proof Digital Theodolites
- d Procurement of 5No. NIKON AP-8 Automatic Level Compact and Lightweight

- e Procurement of 2No. H-4967 2000 Speedy Moisture Tester

- f Procurement of 5No. Ro-Tap Motorized Sieve Shaker

- g Procurement of 5No. Waterproof Handle Handheld GPS

- h Procurement of 2No. Portable Laserleaf Area Meter

- i Procurement of 5No. Eclipse Pro-Compass

LOT 20

- a Procurement of 1No. ExPress Universal Testing Machine

- b Procurement of 2No. Testo 645 Standard Set

- c Procurement of 1No. Exhaust Gas Tester/Analyser Digital

- d Procurement of 1No. Combine (Grain) Harvester KARTAR-4000

- e Procurement of 1No. Drilling Machine (Heavy Duty)

- f Procurement of 1No. Heavy Duty ARC Welding Transformer

- g Procurement of 2No. Bomb Calorimeter

- h Procurement of 1No. Standard Lathe Machine

- i Procurement of 2No. PH Metre (Computerized) H19815(PH Turtle)

- j Procurement of 1No. Hydraulic Dynamometers F849 Power KW(BHP)

- k Procurement of 2No. Oven H-30128 3.0 cu ft (85l) Capacity Double Wall Construction and Heavy Duty Welded Steel Exterior

- l Procurement of 2No. Density Apparatus for Soil Test

LOT 21

- a Procurement of 1No. UV Spectrophotometer MODEL 371

- b Procurement of 1No. slarimeter SL100

- c Procurement of 1No. Instruction Tractor Model: Pedal Operated with Single Pot Gear Box with Plate Clutch

- d Procurement of 1No. Wall Model Diesel Ignition System

- e Procurement of 1No. Instruction Models: Clutch Coupling

- f Procurement of 1No. Instruction Models-Battery Coil Ignition System

- g Procurement of 1No. Instruction Model - Ignition System

- h Procurement of 1No. Engine Parts Display Table

- i Procurement of 1No. Boom Sprayer-OVERLANDER

- j Procurement of 1No. Torque Transducer RWT 310/320

- k Procurement of 2No. Seed Planter 1200 ASM Planter

- l Procurement of 2No. Seed Drill 9-15 ROWS Version

- m Procurement of 1No. Rotavators F-150

- n Procurement of 2No. Chisel Plough P75

- o Procurement of 4No. DAT Heavy Duty Tool Box

- p Procurement of 2No. Trolley Jack

- q Procurement of 2No. Crane Jack

- r Procurement of 2No. Vulcanizing

- s Procurement of 2Nos Injector Calibrating Machine ASNU FUEL

INJECTOR ULTRASONIC

- t Procurement of 1No. Mechanical Press DAL SERIES

- u Procurement of 1No. Hydraulic Press LPR30C

- v Procurement of 1No. Centrifugal Pump Test Rig

- w Procurement of 1No. Automatic Rainfall Recorder

- x Procurement of 2No. Tensiometer Set SMS2000

- y procurement of 10No. Stop Watch P0073

- z Procurement of 1No. Double-Ring Infiltrometer 1003-001

- a Procurement of 1No. Centrifugal Water Pump Engines 3Inches

- b Procurement of 1No. Centrifugal Water Pump Engine 4Inches

- c Procurement of 10No. Thermometer 0-100 Centigrade

- d Procurement of 5No. Thermometer 0-200 Centigrade

- e Procurement of 10No. Thermometer 10-90 Centigrade

- f Procurement of 5No. Thermometer 0-300 Centigrade

- g Procurement of 10No. 100ml Measuring Cylinder

- h Procurement of 10No. 250ml Measuring Cylinder

- i Procurement of 10No. 2000ml Beaker

- J Procurement of 10No. 1000 ml Beaker

- k Procurement of 10No. 250ml Beaker

- l Procurement of 10No. 100ml

- m Procurement of 10No. 500ml Measuring Cylinder

- n Procurement of 10No. 1000ml Measuring Cylinder

- o Procurement of 10No. 50ml Measuring Cylinder

- p Procurement of 40No. Test Tubes 15x125mm

- q Procurement of 40No. Test Tubes 15x150mm

- r Procurement of 40No. Glass Rod

- s Procurement of 10No. Spatula

- t Procurement of 10No. Flat Bottom Flask Stopper 1000ml

- u Procurement of 10No. Flat Bottom Flask Stopper 500ml

- v Procurement of 10No. Flat Bottom Flask Stopper 250ml

- w Procurement of 10No. Flat Bottom Flask Stopper 250ml without stopper

- x Procurement of 2No. Planimeter NE-02-31

- y Procurement of 1No. Thermograph with chart 210-4110-A

- z Procurement of 1No. Universal Grain Moisture Meter MC-7825G, MC-7821

Continued from previous page...

- aa Procurement of 1 No. Digital Top Weighing Balance
 ab Procurement of 1No. Refrigeration Equipment
 ac Procurement of 1 No. Feedmill Station Q-Series
 ad Procurement of 6No. Blowers
LOT 22
 Procurement of Archiving Equipment/Materials that will archive works in areas of Arabic, Christian and Islamic Religions, Politics, History and Literature
LOT 23
 Procurement of 30 No HP Computers with flat screen for Resource Centre
LOT 24
 a Procurement of Softwares for Arabic Language Studies and 1No 52" LCD LG TV and Sony DVD as Teaching aid for Arabic and Islamic Studies
 b Procurement of Softwares for Aramic, Hebrew, Greek and Latin Language and 1No 52" LCD LG TV and Sony DVD as Teaching aid for Arabic and Islamic Studies
 c Procurement of Books of various Titles
 d Procurement of Electronic Journals
LOT 25
 a Academic/Field Equipment: Procurement of 1 No-Wheel Drive Jeep
 b Academic/Field Equipment: Procurement of 1 No-30 seater Bus (Equivalent)
LOT 26
 a Directional Measuring and Recording Instruments: Topographical Maps, Aerial Photographs and Satellite Imageries
 b Procurement of 50Nos Compass-Clinometer
 c Procurement of 20Nos Digital Altimeter
 d Procure of 30 No Global Positioning System
 e Procurement of 1 No Geophysical Terrameter (ABEM SAS400)
 f Procurement of 2 Nos EC/DO/TDS Meter
 g Procurement of 1 No Thin Sectioning Machine (Lgitech)
 h Procurement of 200Nos Safety Boots
 i Procurement of 50Nos Cutlasses, Shovels, Diggers etc
 j Procurement of 2 Nos Cone Penetrometer
 k Procurement of 50 Nos Knap Sacs and Sample Bags and Bottles
 l Procurement of 50 Nos Core Boxes
 m Procurement of 200 Nos Safety Helmets
 n Procurement of 2 Nos Computer Processing Workstation
 o GIS Processing Software (ArcGIS, Iiwis Surfer8, Geosoft, Goggle Earth)
 p Procurement of 2 Nos Cartographic Table (with set of Panthograph and Drawing Pens)
 q Procurement of 2 Overhead Projector
 r Procurement of 2 Nos Slide Projectors
 s Procurement of 2 Nos Power Point Projectors
 t Procurement of 4 Nos Black Board
 u Security and Environmental @ Field Station: Procurement of 2 No Electric Generating Sets (5KVA)
 v Security and Environmental @ Field Station: Procurement of 50 Nos Kerosene lanterns/Rechargeable lamps
 w Security and Environmental @ Field Station: Procurement of 200 Insecticide Treated Mosquito Nets
LOT 27
 a Furnishing of Academic Offices @field station*
 b Furnishing of Seminar/Lecture Rooms
 c Furnishing of Hostels with 100 Nos Double bunk beds and Mattresses, 100Nos Camp Beds and 150 Nos Cupboards/Lockers
 d Furnishing of Academic Staff Guest Room
 e Furnishing of Dining Hall Kitchen/Common Room
LOT 28
 a Procurement of 5No S575 NOELLE™ with Newborn HAL@
 b Procurement of 5No S3101.003 integrated camera system
 c Procurement of 5No S575.300 Wireless streaming radio
 d Procurement of 10No S504.100 Gynecologic Simulator
 e Procurement of 10No S504.1 Add-on Zoe Gyn-Set of 7 normal and abnormal uteri with external pathologies
 f Procurement of 10No S504.2 Add-on Zoe Gyn-Set of 7 normal and abnormal uteri with internal pathologies
 g Procurement of 10No S504.3 Add-on Zoe Gyn-48 hour post partum uterus with duckbill cervix
 h Procurement of 10No S504.4 Add-on Zoe Gyn-Uterine module depicting depicting ducky pint colour associated with early pregnancy
 i Procurement of 10No Susie articulating newborn for Leopold maneuvers and birthing exercises
 j Procurement of 10No Adult woman simulator with facilities for CPR
 k Procurement of 10No Pelvic bone with fetal heads on stand
 l Procurement of 10No Episiotomy suturing simulators
 m Procurement of 10No Forceps/ vacuum delivery OB mannequin used in advance life support in obstetrics with carry bag
 n Procurement of 4No Obstetrics forceps 2pairs of Wrigley's and pipers forceps each
 o Procurement of 2No Ventouse vacuum extractor (Electric) VE-700
 p Procurement of 5 No Karman's syringe for manual vacuum aspiration
 q Procurement of 5No PROMPT Birthing Simulator - Force Monitoring 376-00550
 r Procurement of 5No Cutdown Mannequin
 s Procurement of 5No Hand Expression Breast milk model NS-SB40236U
 t Procurement of 5No Normal pelvic examination simulator (Life/form)LF01060U
 u Procurement of 5No Abnormal pelvic examination simulator (Life/form)LF01061U

- v Procurement of 5No Human reproduction and development text and teaching guide WA25812U
 w Procurement of 5No Fetal Development Model NS-LA00245(X)U
 x Procurement of 5No Child bearing, the classic series
 y Procurement of 5No Full Term Pregnant Model S515
 z Procurement of 1No HAL Mobile Team Trainer with D/C powered tetherless monitor S3000
 aa Procurement of 5No Simon® Multipurpose Airway Trainer with site specific heart and lung trainer S315.100
 ab Procurement of 3No Paediatric HAL® Five Year S3005
 ac Procurement of 5No Code Blue® III System for Neonatal ALS Instruction S300.106
 ad Procurement of 10No PEDI Blue® neonatal simulator with SmartSkin technology S320.101
 ae Procurement of 10No Add on to PEDI Blue-Package price with all options S320.200
 af Procurement of 10No PREMIE™ Blue Simulator with SmartSkin™ Technology S108
 ag Procurement of 10No Multipurpose patient care and CPR infant S107
 ah Procurement of 10No Add on to S107-CPR Link s180 code blue
 ai Procurement of 10No Add on to S107-Life Monitoring System S181
 aj Procurement of 10No Nita Newborn v800
 ak Procurement of 10No Ambu Silicone Reusable Resuscitators Neonate Bag w/Size 00 Mask 288003001
 al Procurement of 2No 317000 Laerdal PC SkillReporting System 317000
LOT 29
 a Procurement of 10No Baby Cots
 b Procurement of 10No Children Cots
 c Procurement of 30 No Couches (Double section)
 d Procurement of 5 No Gynaecological Examination Tables (for additional simulation stations)
 e Procurement of 5No Gynaecological examination tables with facilities for lithotomy position Access High-Low Power Exam Table
 f Procurement of 20No Hospital beds with wheels and power control
LOT 30
 a 2 No. Physical Chemistry Laboratories: Furnishing and Procurement of Laboratories Equipments
LOT 31
 a 2 No Biology Laboratories: Furnishing and Procurement of Laboratories Equipments
LOT 32
 a 2No Physics Laboratories: Furnishing and Procurement of Laboratories equipments
LOT 33
 a Central Engineering Workshops: Furnishing and Procurement of Workshop Equipments
 b Workshops (Civil Engineering): Furnishing and Procurement of Workshop Equipments
LOT 34
 a Digitization: Procurement of Digitization Equipments for Central Library

B. PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR CONTRACTORS

Interested contractors are required to submit pre-qualification documents with verifiable evidence including but not limited to the following:

- i. Evidence of incorporation of the company by Corporate Affairs Commission
- ii. Evidence of current registration with the Federal Ministry of Works;
- iii. Evidence of Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three years;
- iv. Company profile including list of staff;
- v. Company audited accounts for the last three (3) years;
- vi. the List of similar jobs executed with evidence or names of clients, location of projects, letter of contract award, certificate of practical completion and cost of projects; and
- vii. List of equipment to be used where applicable and their location.

C. PROCESSING FEE

Interested contractors are required to pay a non-refundable processing fee of N30,000.00 per lot. Contractors may indicate interest in more than one lot. Drafts are to be made payable to the University of Ilorin, Ilorin and attached to the pre-qualification documents.

D. SUBMISSION

All submissions in sealed envelopes should be delivered to: **The Registrar, University of Ilorin, P.M.B. 1515, Ilorin**, not later than 12 noon, two (2) weeks from the date of this advertisement. The envelopes should be clearly marked at the right hand corner with the name of the project. Contractors are required to send an electronic copy of their submissions to: dppu@unilorin.edu.ng. Pre-qualification submissions will be opened immediately thereafter at University Auditorium, University of Ilorin at 2:00p.m. on the same day.

NB

- i. This is not an invitation to tender;
- ii. The University reserves the right to reject any or all the pre-qualification packages; and
- iii. Failure to comply with any of the instructions above or to provide any of the listed documents may automatically result in disqualification.

Signed:
Olufolake O. Oyeyemi (Mrs.)
 Registrar



**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WORKS,
HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT
HEADQUARTERS, MABUSHI – ABUJA**

CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER ADVERTISEMENTS

The attention of the Federal Ministry of Works, Housing and Urban Development has been drawn to errors in the tender advertisements published on pages 36 and 37 of the Daily Trust and pages 52 and 53 of the Punch Newspapers of Monday, March 15, 2010 respectively, and the following corrections are necessary:

- (i) Paragraph 2 (i) of the advertisement entitled "Invitation for the Pre-Qualification of Civil Engineering Contractors for the Construction/Rehabilitation of Roads in the Federal Highways Network for 2010 Financial Year" should read: "Annual Turnover in Construction Works of at least **Five Billion Naira (N5,000,000,000.00)** for construction projects, and **One Billion Naira (N1,000,000,000.00)** for Rehabilitation projects in the last three (3) years.
- (ii) Sub-Title "SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS" in respect of the advertisement entitled "Debt Relief Gains Funded Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Projects, Invitation to Tender for Construction Works, and Services for the 2010 Financial Year" the closing date should read "at 12 noon, Six Weeks from the Date of Publication (i.e. 15th March, 2010). Under OPENING OF TENDER DOCUMENTS; tender documents will be opened Six Weeks from the date of the publication of the advert (which is precisely Monday 26th April, 2010) at the Conference Room of the Ministry's Headquarters, Mabushi, Abuja.
- (iii) First sentence of paragraph 6 of the advertisement entitled "Invitation to Tender for the Implementation of 2010 Budget" should read: "Submission will be opened **Six Weeks** from the date of the publication of the advert (which is precisely **Monday 26th April, 2010**) in the Conference Room of the Ministry at 12.00 noon.
- (iv) Interested contractors for (ii) and (iii) above are to pay appropriate Tender Fees upon the collection of Tender documents.

All Contractors and the general public are to take note and be properly guided please.

Signed:
Permanent Secretary



INVITATION FOR THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO DEVELOP GENDER POLICY AND GENDER SENSITIVE CURRICULUM FOR THE NIGERIA POLICE

UNIFEM, UNFPA in collaboration with the Nigeria Police hereby invites interested and eligible organizations for the expression of interest to develop;

- I) Gender policy for the Nigeria police
- II) Gender sensitive curriculum for the Nigeria Police.

The Government over the years has demonstrated commitment to achieving the targets of the MDGs, particularly goal number 3, which emphasizes the promotion of gender equality through the existence of institutional and legal mechanisms to enhance the attainment of gender parity, protection and promotion of services for women. National priorities as reflected in the 7 points agenda and the Vision 20:2020 of the current administration are an indication of the Federal Government of Nigeria's intent to create an enabling environment for overall promotion and protection of women's rights, reduction in maternal mortality and increased financing for gender equality.

Gender based violence is a major obstacles to women's participation in development mainstream. Gaps in legislative provisions for women's protection and ineffective enforcement of GBV laws, lack of institutional capacity of the security personnel (Police) to manage, monitor and act to protect women and girls from GBV is severely limiting in Nigeria in relation to the perception of women/girls within and beyond conjugal circumstances. Institutions with responsibilities for protection must be knowledgeable, their capacity built to enable them carry out these functions of protection and response. This has informed the **activities of stakeholders across the globe to re-focus their support on institutional mechanisms necessary for effective mainstreaming of gender sensitive response into security personnel operations and services.**

UNIFEM, UNFPA and in collaboration with the Nigeria Police is supporting the process of capacity development of the Nigerian Police Force through the development and operationalization of a gender policy and gender sensitive curriculum to inform basic and advanced Police training in Nigeria.

Objectives

The main objective of the projects is to undertake analysis of the existing Police curriculum and training manuals, and develop a policy /curriculum/training modules for integrating gender issues in Police training colleges.

Process

Some of the steps are as follows:

- i. Desk review of existing instruments
- ii. Interviews
- iii. Report writing
- iv. Stakeholders meetings
- v. Dissemination

Tasks for the Consultant

1. Co-ordinate the selection of relevant organizations involved in various activities.
2. Mobilize selected Organizations to participate in the various segments of this process.
3. collaborate with UNIFEM, UNFPA and the Police to facilitate technical sections for the JWC Units
4. Manage operational logistics and administration at all stages of project implementation.

Deliverables

1. Development of curriculum for the Police on GBV
2. Development of gender policy for the police
3. Curriculum dissemination to relevant stakeholders
4. Provision of detailed financial and narrative report of the entire process.

Time Frame: A maximum of 2 months from the date of commencement.

Fees: According to UN rates.

We kindly request that you send in an implementation plan include evidence of capacity to implement the project on before **two weeks from date of publication**

All correspondence should be forwarded to Osemhenjie D. Osalobo on osalobo.osemhenjie @unifem.org and for further details or enquiries, call 08023255584.

Please be informed that only shortlisted Organizations would be contacted.

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536



FROM right: Group Managing Director/CEO of Skye Bank Plc. Mr. Akinsola Akinfemiwa; Managing Director of POC Nig Ltd. Mr. Paul Osaji and the Deputy Managing Director of Skye Bank Plc. Mr. Kehinde Durusanni-Etti at the contract signing ceremony of the Sapphire Garden project in Lagos on Tuesday.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE



Arik Air

PH-Abuja: 08.45, 1212.50, 17.00 (Mon-Fri), 08.45, 17.30 (Sat), 14.40, 17.30 (Sun); Abuja-PH: 07.15, 11.20, 15.30 (Mon-Fri), 07.15, 16.00 (Sat) 14.40, 17.30 (Sun); Lagos-Kano: 12.20pm (Mon-Fri/Sun)
 Kano-Lagos: 02.35pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Abuja-Kano: 03.35pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Kano-Abuja: 05.20pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Abuja-Gombe: 11:10am (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun); Gombe-Abuja: 12.30pm (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun); Lagos-Yola: Lag-Abj 04:50pm, via Abj-Yola 06:45pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Yola-Lagos: Yola-Abj 08:40am, Abj-Lagos 10:20am (Mon-Fri/Sat); Lagos-Maid: Lag-Abj 03:50pm, via Abj-Maid 06:00pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Maid-Lagos: Miud-Abj 07:30am, via Abj-Lag 09:15am (Mon/Fri/Sat); Abuja-Sokoto: 11:10am (Mon-Fri); Sokoto-Abuja: 12:50pm (Mon-Fri) Abuja-Akure 02:10pm (Mon, Wed and Fri); Akure-Abuja: 08:50am (Mon, Wed and Fri); Lagos-Kwara: 07:30am, (Mon-Fri) 07.30, 03:50pm Sat 08:00am, 11:45am Sun; Kwara-Lagos: 4:10pm (Mon-Fri), 01:10pm, 05:30pm Sat 09:45am, 05:00pm Sun
 Abuja-Kwara: 03:25pm (Mon-Fri); Kwara-Abuja 01.30pm (Mon-Fri); Lagos-Jos: 09:05am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); Jos-Lagos: 11.00am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 ABV-QOW 02:30pm (Mon-Fri), 11:30am Sat 03:20pm Sun; Lagos-Kaduna: 10:20am, 04:10pm (Mon-Fri), 10.20 (Sat/Sun); Kaduna-Lagos: 12:10pm, 06:00pm (Mon-Fri), 12.10 (Sat/Sun); Lagos-Warr: 07:30am (Mon/Fri) 07:30am, 03:50pm (Sat), 08:00am, and 11:45am (Sun)

Aero Contractors

Lagos-Kad: 08.00am (Mon/Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Kad-Lagos: 09.40am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Lagos-Jos: 11.15am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Jos-Lagos: 13.15pm (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)

FG uses excess crude revenue to pay oil subsidy

By Hamisu Muhammad

THE Federal Government has started dipping its hands into the revenue accrued into the excess crude account to offset its piling debt of oil subsidy owed marketers, *Daily Trust* investigation has revealed.

Earlier, it was thought that the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) was paying the subsidy claims of marketers on government's behalf.

But yesterday it emerged that the excess crude account, which the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission said it is an illegal account, is being used to offset the unpaid subsidy to oil importers.

Government had in the last three years spent over a trillion Naira to settle claims on petroleum subsidy.

Sources in the Ministry of Finance and the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA) informed *Daily Trust* that the fact is that government has not budgeted for subsidy and the states government have protested against deduction from the federation account, therefore the government was left with

no option then to draw from Excess Crude Proceeds to settle the claims.

The excess crude proceed is the money accrued from the difference between the budget benchmark and the real price of crude oil in the international market. As at last week the excess crude proceeds fund crashed to \$3.2 billion after several deductions by the three tiers of government in recent times.

President Umaru Musa Yar'adua had disbursed over US\$13 billion from \$20 billion Excess Crude Proceeds Account in the last two years. Part of the account has been used to finance the joint projects of the three tiers of government such as power, railway and gas which affected the three tiers of government. "As long as the downstream oil sector is not deregulated, someone somewhere must settle the remaining balance to marketers or else the country will be out of products", a source told *Daily Trust*.

The 36 states of the federation had earlier rejected the funding of the petroleum subsidy from the Federation Account, calling it illegal. But the delay in the take up of the regulation pushed the federal government to use the excess crude proceeds for the payment of the subsidy, the sources added.

NNPC recently sent N1.15 trillion invoice to the ministry of finance for various expenditures incurred on behalf of the Federal Government, including cost of crude and products lost owing to pipeline vandalism and losses incurred from supplying petroleum products at regulated prices.

The governors recently at the National Economic Council (NEC) meeting in Abuja, backed the Federal government's proposal to embark on the deregulation of the downstream sector of the economy. They also appealed to the organised labour to cooperate with Government to ensure early completion of the deregulation exercise.

It was not clear at the time of filling this report when the deduction began.

Delta State governor, Emmanuel Uduaghan, said: "It will definitely affect the revenue coming to the states, because the money that is to be paid is supposed to be part of the money that is to be shared by the states, so the states will be short-changed".

Efforts to speak to the spokesman to the Minister of Petroleum Rilwan Lukman and NNPC's spokesman failed.

Trust Index

Inflation	→ 12.3%
GDP	→ 6.90%
Budget	→ N3.1tr
External Reserves Acct	→ \$41.5bn
Excess Crude Acct	→ \$3.2bn
Poverty Ratio	→ 54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	→ 6%
Banks	→ 24
Oil Price	→ \$82 a barrel
Power Supply	→ 2, 200MW
Oil output per day	→ 2.5mbd
Broad Money Supply	→ N10,796,734.5m
Credit to Private Sector	→ N10,018,035.3m
Inter-Bank Rate	→ 1.1600%
Treasury Bills	→ 2.02%
Deposit Rate	→ 12.28%
Prime Lending Rate	→ 18.38%

CBN

11/3/2010

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.29	0.3	0.31
DANISH KRONER	27.1528	27.245	27.3371
EURO	202.1347	202.8206	203.5065
POUNDS STERLING	223.1321	223.8893	224.6464
RIYAL	39.2933	39.4267	39.56
SDR	226.0202	226.7872	227.5541
SWISS FRANC	139.1276	139.5997	140.0718
US DOLLAR	147.35	147.85	148.35
WAUA	225.602	226.3676	227.1331
YEN	1.6244	1.6299	1.6354

BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES

BUYING	
DOLLAR	N150
EURO	N204
POUNDS	N231
SELLING	
DOLLAR	N152
EURO	N206
POUNDS	N234

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

Stock Market Index

Date:	Wednesday, March 17, 2010
Index:	24,447.85
Deals:	8,490
Volume:	480,321,733
Value:	N 4,678,756,234.96
Cap.:	N 5,907,989,804,452.98

Business/Energy



Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi (C) talks to journalists at the beginning of a meeting of OPEC oil ministers in Vienna yesterday. OPEC said there was no need to change output targets they are already exceeding, as demand should pick up later in the year led by China.

OPEC sticks to 25 million barrels a day

OPEC ministers agreed not to change oil output targets they are already exceeding, anticipating that demand will pick up later in the year to mop up extra barrels.

But with economic recovery still fragile as powerhouse China considers curbs on credit, members discussed on Wednesday their adherence to production

levels set in December 2008 to keep supply at 24.84 million barrels per day (bpd).

OPEC Secretary-General Abdullah al-Badri said the producers would next meet on October 14 in Vienna, pushing back slightly from the usual September slot. "Good demand, reliable supply, beautiful prices -- we are very

happy," Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi said just before entering the meeting.

Benchmark crude futures traded at over \$82 per barrel -- in the area that OPEC's biggest exporter considers appealing to both consumers and producers alike, despite overproduction by OPEC. A nascent recovery in the global economy in the last year and rising prices have encouraged revenue-hungry OPEC members to pump more oil and in February they were making just 53 percent of promised cuts of 4.2 million bpd. "Everything is relative -- if there was no demand there would be no leakage," said Naimi.

Saudi Arabia, OPEC's biggest producer, is pumping around 8.1 million bpd -- more than twice its nearest competitor in the group, Iran, but closer than many to its target level. The kingdom has plenty of spare capacity which makes it the most flexible member of the group to meet consumption changes.

Naimi said he expected world oil demand in the second half of this year to grow by "about a million barrels" per day, adding he thought growth would be mainly from Asia.

"The implied situation is that we can go to zero compliance and then we'll have Saudi Arabia as a swing producer," said Olivier Jakob at Petromatrix.

'OPEC protecting members against exploitation by oil majors'

By Hamisu Muhammad, with agency report

IN the last 50 years of its existence the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has been protecting its members from undue exploitation by the international oil companies, Nigeria's Minister of Petroleum, Dr Rilwanu Lukman has said.

Lukman said OPEC has helped in stabilizing the prices of crude oil at the international market.

"Hence, protecting member countries from undue exploitation by the international oil companies," he said.

The minister revealed this when he arrived in Vienna on Tuesday for the 156th Ordinary Meeting of the OPEC Conference, while fielding questions from the OPEC News Crew.

OPEC was founded in September 1960 and is billed to celebrate its golden jubilee this year. One major milestone to mark the event was Wednesday's inauguration of the New OPEC Secretariat, built and handed over to the organization by the Austrian government.

Lukman said that the 50-year old organization has played a prominent role in ensuring stability of the international crude oil market noting that it has weathered the storm so far in spite of efforts to frustrate it.

"Walking the OPEC memory lane, the body's greatest achievement in its 50 years of operation is survival, despite all the odds and influences to bring it down. The second achievement is the way it has been able to achieve its goals in the last 50 years of its existence and how the organization has also been able to check-mate the international oil companies (IOCs)," Dr. Lukman observed.

He said that notwithstanding the pressure from the outside to frustrate the so-called "cartel" as some interest groups would rather call the organization, OPEC had survived this long and remained resolute in projecting its policies and programmes.

Dr. Lukman maintained that OPEC had always ensured that citizens of member-states received a fair deal from the development and production of their hydrocarbon resources by these IOCs.

THE 2010 TIGUAN

Welcome to Comfort Zone

Designed to offer the best of all worlds, the new Tiguan will provide high comfort levels, coupled with dynamic driving performance.



Special introduction Prices. Limited Offer • Place your order today



FEATURES

- 2.0 LT AT, PETROL, TSI ENGINE
- ABS, EDS, ASR, ESP
- AIRBAG FRONT, DRIVER AND PASSENGER
- POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, FRONT AND REAR, ELECTRIC MIRRORS
- RADIO "RCP 210" INCI, CD PLAYER
- CENTRAL LOCK + REMOTE CONTROL
- MULTI FUNCTION DISPLAY WITH SEAT BELT WARNING SIGNAL
- FOLDING TABLE AT THE BACK REST OF THE FRONT SEATS
- 16" ALLOY WHEELS
- 65% LIGHT ABSORBING GLASS IN REAR SIDE AND REAR WINDOWS
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Star Feature

Rare views from In 'Witchcraft is the

It is believed that sometimes, the best way to assess a problem is to study it from afar. If this holds true, then the assessment of Nigerians abroad about the problems of Nigeria, could hold the key to solving our problems. However, this interesting sample of views of Nigerians in Indonesia about the origins and possible solutions to Nigeria's problems, yield a very interesting series of opinions.

By Aisha Umar Agaie who was in Indonesia

MR. Raphael Okeke is a Nigerian who hails from Abia State. He is married to an Indonesian, and has been resident in Indonesia for over twelve years, and owns a garment industry. He came into the country when its economy was in recession and 17,000 Rupees exchanged for \$1. He said he started his business with \$50,000, and chose to set up in Indonesia rather than Nigeria, because of the challenge of consistent power supply. Another major determining factor was the cheap labour.

He says that today, Nigerians are viewed as dubious people by Indonesians, because of the actions of a few unscrupulous individuals. This however, was not the case in the past.

"If I want to return to Nigeria my wife has assured me that she will support me, and follow me to Nigeria, but what I am waiting for is constant electricity that can carry my equipment. My wish is to go back to Nigeria because my kids are already in Nigeria studying, and my wish is to join them any moment I get the opportunity.

"It is lack of electricity that pushed me to start my business in Indonesia. I started by buying products from Indonesia and selling them in Nigeria, and my desire in life was to start production.

"I say again that the problem of Nigeria is witchcraft because how can one person accumulate national wealth, and we continue to accommodate him. No one can challenge him or do anything about it. Definitely, these individuals must be using external forces to protect themselves.

Nigerians are among Indonesia's largest customers, but I will not encourage other Nigerians to come to Indonesia to establish a business like I did. Future Nigerian investors should invest in Nigeria, because I want Nigeria to be like Indonesia.

My plea to the Nigerian government is to provide stable electricity so that we can come back home and establish our business, because for any investor, electricity is the priority. If there is no electricity, no company would want to make sacrifice and come to Nigeria to invest. In fact I have Indonesian friends willing to come to Nigeria to invest, if there is electricity," he said.

Another Nigerian, Apostle Chidozie Victor says he is a graduate of the University of Lagos. He proceeded to the United States of



MR. Anthony Ikechukwu Timothy



MR and Mrs Okeke: Mrs. Okeke hails from Indonesia, and

America to obtain a Masters degree in Counselling Psychology happens to be a minister in the Mountain of Fire and Miracle. He claims that his call was in the area of international ministry is what led him to leave Nigeria. In pursuit of this, he has resided in a total of six Asian countries: China, Hong Kong, Philippine, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Another reason he advanced for leaving Nigeria was the lack of employment opportunities.

He believes that the conduct of Nigerians outside the country are a direct result of the issues the country is facing. The treatment meted to Nigerians is therefore brought upon them.

"So I personally traced the problem, I hosted the event and imported the equipment. It was since then that the glory was since then that the glory result we ran into the problem.

Indonesia: 'problem'



is seen here in a lovely Nigerian dress.

every day. In 2003, nobody was free to walk on the streets, because nobody knew who the next target was. I took it upon myself to write to the United Nations. I sent them several mails concerning what was happening in the country. They responded and even the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here called us to explain that before they can execute anybody, they must have prosecuted the person according to the law, and if found guilty the person is executed. Because our business men came in with a lot of money, they believed that all the cash they came with was drug money. Some people were actually killed because of that. But after the intervention by the UN, such killings stopped. But even then, secret executions were still being conducted. In recent times though, this has stopped, because most of the traffickers have run away," he claims.

He believes that as countries, what distinguishes Indonesia from Nigeria, are the availability of good roads, electricity, security and a responsible government.

Reverend Emmanuel Jacobs is a full time preacher based in Indonesia and has been resident there for over 10 years. He is from Ebonyi state.

When asked about his perception of Nigeria, he pointed out that although Nigeria is a country endowed with so many resources, these resources have not been managed well, and this is responsible for the poverty that is endemic in the country today.

But why have our leaders failed to manage our resources properly?

"When I tried to understand why things are going the way they are going, I understood that it was not ordinary. It was not just because they want to be self-centred, but because there are powers that influence them. Even some of them that want to be faithful, by the time they get there, the same powers will influence them.

So I personally traced the powers to the FESTAC 1977 when Nigeria hosted the event and imported demons from all over the world. It was since then that the glory of Nigeria started dwindling, and as a result we ran into the problem we have today," he averred.

The trip to Indonesia was sponsored by the Embassy of Indonesia in Nigeria.

He also own hands.

Ministry. and this ded in a ngapore.

the dearth ne shores ing. The by their

His views of the effectiveness of Nigeria's government are harsh, but stranger too is his diagnosis of the root cause of Nigeria's problems.

"Nigeria is 100 per cent backward. When you talk about development, Nigeria is backward. I am sorry to say it. It is my fatherland but there is a problem. From 1960 till today, we are still talking about the same problem. Nigeria needs a way out. We have a lot of ministers in Nigeria, both fake and original. All of them should come together and pray, if we really need Nigeria to move forward. The problem of Nigeria is witchcraft. There is a force that needs

to be fought seriously. I want to implore all Nigerians to come together," he claims.

"I say again that the problem of Nigeria is witchcraft because how can one person accumulate national wealth, and we continue to accommodate him. No one can challenge him or do anything about it. Definitely, these individuals must be using external forces to protect themselves. Do you know that all over the world there is no place that the people are so attached to prayers like Nigeria? Those prayers are also used to divert what belongs to the nation to one person.

"I also see no reason why a Microbiologist should work in a bank or an Engineer should become an okada rider, when we have the resources. Look at the level of development in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand, yet they don't have the kind of resources that we have. I want to keep praying for my country. Wherever I am on the pulpit, I pray "God help my country, bless my country. Let every witchcraft power in Nigeria die," he finished.

In addition to these, Mr. Anthony Ikechukwu Timothy who has been working in a shoe factory in Indonesia since 2004, and hails from Enugu state, claims that Nigerians in Indonesia are victims of racism and hatred, which Nigerians have brought upon themselves.

"I have been living here for eight years. It has not been easy because when I came to Indonesia, the drug business involving Nigerians was very common and the traffickers were being killed

owers to the FESTAC 1977 when Nigeria ed demons from all over the world. It of Nigeria started dwindling, and as a m we have today," he averred.



REVEREND Emmanuel Jacobs

Business

With AMC, bank failure is over in Nigeria - Senator Nkechi

By Turaki A. Hassan

THE Senate has just read for a second time a bill seeking to establish the Assets Management Corporation (AMC). Can you tell us the intent of the bill?

The intent of the Assets Management Corporation of Nigeria is to, one help forestall any further bank crisis as a result of debt overhang on these banks. The Assets Management Corporation will buy out toxic assets from these banks thereby relieving them of the debt overhang injecting into the banks fresh liquidity which will enable these banks to recommend their lending activity. It will also help remove the burden of trying to send a lot more time by the banks in trying to do debt recovery instead of doing other bank product development thereby allowing the AMC itself to go into recovery and ensuring that the banks are positioned for bigger things in Nigeria and a cleaner balance sheet in case they want to go into merger or acquisition and other financial engineering of the banks. These are the major intent for the establishment of this corporation.

How will the government finance this corporation because it appears to have a huge financial implication?

Well, in the first place this AMC will require about one tril-

lion naira at the first instance and they have already expended N620 billion out of the one trillion which they gave to those banks that were found to be somehow in trouble last year. They are bringing out another N380 billion to complete the one trillion. This will be financed through bond market and the government will guarantee these bonds and Asset Management Company will buy out these toxic loans at agreed prices, discounted of course, and they will hold it until they are able to recoup as much as possible. So the financing of these assets will be through bond market.

There is this fear among the ordinary Nigerians that the AMC is another agency being created to further impoverish him by taking away the little that trickles down to him and giving it to the rich. Are you now saying that monies meant for project and programmes in the national budget that will impact on his life will now be used to finance the AMC thereby further enriching

in the rich?

There are two things we have to look at. One, what will be the cost implication if Assets Management Corporation if not established? One of the implications is that there could be further bank failures, and if there is a bank failure we all know the tragedy that goes with bank failure. The depositors money will go, the workers will be relieved of their means of livelihoods and it will have a lot of spiral negative consequence and you know that even the deposit insurance in terms of recovering depositors' money they are only liable to the some of N200,000 no matter how much you have and subsequent payments will be as at when proceeds are derived from sale of bank's assets. And nobody, no nation will want to allow its banks to go down knowing the negative implications.

We have been told by Central Bank that it will cost Nigeria about 1.9 percent of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In other countries where this kind of intervention has happened, it cost them a

lot like the United States. It cost the US about 15 percent. In Argentina IT cost them as high as 22 percent and there are some countries that is costing 56 percent.

What we are saying or what the bill is saying is that the cost of bank failures if allowed to happen will be more expensive than the intervention with 1.9 percent cost to ensure that banks now go back to lending, the economy will bubble again and banks will begin to recover. Banks are now recovering in other continent where they had similar problems some of them have even started paying back that bailout money. So we do expect that once these banks are relieved, assisted, expunge these toxic loans they will now be repositioned and reengineered to commence active banking operation.

Does this mean that the bailout by the Central Bank last year was not backed by law and it now appears this is an attempt to legalise what happened?

I will not call it illegal but it was an emergency intervention because if Central Bank had not intervened in the way it did by injecting that N620 billion naira what it would have resulted into would have been that if you Journalists go to any bank and issue a cheque you are likely not to be paid as at when you want it? So in my opinion, I am now talking as a finance person and as a Nigerian before you look for the legal back-



SENATOR Nkechi Justina Nwaogu

ing we need to first and foremost ensure that the banks are safe and of course depositor's monies are safe. So I believe that the apex bank cannot continue to intervene on sporadic bases so that is why they are bringing this Assets Management Company which we are now considering it for deposit money bank although we are going to include the financial development institution like the bank of Industry.

It seems to be an emergency bill that needs to be passed quickly. How soon will the Senate pass the bill?

The Senate has giving us four weeks to do our work. We will see how we would be able to finish our report and submit to the Senate.

Experts to brainstorm on Islamic finance

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

INVESTORS, analysts, bankers and other financial operators will be exposed to the benefits of Islamic banking in a workshop staged by the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria and Lotus Capital Limited.

The workshop on Islamic finance and investment products put together by CIBN and Lotus Capital, according to a statement, is scheduled for 22 - 26, March, 2010, at Colonades, Ikoyi, Lagos, at 9.00 am.

It said, participants will have the rear opportunity of not only discussing and appreciating such critical issues and Sub-topics in Islamic Banking as "The Road Ahead: Realizing the Potential of Islamic Finance and Investment"; "Islamic Finance Contracts"; Successful Shari'ah Complaint Product Structuring"; "Islamic Finance: An Alternative Approach to Project Finance and



SANUSI Lamido Sanusi, CBN Governor

Infrastructure Development" and "Creating Interest Free Bonds" but also hear directly from seasoned Islamic banking experts from Nigeria and abroad.

Top on the list of the high profile discussants include: Professor

Dr. Monzer Kahf, of Qatar faculty of Islamic Studies, a Professional Lecturer, Trainer, Consultant and advisor of international repute in Islamic banking and investment and Mrs. Hajara Adeola, Managing Director, Lotus Capital Limited, a convertible Bond Research Analyst of BNP Paribas, London and an accomplished Consultant at Andersen (now Accenture).

It is expected that at the end of the workshop, participants would be able to reasonably "understand the new global wave of Islamic finance and investment banking", "learn the Islamic finance instruments and structured products and their relationships with Conventional financing instruments" "understand Islamic Finance contracts", "Provide with an in-depth understanding of the growing Islamic investment funds, their structure and growth" and "Know how to structure Islamic insurance/Takaful products".

Bello-Osagie lauds CBN for reversing N25bn capital base

MR. Hakeem Bello-Osagie, a former Chairman of UBA, on Tuesday in Abuja applauded the CBN for reversing its policy on the N25 billion minimum capital base for banks.

Bello-Osagie told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on the sideline of the launch of a Restructured Nigeria International Debt Fund that the consolidation exercise "had some positive merits but was faulty in execution.

"I do think that it's a very positive development that the CBN has now decided that they will rethink the one-size-fits-all policy of N25 billion capital base.

"I think there is a market and Nigeria needs a variety of players, some large and some small, and the key issue is adequate regulation and impartial supervision.

"With the new measure, we will be able to accommodate a wide variety of institutions, all of which will be able to contrib-

ute to the growth and development of Nigeria," he said.

The former UBA chairman said that the decision to issue licences that would accommodate multiple players was healthier for the economy, considering the peculiarity of the Nigerian market.

"I think that the consolidation had some positive merits to it but there were mistakes in its implementation and execution. I think that it is very rare that you can have a policy of one size that fits everybody," he said.

The CBN on Monday announced a new licencing regime for the banking sector that puts away the universal banking system licence and encourages a variety of players, with varying capital base.

The apex bank said the policy was still going through a process of discussions and negotiations by stakeholders.

It, however, said that it would take between 18 months and 24 months to transit all the existing licences. (NAN).



SUBSIDY SPEND
2006-2009
N2.5 trillion
2010 Projection
N600 billion

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FROM THE
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It is time to deregulate.



MOVEMENT
FOR
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Business/Finance



COMPTROLLER Hassan Mundu being decorated by the Comptroller General of Customs, Abdullahi Dikko Inde (left) and DCG HRD Salisu Argungu (right).

Customs promotes 46 Deputy Comptrollers

By Sunday Williams

The Nigeria Customs Service board has approved the promotion of forty six Deputy Comptrollers of Customs to the rank of Comptroller of Customs.

A statement from Joseph Atah, Deputy Public Relations Officer of the Nigerian Customs, said the promotion qualification was based on performance during the promotion examination, score of annual performance evaluation report and availability of vacancies and principle of Federal Character.

Decorating the newly promoted officers at the Customs Headquarters Abuja, the Comptroller General of Customs, Abdullahi Dikko Inde charged them to see their elevation as a call to higher duties.

He reminded them of the ongoing reforms and the determination of the management to entrench best practices in the Service.

Among those promoted were: Comptroller Hassan Mundu, M.B. Liman, Muhammed Biu, Vowa V.E, Ometan P.E., Ebri F.O., Sanusi A.U. and Abueh M.N.

Responding on behalf of his colleagues, Comptroller Liman M.B. thanked the CGC and members of management for considering them worthy of being promoted.

He said they are aware of the expectations of the rank in terms of responsibilities and promised not to disappoint.

CBN withdraws N65b from circulation

THE CBN says it has withdrawn N10 billion from circulation through the sale of treasury bills.

The withdrawal was contained in the apex bank's weekly report on Tuesday in Lagos.

The report said the money was withdrawn last week through the issuance of government securities at the Primary Market Auction (PMA) window.

At the PMA window on March 11, the CBN sold 91-day tenor bills worth N5 billion; N30 billion for the 182-day tenor bills and N30 billion for the 364-day tenor bills.

The bills were over-subscribed

by investors.

For the 91-day tenor bills, investors requested for N222.2 billion worth; N32 billion for the 182-day tenor bills while N16.48 billion was staked on 364-day tenor bills.

The report said the apex bank moderated the sales of the bills by selling only N65 billion worth.

The bid rates on the 91-day tenor bills varied between 0.95 per cent and 2.02 per cent while the 182-day tenor bills ranged between 1.25 per cent and 3.00 per cent.

For the 364-day tenor bills, the bid rate ranged between 1.55 per

cent and 4.99 per cent.

On the other hand, the issue rates for the 91-day tenor bill stood between 0.95 per cent and 1.04 per cent.

The issue rate for the 182-day tenor bills ranged between 1.25 per cent and 1.53 per cent while the 364-day tenor bills stood between 1.55 per cent and 1.90 per cent.

According to the report, the three bills will mature on June 10, 2010, Sept. 9, 2010 and March 10, 2011 respectively. The true yield on the three bills stood at 1.0427 per cent, 1.5418 per cent and 1.9367 per cent respectively. (NAN).

FG to raise \$500m bond by Oct

By Idris Ahmed with agency report

NIGERIA will go to the international capital market to raise the planned \$500 million bond by October, the Debt Management Office (DMO) said yesterday.

Proceeds from the bond will be used to fund this year's budget, subject to parliamentary approval, the Director General of DMO Abraham Nwankwo said.

"It will form part of pooled resources for funding the budgeted expenditure. The major objective is to set a benchmark for Nigeria in the international capital market," Abraham said.

The bond was to be issued last year but suspended because of the global financial and economic meltdown.

Parliament has been considering a N4.079 trillion 2010 budget proposal, an increase of around a third on planned spending for last year which if approved would push Nigeria's budget deficit to 4.79 per cent of GDP.

The Senate had lifted the planned spending figure to N4.379 trillion. The budget is due to be finalised and signed into law by the end of the month.

The Minister of Finance Mansur Muhtar said federal government is renewing efforts to raise the \$500 million.

He said this at the launching of the restructured Nigerian International Debt Fund and the 2010 Nigerian Bond Market Report in Abuja on Tuesday.

The minister said work has been initiated towards the successful issue of the bond, with the proposal being incorporated into the 2010 Appropriation Bill.

He said: "In this regard, it is noteworthy that the Federal Government has renewed its interest in issuing the US\$500 million sovereign bonds.

"This dollar denominated bond issue, will help create a benchmark for subsequent issues by the Federal Government, Sub-national governments and the private sector, while raising the profile of Nigeria's debt instruments as a credible investment option for International investors seeking to diversify their portfolio into emerging markets."

He said the recent global economic and financial crisis further reinforces the need to nurture a strong and vibrant domestic bond market as a viable alternative source of providing long-term finance to fund growth and development.

Three states of Imo, Kwara and Niger States have successfully issued corporate bonds in the country.

As part of the effort to fast-track the process of corporate bond in the country, the Acting President has approved the extension of tax waivers on Sub-national and corporate bonds.

These have being approved under the Companies Income Tax Act (CITA) to include the Personal Income Tax Act (PITA), Value Added Tax (VAT), Capital Gains Tax (CGT) and short-term Federal Government of Nigeria securities; as well as a request for a reduction in Stamp Duties for re-issues of debentures.

The intention is to reduce transaction costs in the bond market, which would have positive multiplier effect on the overall economy.

Small enterprises say micro banks not lending

By Tina A. Hassan

MICRO finance banks are opening shop in the city centres while the rural areas for which they exist remain largely unbanked.

Daily Trust can reveal that the small banks are not popular with the dwellers of countryside and some of the farmers and traders interviewed claimed ignorant of the scheme.

The micro finance banks policy came after the concept of community banking was abolished by the governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria. There are 815 MFBs in Nigeria.

The essence is to ginger the growth of grass root economy by making available capital and the funds for small businesses, and thus helping to alleviate poverty in the country. The banking system worked successfully in Bangladesh and other Asian countries.

Some experts who spoke to this paper said the policy seems to have died on arrival because it has not made any significant impact on the

economy. Rather people who should not have benefitted are benefitting from the scheme.

Some of them asked the small businessmen to produce collateral which scares them away. The scheme was conceived so that micro business actors can access loans based on social, communal and mutual understanding and not collateral. Hence, it will appear only those who have collateral that access the facility.

Daily Trust reported that the Yar'adua-Jonathan government had injected N50 billion into the scheme.

Respondents to Daily Trust's enquiry were cynical about the real intention of the scheme and whether the government has the political will to drive the policy to success, and sustain it thereafter.

Mr. Olu, a motorbike engine oil seller said he does not believe in any of the banks because they are all complicated and he does not want to be cheated or deceived.

To him, all the banks are the

same.

"In fact some are fake?" others say they have been duped by some banks that claimed to be microfinance banks but are not because they ended up disappearing overnight with the money of poor business people."

According to a hairdresser at Kubwa in the Federal Capital Territory (names withheld), she was duped by a certain microfinance bank that opened close to her shop and persuaded her to open an account with her but not long after she opened the account and saved up N20,000.00, the bank suddenly disappeared with the money of its customers, "it is a big loss to me," she said.

Managing Director of Peace Microfinance Bank Dumebi Ideh said although micro finance banks have been through difficult time in terms of public awareness on the roles of micro finance banks, the bank is slowly gaining acceptance among business people although much needs to be done.

Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) Wednesday, March 17, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	4	0.50	94,875	47,437.50
SECTORTOTALS	4		94,875	47,437.50
AGRICULTURE				
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	10	0.91	697,660	638,475.79
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	12	0.76	312,897	237,801.72
OKTIPUPA OIL PALM PLC	5	6.21	1,064,600	6,635,946.00
PRESKO PLC	16	5.06	117,473	594,482.38
SECTORTOTALS	43		2,192,630	8,106,705.89
AIR SERVICES				
AIRLINES SERVICES LOGISTICS PLC	18	2.90	448,480	1,305,882.00
NIGERIAN AVIATION HANDLING COY. PLC	106	9.00	2,114,406	19,352,207.96
SECTORTOTALS	124		2,562,886	20,658,139.96
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DNTYRE & RUBBER PLC	5	0.50	99,700	49,850.00
R.T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	26	5.76	177,100	1,009,707.85
SECTORTOTALS	31		276,800	1,059,557.85
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	256	9.91	21,368,393	211,995,688.00
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	107	2.60	6,161,586	15,797,761.62
DIAMOND BANK PLC	113	9.30	21,133,007	196,548,944.51
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	111	7.19	3,329,435	23,455,316.73
FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	107	9.39	5,024,646	46,976,350.25
FIDELITY BANK PLC	272	3.17	23,544,364	74,997,756.81
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	971	15.50	25,221,979	392,341,396.87
FIN BANK PLC	105	0.74	41,253,192	31,267,675.45
GT BANK PLC	516	18.91	17,341,077	329,392,824.68
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	95	9.50	7,468,668	70,152,576.36
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC	102	2.09	4,314,632	9,104,294.40
OCEANIC BANK INTERNATIONAL PLC	233	2.20	21,390,191	47,671,528.24
BANK PHB PLC	94	1.92	2,958,329	5,736,586.82
SKYE BANK PLC	297	7.60	13,346,705	104,384,825.70
SPRING BANK PLC	16	1.05	988,194	1,094,551.38
STERLING BANK PLC	143	1.98	21,785,400	42,480,136.44
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	391	14.50	26,783,931	383,767,497.30
UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	206	6.18	3,642,239	22,753,997.88
UNITY BANK PLC	44	1.14	9,444,703	11,012,975.72
WEMA BANK PLC	64	1.15	3,581,465	4,270,114.79
ZENITH BANK PLC	316	17.50	32,596,448	569,897,124.39
SECTORTOTALS	4,559		312,678,584	2,595,399,935.02
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	96	19.20	5,325,828	101,689,133.71
BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC	98	68.01	3,557,724	235,284,774.26
CEMENT CO. OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	66	18.76	1,924,202	35,948,113.18
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	62	33.77	2,703,197	91,718,896.35
SECTORTOTALS	322		13,510,951	466,640,917.50
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC	10	4.25	41,078	183,618.66
CHEMICAL & ALLIED PRODUCTS PLC	3	28.26	9,603	271,381.28
DN MEYER PLC	9	3.24	75,229	254,786.60
NIGERIAN-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC	3	15.04	17,500	251,925.00
SECTORTOTALS	25		143,410	961,711.54
COMMERCIAL SERVICES				
AFROMEDIA PLC	4	0.51	230,000	117,300.00
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	37	2.63	1,905,400	5,098,762.08
SECTORTOTALS	41		2,135,400	5,216,062.08
COMP. & OFFICE EQUIPMENT				
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	8	0.53	377,100	199,772.00
TRIPPLE GEE AND COY. PLC	3	4.37	504	2,096.64
SECTORTOTALS	11		377,604	201,868.64
CONGLOMERATES				
A.G. LEVENTIS (NIGERIA) PLC	6	3.00	96,885	296,255.88
CHELLARAMS PLC	1	14.13	20,220	271,554.60
PZ CUSONS NIGERIA PLC	42	28.00	1,081,047	30,300,517.75
TRANSNATIONAL CORP. OF NIG. PLC	44	0.52	5,510,500	2,839,272.00
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	5	46.85	3,694,670	173,142,600.65
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	121	25.20	2,786,545	71,703,976.60
SECTORTOTALS	309		13,189,867	278,554,177.48
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	29	5.30	884,842	4,617,908.40
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC	30	28.90	340,135	9,366,751.68
ROADS NIGERIA PLC	3	3.46	10,000	33,200.00
SECTORTOTALS	62		1,234,977	14,017,860.08
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY				
CUTIX PLC	6	2.83	215,367	609,812.57
NIGERIAN WIRE & CABLE PLC	1	0.68	4,400	2,991.00
SECTORTOTALS	7		219,767	612,803.57
FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	16	30.60	47,779	1,535,139.27
BIG TREAT PLC	4	0.81	41,000	33,580.00
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	137	19.22	2,318,502	44,440,168.64
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	269	16.90	5,861,689	98,965,805.94
DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	115	16.80	1,702,539	28,818,422.35
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	110	52.10	846,714	43,640,291.89
HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	55	9.02	1,755,524	16,457,883.32
NATIONAL SALT COY. NIG. PLC	77	6.80	2,785,666	18,987,137.65
NIGERIAN BOTTLING COY. PLC	20	26.50	75,359	1,998,919.24
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	32	270.00	22,911	6,346,438.23
NORTHERN NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	4	24.15	18,693	472,505.05
TANTALIZERS PLC	31	0.94	2,221,300	2,085,402.00
UTC NIGERIA PLC	8	0.72	71,070	49,338.30
SECTORTOTALS	878		17,768,746	263,831,031.88

GAINERS	
MOBIE	5.11
BCC	3.23
FLOURMILL	1.38
UACN	1.25

HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC	10	1.07	187,382	206,229.64
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	57	2.70	2,932,859	7,585,150.90
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG. PLC	21	28.48	309,546	8,843,794.60
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	17	5.05	695,365	3,522,905.75
NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARM. PLC	14	1.37	133,940	188,029.75
UNION DIAGNOSTIC & CLINICAL SERV. PLC	24	0.62	2,991,694	1,859,040.28
SECTORTOTALS	143		7,250,786	22,205,150.92
HOTEL & TOURISM				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	5	3.35	611,000	2,092,600.00
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	6	1.43	120,320	180,480.00
SECTORTOTALS	11		731,320	2,273,080.00
INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS				
B.O.C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	2	10.37	5,500	55,675.00
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIGERIA PLC	11	0.52	155,000	79,800.00
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	40	5.35	1,026,615	5,485,286.33
SECTORTOTALS	53		1,187,115	5,620,761.33
INFORMATION & COMM. TECH.				
CHAMS PLC	17	0.70	1,437,608	1,012,404.46
STARCOMMS PLC	22	2.12	995,361	2,099,510.38
SECTORTOTALS	39		2,432,969	3,111,914.84
INSURANCE				
AFRICAN ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	4,700	2,350.00
AIICO INSURANCE PLC	100	1.03	1,214,724	1,271,278.32
CONTINENTAL REINSURANCE PLC	12	0.97	1,398,721	1,348,784.95
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE CO. PLC	12	0.52	456,029	237,460.08
CUSTODIAN & ALLIED INSUR. PLC	100	3.65	10,877,503	37,831,365.65
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	1,500	750.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	20	0.53	3,371,855	1,834,578.15
GUARANTY TRUST ASSUR. PLC	26	2.55	8,225,240	20,989,997.04
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	10,000	5,000.00
CONSOLIDATED HALLMARK INSUR. PLC	1	0.50	20,000	10,000.00
INTERNATIONAL ENERGY INSUR. COY. PLC	40	0.55	9,225,139	10,034,464.47
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC	30	0.51	2,852,961	1,437,633.05
LAW UNION & ROCK INSUR. PLC	6	0.51	356,500	181,750.00
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	4	0.50	529,500	264,750.00
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSUR. PLC	3	0.64	20,085	12,854.40
N.E.M. INSURANCE CO. (NIG.) PLC	22	0.52	1,396,021	726,335.92
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC	21	0.69	1,055,994	750,115.94
OASIS INSURANCE PLC	2	1.17	10,300	11,536.00
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	11	2.70	117,744	330,218.50
REGENCY ALLIANCE INSUR. COY. PLC	1	0.50	6,000	3,000.00
SOVEREIGN TRUST INSUR. PLC	1	0.50	100,000	50,000.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	4	0.64	382,390	244,729.60
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSUR. PLC	11	0.50	623,916	311,958.00
UNIC INSURANCE PLC	16	0.73	1,043,195	786,133.88
INTERCONTINENTAL WAPIC INSUR. PLC	17	0.80	779,717	624,070.10
SECTORTOTALS	463		54,079,734	79,301,114.05
LEASING				
C&I LEASING PLC	31	3.15	1,374,000	4,308,790.00
SECTORTOTALS	31		1,374,000	4,308,790.00
MARITIME				
JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERV. PLC	118	1.27	4,201,567	5,285,558.22
SECTORTOTALS	118		4,201,567	5,285,558.22
MEDIA				
DAAR COMMUNICATIONS PLC	27	0.80	627,066	482,387.80
SECTORTOTALS	27		627,066	482,387.80
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ASO SAVINGS AND LOAN PLC	13	0.65	3,350,000	2,168,521.92
RESORT SAVINGS AND LOANS PLC	2	0.50	4,010,000	2,005,000.00
UNION HOMES SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	39	0.89	2,253,128	2,029,407.44
SECTORTOTALS	54		9,613,128	6,202,929.36
OTHER FINANCIAL INST.				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC	23	0.98	9,018,225	8,516,630.61
DEAP CAPITAL MANAGEMENT & TRUST PLC	2	2.02	50,500	102,010.00
NIGERIAN ENERGY SECTOR FUND	1	552.20	100	52,459.00
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	3	0.57	176,098	102,320.40
SECTORTOTALS	29		9,244,923	8,773,420.01
PACIFIC FIN				
AVON CROWN CAPS & CONTAINERS PLC	1	7.65	500	3,635.00
NIG. BAG MANUFACTURING COY. PLC	359	2.68	6,724,640	17,591,332.96
BETA GLASS CO. PLC	16	12.50	268,932	3,331,567.20
SECTORTOTALS	376		6,994,072	20,926,535.16
PETROLEUM (MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC	78	45.40	913,523	41,324,654.73
BECO PETROLEUM PRODUCT PLC	12	2.08	365,200	713,380.00
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	4	69.79	940	66,591.80
CONOIL PLC	41	40.00	59,416	2,439,375.95
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC	33	7.10	549,223	3,855,241.24
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC	20	107.64	70,237	7,463,435.50
OANDO PLC	180	77.50	7,876,528	611,549,099.63
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	16	149.62	60,501	9,209,714.50
SECTORTOTALS	389		9,895,568	676,621,493.35
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
ACADEMY PRESS PLC	3	6.85	4,920	32,029.20
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	13	9.28	102,000	946,560.00
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	17	6.18	240,482	1,438,256.20
SECTORTOTALS	33		347,402	2,416,845.40
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROPERTY DEV. CO. PLC	57	20.04	3,934,675	82,084,103.65
SECTORTOTALS	57		3,934,675	82,084,103.65
ROAD TRANSPORTATION				
ASSOCIATED BUS COY. PLC	12	1.01	331,879	336,039.00
SECTORTOTALS	12		331,879	336,039.00
OVERALL TOTALS	8,490		480,321,733	4,678,756,234.96

LOSERS	
GLAXOSMITH	1.49
UNILEVER	1.03
UAC-PROP	0.96
OANDO	0.51

What is Buy-In

If a broker fails to deliver securities sold to another broker on the settlement date



GOMBE STATE OF NIGERIA

INTRODUCTION OF PAY DIRECT SYSTEM OF PAYMENT OF TAXES AND FEES BY THE GOMBE STATE GOVERNMENT.

1. The Gombe State Government has introduced a new and simple method of paying taxes and fees in respect of Gombe State Board of Internal Revenue, and all revenue generating Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of the State.

2. The system which has commenced on the 8th July, 2009 would enable taxpayers to pay in any branch of the following Banks anywhere in the country.

COLLECTING BANKS

Tax payers can pay in any branch of the following

1. UBA Plc
2. Skye Bank
3. Oceanic Bank
4. Intercontinental
5. Unity Bank
6. Bank PHB
7. Union Bank
8. AfriBank
9. Fin Bank
10. FCMB
11. First Bank of Nigeria Plc.
12. Fidelity Bank Plc.
13. EcoBank
14. Access Bank

3. GOMBE STATE BOARD OF INTERNAL REVENUE:

Taxpayers can make payment in respect of:

1. Personal Income tax:
 - i. PAYE (Pay As You Earn)
 - ii Direct Assessment.
 - iii. Withholding Tax
2. Stamp Duties.
3. Road Taxes:
 - i Vehicle Number Plate

- ii. Motor Vehicle Registration
- iii. Vehicle License
- iv. Drivers License
- v. Proof of Ownership
- vi. Driver and conductor badges.
- vii. Learners permit
- viii. Change of ownership.
- ix. Capital gains tax.

4. FEES AND FINES

All fees and fines been collected by revenue generating Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of the state.

5. PAYMENT PROCEDURE

Tax payers should visit any branch of the Banks listed above:

- a). Collect a customize Bank Teller from the Bank cashier.
- b). Fill in the Bank Teller
- c). Pay in
- d). Collect a temporary receipt instantly
- e). Collect Revenue Receipt from the relevant Revenue Agency.

For any inquiry on how to access this new and convenient arrangement of tax payment, visit Gombe State Board of Internal Revenue, off Bauchi Rd, Gombe, Gombe State , or any of it's Revenue Offices across the state or through our e-mail address birgombe@gmail.com or the under listed hot lines:

08030441224
08084830774

The Gombe State Government solicits the cooperation of all taxpayers in its efforts to make tax payment much easier and continued development of the state.

SIGNED
MANAGEMENT

GOMBE STATE BOARD OF INTERNAL REVENUE.



Invitation for Bids (IFB)

BAUCHI STATE MALARIA CONTROL BOOSTER PROJECT

Credit Number: 4250 -UNI
PROCUREMENT OF DRUGS
IFB W: BA/MCBP/NCB/G/003/10

1. The Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association toward the cost of Malaria Control Booster Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for procurement of Drugs.

2 The Bauchi State Malaria Control Booster Project now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of the following assorted drugs.

LOT	Item NO.	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITIES	PLACE OF DELIVERY	BID SECURITY	BID VALIDITY	DELIVERY SCHEDULE
			DOSES				FROM DATE OF CONTRACT SIGNING
LOT 1	1	Colistin,azole	200000 doses	Central Medical Store, Ahmed Abdulkadir Road, Behind Prof. Iya Abubakar Resource Centre, Bauchi State, Nigeria	A bid security of at least 3% of bid price is required	90 days	Within 60 days
LOT 1	2	Folic Acid	10000 tins			90 days	Within 60 days
LOT 1	3	Ferrous Sulphate	10,000 tins			90 days	Within 60 days
LOT 1	4	Oral Rehydration solution (ORS)	160000 sachet			90 days	Within 60 days
LOT 1	5	Albendazole	1000000 doses			90 days	Within 60 days

Note: AH items (1-5) are under one lot. Bidders quoting for incomplete lot will have their bids declared non responsive.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under

-Section 1. Instructions-to Bidders - IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and are open to all bidders from Eligible Source

Countries as defined in the Guidelines.

4. A complete set of Bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee N 10,000:00 (Ten thousand naira only). The method of payment will be certified cheque/bank draft in favor of Bauchi State Malaria Control Booster Project, or in cash. The document shall be collected by bidder's representative.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Bauchi State Malaria Control Booster Project and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 0900 to 1600hrs, Monday to Thursday and 0900 1300hrs on Friday, except on public holidays.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 11:00am 19th April, 2010

Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the address below at 12:00 noon 19th April, 2010. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security as mentioned above, in a freely convertible currency.

7. The address referred to above is:

CONFERENCE ROOM,
 BAUCHI STATE MALARIA CONTROL BOOSTER PROJECT
 BACATMA OFFICE COMPLEX,
 No 4 YANDOKA ROAD, BAUCHI,
 NIGERIA
 Tel: +2348058522243
 Email: aubabuga@yahoo.com

Signed.
 The Project Manager



DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (DGD) INTERNAL/EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Despite 10 years of uninterrupted civil rule and three successive general elections including a successful transfer of power from one civilian administration to another, Nigeria continues to face the challenge of conducting elections that meet both regional and international standards of free, fair and credible elections. Consequently, soon after his inauguration as President in May 2007, President Umaru Yar'adua made commitment to reform Nigeria's electoral system and strengthen democratic governance. Electoral reform is currently under way, and hopefully will be concluded before the next general elections in 2011. UNDP and other donors the EU, DFID and CIDA have initiated Democratic Governance for Development (DGD), in response to the request from the Nigerian government to assist in working towards achieving a more credible electoral process.

This initiative will enable the Nigerian Government to work closely with Civil Society Organizations and other political key players in a six distinct and inter-related programming components such as:

1. Strengthening of National Assembly
2. Strengthening of Political Parties
3. Improvement of the Electoral Process
4. Increased Capacity and Performance of Civil Society
5. Reinforcing the role of the Media
6. Empowerment of Women

DGD in Nigeria will focus on Electoral Cycle Support and Deepening Democracy within the framework of the Joint Donor basket Fund will support the electoral process and consolidation of democracy from 2009-2014.

The Project will work closely with UNDP Country Office in deepening democracy in Nigeria during the election periods. UNDP has reiterated its engagement in supporting the Nigerian Government in the reinforcement of capacity building in the objectives cited above. The project period will be covered for 5 years.

In support of this initiative, UNDP is recruiting a selection of posts to support the Project. The positions will be based in Abuja, with one year contract initially, with a possibility of extension based on performance and/or funding.

1. National Expert Electoral Support (SB5 Service Contract equivalent to National Officer - NOC) 1 Post. **New posting!**
2. National Expert Democratic Governance (NASS, PP) (SB4 Service Contract equivalent to National Officer - NOB) 1 Post. **New posting!**
3. Communications/Reporting Advisor (SB5 Service Contract equivalent to National Officer - NOC) 1 Post. **New posting!**
4. National Expert Media Specialization (SB4 Service Contract equivalent to National Officer - NOB) 1 Post. **New posting!**
5. Operations Coordinator (National Officer-C - Fixed Term Appointment) 1 post closing on **20 March 2010**
6. Procurement Analyst (SB 4 - Service Contract)- 1 Post closing on **19 March 2010**
7. Procurement Associate (SB 3 Service Contract)- 1 Post closing on **20 March 2010**
8. Operations Associate (Office Manager) (SB3 Service Contract)- 1 Post closing on **20 March 2010**
9. Human Resources Associate (SB 3 - Service Contract)- 1 Post closing on **17 March 2010**
10. Finance Associate (SB 3 - Service Contract)- 1 Post closing on **19 March 2010**
11. ICT Support Associate (SB 3 - Service Contract)- 1 Post closing on **19 March 2010**
12. Administrative Assistant (SB 3 - Service Contract)- 2 Posts closing on **19 March 2010**
13. Drivers (SB 1 - Service Contract)- 2 Posts closing on **19 March 2010**

This announcement shall be running with new openings in the coming weeks. For further details on the job descriptions and application process, please visit <http://jobs.undp.org/> or www.ng.undp.org and submit applications.

UNDP is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture. Individuals from minority groups, indigenous groups, and persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply. Qualified women are highly encouraged to apply. All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.



**POWER HOLDING COMPANY OF NIGERIA
KANO ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION PLC**

**PRESS STATEMENT ON THE UNFORTUNATE FIRE
OUTBREAK AT KANTIN KWARI TEXTILE MARKET, KANO**

Gentlemen of the press,

Our attention has been drawn to the unsubstantiated claims made by the media (*weekly Trust* 13th march 2010) which quoted "market officials", to the effect that the fire incident which occurred in Kano last Friday was as a result of a spark from our distribution transformer. This claim must have influenced the opinions of even some highly placed personalities to apportion blames towards our direction. (*Daily Triumph* 15th march 2010)

But contrary to this notion, record of our operation and our subsequent, thorough investigation has proven that the 11KV *Ibrahim Taiwo Road feeder which supplies power to parts of the affected market through the 500KVA, 11/0.415 KV Society Sub-station transformer* was in circuit from around 12:21 a.m. when the supply was restored until 3:06 a.m when the feeder was switched off following an alert about the inferno from our Nassarawa dispatch office.

While it is easy for some people to blame the unfortunate incident on PHCN, it is however necessary to provide substantial technical proofs to the allegations made.

We hereby make the following categorical statements that:

- The tank of the 500 KVA , 11/0.415 KV Society Sub-station transformer which is under reference did not explode and its cables were intact;
- The fire could not have started from the transformer since there was no tripping recorded on the 11kv Ibrahim Taiwo feeder that feeds the transformer in question;
- Given the fact that all the protective devices on the transformer including the fuse elements were left intact (and they are still intact), this has confirmed that the fire had merely spread to the transformer area. As a result, both the LT (Low tension) and the HT (High Tension) cables of the transformer were burnt;
- Non-dropping of the J&P fuse element of the transformer showed that we had earlier on isolated that HT Line. If that had not been done, the damage on the cables could have caused noticeable tripping on the lines.

It is hoped that the general public is now better informed about the non-involvement of the PHCN either directly or indirectly in the fire incident.

PHCN Management hereby commiserates with the government and the people of Kano state as well as the traders who have suffered collateral losses as a result of the unfortunate fire.

SIGNED:

Management Kano Electricity Distribution Plc

17-Mar-2010



UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA

P.M.B. 117 Abuja, NIGERIA

**INVITATION FOR TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF FOREIGN
JOURNALS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA LIBRARY**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The University hereby invites reputable and interested companies to apply for Pre-qualification/Tender for the supply of foreign journals for the year 2010.

2.0 PREQUALIFICATION/TENDER REQUIREMENTS

- i) Evidence of registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).
- ii) Tax clearance certificate for the last three years (originals may be required for authentication)
- iii) Evidence of financial capability to handle the job
- iv) Verifiable evidence of having completed similar jobs in the last three years. Names of clients, location of project, contract sum with the certificate of completion/final payment and photograph
- v) Name and address of bankers and their recommendations.

3.0 SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION/TENDER DOCUMENTS

The Pre-qualification/Tender documents shall be collected from the University Librarian upon the presentation of the evidence of payment of N10,000 fees in the Cash Office of the Bursary Department, University of Abuja, Main Campus, Airport Road Abuja. Photocopies of the receipt(s) must be included in the submission. Completed forms (pre-qualification and tender) are to be sealed and marked at the top right corner of the envelope 'pre-qualification/tender document for "The _____" and delivered by hand to:

**The Registrar
University of Abuja, Main Campus,
Airport Road
Abuja.**

Submissions of prequalification and Tender documents must reach the above address on or before **3rd May 2010**. The documents so submitted shall be publicly opened at 2.00 pm of the same day at the VC's Conference Room of the University's Main Campus, Airport Road, Abuja. All Bidders are required to be present on the day and time of opening.

- iii) For further clarification on this prequalification/tender contact the University Librarian, University of Abuja, Mini Campus, Gwagwalada Abuja between the hours of 10 am – 2 pm Monday to Friday from the date of this advert to the close of the Pre-qualification/Tender period.
- vi) Bidders are to note that participation in the prequalification exercise does not grant any company the right to be considered for Tender.
- vi) Companies who cannot fulfill the above conditions need not apply.
- vii) The University reserves the right to disqualify any or all pre-qualification documents.

**Signed:
M. B. Modibbo
Registrar**

DIGEST

The mind-reading machine: 'Psychic' computer invented that can tell what you're thinking

A computer programme that can read your mind has been developed by British scientists.

In tests, it was able to access and interpret memories by scanning the brain patterns of volunteers.

The computer had a high success rate in telling which of three short films the subjects were thinking about.

Eleanor Maguire, of the University College London research team, said the work meant we were 'approaching the realm of mind-reading'.

The seven-second film clips showed women going about daily tasks, such as posting a letter. Then, while their brains were scanned, the volunteers were asked to think about what they had seen.

The brain lit up differently for each film, allowing the researchers to create a program that homed in on the patterns. The volunteers were then asked to think about the clips again and the 'psychic' computer worked out which one they had in mind.

The machine recorded a 45 per cent success rate - significantly higher than would have been expected through chance alone, the journal *Current Biology* reports.

Professor Maguire said: 'In our previous experiment, we were looking at basic memories, at someone's location.'

'What is more interesting is to look at episodic memories - the complex, everyday memories that include much more information on where we are, what we are doing and how we feel.'

Lead researcher Martin Chadwick said: 'It suggests that our memories are recorded in a regular pattern.'

The study, which was funded by the Wellcome Trust, focused on the hippocampus, a small area of the brain that plays a key role in memory, navigation and imagining the future.

Unravelling the workings of memory raises the prospect of developing infallible lie detector tests.

The interpretation of intentions could even allow police to arrest criminals before they break the law, as seen in the 2002 Tom Cruise film, *Minority Report*.

The research could also shed light on the memory loss seen in Alzheimer's disease, stroke and other conditions.

Professor Maguire's earlier work compared the brains of London taxi drivers with those of bus drivers.

Scans showed an area of the hippocampus to be bigger in the cabbies, suggesting their brains grow to cope with their detailed knowledge of London's streets.



VOLUNTEERS were asked to think about video footage they had seen while their brains were scanned. A special computer was able to tell what they were thinking about 45% of the time

Breakthrough as cancer drug saves the eyesight of two patients with rare genetic condition for the first time



PROFESSOR Andrew Lotery (pictured) has pioneered the use of a cancer drug for those with a rare genetic eye disorder

A drug more commonly used to treat breast and lung cancer has been used to save the sight of two patients, doctors revealed today.

Professor Andrew Lotery from Southampton General Hospital, used the drug Avastin to treat a rare eyesight disease that affects young adults.

Called Sorsby's Fundus Dystrophy (SFD), it is an early onset form of macular degeneration, where vision loss is caused by damage to the retina.

Professor Lotery said it was the first time the drug had been used to treat the genetic condition, which caused the two patients in their 30s to suffer

blurred vision and a general deterioration of their sight.

Avastin (bevacizumab) halts the growth of blood vessels and stems bleeding.

It has been injected with good results into the eyes of patients with 'wet' age related macular degeneration, which is the leading cause of blindness in the western world.

Professor Lotery, whose findings have been accepted by US journal *Retinal Cases & Brief Reports*, said: 'As patients in the past have not responded well to treatments for SFD and because the mutations that lead to the condition are still not yet fully

understood, we wanted to investigate other methods of treatment, including the use of bevacizumab (Avastin).

'We have discovered that the drug has prevented loss of sight and improved vision in the younger patients suffering from SFD over a long period and this is an exciting new treatment for what is a rare condition affecting young people.'

In 2004 Professor Lotery was one of a team of researchers who discovered the first gene to be linked to age related macular degeneration. He is hopeful they will one day find a cure for the debilitating condition.

Sign Language

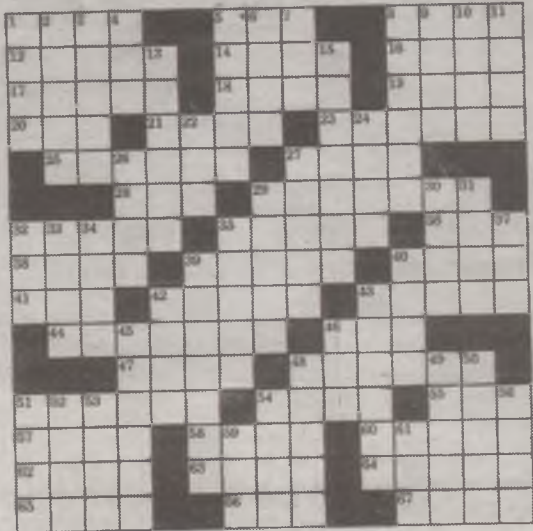


I smell a riot
Photo location: Xi'an, China, by Ray Beilby
Culled from telegraph.co.uk

EASY CROSSWORDS

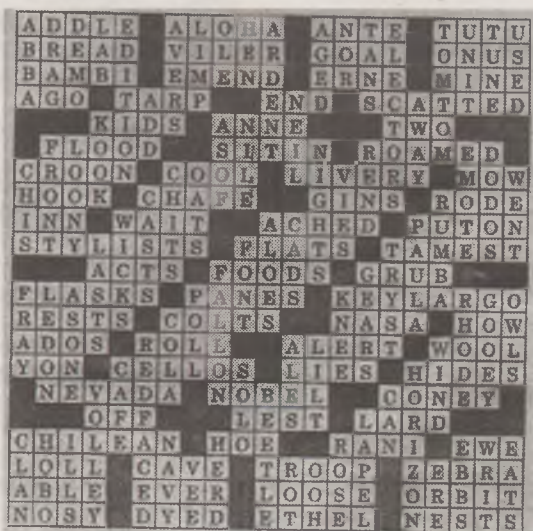
13

- ACROSS**
- 1. Dutch cheese
 - 5. Diamond official
 - 8. Noisy speech
 - 12. Desi of TV
 - 14. Flat refusals
 - 16. Neighborhood
 - 17. Japan's capital
 - 18. Footballer Tarkenton
 - 19. Linen source
 - 20. Fa follower
 - 21. Garfield's buddy
 - 23. 32-Down creatures
 - 25. Provisional driver's license
 - 27. Cobbler's need
 - 28. Cash in 17-Across
 - 29. Clothing
 - 32. Golf great Sam
 - 35. Censor's sound
 - 36. Victor's sign
 - 38. Merit (wages)
 - 39. Thorny plant
 - 40. Brits' food containers
 - 41. Mean (to)
 - 42. Stair part
 - 43. Joins (metal)
 - 44. Rodeo loops
 - 46. Coal product
 - 47. Wizard's prop
 - 48. Reception booster
 - 51. Owned by those folks
 - 54. Feels below par
 - 55. Diary's kin
 - 57. Absorbed (in)
 - 58. Celestial spheres
 - 60. Straighten into rows
 - 62. Mr Stoltz
 - 63. Holiday air
 - 64. Like a tapestry
 - 65. Engrave on glass
 - 66. Chico's cheer
 - 67. Ernie's pal
 - 3. Off-sprained joint
 - 4. Request word
 - 5. Not qualified
 - 6. — or less
 - 7. Pod veggie
 - 8. Roof support
 - 9. A Guthrie
 - 10. Tidal term
 - 11. Curbside call
 - 13. Went fast
 - 15. Nosy person
 - 22. Loud cleaner
 - 24. Show approval
 - 26. Pitcher Nolan
 - 27. Swiftmess
 - 29. False name
 - 30. Fiendish
 - 31. Banking verb
 - 32. Briny body
 - 33. Hardware item
 - 34. Funny Bombeck
 - 35. AKC concern
 - 37. Tight curve
 - 39. Actor Charles
 - 40. Hatcher of Hollywood
 - 42. Despot of old
 - 43. Polish metropolis
 - 45. Wall installation
 - 46. Aviv lead-in
 - 48. Bridal path?
 - 49. In the flesh
 - 50. Solitary one
 - 51. Leaf dropper
 - 52. Male deer
 - 53. Grand work
 - 54. Cain's victim
 - 56. Courteous man
 - 59. Milne cutie
 - 61. Easy toss



Solution to Easy Crosswords

12



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.

109

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

Solution to Sudoku 108

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



NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY CAVEAT EMPTOR

The attention of the Nigerian Ports Authority has been drawn to the attempt by **Network Construction Company Limited** and other unknown persons to obtain a recertification for the Authority's plot of land situate at **Plot 986 cadastral zone A00, central area, Abuja** and possibly offer it for sale to the general public.

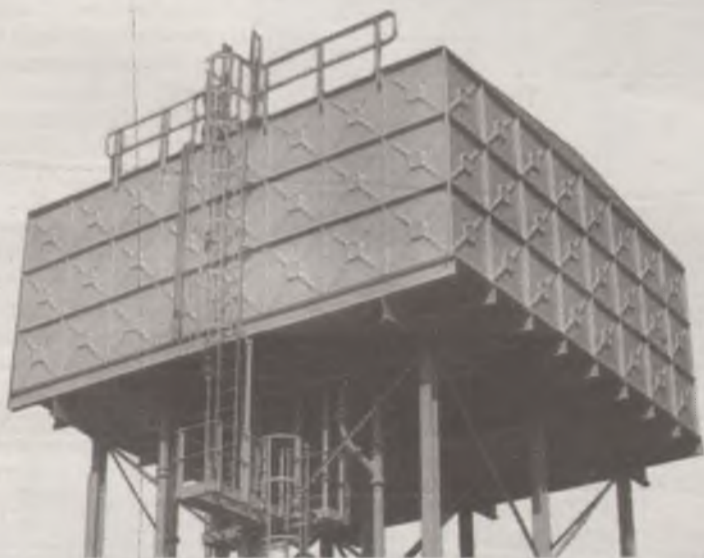
Notice is hereby given to the general public that the said parcel of land, which is developed with structures forming part of the Authority's Fire Station for its former Headquarters building (the Ship House), is not for sale.

Members of the General Public are hereby advised against carrying out any transactions on the aforementioned plot of land.

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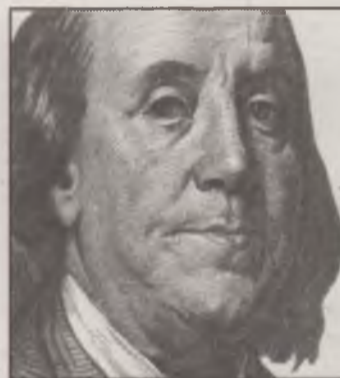


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News Extra

Images of Barack Obama's childhood in Indonesia emerge

Grimming happily at the camera, this is Barry Soetoro, the cherubic little boy who went on to become America's first black president.

The charming images taken at a child's birthday party in Jakarta 40 years ago were released as Indonesia prepares to welcome Barack Obama back to the country for the first time since he became president.

The Asia-Pacific tour will also take in Australia and Guam and has been described as an 'extremely important trip' involving 'important partners', a White House spokesman said.

Regional security is expected to be a major focus of the visit.

Ahead of the visit, Mr Obama's former teacher Israella Pareira, described the neighbourhood's reaction to the youngster's arrival.

She said: 'His mother was white, his father was Indonesian, and here was a black, chubby boy with curly hair. It was a big question mark for us.'

But if the neighbours were initially curious, it didn't take long for them to accept Mr Obama, his American mother and Indonesian stepfather.

They now speak with pride and affection about the child who stayed for just four years but who left a big impression, before going on to make an even bigger mark in history.

The forthcoming visit will also highlight Mr Obama's multicultural upbringing, his early exposure to Islam and his lasting family connections to Indonesia, a mostly Muslim, Southeast Asian nation of some 230 million people.

Mr Obama's childhood and family history would be an interesting start in life for anyone, but are all the more striking in an American president.

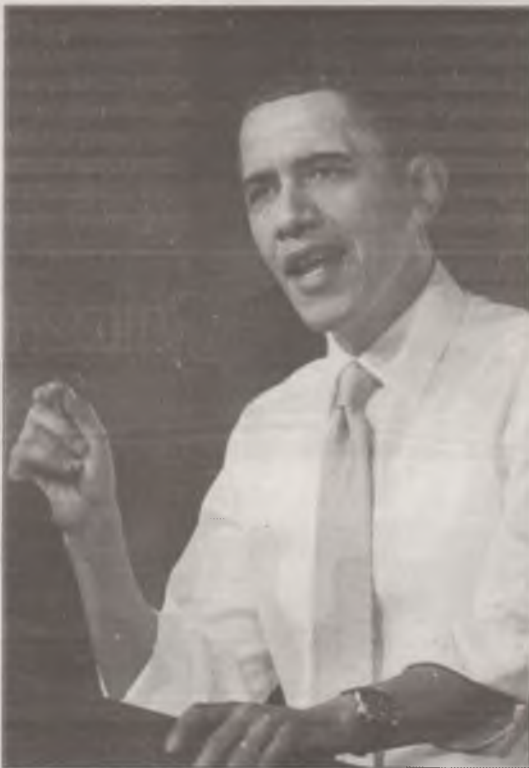
The first black American head of state, he is also the first to spend a significant part of his childhood abroad since Theodore Roosevelt, who travelled widely in Europe and the Middle East with his family.

'He was exposed to American black culture, American white culture,' said Kay Ikranagara, who worked with Mr Obama's mother in Jakarta and knew the family well. 'He learned that people in all groups should be listened to.'

No schedule has been released of his trip, which was delayed a



BARACK Obama, then known as Barry Soetoro, centre, is pictured at a classmate's birthday party in Jakarta, Indonesia, in 1971



JUST look at him now: Mr Obama delivers remarks on health insurance reform in Ohio earlier this week. First Lady Michelle Obama was pictured during her campaign to improve fitness and combat obesity in Washington, Tuesday



few days so as not to clash with a crucial moment in the US health care debate. As a result, his wife and children, who were originally going to join him during their spring break, will not be accompanying him.

Obama moved to Indonesia when he was seven after his mother, Stanley Ann Dunham, married her second husband, Lolo Soetoro, whom she met when they were studying at the Univer-

sity of Hawaii.

His half-sister, Maya, was born in Indonesia, but after four years Dunham - her marriage slowly breaking up - sent him back to Hawaii, where he lived with his maternal grandparents and

His mother had 'learned the chasm that separated the life chances of an American from those of an Indonesian. She knew which side of the divide she wanted her child to be on,'

he wrote in his autobiography 'Dreams from My Father'. 'I was an American, she decided, and my true life lay elsewhere.'

Dunham became fluent in the Indonesian language and her career as an anthropologist and she took her back to the country for long periods until her death in 1995. Last year, a book based on her dissertation on blacksmiths in Indonesian villages was published.

Mr Obama and his mother first set up home in the Menteng Dalam neighbourhood. Now a jumble of houses and narrow streets in the shadow of tower blocks, at the time it was on the edge of the city and fruit trees were landmarks.

Many families still live there, and they shared memories of the boy they knew as Barry. Slipping his way to school along muddy lanes, holding onto his mother's hand; trying salted fish from a neighbourhood shop and mistaking it for cheese; playing with the pet crocodiles that were kept in the back garden.

'He went to everyone's house, played kites with local kids, got stuck in swamps,' said Coenraad Satja Koesoemah, who allowed Dunham to use his front room to teach English - for free - to locals. 'He was a Menteng Dalam kid, what more can I say?'

The family's life in Indonesia came less than a year after one of the most traumatic and bloody periods in the country's history - the massacre of up to 500,000 alleged communists by forces loyal to the American-backed Gen. Suharto, who took over the country on the back of the purge.

During the presidential campaign, Mr Obama's team had to fight back against false reports that he attended a hard-line Muslim boarding school while in Jakarta.

His father was raised a Muslim, but abandoned his faith before he met Dunham. His stepfather was a secular Muslim who was rarely, if ever, seen in the neighbourhood prayer house, according to locals.

Mr Obama's first school in Jakarta was a Catholic one a short walk from his home that had been built just two years earlier by a priest from the Netherlands, the country's former colonial rulers.

For the first five months, Mr Obama struggled with the Indonesian language but soon became proficient. By all accounts, he quickly became a favourite of the teachers and the pupils there, but endured some teasing on account of his looks.

Those early experiences have been cited as key moments that shaped his view on life.

When Mr Obama returns next week, he will find that this part of his past has remained much as he left it, right down to the bench of the dog sign' on the fence, the bench where he used to do his homework and the art deco stained-glass windows on his old house.

News Extra

Kim Jong-il predicted to die before 2013



NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong-il

North Korean leader Kim Jong-il may die within three years, according to a senior US envoy.

Kurt Campbell, the assistant US Secretary of State, told ambassador Kathleen Stephens, a South Korean politician and activists in a closed-door session that he

doubted the 68-year-old leader would live beyond 2013, South Korea's Chosun Ilbo newspaper said.

Mr Campbell based his esti-

mate on medical information, the report said, citing unidentified sources.

The estimate comes after a state-run South Korean think tank, the Korea Institute for National Unification, said in a January report that Kim Jong Il probably wouldn't survive past 2012. It cited no specific evidence for the estimate.

The report comes amid speculation that the North Korean leader is preparing to hand power over to one of his sons.

Kim Jong Il is believed to have suffered a stroke in 2008, and has appeared noticeably gaunt in public appearances over the last year. His health is of keen interest because of concerns that his sudden death could trigger instability and a power struggle in the nuclear-armed communist country.

Kim, who himself inherited power in 1994 upon the death of his father, North Korean founder Kim Il Sung, has not publicly

“The report comes amid speculation that the North Korean leader is preparing to hand power over to one of his sons

named any of his three sons to succeed him. However, he is said to favour his youngest son, the Swiss-educated Kim Jong Un, believed to be in his mid-20s.

Little is known about the son. US officials were sent to question teachers at the Swiss school to find out more about him, the Chosun Ilbo report said.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

Beach jogger killed after plane crash-lands on top of him



A tow boat floats offshore from the scene where a small plane crash-landed on the beach of Palmetto Dunes along Hilton Head, South Carolina, killing a man

A single-engine plane with oil on its windshield struck and killed a man on a beach as the pilot attempted

to make an emergency landing. The man was walking or jogging along Palmetto Dunes, in South Carolina, when the Exper-

imental Lancair IV-P plane hit him, said Hilton Head Island fire and rescue spokeswoman Joheida Fister.

The plane started leaking oil at about 13,000 feet (3,900 meters) and tried originally to make it to Hilton Head Airport,

Fister said.

The oil on the windshield blocked the pilot's vision and he told authorities the propeller came off the plane.

When he tried to land on the beach near the Hilton Head Marriott Resort and Spa, the plane hit the beachgoer and came to rest a little farther down the beach, she said.

'I would have to say it's pretty unusual,' Fister said.

The names of the man killed, pilot and passenger on the plane were not released.

The plane left Orlando at 4.45pm and was headed for Virginia, Fister said.

The plane has a turbine engine and can fly up to 370 mph (595 kph), according to the Lancair Web site.

The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board were investigating, Fister said.



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FG to promote synergy in education, says minister

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

FORMER Minister of Education Dr Sam Ominyi Egwu said Federal Government will continue to promote synergy in the education sector by ensuring that states adhere strictly to policy reforms.

He spoke at the launching of the World Bank assisted Lagos-Eko Secondary Education Project.

He said government will

encourage and advance capacity building at the federal level and support selected states to develop their education sector plans.

He said the Lagos-Eko projects is a critical intervention of the World Bank and a demonstration of the high premium Lagos State Government places on education and its determination to adequately promote and enhance the quality of education.

He urged other states of the

federation to emulate this laudable achievement, and called on the World Bank to extend similar gestures to the state government that require such assistance.

Dr Egwu said the Federal Government with support from World Bank is currently implementing a STEP-B Project whose objective is to improve the quality, equitable access to and relevance of science and technology at the federal post-basic level so as to increase

the country's competitiveness in a globalising world.

"As at now, 185 grants are under implementation by various post-basic science and technology institutions and regulatory agencies. Perhaps, I should use this forum to correct one erroneous impression many people have in this country: that education is solely funded by Government. All over the world quality education is provided at all levels by Government in partner-

ship with well-endowed individuals and private organizations," he said.

While inaugurating the Lagos-Eko project, Governor Babatunde Raji Fashola said the state government is mindful of the critical role that free and qualitative education would play in the life of the State and the country adding that education is the security for the future, not only for the beneficiaries but also for the implementers.

Pay additional exam fees, FCT tells parents

By Ben Atonko

THE secretary of Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) Education Secretariat Alhaji Hussaini Halilu Pai has advised parents to pay the additional N5,000 for the registration of their children and wards for the School Certificate Examination, saying the increase is from the examination body, not from the school heads.

Many parents are grumbling over the fee-increase saying principals are out to rip them off.

Pai gave the explanation while receiving the ward of Honorary Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Education in Abuja yes-

terday.

The education secretary however said government is working towards paying the additional cost as a way of helping parents even as he promised that if funds are finally secured for the purpose, parents will be refunded the additional charge.

He identified congestion in public schools in FCT as a major challenge to the administration. He equally said recruitment of good teachers, payment of their salaries and training are big issues.

He said government is sensitising the private sector to give a helping hand stressing that government alone cannot do all.



STUDENTS at the official launch of the Lagos EKO Secondary Education Project. (Inset) Governor Babatunde Raji Fashola of Lagos State, former Minister of Education Dr Sam Egwu and other top government officials unveiling the symbol of the project.

Kwara absorbs 139 teachers

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

GOVERNOR Abubakar Bukola Saraki of Kwara State has approved the absorption of 139 Voluntary Teachers Service (VTS) candidates into the state teaching service commission.

A statement signed by the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor Alhaji Mas'ud Adebimpe said the absorbed candidates were the last batch in the commission's list of the VTS.

The statement said the candidates were absorbed in fulfilment of the gov-

ernor's promise to ensure quality education at all levels in the state.

According to the statement, Governor Abubakar Bukola Saraki has approved the release of a sum of N37.9 million to offset their monthly salaries.

The statement enjoined the volunteers to reciprocate government's gestures by being committed to their job for enhanced productivity.

The absorption of the teachers which takes effect from next month comprised of 134 NCE holders and 45 HND and Bsc graduates.

UBEC embarks on staff audit of basic schools

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

AUTHORITIES of the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) have commenced the 2010 national personnel audit of Basic Education Institutions in Nigeria.

This is in compliance with provisions of Part 11, schedule 9(f) of the 2004 UBEC ACT which mandates the commission to carry out regular personnel audit of teaching and non teaching staff of all public basic education institutions for the purposes of planning and management of basic edu-

cation in the country.

Executive Secretary of the commission Dr Ahmed Modibbo Mohammed, said the staff is aimed at authenticating the relevant data gathered on teaching and non-teaching staff of all public basic education institutions nationwide.

He said the exercise will also determine the number of personnel in all basic education institutions and obtain basic statistics such as enrolment and school facilities.

Other reasons for the audit include creation of database on the stock

and functionality of basic school infrastructure such as building, toilets, laboratories, workshops and libraries, and determine the existing ratio of teachers to pupils in primary and JSS as well as teacher supply and total enrolment in basic education sector.

"To ensure the general success of the exercise, officers drawn from the commission, SUBEB, LGEAs, FME have been earmarked to work in the field and gather the required data, specific instruments have been carefully designed for this purpose," he said.

In her contribution, Director of Administration and Supplies of the commission Mrs Bridget Ojoma Onekutu appealed to all participants in the exercise to perform their duties diligently, saying that the success of the exercise would provide the required data for planning basic education delivery in Nigeria in the years ahead.

She said the first in line with the provision of the ACT was carried out in 2006 and the information derived from it has been of immense assistance in implementing federal government programmes.

Ministry solicits support of law school on education development

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

FORMER Minister of Education Dr. Sam Ominyi Egwu has stressed the need for purpose-

ful collaboration between the Federal Ministry of Education, Council of Legal Education and the Nigerian Law School in the area of education development.

He stated this in Abuja while receiving managements of Council of Legal Education and Nigerian Law School on a courtesy visit. The team was led by

the Director-General of Nigeria Law School Dr Tahir Mamman.

"There is the need for the Federal Ministry of Education and the Council for Legal Edu-

cation and Nigerian Law School to collaborate more than ever before especially in the area of education development," he said.

DAILY TRUST

EDUCATION

Non-remittance of books hinders operations of National Library – Ikpaahindi

DR Linus Ikpaahindi is the Director and Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria. In this interview, he spoke about the challenges facing the library, among other issues.

By Maureen Onochie

A lot of materials in the nation's libraries are outdated. As the head of National Library, what are you doing to address this problem and make them income-generating institutions?

The National Library anywhere in the world is not an income-generating outfit. It is not a limited liability company. Libraries are service-oriented institutions. So, we do not generate funds. The National Library is like the general hospital, or the subsidy on oil provided for free of charge.

The essence is to make sure that everyone irrespective of their status in life is able to access information freely and without any objections or hurdles. That is what the National Library is all about.

The unit in Area II in a way belongs to the National Library. I say in a way because when we came to Abuja 15 years ago, the national library realized there was no library in the FCT like other facilities such as hospitals in each of the major zones like Maitama, Wuse, Asokoro and Garki.

The National Library requested for that small unit in Area II which they gave us to provide at least very rudimentary service for the people of Abuja to have a place where they can go and read newspapers.

Over the years the national library has been running very skeletal services there but it doesn't epitomize the kind of service the national library can offer.

We also have lots of books that were purchased last year but we just don't have a space in the shelves to keep them. So, when we had a meeting in Bauchi, we discussed the issue at a management level. Now we have books for the Abuja branch. We have 22 other branches all over the country. We buy and distribute books to all of these branches. We have the ones allocated to Area II, but nowhere to put them. If you go upstairs, you will see books tied up and put on the floor simply because there is nowhere to put them. These are some of the difficulties.

We also have a ten-port Internet connectivity there. The ICT is not working there. I can assure you that the place is very well equipped with modern equipments. It even has a 100kv gen-

erator to support the electricity there. The problem we have is the supply of bandwidth. We went into agreement with galaxy backbone because the Federal Government says that all Federal agencies should patronize galaxy backbone for its bandwidth services. That is what we did. But we are finding out that we are not getting the kind of services we want from galaxy backbone and we have called them several times both in the headquarters and the Area II branch to come and see what they can do to improve the problems to have a smooth supply in our ICT. So it is not as if we don't have internet services, it's just that we are having problem with our bandwidth.

What is the financial implication of the books your organisation purchased and how many libraries hope to benefit from these books?

The National Library has 22 branches spread across the six geo-political zones in the country. In 2008, we had a budget for the purchase of books which was about N20 million. In 2009, we had a budget of about 100 million. That made us to increase the total number of books we are buying. This is also because we are opening new branches and when we open any new branch, most of the new books go there to stuff the shelves.

What are the challenges your organization is facing?

The National Library has many challenges. One of them is that of space, particularly for our headquarters here in Abuja. If you go to Kaduna, Jos, Enugu or Owerri, we don't have problems there because National Library has built what they call prototype buildings. These are buildings we have designed many years ago. They are spacious enough to accommodate a lot but for the headquarters where most of the activities are supposed to be holding unfortunately, we don't have a permanent building. Where the National Library headquarters is now is a hired office accommodation. As I earlier said, the small branch we have in Area II was given to us by the FCT to run skeletal services. The basic problem is space.

Has the Federal Government taken steps to provide you with a

more spacious accommodation?

Yes. In 2006, the Federal Government awarded a contract of N8.6 billion for the building of the headquarters of the National Library. The building is coming up directly opposite the National Mosque and it is at the third level right now. It was stalled for some time but it has been resuscitated by the Federal Ministry of Education. There was a misunderstanding but it has been resolved, and we hope that the contractor will go back to site and resume work. The building is supposed to be completed by 2011. The building is supposed to serve about 1,000 users at the same time. It is supposed to have an auditorium or conference room that is supposed to sit about 300-400 people at the same time. It will have modern facilities and display halls. I think it is going to be a monument that Nigerians are going to be proud of.

Is it not possible to remove the old books on the shelf and replace them with the new ones?

This is the misconception which we keep trying to explain to Nigerians. In the National Library anywhere in the world, the older a book item is the more valuable it is. Our job is to collect all the materials that are published within Nigeria. Our job is also to preserve these items and make them available. The job of the National Library is to collect these essential things for the nation and keep them. For the National Library, the older these materials are the more valuable they are. Why it is also incumbent upon us to provide recent books is simply because the agencies of government that are supposed to be providing these services and leaving the National Library to concentrate on its core functions are not doing so. When you hear a library, people say we didn't have any book anywhere, so the National Library now comes in and say "since the people are failing in these responsibilities then lets us take up some of the challenges even if we are not able to carry them out completely." This is the dilemma we have to face, the dilemma of having to carry out some core functions and the dilemma to have to satisfy a need of the Nigerian people. So we have been carrying out these two functions and it has not been easy. But in the National Library, the older the material is the more



DR. Linus Ikpaahindi

valuable it is.

What steps have you taken to ensure that companies and agencies remit their materials such as books and newsletters to the National Library?

That is one of the problems we are facing today. The law says that any author who publishes in the nation should submit three copies of the publication to the National Library of Nigeria. The National Library keeps one copy and sends one copy to the University of Ibadan for safe keeping. If it is a government agency, the agency is supposed to give us 25 copies at their own cost. We have discovered that most government agencies do not submit even one copy to the National Library. Government agencies are the biggest publishers in the country. If half of them were depositing something to the National Library, we would have a lot in the library. But the reality is that not all of them submit their publications to the National Library.

We have sent letters to all the 250 or more agencies to submit copies of their publications to the National Library. We have chosen the path of persuasion to tell them to deposit their materials to the National Library.

What would you say is the reason for the lack of zeal by Nigerians to read books these days

especially since the introduction of ICT?

There are many reasons why we find ourselves in such a situation in this country. Some are based on our own individual culture, some are based on the changing attitude of Nigerians which is moving fast away from the intrinsic value to very superficial things of monetary value. We also have to look at the infrastructural and facilities themselves and be realistic. Can you imagine that as I speak now, a modern city like Abuja, apart from the library in Area II which sits only 20-30 people, people don't have a library where people can go and read.

People are discouraged to read because there is no library where they can go. Another problem is that of maintenance. For instance, the air condition in the library is not working, the toilets are not properly cleaned and so on.

One will not be encouraged to go to the library again to read. It is important that we look into this issue realistically and passionately as it affects this sector. It is also very important that you people in the press get people to know that the library is a very essential instrument of modern development. There cannot be a functional and enduring democracy when the people are not informed because it is information that makes people to break away from religious and tribal differences.

CAMPUS ROUNDUP

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Egwu opens N130m UNILORIN geosciences workroom

From Bolaji Hassan, UNILORIN

AT a colourful ceremony, the then Minister of Education Dr Sam Egwu, has commissioned the N130 million geosciences workroom of the University of Ilorin.

The geosciences workroom is believed to hold vast potentials for the revolution of teaching, learning and research of geosciences, among other things.

The workroom was donated by "Esso Exploration and Producing Nigeria Limited (EENL), a subsidiary of ExxonMobil in production sharing contract with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and supported by Sch-

lumberger and CBC Computers Limited.

Dr Egwu, who was represented by the Director of Higher Education in the ministry Dr Jemilat Suara, said Federal Government is committed to repositioning the tertiary education.

He said over N30 billion was injected into six Nigerian universities by the Federal Government in order to move the education sector forward, adding that university system is positively evolving.

While speaking at the occasion, the Executive Secretary of National Universities Commission (NUC) Professor Julius Okojie, said University of Ilorin

has grown tremendously over the years and noted that the university has demonstrated that leadership holds the key to development.

He said the Vice Chancellor of the university Professor Is-haq O. Oloyede is providing the type of leadership needed within the Nigerian university system, adding that the NUC as a regulatory body would conveniently rate the University of Ilorin as one of the best three universities in Nigeria.

Earlier in his address, Professor Oloyede commended ExxonMobil for its donation and urged others to emulate the company, saying that "if all companies

fulfil their corporate social responsibilities by impacting positively and intervening appropriately in critical sectors of the nation, most of the problems confronting Nigeria would be solved."

"There are three categories of people: those who watch things happen, those who wonder why things happen and those who make things happen. I believe this is what the Brazilian philosopher of Education, Paulo Freire, had in mind when he was espousing his 'conscientization' and the component three levels of consciousness which he called 'naive consciousness,' 'magical consciousness' and 'critical consciousness.'

ESUT warns students, lecturers on sale of handout, extortion

THE Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT) has vowed to expel any student or lecturer involved in the sale of books, hand-outs and other forms of extortion.

Acting Vice Chancellor of the university Professor Chidi Ugwu, who gave the warning in a statement in Enugu, said dismissal from service awaits any staff of the university found to be extorting money from students under any guise.

He also warned students against sorting lecturers for grades as the consequences could be very grave for

them, saying that the university will stop all acts of corruption as it has zero tolerance to corruption.

Professor Ugwu also advised parents to support their children financially to enable them to meet up with their needs, noting that this would save them from cultism, armed robbery, extortion, prostitution and other vices.

He appealed for a change of orientation in ESUT, pointing out that his administration was in a hurry to bring about positive changes in the university. (NAN)

Campus journalists organise essay competition

From Alabi Mohammed Abdulkareem, UNILORIN

AS part of the events for the celebration of the 60th birthday anniversary of Professor Olu Obafemi, the Union of Campus Journalists (UCJ) of the University of Ilorin in conjunction with the Local Organizing Committee of the Conference on African Literature and Theatre will organise a national essay contest for student writers across the country.

The contest, which is scheduled for the March 26, 2010 will also include an oral defence of the best three essays.

Participants are to converge on the University of Ilorin main audi-

torium, the venue of the event at 10 o'clock in the morning.

Meanwhile, students of the faculty of Arts of the University of Ilorin are already completing rehearsals of drama expected to be staged at the conference.

A source close to the department of English of the faculty told Campus Roundup that no stone will be left unturned preparatory to the grand celebration of one of their celebrated teachers.

THE source said that the coordinator of the drama had to transfer the performance from the 300 Level to a more experienced and 'serious' level as a signal to their seriousness.



MATRICULATING students of Adamawa State University (ADSU) taking their oath.

ABU students to benefit from NGO's scholarship

From Isa Liman, ABU

SCORES of Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) students stand the chance of getting scholarship to study in one of the African countries, president of African Liberty.org in Nigeria Alhaji Adebayo Thomas, has said.

He made this known yesterday at a seminar organized by the organization to sensitise students on the importance of deregulating and liberalizing government enterprises.

He said the essence of the scholarship is to give the lucky students the opportu-

nity to study outside Nigeria in their educational pursuits and future careers.

"What we would do now is to obtain the scholarship forms for the students. The scholarship is sponsored by our parent organization. All interested students would be encouraged to obtain the forms, fill and return to us. We would use our membership of the Scholarship Board to ensure that many of the ABU students get the award," he said.

The seminar, which took place at the premises of Department of Economics of the university was attended

by many students.

Alhaji Adebayo emphasized the need for free market economy in the country, saying that it is unfortunate that in Nigeria today the only sector that is functioning effectively is the government sector as most people rely on it for their survival and running of their businesses.

The highlight of the seminar was distribution of textbooks and CD plates to students and other participants. The CD plates contain over 100 texts about political, economic and social freedom and their associated responsibilities.

ADSU matriculates 1,493 students for 2009/2010 session

THE Adamawa State University (ADSU) has matriculated 1,493 students for the 2009/2010 academic session.

Speaking at the matriculation exercise, Vice Chancellor of the university Dr Alkasum Abba said the university is committed to creating a virtual learning environment within the next six months.

He said boreholes will be sunk in all the hostels beginning in order to improve water supply on campus.

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*Exit of a
dear colleague*

Our heartfelt condolences go to the family of
Mr. Usaini Habila Shinkut,
who passed away on the 4th of March 2010

May his gentle soul rest in peace.

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Community officer cautions stakeholders on climate change

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE National Coordinator of Community and Social Development Project (GSDP), Mr Peter Manza Papka, has said that the threat posed by climate change and global warming required governments at all levels, companies and private individuals attention if the country needs to manage, protect and preserve environments effectively.

Papka, who raised the alert while speaking with Daily Trust at the ongoing 5-day intensive training for officers on environmental checklist and procedure in collaboration with Earth Guards Limited, holding at the Royal Shekinah Hotel along Offa Garage road, Ilorin.

The project, between the World Bank, Federal and State governments, the national coordinators said called on government to muster the political will to deal with the problems.

Experts drawn from over 20 states in Nigeria warned that unless all stakeholders responded promptly to the current global environmental challenges, the future of the country was bleak.

"The country's survival was also under siege due to actions and inactions of the residents therein."

He stated that the government had relegated environmental issues to the background, adding that those supposed to possess the skills in environmental mainstreaming including ministries, departments and agencies were not fully equipped for the task.

In his comments, the Chairman, Board of Directors, Kwara (CSDP), Dr Abraham Asaolu, decried what he termed the continuous degeneration of the environment.

He maintained that the global warming phenomenon did not start suddenly, but that it was prompted by accumulated disregard for the environment.

He expressed fear that if the issues involved were not tackled by all stakeholders concerned generations unborn would be wiped out.

'World's most useful tree' purifies water

CONSIDERED to be one of the world's most useful trees, seeds from the Moringa oleifera tree (known in Hausa as Zogale), can produce a 90.00% to 99.99% bacterial reduction in previously untreated water.

A low-cost water purification technique published in Current Protocols in Microbiology said it could help drastically reduce the incidence of waterborne disease in the developing world.

"Moringa oleifera is a vegetable tree which is grown in Africa, Central and South America, the Indian subcontinent, and South East Asia.

A billion people across Asia, Africa, and Latin America are estimated to rely on untreated surface water sources for their daily water needs. Michael Lea, a Current Protocols author, and a researcher at Clearinghouse, a Canadian organisation dedicated to investigating and imple-

menting low-cost water purification technologies, believes the Moringa oleifera tree could go a long way to providing a solution.

Lea said "Not only is it drought resistant, it also yields cooking and lighting oil, soil fertilizer, as well as highly nutritious food in the form of its pods, leaves, seeds and flowers. Perhaps most importantly, its seeds can be used to purify drinking water at virtually no cost."

Moringa tree seeds, when crushed into powder, can be used as a water-soluble extract in suspension, resulting in an effective natural clarification agent for highly turbid and untreated pathogenic surface water. As well as improving drinkability, this technique reduces water turbidity (cloudiness) making the result aesthetically as well as micro-biologically more acceptable for human consumption.



THE LNG terminal in Bonny Island is the largest of its kind in the Niger Delta

Report gives data on energy emission, rainfall

By Nasir Imam

A progress report on vulnerability, impact and adaptation to climate change was on Tuesday presented at the House of Representatives Committee on Climate Change Policy & Legislation

The report said public electricity production and refineries accounted for 33.7% of energy emissions while fugitive emissions

from fuels (in coal mining and oil and gas activities) increased by 48.2% compared to 1994.

The report also said transport emissions contributed 46.6% of the 2000 energy emissions: an increase of 9.4% from 1994 to 2000.

With regards to rainfall, the report stated that the South South recorded highest below normal rainfalls followed by N/West, N/East,

and S/West & N/Central and S/East while significant above normal rainfalls was highest in the N/Central followed by the N/West & N/East, S/West, S/East & S/South.

The report said significantly dry years terminated in 1987 (towards the end of the period of climatological normal while post climatologically normal period (post 1961-1990) till date is characterized by significantly above normal rainfall only.

Shema organizes special sanitation in Katsina

By Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

WIFE of Katsina State Governor, Hajiya Fatima Ibrahim Shema on Tuesday flagged-off a five day special sanitation exercise organised by her pet NGO, Service to Humanity Foundation to clean up the state capital and environs.

The sanitation led by the wife of the state governor also includes some five neighbouring local governments of Kaita, Jibia, Rimi, Batagarawa and Katsina divided

into six sanitation districts in the state capital.

Daily trust who monitored the exercise in the state capital reports that, officials of the five local councils and associations were seen drafted at all major streets in the city with shovels, brooms and wheel barrows busy cleaning up the city.

Hajiya Fatima Shema who monitors the exercise said, it's meant to keep the state clean and equally motivate people in the state to imbibe the culture of safe guarding their environments for their healthy living.

The five local council chairmen who led their men during the exercise assured wife of the governor of their commitment to sustain the tempo and ensure the cleanliness of their environment in order to weed up environmentally related diseases.

A technical committee has earlier been set up for the exercise which distributed materials such as hand gloves, rakes, rain boots, hard brushes, diggers and protective masks among other logistic materials to support the exercise.

Environment



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Jos experiences first downpour

Mahmud Lalo, Jos

RESIDENTS of Jos heaved a sigh of relief following the first heavy down pour this year which swept away the humid weather of the old tin city and its environs in the

early evening hours of Monday. The rain which started at about 3pm lasted for over an hour bringing all activities to a grinding halt as some motorists plying the highways of the city were forced to park to allow the

rain to subside. The heavy clouds engulfed the eastern part of the city for about quarter of an hour before the rain finally gave way to a heavy downpour that made visibility almost impossible as resi-

dents ran for shelter to avoid getting soaked in the mid March downpour that altered the more than three weeks of sunny days experienced within and outside the city. Most of the streets in Jos were

after the heavy rainfall overtaken by gushing water which overlapped from narrow culverts to form small ponds which gathered heaps of dirt in the middle of most roads and called for concern from residents.



PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

PRESIDENT of COREN, Engineer Habu Ahmed Gumel (L.) with then Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development, Dr. Hassan Muhammad Lawal during the Commissioning Ceremony of COREN new Head Office in Abuja yesterday.

Katsina NUJ's graveyard rehab receives support

By Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

SENATOR Ibrahim Ida representing Katsina central districts on Tuesday offered four hundred and twenty thousand naira (N420,000) to the state's chapter of the Nigerian Union of Journalist (NUJ) in the pursuance of its graveyards rehabilitation project.

Represented by his special assistant, Alhaji Awwalu Buba, the Senator emphasized the spiritual significance of rehabilitating graveyards as the last abode of everyone and called for all wealthy individuals to follow

He equally commended the state chapter of the NUJ for initiating the project and urges them to judiciously utilise the fund in the procurement of working materials and settlement of working personals at the six selected graveyards in Katsina metropolis.

Receiving the donation, state chairman of the NUJ, Alhaji Izma Yamadi assured the senator of judicious utilisation of the fund and hope the initiative will motivate other people to venture in the task of securing their last abode.

Shop owners told to keep environment clean

From Johnkennedy Uzoma, Owerri

PIQUED by mounting of refuse in the area, the Sole Administrator of Ahiazu Mbaise local government council of Imo State, Chief Leo Okeahialam has directed owners of shops and business premises to keep their environment clean.

Okeahialam gave the directive yesterday when he paid unscheduled visit to Eke Ahiara, Afor Ogbe and Afor Oru communities in the area.

He urged the Environmental Transformation Commission (ENTRACO) officials in the council to enforce placement of waste bins in front of every shops and business premises to ensure non littering of environment.

The council boss, who disclosed his displeasure during his visit, charged the commission to ensure regular evacuation of refuse to the permanent dump site for sustainable healthy and friendly business environment.

He said that warned that henceforth owners of shops and business premises who fails to comply with the

directive would be made to face the law.

Chief Okeahialam however hinted plans to give first lift to Afor Oru and Afor Ogbe communities while praying people of the area to pay their taxes and rates promptly for enhance Internally Generated Revenue (IGR).

Responding, the chairman (ENTRACO) in the council Sir, Innocent Ugochukwu explained that the council has created awareness to the public on the use of waste bins within their operational base.

Stopping the desert from swallowing Abuja

By Sophie Thomas

THE effects of climate change and global warming are hardly noticeable in my country. Germany is located in an ecologically secure and stable latitude; no desert, no flooding, no big natural catastrophes. That is why the alarming consequences of global warming are sometimes not fully understood by my fellow Germans, even though our western life style has huge impacts on climate change.

To understand the physical consequences that global warming has on the global society I decided to work as an intern with FADE-Africa (Fight against Desert Encroachment), an NGO founded by Dr. Newton C. Jibunoh in 2000. FADE is a member of the Nigeria Climate Action Network (NigeriaCAN) and is fighting for a greener world. FADE has many projects mostly located in Kano State.

One of the major projects is the installation of a "green wall" in areas under the threat of desertification. FADE runs a tree planting competition among several schools in Kano state. The NGO provides seedlings for every school and engages pupils on how to maintain the plants. The orchards come in different sizes and quality, but the students are interested and anxious to see the process of growth. It is important to integrate children in environmental work because they determine the world's future.

The Kano school children already know that desertification is a result of erosion, overgrazing and bush burning. They also know that it has a huge influence on the lives of millions of people not only in Nigeria. Poverty, illiteracy, illness and conflicts are only some of the numerous results of this climatic change.

Climate and social aspects can no longer be separated. Nature is the source for life and forests are the lungs of the earth.

The most important question is always the "How"? Telling people what is going wrong in our world today is not always enough, we have to educate them about alternatives. How can I cook with a smaller amount of wood? How can I avoid bush burning and still feed my cattle? How can I raise seedlings and maintain a tree? What can I do about termites to save growing trees? People living in endangered areas need practical suggestions, because changing an inherited lifestyle is never easy.

The work of FADE is very complex. Many projects have been concluded, others are ongoing. In cooperation with Lagos State, FADE is currently busy running an expedition and reality TV show called "Desert Warriors". The hope

of FADE is to reach many young people through this TV show, in which 50 participants have to prove courage, endurance and knowledge of desertification. Fifteen contestants will have the unique opportunity to cross the Sahara desert in a convoy of Suzuki Jeeps all the way to the United Kingdom. To learn more about it go to: www.lagosdesertwarriors.com.

Projects like FADE, but also the numerous projects of NigeriaCAN are very important for the development of Nigeria. Since life is not possible without a functional environment, we should try to find practical ways of tackling climate change. Every country has to draw its own conclusions and consequences. Germany's role in this fight against global warming will be very different from the steps Nigeria must take, and has taken already. As Germany is cutting down on its carbon emissions,

Nigeria should find ways of growing its industry and improving on the citizens' welfare through a greener path.

Sophie Thomas is a Volunteer at the Fight Against Desert Encroachment (FADE) and Nigeria Climate Action Network (NigeriaCAN)



SOPHIE Thomas



KADUNA POLYTECHNIC, KADUNA

P.M.B 2021 Kaduna, Nigeria

PUBLIC WARNING / NOTICE

RE: KADUNA POLYTECHNIC'S 1000 ACRES OF PARTIALLY DEVELOPED LAND ALONG KACHIA BY PASS KADUNA.

2. Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna is the rightful and exclusive **BENEFICIAL OWNERS** of all the parcel of land measuring 1000 acres situated along Kachia By-Pass Road, Opposite Angwan Television Village, Kaduna.
3. The Institution has been in continuous and undisturbed physical possession and use of the said land for a long time and has partially developed same by building its Staff Quarters and the Campus of the Polytechnic's College of Administrative Studies and Social Sciences (CASSS), therein.
4. We have however observed recent incidences of encroachment unto the said land by unscrupulous land speculators and other trespassers.
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6. **WE THEREFORE STRONGLY WARN** that henceforth the Institution will not hesitate to invoke appropriate legal sanctions to deal squarely and severely with any trespassers found encroaching unto the said land.

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Signed:
Mamoon A. Abubakar
Registrar and Secretary to Council.

CITY NEWS



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Three die in Yangoji auto crash

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THREE persons lost their lives while five others sustained serious injuries in a ghastly motor accident that occurred at Yangoji village, along the Abuja-Lokoja highway on Tuesday evening.

An eyewitness said the accident happened when a Daf truck with registration number XE 167 GDD collided with a Volkswagen Golf

car with registration number DKD 134-0I, killing three passengers on the spot.

Our reporter learnt that five other persons who sustained various degrees of injuries were rushed to Kwali General Hospital by rescue officials from the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC).

Speaking on the accident, Yangoji FRSC Unit Commander, Abdullahi Umar,

attributed its cause to wrong overtaking, adding that the three corpses have been deposited at the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital's Morgue.

He also disclosed that the injured passengers were conveyed to Kwali General Hospital.

In a related development, two persons were seriously injured yesterday morning in another accident that

occurred also at the same spot.

Yangoji's FRSC unit commander said the crash involved three vehicles, which were a Daf truck with registration number XA 286 RFR, a Fiat J5 bus with registration number XG 981 NSR and another J5 bus with registration number DK 468 BEN.

The unit commander blamed the accident cause

on wrong overtaking by one of the buses, saying the victims are at Kwali General Hospital.

He said the conductor of the Daf truck was trapped for over two hours, before FRSC officials alerted RCC Construction company's officials, who came with their pay loader and two cranes to assist his men remove the conductor, before he was taken to the hospital.

Robbers strike at Lugbe

By Ogechi Ohalee

DARE -devil armed robbers numbering over ten in the early hours of Tuesday morning terrorized occupants of Lugbe new extension, located behind Redeemer Secondary School.

One of the victims said she did not know how the robbers entered their compound as the place is well protected with security wires.

"The robbers who struck at about 3 am, entered my apartment and introduced themselves as armed robbers," she said.

She lamented that the robbers made away with her money and valuables as well as attempted to steal a car, which disappointed them, before they left it.

Our reporter learnt that that is the second time armed robbers have visited that area this year with the first incident occurring on February 5.

A resident of the area, who said the first incident happened at the same 3 am, disclosed further that they dealt with the security man, by inflicting injuries on his body.

"The robbers operated for 30 minutes and entered into apartments in the area, stealing gold jewellery as well as other valuables and brutalising people that refused to cooperate with them," the resident said.

He said the residents did not lodge a complaint at the police station during the first incident but had to report the second incident that happened on Tuesday.

The resident said the case has been reported to the police, while a policeman at Lugbe Police Station said investigations have begun to apprehend those involved in the robbery.

Barrow pusher disappears with woman's load

By Ogechi Ohalee

A woman who went to Wuse market to buy goods yesterday wailed uncontrollably as a barrow pusher ran away with her goods worth over N40,000.

The woman told a crowd of sympathisers that gathered around her that the barrow pusher met her as she was about to enter the market and they bargained for a fee in order for him to carry the items she would buy.

"I asked the barrow pusher to follow me round the market and bought items to keep in the barrow, before I then asked him to rearrange the goods while I went for some fruits," she said.

She narrated that after buying the fruits, she waited for the barrow pusher to catch up with her in the fruits stall and was surprised when he did not show up.

The woman said she panicked and searched for the barrow pusher round the market and even asked his colleagues, who replied that they don't know him.

Traders spoken to at the market said it is rare for such a thing to happen inside the market and wondered if dubious barrow pushers have invaded the place.

A market security official on duty said such things happen and he blamed the woman for trusting a stranger with her goods.

He said it will be unfair to rest all the barrow pushers in the market because of the crime committed by one of their unknown members.



VEHICLES impounded by the Directorate of Road Traffic Services at Mabushi yesterday.

Mass housing: FCTA to partner with private sector

By Nasir Imam

THE Minister of State for the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Chief Chuka Odom, has called for support from the organized private sector in the provision of mass housing in the territory.

Odom stated this on Tuesday, when he hosted a delegation from the Abuja Estate Developers Association (AEDA), led by their Chairman Board of Trustees, Engr. Chinazor Okereke.

The minister reiterated the commitment of the FCT Administration

in providing affordable and decent housing for its residents.

"We are passionate about estate development because Abuja as one of the fastest growing cities in the world today has obvious challenges of accommodating the residents as well as the high traffic of immigrants that we witness every day trooping into the city in search of better opportunities and better standard of living," he said.

Odom noted that without the contribution of the organized private structure, including the AEDA it will not be possible to provide decent and

affordable houses to residents of the FCT.

Speaking earlier, AEDA's Chairman, Engr Okereke revealed that the association was formed to assist different tiers of government meet the desperate and growing housing needs of residents.

He said with the peculiar status of the FCT, there was the need for a coordinated approach to the development of the city; hence the association was offering to assist the FCT Administration in shaping policies that would drive constructive and genuine development of the city.



A jester posing with people at a function in Abuja recently.

PIC: ABUBAKAR YAKUBU

20-yr-old jailed for attempted theft

By Usman A. Bello

A 20-year-old man, Philip Moris, was yesterday sentenced to four weeks imprisonment by an Abuja magistrate court for trespass and attempted theft.

Police prosecutor, Francis Tanko, stated in court that on March 11, one Isa Waziri reported to the police that the accused trespassed into his compound with intent to steal parts from his vehicle.

He said the accused was caught inside his parked Honda vehicle valued at N670,000.

When the charges were read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and begged for leniency.

The prosecutor urged the court to try the accused summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) and Magistrate Aminu Ari sentenced the accused to two weeks on each count without fine options.

In another case, a 34-year-old businessman, David Chiwuba, was arraigned for allegedly cheating one Adewoye Hastrup.

Police prosecutor, Francis Tanko, told the court that on March 12, the complainant reported to the police that he entrusted the accused with money to buy a 2005 model Nissan Pathfinder Jeep for him but he dishonestly converted the money to his own use.

The accused denied the charges and his counsel requested for his bail on his behalf, which was not objected to by the prosecutor.

Senior Magistrate Zainab Bashir granted him bail in the sum of N500,000 with two sureties in like sum and ordered that one of the sureties must be a civil servant of not below grade level 12.

Housewife accused of biting off man's finger

By Hussesin Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 22-year-old housewife Tuesday appeared before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly biting off the finger of her neighbour (Joseph Odeh).

The woman, Sikirat Aminatu of Sauka Kahuta village, Abuja, was also accused of using firewood to

inflict injuries on the man's face on March 8.

Police prosecutor, Paul Anigbo, told the court that on March 8, the complainant, one Joseph Odeh reported the accused to her husband and informed him to stop his wife from insulting him and his family.

The prosecutor said after the accused person's husband had

warned her, she picked up firewood and inflicted injury on the complainant's face.

"The accused also bite the complainant's smallest finger until it was completely cut off, thereby committing an offence punishable under Section 247 of the Penal Code Law," the prosecutor added.

When the charge was read to the accused, she pleaded not guilty

and requested for bail, which was not objected to by the prosecutor.

In her ruling, Magistrate Hadiza Shagari granted the accused bail in the sum of N50,000 with a reliable surety in like sum, who must swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to April 1 for hearing.

Separated couple approach court for proper divorce

By Romoke W. Ahmad

AN already separated couple last week approached an Abuja Upper Area Court to properly annul their 10 years marriage contracted at Yola in Adamawa State, so that they can be free.

The petitioner, Mr. Roy Pwashino Hungushi told the court that his marriage to Charity Tule Warrigon has broken down irretrievably.

He said he can no longer live with his wife because of her conduct,

adding that they have lived together for three years without a child.

According to him, several reconciliation efforts have been made by their parents, relatives as well as friends, which did not produce positive results.

"Since we are no longer together and for the fact that my wife has remarried, I want the court to legalise our separation by granting us a divorce certificate to back our separation," the man said.

The woman, Mrs. Charity Tule

Warrigon who now resides in Kaduna told the court through the court registrar that she agrees with whatever her former husband wants.

She told the court that she has put what happened between both of them behind her and asked the court to satisfy his wish.

Having listened to the petitioner coupled with the information from the respondent, Judge Issa Alhaji Yahaya dissolved the marriage and granted a divorce certificate.

Two remanded over assault on lady

By Usman A. Bello

TWO persons, Friday Kassam and Wokgan Talnut, were yesterday remanded in prison custody by an Abuja Upper Area court for allegedly assaulting a lady.

Police prosecutor, Umar, informed the court that on March 11, one Ann Sunday reported to the police that the accused persons and two others (now at large), jointly

beat her up because she refused the advances of one of them.

The prosecutor stated further that during the beating process, the accused persons stole her wallet containing a Nokia phone valued at N6,000 and a school's identity card.

He said during police investigations, the accused confessed to the crime, adding that N2,300 was recovered from the accused persons.

The accused persons pleaded not guilty to the charges and requested for bail, which was objected to by the prosecutor, who told the court that the offences are punishable under Sections 79, 265, 288 of the Penal Code Law.

Judge Umar Kagarko remanded the accused persons in prison custody and adjourned the case to April 4 for hearing.

Two in court over fraud

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 34-year-old businessman and a 44-year-old estate agent recently appeared before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly defrauding one Mrs. Jim-jaja Angela of N747,000.

The accused persons, Amos Mbauer of Block 4, NPA Quarters, Maitama, Abuja and Spencer Aku of IBB way, Maitama, were said to have collected the money from the complainant under the pretext of helping her to secure a two-bedroom flat at Maitama.

Prosecutor Mohammed Ahmed told the court that the two accused persons collaborated with two others (now at large) to deceive her and collect the said money from her.

"The accused persons deceived her and collected N747,000 from her under the pretext of renting out a two-bedroom flat to her at Maitama Federal Housing,"

the prosecutor said.

He narrated further that when the complainant went to the place to take possession of the said apartment, the occupants of the apartment told her that the place was not for rent.

"The accused persons absconded to an unknown destination and converted the money to their personal use, and thereby committing offences punishable under Sections 79 and 322 of the Penal Code Law," the prosecutor added.

When the two-count charge was read to the accused persons, they denied them and requested for bail, which made the prosecutor asked for a hearing date.

Chief Magistrate Ademuyiwa Oyeyipo granted each of the accused persons bail in the sum of N100,000 with a reasonable surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction.

The case was adjourned to April 6 for hearing.

**INSTITUTE OF ADMINISTRATION
AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY ZARIA
(Office of the Secretary)**

**PROVISSIONAL OFFER OF ADMISSION INTO DIPLOMA
PROGRAMME OF THE INSTITUTE OF ADMINISTRATION, AHMADU
BELLO UNIVERSITY, KONGO, ZARIA 2009/2010 SESSION**

Candidates who had applied for admission into the Institute of Administration's Diploma programme are hereby informed that the list of successful applicants is now out and is displayed at the ground floor of the Central Administration Building. Registration started on Thursday, 11th March 2010 and ends on Wednesday, 13th March, 2010.

Successful candidates who fail to fully register by close of business on Wednesday 2010 will be consideration having forfeited their admissions. Prospective candidates can also check their names on our website: www.ioa-abu.net and also get information about registration procedures.

Thank you,

SIGNED
BASHIR M. GAMBO
Institute Secretary



PUBLIC NOTICE

The management of Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) has observed with displeasure the Un-acceptable state of illegal Business activities along the main entrance (in and out) of Mpape settlement, a satellite town of Bwari Area Council in the FCT.

The Board is by this notice advising owners of these illegal batchers, attachment, shops, containers, Mechanic, spare parts sellers, scraps sellers (partakers), illegal parking of vehicle on the way, illegal motor parks, fire wood sellers on the road side, and illegal dumping of construction materials and refuse along the road etc; should remove their belongings before Wednesday 24th March, 2010.

Failure to do so, the Board will embark on a total clean-up exercise aimed at removing these illegal Business activities to ensure a free flow of traffic in Mpape settlement.

Note that owners of all removed illegal structures shall be prosecuted by the FCT Sanitation Mobile Court.

Co-operate with Abuja Environmental Protection Board to Keep Mpape Clean and ensure free flow of traffic.

Let us work together to make Abuja clean always!

Signed
MANAGEMENT
AEPB



**THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE
OF QUANTITY SURVEYORS**

"VICTOR AKAN HOUSE
17/18, Idowu Taylor Street,
Victoria Island, Lagos
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info_niqa@yahoo.com
<http://www.niqa.net>

Notice of Postponement

**RE: EMERGENCY GENERAL MEETING OF
THE INSTITUTE**

This is to inform all members that sequel to the intervention and request of our esteemed Chief Adetona Balogun (PPNIQS), the 1st President of the Institute, the President, Chief Felix A. Okereke-Onyeri has directed that the Emergency General Meeting (EGM) earlier scheduled for Saturday, 20th March, 2010 at MERIT HOUSE, Maitama Abuja be postponed. A new date will be announced later.

We regret any inconveniences that this postponement may cause, our dear members.

Signed:

Muhammed D. Musa | Adewunmi Akinpelu
Ag. Secretary- General | Secretary, Marketing and Publicity

**FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE, GUSAU
P.M.B. 1008, SANI ABACHA WAY GUSAU, ZAMFARA.**

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES

The Federal Medical Centre, Gusau seeks to engage the services of Consultants in the following fields:- Architecture, Quantity Surveying, Civil/structural Engineering, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering for its 2010 Capital projects. Interested Firms (Preferably a consortium of the above listed professionals) are invited to express interest in undertaking these services.

Such Firms/Consortia are to submit the underlisted documents with their letter of interest for consideration to be pre-qualified.

- i. Certificate of Registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission.
- ii. Evidence of Tax clearance for the last 3 years.
- iii. VAT Certificate
- iv. Audited Accounts of firms for the last 3 years
- v. List of key professionals/partners in firm/consortium and evidence of registration with relevant professional bodies.
- vi. Company's profile and office address.
- vii. Evidence of similar assignments conducted by the firm/consortium.
- viii. Evidence from firm/consortium's Bankers as to its financial strength, credit worthiness and solvency.

Other Relevant Information.

- I. The Federal Medical Centre Gusau reserves the right to reject any or all expressions of interest and to terminate the selection process at any time without liability whatsoever to the hospital.
- II. All documents in a sealed envelop and addressed to:

**THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR,
FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE, GUSAU
must be submitted within two (2) weeks from the date of this publication.**

Signed:
DR. T. A. AIYEDUN
Medical Director

labour report

NSCDC staff tasked on productivity

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos.

MEMBERS of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Plateau state command have been tasked on improved productivity while conducting their

duties.

The call was made by the plateau state commandant Mr. Desmond C. Agu while addressing his officers and men of the corps in the state.

According to Agu the need to

increase the level of their productivity in serving the corps to become necessary in the light of the prompt payment of their salaries adding that motivating the members of Corps has become one of the priorities of the Ministry of Interior.

Mr. Agu also warned the officers and men of the corps against the act of extorting money from the public stressing that "any officer found extorting money from the public or doing anything that will tarnish the image of the corps will be severely

dealt with" adding that "your uniform is for the protection of life and property".

He also called on them to always be on the alert in case of any emergency that will require their assistance in the state.

NLC tasks FG on economy

By Francis Okeke

NIGERIA Labour Congress (NLC) has urged the Federal Government to ensure that the target set for increased power generation and distribution is met so as to enhance the country's economy.

NLC's President Abdulwahed Omar Stated this during an emergency National Executive Council (NEC) meeting of NLC in Kaduna recently where he maintained that challenges of electricity must be fixed if Nigeria's economy is to move forward. Omar stated that "to boost our economy, we resolved that power projections as articulated by government must be attained to encourage manufacturing and boost industrial growth. All these we urge government to achieve within twelve months if government has the will and is determined to undertake any meaningful reform."

The labour leader also called for a comprehensive restructuring of the of the petroleum sector in other to solve the energy needs of the country.

In doing that, he said government "must show its commitment by tackling the deep-seated corruption that is endemic in the sector which immensely contributes to the problems of the sector.

"We also unequivocally resolved that we are opposed to any increase in the prices of petroleum products and that government, as a matter of urgency, should provide an enabling environment for any meaningful restructuring and transformation to take place by ensuring that the existing four refineries undergo complete repairs to make them function in full capacity."

The union also called for "additional refineries, either completely owned by the NNPC or through joint partnership with oil companies, or through private sector initiative to ensure that the estimated 40% petroleum products which would otherwise still be imported can be refined domestically in the country. "We further resolved that regulatory agencies will have to be properly strengthened to sanction potential defaulters and that our dilapidated roads are fixed and the railway system reactivated as well as a viable system of mass transit system be put in place to ease free movement of people and goods across the nation.



NDE staff members at a soap factory in Turkey during a skills acquisition study tour recently.

NDE training: 140 graduates, others graduate tomorrow

By Francis Okeke

OVER 140 unemployed graduates and others currently undergoing training in various skills acquisition programmes of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) will graduate tomorrow.

The programme, which includes knitting, events manage-

ment and cosmetology amongst others, is falls under the directorate's job stimulus package for January to March.

The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Coordinator of NDE Hajiya Hadiza Bulama while conducting newsmen across various training centres said that the programme will empower unem-

ployed graduates to stand on their as well as be job creators.

Bulama took journalists to the prestigious Chams Plc, a leading firm in information and communications technology (ICT) where 35 unemployed graduates were receiving training in ICT.

At the FCT NDE office, other beneficiaries were seen in high

moods undergoing finishing touches to what they have learnt since joining the programme.

According to them, the knowledge they have acquired will not only improve their living conditions but also save them from begging as well as enable them create jobs for others.

Quality human resource critical to vision 2010 - CIPMN

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

THE Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria (CIPMN) has said that there is a possibility of Vision 2020 being successful if the right human resources are available to drive it.

Based on this resolve, the CIPMN has partnered the Global Village Consult (GVC) on Nigerian human capital development through an annual international seminar series.

GVC is an organisation run by a Nigerian Mr. Collins Nweke

based in Europe with strong bias for human capital development in Europe and Africa. It is also part of the Vision 2020 implementation process based on the Nigerians in Diaspora Initiative of the federal government.

Addressing newsmen in Lagos Thursday, the CIPMN Registrar Mallam Musa Rabiu said "the Nigeria Human Capital seminar series will generally focus on holistic and practical human capital development encompassing knowledge/skills, progressive attitudes as well as strong moral and ethical attitude

from across the globe with critical consideration on their applicability to the Nigerian context."

Rabiu explained that the idea is to develop the right human capital that would drive the Vision 2010 goal adding that they are also partnering with the Federal Government.

He said that the seminar which is open to all members of the public for a fee would "provide a platform for experts in different fields of specialisation to present and exchange ideas on holistic human capital development, present specific

practical cases on human capital development, enable experts to disseminate ideas and opinions on enhancing human capital development and enable international experts express specific ideas, opinions and practical recommendations based on international and practices on how to impact on sustainable human capital development in Nigeria."

The first lecture in the series slated for 31st March will hold in Lagos and would have the Minister for National Planning Dr. Shansudeen Usman as a speaker.

Inside Politics

'PDP poses no threat to ANPP in Borno state'

SENATOR Kaka Mallam Yale (ANPP, Borno Central) is a founding member of the All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP) in Borno State. He was two times chairman of Konduga Local Government Area and former commissioner in Governor Ali Modu Sheriff's cabinet from 2003 to 2007. In this interview, he says the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Borno is an elitist party that constitutes no threat to the ANPP.

By Turaki A. Hassan

As a leader of the ANPP in Borno State, how do you view the recent threat by the PDP that it will capture the state in 2011?

PDP is not a threat at all and it has never been a threat to us. It's just rhetoric. ANPP has been ruling the state since 1999 and it has not failed the people. It has performed to the satisfaction and admiration of everybody. Even the opposition parties have acknowledged that. The government of Senator Ali Modu Sheriff has lived up to the expectations of the electorate in Borno. He has justified the confidence and trust that the people reposed in him. I don't want to blow our trumpet but the projects are there for everyone to see.

But it is widely believed that the PDP in Borno is now united and the possibility of a threat to the ANPP is real. How do you react to this?

No, that is what they always say but let me tell you that even if that is the case, no matter how united they are now, they cannot take power from us because of several reasons. One is that the performance of the incumbent government has so much impressed the people that no opposition in Borno State can dream of taking power from the ruling party. Secondly, anybody who knows

the history of the politics of Borno State will tell you that Borno people play classic politics. ANPP is government of the people, particularly the down trodden but the PDP is for the rich class. And you will see that majority of the people vote for us because we (ANPP) cater for their needs and give them a sense of belonging. The people know which party works and caters for them. In fact most of the people in PDP are not home based but located in Abuja and elsewhere. They don't even know the problems of the people so that is why the people of Borno state will never vote for any party other than ANPP.

Are you saying that there are no elites in ANPP?

The elites we have in the ANPP are different from those in the PDP. Those in the ANPP are always at home and in touch with the people. We don't stay in Abuja and forget about the masses that sent us here to work for them. SOME observers also say that ANPP has a high possibility of losing the state because Governor Sheriff, who wields the influence, is not seeking re-election... I don't think so because that is not the end of his political career and it does not mean that he is leaving the party. Senator Ali Sherriff is not just a founding father of the party but has largely been one of the very few people that have built the party to maturity. So there is

no way he can abandon the party at this critical stage.

SO whether or not he is the governor or not he will not abandon the party. In 1999, he was not governor but he led the party to a resounding victory. He repeated the same thing in 2003 when he contested against the incumbent governor Mala Kachalla who contested under on the platform of the Alliance for Democracy (AD).

The power of incumbency and all the paraphernalia of office could not help him against the popularity of Sheriff. So it is not true that because he is not going to contest again, the party may not retain power in Borno.

Your optimism for ANPP seems to be based on your belief that there are no cracks within. But the party at the national level is in disarray and the exit of Buhari seems to have spelt more problems for the party...

I foresee a bright future for ANPP in this country. This is just a temporary setback. It doesn't mean that this is the end of the party in Nigeria. Truly, when we started, we had nine states and now we have only three. That is a setback but it doesn't mean that we don't have a future. The exit of General Buhari is a great loss for the party. In fact it is a loss for the nation because as the largest opposition, ANPP has lost some steam in its role as opposition



SENATOR Kaka Mallam Yale

party. There is no doubt that General Buhari brought a lot of electoral fortune to the party so it is a great loss to us.

So which office are you heading for in 2011?
My destiny is not in my

hands so I cannot say this is what I will be in 2011. We will decide when the time comes. I am not desperately ambitious about positions of power but I am always ready to answer the call of my people. I will not hesitate to serve them at any level.

Osunbor denies insulting Anenih

By Abbas Jimoh

SENATOR Oserheimen Osunbor, who was governor of Edo State on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) before his election was voided in November 2008, has denied granting any media interview where he allegedly insulted former chairman of the Board of Trustees of the party Chief Tony Anenih.

Osunbor who spoke through his media assistant, Emmanuel Ehijene, told our correspondent in Abuja Tuesday that he had not granted any media interview since he left office as governor.

"It is common knowledge that since he left office in November 2008, Osunbor has not granted any interview despite requests from

many journalists which he has always turned down considering it not to be necessary for now."

The aide was talking in reference to a story headline: 'Osunbor exposes ex-godfather: Anenih is fake' which was published by newspaper recently.

"I want to state categorically that at no time did my principal, former Governor of Edo State Senator Oserheimen Osunbor, grant any reporter any interview. It is common knowledge that since he left office in November 2008, Osunbor has not granted any interview despite requests from many journalists which he has always turned down considering it not to be necessary for now," the aide said.

He added that "the report is a calculated attempt by some disgruntled

elements to cause disaffection and strain the cordial relationship now existing between Chief Tony Anenih and Senator Osunbor. A careful reading of the story will reveal that the adjectives ascribed to him that "Anenih is fake" and a "feather weight politician" are at variance and in conflict with other parts of the same story to the effect that the Senator did not want to be drawn into controversy about the political forces responsible for his removal and that he wanted to be left in peace," Ehijene added.

He said that Chief Anenih, the Iyasele of Esanland is a man Senator Osunbor holds in high esteem, adding that Esan people are known to respect elders and they do not denigrate them in public or through publications as portrayed in the report.

Pressure on IBB to contest Presidency in 2011

By Muideen Olaniyi

A chieftain of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Bar Halima Alfa yesterday called on former military President Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida to contest for the Presidency in 2011.

Mrs. Alfa, a member of the Plateau State PDP Caretaker Committee and former National Financial Secretary of All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), said Babangida has the capacity to unite the country. Alfa, who is also the National

Coordinator of 'The 2011 PASS 4 IBB Group' otherwise known as 'The People Affectionately Shows Solidarity 4 IBB', said unnamed Nigerians within and outside the country were ready to encourage Babangida to come out.

She said: "We have appraised the current agitators and we have discovered that only IBB has the ability to stabilize this country. The strongest character from the north that can unite this country at least for the one term that the North has is IBB."

Inside Politics

Electoral reforms won't end rigging – Aminu

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, Yola

ELECTORAL reforms will not end electoral fraud in Nigeria, only people's vigilance will, Chairman Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Professor Jibril Aminu said yesterday in Yola.

Speaking to journalists at his residence, Professor Aminu said no amount of electoral reforms will stop election rigging, if the political actors and electoral officials do not change their behaviours.

"The electoral law is not the problem, the problem is the actors," he said. "People shouldn't hang their hope on electoral reforms... The pre-requisite for a free and fair election is that people should behave themselves. We need the fear of God; everybody needs to behave well; everybody has to behave," he said.

"We can have a free and fair electoral process without any electoral reforms. We don't even need a law to do it. Britain doesn't have written laws," yet they run a solid democratic system, he argued.

Professor Aminu also maintained that if people



PROFESSOR Jibril Aminu

police their votes effectively, nobody can subvert their will. "If people are determined, nobody will cheat them," he said.

On whether the National Assembly will pass the electoral reform law before the next general elections, the senator said: "We may be able to pass the law, we may not be able to pass the law; to me it doesn't matter".

What matters, he said, is the people's determination to ensure the conduct of free and fair elections.

Professor Aminu said he opposed the idea of removing the powers of appoint-

ing the chairman of the national electoral commission from the presidency because there was no deficiency in making such appointments, insisting that all the electoral chairmen appointed by the presidency are people of impeccable character.

He said he welcomed the idea of deciding election cases before the swearing in of the victorious candidates, but insisted that conducting decent elections and improving people's confidence in the system would eliminate the culture of challenging electoral results in courts.

CPC is my new party, Buhari says

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

WEEKS after quitting the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), General Mohammed Buhari yesterday announced his new party to be the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC).

Buhari, two times presidential candidate of the ANPP, had on February 1 this year, withdrawn his membership from the ANPP on account of irreconcilable differences with the party's leadership.

In a statement he personally signed, Buhari said the CPC was founded on his authority by his political associates as a solution to the debilitating, ethical and ideological conflicts in his former party.

"I wish to announce with a deep sense of history and duty that my new political party is Congress for Progressive Change, CPC. Our application for

the CPC was filed at INEC on 26th of March, 2009 and we got a letter of approval and registration on the 28th December, 2009," he said.

He said he delayed the announcement of the party in order to give time for further consultations, establishment and consolidation of party structures and to also dialogue with other political parties and groups in the search for a broadly based political platform.

"Happily, the CPC has now established Protem executive committees in at least 31 states of the federation with the rest states now under consideration. The CPC is committed to change and positive development will continue to interact with all parties and dialogue constructively with those parties that have compatible political ideologies with it," he added.

General Buhari hoped that the coming on board of the party would lead to the founding of a broad based platform on mutually agreed terms for the purpose of re-defining and balancing political competition in Nigeria on ideological basis.

According to him, the party would work for electoral reform that would lead to transparently free and fair elections, internal democracy, efficient management of resources, reform of judiciary, development planning, empowerment of women and youth and the promotion of private initiative and job creation.

He thanked all his political associates, supporters, admirers and those interested in the enthronement of sanity in politics and positive change and sustainable development in the country.

2011: Kogi West canvasses power shift

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

AS 2011 general elections draw near, the Kogi West Forum has reiterated its commitment to power rotation in the next political dispensation in the state.

This was contained in a release made available to our correspondent yesterday. The release was signed by Senator Tunde Ogbeha, General David Jemibewon

(rtd) and Chief Samuel Akande.

According to the release, the Forum reviewed the political situation in the state and concluded that there was a need for power rotation.

"The Kogi West Forum has constituted various committees to liaise with our brothers in the Central and Eastern Senatorial Districts with a view to achieving a mutually accept-

able formula for achieving power rotation. The Kogi West Forum will carry out this onerous task devoid of rancour and with all sense of responsibility", the release read.

"As a people, we strongly support the continuing peaceful and harmonious co-existence of all indigenes of Kogi State irrespective of their ethnic colouration", the release further read.

CPC berates Bukar over comment on Buhari

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) has berated former Yobe State governor, Senator Bukar Abba Ibrahim for referring to former Head of State and Presidential candidate of All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), Gen. Muhammad Buhari as a liability to ANPP during his stay with the party.

Buhari had formally

resigned his membership of ANPP and announced that he had joined the CPC in a statement yesterday.

National Publicity Secretary of the CPC, Dennis Aghanya, said yesterday in Abuja that Senator Bukar's comment is unfortunate because he is one of those that contributed to the destruction of ANPP.

"It is amusing to read Senator Bukar Abba Ibra-

him casting aspersion on the person of General Buhari and saying that the respected General was a political liability to the ANPP during his stay with the party.

"The senator, as a governor did not leave any legacy behind in Yobe State to deserve a say when noble men speak in the society. The man requires a complete rehabilitation of himself," Aghanya said.

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INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

1. PREAMBLE

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in pursuance of its statutory function and in compliance with Due Process requirement intends to print Electoral cash Book for its headquarters and State Offices.

2. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENT

Interested companies are expected to submit Technical and Financial proposal in separate envelope.

3. TECHNICAL BIDS REQUIREMENTS

The company/firm profile should highlight in detail the following:

- i. Evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)
 - ii. Evidence of three (3) years Audited Accounts of the company
 - iii. Evidence of three (3) years Tax Clearance
 - iv. Evidence of financial capability and banking support
 - v. Evidence/Technical qualifications of key personnel
 - vi. Evidence of similar projects executed & knowledge of the industry
 - vii. Equipment & Technical capability
 - viii. Evidence of Annual Turnover of at least N5,000,000.00
- Also, evidence of CAC Registration, remittances of VAT and PAYEE, and up to date payment of Pension/social insurance contribution such as NHIS etc for and on behalf of the employee.

4. FINANCIAL BIDS REQUIREMENT

The financial proposal should state:

- i. The financial cost implication of the project in details
- ii. The bid price validity period for the project

5. GENERAL INFORMATION

- (a) All Tender for the project must be accompanied with a non-refundable processing fees of N10,000.00
- (b) For additional information: You may contact Director (Finance & Account), INEC Headquarters, Abuja
- (c) The closing date for submission of the Tender shall be fourteen (14) days from the date of the first publication of this advert
- (d) only firm that are technically responsive will be contacted after evaluation of Technical bid and invited for opening of financial bid.

6. SUBMISSIONS

All submissions should be made as follows:

- (a) Two copies of neatly bound Technical proposal in a separate envelope clearly marked "Technical proposal for printing of Electoral Cash Book".
- (b) Two copies of neatly bound financial proposal in a separate envelope clearly marked "Financial proposal for Printing of Electoral Cash Book".
- (c) All copies of financial proposal should be deposited in the Commission's "Tamper proof bid box" designated for Printing of Electoral Cash Book.
- (d) Receipt should be obtained acknowledging submission
- (e) All copies of Technical proposal should be sealed, addressed and submitted to:

The Secretary
Independent National Electoral Commission
Plot 436, Zambezi Crescent,
Maitama,
Abuja.

SPORT

Mourinho's
sweet
revenge

Page 63



How Eagles Team B can overcome Niger, by Obuh

By David Ngobua

FLYING Eagles Chief Coach, John Obuh said the Super Eagles Team B handlers must do a thorough job to qualify Nigeria to the second edition of the Africa Nations Championship slated for Sudan this year.

The Super Eagles Team B under the tutelage of Super Eagles assistant coach Dan Amokachi now walk a tight rope after losing 2-0 to the Mena of Niger Republic in the first leg in Niamey last weekend.

Speaking to Trustsports yesterday, the former Golden Eaglets coach said the Nigerian league is filled to the brim with quality players who can deliver the ticket, if given the opportunity to play.

The coach said those who feel there are no longer good players

duce players who can prosecute the qualifiers for Nigeria. The league is not that bad and if those assigned the responsibility can intensify their search, they will surely come up with a good team".

Obuh suggested that those assigned the task should deem it necessary to try different players for a particular position before settling for the best.

"I feel as many as seven players can be invited for a position and in the end, the best should be picked. For instance, if seven goalkeepers are invited from different clubs in the league, there is no how, at least two out of the seven will not be found to be suitable," he stated.

The Flying Eagles coach maintained that the problem the coaches of the team will face is lack of enough time to go round the league venues to search of good players.

He said in as much as he has not watched the team play, he believes strongly that the selection was done in a hurry and under such circumstance, it would really be hard for the coaches to gather the best players.

"I think the problem faced by the coaches is lack of enough time to scout for the best players. Where there is no time to look around for the most qualitative players, the coaches would have to make do with those who are already known". He explained.

Obuh however expressed confidence that if more quality players are introduced in the team as has been proposed by the NFF, it will go a long way in making the team stronger and better for the challenge ahead.



FLYING Eagles coach John Obuh

Nigerian league is filled to the brim with quality players who can deliver the ticket.

in the domestic league to prosecute the qualifiers are not right.

He stressed that he has been part of the domestic league and has worked closely with players who can hold their own even at the top level of football.

He said, "I do not agree with those who feel the League is so wretched that it can not pro-

Eagles facing transition –Taribo

FORMER Super Eagles defence trojan, Taribo West said Nigerian football is going through a transitional stage, which he believes will lead to more results like Eagles team B losing to Niger Republic.

The former AJ Auxerre and AC Milan strongman, however, said he is hopeful that the tables can turn when the return leg between both countries is played in Kano.

"We are going through a transition period in Nigeria.

Sometime when your are facing a transition, you get bad results.

"Sometimes when you are going through a transition period, nothing seems to go right and the fans start complaining. But, we should not blame the players that went to the Nations Cup.

"They came back with a bronze medal from Angola. Lagerback is now coming. He is trying to build up from where Amodu stopped and we

should be patient with him.

"I believe the crew, with Amokachi there, can do better. With him in the B team, I believe they should be able to pull through and qualify," said the former dreadlocks-wearing star.

Similarly, another ex-international, Victor Nosa Ikpeba, has urged the Eagles Swede tactician Lars Lagerback not to discard the players that won bronze at the Nations Cup in Angola.

Ikpeba said that Lagerback must ensure he keeps many of the experienced stars, but admitted that he can also strengthen the team with revelations of last year's under-17 and under-20 teams.

"We are well prepared, but more effort has to be put into what they are doing. I think it is fighting time for this generation of Nigerian players.

"They have been condemned, they have been criticized, but it is really support

that they need. I believe they have what it takes to do well.

"Now that we are planning for the World Cup, I don't agree that those that were taken to the Nations Cup in Angola should be dropped.

"I think we need a mixture of young players from the under-17 and under-20 teams to contribute and provide support for the older players, who we still need in the team," The Prince of Monaco submitted.

IN SHILAHU WA INNA ILAIHI RAJI'UNA



His Royal Highness
Late Alhaji (Dr.) Aliyu Mustapha LLD, CBE, CFR
Lamido of Adamawa

On behalf of the Honourable Chief Judge of Adamawa State and Chairman Judicial Service Commission Adamawa State Honourable Justice B. S. Bansi OFR and the entire members of staff of the State Judiciary, wish to commensurate with the people and Government of Adamawa State over the demise of His Royal Highness the Lamido of Adamawa Alhaji (Dr.) Aliyu Mustapha LLD, CBE, CFR which sad event took place on Saturday the 13th day of March, 2010 after brief illness

Baba, you had been a symbol of unity, peace and justice in Adamawa State in particular and in Nigeria in general. May your gentle soul rest in perfect peace. May Allah grant Al-Jannah Firdausi, Ameen.



Honourable Justice B. S. Bansi OFR
Chief Judge of Adamawa State

SIGNED
MR. HENRY BRISUGUIDAVA
CHIEF REGISTRAR HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE,
ADAMAWA STATE, VOLA.



MRCOS Baghdatis of Cyprus celebrates defeating Roger Federer of Switzerland during their BNP Paribas Open match in Indian Wells, California. Baghdatis beats Federer 5-7-7-5-7-6.

NFF to decide on NPL election

By Orkula Shaagee

The Nigeria Premier League (NPL) yesterday said the decision to go ahead with its planned election, which was temporarily put on hold due to a court case, would be decided by the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) and not a law court.

Disclosing this at a media briefing in Abuja, NPL Executive Secretary Alhassan Yakmut said this is because FIFA regulations stipulate that football matters be better settled out of court.

Yakmut added that, though the league governing body has written to the NFF to take a decision on the recent court cases instituted by some

members of the Nigerian football family on their disqualification from the NPL election.

Consequently, he said if the NFF as the football regulatory body in the country gives it go ahead, the NPL would ignore the court orders and conduct its elections.

"If we receive a formal letter from the NFF, we will go ahead with the election, especially if the people involved are banned, even with the court cases", Yakmut stated.

He said the world football governing body FIFA is no longer happy with the way Nigerians have resorted to taking football matters to regular courts to seek redress instead of using internal mecha-

nisms to settle such issues.

According to him, the two people that have gone to court have been given 24 hours to withdraw such cases or NPL would have no option than to wield the big stick, using NPL, NFF, WAFU, CAF and FIFA provisions.

"The NPL has written a letter to the NFF asking give clarification on the issue of the former principal actors that went to court; and we have given them 24 hours to withdraw the cases or we will apply the relevant provisions in the NPL, NFF, WAFU, CAF and FIFA statutes.

"Any member of the football family that takes a football matter to a regular court is out of football business", Yakmut stated.

Jaja insists on pursuing court case

FORMER vice chairman of the Nigeria Football Association, Dr Sam Sam Jaja has described as a big joke threats by Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) to ban anybody who drags the Glass House to a court of law.

Jaja, who already has a case in an Abuja High Court challenging legality of the NFF and NPL, told brilafm.net that officials

at the Glass House are living in a fool's paradise with distorted amended statutes, which he alleged are already in aberration of both CAF and FIFA rules.

"Ban me, for what? I can't understand what that means. Are they going to stop me from walking on the streets? Are they going to stop me from being a citizen of this great coun-

try Nigeria?

"Those people are losing touch with reality. They adopted FIFA and CAF statutes but amended them without proper advice. The provisions were not read properly well.

"Ban me, for what? I don't understand what they mean. Until I understand before I know what to do about them," he concluded tersely.

Mourinho's sweet revenge

INTER Milan manager Jose Mourinho has warned Roman Abramovich that Chelsea may never win the Champions League after the former Blues boss returned to dump his old club out of the competition.

Mourinho masterminded Inter's 1-0 victory in the last 16 second leg at Stamford Bridge on Tuesday which clinched a 3-1 aggregate success and left Chelsea owner Abramovich still waiting to fulfil his dream of winning Europe's elite club event.

Ever since he was sacked by Abramovich in September 2007 following a lengthy power struggle with the Russian billionaire, Mourinho must have dreamed of the moment he would exact his revenge.

Thanks to his inspired game-plan, Inter's resolute defending and a superb goal from Samuel Eto'o, Mourinho was able to prove his point and deny his former employer the trophy he prizes most.

Mourinho resisted the temptation to gloat too much but he made it clear there is no guarantee Chelsea will ever win such a demanding competition.

"I know that Roman is a very intelligent person. And because of this he is not the same person he was one year, three years or five years ago," Mourinho said.

"Probably when he arrived in football he thought it would be easier to do it. It is not easy. The team that wins will have small details that make the difference.

"Roman knows very well how to read, understand and analyse the game. For sure he knows his team lost to a team that deserved to win. Because he is a man of fair play I am sure he accepts that."

Although Mourinho could have been forgiven for taking a very public satisfaction from eliminating his old club, the Portuguese coach insisted it was only Inter's progress to the last eight that pleased him.

"I'm happy because I won. I

am not happy my ex-players lost, because Roman lost or because the fans go home unhappy," Mourinho said.

"It is a very important victory for me as a coach but it is not the victory of my life. It was hard to prepare myself to come here as an enemy.

"I exchanged some text messages with John Terry before the game and I told him someone will go home happy and someone sad.

"My people will always be my people. But I was the enemy. And the enemy won. That's life.

"Somebody asked if I would still be special if I didn't win. Now I can say I am not so special to the Chelsea supporters who will probably never forgive me."

For Mourinho there was more satisfaction in a job well done. His decision to play Eto'o and Goran Pandev as wide attackers to take advantage of Chelsea's full-backs worked perfectly and Inter were rarely in danger of surrendering their first leg advantage.

The decisive moment came in the 79th minute when Eto'o sprinted onto Wesley Sneijder's superb pass, held off right-back Branislav Ivanovic and drove his shot past Ross Turnbull.

Mourinho's fist-pumping celebration told its own story and Chelsea's frustration at their earliest exit from the competition since 2006 - and their first home European defeat for 22 matches - boiled over when Didier Drogba was sent off for a nasty stamp on Thiago Motta.

While Mourinho returned to Italy well and truly vindicated, Blues boss Carlo Ancelotti admits he has to deliver success in the Premier League to make amends for his European failure.

Brought to the Bridge for his impressive achievements in the Champions League, Ancelotti could have done without such an early exit and now he must focus on ending Manchester United's three-year reign as English

champions.

"We are near the top of the league but I'm sure there will be more pressure on the next games. This is normal," he said.

"I have been involved in this sport for a lot of years, I know very well the facts. I will do my best to do a good job for Chelsea.

"We have to be strong and control our emotions. Maybe this defeat could be very good

motivation for the next weeks.

"I know what the expectations are in this environment and it is normal a manager will come under more pressure if he loses a few matches.

"We were in three competitions, now we are only in two and we are disappointed by that. But our objective now is to go on and win the FA Cup and Premier League."



MOURINHO laughs last... the Inter Milan coach exacts his revenge over Chelsea boss Roman Abramovich

Premier League docks Portsmouth nine points

PORTSMOUTH'S painful slide out of the Premier League accelerated past the point of no return yesterday when the club had nine points deducted as punishment for going into administration.

The long-expected move was confirmed after legal uncertainty over the club's protection from creditors was removed following a decision by the UK tax authorities to drop a petition for the 112-year-old club to be liquidated.

The deduction reduces Portsmouth's points total to ten, 14 behind second-from-bottom Hull and 17 adrift of West Ham and Wolves, the teams just above the bottom three, with only a maximum of 27 to play for in their remaining nine matches.

The Premier League said in a statement: "Following the High Court's decision that Portsmouth FC's administration is valid the Premier League board convened today to apply the League's rules and policies in relation to a member club suffering an event of insolvency.

"As a result Portsmouth FC has been deducted nine points with

Portsmouth, who are battling for survival under the weight of 65 million pounds of debt

immediate effect"

Portsmouth, who are battling for survival under the weight of 65 million pounds of debt, are not expected to appeal the EPL's decision, a move that would have little prospect of success in any case.

The club's administrator, Andrew Andronikou, last week announced 85 redundancies at the club in an effort to cut costs.

Andronikou is hoping to find new investors with talks currently under way with a group headed by property developer Rob Lloyd, who has been told to prove that his consortium has sufficient funds available.

"There will have to be more clarity about his backers before the middle of next week," the administrator said. "I have asked to know who the owners would be. It is part of a bundle of information I need to see. We need the whole picture."

Portsmouth's financial difficulties have been reflected in the club's failure to pay staff and players on time on four occasions since August, and by the boardroom turmoil which has meant the club has had four owners this season.

The club is currently owned by Hong Kong businessman Balram Chainrai, who took control in early February. Chainrai took control in an attempt to recover some part of a 17-million-pound loan his company made to the former owner, Ali Al Faraj.

Terry injures club official in car accident

CHELSEA captain John Terry accidentally struck a club security official with his car after the Champions League defeat to Inter Milan, the Premier League side revealed yesterday.

The staff member sustained a leg injury in the incident, which happened as Terry was leaving his side's Stamford Bridge stadium after Tuesday's match.

The 29-year-old centre-back was reportedly not aware of what had happened at the time but later spoke to police about it and also made contact with the member of staff involved.

"We can confirm there was an unfortunate accident as John Terry left Stamford Bridge last night," said a Chelsea spokesman on Wednesday.

"When driving out of the stadium at approximately one to two miles-per-hour in a queue of traf-



ON his way... John Terry and wife Toni leave Stamford Bridge Tuesday night.

fic exiting the ground, his car was surrounded by photographers and fans.

"In the melee that ensued a member of Chelsea's security staff was knocked to the ground, mak-

ing contact with the car. He suffered a badly bruised leg.

"John was aware at the time that there was a lot of contact with his car during the incident, but not that anyone was injured

as a result.

"Upon hearing of the injury, John spoke to the police. He has also been in contact with the staff member to check on his welfare."

The Metropolitan police confirmed reports about the incident but said the victim had suffered a broken leg.

"Police were called at 2313 on Tuesday, March 16 to Stamford Bridge, Fulham Road, SW6 to reports of a collision between a car and a pedestrian," said a police spokesperson.

"A 35-year-old man suffering a broken leg was taken by ambulance to a west London hospital where he is in a stable condition.

"The 4x4 car did not stop at the scene. Enquiries into the incident continue."

Chelsea's 1-0 defeat to Inter eliminated them from this season's Champions League.

THE THURSDAY COLUMN

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Privatization and sports: Two sides of the coin of fraud

Early last Tuesday morning, I placed a call to Segun Odegbami, ex-international footballer and one of the most respected commentators on Nigerian sports. This was because of a statement from the Kwara State governor, Bukola Saraki that was a serious indictment of those in charge of Nigerian football. "I was in Abuja February 25, when I got a call from (football agent John) Shittu that he and (Glen) Hoddle wanted to see me", said Bukola Saraki. "When we met, Hoddle complained that he was asked to part with \$500,000 out of his \$1.5m and that was the only way to do business in Nigeria. I was very upset. He (Hoddle) said some people asked him to quote \$1.5million instead of the \$900,000 he asked for... By the way why would the PTF of Nigeria Football Federation pay \$1.5million when the coach agreed to collect \$900,000?"

These allegations prompted my telephone conversation with Segun Odegbami. He confirmed that he took part in the investigation of allegations about the hiring of the new coach, Lars Lagerback and there were no issues of controversy. But the allegations from Governor Saraki had followed those from John Shittu. One of the people in the controversy is Taiwo Ogunjobi, who heads NFF's Technical Panel. Ogunjobi's response was that John Shittu should not be taken seriously by Nigerians, but as a sports writer noted at the weekend, we should take Governor Saraki seriously, and the issue really must be investigated.

Thankfully, the anti-graft agency, the EFCC has now waded into the matter, inviting all concerned to assist in unravelling the truth. Was any coach asked to hike his claims from \$900,000 to \$1.5million? If so who did so? We must get to the root of this matter, because Nigerian sports are actually rotten to the core. A notorious process of cronyism has been perfected over the years which scams Nigeria of huge sums and destroy the edifice of sports. We have spoken about this in the past. For years, for example, Amos Adamu has controlled our sports and the jury is out on who has gained most: the man or Nigerian sports. For as long as that notoriously corrupt system is not uprooted, Nigerian sports will continue to suffer poor performances; defection of athletes and similar embarrassments of the past few years. The new issue around the money to employ a coach for our national team is merely a reflection of the rot I am talking about.

Sports corruption is very much like the monumental fraud called the privatization policy of government. From the mid-1980s the Nigerian ruling elite, adopted the neo-liberal paradigm with the implementation of Structural Adjustment Policies. One of the central arguments is that "government has no business in business". So following a regime of devaluation of our national currency, government has been selling national assets to individuals. The ideological platform is that individual capitalists will make these assets perform better. Under the Obasanjo regime, 1999-2007, privatization became both a scandal and a real crime against the Nigerian people. It was as if the regime was cursed in the frenzy with which it went about selling national assets. The most tragic have been the fate of NITEL and Ajaokuta Steel Company, not to forget the manner that Nigeria's most important media asset, DAILY TIMES was sold controversially. The most recent episode in the tragedy of privatization is the sale, cancellation of sale, re-bidding and so on, around NITEL.

Nigerians used to complain about NITEL and its scandalous operations in the past, and we were right. But bad as

it was, NITEL paid a dividend of N50billion to the government in 1998 and by the time Obasanjo came to office, the decision was taken to sell a company that was a strategic national asset. Well, a set of crooks were brought from the Netherlands, who frittered away NITEL funds onshore and off-shore. Today, no NITEL landline works anywhere in Nigeria, and as the national company was DELIBERATELY destroyed, private companies from elsewhere have taken over the mobile telephony business. NITEL is as dead as a dodo. It is the same way that they have dealt with Ajaokuta Steel Company. The company they first brought in began by stealing equipment from the company and that was followed by some Indian scammers! The company was bled to death and Nigeria's original plan to kick-start industrialization was taken on the dead-on-arrival ride to the morgue! But the ruling class has remained wedded to the delusion that privatization is the only route to salvation of Nigeria. What is unfortunate is that there is no citizens' initiative which questions received orthodoxy even when it is clear that Nigeria is being systematically scammed through privatization as practiced by its unconscionably corrupt ruling class. If you need examples of the evils of the banditry that is Nigerian capitalism, please check the privatization

process as well as sports as the example of cronyism and corruption. For how long shall we continue to endure these from our ruling class?

**Jonathan Goodluck:
Riding presidency on flat
tyres**

One of the interesting developments of the Jonathan Goodluck "Acting president" interregnum has been the hypocrisy at its heart: Goodluck pretends he is not interested in the position, but he is the one engineering developments. The Yoruba say there is a hidden actor behind a talkative deity and so it is with all manners

“Goodluck who people argued did not have power as vice president, was busy awarding contracts; he deployed troops in Jos and as “acting president”, has set up the PAC, headed by General T.Y. Danjuma and I think that was fair enough

of engineered manifestations around making Jonathan Goodluck the substantive president. A visitor from outer space should be forgiven if he asked if it was no longer the same government that is in power. Goodluck who people argued did not have power as vice president, was busy awarding contracts; he deployed troops in Jos and as “acting president”, has set up the PAC, headed by General T.Y. Danjuma and I think that was fair enough. But what about the controversial Presidential Projects Assessment Committee, headed by Ibrahim Bunu. Soon as it was set up, the media was flooded with stories that it was to probe Ministry of Agriculture; the NNPC; MDG office as well as NAPEP. There has been no denial. It is looking like Abba Sayyadi Ruma is actually the target, even if other bodies were brought in as decoy. Why have I said this? Ruma is the archetypal Yar'adua man: he has stepped on toes; carried himself with arrogance and is supremely loyal to his principal, Yar'adua. In the “new setting” of Jonathan Goodluck, such a man will be an easy target. Besides, why this new body when there are so many projects evaluation bodies in the system? There are the BPP's committees in the six geo-political zones, headed by professionals; the office of Special Adviser to the President on Special Duties and the Presidential Advisory Monitoring Committee. It is looking like there is an answer waiting for a question in this matter of projects assessment, or what is really happening? Goodluck Jonathan has a maximum of 15 months at the helms and he should focus on doing a job for the Nigerian people, not attempting to drive the presidential car on flat tyres; he cannot get far that way!

SPORTS
REPORT

YOHANN Gourcuff, Bordeaux Star

Bordeaux see off Olympiakos

Girondins Bordeaux reached the Champions League quarter-finals yesterday, though they made things hard for themselves in a 2-1 home win against Olympiakos Piraeus that gave them a 3-1 aggregate victory.

Bordeaux had the game firmly in hand after Yoann Gourcuff scored a fifth-minute opener with a whipped free kick and

Olympiakos striker Matt Derbyshire was sent off on the hour.

However, the Greek side, who lost 1-0 at home in the first leg, levelled in the 65th thanks to a stunning volley by substitute Kostas Mitroglou, three minutes before Bordeaux captain Alou Diarra was also sent off.

Morocco striker Marouane Chamakh put the tie to bed two minutes from time.



LIONEL Messi of Barcelona

Barca whitewash Stuttgart

Lionel Messi scored two goals and helped create another as holders Barcelona thumped VfB Stuttgart 4-0 to reach the Champions League quarter-finals 5-1 on aggregate yesterday.

Fresh from a hat-trick in La Liga, the Argentina forward set Barca on their way in the 13th minute when he ran at the Stuttgart defence and crashed a left-foot shot into the roof of the net from just outside the penalty area.

A superbly weighted pass from the FIFA World Player of the Year sent Yaya Toure clear on the left nine minutes later and forward Pedro timed his run to perfection to sweep home the Ivory Coast midfielder's low cross.

Messi struck again with a low strike from the edge of the area on the hour to effectively kill off the tie and keep Spanish hopes alive after the elimination of La Liga sides Real Madrid and Sevilla.

Substitute Bojan Krkic added a late fourth just a minute after coming on to the pitch.

