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PHOTO: AFP

THE Yemeni Institute for Arabic Language and Eastern Studies, where Umar Farouk Abdul Mutallab studied in Sanaa late last year.

Yemeni govt says:

Al-Qaeda got Farouk in UK

By Boco Edeh with Agency report

THE young Nigerian terror suspect Umar Farouk Abdul Mutallab, who is due to appear in an American court this morning for allegedly trying to bomb a jetliner, was recruited by the Al-Qaeda terror network during his stay in London, the Yemeni government said yesterday. It however said Farouk did meet with a radical Muslim cleric when he was in Yemen.

The meeting between Farouk and

radical cleric Anwar al-Awlaki took place in Shabwa, about 290 kilometers (180 miles) southeast of the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, according to Yemen's Deputy Prime Minister for Defense and Security Rashad Al-Alemi. He provided no other details about the encounter.

US intelligence officials have been evaluating whether al-Awlaki played a role in the botched attempt to blow up a Northwest Airlines passenger jet en route from Amsterdam, Netherlands

to Detroit, Michigan on Christmas Day. The attempt to ignite explosives hidden in Abdul Mutallab's underwear failed to bring down the plane.

On Wednesday, a federal grand jury indicted Farouk on six counts, including an attempt to murder the other 289 people aboard the Delta Airlines plane. If convicted, he faces a sentence of life in prison.

Al-Alemi emphasised at his news conference that Abdul Mutallab lived

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Budget: 'Yar'adua's signature was forged'

By Misbahu Bashir & Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

THE signature of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua on the 2009 supplementary budget was forged in the Presidency and Inspector General of Police Ogbonna Onovo should immediately investigate it, opposition politicians in the country under the umbrella of Conference of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) alleged yesterday.

The CNPP said it was demanding for a concrete proof to show that the claims by government

“The CNPP said it was demanding proof that the president personally signed the supplementary budget

officials that the president personally signed the supplementary budget from his sick bed in Saudi Arabia were true.

CNPP's lawyer Femi Falana said the group will be forced to take the issue before a court of law if the police fail to act on the letter by investigating and bringing the perpetrators of the forgery to book.

Also speaking on the purported signing of the 2009 supplementary budget by President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, who is sick and out of the country for weeks, as claimed by gov-

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Dasuki carpets claimants to Sardauna

FORMER Sultan of Sokoto Alhaji Ibrahim Dasuki has taken a swipe at people aspiring to the Sardauna title, saying they do not possess any of the attributes of the late Sardauna of Sokoto Alhaji Ahmadu Bello.

"I don't think there is anybody living now who knows him more than me. I was his private secretary for two years. In fact, his first indigenous secretary and later I became a minister in his government. It saddens me to hear present leaders of the country claiming to be Sardauna. They should stop likening themselves to him because they don't possess

any of his attributes", he said.

He added, "His pattern of politics was different from what we have today. It was not like the do-or-die pattern of politics we have now in the country. He was not greedy and he also accommodated opposition. In fact, he helped the opposition. He was time conscious, fair, transparent and carried everyone along in his government, unlike what obtains now in the country". Dasuki, who was deposed in April 1996, expressed reservation on the recently launched Sardauna Foundation by the northern governors. "I don't think they are really seri-

ous because if they are, they would not allow all his cherished legacies to die. All the roads I knew 44 years ago are still there, nothing new. I wonder what they are doing with the Sardauna Foundation when they have killed all his legacies. Where were they when the Bank of the North was consumed by merger or where were they when his other legacies like the KTL were folding up? It is a pity that we find ourselves in this current situation. We need good and honest leaders and not all those sycophants. Before you get good service, you need committed people and not sycophants," he said.

He also spoke on the local government reform committee tagged the Dasuki Committee, noting that the recommendations are not being implemented. "They don't implement the Dasuki report. They are only quoting me to cover up their mess. My committee recommended that local government allocation should be direct and that a monitoring unit should be put in place by the federal government. I did not recommend the so called joint account". He also advocated reduction of the 36 states and the 774 local government areas of the country. "There is need for us to change the whole system. I

don't believe we need 36 states nor do I believe we need 774 LGs. My committee recommended development areas and not many LGs," he added.

While condemning the presidential system of government, he enjoined members of the constitution review committee to incorporate it on their agenda. "The federal system has failed us because it has given those at the helms of affairs free access to treasury. The parliamentary system is the answer. We still need to go back to it. We need a system that will suit our own peculiarities and not otherwise."

'No date yet for deregulation'

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, Lagos

THE Federal Government says it has not decided on a date to begin fuel deregulation.

Minister of State for Petroleum Odein Ajumogobia said in Lagos yesterday that people wanted government to give a date, but it would not.

"Once everything is in place, deregulation will begin", he said.

He said the ministry was visiting several oil facilities in Lagos to know those to partner with to ensure that fuel scarcity becomes a thing of the past. "The fuel queues are no longer as they used to be. I think it is getting better. We also learnt that some filling stations are selling at N100 per litre, but we have not seen any yet. I assure you that if we see anyone selling above N65, we will shutdown the filling station", Ajumogobia said.

Fuel scarcity a national shame- FG

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Federal Government yesterday said the fuel crisis being experienced in the country was a shame and a national embarrassment. Minister of State for Petroleum Resources Odein Ajumogobia who spoke yesterday at a meeting with stakeholders in Lagos said the government would ensure that something was done to tackle the situation. Ajumogobia who said the scarcity was caused by shortage in supply of the product noted that this would be the last time the country would experience such acute scarcity.

The Federal Government had through the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) taken charge of fuel importation after major oil marketers suspended fuel importation due to non-payment of their claims.



KADUNA State Governor Namadi Sambo (left) being decorated with the Armed Forces Remembrance Day emblem by Musa Bala, a retired service man, in Kaduna yesterday.

Mob kills suspected ritual killer in Katsina

A suspected ritual killer, Dahiru Shoeshiner, was killed by an angry mob after he allegedly slaughtered a 10-year-old boy in Magamar Jibia in Katsina State.

A witness told a correspondent who visited the village in Jibia Local Government of Katsina State yesterday that the incident happened at about 12.05 p.m. Wednesday.

The witness said the suspected killer kidnapped the boy, Saminu Dayyabu and used a sharp knife to cut his throat at the outskirts

of the village.

He said one Malama Baraka, who was incidentally a passerby, saw the suspect carrying the body of the dead boy and raised an alarm, thereby attracting people, who pursued him.

The witness said that as the people pursued the suspect, they instantly descended on him and manhandled him. Following the incident, the village Head of Magama, Alhaji Lawal Abdullahi, intervened by appealing to the mob to spare the life of the sus-

pect, which they accepted after inflicting serious injuries on him.

However, when the police arrived the scene, the suspect was almost lifeless as they took him away.

When newsmen visited the house of the boy's father, Alhaji Dayyabu Magama, visitors were seen condoling with him.

Correspondents learnt that the boy was sent on errand when his suspected killer forcefully grabbed him. At the Jibia General Hospital where the body of the

suspect was kept, staff of the hospital said the hospital authorities had barred them from talking to the press. The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) for Katsina Command ASP Alhassan Kimba confirmed the incident, saying that the suspect later died at the Jibia General Hospital while receiving treatment. Kimba said, "the information gathered by the police from the area indicates that the suspected killer, Dahiru Shoeshiner, was mentally retarded." (NAN)

Akingbola's associates to know fate Jan 15

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, Lagos

JUSTICE Tijani Abubakar of the Federal High Court, Lagos will on January 15, decide whether to grant bail to six senior officials of Intercontinental Bank Plc cur-

rently standing trial over charges of fraudulent conversion and illegal transfer of N26 billion belonging to the bank.

The court fixed the date yesterday after listening to arguments on the bail applications

by counsel to the accused persons and the opposition to the application by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) argued by its counsel, Ali Yusuf.

The six were arraigned before

the court on Monday by EFCC over a 12 count charge of criminal conspiracy, fraudulent withdrawal, fraudulent conversion and illegal transfer of Intercontinental Bank's funds estimated at about N26 billion.

Police allege plans to ruin Anambra polls

By Misbahu Bashir

THE police yesterday said they have uncovered plans to destabilise the governorship election coming up on February 6, 2010 in Anambra State.

Inspector General of Police Ogbonna Onovo told party executives and contestants in the election at a meeting in Abuja that different militia groups are amassing arms to subvert the elections.

"Intelligence at the disposal

of the police has it that some candidates are training militia groups while some outlawed organisations are amassing arms to be used during the campaigns and elections. Also, information revealed that other candidates intend to import mercenaries into the state to swell the rank of miscreants and hoodlums in order to cause mayhem during the election," he said.

He said the police have also uncovered that party chieftains

in the state are buying police uniforms for distribution to their militia recruits.

Onovo said the police will arrest and bring to book any defaulter of electoral laws and will pick up those that intend to mar the elections.

All the 29 political parties contesting the election were made to sign a memorandum of understanding with the police in which they agreed that people who contravene laws and involve them-

selves in malpractice should be banned from politics. PDP candidate Professor Charles Soludo was not the meeting but was represented by his deputy Senator Ema Anosike.

Also, the police threaten to arrest members of political parties involved in election malpractice including their candidates, chairmen and secretaries and said politicians should not come to polling stations with orderlies or supporters but alone.

Onovo said adequate policemen would be deployed to provide security and will restrict the movement of people throughout the state and will block all roads leading to and out of the state.

The IGP said the election in Anambra State will be a determinant of the general election in 2011.

While saying that the police will be neutral, he said policemen and electoral officials who fail to be law abiding during the polls will be arrested and prosecuted.

PIC: MUDASHIR ISMAIL

VP inaugurates 12 man committee on pay review

By Abdulfattah Olajide

VICE President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday inaugurated a committee for the review of salaries and wages of staff in the federal public service.

Members of the 12-man National Committee of Experts include: Remi Adegboyega, Secretary, National Union of Food/Beverage and Tobacco Employers Association; Prof. Halidu Abubakar, Institute of Administration, ABU, Zaria; Dr. Peter Ozo-Eson, Chief Economist, NLC; Dr. Alarudeen Aminu, University of Ibadan.

Others are Mr. I. O. Elegbede, Office of the Vice President; Representative of the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation; Representative of the Chairman, Revenue Mobilization and Fiscal Commission;

Chief R. Egbule, Chairman, National Salaries and Wages Commission.

The rest are: Prof. S. Monye, Secretary, National Planning Commission; Mrs. O. Olanrewaju, Director (TUSIR) Federal Ministry of Labour and Mr. Chike Ogbechie, Director, Compensation NSIWC.

While inaugurating the committee, Jonathan said members of the committee are to determine the proportion of revenue that will be allocated for personal emoluments, based on best practice among comparable emerging economies of the world, identify and propose parameters for determining pay relativities among others.

Chairman of the Committee Prof. Vremudia Deijomah promised a thorough work that will benefit both the country and workers at the end.

Court adjourns NDIC matter to Jan 25 for lack of service

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin

AN Abuja high court yesterday adjourned to January 25, 2010 to enable the two members of the Central Bank of Nigeria Interim Management Committee for Fortune Bank, Dr. Joe Emerson and Mr. Innocent Ilozumba to be served with a motion on notice.

Former Managing Director of the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC), Alh. Ganiyu Ogunleye is seeking to complain to the court of the alleged harassment and fresh attempts to re-arrest him.

Meanwhile Justice Othman Musa said that his order on December 21, 2009 asking parties in the matter to maintain status

quo still stands.

It would be recalled that the court had adjourned the matter to January 28, 2010 for plea taking.

In the same vein, counsel to Ogunleye, Okunade Olorundare (SAN) told the court that the police have been making several attempts to re-arrest his client despite being served with copies of the court order restraining the arrest.

He said that plans by the police to re-arrest his client became manifest as soon as former trial Judge, Justice Ugochukwu Ogakwu proceeded on vacation, adding that if not that there was a vacation Judge in the person of Justice Musa, his client would have been arrested and detained.



FORMER Sultan Ibrahim Dasuki addressing journalists on the state of the nation in Kaduna yesterday.

Bank sacks: FG, unions insist on due process

By Francis Okeke

THE Federal Government yesterday advised banks to follow due process in the ongoing sack of staff, even as labour unions in the nation's banking and financial institutions said those must be recalled for the exercise to start afresh.

This is the outcome of a meeting held yesterday between Labour and Productivity Minister Prince Adetokunbo Kayode and stakeholders in the banking industry.

The meeting which continues today at the Aso Rock Villa to be chaired by Vice President Goodluck Jonathan was kick-started to avert industrial disharmony in the banking sector occasioned

by the sack of close to 5000 workers in recent times.

The minister said though the banks are experiencing challenges, Nigerian Labour laws must be respected. He said banks will have to do some readjustment to reduce their operating costs.

"Any sacking, any retirement that is not done in accordance with the Labour Act and a collective agreement signed would be nullified and will not be accepted; let us be clear about that," the minister warned.

General Secretary of Association of Senior Staff of Banks, Insurance and Financial Institutions (ASSBIFI) Javis Erhomosele and General Secretary of National Union of Bank, Insurance

and Financial Institutions Employees (NUBIFIE) Elijah Segun Ola spoke on behalf of their unions.

The banks however said the sack was occasioned by the economic misfortune that hit the industry and promised to reabsorb the sacked workers once the situation improves.

CBN was represented by a Deputy Governor Sule Labaran at the meeting which was also attended by United Bank for Africa, Intercontinental Bank and Oceanic Bank. Union Bank was invited but did not attend.

Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and Trade Union Congress (TUC) were also represented at the meeting.

CJN's swearing-in: Katsina-Alu replies critics

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin

THE Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN) Justice Aloysius Iyorgher Katsina-Alu yesterday dismissed those criticizing his swearing-in by his predecessor saying they are ignorant of the law of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Justice Katsina-Alu who was speaking when the Director General of the Nigerian Institute of Advance Legal Studies, Professor Epiphany Azinge (SAN) and his management team paid him a courtesy visit added that any person empowered by law

to administer oath can swear him in.

The Chief Justice further reiterated that the Oath Act has it that the president or a sitting Chief Justice is empowered to administer oath on an in-coming Chief Justice of Nigeria.

He however said that the situation where the president is absent to administer the oath is unprecedented but the Oath Act makes it clear that the CJN can swear him-in as the CJN in the absence of the president.

"That is the position of the law. Those who are not satisfied would be sent to some of you to be re-exam-

ined" He added.

Justice Katsina-Alu thanked God for his elevation and also stated that, it is an act of God. "I appreciate your coming and thank God for my elevation as the Bible says all good things come from God.

Earlier in his remark, the Director General of the Nigerian Institute of Advance Legal Studies, Professor Epiphany Azinge in Azinge who congratulated the Justice Katsina-Alu on his elevation as the Chief Justice of Nigeria urged him to remain focused and not to be dissuaded by diversionary comments.

White House denies new details on suspect

THE White House is pushing back on a report suggesting that the U.S. government learned details about the suspect in the botched Christmas Day terrorist attack while he was in the air.

The *Los Angeles Times* published a report Wednesday saying that U.S. border security officials became aware of the suspect's alleged extremist ties while he was en route from Amsterdam, Netherlands, to Detroit, Michigan, and planned to question Umar Farouk AbdulMutallab once he landed.

"As we have indicated before, there were bits and pieces of information about AbdulMutallab available in a variety of areas in the system prior to December 25. There was no new information that emerged when the plane was in the air," an administration official said.

The White House planned yesterday to release an unclassified report by John Brennan, the assistant to the president on homeland security and counterterrorism, detailing what went wrong and also to reveal new steps intended to thwart future attacks.

Obama made a statement after the review was released.

The administration source said Customs and Border Protection followed its normal procedures as it prepared for arriving passengers, and by doing so, it accessed the suspect's record in the Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment database.

Since the attempted attack, the intelligence community has scrubbed the database, which has more than 500,000 suspects, adding additional people to U.S. watch lists and no-fly lists as a result.

AbdulMutallab is scheduled to make his first court appearance today after he was indicted on Wednesday by a federal grand jury on charges of attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction; attempted murder within the special aircraft jurisdiction of the United States; willful attempt to destroy and wreck an aircraft within the special aircraft jurisdiction of the United States; willfully placing a destructive device in, upon and in proximity to an aircraft within the special aircraft jurisdiction of the United States; and two counts of possession of a firearm/destructive in furtherance of a crime of violence.

Clerics demand removal of Nigeria from terror list

By Abbas Jimoh

MUSLIM clerics yesterday called for the removal of Nigeria from the US list of terrorism-prone nations. The United States of America has reviewed its security which will subject Nigerian citizens to extra searches when travelling in or out of the U.S.

The Chief Imam of Al-Habibiya Society of Nigeria Sheik Fuad Adeyemi said it is a misnomer for Nigeria to be put among terrorist nations when it is a known fact that Nigeria has been contributing massively to global peace.

He was speaking at the special prayer celebrating the 7th anniversary of the society founded in January 6th 2003 in Abuja.

Chief Imam of Ansarul-Islam Society of Nigeria Alhaji Ibrahim Usman Waliyullah said the US list is lopsided as countries, including Britain and Israel, whose citizens have carried out terror attacks were not included on the list.

As ANPP expresses disappointed with US

By Abbas Jimoh

THE All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) yesterday added its voice to the condemnation of the listing of Nigeria among countries whose citizens will face extra search while travelling to the United States of America.

The ANPP said the new approach does not represent the reality of the situation.

The party said Nigeria can never be associated with evil intentions, despite the alleged attempt to bomb a US airliner by a Nigerian, Farouk Umar Abdulmutallab.

ANPP National Publicity Secretary Emma Eneukwu said the party views with concern and utter disappointment the route the US government took to address the situation which suggests very strongly that the US has now classified the entire country and its citizens as criminals.



ONDO State Governor Olusegun Mimiko (second right) with Hajiya Asabe Odogwu, mother of the late Maryam Babangida, during a condolence visit by the governor to the residence of General Ibrahim Babangida in Minna, Niger State, yesterday.

Inclusion of Nigeria on US watch list a blessing – Sultan Dasuki

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

FORMER Sultan of Sokoto Alhaji Ibrahim Dasuki yesterday said the inclusion of Nigeria among 14 countries on the United States watch list of terrorism is a blessing in disguise.

"It is a blessing in one way because leaders who are stealing our money abroad will stop as the full search will expose them. No more transfer or taking of money to foreign lands. It will in no small measure curtail stealing in this country," he told newsmen in Kaduna yesterday.

The former sultan said the new checks would make the

country's leaders to invest in Nigeria rather than taking funds abroad at the expense of the country. He decried the level of infrastructural backwardness in Nigeria, identifying corruption as the bane of the country's development.

He condemned terrorism, describing it as un-Islamic. According to him, Islam enjoins Muslims to carry everyone along, including people of other faiths.

"In Islam, if you kill, you are going to hell. Even all the quarrel we are having in this country are not Islamic. Muslims are not expected to fight Christians. All these crises happening in the world are for economic reasons," he said.

Farouk: VP harps on guidance, support for youths

By AbdulFattah Olajide

VICE President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday said the youths should be guided and supported to excel in their professional endeavours and boost the country's image.

Speaking when he received the winner of the Big Brother Africa show Chuwang Pam Kevin and other members of his publicity campaign team who paid him a courtesy call in State House, Presidential Villa, Abuja, Jonathan advocated improved guidance especially for youths in the creative arts and sports.

He said the act of attempted plane bombing by 23-year-old Farouk Abdulmutallab is completely alien to Nigerian culture.

"Yes, we have our social problems but certainly not suicide bombing. This is completely alien to Nigeria. It is a new dimension that will certainly phase out," he stated.

Mitaire Ikpen, the media aide of the vice president, said in a statement that Jonathan encouraged youths who are willing

to utilize their talents positively as one way of fast-tracking the national rebranding campaign to be given the chance.

He recalled that after the heroic soccer victory of the Nigerian U-23 Dream Team at the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games, the nation earned international recognition as foreigners worldwide were eager to identify with Nigerians.

The VP thus commended Kevin for making Nigeria proud saying "we are proud of you for promoting Nigeria positively".

The VP also acknowledged the modification of the Big Brother Africa show in line with African moral values.

Earlier, Kevin said the BBA was like a canvass which he used to paint an appealing character that can be used to affect others positively.

He urged that rebranding should not be left for Government alone, and presented the VP with a blueprint for his social campaign which is geared towards combating social vices and restructuring the mentality of young people in a positive direction.

Obama admits security lapse

PRESIDENT Barack Obama said yesterday when it comes to terror threats against the nation, "the buck stops with me." And he's ordering changes in the way information on potential threats is handled. He wants the intelligence community to assign "clear lines of responsibility" for immediately pursuing leads on those threats.

In response to the failed Christmas Day bombing attempt over Detroit, Obama also wants to strengthen the way people are added to the terror watch list and the no-fly list. And called for intelligence reports — especially those that deal with threats — to be distributed more quickly and widely. Obama says there needs to be a stronger process for analyzing and processing intelligence.

Farouk 'introverted,' says his Canadian roommate

A Nigerian man accused of attempting to blow up a US airliner on December 25 was smart, polite and introverted, as well as a devout Muslim, his former roommate told public broadcaster CBC yesterday.

Canadian Matthew Salmon shared a home in Yemen with would-be bomber Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab for several weeks in September and October of last year, while Salmon was studying Arabic.

"During those couple of weeks I would say he was a polite enough fellow to talk to. When we talked, he was engaged in the conversation," Salmon told the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation from Yemen.

Abdulmutallab had seemed to be somewhat "introverted" and a "recluse," spending a lot of time alone in his room, but he was never "hostile" to anyone before he abruptly left their student residence in early October, said Salmon.

"We had a lot of conversations about (religion), and in every one of the conversations, it usually focused around the peace, the brotherhood and the love that can come through Islam," he said.

"We never talked about politics and definitely never talked about anything that would have struck me as being more extreme or fundamental."



LAGOS State Governor Babatunde Fashola (third left), his Deputy Princess Adebisi Sarah Sosan (right), wife of the celebrant, Mrs. Shade Okoye, cutting the tape to launch 11 incubators donated to the state government by Alhaji (Dr.) Rasaq Akanni Okoya to commemorate his 70th birthday anniversary at Lagos House, Ikeja. With them are Commissioner for Establishment and Training, Mr Jide Sanwoolu (left) and Commissioner for Health Dr. Jide Idris (second left).

Al-Qaeda got Farouk in UK

Continued from page 1

in Yemen, but did not pick up his radical views there, instead saying that happened when he resided in Britain between 2005 and 2008.

"This Nigerian guy came to Yemen in 2004 and 2005 to study Arabic and lived one year in Yemen," Al-Alemi said. "From 2004 to 2005, he didn't have any kind of links to extremism and radicals. From 2005 on, he was absorbed by extremists in Britain; that is the reason he was not able to come back to Britain. He also said "Yemen was not informed by the U.S. or British authorities that there were concerns about him."

Al-Alemi didn't say when the meeting between Farouk and Al-Awlaki took place. Asked whether Farouk was recruited by al Qaeda in London, a Metropolitan Police official in Britain replied, "no comment." British Home Secretary Alan Johnson said Tuesday the British government had no evidence that Farouk had been planning an attack, and believes he was "radicalised" after he left

Britain. British security services said they investigated his communications with UK-based individuals they had under observation while he was living in London, but judged that he did not then pose a danger. Those individuals were among 2,000 terror suspects British security agencies currently keep watch over, according to a senior British counter-terrorism source.

Al-Awlaki's name also surfaced in November when U.S. officials revealed he and Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan -- the U.S. Army psychiatrist accused of fatally shooting 13 people at Fort Hood, Texas, on November 5 -- had exchanged e-mails. The intercepted e-mails between the two, officials said, had not set off alarm bells.

The 9/11 Commission Report says al-Awlaki had contact with two of the 9/11 hijackers while they were in the United States, though there is no evidence he knew of the plot.

Meanwhile, Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) and Minister of Justice of Nigeria Michael

Kaase Aondoakaa said in Abuja yesterday that first bill likely to get the attention of the National Assembly upon return from recess may send terrorists to jail for life if passed into law.

Aondoakaa said he got a commitment from the National Assembly that the Bill for an Act to Combat Terrorism which was sent to it in October last year would be given high priority when the lawmakers resume from recess. Combating terrorism has been top on the agenda of the Federal Government since 23 year old Umar Farouk Abdul Mutallab was arrested for trying to blow up an American airliner and Nigeria was later placed by the U.S on the terrorism risk list.

The Minister said the Act would punish terrorists and their associates, prohibit all acts of terrorism and prescribe penalty for violators up to life imprisonment.

Aondoakaa said the Federal Government's grounds for protesting against inclusion on the terrorism risk list by the United States were compliance to interna-

tional security standards, Nigeria's peacekeeping missions and the cordial relationship between both countries. He extended an open invitation to the U.S for inspection and further investigation.

"The young man came in and he was screened and the visual information we have shows that he first walked into the screening machine on the right, then suddenly changed his mind and moved left. He then removed his shoes and entered. Our security agencies did all that is required under the law to ensure that Nigeria complies with international standard," he said.

He added, "Nigeria is not a terrorist country. We cannot be on the terrorism list of countries of interest because we have a track record of peace keeping. Our young men are in Sierra Leone, Liberia keeping peace for the world. I would appeal to my counterparts that justice demands that they hear the other side. They hear our position, they investigate our position and if there is need we supply more evidence."

Yar'adua's signature was forged

Continued from page 1

government officials, CNPP National Chairman Alhaji Abdulkadir Balarabe Musa said it is very doubtful.

He said Vice President Goodluck Jonathan should publicly explain to Nigerians that it was the president who signed the budget, otherwise Nigerians will no longer have confidence to believe

government officials.

He said the budget matter was beyond the explanation given by some government officials because the constitution did not bar the vice president from addressing the Nigerian people on the issue.

"If the Vice President addressed the country that it was president who signed the budget, we may agree or Presi-

dent Yar'adua should speak to the nation through the international media, since he was reported to have chatted with some cabinet members," he told BBC Hausa Service.

However, Minister of Special Duties Ambassador Ibrahim Kazaure said it was those who doubt the president's signature that should prove to the nation that it was forged. He said the sig-

nature was done by the president himself. Kazaure told the BBC Hausa service that "Everybody knows the signature of President Yar'adua, which cannot be forged by government officials," he said Yar'adua respects rules of law, hence nobody in the government would play politics with the rule of law.

Meanwhile, the Police Force Public Relations Officer ACP

Emmanuel Ojukwu said he cannot confirm whether or not the letter by CNPP was received at the police headquarters because he had not been briefed.

He however said that if the police get the letter, they will act appropriately and report the findings to the appropriate authority. "If we receive the petition, we shall investigate it and make report," he said.

PIC: NAN



SHOPS gutted by fire at Gwagwalaga, Abuja in the early hours of yesterday.

AC demands inquiry into Osun killings

From ADEBOLA AKINOLA, OSOGBO

THE Action Congress (AC) in Osun State yesterday urged the Federal Government to institute a panel of inquiry into the killings in the state since 2007. The party expressed concern on the rate of political killings in the state in recent times, saying the police had done little or nothing

to prevent it.

Addressing newsmen in Osogbo yesterday, the party's Secretary Prince Gboyega Famodun accused the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the state of attempting to hold the opposition AC responsible for some of the killings. The party which said the call became necessary in the

face of the murder in December of one of Governor Olanrewaju Oyinlola's counsel, Pa Jonathan Ogundere, said a panel of inquiry would reveal those behind the killings.

"The PDP is trying to trivialize the issue by misleading investigating security agencies entitled to work and come up with cogent findings about it.

In doing this, the Osun PDP is playing the Ostrich as it is trying, in manner and speech", he said. While expressing regrets and outright condemnation of the murder of the septuagenarian lawyer, the AC said a thorough investigation into the matter would show that the opposition party had no hand in the murder.

Gombe Assembly okays 2010 budget

From: Aliyu M. Hamagam, Gombe

THE Gombe State House of Assembly has passed this year's budget of N 55.6 billion into law. The budget has an increase of N124 million against the N55.5 billion earlier presented by the state governor.

The Assembly's decision to increase the budget was informed by the adoption of recommendations in the report of the House Committee on Appropriation, the chairman of the committee, Alhaji Muhammad Dan'azumi Adamu

said in Gombe yesterday.

Partly responsible for the increase is the N122, 270, 000 estimated Internally Generated Revenue shot up from the initial N2.7 billion to N2.9 billion.

The money is expected to be generated through revenues from the Gombe International Hotel, the Jewel Hotel Abuja and the Gombe Township Stadium when completed as well as remittances of total revenue from the Gombe Media Corporation, Gombe State Transport Service, the Water Board and the state Investment

and Property Development Company.

The funds would be channelled to the construction and equipping of recreational centres, computerization of lands and survey, local government pensions board, adequate funding of the judiciary and legislature as well as training of aeronautic engineers to man the Gombe International Airport among others, said Dan'azumi Adamu. The lawmaker advised agencies and other government departments that had not been contributing part of

their internally generated revenue to the state to start doing so.

Alhaji Dan'azumi Adamu said the committee also recommended that the agencies and parastatals be placed on the first line charge in order not to cripple the disbursement of other charges. The achievement of over 80 per cent performances in 2009 budget by the state government immensely accounts for the express passing of the 2010 document into law as four members in their separate remarks urged his colleagues to pass the budget.

Police arrest 1,178 suspects in Zamfara

THE Zamfara Police Command arrested 1,178 suspects for allegedly committing various crimes in 2009.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) Mr Lawal Abdullahi told newsmen in Gusau yesterday that the command also recorded 879 criminal cases during the year. He said the most

prevalent offences were armed robbery, murder, rape and theft. Abdullahi said there were no reported cases of kidnapping and religious/ethnic crises during the year. He said 442 suspects were prosecuted, 71 acquitted, while 144 were currently awaiting trial. The PPRO added that property stolen were estimated at

N28.8 million, out of which the command recovered items valued at N8.7 million. He said three policemen were killed by armed robbers during operations, while the police were able to kill two armed robbers. Abdullahi said five policemen were dismissed for committing various offences during the period. He said most

of the criminals arrested were from the neighbouring Niger Republic, adding that the command had already taken necessary measures to rid the border towns of hoodlums. He appealed to the public to continue to assist the command with useful information on the activities of criminals in the state. (NAN)

Islamic group condemns US listing of Nigeria

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

A group, the Islamic Mission for Africa (IMA) has condemned the decision of the United States government to include Nigeria on the list of countries whose citizens are to undergo extra security checks at airports.

IMA in a statement in Lagos yesterday argued that the action of 23 year-old Umar Farouk Abdul-Mutallab was an isolated case which shocked even Nigerians at home and abroad, imploring the American government to revisit the decision in the interest of both nations.

In a press statement in Abeokuta yesterday, IMA charged all security agencies to be more alert to their responsibilities in order to reverse the trend of recurring lawlessness and killings which has repeatedly occurred in the country.

Dismissing the attempted suicide bombing and all acts of terrorism as anti-Islam, IMA enjoined Muslims to rise up and repudiate the action of terrorists in its totality. Islam, it says, preaches peace, love and harmonious co-existence among all peoples.

Katsina increases NYSC support funds by 75%

THE Katsina State government has increased its expenditure on the NYSC activities in the state by 75 per cent this year.

Alhaji Bashir Gambo, the Commissioner for Rural, Social Development, Youth and Sports, made this known in an interview with newsmen in Katsina yesterday. He said government had earmarked N14 million to support NYSC activities this year as against the N8 million spent in 2009. Gambo said the fact that the corps members were now in four batches made the government to allocate more funds to the programme in this year's budget. He expressed government's continued support and assistance to the scheme to improve its services in the state. The commissioner said government had constructed a befitting orientation camp for the corps members on the Mani Road in Katsina metropolis. He acknowledged the cooperation of the NYSC management in the state and urged corps members to reciprocate the gesture by re-dedicating themselves to the service of the nation. (NAN)

Police kill 12 armed robbers in Niger

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE Niger State Police Command has said that it killed 12 armed robbers in 2009.

The state Commissioner of Police Mr Mike Zuokumor who

addressed newsmen in Minna yesterday said the deaths would have been avoided if the robbers had surrendered peacefully. Regretting the death of the robbers, Mr Zuokumor said policing was to bring criminals and social

misfits to justice and not to eliminate them.

He maintained that he always did his best to ensure that no criminal is killed before judgement is passed, but that some of them preferred to die than to sur-

render. Zuokumor said none of his men died in the 2009 operations, saying three sustained injuries and were presently recuperating.

He said 44 armed robbery suspects were arrested, detained and

charged to court in the year under review.

The commissioner added that the police recovered three pump action guns, 10 locally made pistols, 13 dane guns and 40 cartridges.



Winner of Big Brother Africa contest Chuwang Pan Kevin (left) with Vice President Goodluck Jonathan during the former's visit to State House, Abuja, yesterday.

C'ttee on Okene crisis receives 24 memos

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE seven-man committee set up by the Kogi State government to look into the recent communal crisis in Okene Local Government Area of the state has so far received 24 memoranda. The Chairman of the committee Usman Onujah who spoke in Lokoja yesterday said the memoranda received on the first day of the sitting came from individuals and groups in the area. He said the committee in the next 10 days would continue to receive memoranda and oral presentations from the public to get to the root of the December crisis, particularly to uncover those responsible.

He said the committee would accommodate respondents who could not speak English language by using interpreters. Onujah assured that all parties would be given equal opportunities to defend themselves.

"We are not here to witch-hunt anyone. As much as possible, the committee's work is going to be done in public. Anyone who is interested in speaking to us will be allowed to do so", he said.

The crisis in the area, according to the police, resulted in the death of 36 persons.

Ex- envoy faults US on Nigeria

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

FORMER Nigerian Ambassador to Switzerland Ambassador Yahaya Kwande has faulted the United States categorisation of Nigeria as a result of the recent terrorist attempt by a Nigerian.

Ambassador Kwande said yesterday while speaking with news-

men in Jos, "Nigeria deserves merit for the bold steps taken when the unfortunate incident happened in Detroit, not only government, even ordinary citizens on the streets condemned the act yet the blame was shifted to Nigeria, it is not fair".

He added, "Faruk Mutallab put the whole world security forces on

alert because the American security system which I respected failed. It is only God that saved the situation, not their surveillance or security measures.

The father of the man being a true Nigerian did something that I haven't seen a father do by reporting to the relevant securities on the behaviour of his child. When

he noticed that his child had developed negative habits he alerted the whole world security, for that is enough reason to give merit to Nigeria, not to blame the country".

The ex- envoy commended the bold steps taken by the National Assembly when they gave seven days ultimatum to the US to review its decision on Nigeria.

Kogi won't sacrifice quality education - Commissioner

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE Kogi State government says it is not prepared to abandon quality for quantity in its bid to transform the education sector in the state. The Commissioner for Education Chief Sylvester Onoja said this yesterday while monitoring the resumption of schools within Lokoja metropolis.

He noted that the government had put in place infrastructure needed for teaching and learning and wondered why students were not making use of them to improve themselves. He com-

mended teachers in the various schools visited for the massive turn-out and queried some schools where teachers were having meetings on the second day of resumption instead of being in their classes. The state Chairman of the Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT) Alhaji Sani Muhammed appealed to parents and guardians to allow their children and wards to resume, saying there was no time to waste. Muhammed also called on religious and traditional rulers in the state to help sensitize the public on the need to return to school.

Kano awards N10bn road contracts

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

THE Kano State government has awarded road contracts worth N10 billion within the central business district of the capital city.

Speaking yesterday in Kano, Governor Ibrahim Shekarau said the contracts awards were necessary because of the role of roads in commercial activities in the state.

Governor Shekarau said the companies, Dantata and Sawoe, SKY and Boroni Prono had been fully mobilized to take begin work immediately.

The construction work according to Shekarau, is to be completed within six months. He appealed to the companies to ensure completion of the work within schedule.

He said the government was satisfied with the compa-

nies rehabilitating some major roads within the metropolis and urged members of the public to cooperate with them.

He expressed regret for any inconveniences that may be experienced. He said 11 roads were identified for rehabilitation out of which seven had been contracted out, adding that soon, the remaining five would be contracted out as well.

HOS: President's absence did not affect swearing-in of permsecs

By Francis Okeke

PRESIDENT Umaru Musa Yar'adua's absence is not the reason why new Permanent Secretaries were not sworn in, Head of the Civil Service of the Federation (HCSF) Mr. Stephen Oronsaye said yesterday.

The appointment of new permanent secretaries was approved in October, 2009 but none has been sworn-in and assigned responsibilities.

Spokesman of the office of Head of Service Tope Ajakaiye said in a press statement that the clarification followed a report

claiming the swearing in was stalled because President Yar'adua has been out of the country since November 2009 seeking medical attention.

Ajakaiye said "reacting to media speculations on this issue, the HOS said that the appointment of the new Permanent Sec-

retaries takes effect from January 1, 2010 in line with the date for the take-off of the new policy on tenure for Permanent Secretaries and Directors in the Federal Civil Service.

"It would be recalled that the Permanent Secretaries affected by the tenure policy proceeded

on a 3-month terminal leave in October while their actual retirement date is 31st December, 2009."

Oronsaye said that arrangements are being made to swear-in the newly appointed Permanent Secretaries in accordance with the provision of the Oaths Act.

Ribadu to appear before CCT Jan 28

By Atika Balal

THE Code of Conduct Tribunal (CCT) sitting in Abuja has fixed January 28 for former Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Nuhu Ribadu to appear before it and take his plea.

Ribadu is facing trial before the tribunal for failing to declare his assets as required by the public officers Code of Conduct laws of Nigeria.

The tribunal had issued an arrest warrant for Ribadu following his failure to appear before it despite several adjournments.

Yesterday, Counsel to Ribadu, Sola Egbeyinka, holding brief for Femi Falana, told the court that his client has been unable to appear before the tribunal due to his inability to renew his international passport.

He assured the court that Ribadu will renew his passport within a week from today and appear before the court as ordered.

However, Prosecutor A.A Malik said the tribunal should take into cognizance the fact that Ribadu had renewed his international passport at the Nigerian embassy in the United Kingdom and had also travelled to Liberia to present a paper after then, and was widely circulated in the dailies.

He also told the court that the Federal Government is having difficulty effecting the arrest warrant because Ribadu has abandoned his last known address in the UK.

Justice Constance Momoh advised that Ribadu appear before the court and take his plea.



DEPUTY Comptroller-General of Customs Service Mr. Sonny Okpurhe being decorated with his new rank by the Comptroller General of Customs Abdullahi Dikko (right) and Deputy Comptroller General Argungu at the Customs headquarters, Wuse Zone III, Abuja.

Maryam: Hong, others condole with IBB

By Nasidi A. Yahaya & Maureen Onochie

THE death of former First Lady Maryam Babangida has created a vacuum because of her contribution to women development, Minister of State for Health Dr. Aliyu Idi Hong said in a condolence letter to Maryam's husband, former President General Ibrahim Babangida.

Hong said, "There is no doubt that her death left a vacuum not only in the family

but the nation at large as we shall all miss her inestimable contribution to the betterment of women and the less privileged in the society.

Chairman of the House of Representatives committee on Defence Rep. Oluwole Oke also said late Maryam Babangida worked assiduously during her life time to ensure that Nigerian women were accorded due respect and dignity of motherhood.

Also, Hajiya Dr. Baraka Sani yesterday

paid glowing tributes to the late former First Lady Maryam Babangida for the support she gave her husband Gen. Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida while he was in power.

Dr Baraka, a senatorial aspirant under the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Kano said "If wives of political leaders supported their husbands like the way the late Maryam Babangida did, Nigeria would have been better."

N300m scam: MD resists arrest

By Misbahu Bashir

THE Managing Director of MYPHONE Nigeria Limited, Mr. Kenneth Awara, eluded arrest by the anti-fraud police detectives over a petition accusing him of failure to pay his business partners the dividend of 306 million Naira.

He was petitioned before the Inspector General of Police Ogonna Onovo.

The incident occurred outside the premises of the headquarters of the Economic and Financial Commission (EFCC) in Abuja where Mr. Awara had gone to answer question on a different case of issuance of dud cheques to his business associate to the tune of N500 million.

Three policemen led by a Chief Superintendent of Police accosted him with copies of warrant of his arrest and the copy of the petition to the IGP written by one Hajia Maria Hassa, a shareholder in MYPHONE Company accusing him of failure to pay her the sum of N306 million dividends.

He refused to surrender and struggled with the policemen until some EFCC operatives reinforced and moved him to their office.

The EFCC operatives, however, refused to allow the policemen to arrest Awara, even with the intervention of senior police officers from the Force Headquarters.

EFCC's spokesman Femi Babafemi said Mr. Awara was invited by the Commission to clarify issues on a petition against him by a company, Abawa Nigeria Limited after which the police came to pick him up on a separate matter and he resisted.

Abawa Company and Atlantic Network, a company belonging to Awara, secured a telecommunication contract sometime in 2002 in which after completion Awara instead of paying Abawa N500 million as their share issued them with dud cheques belonging to defunct Devcom Bank. He later apologised and paid £175,000 and absconded abroad.

Elumelu: Credit bureaus will enhance lending in Nigeria

GROUP Managing Director of UBA Plc Mr. Tony Elumelu has applauded the establishment of credit bureaus in Nigeria, describing the move as a historic milestone in the financial services sector in the country.

Mr. Elumelu, whose goodwill address was delivered on his behalf by the bank's Executive Director and Group Chief Finance Officer Mr. Victor Osadolor, at the launch of the CRC Credit Bureau Limited in Lagos yesterday, said the development represents a positive response to the lending challenges in

the banking sector.

Whilst acknowledging the pioneering role played by UBA in the establishment of the company, he said "we are very happy that this idea, muted by us years back, has finally come to light".

According to him, credit bureaus in the Nigerian market will engender a smooth coordination and cooperation among operators in the industry, ensuring transparency and providing accurate information when borrowers and lenders interact in a conducive environment.

Also speaking, Mrs. Angela Nwabuoku, Executive Director, UBA and

Chairperson of the CRC Credit Bureau, identified the need to address the gap in information asymmetry between borrowers and lenders, as the cardinal reason for setting up the CRC Credit Bureau.

Nwabuoku said the company, owned by a consortium of leading banks in Nigeria and in partnership with Accenture and Dun & Bradstreet, a leading global credit information service provider, will assist providers of credit in taking informed decisions by generating and supplying members with credit information reports on borrowers.

Police quiz commissioner, LG boss over murder

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

OGUN State Commissioner for Agriculture Mr. Tunji Akinosi and the Chairman of Ado-odo/Ota Local Government Area of the state Prince Yomi Tella were among six persons invited by the

police zonal criminal investigations department headquarters in Onikan, Lagos Tuesday over the murder of one Biodun Oyewole on October 14th 2009.

The deceased was said to have been killed in Ota, Ogun State by yet to be identified persons suspected to be members

of a gang of the factional group of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the area. Others invited by the police for questioning were Moruff Alagba, Rafiu Bakare, Salisu Bakare and one Mr. Adeniyi.

The Ogun State Commissioner of Police Hashimu

Argungu told our correspondent in Abeokuta yesterday that the police headquarters had taken over the matter, saying the state command was no longer in charge.

A cousin of the deceased and former Commissioner for Agriculture in the state Waliu Taiwo

said moves to have the case investigated by the police headquarters were prompted by a petition to the Inspector General of Police to have the case transferred from the Ogun State Police Command.

Efforts to speak with the commissioner on phone were unsuccessful before press time.

Judiciary workers charge Kano govt on new pay

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

THE only way to end the on-going strike by the Kano State chapter of the Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSAN) is for the state government to emulate their counterparts and implement the new salary scheme for judiciary workers, the union said yesterday.

In a statement which the union said was in response to media reports credited to the state Attorney General Barrister Umar Aliyu where he was said to have threatened to deploy the police to re-open courts in the state, the workers

said the Attorney General should have advised the state government to meet the demands of the striking workers rather than issue threats.

"JUSAN will not be intimidated. If the commissioner likes, let him use the military or any other force he so desires," the union said.

The union also dismissed comments attributed to Barrister Umar to the effect that the judiciary staff were "workers which the courts could do without," saying court officials were creations of the constitution and could not be relegated to the back-ground.

Nasarawa budgets N4.9bn for healthcare

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE Nasarawa State government is seeking the approval of the state House of Assembly to spend N4.9 billion on the rehabilitation and upgrade of health centers in the state.

The Commissioner for Health Abubakar Dahiru told newsmen in Lafia yesterday that the 2010 "Budget of Reality" seeks among other things, funds for the establishment of a teaching hospital and 100-bed general hospital in Lafia. He said general hospitals in local government areas would be renovated and supplied necessary facilities. Dahiru added that government had concluded arrangements with a pharmaceutical company for the supply of drugs to all hospitals in the state. He said there were plans to train and re-train all health per-

sonnel in the state to meet the growing challenges in the sector. He commended Governor Doma for making the health sector one of his priorities.



GOVERNOR Aliyu Doma



PIC: NAN

FROM right: AC gubernatorial aspirant in Anambra State, Dr. Chris Ngige, speaking at the meeting with the Inspector General of Police and gubernatorial candidates of registered political parties in the state in Abuja yesterday. With him are gubernatorial candidate for Campaign for Democratic Change (CDC), Mr. Kenneth Chukwuemeka and the Community Party of Nigeria (CPN), Mr. Geoff Onyegebu.

Renewed Nasarawa rearers/farmers clash claims one

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

RENEWED violence between Fulani cattle rearers and peasant farmers of Udeni Gida in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa State claimed one more life Tuesday after police relaxed vigilance in the community.

Over 70 people including women and children were killed earlier in the area on December 18, 2009. An invasion by mercenaries believed to have been brought in by Fulani herdsmen lasted only hours before men soldiers

and police from the Mopol Squadron 38 were deployed to the flash point. Before the arrival of the soldiers and policemen, nearly every standing structure in the community was brought down.

This displaced thousands of survivors of the attack who fled to neighbouring villages. But the truck loads of soldiers sent to the community pulled out immediately after the invaders disappeared into the bush. This is just as the state police command relaxed vigilance as the authorities maintained only a handful of the men on ground, creating an opportunity for a

renewed attack.

The Police Commissioner Shehu Babalola confirmed the renewed violence but said a team of security forces sent to the area was yet to bring a formal report to him as at Wednesday. He promised to reinforce security in the area.

The lawmaker representing Udege/Loko, (part of which is Udeni-Gida) Mohammed Baba Ibaku told *Daily Trust* yesterday in Lafia that a group of persons armed with machetes and believed to be Fulani herdsmen attacked a yam farm late Tuesday, killing one person.

Niger revenue board targets N12bn

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE Niger State revenue board is expected to generate about N12 billion this year as internally generated revenue.

The 2010 budget is still awaiting approval of the state House of Assembly.

The state governor, Dr Babangida Aliyu, at the inauguration of the board

yesterday in Minna emphasised the need for the newly constituted board to take revenue generation seriously. While urging them to exploit all legal avenues to collect revenue for the state government, he told them that if the targeted amount was not achieved, the board would be dissolved to pave way for a result oriented group.

The board is expected to generate revenue from rents on household elec-

trical appliances, bicycles, water rates among others.

The governor said Niger could not depend on allocation from the Federation Account, saying it would explore all possible avenues to generate revenue. He maintained that if the state could generate N1 billion monthly, the government would be able to deliver dividends of democracy to the people.

Rejoinder

RE: FILIYA: TEENAGE PREGNANCY ON THE RISE

We read a publication in the centre page of Daily Trust Newspaper of Friday, December 11, 2009 (pages 32-33) captioned "Filiya: Teenage Pregnancy on the Rise". We want to put the records straight by correcting some of the errors and/or deliberate distortion of information in the said publication. The writer, Lami Sadiq claimed to have visited our small village, that is greatly in doubt because Filiya as she claimed is not located in Billiri Local Government but in Shongom L.G.A of Gombe State.

The writer also referred to a neighbouring District, Gwandum, as a village in Filiya, this is not true and Fokulum - spelled as "Pokulum" - is a village area in Gwandum District and not in Filiya District. The three (3) Districts in Pero i.e Filiya, Gundale and Gwandum, are independent of themselves. From these two paragraphs, it is clear that Lami is totally confused and does not seem to fully know the area of her story. It is unfortunate.

It is also our avowed opinion that the Lami Sadiq was misled or used. Rashida is a minor, and the Laws of the Land prohibit interviewing a minor not to talk of publishing her photograph.

From the story, it was clear that the crew of reporters that visited Filiya were on a political mission and so they did precisely what their sponsors wanted. Filiya is the first town one meets before getting to Gwandum but we are surprised that Lami Sadiq - may be a researcher/reporter - could not beam her torch light on Filiya as captioned "Filiya: Teenage Pregnancy on the Rise." She should have done her research there only but rather chose to go to Gwandum. If Lami Sadiq was not tele-guided, how could she have ignored Filiya and dwelled on Gwandum? Her guide, Florence Nganti who took Lami and her team to the Dakacin Gwandum Feng, who Lami referred to as a 'title holder' is one of those mischief makers. Dakaci means 'village head'. Florence Nganti must have been sponsored by certain people otherwise she

would not have taken Lami and her team to another District when their mission was to Filiya District. Lami Sadiq cannot convince even a simpleton to believe that she and her team mates went on a fact finding mission but rather a political one aimed at blackmailing Gwandum as a Community, by using girl-child education problem as a cover. Indeed, the publication is not only provocative but intended to incite and capable of causing problem in the community knowing the volatile nature of the two neighbouring communities. Gwandum people are peace loving and never sponsor any campaign of calumny against an individual, group or its neighbours. We do not know the aims and objectives of Community Action for Popular Participation (CAPP). This confirms our suspicion of a political undertone in the said publication. The writer stated we quote "I must confess we knew what to expect even before we got to the community". She equally claimed "we had been briefed by some indigenes..." Lami then went there if she really did with a set mind of what she would get. Thus, it is clear that there is a hidden agenda. We urge Lami Sadiq, to reveal the identities of those indigenes that briefed her prior to her trip and who took her to Filiya and from where.

The attempt by this write-up to present Gwandum in bad light is very unfortunate and we reject it in totality.

In conclusion, we call on peace loving people of Tangale Waja, in particular and Nigerians in general to call on these mischief makers to allow peace to reign in Pero. We also appeal to members of the Press to always verify their findings or what is brought to them before going to the press and not to allow individuals to use them to achieve their selfish interests. We demand for an apology from CAPP who Lami claimed to have worked for and to correct these distortions.

Concerned Citizens of Gwandum

[Signature]
07/01/2010

[Signature]
S. M. Edeh
16/01/2010
Nigeria Immigration, Abuja

NDLEA: Terror threat redefines global security

By Shehu Abubakar

DRUG trafficking has drastically reduced globally following the new security measures being taken by countries as a result of the botched Christmas day terror attempt, chairman of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Ahmadu Giade yesterday.

Giade, who promised drug barons of tough days ahead, expressed satisfaction with the growing use of full body scanners by countries following the terror scare.

He said 2010 will be a painful year for criminal drug syndicates as the international community is adopting stiffer measures in the screening of passengers.

The NDLEA chief said global security checks have heightened at exit and entry points of the country in line with the Agency's

determination to frustrate drug barons globally.

Meanwhile, 29 year-old Ogbeide Prince, who ingested 922 grams of cocaine, was nabbed on New Year day at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport (MMIA) Lagos by anti-narcotic officials.

Ogbeide was detected with the aid of scanning machine during screening of passengers on Alitalia Flight, en route Venezia in Italy where he has gone to sojourn since 2007.

He was to be paid the sum of 4,000 Euros if the trip was successful. He said he to drug trafficking to enable him pay his rent and settle basic bills after being jobless for six months.

NDLEA Airport commander at Lagos Alhaji Hamza Umar said that the suspect's arrest is a warning to others that the Agency will stop any move by drug barons to smuggle drugs this year.

...as group plans nationwide protest

By Nasir Imam

A coalition of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) said they will organise a nationwide rally to peacefully demonstrate against the US classification of Nigeria as a terrorism-prone state.

Dr. Lanre Adebayo, who chaired a meeting of the NGOs and CSOs in Abuja yesterday, described the classification as an unwelcome development which the group condemns in totality, hence the need to articulate its position

and speak out as a body.

Dr. Adebayo said the group shall, at the end of its deliberations, present a communiqué to the US Embassy in Abuja, giving consensus credence to the fact that Farouk Mutallab, in his actions, was not representing Nigeria as a whole.

Also speaking at the occasion, human rights activist, Comrade Festus Okoye, who admitted that though Nigeria has its own problems and challenges, the December 25 event was a completely isolated event.

He said the National Assembly should immediately attend to the anti-terrorism bill before it.



**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**



Chief Achike Udenwa
Honourable Minister of
Commerce and Industry

The Honourable Minister of Commerce and Industry, Chief Achike Udenwa and the Honourable Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Mr. Humphrey Abah cordially invite all Stakeholders, the Organized Private Sector, Members of the National Assembly, State Governors, Members of the State Executive Council, in the North-West Zone, all State Commissioners for Commerce and Industry, all State Permanent Secretaries, Development Partners, the Media and the general public to the official launch of the Patronage of Made-in-Nigeria Products Campaign for the North-West Zone.

Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2010
Venue: Tahir Guest Palace, GRA, Kano
Time: 9.00 am Prompt

2. The Campaign to patronize Made-in-Nigeria products is the Ministry's strategy for driving its three major objectives of increasing the productive capacity of the manufacturing sector, increasing non-oil export earnings and decreasing the importation of consumable goods. The purpose is to build a strong economy that will contribute effectively towards achieving Mr. President's 7-point Agenda and the vision 2020.

3. You are all cordially invited



Mr. Humphrey Abah
Honourable Minister of
State for Commerce and Industry

DR. A.K. Muhammad
Permanent Secretary
ANNOUNCER

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



SPEAKER Oladimeji Bankole

Bankole's wife gives birth in Ghana

GOOD news for Mr Bankole. He has to go to Ghana to be with his wife and family. The wife is in medical school in Ghana and NOT in Nigeria. Umar Mutallab was in school in Britain and that is now history. Most of the children of the elite in Nigeria are in school in Ghana. Why are Nigerians not seeing that the fate of the ordinary people has been sealed? Someday maybe, a progeny of the Ghana trainees will graduate from the Rawlings school of Administrative Change.

Merem Emeribe
emeokoro@yahoo.com

So his son is now a Ghananian Citizen. I am thankful to God that the mother and child are doing well. Please let him make efforts to ensure improvement in our amenities. Why is she not studying in Nigeria? They all know we have educational challenges so they run away to enjoy better services.

Rieta
marieta_takuma@yahoo.com

Congratulations to Mr. Speaker and his family members.

Ali Umar
alikuram@yahoo.com

I think there's an error here. If she is a medical student, she cannot bear the title 'Dr'. Can she?

Bello
Hamaseyor@hotmail.com

It is quite embarrassing, now that traveling to the west is becoming difficult the next option of they have is either to go to the Middle East or other 'better' African countries. That is why they keep on talking about the issue of the airport scrutiny but don't care about the fuel crisis, hyper inflation and poor supply of electricity.

Usman Ahmed Danbaba
danbaba1986@yahoo.com

Hmmm. Why didn't she give birth in a Nigerian hospital? Is there something wrong with our hospitals?

Taheer Y Yakasai
ibdatti@yahoo.com

Anambra: Why Andy Uba is misconceived, by Nwanyanwu

PLEASE, Anambra has moved beyond Andy Uba.

Michael Ijere
Rivj4@yahoo.com

Yar'adua's absence: 15 new Perm Secs can't be sworn in

THIS is why I say there is confusion in Nigeria. Yar'adua should have handed over to Goodluck Jonathan so the processes of government can continue to run smoothly.

PDP says no, their hands are tied...with what, I don't know really. We are not saying that Mr President should resign; we want him to come back and continue but he can at least ask the vice president to take charge until he comes back.

Since he is strong enough to put through calls to some people, he should be strong enough to ask (write) Goodluck to step in and get this country going. PDP must begin to see Nigeria above the party and selfish desires and take a step of faith for the sake of 150 million Nigerians.

Aji Isuwa Suleiman
suleimanaji@yahoo.com

We Nigerians are satisfied and convinced that the state of health of Mr President is improving. All the outstanding issues awaiting Mr President

VP briefs FEC, PDP governors on Yar'adua

PLEASE let the VP and FEC stop taunting Nigerians. Since presently the opposition and other well-meaning Nigerians are making all sorts of remarks about the President, the Government should allow the recuperating president talk to Nigerians, even if it is on a foreign TV channel. They should do what Nigerians want not what they want.

Baba Mustapha
mustaphasi60@gmail.com

Ribadu's arrest warrant: Court summons CCT, IGP

PLEASE for God's sake, let this hard working man be. Go to people with extremely bad records of

Banks' mass sack: Labour minister, CBN governor meet

THIS is really a matter that has to be looked into. Most of the sacked officers, most especially the family men and women, who have families relying on them will now

will soon be met. Let us exercise patience.

Zanna Bukar
bukar.zanna@yahoo.com

As a preventive measure for the re-occurrence of this scenario, there is the need from now henceforth that appointments, swearing-in and postings should take effect at the same time.

Who is replacing who should be made clear before the expiration of the tenure of an incumbent.

Malik Aminu Umar
m.ameenu@yahoo.com

Let the Attorney general swear them in.

A. Awo
awo7@hotmail.com

Why can't they wait for the president? Tell them to continue to wait because PDP will like the entire country to wait before the country can move forward. My main concern for my country is this: none of us really knows what is going on as per the health

This is a very interesting story indeed. We have been waiting for long to here this. Still, our prayer is that may our country continue to live in peace and harmony and we all wish our president a quick recovery. May Allah (SWT) help him recover so that he can return to continue discharging his duties.

Abubakar Chika Maru
abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com

performance and check them.
Hashimu A. Wambai
hashimuawambai@yahoo.com

be redundant. May Allah bring a solution to all these problems. Ameen.

Abubakar Chika Maru
abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com



PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua

situation of our leader.

We don't even know where he is at the moment. All I know is this: sometime, someday, some-

where we shall all have a sigh of relief!

TAI
taifemi@gmail.com

Gowon condemns US listing of Nigeria

THE United States is within its right to institute special security checks on any country, especially, when such countries have no leader to speak to directly. That is one of the fall-outs of not having a constituted authority figure to represent Nigeria. Who do you speak to in Somalia? Dr. Gowon should not expect any apology from the U.S, rather he should help his friends in Aso Rock put their house in order.

Ephraim Osazuwa
ephyosa@yahoo.com



GENERAL Yakubu Gowon

With all due respect to the General, the U.S did not place Nigeria on the list for the fun of it. Here is an intelligent young man from Nigeria attempting to blow up an airliner on U.S soil. The Nigerian officials simply denied the boy and I do not remember anyone asking the Nigerian Ambassador to visit the boy and provide him with legal counsel. Meanwhile, his own dad has already reported on the suspected extremist ideas of his son to Nigerian and U.S authorities.

In 2008, the U.S donated 4 Full Body Scanners to Nigeria; no Nigerian official acknowledged the existence of these scanners instead they were all talking of buying. If our officials had acknowledged the scanners and proffered explanations and

shown interest in the young man's case, the U.S would have tried a different tack. After all how many Nigerians are privileged to travel outside the country at all not just the U.S? Let us not be too sentimental on issues of security.

Muhammad NaIya
naiyamd@yahoo.com

Spoken like the patriot he is. While we know the injustice this listing of Nigeria will do to us, the Obama Administration is fighting a three pronged war. (1) Al Qaeda (2) The Republican Party (3) A large part of the U.S Intelligence community. Nigeria is a victim of a President who wants to act tough even if he does not believe in it.

Baba Mustapha
mustaphasi60@gmail.com



By Ayo Ademiluyi

Abdul Mutallab and the working class alternative

Much furore has been raised over the alleged terrorist attempt of 23-year old Nigerian, Faruk Abdulmutallab. Clearly raised in a largely-wealthy class, young Mutallab's strange link to the well-known anarchistic al-Qaeda sect even raised the concern of his father, who had previously reported his concerns to US authorities.

On the Nigerian scene, the ruling class has been losing sleep over the matter as it considers its non-starter "rebranding" project in the woods with the current Mutallab matter. United States in their usual imperialistic manner has been crying foul and ready to spill blood in revenge.

What is clear is that the Mutallab incident is just one out of the one thousand and one others in the present crippling

Without it, one million and one Mutallabs will be produced by the imperialist system

system that seeks to react to the grave imbalances within the system.

The current rotten capitalist system with its attendant crisis playing out in Nigeria has placed the collective wealth of the society in the hands of big-business family like the Mutallab's with no direct total development of their offspring in the direction of changing society through genuine collective struggle. While a Mutallab, raised in 2 million euro mansion, which can cater for education and health of countless other citizens, seeks to express dissatisfaction to the brutish force of imperialism through terrorism, genuine change-seeking youth must realize that only mass-based collective struggle can change society.

United States, particularly its chauvinistic ruling class, is today's crisis-engulfed imperialist state, waging its big-business motivated wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and many other trouble spots in the world. It will take no time in sending its crack state security teams to Nigeria, its third largest supplier of oil, to dislodge fundamentalist groups and militants, just to protect its interests.

On the other side of the spectrum, the mass of working people has not had it this bad by the end of the year with a rudderless ruling class failing to give solution to the spreading crisis of widespread fuel scarcity grounding the entire nation already lacking both in infrastructure and amenities. Yet it continues to restate its readiness to deregulate, meaning send the masses to misery.

Treacherously, the leadership of organized labour, both the NLC and TUC maintain a volte-face on this issue, speaking with two sides of the mouth, supporting government's exploitative agenda of deregulation and "opposing" fuel price hike. Without government's bold declaration of deregulation, its "reforms of the downstream sector" has made sure the

price of petroleum products is above the reach of the masses. Despite the growing mass anger drawn on the reality that deregulation will only deepen the stagnation of the masses, labour leaders have refused to call out a minimum of two-day general strike action to send the neo-liberal policy to the dustbin.

Back to Mutallab, a product of the imbalanced class arrangement - which places a tiny rich few over the mass of working people - who is reacting to a higher class injustice - imperialism through terrorism, only the termination of the capitalist and imperialist system can ensure genuine justice the world over. Without it, one million and one Mutallabs will be produced by the imperialist system.

It is on this basis, that organized labour must close up its gulf with the mass of working people by organizing mass congresses - to give public hearing on deregulation as well as other issues, collate positions from local through state to national levels and put in place a committee of democratically elected workers from schools, industries, banks and farms - to organize strike actions and other activities. This elected committee of workers must also be engaged in mass orientation of workers on issues of collective interests, lead struggles to force government to fund public amenities and ultimately be built as a political movement - on the platform of labour's political machine (Labour Party) - to wrest power from the present corrupt ruling class and enthrone a democratic and egalitarian society where public resources will be used for public needs.

Really, the labour movement can only be able to sustain its crucial roles in working people's struggles after the paramount roles the civil society groups played in the anti-military struggle by democratizing its decision-making organs and reaching out to its rank and file. Equally, it has to create a virile political base lest it returns to its former days of oblivion.

On this score, the need to reposition the Labour Party from its current deformed state of being a trashcan for capitalist parties to a genuine mass-based workers' party is imperative. With the coming 2011 general elections, workers will take the broad road to power with a repositioned Labour Party, taken over by trade unions, pro-labour organizations and the mass of workers, peasants, artisans, market women and youth - as different from the present breeding terrain it is for widely-condemned capitalist politicians like Andy Uba in Anambra State.

Flowing from this is the more the reason for mass of workers, students, peasants and farmers with the trade unions to take over the party. This must be in full realization that the present Nigerian crisis can only be resolved politically, by putting in place a working class government that will reorganize society on genuine egalitarian and democratic basis. This will be the beacon to the mass of working people worldwide and finally terminate the current disorderly imperialist system.

Ademiluyi wrote from MediaCrest Nigeria, Ile Ife (ayo_ademiluyi@yahoo.com)



By Paulinus Brume-Jack

Yaradua's unspoken illness

It is appropriate at this stage in the orchestrated national anxiety about President Yaradua's health and capacity to continue governing the country to unmask the hidden motives of those actively involved in death-wishing and other ploys to get the President prematurely replaced. In this regard, we must remember that we have had similar bouts of national hysteria in the past; and they have all been whipped up by the same groups of people. The unmistakable common interest of those spinning the yarn of presidential incapacity is just to get President Yaradua out of the way so that another opportunity can arise to replace him. There is certainly no dispute about the peculiar circumstances surrounding the emergence of Umaru Musa Yaradua as Nigeria's President, especially Obasanjo's sinister choice of who he thought would be a short-lived lame duck Northern candidate and the singular political independence of the candidate from the entrenched cliques of established power brokers. The unspoken and most dreaded "illness" of President Umaru Yaradua therefore has little to do with his physical health.

If physical health is indeed so critical to leadership capacity, the governorship of Umaru Musa Yaradua in Katsina State would have provided more than enough evidence. It is rather puzzling to observe that the sheer scale of development witnessed during his tenure in Katsina State in

He has managed to bring about a qualitative transformation in the character of leadership in Nigeria, after decades of outright debauchery

spite of health challenges is a critical reference point that is calculatedly blanked out of assessments of his presidential performance capacity. In the same vein it is telling to recall that those who could not fathom how Umaru Musa Yaradua could literally isolate himself from so-called power brokers and cliques in Katsina State and still be so successful in governance persistently wished him dead whenever his health faltered.

This is exactly what is happening today. The only prominent political leaders who have volunteered mature comments to douse the contrived anxiety about the President's health and absence are those who are known to have no vested interests in politics and certainly no ambition to be president. All the others have either lent their voice to the hysteria or by their loud silence betrayed their bias against the survival of the Yaradua Presidency.

In the instant episode of the hyped hysteria over Mr President's capacity to govern it is revealing to note that ordinarily and in good faith there should

have been frank appreciation of his ability not just to accept OBJ's booby trap burden of leading Nigeria without notice but to have successfully restored such long lost national yearnings as rule of law, planned development, strategic priorities, transparency in governance, sustained anti-corruption drive, nationalistic pre-occupation of leadership, sober countenance and unprecedented intelligent insight into national problems and their solutions. He has managed to bring about a qualitative transformation in the character of leadership in Nigeria, after decades of outright debauchery.

Ordinarily we are not supposed to be fixated about the health of a President whose tangible achievements overshadow those of his supposedly healthier predecessor in the most critical areas of national development. Even the hitherto intractable Niger Delta insurgency which he inherited as part of the booby trap package with incalculable economic losses has been amazingly resolved neither with arms nor with million dollar ransoms but with sincere commitment and nationalistic motivation that even militants tried and trusted. Look at the issues of strategic economic significance that were previously ignored or left to rot such as the dredging of the River Niger, electricity and the rehabilitation of the national railways. Today it is no longer about whether these national problems will be addressed but rather we are witnessing a systematic implementation of projects that will lead to the reversal of the failures of leadership associated with the problems.

Look at the hopelessly inadequate access roads to the FCT which were callously ignored for eight years under healthy OBJ but are today being expanded into ten-lane highways. All these progressive national development projects are being vigorously executed in under three years of the Yaradua Administration but it is the "frail health" of the architect of these revolutionary achievements that is the only concern of the so-called opposition politicians.

This article is by no means exhaustive of the unprecedented record of achievements of President Yaradua but it provides an objective exposure of the unpatriotic and insincere motivations behind the media ambush of his presidency. It provides a diagnosis of the covert "sickness" that plagues the President but obviously has no effect on the capacity of his administration to apply intelligent thinking and focused action on addressing the seemingly intractable problems holding Nigeria hostage. President Yaradua's "sickness" stems from his unwavering allegiance to Nigeria and stoic independence from the obnoxious orbit of the displaced power-brokers and their cliques. His achievements are divinely ordained to show Nigerians what we stand to gain by banishing the clique of displaced power brokers and their power hungry allies from leadership of our great nation.

Brume-Jack, a teacher, wrote from Port Harcourt.

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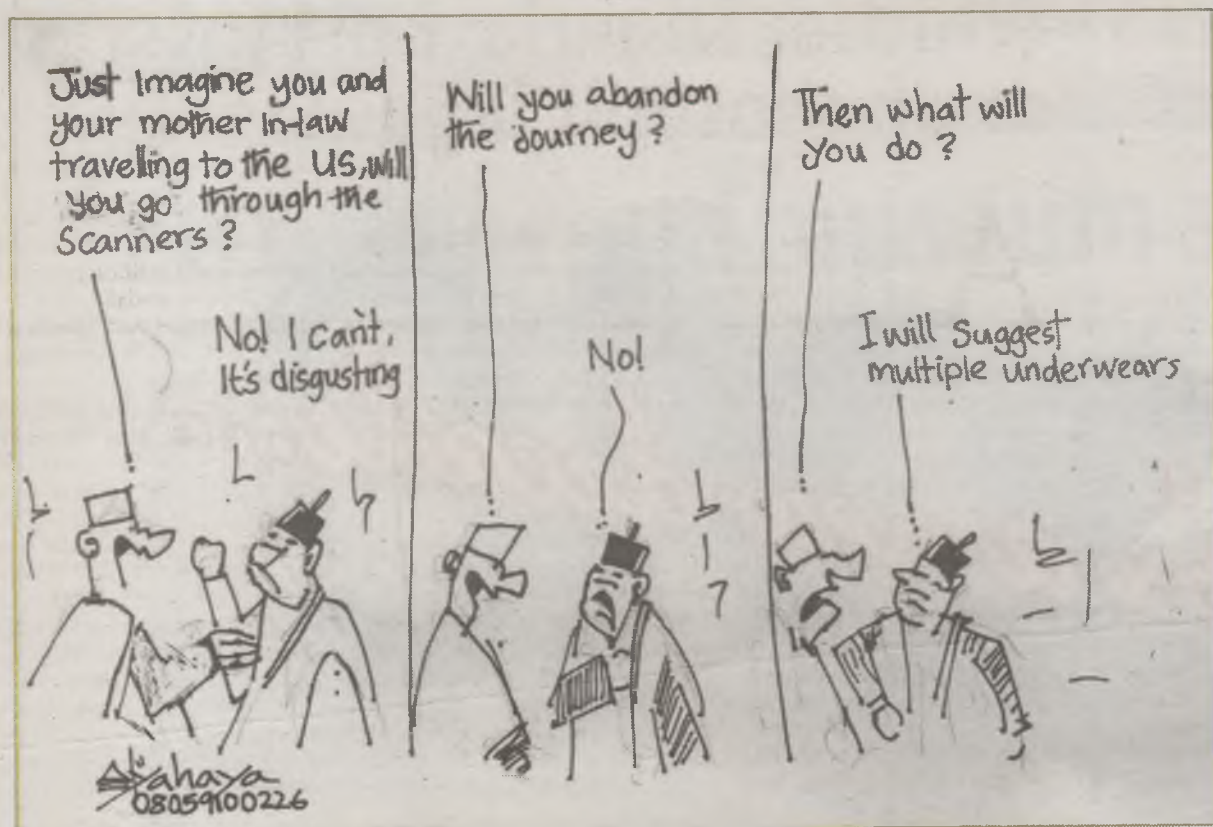


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The Pivot of Exports and Allied Interests



Your Letters

Battle for Taraba central senatorial zone

Taraba State is seen by many as simple, though ironically, very complex in many dimensions. With over 70 indigenous ethnic nationalities, high literacy rate and political enlightenment, diverse but robust cultures, it is, not surprising that politics in Taraba remains extra-ordinarily vibrant.

I am not from the state, but vast contacts and frequent vis-

its I have come to reasonably understand the political terrain of this relatively young and exciting state. Taraba is an excellent case study of a state with political accommodation in which a governor will emerge by consensus before facing the ballot box.

My interest was aroused on the politics of Taraba Central Senatorial zone where recently I saw a report on the senatorial ambition of Alhaji Mustapha Hamman Gabdo. Until becoming the Special Adviser to Taraba State governor on Political Affairs, Gabdo was best known as a banker and local government administrator, once being the chairman of Gashaka Local Government Area,

one of the five Local government Areas that make up the central senatorial zone of the state.

Gabdo may be eminently qualified to vie for any position of his choice, but my interest in this write-up is on the issues he raised when recently he hosted political associates at Protea Hotel, Abuja, to announce his interest in the senatorial seat. The aspirant lamented absence of federal institutions in the zone, which he ascribed to lame-duck representation of the senatorial constituency as the basis for his quest. He is eminently qualified.

Bello Bashir, 16A Liberia Road, Malali, Kaduna.

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Ride on, Afisha Umar Yusuf

I am with you.

IBRAHIM, Unguwar Dosa, Kaduna, 08037598528.

Yes, you're not alone

THANK you for your write-up on Passenger Haskell's testimony. Umar Faruk Mutallab might have been used to achieve a predetermined objective.

RAHMAT Lawal, 08035072970.

...And

PLEASE brainwash us with more American and its allies' conspiracies.

MUSA M. Gidado, Katsina, 07027076682.

Babel

IT'S a pity that after the alleged Nigerian bomb plot in the US, Nigerians are speaking in different voices, based on our usual sentiments: religion, tribe, region, etc. When are we

going to have and defend a common interest as united Nigerians?

ENESI Kareem, Abuja, 07064492284.

No sweat over terror listing

THE US needs Nigeria as much as we need them. Nigerians should not lose a single night's sleep because of US placement of Nigeria as one of the countries "of interest" when it comes to fighting the "war on terror". In fact, the US needs Nigeria more!

KABIR Sani, Yankaba, Kano, 08037043637.

El-Rufa'i...

...SHOULD shut up! If he does not have something better to say he should keep quiet. For his information, President Yar'adua in absentia is ten times better than the anarchy that el-Rufa'i subjected Nigerians to.

SALEM, 07041765349.

...Is right

HIS article on power failure is a good wake-up call; a country of 150 million people deserves more than 6000mw.

MOHAMMED Abdu Darma, ABU Zaria, 08062212607.

Phew! Positive news at last

SO Mr President had a gist with his VP? Allah be praised. May He also cure and grant him good health in good time so that he would continue with the good programmes he started.

MUHAMMAD Kasim, Kankara, 08034265603.

Dangerous

THEY said all we read is 'rumour' but rumour has a father that ceases to claim ownership when its mission is evil. Nigeria is being governed with rumour.

ONYEKE OC, 08069187580.

By Saleh Ashaka

Pray, who signed the 2010 Appropriation Act?

Nigeria has been without a president for nearly 50 days now. It's only in Nigeria that a thing like that can happen. Nigerians would know soon, no matter what those hideous people surrounding him are doing to deceive Nigerians. It's unfortunate that about six people are holding the other 150 million Nigerians hostage, by deceiving us on the true health condition of the president. How long can they go on doing that? Certainly not indefinitely.

How can this gang now explain the report that President Yar'adua is not and was never admitted to King Faisal Hospital and Research Centre in Jeddah and the shocking and mind-boggling story that the president never actually signed the 2009 Supplementary Appropriation Bill into law? The act of usurping the exclusive powers of the president to sign the Appropriation Bill into law amounts to the most brazen confrontation with the Nigerian Constitution.

The national assembly should investigate the authenticity of the signature on the supplementary budget and if found to be forged, those who hatched and carried out the forgery should be made to cool off in jail. Lawyers have warned that stiff penalty, including a life jail term, awaits any public official found to have forged the signature of the ailing president. A sitting judge has warned that the offence, if proven, could earn offenders a life jail term with no option of fine. He pointed at section 467, sub-section (1) of the Criminal Code to buttress his position.

On the other hand, one hundred legal practitioners under the auspices of Lawyers of Consciences have given President Umaru Yar'adua till January 31, 2010 to resign or be removed by the National Assembly, failing which the group said, they will be left with no alternative than to mobilize their learned colleagues and the Nigerian electorate to "take their destiny into their hands by any legitimate means possible."

The cabal want to buy more time before perfecting their next deception. Now they're telling us that Yar'adua may return this week in order to calm agitated and aggrieved Nigerians and to temporarily mellow the anxiety the whole Yar'adua's health episode has caused. The *Daily Trust* (01.01.2010) reported that "Yar'adua may return to Nigeria next week", quoting sources close to the Nigerian Embassy in Saudi Arabia. "Yar'adua is the first president in the nation's history that has not been able to address the nation directly on New Year's Day on account of indisposition", the report noted.

Goodluck Jonathan: For this writer, he's loyal to a fault, and that might be the reason why they're treating him so shabbily (like a house boy). All he can tell Nigerians on the New Year's Eve was that the President Yar'adua was still in control of Nigeria's affairs from his hospital bed in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. He added that Yar'adua might soon return to the country to continue his good works with renewed vigour and vitality. He also apologised for government's failure to deliver on its 6000MW promise. Jonathan, in the New Year message, also promised that there would be greater demand for accountability, transparency and performance from public officials in the New Year. The vice president must be told in no uncertain terms that we would all remember and hold him accountable on that.

It is high time that Nigerians found the strength and courage in 2010 and beyond, to say "no, not any more", to the deceit, lies, hypocrisy and selfishness of the corrupt ruling class, but do so without violence. The presidency is nobody's birthright. He, who's not fit, let another take his place. The lives of many Nigerians are on the line here; we need a president who would be on his seat attending to Nigeria's numerous problems, whoever that is, whether this would be Yar'adua or Jonathan, is of little interest to Nigerians at this point in time.

Ashaka wrote from No 13 Bauchi Road, Jos.

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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09-6726241, 6715364

Saving New Nigerian Newspapers

Last month's strike by staff of *New Nigerian* Newspapers once again brought home the fact that the once respected media organisation that publishes the *New Nigerian*, a formidable and enviable voice among its peers for nearly two decades from the mid-1960s, is still suffering abject neglect. The strike action was prompted by declining staff welfare, including the fact that for seven months its staff had not been paid their salaries, while retirees had not been paid their pension entitlements for a whole year. Though the Kaduna State governor, Alhaji Mohammed Namadi Sambo promptly saved the situation by giving out N10 million to the company to offset some of the liabilities, it is unfortunate that it had to come to this pass before the workers' statutory needs are attended to.

At a time when Northern governors have set up a foundation to immortalise the late Sir Ahmadu Bello, the first and only premier of the defunct region, is it not ironic that we are allowing one of his best legacies, launched with so much promise and enthusiasm on January 1, 1966, to wallow in want? The importance of the media in this day and age cannot be over-stated. Moreover, it is strange that in a part of the country that is seriously disadvantaged in terms of media ownership and coverage, we are allowing the once glorious and cherished *New Nigerian* stable to needlessly teeter on the brink of collapse.

The role played by *New Nigerian* in the first 20 years of its existence, in information dissemination and educational enlightenment of the people, will always remain a shining example of the heights to which media practice can be uplifted if it is manned by committed and competent staff as well as enjoys the necessary financial support. Though it became a shadow of its former self in the succeeding decades, its continued existence, despite declining fortunes, showed that it still played a major role in the life of nation, a fact which translated into abundant goodwill for it from northerners.

It is a thing of shame that though northern governors fought tooth and nail to prevent the company's proposed privatisation by the Obasanjo administration, they have proved totally, scandalously incapable of putting the company on an even keel for it to begin to stand on its own. Beyond paying lip service to it, and sending irregular stipends when the workers go on strike, as we saw recently, not one of the 19 state governments seems keen on doing something concrete to empower the company, through patronising its other potentials as paper and paper products manufacturing firm. If the governors cannot agree among themselves on what to do, they should admit defeat now and hand back the company to the federal government to conclude its privatisation. It is obvious that just two years after they wrested ownership of the company from the Federal government, claiming historical ties, they have been unable to move it forward.

The proposal by some prospective buyers to buy the company, but dump the newspaper must not even be entertained, because the newspaper is the life and soul of the company. When the late Sir Ahmadu Bello commissioned the newspaper in 1966, his main charge to the pioneer staff was "to tell the story of the North to the world, and in turn to tell us about the world." It will certainly amount to a betrayal of his legacy, to which we subscribe, to sell the company to those who will only strip it of choice property and dump the paper. Those state governors still interested in holding on to it, in partnership with private interests must immediately raise an emergency fund with which to finance and equip the company, which should henceforth be run by its full complement of board and management. The management of the company must start to run it as a profit-oriented enterprise through reviving the company's subsidiaries and working towards financial self-reliance, within given timeframe.

The board of directors needs to be in place quickly to oversee the affairs of the management ahead of the privatisation exercise.

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Whither Nigeria, best interest or phenotypic legalism? (I)

By Ngozichukwuka B. Ugo

As Nigerians of all creed, home and abroad, remain engrossed in prayers for the speedy recovery and restoration of our President, it is pertinent for us to critically and objectively analyze the ongoing political power play in the country, with a view to properly guiding the swinging pendulum to its proper destination, in the overall best interest of our dear country.

It is a fact of history that societies across the world, from Alaska to the Alps, from Cape Town to Cairo, have at one time or the other negotiated and renegotiated the social compact upon which they are built, to come up with best practices suitable for their peculiar existence. One of the British 1997 Labour government's most significant constitutional reforms was the introduction of devolved government for Scotland and Wales - legislation introduced partly to remedy the highly centralized structure of government in the United Kingdom, partly in response to claims that these areas had distinct political identities that should be accommodated by radical changes in the system of governance. Thus the devolution of power in Britain that led to the establishment of a parliament in Scotland and an assembly in Wales, are all various aspects of political integration, devolved government and power sharing.

Similarly, the concept of "Consociationalism" - a governmental system involving guaranteed group representation, often adopted for managing conflict in deeply divided societies, employed in the Netherlands with the goal of ensuring survival of power-sharing arrangements, avoidance of violence, governmental stability and survival of democracy, is equally viewed as being synonymous with power sharing.

Even the United States, that prides itself as the world's beacon of democracy maintains some convenient integrative form of negotiated governance arrangement. The restructuring of relationships between Blacks and Whites, between old and young, between Protestants (in their various denominations), Catholics and Jews - coupled with the resettlement of the bulk of the American population in small and medium-sized cities, within densely populated belts and the revival of questions as to America's proper role in world affairs, all represent nothing short of a renegotiation of the compact in the most fundamental sense.

In like manner, Nigeria is a deeply divided society with several lines of social divisions and bases of group identification, reflected on the number of ethnic and regional groups that make up the country. Since the winning of independence from Britain and the inauguration of the first Republic, the need to establish a stable system of federal democracy has

dominated the history of constitutional discourse and design in Nigeria. Throughout the military era, that began in 1966 and ended with the establishment of the second Republic (1979 - 1983), and from 1999 to date, the various efforts at entrenching civilian rule has searched for a federal arrangement that can accommodate its combustible ethnic, regional and religious divisions. Power sharing has remained one of the most persistent features of Nigerian politics and at the centre of the country's political continuity. Given that intense political competition by the ethno-regional elite groups had constituted a major source of

instability in Nigeria, efforts have been made to find ways to minimizing / mitigating conflicts and enhancing political stability. The search for stable inter-ethnic relations among Nigeria's multiple ethnic nations lend credence to the sharing of political power as a stimulant of political stability and a major source of inter-group stability in the country.

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instability in Nigeria, efforts have been made to find ways to minimizing / mitigating conflicts and enhancing political stability. The search for stable inter-ethnic relations among Nigeria's multiple ethnic nations lend credence to the sharing of political power as a stimulant of political stability and a major source of inter-group stability in the country.

Thus, in the course of Nigerian history, the political elite have creatively designed and sustained some form of power sharing arrangements, to guarantee ethnic / regional security; dating back from the truncated independence era alliance between the Northern Peoples Congress (NPC) and the National Council for Nigeria and Cameroon (NCNC), that produced Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe as the Governor-General, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa as the Prime Minister and Chief Obafemi Awolowo as the leader of opposition, to the equally truncated second Republic of 1979 to 1983, that saw the emergence of Alhaji Shehu Shagari as the executive President, Dr Alex Ekwueme as the Vice President, Dr Joseph Wayas as the Senate President etc, right to the third Republic that had Chief Olusegun Obasanjo as the executive President, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar as the Vice President, Chief Evans Enwerem as the then Senate President (with the various accompanying churns of replacements) and Alhaji Salisu Buhari (equally replaced) as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Nigerian civil war was largely attributable to the zero-sum political competition between the dominant elite groups in the 1950s and 1960s. Consequently, the post-war era witnessed an elite consen-

sus in favour of accommodation, equity and stability in resource distribution and political governance - a tolerable modality of mediating elite competition, reflecting the interests of both the dominant and marginal elite groups. As a result, Nigeria's constitution-making experiences have taken keen interest in developing and maintaining various structures and processes of power sharing. Virtually all the post-war Nigerian Constitutions (1979, 1989 and 1999), were embedded with power sharing clauses, ranging from the ones that provide for proportional distribution of political and bureaucratic offices - the federal character principle (Sections 14(3), 147 (3), 171 (1-5), 217 (3), Third Schedule Part 1-23 (a-b),

31 (a-b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999); to the application of the proportionality principle in the composition of the executive committees of political parties (Section 223 (2) of the 1999 Constitution); as well as the granting of territorial autonomy to groups in the form of federalism and creation of states (Sections 2 (2-3), 8 (1)) and the application of geographical distribution requirements for the election of the president and state governors (Sections 134 (1&2), 179 (2)).

Flowing from the above precedents, the current Nigerian ruling party - the People's Democratic Party (PDP), in ensuring that the delicate power sharing arrangement between the North and the South since its inception in 1998 is preserved, agreed that power is expected to rotate between the two regions at the end of each two presidential terms and entrenched a zoning formula to help build the necessary trust, sense of justice and fair play among the federating units, as envisaged by the constitution makers.

Based on this agreement, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo (southwest) ruled the country from 1999 to 2007, with Alhaji Atiku Abubakar (north east), with Chief Evan Enwerem (southeast) and Alhaji Salisu Buhari (north west) were elected as Senate President and Speaker of the House of Representatives respectively, while Chief Solomon Lar (Middle Belt) functioned as PDP Party Chairman.

To be cont'd.

Ugo is a UN conflict resolution expert and Visiting Professor at the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs.

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INNA LILLAHI WA INNA ILLAHI RAJI'UN

The Board, Management and Staff of NEXIM Bank wish to express our heartfelt sympathy to our Director, Alhaji Mohammed I. Babangida and the entire family of General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida (Rtd) GCFR, on the demise of their Matriarch, the Former First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr. (Mrs) Maryam Babangida which sad event occurred on Sunday, December 27, 2009 At Los Angeles California U.S.A.

Dr. (Mrs) Maryam Babangida
(1948 - 2009)

May Almighty Allah (SWT) grant her soul Aljannah Firdausi, Amin

Signed:

Mr. ROBERTS .U. ORYA

Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer,
NEXIM Bank

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INTERNATIONAL

Kenya deports radical Jamaican Muslim cleric

KENYA finally deported to Gambia a Jamaican Muslim cleric who is on a global terror watchlist and served four years in a British jail for inciting racial hatred, a minister said yesterday. Kenya police had tried to deport Abdullah al-Faisal, 45, to neighbouring Tanzania but Dar es Salaam rejected the move and the controversial imam was sent back to Nairobi international airport on Wednesday.

"We had problems deporting him because many countries, including the US, declined to have him even on transit. But he finally chose a country where he wanted to go," Immigration Minister Otieno Kajwang told reporters.

"He chose Gambia and we have deported him there this morning... In fact the information we have is that he has already landed there and Gambia has received him," Otieno added.

Faisal was arrested last week shortly after attending prayers at a mosque in the coastal city of Mombasa. Police and immigration officials said at the time they arrested the imam for violating immigration regulations by preaching. Faisal was arrested in Britain in 2003 after spending years urging his audiences to kill Jews, Hindus and Westerners.

At least 140 killed in south Sudan violence

AT least 140 people have been killed and 90 wounded in the remote troubled Wunchuei region of Warrap state in southern Sudan over the past week, a senior UN official said yesterday. Clashes, apparently between rival tribal groups, occurred some time since the beginning of the year but reports emerged only after a UN security team visited the remote area by aircraft two days ago.

"Local sources on the ground said that at least 140 people had been killed, 90 wounded and 30,000 head of cattle had been stolen," said Lise Grande, the UN Deputy Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in south Sudan. Grande said a military team of UN peacekeepers had left yesterday by vehicles to ascertain the exact situation on the ground. "This is a matter of deep concern," Grande told AFP.

The dead were from the Dinka people common in the area. Local sources suggested that a rival group from the Nuer people were responsible, but the report could not be immediately confirmed.

However, a string of recent raids has shocked many, with an apparent sharp increase in attacks on women and children, as well as the targeting of homesteads.

Somalia's army chief escapes bomb attack

SOMALIA'S military chief escaped a roadside bomb attack yesterday which killed at least one soldier in the war-torn capital Mogadishu, officials and witnesses said.

The bomb exploded as newly-appointed military chief Mohamed Gele Kahiye was riding in his vehicle in southern Mogadishu.

"The roadside bomb was targeting the Somali military commander but he escaped the attack. One of his security guards was killed," police spokesman Abdullahi Hasan Barise told a press conference.

We got information indicating that the apostate government is planning an offensive against the holy warriors, but with the help of Allah we will destroy their intentions

ference. "The attack was planned by the violent terrorists who were trying to assassinate the commander." The Al Qaeda-inspired Shebab militants claimed responsibility. "The attack was part of efforts to eliminate the apostate commanders," said a Shebab commander who did not want to be named.

"We got information indicating that the apostate government is planning an offensive against the holy warriors, but with the help of Allah we will destroy their intentions," he added.

A witness, Abdi Elmi, said several people were injured in the blast, adding that "the government forces opened fire in all directions after the explosion." The Shebab and its Hezb al-Islam allies have carried out scores of deadly attacks against the internationally-backed Somali transitional government and the African Union peacekeepers protecting it.



SOMALIA'S army chief General Mohamed Gele Kahiye.

Ugandan president urges softening of anti-gay bill

A provision that would impose the death penalty for some gays is likely to be removed from the proposed legislation following opposition from Uganda's president, the country's ethics minister said yesterday.

President Yoweri Museveni has told colleagues he believes the bill is too harsh and has encouraged his ruling National Resistance Movement Party to overturn the death sentence provision, which would apply to sexually active gays living with HIV

or in cases of same-sex rape. The proposed bill, though, says anyone convicted of a homosexual act would face life imprisonment and it is unclear whether Museveni supports that provision or not.

Gay rights activists say the bill promotes hatred and could set back efforts to combat HIV/AIDS in the conservative East African country. Protests already have been held in London, New York and Washington.

"The death penalty is likely to be removed," said James Nsaba

Buturo, Uganda's minister of state for ethics and integrity. "The president doesn't believe in killing gays. I also don't believe in it. I think gays can be counseled and they stop the bad habit."

Ruling party spokeswoman Mary Karoro Okurut said she also agrees with the president that some punishments in the bill should be dropped. But she said she will still push for a modified version of the bill when it comes to parliament in late February or early March.

"Although the president is against some parts of the bill, the bill has to stay," she said. "(Homosexuality) is not allowed in African culture. We have to protect the children in schools who are being recruited into homosexual activities."

Frank Mugisha, leader of Sex Minorities Uganda, said the gay-rights group will campaign for and support President Yoweri Museveni in the 2011 polls because of his opposition to the bill's harsher provisions.



THE PRESIDENCY THE GOVERNING BOARD

NIGERIAN NATIONAL MERIT AWARD

CALL FOR NOMINATION/APPLICATION FOR YEAR 2010

A. GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF THE NIGERIAN NATIONAL ORDER OF MERIT (NNOM)

- i. Nominations are invited for the Nigerian National Merit Award
- ii. The Nigerian National Merit Award, which is an Order of Dignity and distinct from the National Honours, was instituted to accord proper and due recognition for outstanding intellectual and academic attainments and contributions to the general development of Nigeria and is conferred on the recipients by the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- iii. The objective of the award is to stimulate and reward excellence in Science, Engineering/Technology, Medicine, Humanities, Arts & Culture and any other field of human endeavour.
- iv. The award is open to all citizens of Nigeria.
- v. Any Nigerian citizen of outstanding merit can be nominated by one or more Nigerian citizens. Any person may by himself/herself, where not sponsored by another person, apply to the Board for this purpose. Where two or more Nigerians are collaborating on any deserving undertaking, they can be similarly nominated for a joint award.
- vi. Nominations are valid only for the year of nomination. Candidates who have been previously nominated should state clearly additional work (s) done or new grounds for re-consideration.
- vii. In addition to its intrinsic value, a recipient will receive a cash prize, certificate and medal. The recipient is also entitled to use the acronym NNOM after his/her name.
- viii. The Governing Board will be guided by the following criteria:-
 - Selection will be made from a wide range of contemporary works which are innovative, creative, essentially Nigerian in content and of national and international distinction.
 - The candidate's achievement should be of benefit to the Nigerian society in particular and humanity in general.
 - The achievements may constitute a specific breakthrough in any field or may be of a cumulative nature.
 - The Award emphasizes distinct merit and upright morality, as this is the highest Merit Award in the country

NB; *Nominators must not make public the names of nominees.

B THE PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATION / APPLICATION

- i. Nominations shall be made strictly on the prescribed Nomination/Application format. Sponsors should provide brief information on themselves
- ii. All supporting documents including the nomination form should be sent in three (3) copies
- iii. Candidates with incomplete documents will not be considered.
- iv. Neither the Governing Board nor any of its Specialized

Committees of Assessors will entertain or enter into any correspondence with candidates or their sponsors as to the processing or fate of any Nomination/Application

- v. The nomination form is valid only within the year under consideration.

C. NOMINATION/APPLICATION FORMAT

1. NAME (S) OF CANDIDATE (S):	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME
2. CITIZENSHIP:			
CONTACTS:			
➤ Postal Address:			
➤ Phone:			
➤ E-mail:			
3. FIELD OF ENDEAVOUR			
4. BASIS/GROUNDS FOR NOMINATION:			
➤ Discovery:			
➤ Invention:			
➤ Innovation:			
➤ Others:			
5. DETAILS OF BASIS/GROUNDS FOR NOMINATION			
NB: Use additional papers if necessary			
6. NOMINATOR:			
➤ Name & Position/Title:			
➤ Contact Details:			
➤ Postal Address:			
➤ Phone:			
➤ E-mail:			
➤ Signature and Date:			
7. CO-NOMINATOR:			
➤ Name & Position/Title:			
➤ Contact Details:			
➤ Postal Address:			
➤ Phone:			
➤ E-mail:			
➤ Signature and Date:			
8. HAVE YOU BEEN PREVIOUSLY NOMINATED?			
➤ If yes, When?			
9. Candidates who have been previously nominated should state new grounds or additional works done since last nomination.			
10. signature of Nominor/Applicant			Date

D Nomination/Application format may either be collected at the NNMA Secretariat, or downloaded from the NNMA website, www.nnma.gov.ng. The format as advertised is also valid.

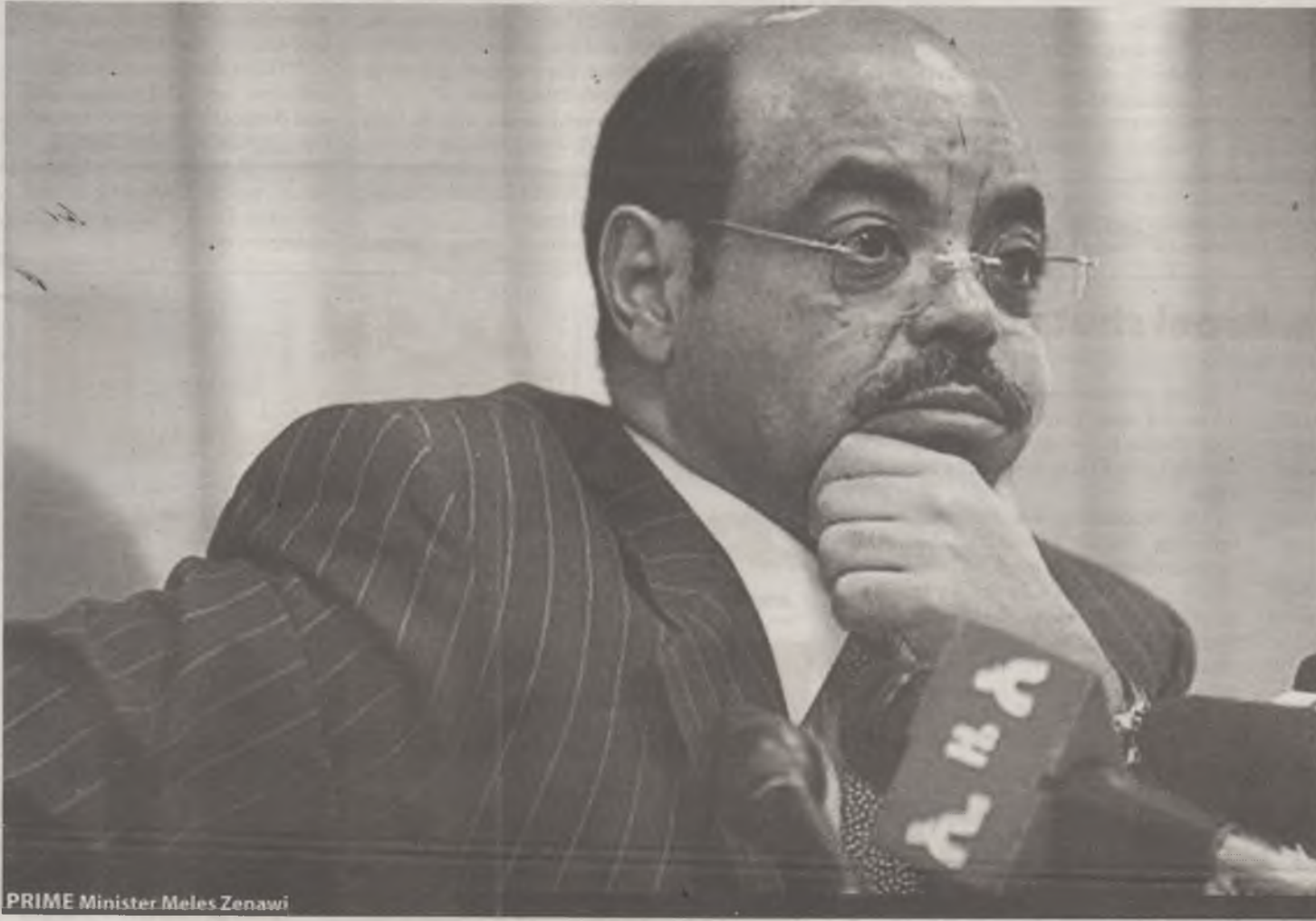
- (i) Only one nomination may be submitted per format
- (ii) Nomination/Application shall be accompanied by:
 - the curriculum vitae of candidate (s)
 - three copies each of all the cited publications patent (where applicable);
 - Citation and summary of achievement in not more than 500 words.
 - 3 portrait photographs of the candidate
- (iii) All nominations and supporting documents must reach the Secretary of the Nigerian National Merit Award on or before 8th April, 2010
- (iv) Nomination/Application and supporting documents shall be Addressed/delivered to:

The Secretary
Governing Board
Nigerian National Merit Award,
The Presidency,
Merit House, 3rd Floor,
No. 22, Aguiyi Ironsi Street,
Maitama, Abuja, Nigeria.
E-mail: info@nnma.gov.ng nnmaabuja@gmail.com
Website: www.nnma.gov.ng

(Signed)
Secretary,
Nigerian National Merit Award.

International

Ethiopia's large new dam: Electricity, water and controversy



PRIME Minister Meles Zenawi

By Is'haq Modibbo Kawu

ETHIOPIA'S new Gilgel Gibe III dam has been described by some people as the largest in Africa, while some others say it will be the second largest.

The size might not be the real issue. The dam is now under construction on the Omo River, about three hundred kilometers southwest of Addis Ababa. The new dam is the third in a series of dams: Gibe I was completed in 2004 while Gibe II is an associated power plant of Gibe I, which is still under construction.

The BBC reports that Gibe III is expected to produce 6500 GWh of energy per annum with the surplus energy from the plant projected to create \$407 million in revenue, quoting the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCo).

EEPCo is optimistic that neighbouring countries like Yemen, Djibouti, Kenya, Sudan, Uganda and Egypt, would be in position to purchase the excess energy from the dam. At the same time, the dam is believed to be likely to regulate the flow of the river, check its annual flooding and achieve an all-year round navigation.

EEPCo's environmental and social impact assessment similarly said that the approximately 200sq km reser-

voir of the dam will be used for fishery.

The points here have raised controversy, with International Rivers, a California-based environmental organization arguing that the seasonal floods are integral to the lifestyles of inhabitants of the Lower Omo Valley area. They number about half a million.

The environmental body similarly stated that "the practice of flood retreat cultivation is central to the lives of people along the Omo River... (with) family plant(ing) riverbank plots as the floods begin to retreat; harvesting takes place a few months later. The silt-laden floodwaters mean additional fertilizers are not needed", the BBC quotes the international organization.

Engineers working at the site of the dam say they are already about a third of the way through the project with the dam scheduled to come into functioning by 2012.

At completion, the dam's wall will reach 240 meters in height and will be the tallest of its kind in the world; that will be expected to hold back a reservoir that will be 150 kilometers long. Ethiopia's current generating capacity will be more than doubled.

The Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi was reported to have said that "we need that type of mega-project given the increased domestic demand and the

requirements of export... [It] would provide us with valuable foreign currency that will help with our balance of payments". In the rush to get the dam built, the Ethiopian government was said to have "short-circuited the usual internationally accepted procedures for these kinds of massive infrastructure projects (such as feasibility study followed by an environment and social impact assessment)", according to the BBC report.

The Ethiopian government did not get the financing support of bodies like the World Bank and the European Investment Bank, because Ethiopia broke international and domestic transparency rules by dealing directly with the Italian company handling the construction, Salini Costruttori. This was after competitive tenders and award procedures were also allegedly ignored. The head of EEPCo disagreed. "Africa is in the dark."

If we have to use very luxurious preconditions we wouldn't develop any hydro-power. Give us a choice. Should we stay in darkness? Should we avoid all this development?" Asked Mihert Debeba.

Even the science of the project has kicked up a lot of controversy, with the famous Kenyan ecologist, Richard Leakey, weighing in against an impact study carried out by Ethiopian govern-

ment agencies: "The scientists that I've shown (the EIA) to some of whom have worked in Ethiopia for years and may have even advised the Ethiopian government at some point-suggest it is fatally flawed in terms of its logic, in terms of its thoroughness, in terms of its conclusions", in Leakey's words.

Leakey further says that the dam is going to affect a huge number of people who have no voice, and this group includes the Mursi, one of about two dozen different peoples who depend on the Omo River's annual cycle of flood and recession for their survival.

The local people know that the flooding is central to their lives but are worried that not much has issued forth from government about their fate. On the other hand, the government is said to believe that things will continue just as they, except that "the dam will allow the authorities to manage the timing and the height of the flood in a way that nature never did".

The critics are projecting that conflicts are likely to intensify over resources that will become scarce in the wake of the disruptions and dispossessions from the planned irrigation agricultural schemes downstream. At least this is the view of the African Resources Working Group, said to be a col-

lection of European, American and East African academics.

The working group said the post-dam construction plans of the Ethiopian government "will precipitate waves of new conflicts among groups already competing with one another over the shrinking natural resources base available to all of them".

The Oxford university anthropologist, Marco Bassi also said that the various ethnic groups of the area had developed sophisticated agricultural techniques adapted to their circumstances which aided their survival over centuries.

"Each wet season, the riverside communities retreat to higher ground, waiting for the flood that inevitably comes.

Once the waters retreat, the communities retreat to higher ground, waiting for the flood that inevitably arrives. Once the waters retreat, the communities move back to plant their crops on the damp and newly replenished soils. Their cattle feed on the fresh grasses.

The higher the flood, the more land is inundated, and the more becomes available to farm. They will not be able to... deal with this change. They will simply die", the BBC quoted Marco Bassi as saying.

The Ethiopian government does not accept these pessimistic assessments, with the Prime minister, Meles Zenawi arguing that the dam will increase "the amount of water in the river system. It completely regulates flooding in the Omo (River) which has been a major problem".

What seems obvious is that when the new Ethiopian dam comes on stream in 2012, it will be a feat of engineering success which hopefully will produce enough electricity for Ethiopia with a surplus that might also be exported to neighbouring countries to earn foreign exchange.

What is in doubt is the long term effect of the dam on the livelihood of traditional communities that have existed for hundreds of years maintaining a precarious existence with nature and learning a creative balance with nature to support their ways of life.

The new dam will re-order those ways of life forever; but the point of argument is that while the bureaucratic state system believes the effects will be positive, the local communities and environmental activists fear for the worst.

Ethiopia's giant dam will provide power supply in a few years time and its water will support irrigation but it is clear that it will also be awash in a lot of controversy for years to come.

International

Afghan suicide bomber kills eight

A suicide bomber killed eight people and wounded 24 others in an eastern Afghan town yesterday, an official said, hours after a provincial governor survived a blast in a nearby Taliban hotspot.

A bomber on foot detonated his explosives-filled jacket in front of a branch of the Kabul Bank in downtown Gardez, the capital of Paktia province, at 4:30pm (1200 GMT), said Rohullah Samon, a spokesman for the Paktia governor.

"This was a suicide attack. So far we know that eight people are dead, but that figure could change," he said, adding that the target appeared to be a private security convoy passing at the time. "The head of a security company... was moving with his convoy (of vehicles) when he was attacked by a suicide bomber wearing a suicide vest," Samon said. The dead included the security company manager, two of his guards, a butcher, two young girls

and two other civilians. "All were killed on the spot... 24 other civilians were wounded," he added.

Suicide attacks are a hallmark of the Taliban, who are waging an increasingly virulent insurgency aimed at toppling the Afghan government in Kabul and destabilising the rest of the impoverished country.

NATO and the United States have 113,000 troops deployed to help the government fight the militants, who are concentrated in

the south and east of Afghanistan, but are spreading their footprint further north and west.

Another 40,000 troops are due to arrive in the country this year, and the Taliban have vowed to match the international surge with one of their own.

In recent weeks, attacks have escalated, with civilians bearing the greatest burden of Taliban tactics, which also include remote-controlled bombs.

The militant group claimed

responsibility for the Gardez attack, and also an incident earlier Thursday when a bomb planted in a rubbish bin wounded the acting governor of eastern Khost province and six other officials.

"The explosives were placed in a dustbin behind the compound wall outside the governor's house," the interior ministry said in a statement. Shards of glass injured seven people including acting governor Tahir Khan Sabari, the statement added.

Gaza fires mortars, Israel shuts crossing

GAZA militants fired at least 10 mortar shells at Israel yesterday, a day after Israel announced it successfully tested a high-tech shield against future mortar and rocket attacks from the Hamas-ruled territory. Once installed later this year, the Iron Dome system could deprive Hamas of an important means of threatening Israel.

The Islamic militants have fired thousands of rockets and mortars at Israeli border communities over the years, causing relatively few casualties but sowing fear among hundreds of thousands of civilians in their range.

Israel's announcement of the new rocket defense came as Egypt stepped up efforts to cut off hundreds of smuggling tunnels by

building an underground steel wall along its border with Gaza. The tunnels help keep Hamas in power by bypassing a border blockade of Gaza imposed by Israel and Egypt.

On Wednesday, hundreds of stone-throwing Hamas loyalists clashed with Egyptian troops at the border. The two sides briefly exchanged fire, leaving an Egyptian guard dead and seven Gazans wounded, three of them seriously. Egypt sent a stern message to Hamas. "Egypt warns that its patience has limits," said Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hossam Zaki. "Any other attempt to provoke the Egyptian security will have its consequences."

VACANCY! VACANCY!! VACANCY!!!

A medium size Polythene and Water Bottling company located in Abuja have declared vacancies for the following positions:

A. GENERAL MANAGER:

Interested candidates must know that he/she will be the Chief Operating and Administrative Officer of the company and also reporting to the Board on all activities of the company. He /she should possess the following qualities:

1. B.Sc or HND in Production Management, Business, Engineering or Accountancy/Accounting.
2. Working experience of not less than 7years in similar organization.
3. Age not less than 40years.

B. PRODUCTION MANAGER:

Interested candidates must be technically sound in Plant & Machineries Operations and Management. He/she should possess the following qualities:

1. B. Sc or HND in Mechanical or Production Engineering with five [5] years experience or OND in Mechanical or Production Engineering with Seven [7] years experience.
2. Age not less than 30years.

C. MARKETING MANAGER:

Interested candidates must be very versatile and knowledgeable in marketing principles and strategies for meeting targets and goals. The candidates must possess the following qualities:

1. B. Sc or HND in Business Administration, Marketing, Economics or any of the Social Sciences. Membership of relevant professional body is an added advantage.
2. Having working experience of not less than five years.
3. Age not less than 30 years.

All interested and qualified candidates should apply within one week from today through the following e-mail address: jdriangulu@yahoo.com

Signed
MANAGEMENT



IRANIAN foreign minister Manouchehr Mottaki, bottom left, and his Iraqi counterpart Hoshyar Zebari hold a joint press conference, in Baghdad, Iraq, yesterday.

Iran foreign minister in Iraq over border dispute

THE Iranian foreign minister visited Iraq yesterday to try and resolve rising tensions over the border between the two countries, officials said.

Iranian troops have been stationed near Iraq's al-Fakkah oil field along the two countries' disputed border since Dec. 17. Iraqis in several cities have held demonstrations demanding their government take action. Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari said the two countries will begin three weeks of bilateral meetings aimed at resolving the dispute.

"We have agreed to normalize the border situation between the two countries and return to the situation as it was before," Zebari told a joint news conference with Manouchehr Mottaki, his Iranian counterpart.

Zebari said Mottaki's visit was an "indication that there is an honest desire

to find solutions to the border dispute." Mottaki said the Iranian leadership was "willing and determined to solve the border dispute."

Neither minister gave details on the makeup of the committees or how the standoff was likely to be resolved. Mottaki later met Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and President Jalal Talabani.

Both countries are majority Shiite and have been eager to play down potential problems, especially over their 870-mile (1,400-kilometer) border. They fought a 1980-88 war that was sparked in part by border tensions. The late dictator Saddam Hussein was in power in Iraq at the time.

Iran has made no secret of its wish to see al-Maliki ally his Shiite-led bloc with other major Shiite-led groups after the vote. Such a move would consolidate Shiite political power in Iraq.



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & WATER RESOURCES

PRESS RELEASE

IMPLEMENTATION OF A SUSTAINABLE AND ECONOMICALLY VIABLE STRATEGY FOR CONTROL OF TRANSBOUNDARY PESTS IN 12 FRONTLINE STATES: SOKOTO, KEBBI, ZAMFARA, JIGAWA, KANO, KATSINA, BORNO, YOBE, ADAMAWA, TARABA, BAUCHI AND GOMBE

Agriculture Pests such as quelea birds, locusts and grasshoppers etc are a major impediment to profitable livestock and crop production in Nigeria and the West African sub region. These transboundary pests are a threat to food security and of increasing global public concern. They migrate across national and international borders and are responsible for an estimated 40% of agricultural produce losses annually.

Over the years, the Federal and State Governments have been involved in the control of these pests through the provision of aerial spraying, use of pesticides for ground control and manpower development. These interventions have not achieved optimum results due to challenges like inadequate funding for operations, ineffective management, lack of synergy, ineffective collaboration with other stakeholders and sustainability of interventions.

In order to address the above challenges, the Federal Government in collaboration with State Governments concerned has agreed to partner in the implementation of a joint sustainable and economically viable strategy for the control of transboundary pests in the 12 frontline States namely: Sokoto, Kebbi, Zamfara, Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Taraba, Bauchi and Gombe.

In furtherance of the above, a memorandum of understanding spelling out the funding commitments by the Federal and frontline State Governments as well as roles and responsibilities of other stakeholders has been developed. To kick start and activate this collaboration, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources is funding 60% of the intervention while the States concerned are expected to fund the remaining 40%. The cost of intervention for the 2009/2010 cropping season is as presented below;

SN	STATES	TOTAL PESTICIDES NAIRA	TOTAL FLIGHT HRS NAIRA	GRAND TOTAL NAIRA	STATES CONTRIBUTION NAIRA
1	SOKOTO	42,310,300	17,225,000	59,535,300	23,814,120
2	KEBBI	61,840,300	25,175,000	87,015,300	34,806,120
3	ZAMFARA	58,590,000	23,850,000	82,440,000	32,976,000
4	KANO	29,290,300	11,925,000	41,215,300	16,486,120
5	JIGAWA	58,590,000	23,850,000	82,440,000	32,976,000
6	KATSINA	22,780,300	9,275,000	32,055,300	12,822,120
7	BAUCHI	29,299,700	11,925,000	41,224,700	16,489,880
8	GOMBE	42,310,300	17,225,000	59,535,300	23,814,120
9	BORNO	52,080,000	21,200,000	73,280,000	29,312,000
10	YOBE	58,590,000	23,850,000	82,440,000	32,976,000
11	ADAMAWA	45,570,000	18,550,000	64,120,000	25,648,000
12	TARABA	39,060,000	15,900,000	54,960,000	21,984,000
	TOTAL	540,311,200	219,950,000	760,261,200	304,104,480

The Federal Government is committed in its effort to achieve food self sufficiency and food security for its teeming populace and attaches huge importance to interventions like this. The Ministry therefore requests the cooperation of the frontline State Governments and indeed all other stakeholders to give this intervention the priority it deserves.

U. M. ABDULLAHI
Ag. Permanent Secretary
 For: Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources

THE CAPACITY IN YARADUA

Fellow Nigerians, we have been watching the way some of our politicians are vigorously trying to create the impression that our humble President Umaru Musa Yaradua lacks the capacity to perform as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria just because he is recuperating in a hospital. We believe it is quite normal for a human being to fall sick, go to hospital for treatment, recuperate and resume normal daily activities. Those who are making a mountain out of the molehill of President Umaru Musa Yaradua's health are therefore only exploiting this normal human characteristic for cheap and selfish political opportunism of desperately seeking a vacancy where none exists because there is no other tangible ground to question the capacity of President Umaru Musa Yaradua.

We wish to draw the attention of those defeated and displaced politicians whose utterances and activities amount to the civilian version of coup plotting that President Umaru Musa Yaradua has been Nigeria's President for almost three years during which he performed the onerous functions of his office creditably well, addressing various national issues and resolving national challenges. Our question to these disgruntled politicians is : DOES A BRIEF PERIOD OF ILLNESS WIPE AWAY THE ACHIEVEMENTS RECORDED IN THREE YEARS OF THE YARADUA PRESIDENCY ?

A RANDOM RECOLLECTION OF SOME OF THE SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF PRESIDENT UMARU MUSA YARADUA WILL SHOW THAT INDEED HE HAS THE CAPACITY NOT ONLY TO BE NIGERIA'S PRESIDENT BUT TO MOVE THE NATION FORWARD, ESPECIALLY IN AREAS WHERE WE HAVE WITNESSED YEARS OF STAGNATION :

- FOR THE PAST THREE DECADES SINCE NIGERIA'S TEXTILE INDUSTRY NOSE-DIVED INTO VIRTUAL EXTINCTION NOTHING TANGIBLE HAS BEEN DONE TO REVIVE THIS VERITABLE ECONOMIC LIFELINE.

WITHIN THREE YEARS OF LEADERSHIP COMMITTED TO NATIONAL PROGRESS, THE YARADUA ADMINISTRATION PACKAGED AN EFFECTIVE REVITALIZATION STRATEGY WHICH INCREASED THE FUND FROM N70 BILLION TO N100 BILLION, DISBURSED N10 BILLION TO KICK START IT AND EARMARKED ANOTHER N10 BILLION FOR DISBURSEMENT IN THE 2009 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET.

- IN 2007 WHEN PRESIDENT YARADUA ASSUMED OFFICE, THE NIGER DELTA INSURGENCY HAD BECOME A CIVIL WAR, SPREADING BEYOND THE DELTA CREEKS AND CRIPPLING THE CRUDE OIL ECONOMIC JUGULAR OF THE NATION, WITH NO END IN SIGHT.

PRESIDENT YARADUA STUDIOUSLY ANALYSED THE SITUATION, ENDED THE MILLION DOLLAR HOSTAGE RANSOME RACKET AND UNFOLDED A LANDMARK AMNESTY/RECONCILIATION AGENDA THAT HALTED HOSTILITIES, RESTORED THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR RESUMING OIL PRODUCTION THEREBY BOOSTING REVENUE AND BROUGHT THE MILITANTS FROM THEIR ARMED STRUGGLE IN THE CREEKS TO THE PRESIDENTIAL VILLA TO DEMONSTRATE SINCERITY OF PURPOSE AND COMMITMENT TO REINTEGRATING THEM INTO PROJECT NIGERIA

- RIVER NIGER'S HUGE ECONOMIC POTENTIALS HAVE BEEN NEGLECTED SINCE INDEPENDENCE EXCEPT FOR HYRO-ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION DESPITE GLARING NEED TO DIVERSIFY THE NATION'S ECONOMIC BASE AND PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF BULK TRANSPORTATION ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

THE MUCH-TALKED- ABOUT DREDGING OF THE RIVER NIGER HAS SINCE COMMENCED AND IS BEING VIGOROUSLY EXECUTED TO FACILITATE WATER TRANSPORTATION AS ONE OF THE MAIN POLICY THRUSTS OF THE YARADUA ADMINISTRATION AS OUTLINED IN PRESIDENT YARADUA'S SEVEN POINT AGENDA

- ONE OF THE MAJOR OBSTACLES TO GROWTH OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY IS THE NOTORIOUSLY DILAPIDATED FEDERAL ROADS NETWORK ACROSS THE COUNTRY WHICH HAVE CONTINUED TO DETERIORATE DESPITE HUGE EXPENDITURE **IN AN UNPRECEDENTED MOVE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, PRESIDENT YARADUA RECENTLY APPROVED THE AWARD OF CONTRACTS TO REPUTABLE FIRMS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF 23 IMPORTANT FEDERAL ROADS ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN ONE SINGLE PACKAGE**

- EPILEPTIC POWER SUPPLY HAS BEEN THE BANE OF SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL VENTURES IN NIGERIA FOR DECADES DUE TO LACK OF PLANNING AND NEGLECT OF EXISTING INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES FOR GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRICITY

FOR THE FIRST TIME A CAREFULLY PLANNED STRATEGY FOR THE PROGRESSIVE RESTORATION OF RELIABLE AND ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY IN NIGERIA IS BEING IMPLEMENTED AS A RESULT OF WHICH AN INITIAL TARGET OF 6000 MEGAWATTS IS 80 PERCENT MET WITH AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME OF INVENTORY, UPGRADE AND MAINTENANCE OF VITAL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

- SECURITY OF LIVES AND PROPERTY HAS BEEN A THREAT TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE COUNTRY AND THE NIGERIA POLICE FORCE IS VIRTUALLY OVERWHELMED DUE TO INADEQUATE TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT FOR EFFECTIVE DISCHARGE OF ITS DUTIES

THE YARADUA ADMINISTRATION REINTRODUCED THE POLICE AFFAIRS MINISTRY TO GIVE TOP PRIORITY TO MATTERS AFFECTING THE DESIRED EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE OF THE NIGERIA POLICE AND THE IMPACT IS ALREADY BEING FELT IN THE MASSIVE PROCUREMENT OF CRIME-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT, STRENGTHENING OF THE EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND ADEQUATE ATTENTION TO THE TRAINING AND WELFARE OF OFFICERS AND MEN

- NEGLECT OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY, ESPECIALLY THE PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY OF THE MAJORITY OF PEASANT FARMERS, HAS RESULTED IN OVERDEPENDENCE ON IMPORTS AND IMPAIRED FOOD SECURITY

THE CONFIDENCE OF THE MAJORITY OF FARMERS HAS BEEN RESTORED BY THE YARADUA ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO THE TIMELY PROCUREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF ADEQUATE FERTILIZERS AND OTHER INPUTS AS WELL AS EMBARKING ON A BOLD PROGRAMME OF BUILDING CAPACITY FOR STORAGE AND PROCESSING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

THESE ARE SOME OF THE NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS THAT READILY COME TO MIND IN ANY OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE PERFORMANCE CAPACITY OF PRESIDENT UMARU MUSA YARADUA SINCE ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE IN 2007. WE BELIEVE THIS IMPRESSIVE TRACK RECORD IN ADDRESSING LONG-NEGLECTED NATIONAL PROBLEMS SHOULD NOT BE COVERED UP BY UNNECESSARY EXAGGERATION OF THE HEALTH CHALLENGES OF A PRESIDENT WHO HAS ACHIEVED SO MUCH. IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST, ALL NIGERIANS ARE PRAYING FOR HIS FULL RECOVERY AND RESUMPTION OF DUTIES SO THAT HE CAN FULFILL THE PLEDGES CONTAINED IN HIS SEVEN POINT AGENDA FOR MOVING NIGERIA AHEAD. DEFINITELY PRESIDENT YARADUA HAS THE CAPACITY PERFORM EVEN BETTER.

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PIC: OLADIPUPO ODUNEWU



CENTRAL Bank Governor Sanusi Lamido, Chairman CRC/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UBA Mrs Angela Nwabuko and Mr. Victor Osadehin, Executive Director, UBA at the formal launching of Credit Information Report by CRC Credit Bureau Limited in Lagos, yesterday.

CBN issues fresh guidelines to banks on lending

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

THE governor of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Lamido Sanusi Lamido said yesterday that henceforth banks operating in Nigeria must obtain credit report from at least two credit bureaus before granting any loan facility to their customers.

Sanusi, at the launch of CRC Credit Bureau Limited in Lagos also disclosed that the apex bank's would not rest until all those involved in criminal banking activities in the country are brought to book.

He said credit bureau allows for better risk management, credible risk analysis and report. The major challenge facing credit bureau in Nigeria is that of initial capital, getting the support of stakeholders using the bureau, but the CBN, he said would help in this regards.

He said CBN is committed to its reform of the banking sector, adding that nobody can break the law without being brought to book and no matter what it takes and no matter how long it takes, we will not allow people to benefit from the proceeds of crime. He said: "We are trying to send a clear message that nobody can break the law without being brought to book and no matter what it takes and no matter how long it takes, we will not allow people to benefit from the proceeds of crime".

Sanusi said CBN has adopted a term limit for the banks Chief Operating Officers

"and we do hope that the CEO will start the process of succession most especially those that have been in the office for a very long time".

Sanusi said CBN under the immediate past governor, Charles Soludo did not conduct a single examination on the banks immediately after consolidation to verify their financial capacity. "It is time for me to admit that since consolidation in 2005, CBN did not conduct a single routine examination of the 14 banks, also evidence now exist that complacent among banking supervision concern expressed by NDIC of danger were exactly not acted upon in good time. Instead, we laid too much emphasis on drama, quantity and less emphasis on quality of service. Banking is about management, governance and trust", he said.

In order to move and for the vision 20:2020 to succeed the banking sector must be adequately repositioned to support the economy. "Vision 20:2020 vision will remain allusion without adequately repositioning of the banking system to support the economy. The bottom line is that we must get our banking system right in order to get our economy right", he said.

CBN, he said had gone through a comprehensive process of restructuring and organisation review, facilitated by an independent consultants.

"The result includes a far reaching organisation restructure which has created

a structure that is more operationally efficient, reflective of globally and international standards. We also implementing some major policy changes including implementation of consolidation risk based supervision which is already being carry out in two of our internationally acceptable rules, a comprehensive review of provisional guideline for margin loans, we have created risk department for micro guideline, strengthening of institutionally regulation coordination through the financial sector regulatory committee, strengthening of our reporting regime. Institutionalising corporate governance for both regulators and operators alike", he said.

Sanusi said in addition to the policy and social changes in the banking sector, CBN is establishing Asset Management company through which CBN will buy back toxic assets from banks currently in need and return capital to the banks, improve their liquidity and prepare the ground for the CBN to exit from the banks. "We don't want to stay there forever", he said. "Given the importance of disclosure towards effective risk management we are making changes in the areas of reportage. We are going to send memo on the minimum disclosure requirements for lenders accounts in the next couples of weeks and they will be extremely comprehensive", he said.

New SEC DG resumes

By Sunday Williams

THE new Director-General of the Nigerian Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Ms Arunma Oteh resumed office yesterday at SEC headquarters in Abuja.

Speaking at her first meeting with the senior management staff of the Commission, the Director General promised to direct all her energy towards fulfilling the Commission's mission of developing a capital market that is fair, transparent, efficient and that is comparatively the best in Africa and the world.

She said her envisaged reforms in SEC would be anchored on the five pillars of integrity, restoration of confidence in the market, building institutional capacity, broadening and deepening the market, as well as instituting transparent regulations.

A statement from SEC said while observing that absence of transparency undermines the market and soils reputation, Ms Arunma said she is committed to eliminating all incidences of sharp practices in the market.

She said: "We must continue to send the right signals about the critical importance of integrity and transparency. We have to set high standards in regulatory enforcement and deepen the market in terms of new products and in relation to the equity and fixed income markets, as vehicles of resource mobilization for development."

Ms Oteh explained that the capital market is a critical vehicle for nation's development, saying that she will also focus on building a functional, dynamic and vibrant capital market towards advancing the 7-point agenda of President Umaru Musa Yáaradu'a.

As a way forward for SEC, Ms Oteh who until recently was Vice-President (Corporate Services) at the African Development Bank (ADB) told senior the management to brace up for the far-reaching reforms of the market, be innovative, as well as upscale capacity to restore the much needed confidence in the market. "We owe it to all investors-Nigerian and foreigners that the markets are first class. We will focus on the immediate challenges, the margin transactions, the Asset Management Company, investor protection and enforcement."

The SEC DG commended the management under the acting DG Daisy Ekinhe for holding fort during a most troubling and challenging period in the life of the Commission.

Welcoming the new DG, Ms Diasy Ekinhe admitted the challenging period the Commission went through especially last year but acknowledged that the valuable lessons learnt during the episode would steer SEC in a positive direction.

She said fundamental structures had been put in place and what is important in moving forward is ensuring they are solidified to avert the mistakes of the past.



MS Arunma Oteh

CBN EXCHANGE RATES				BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES	
31/12/2009					
	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)	BUYING	
CFA	0.3048	0.3148	0.3248	DOLLAR.....	N153
DANISH KRONER	28.4713	28.5681	28.6649	EURO.....	N220
EURO	211.9711	212.6916	213.4121	POUNDS.....	N253
POUNDS STERLING	238.3167	239.1268	239.9368	SELLING	
RIYAL	39.2267	39.36	39.4933	DOLLAR.....	N154
SDR	230.6087	231.3926	232.1764	EURO.....	N222
SWISS FRANC	144.1592	144.6492	145.1392	POUNDS.....	N255
US DOLLAR	147.1	147.6	148.1	Source: S&P Bureau de Change, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja.	
WAUA	230.0676	230.8496	231.6316		
YEN	1.5916	1.5971	1.6025		

Stock Market Index	
Date:	Thursday, January 7, 2010
Index:	21,246.21
Deals:	6,708
Volume:	428,912,063
Value:	N 1,957,064,363.28
Cap.:	N 5,089,770,664,617.75

Business

DPR seals 26 filling stations in Plateau

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

PLATEAU Field Office of the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) has sealed 26 filling stations in different places within Jos and Bukuru environs that defaulted against rules and regulations in the mar-

keting of petroleum products.

Speaking with newsmen Wednesday in Jos, head of DPR task force Hassan Mohammed said they have also arrested nine people and kept them under police custody and they will prosecute them at the end of investigation.

He said they embarked on the exercise after they gave a warning to the illegal operators to legalize their activities and to stop selling fuel above government approved price but they refused.

He said they removed the pump and accessories of Judduco filling station along Bauchi Road.

He said they closed five illegal stations along Domkat Bali Road and sealed one licensed filling station called Jobinna Kuru Jos twice for selling the commodity above government price.

A member of the team Jamilu Aliyu said they invited the Police and men of the secu-

city services to accompanied them in order to prevent the breakdown of law and order, adding that the exercise will be extended to all the 17 local government areas of Plateau state in order to sanitize the sector and help the public to get fuel conveniently.

Zamfara distributes 10,000 tonnes of fertilisers for irrigation farming

THE Zamfara Government has commenced the distribution of 10,000 tonnes of assorted fertilisers to farmers for irrigation farming.

Gov. Aliyu Shinkafi said on Thursday at Talata Mafara at the launching of this year's dry season farming that government had spent about N1.2 billion on the purchase of the commodity.

He said government had approved N2,800 as subsidised price for 50kg bag of the commodity, and warned that only genuine farmers interested in irrigation farming would benefit from the gesture.

Shinkafi, represented by his deputy, Alhaji Muhktar Anka, said government had also made available 500 water pumps for distribution to farmers at a subsidised rate of N20,000 per unit.

"Dry season farming contributes immensely in complementing the wet season farming, especially in covering any shortfall in food and animal feed production in the state," he added.

The governor said more than 2,540 Fadama user groups, comprising irrigation, crop and livestock farmers as well as fishermen, agro processors and bee keepers had been registered.

He announced that government, in collaboration with the World Bank, had so far disbursed about N36 million to registered groups to support the Fadama 111 project in the state. (NAN).



ALHAJI Musa Batari, Director Exchange and Trade Department, Central Bank of Nigeria, Mrs Serah Alade Deputy Governor, Economic Policy, Central Bank of Nigeria and Mr. Segun Sanni, President, Nigeria Association of Custodians, during the courtesy visit of the association to the CBN in Abuja recently.

'N10bn invested in catfish production in 2009'

THE Catfish Farmers Association of Nigeria (CAFAN) said that N10 billion was invested in catfish production in 2009.

Chief Tayo Akingbolagun, the association's President, made this known in Lagos yesterday.

Quoting statistics from government sources, Akinbolagun said the investment raised more than 160,000 tonnes of catfish and a return of about N24 billion.

He said that in spite of steady

improvement in aquaculture, the government still needed to do more by creating an enabling environment for the sub-sector to thrive.

"The main problem is marketing; the government must have a definite and purposeful approach to the issue of marketing."

"No matter how much the government puts in place for investment, if there's no corresponding policy for market-

ing, the industry will not move, when there is no sales, there won't be production," Akingbolagun said.

The president pledged that the association would take the issue of marketing and pricing as its priority this year.

He urged the Federal Government to allocate space at the headquarters of each local government council where farmers could sell catfish directly to consumers at controlled prices.

On fish feeds, Akinbolagun said the Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMR) had started producing palletised, floating and extruded feeds, which were sold at low cost to fish farmers.

"A lot of fish farmers have embraced this, last year we had problems feeding our stocks because of inadequate feeds and high cost of imported feeds," Akingbolagun said.

(NAN)

Kano partners private firm on N1bn fish market

From Halima Musa, Kano

THE Kano State government has reached an agreement with a private company, Kano Bricks and Clay Products Limited, to establish a N1bn fish market in Tarauni Local government. The fish market

when completed would be leased out to the fish sellers association for a period of eight years.

The State commissioner for Commerce Industry, Cooperatives and Tourism Development, Alhaji Ahmad Ibrahim Yakasai, disclosed this while signing the agreement

yesterday in his office. He noted that for the past two years they have been looking forward for this day.

According to him about 2,244 shops would be constructed in the market. Other facilities would include a restaurant, a mosque, police station, cold room, fish pond

and a conference hall. The work will be completed in 15 months as stated Yakasai. "This work will be completed in 15 months and the foundation laying ceremony would be performed by the State governor on January, 28," he said. In his remark, the chairman of Kano

Bricks and Clay Product Limited, Alhaji Ahmad Rufai Muhammad assured of conducting a quality work within the stipulated time. "I want to assure you that we will not only complete it at the stipulated time but will ensure that we make a standard work at the market," he said.



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Star Feature

Visa to Dubai

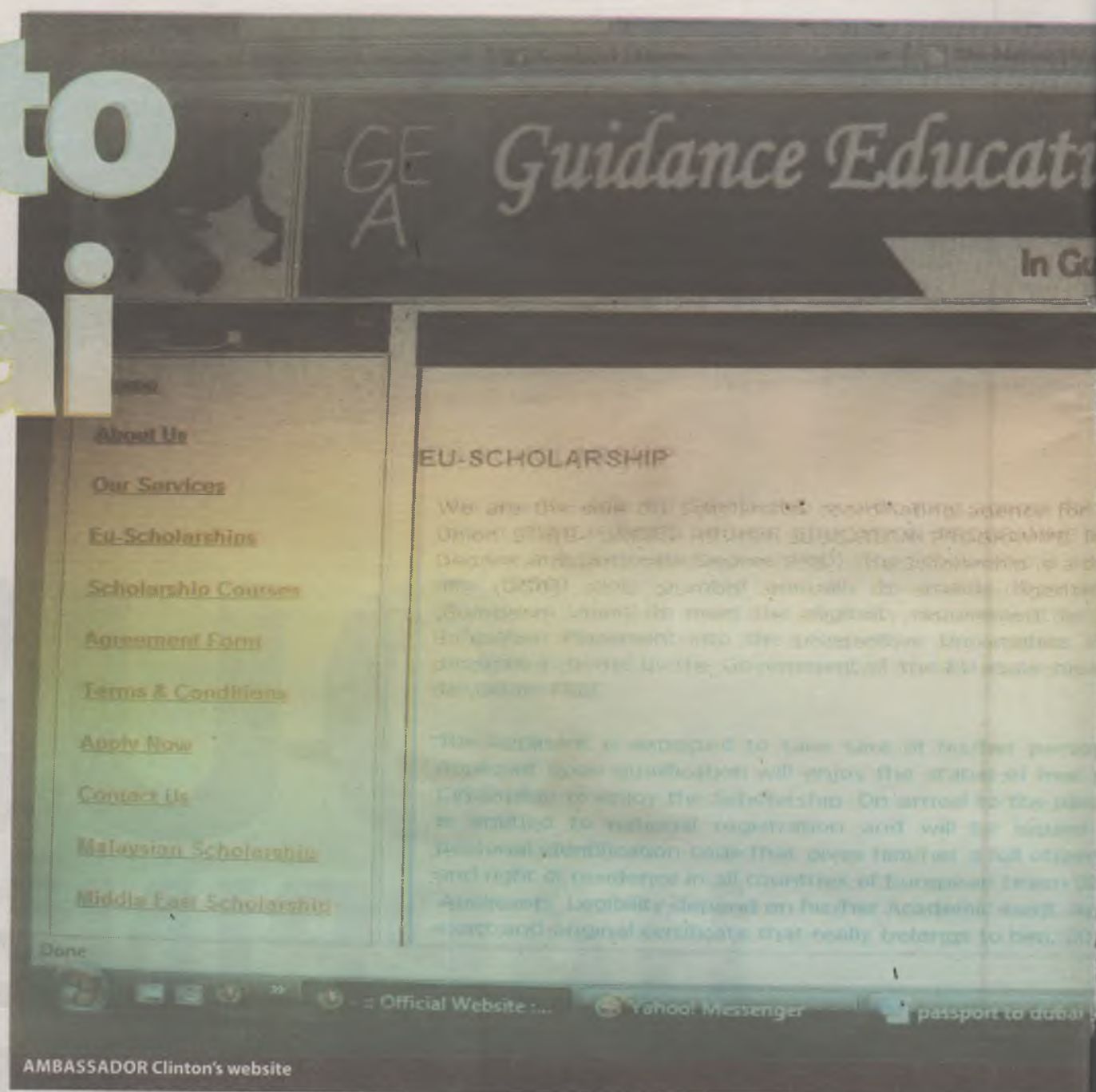
A number of groups regularly send out notices promising to assist persons with visas, to a number of choice and exotic destinations around the world. Our reporter investigates.

By Boco Edet

REMEMBER the incident of the father who purportedly married his own daughter to help her get immigration in Britain? The plan was for Jellili Adesanya, a former Home Office worker to legally marry his daughter Karimotu Adenike for a few years then divorce him and remarry her husband who lives in Nigeria. All so the whole family would migrate to UK by seeking visas. I was pondering about this on the way to my own adventure. Somehow, I wanted a feel of the craze people have to travel abroad. They seemed to just want to leave the country without plans for what they would do when they got there. They were so desperate, they were either ready to cut corners or fall into the hands of fraudsters who cheated them out of money they could have used to set up a viable business in their country.

I was going to pose as an aspiring business woman who wanted to travel abroad to buy merchandise. It wasn't my idea. The idea was inspired by a black and white poster I saw on my way to work in the morning. It was asking for people who wanted to travel to Dubai for business, tourism and holidays, and didn't want to be bothered with the rigours of procuring a visa. Beneath it was written two mobile phone numbers you could reach. At that moment, I decided I would have a chat with the brain behind the business under the pretext I needed a visa to Dubai for a business trip.

But in between, I thought I would look for more ideas. Besides posing as a business woman, I could pose as a student or a nurse; I would just go with what the posters say. I walked round Wuse market looking for visa business posters. They were hard to come by. Was this perhaps an indication that the craze was dying? I recall falling victim to some sort of corporate "study abroad for a Masters Degree" scam a few years back. I was a naive youth corps member, who was feeling unsatisfied with the peanuts the Federal Government was paying us under the guise of serving the nation and wanted escape. A new generation bank (name withheld) in association with a foundation came up with this huge promo of sponsoring some graduates on a scholarship to get a Masters Degree abroad. I checked out the foundation's website, it looked authentic. There were testi-



monies from foreign students who were beneficiaries of the scholarship and it seemed like a fair process. I also had no reason to doubt the bank, because it was quite popular, and did not have issues with credibility.

I went ahead to pay for the form with a whole month's allowance at N6,500. In the form we were asked to convince the foundation why we were candidates for the scholarship, how our education would improve Nigeria upon completion, why we were passionate about the chosen course of study etc. I filled the form like my future depended on it. We were made to believe that candidates would be selected on how well you filled the form. It was therefore a shock when I got an invitation for an aptitude test in Abuja. At the venue, more than 10,000 people sat for the test. I thought of the same population across other centres in Nigeria and my heart sank. At the end of the test, I got a pen and jotter from the bank. That was the last I heard of the scholarship.

I never met anyone or heard of anyone who got the scholarship. Not less than 60,000 people bought those forms. Multiply that number by 6,500 the cost of each form and that would sum up to N3.9million. Job seeking graduates ranted on various social networking sites about the scholarship fraud, but no one took it beyond that.

Anyway, that was my personal experience. After that I did well to finish serving my fatherland and got myself a job. Back to Wuse, on the door of a dead phone booth in the market, I saw an interesting poster.

An agency called Guidance Educational Agency said it was accepting 250 candidates on behalf of the European

Union for 1st Degree, Masters Degree and Doctorate Degree. As the sole coordinating agency for the EU the requirements were original credentials and payment teller of N20,000 to cover cost of courier services. I noted the website of the agency and when I visited it read the terms and conditions. It was meant to be a scholarship, but the total cost of application processing for admission to the scholarship, provision of European civic registration, personal Identification code subscription and residence permit procurement was 2,750 Euros which is in local equivalent of N600,000.

There were telephone numbers I could reach for further consultation. Upon dialling, a husky male voice said, "hello." I began my script. I was a graduate interested in the scholarship for a Masters Degree, but I would like to make an appointment for further discussions. The voice

"I never met anyone or heard of anyone who got the scholarship. Not less than 60,000 people bought those forms. Multiply that number by 6,500 the cost of each form and that would sum up to N3.9million. Job seeking graduates ranted on various social networking sites about the scholarship fraud, but no one took it beyond that."

onal Agency

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News & Events

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igeria. It is European of 1st Degree, Masters of two hundred and students outside EU the EU board of Higher Education rest of the world. The program would

Visa agent arraign o...

was Dubai bound. I had kept in touch with the visa agent. I had set up many appointments which I didn't honour on purpose. I wanted to get him interested in me. Also Christmas was close by and I wanted him hoping he could spend my money for the holidays. So a week of hide and seek and I was ready to meet him.

We met at Tudunwada junction, in Lugbe. Tudunwada is something of a ghetto. Sometimes people call it the Government Rejected Area (GRA) of Lugbe. This is because it is shabby, and anytime the bulldozers could come by for demolition. This is where my visa agent supposedly had an office.

When I met Abiodun as I later learnt was his name, I was taken by his likeable personality. He was not more than 27 year old. He was dark in completion, a boyish face and a disarming smile. We made small talk, then proceeded to his office.

It was not really his office, if not I assume we would not have had to sit on stools in a corner. It was a business centre and the owner was perhaps kind enough to allow him speak to his clients there. He delved straight into business. Why did I want to go to Dubai? I said for business. How long did I intend staying there? I said maybe a week. Would I be staying in a hotel? I said yes. Would I need a guide around? I said that would depend on the cost and after that I switched tables.

Abiodun told me he only started the business this year. He said if he was not credible he would not have brought me to an office. I replied that being in an office was immaterial, and the better furnished the office, the more chances I thought he was a dupe. He laughed at that. He said he was a visa agent who liaised with another agent in Dubai, and he would arrange for a visa, hotel accommodation for me, and his payment would be based on the services he would offer, and a percentage of the visa cost. He charged me \$200 after we haggled for a while. He was bothered about my age because he said usually people who are less than 25 are rarely allowed visas, because they leave under the guise of business or tourism and escape. He said even if this group was given visas it was at extra cost.

He explained sometimes he got calls from young men who had ulterior motives and when they saw his arrangements followed due process, they backed out. The smile remained on his face all through his narration. I told him I was still sceptical, and in an attempt to change my mind he said he usually does not collect money from clients until their visas and tickets were ready, so there would be no fear of fraud. He said he has never had a case where a client of his was turned back from the airport.

He advised that I stay for only three days to save cost as hotel accommodation averagely cost N7, 000. He said if I didn't want to travel he could arrange for someone to do the shopping on my behalf, and have it carried as freight. He went ahead to reel out his resume of clients- a colonel and his wife, another man and three children and three young ladies. He said if I was going to travel I had to be careful with my money, because the army official's wife lost \$2,000 in the mall when she went shopping.

He finally got curious about what I did for a living. I told him I was a journalist. I asked if that scared him and he replied that he had nothing to hide. He went ahead to narrate an encounter he had with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). According to him, officials from the Commission came to his office to invite him for interrogation. A friend of his in the same business had duped a client of over N300, 000. They used to be partners but split after a quarrel over who gets what percentage, when one brings the client. He said at EFCC he was asked if he knew his friend and he said he did. He said he was not aware of the particular case which EFCC was referring to, and when they asked him of his previous clients he gave them references.

He was sad to learn I did not plan to travel in December because he was hoping "to eat my money for Christmas." I looked at the business card he gave me. It read: "Abiodun Samuel, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Abbeylink Travels & Tour- Dubai visa, tour packages, cargo, ticketing and hotel reservation." I laughed. When you saw Abiodun, you had seen the company, its services and the CEO.

said that his office was in a plaza at Area 1 and we agreed we would meet the next day. I asked what his name was and he replied, "Ambassador Clinton." An interesting name, I commented. Especially as on the "ton" syllable I could perceive an Igbo accent. I asked if that was his real name, he chose not to answer that and merely said we would see tomorrow.

I looked at the website again after the telephone conversation with renewed interest. It struck me that the website was poorly done. For an agency acting on behalf of the EU one would have expected better. The colour choices were poor, graphics looked childish, and it was just a poorly executed job. It came as no surprise to me the next day when I phoned Ambassador Clinton and he did not pick my calls. It was a dead end.

All hope was not lost. I was still a business woman who

nyone who got the scholarship. ght those forms. Multiply that form and that would sum up ates ranted on various social arship fraud, but no one took it



THE poster that piqued my curiosity

Business

Emirates increases frequencies to Jeddah

From Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

THE Dubai based airline Emirates has announced plans to make the first commercial A380 into the Saudi Arabia Kingdom, by increasing its frequencies from one flight to four times weekly to Jeddah with the super-jumbo from February 1st, 2010. According to the airline, Jeddah will be the eighth destination to be added to the list of gateways served by the A380 which include Sydney, Auckland, Heathrow, Bangkok, Toronto, Seoul and Paris.

Ahmed Khoory, Emirates' Senior Vice President Commercial Operations Gulf, Middle East and Iran said: "The introduction of

the highly acclaimed A380 on the Jeddah route is a true reflection of an increased demand for services in and out of the Kingdom. This service into Jeddah will mark Emirates' first Middle Eastern A380 destination outside of Dubai, a significant milestone for both Emirates and Saudi Arabia."


Khoory said: "Adding an A380 onto this perpetually busy route will significantly increase our capacity; ensuring passengers have greater access to flights whilst enjoying the distinction of travelling on the world's largest and most heralded aircraft."

The A380 service to Jeddah will be the first aircraft into the city to contain three-configuration cabins.

The A380 aircraft will feature 14 Private Suites in First Class, 76 new generations, fully flat seats in Business Class and 427 seats in the Economy cabin.

Starting 1st February 2010, the airline will leave Dubai four days a week on Monday, Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday, at 1630hrs and arrive in Jeddah at 1830hrs while the return flight from Jeddah, EK 804 will depart at 2045hrs, arriving in Dubai at 0015hrs.

Emirates commenced services to Jeddah in 1989, with Jeddah the first of three gateways that Emirates now operates to in the Kingdom, in addition to Riyadh and Dammam.



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Business/International



PRESIDENT Sir Anerood Jugnauth of Mauritius

Mauritius exchange may trade in E/African currencies

A commodities and currency exchange expected to go live in Mauritius plans to offer Africa's first currency futures and derivatives market for the Kenyan shilling and Ugandan shilling.

Joseph Bosco, Chief Operating Officer of Global Board of Trade (GBOT), that will run the exchange, told Reuters it would allow market players to better hedge themselves.

This situation is because it is in a region where political risk weighs heavily on the markets.

"We intended to start off with six currency pairs and now we are expanding to eight pairs with the dollar as the base. The two additions are the Kenyan and Ugandan shillings," Bosco said in a telephone interview on Wednesday.

"Today, these markets (Kenya and Uganda) obviously have their own currency trading, but that doesn't give them

the required risk management mechanisms," he added.

Kenya's economy spiralled down and its currency weakened sharply when violence erupted after disputed elections at the end of 2007, before being hit by the global downturn last year.

This year is seen by many investors as a year to cement recovery in east Africa's largest economy. But there are fears any failure by the country's fragile coalition government to address constitutional reform and perceived immunity for architects of post-election crisis.

The fears could trigger more fighting and destabilise the economy again.

"We are giving them risk containment mechanisms. We are helping them to hedge themselves against the uncertainty of unforeseen circumstances," Bosco said. (Reuters/NAN).

China gives Kenya \$7m dev't grant

CHINA gave Kenya a 540 million shilling (7.16 million dollars) grant on Wednesday to support development projects in east Africa's biggest economy.

The agreement was unveiled during a visit to the Kenyan capital Nairobi by Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, who is on a five-nation tour of the world's poorest continent.

"Kenya highly appreciates the development assistance extended by China," President Mwai Kibaki said in a statement, adding that "the assistance has been substantial in financial terms and has a considerable impact on Kenya's socio-economic development".

In November, China's government said it would offer Africa 10 billion dol-

lars in concessional loans over the next three years as the country aims to boost a relationship which is economically booming, to the discomfort of some in the West.

Beijing says it also plans to help Africa develop clean energy generation and cope with climate change, encourage Chinese financial institutions to lend to smaller African

companies and expand market access for African products.

"Anything which will serve the interests of the Kenyan people is and will be China's top priority," Jiechi told reporters.

His trip takes him to Nigeria on Thursday, then to Sierra Leone, Algeria and Morocco before ending in Saudi Arabia. (Reuters/NAN).

African Minerals signs \$244m China deal

IRON ore explorer, African Minerals, has signed a deal with China's CRM to buy a 12.5 per cent stake in the firm for 152.6 million pounds. This will enable the firm to develop its flagship project in Sierra Leone.

The London-listed firm said on Wednesday the funding from China Railway Materials Commercial Corporation (CRM) would fund the first stage of its Tonkolili project.

Shares in the firm rose 5.5 per cent to 441 pence after jumping 9.0 per cent on Tuesday, compared to a flat UK mining index. The stock has surged by nearly 30 per cent since Dec. 14. CRM will subscribe for about 30.5 million new shares at 500 pence each.

"African Minerals welcomes the signing of this conditional agreement with CRM, one of China's large-scale state-owned enterprises.

"It is also one of China's largest steel trading companies," said Chief Executive Alan Watling.

The deal includes a 20-year off take deal under which CRM will buy between five and eight million tonnes of iron ore a year from the first stage of the mine.

The company's flagship project is Tonkolili in Sierra Leone, which contains 5.1 billion tonnes of iron ore.

It has said that the northern section of the licence area indicates the potential to increase the resource to about 10 billion tonnes.

The company expects Tonkolili which needs a long railway line to ship the ore to become the largest iron ore producer in Africa and one of the lowest-cost producers.

Dundee Capital Markets said in November the group was poised to become the world's fifth-largest iron ore producer.

It initiated the stock at a 'buy' and price target of 650 pence. (Reuters/NAN).

Egypt to import 1m tonnes of H2 raw sugar

EGYPT will import 1 million tonnes of raw sugar to meet demand in the second half of 2010, the trade ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

The quantity would also supply enough reserves for the beginning of 2011, a statement e-mailed by the ministry said.

"The current sugar reserves and the expected production of the sugar companies is enough for the country's needs until the second half of 2010, with the presence of a strategic reserve," the statement also said.

The 1 million tonnes will be enough to guarantee the stability of prices in the domestic market throughout 2010, it added.

The decision was taken after a meeting between Trade Minister Rachid Mohamed Rachid and the heads of the state-owned Food Industries Holding Company and Sugar and Integrated Industries Company (SIIC).

The statement did not give further details as to when the sugar would be imported or what the shipment dates were.

SIIC is responsible for the bulk of Egypt's sugar imports. Rachid said on Sunday Egypt had extended an exemption of raw and white sugar imports from duties until June 30.

The most populous Arab country had exempted sugar imports from duties starting August 15 until the end of December to control prices in the domestic market in the light of record rises.

Egypt which consumes around 2.8 million tonnes of sugar a year and produces 1.6 million tonnes, ordinarily has a 2 per cent duty on raw sugar and a 10 per cent duty on refined sugar.

The majority of its imports usually come from Brazil. (Reuters/NAN).

Angola's only refinery to shut down for maintenance

ANGOLA'S only refinery will shut down for maintenance between May and June, state-owned news agency, Angop, said on Wednesday, citing the country's Oil Minister Jose

Botelho de Vasconcelos.

The refinery was built in the 1950s and its capacity of 37,500 bpd was far below Angola's domestic needs.

Low capacity production has led the oil-producing nation to import more than 60 per cent of its refined products. (Reuters/NAN)

THE HOME FRONT

In Today's Edition

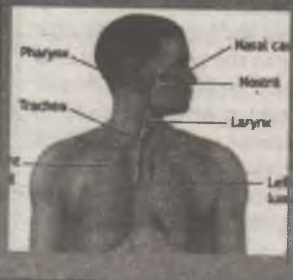
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Facts about mastalgia

By Akor Ojoma and Romoke W. Ahmad

MANY women have breast tenderness and pain, medically called mastalgia. It may come and go with monthly periods (cyclic) or may not follow any pattern (noncyclic).

According to Dr Olaomu Oluwole Olayemi, a general surgeon at the National Hospital, Abuja "Cyclic pain is the most common type of breast pain. It may be caused by the normal monthly changes in hormones. This pain usually occurs in both breasts. It is generally described as a heaviness or soreness that radiates to the armpit and arm. The pain is usually most severe before a menstrual period and is often relieved when a period ends. Cyclic breast pain occurs more often in younger women. Most cyclic pain goes away without treatment and usually disappears at menopause."

Noncyclic pain is common in women 30 to 50 years of age. It may occur in only one breast. It is often described as a sharp, burning pain that occurs in one area of a breast. Occasionally, noncyclic pain may be caused by a fibroadenoma or a cyst. If the cause of noncyclic pain can be identified, treating the cause may relieve the pain.

Causes

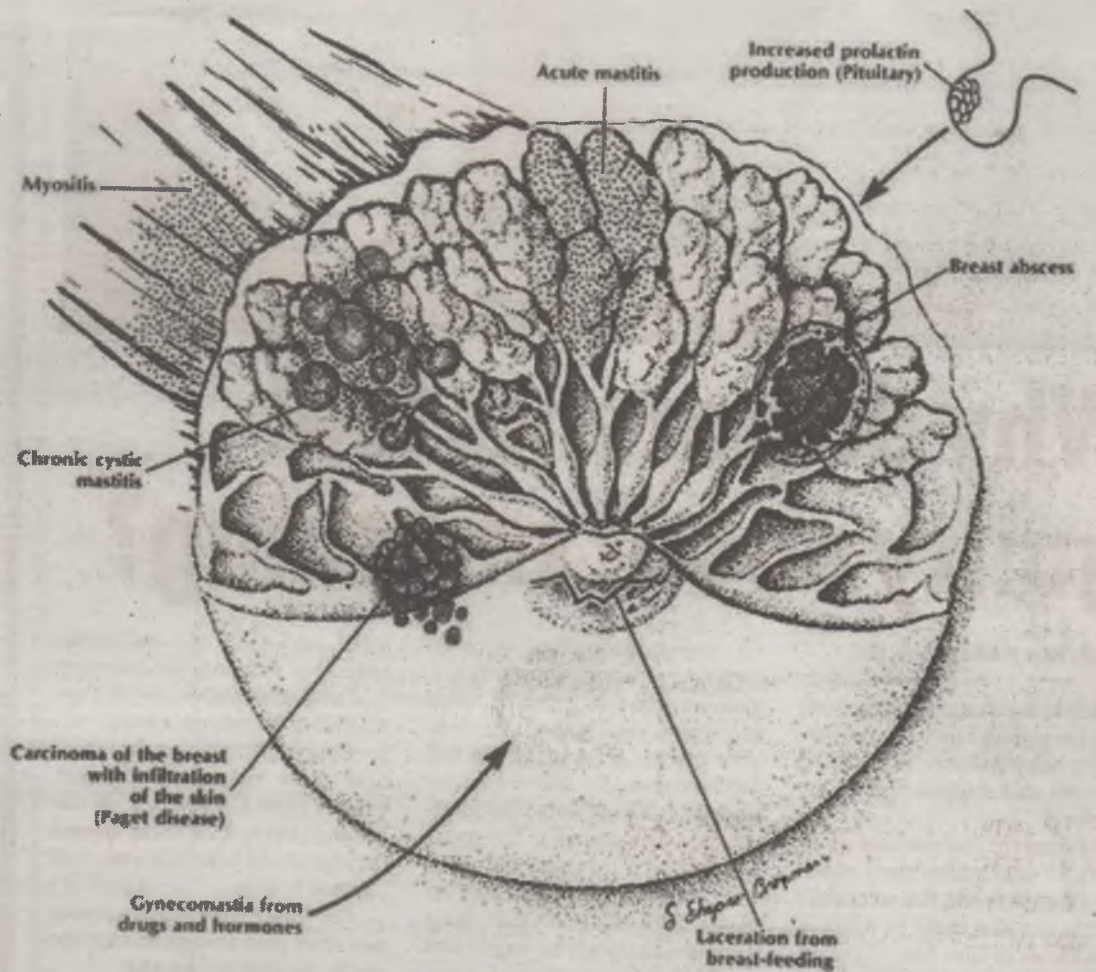
Hormonal fluctuations cause most cases of mastalgia, others are; puberty, during or before menstruation, during the first three months of pregnancy, during breastfeeding, after childbirth when the breasts often swell as they fill with milk, during perimenopause, medications and breast size. Mastalgia during these times is normal and does not indicate a serious problem.

Does breast pain indicate breast cancer?

Many women experiencing mastalgia fear that they may have breast cancer, however, breast pain or tenderness is not a symptom of breast cancer. Breast pain is not a common symptom of breast cancer. However, sometimes painful lumps are caused by breast cancer.

Diagnosis

Diagnostic tests that your doctor may order to determine the cause of your breast pain can include breast biopsy, lab culture of any nipple discharge to test for infection, mammography, fine needle aspiration to remove fluid that can collect in non-cancerous breast cysts, and a microscopic



evaluation of nipple discharge called cytology.

Prevention

You may be able to prevent breast pain, tenderness, or discomfort by wearing a sports bra during exercise. It is important that the sports bra fit properly. It should keep the breasts almost motionless and allow them to move together with the chest, not separately. It is important to replace your sports bra as the material stretches and become less supportive. A young woman with developing breasts may need to buy a new bra every 6 months.

See your doctor if you experience any type of nipple discharge such as blood or pus. Women who have recently given birth should contact their doctor if their breasts become swollen or hard. Signs of breast infection include redness, pus, and / or fever and require medical care. Other signs that you should see a doctor about breast pain include the onset of a new and painful breast lump that does not resolve after menstruation, as well as constant unexplained breast pain.

Wearing a well-fitted bra that provides good support often

helps prevent the onset of breast pain, particularly in women who have large breasts.

Treatment

Treatments for mastalgia depend on the cause. For example, mastalgia caused by hormonal fluctuations often diminishes with the use of oral contraceptives; breast pain caused by infection requires antibiotics. Reducing sodium intake is helpful when fluid retention causes breast pain. You may be able to relieve breast pain by using nonprescription medicines, including: Acetaminophen, such as Tylenol or Panadol. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), such as ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin), naproxen (Aleve or Naprosyn), or aspirin (Anacin, Bayer).

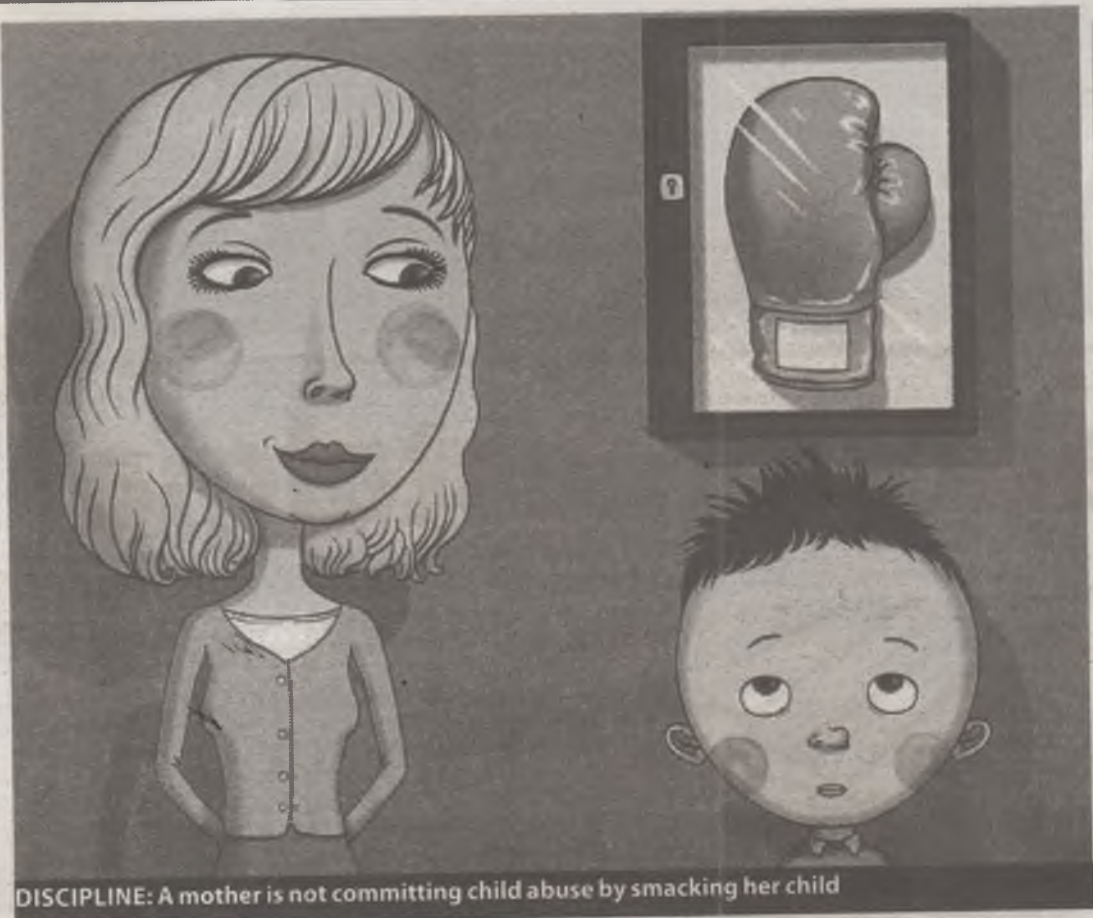
Be sure to follow all labels and instructions. Do not take aspirin if you are younger than 20 because of the risk of Reye's syndrome. Danazol, bromocriptine, and tamoxifen citrate are prescription medicines used for the treatment of severe cyclic breast pain. These medicines are rarely used because they have significant side effects. It is important to determine whether the benefits will outweigh the risks of

See your doctor if you experience any type of nipple discharge such as blood or pus

taking these medicines.

Magnesium supplements taken in the second half of the menstrual cycle (usually the 2 weeks before the next period) relieve cyclic breast pain as well as other premenstrual symptoms. Reducing dietary fat to 15% or less of your dietary intake is likely to reduce breast pain over time. A small study has shown that making this long-term dietary change significantly reduces breast pain.

Studies have not shown that avoiding caffeine relieves breast pain. But some women feel they have a decrease in breast pain when they decrease the amount of caffeine they consume.



Why do parents feel guilty about smacking?

By Kelly Rose Bradford, Daily Mail

AT last I have a comeback the next time I'm glared at in the supermarket for hissing threats of smacked bottoms and slapped legs at my son.

Sparing the rod not only spoils the child - and makes him a nightmare for everyone else to endure - but it can also make him less of an achiever in later life.

A study in the U.S. has revealed that children who are smacked before the age of six not only perform better at school, but are also more likely to do voluntary work and to want to go to university than those who have never been physically disciplined.

This flies in the face of do-gooders who, with a raised eyebrow and pursed lip, are quick to condemn parents who smack for instilling an acceptance of violence into their offspring or encouraging children to be violent themselves.

So, now that I know I'm not committing child abuse (as other parents would have you believe), I've got an admission to make: I've smacked my son William.

I clearly remember the first time I did it. William was two and at that curious, exploratory stage, which included endless investigations into the workings of his pushchair.

After days of 'Don't do that, darling,' the crunch came when he finally twigged how the latches worked and almost folded the buggy onto his fingers.

As he did so, I reached out and, while admonishing him and without thinking clearly about what I was doing, I involuntarily tapped the back of his hand. His face crumpled into a red, sobbing heap - and so did mine.

For days afterwards, my guilt

was overwhelming because, at the time, the vocal anti-smacking brigade warned that if you so much as tapped your child, not only were you a bad parent, it was bad for them, too. No matter that my son's tears had dried within minutes and he was back to his good-natured, well-behaved self - and, more importantly, that he never played with the pushchair again - I despised myself for my lack of control.

This was despite my firm belief that discipline and good standards of behaviour set a child up for life - and a bit of parental fear does not do a child any harm.

Yet I carried my guilt around with me for months. It became like some dirty secret I was desperate - yet afraid - to share.

I knew the other mothers at toddler group and soft-play would look at me as if I were some kind of monster if I admitted I'd smacked my son. Most of them subscribed to the modern school of discipline - naughty steps, time out and endless counting to three, regardless of the misdemeanour - and all with little or no effect. Most of the children I saw on a day-to-day basis were spoiled little brats with absolutely no boundaries whatsoever. It seemed to me that their bad behaviour was almost encouraged by their fawning and ineffective parents.

I knew the other mothers at toddler group and soft-play would look at me as if I were a monster if I admitted I'd smacked my son.

I sat stewing one day when I witnessed the aftermath when a toddler bit his baby sister's arm, drawing blood.

'Now that's not very nice! You'll go to the naughty step if you do that again!' his mother told him. Within minutes, he had done it

again, and the same threat was raised, but with no follow through.

I relayed the tale to my mother, who looked at me wide eyed.

'If he had been mine, he would have done that once,' she said. I didn't have to ask her what she meant - I knew. A swift slap around the legs would have followed. And I agreed with her.

Growing up, the fear of a smack was more than enough to keep me on the straight and narrow.

My mother would, and did, dish out a slap for extreme bad behaviour, but the threat of it - the knowing she would - was generally enough to keep me out of trouble.

Bad behaviour was not tolerated in her home, but as I knew what the consequences would be, it rarely occurred.

But regardless of believing in the benefits of a short, sharp slap and on occasion desperately wanting to dish them out to the children I encountered, I still felt dreadful about actually doing it to my own son.

Fortunately, a few years passed before I felt the need to smack him again. Generally, a look and raised tone were enough, and William knew exactly how far he could push me. The second slap came when he was five and cheeking me over some disagreement that had escalated due to tiredness and frayed tempers on both sides.

In a moment of fury, I chased him up the stairs to his bedroom, slapping his bottom as I did so. Again, there were tears from both parties. But it dealt swiftly with the situation and put an end to it.

My son is six and is a well-behaved, thoughtful and pleasant little boy. We don't have behaviour issues. Nor do we have ridiculous naughty steps, time out or grounding.

FRAGMENTS

By Safiya I. Dantiye
safiadantiye@yahoo.com

What manner of rebranding?

Nigeria is a country of contradictions where you find the leaders saying or promoting one thing but doing the very opposite of it. That is why many people are sceptical about embracing anything of the sort because they know that it is only for the common people, not for the select few, who ironically initiate and advocate such trends. Suffice to say this is taking the generality of the people for granted, as if they are guileless.

Since the trend of rebranding Nigeria has become an issue with the slogan of, Good People, Great Nation, many institutions have caught the bug of 'rebranding', similar to the bug of 7-Point Agenda, where suddenly, anybody worth his salt would state his 'agenda' in a speech.

In any event, why can't the government provide good education, health care, electricity, security, jobs and several other things needed to make the country conducive for development and thus earn the so-called greatness, instead of dusting and touting it as such? This misplacement of priority pinpoints that the government cares so much about the country's image abroad, than its citizens. If Nigeria is seen by the outside world as good, then so be it is the locus Standi.

But does the common man care about Nigeria's image abroad? What he cares about are basic things that his country denies him, yet it betrays him by spending money to launder its image! The other day, I saw the picture of one primary school in Kaduna town, not even a rural area, in one newspaper, the dilapidated condition of the school is unbelievable. Even animals should not be kept in such a place, they deserve better. The ceiling of one classroom was bare with woods as rafters that looked precarious, as if it would cave in on the teacher and her pupils at any moment. According to the story, the classroom had been like that for three years. This, of course, is not an exceptional case, and there are many others in other states, and the governors and local government chairmen beat their chest, every now and then, for providing 'dividends' of democracy, whatever that means.

If the governor's children were in that school it will never be in such a condition. It would have sported the best teachers with laboratories and computers. And as far as the government and such leaders don't take pride in government facilities, they should please spare us the tedious lecture on taking pride in 'made in Nigeria' brands, so to speak. But if it comes to them and their children it is a different tune altogether, they don't take pride in anything Nigerian, yet they claim to 'represent' the interests of Nigerians. Their children don't study in Nigerian governments' schools, but private and expensive ones, which is an indictment of the government's failure. And some are sent abroad.

Some jump into the next available flight to cure cold, while our healthcare system is in shambles, left for the majority, but not fit for them. When our president cannot go to our best hospitals is also a huge dent on our rebranding, indicating that Nigeria doesn't have qualified doctors, facilities and good hospitals fit for a president. It also shows callousness that such leaders would escape to get better healthcare, leaving the masses to go to blazes.

Charity, they say begins at home, so unless the government officials take pride in Nigeria, it will be a futile effort. Some advocates' children even marry foreigners, implying that 'made in Nigeria' spouses are not good enough.

With our mentality of taking anything foreign to be better than ours, which may not necessarily be so, but only because of an inferiority complex, the real rebranding should begin with our leaders who don't take pride in anything Nigerian, but are only interested to be in control of its purse. They do this in order to get out of the country to get the best facilities in terms of education and health.

“
Charity, they say begins at home, so unless the government officials take pride in Nigeria, it will be a futile effort, some advocates' children even marry foreigners, implying that 'made in Nigeria' spouses are not good enough

Health interactive

Write in confidence to healthinteractive@hotmail.com; www.healthinteractive.wordpress.com or send a text message to 080-89972539 or P.O.Box 14807, Kano, Nigeria

Advice by Dr Aminu Magashi

What is epilepsy

I had repeated fittings and became unconscious on many occasions. I was told it is Epilepsy. Please I need some information about the problem.

Garba U

Epilepsy is a common condition that causes repeated seizures (convulsing or fittings). The seizures are caused by bursts of electrical activity in the brain that are not normal. Seizures may cause problems with muscle control, movement, speech, vision, or awareness. They usually don't last very long, but they can be scary. The good news is that treatment usually works to control and reduce seizures.

Epilepsy is not a type of mental illness or retardation. It generally does not affect how well you think or learn. You can't contact epilepsy from someone else (like a cold), and they can't get it from you.

Often the causes of epilepsy are not known. Less than half of people with epilepsy know why they have it.

Some other problems that can cause Epilepsy are

1. Head injury
2. Brain tumors
3. Brain infections
4. Stroke

The main symptom of epilepsy is repeated seizures that happen without warning. Without treatment, seizures may continue and even become worse and more frequent over time.

There are different kinds of seizures. You may have only one type of seizure. Some people have more than one type. Depending on what kind of seizure you have:

1. Your senses may not work right. For example, you may notice strange smells or sounds.
2. You may lose control of your muscles.
3. You may fall down, and your body may twitch or jerk.
4. You may stare off into space.
5. You may faint (lose consciousness).

Not everyone who has seizures has epilepsy. Sometimes seizures happen because of an injury, illness, or another problem. In these cases, the seizures stop when that problem improves or goes away.

Diagnosing epilepsy can be hard. It needs a doctor first to try to figure out if it is a seizure or something else with similar symptoms. For example, a muscle tic or a migraine headache may look or feel like a kind of seizure.

Doctors will like to know what happened before, during, and right after a seizure. They will also examine you and do some tests. This information can help your doctor decide what kind of

seizures you have and if you have epilepsy.

"Medicine controls seizures in many people with epilepsy. The goal is to find an effective medicine that causes the fewest side effects. It may take time and careful, controlled changes by you and your doctor to find the right combination, schedule, and dose of medicine to best manage your epilepsy. The goal is to prevent seizures and cause as few unwanted side effects as possible. The best way to prevent more seizures is to keep the right amount of the medicine in your body. To do that, you need to take the medicine in the right dose and at the right times every day".

My partner has odour

My wife and I have been married for close to 3 years now. I noticed recently that there is an odour coming out from her private part. It is threatening our marriage. Please what are the potential causes and remedy?

John H

Ladies generally have a particular vaginal smell; it is natural. Even when one notices a recent difference in its smell; it is not necessarily an infection. That change may be linked to a specific moment of menstrual cycle because the smell of vagina can vary depending on the time of the cycle.

It is normal that it has a cer-

tain odor sometimes. Whether this natural smell is neutral or not, it is a matter of personal judgment. In fact, some women notice their odor when there is no notable odor detected by their partners.

However, if the odor changes and becomes strongly unpleasant (repugnant fishy vaginal odor), this change deserves attention because it is perhaps a sign of a vaginal infection. Left untreated, this condition may cause not only physiologic problems but also emotional stress and social problems (the person feels uncomfortable thinking the odor is detected by others).

Some ladies believe that vaginal odor is as a result of a lack of personal hygiene and wash excessively their vagina, unaware that such might worsen the problem. While poor genital hygiene can be the cause, excessive washing is not the solution. Very often, women hampered by a strong vaginal odor should not begin to wash themselves intensively. That does not help at all. The first thing to do should be restoring the acidity and the balance of the vaginal flora naturally. That restoration cannot be done by excessive antibiotic intake; it decreases immune system.

The vaginal flora consists of a large number of microaerophilic bacteria. Among them, lactobacilli are considered the principal ones for their role in protecting the vagina. These micro-organisms are primarily responsible for protective acidity of the vagina.

Washing the vagina too often increases its pH, which disrupts the vaginal flora and can cause vaginal infections and particularly unpleasant odors. That is, do not rush to wash your vaginal excessively when you suffer from vaginal health issues.

If the vaginal flora is disrupted, pathogenic bacteria proliferate, resulting in bacterial vaginosis. This type of proliferation tends to increase the number of bacteria normally present in the vagina causing unpleasant fishy vaginal odor.

Besides excessive washing, douching, tight clothes and certain chemicals (scented body washes, antibacterial soap, etc) can cause vaginal infection or yeast infection. Foreign body in vagina can provoke vaginal odor and other major health issues. Vaginal and anal intercourse alternation during the same session can cause vaginal infection resulting in vaginal odor.

Some tips to address vaginal odour

1. Wearing clean tampons and changing them regularly
2. Avoid Douching, it is not necessary; it can damage or destroy the normal acidity of the vagina resulting in vaginal problems (washing with some chemicals)
3. If one suffers from any type of vaginal infection, it is recommended to avoid wearing tight underwear and pants so that the vagina can breathe easier.
4. Tight clothes can irri-

tate the vagina and cause or increase vaginal odor.

5. Wearing cotton panties is also important.

6. For some women, after intercourse, it is important to go and urinate. Urination after sex helps to remove any possible bacteria that may be outside or inside the vaginal canal that would go up in the urethra. Because once present, these microbes tend to go up into the bladder, and can cause recurrent urinary infections. Urination causes a cleansing effect, forcing the microbes outside.

Infections can cause the odour such as

1. Bacterial Vaginosis
2. Chlamydia
3. Genital Herpes
4. Gonorrhoea
5. Pelvic Inflammatory

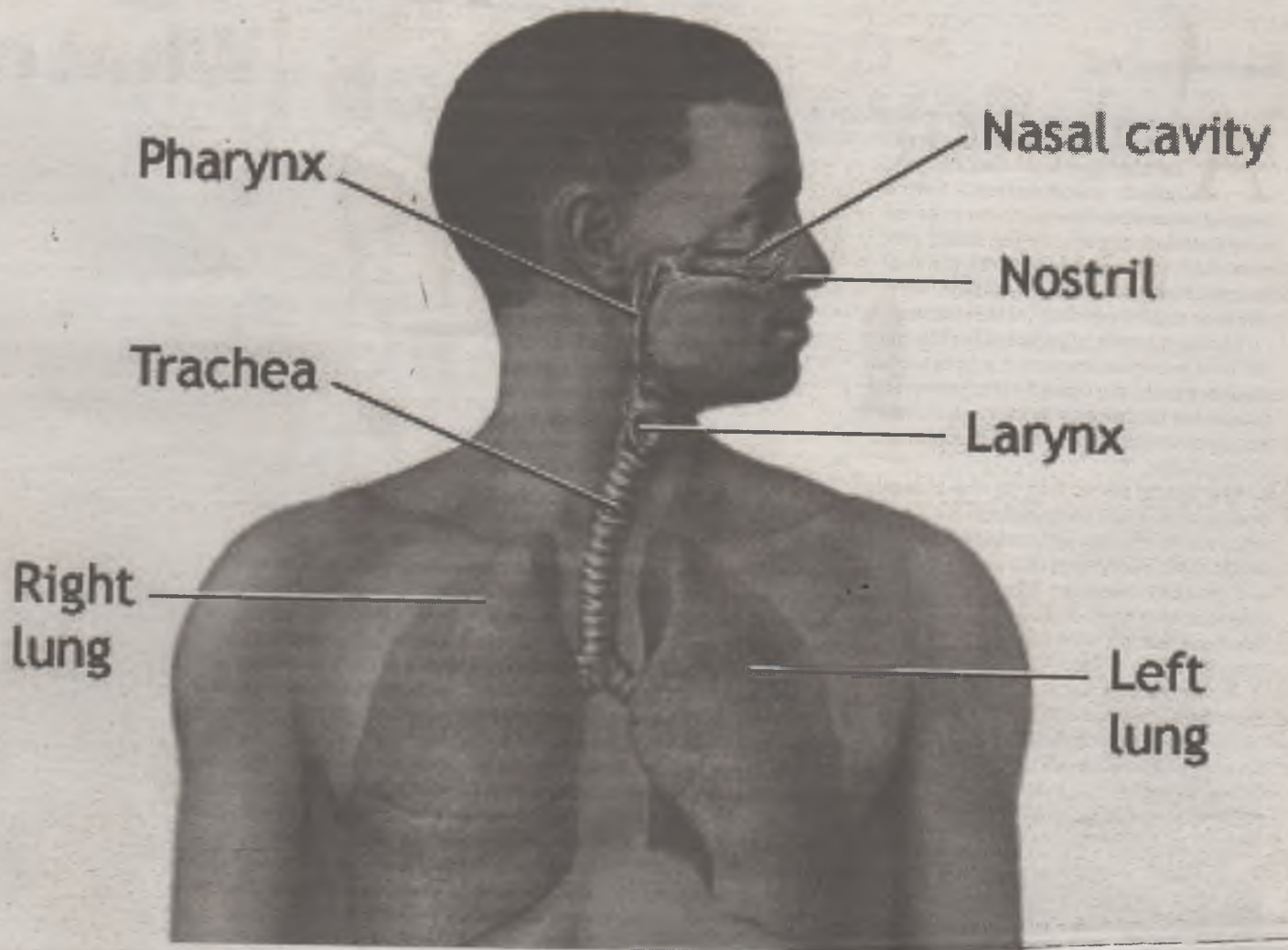
Disease

6. Yeast Infection

And also Cancer of the cervix
If after adopting some of the tips provided above, the situation does not improve, your partner need to be properly evaluated in a hospital.

MY READOMETER

Last week (Friday, 1st - Thursday, 7th January 2010), our blog address (www.healthinteractive.wordpress.com) had recorded 505 visitors, with Friday being the busiest with 73 visitors. You can log in and not only read the latest edition and archives but can as well post questions and /or comments. Have a lovely weekend.



Guiding your daughter during her menstrual period

From Halima Musa, Kano

AT a particular stage in every normal woman's life, she experiences a periodic flow of blood called menstruation. For a beginner, menstruation turns out to be the most traumatic experience she would ever have. Such girls experience both physical and psychological changes in their body; severe or mild depending on individuals.

During this critical period of her life, the girl is in need of some moral support and guidance from the closest elderly woman around her; her mother or relatives, to help her adjust to the metamorphosis of human development.

She needs to be told by the elderly woman that it is a normal thing for a girl who reaches the age of maturity; she also needs to be told that at this stage, the girl can conceive once she has sexual intercourse with a man. She needs to be consoled and assured that there is no need to panic.

Apart from giving her moral support, the woman must also guide her by showing her ways she can take care of herself; by ensuring she observes good hygiene during such periods in order to avoid contracting any disease and also by showing

“ Apart from giving her moral support, the woman must also guide her by showing her ways she can take care of herself

her ways she can avoid staining her clothes with blood.

Because it is considered a shameful thing for a menstruating woman to stain her outer garments with blood, women from time immemorial had devised ways of controlling the blood through the use of absorbents.

The most commonly used in the past is rags cut in different sizes depending on the rate of the flow. With time the use of rag has reduced giving way to the modern disposable sanitary pads. There are different types of modern disposable pads available in our stores.

Apart from the disposable pads, some women use toilet papers. There is the tampon also. Tampons are used in a different way; here it is inserted into the blood outlet in order to prevent blood from pouring out.

Depending on the type the girl would want to use, the mother must show her how to apply it so that the purpose for which it is used would be achieved.

If the girl is uses a rag probably due to poverty, she should be guided on how to use it. The mother can simply get a good and clean rag and cut it into the required size. She should consider the length and the width of the rag. She then folds it in layers bearing in mind the rate of the blood flow. If the flow

is heavy, the layers should be thick enough to absorb the blood, if the flow is slow; the layers should be smaller so that it does not inconvenience her.

Since it is pertinent at this junction to observe high hygienic behavior, there should be about three or at least two of such rags to enable her change from time to time. Ideally the rag used in the morning should be changed by noon while the one used by noon should be changed after the evening wash. This change makes her remain comfortable throughout the day.

In maintaining the rag, there is the need to wash it as soon as it is removed and kept clean for future use. To wash, pour clean water over the rag and make sure the blood is washed away before it is soaked in water with detergent. If desired a little antiseptic or vinegar should be added. After it is thoroughly washed, it should be rinsed with clean water and spread under the sun to dry. Using the rag may be cost effective but highly tasking, considering what it takes to maintain it.

Where the parents are buoyant enough

to buy modern sanitary pad for their daughters, the work of guiding the young girls becomes easier. All a mother needs to do is get the pad and teach the girl how to use it.

It is simple to use because all that needs to be done to ensure ones' comfort has been done by the manufacturers of the sanitary pad. The only thing the mother can do is to ensure that she uses the pad correctly and also needs to teach the girl to change at least three times a day.

To dispose the used pad, it can be thrown in a toilet if it is the pit type but if the toilet is the modern type, the pads should be burnt instead. It is uncultured to dispose used pads like any other garbage in a dustbin.

For those that use toilet papers for various reasons, they need to take note of certain things. First, if the girl is confirmed to be prone to vaginal candidiasis yeast infection, some medical doctors have advised against using colored and perfumed toilet papers. It is advisable to use moist toilet

papers.

Toilet paper can be used by folding it into several layers depending on the flow of blood. It should be changed more frequently because of its texture and should not be inserted like the tampon. It can be disposed off in a pit toilet or even in the modern toilet by flushing it down.

The use of tampon is the most risky among all the others. It is a specially shaped soft material with a string inserted into the vaginal to absorb blood during menstruation; the string is used to pull it out after usage.

The risk however is that if the string cuts off and one is unable to pull it out, a doctor must be consulted immediately as it is said to have some toxic effect. Even in the developed countries, the tampon is not widely encouraged.

In situations where your daughter insists on using it, you should guide her by following the instructions given by the manufacturers. How best you guide your daughter during her first menstrual period determines how she goes about it all her life.



Say no to heavy make up

By Atika Balal

MAKE-UP is a must do for several women. Some wear it light and others prefer it heavy, possibly meant to attract attention. While such women believe heavy make-up makes them look prettier, several men think women wear too much make-up and prefer girls who adopt a more natural look.

All over the world, it is extremely difficult to find women who do not wear make-up however little; it feels like they so much depend on make up and do not even recognize themselves when they wake up in the mornings with a plain face.

From the use of thick layers of caked-on foundation, a favorite fashion trait of high profile ladies, to overdone blushers, bright lipsticks, artificial eyelashes and excessively applied mascara, some women parade themselves feeling on top of the world.

While a greater number of men silently pray their partners would totally cut off the use of make-up and go natural, a few others wish they would at least reduce how much make up they apply on the daily basis.

Whatever the reasons why most women cannot go without make up, light or heavy, it is important to take into consideration that the following are seen as make-up turn offs.

- . Bright lipstick
- . Lipstick on teeth
- . Too much blusher
- . Thick foundation
- . Foundation tide mark around the jaw-line
- . Clumpy mascara
- . Bright colored eye shadow
- . Penciled-in eyebrows

Whether you are beautiful or ugly wearing excessive make up does not make you look any better. Most times it helps to go natural because not only will you have some confidence in yourself and the way you look, people around you will also learn to accept you for who you are however you look.



DIGEST

Using a mobile phone may improve memory

TALKING on a mobile telephone can improve memory and protect the mind from Alzheimer's disease, according to new research.

Tests suggested that exposure to radiation from the devices had a beneficial effect on the mind and could even reverse the effects of Alzheimer's.

The surprise findings contradict some previous studies that have suggested mobiles can cause Alzheimer's and brain cancer.

But Professor Gary Arendash, of South Florida University, and colleagues say long-term mobile use improves the function of the organ instead of causing any damage following their study of mice.

Prof Arendash said: "It surprised us to find that cellphone exposure, begun in early adulthood, protects the memory of mice otherwise destined to develop Alzheimer's symptoms.

"It was even more astonishing that the electromagnetic waves generated by cell phones actually reversed memory impairment in old Alzheimer's mice." They showed that exposing old mice with Alzheimer's to electromagnetic waves generated by mobiles seem to erase brain deposits of a harmful protein called beta-amyloid that silt up the workings of the mind.

The study published in the *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease* involved 96 mice - some of which were genetically altered to develop memory problems mimicking Alzheimer's as they aged.

Both the normal rodents and those with Alzheimer's were exposed to the electromagnetic field generated by standard mobiles use for two one-hour periods each day for seven to nine months.

This was done by arranging their cages around a centrally-located antenna emitting electromagnetic waves typically emitted by a mobile phone pressed up against a human head. If the exposure was started when the



MOBILE phones may stave off Alzheimer's disease

genetically-programmed mice were young adults - before signs of memory impairment were apparent - their cognitive ability was protected. The Alzheimer's mice performed as well on tests measuring memory and thinking skills such as negotiating a maze as aged mice without dementia.

If older Alzheimer's mice

already exhibiting memory problems were exposed to the electromagnetic waves their memory impairment disappeared.

Months of exposure even boosted the memories of normal mice to above-normal levels.

But the memory benefits of exposure took months to show up - suggesting a similar effect

in humans would take years of usage. Human skulls are also much thicker than mice and this could prevent the waves from impregnating the brain.

However Prof Arendash said: "Since we selected electromagnetic parameters that were identical to human cell phone use and tested mice in a task closely

analogous to a human memory test, we believe our findings could have considerable relevance to humans."

Rebecca Wood, Chief Executive of the Alzheimer's Research Trust, said more research was needed to see if it would be effective on humans.

Culled from Telegraph.co.uk

Earth 'to be wiped out' by supernova explosion

THE Earth could soon be wiped out by the explosion of a star more than 3,000 light years away, according to American scientists.

The star, called T Pyxidis, is set to self-destruct in an explosion called a supernova with the force of 20 billion megatons of TNT.

Although the star is thought to be around 3,260 light-years away - a fairly

short distance in galactic terms - the blast from the thermonuclear explosion could strip away the Earth's ozone layer, the scientists said.

University, Philadelphia, in the US, said the International Ultraviolet Explorer satellite has shown them that T Pyxidis is really two stars, one called a white dwarf that is sucking in gas and steadily growing.

When it reaches a critical mass it will

blow itself to pieces.

It will become as bright as all the other stars in the galaxy put together, they said. The Hubble space telescope has photographed the star preparing for its big bang with a series of smaller blasts or "burps", called novae. These explosions came regularly about every 20 years from 1890 - but stopped after 1967.

So the next blast is nearly 20 years

overdue, said scientists Edward M Sion, Patrick Godon and Timothy McClain at the American Astronomical Society in Washington.

Robin Scagell, vice-president of the UK's Society for Popular Astronomy, said: "The star may certainly become a supernova soon - but soon could still be a long way off so don't have nightmares."

Culled from Telegraph.co.uk

Sign Language



What do they mean? I am lost.
Photo location: Manali, India, by Richard Townley
Culled from www.signspotting.com

EASY CROSSWORDS

ACROSS

- Speed abbr.
- Help
- Hock
- Cry of surprise
- Company's symbol
- Foretoken
- Quick drink
- ___ about (approximatively, 2 wds.)
- Word on a lo-cal label
- Walk tready
- Basketball org.
- Pickpocket, e.g.
- Wards off a blow
- ___ Kong
- Altar response (2 wds.)
- Singer "King" Cole
- Poe's prior
- Under
- Social Security Administration (abbr.)
- Proofs of age (abbr.)
- Nautical assent
- Gang ending
- Used car deals
- Bell sounds
- Cole Hamels's org.
- Brunch or lunch
- Honolulu's

DOWN

- Chap
- Greek letter
- Felicity
- Standoffish
- Strong attachment
- Sense of self
- Whirlwind
- Arctic ___ bear
- French friend
- Drenched
- Compass pt.
- Chair support
- Forehead
- ___ Finest Hour
- Large crowd
- Laundry mounds
- Enthroned
- Painting support
- Heavenly bodies
- Formal dance
- Facial
- Neptune's milkie
- Divert
- Sarpras and Seeger
- ___ & Mirindy
- Vinegar's sealed kin
- Cool ___ cucumber (2 wds.)
- Concealed oneself
- "Here ___ again" (2 wds.)
- Wicked
- Wall and Main (abbr.)

48

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13						14		
15			16						17		
18			19						20	21	
22	23					24			25	26	27
28						29			30		
31						32	33			34	
35						36			37		
38						39			40		
41						42			43		
44	45					46	47		48	49	50
51						52			53		
54						55			56		

Solution to Easy Crosswords

47

A	R	G		C	R	O	P	S		C	U	L	
L	O	L		O	P	R	A	H		A	S	A	
E	T	E		U	M	B	R	E	L	L	A	S	
C	H	E	A	P			T	R	Y				
				S	E	E	N		M	E	D	I	C
H	E	L	P		B	O	C	A		E	N	E	
A	T	E		R	A	V	E	N		M	O	O	
H	O	N		E	Y	E	D		P	I	N	S	
A	N	D	E	S		L	E	S	S				
				S	P	A			P	I	G	G	Y
B	A	L	T	I	M	O	R	E		R	I	O	
I	G	O		R	E	R	U	N		A	L	L	
C	O	S		E	R	R	E	D		Y	A	K	

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.

60

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

Solution to Sudoku 59

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

News Extra

Senegal statue condemned for offensive show of thigh

President Abdoulaye Wade's pet project, already controversial over its price tag, has been criticised by religious leaders

Its £17m (about N4.8bn) price tag was branded an insult to the poor. Now Senegal's giant monument to the 'African Renaissance' is in trouble again - for

the capital Dakar, and due to be inaugurated in April, is bigger than New York's Statue of Liberty.

But the pet project of president Abdoulaye Wade has been

“The problem is the monument itself, not whether her skirt is lengthened or not”

an offensive display of women's legs.

The 49-metre bronze group of man, woman and infant perched on a hill overlooking

the capital Dakar, and due to be inaugurated in April, is bigger than New York's Statue of Liberty. Christians objected when he compared it to Jesus Christ, while Muslims, who make up 94% of



PRESIDENT Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal



THE Monument of the African Renaissance in Dakar, Senegal.

the population, said it was “indecent” for presenting the human form as an object of worship.

“Our problem is with the woman's bare legs,” architect and Wade adviser Pierre Goudiaby Atepa told Reuters, referring to the thigh-length hemline of the female figure's tunic.

“Right from the start President Wade pointed out the bare legs and asked if we couldn't put it right. I've given him an estimate for doing that and it's up to him to decide.”

An official in Wade's office said any decision on whether to remodel the statue, likely to be a costly procedure, had not yet been taken.

Wade has already been forced to apologise to Senegal's Christian minority after publicly likening the statue to Christ. Theodore Adrien Sarr, the archbishop

of Dakar, said the comment had “shaken and humiliated” Catholics, prompting angry protests by hundreds of young Christians.

Wade, 83, has said he was personally involved in designing the statue, which in style is more reminiscent of Soviet-style socialist realism than traditional African art forms. Nearly 50 North Korean workers were drafted in to build it.

The towering structure has sparked debate about the purpose of public art. It is intended to symbolise Africa's renaissance and prove that the continent can build its own monuments to rival those bequeathed by European colonialists.

But its detractors argue that Senegal could better use the funds to modernise its crumbling infrastructure. Impover-

ished residents in the monument's shadow endure incessant power blackouts and flooding.

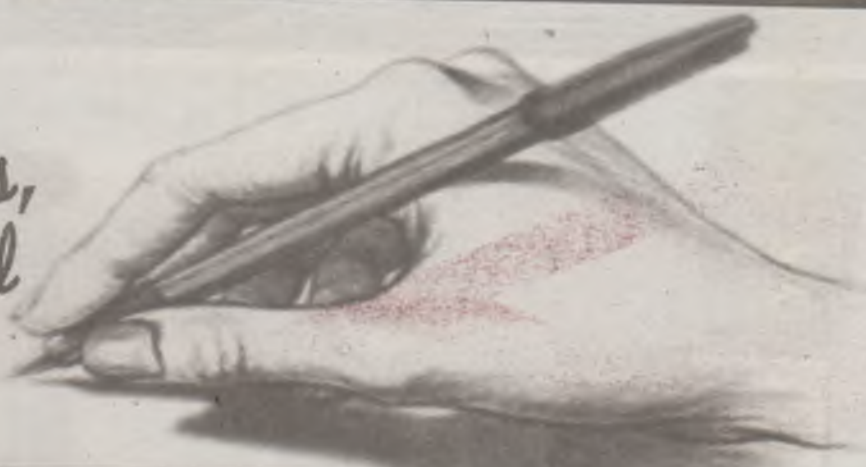
Penda Mbow, professor of history at Dakar university, said: “The problem is the monument itself, not whether her skirt is lengthened or not.”

“The problem is that it shows a woman with a secondary role on the continent, which is historically not accurate,” said Mbow of the impression that the female figure is subjugated to the male in the group.

Dakar residents were bemused by the latest fuss over the project, which promoters hope will become a major tourist draw.

“I think they should have thought about this before, they've spent so many millions on it already,” said student Penda Dethie Nael, 22. “The money could be going elsewhere.”

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12,500 apply for Katsina's 500 houses

MORE than 12,500 persons have applied for the 500 housing units constructed by the Katsina State Government along Mani road in Katsina.

The Commissioner for Works and Housing, Alhaji Musa Sada, said on Wednesday in Katsina that "the houses will be allocated to state and federal

civil servants, politicians, and other citizens of the state who are in dire need of houses.

"However, the number of applicants has surpassed the number of houses.

"The works ministry is currently processing the applications for subsequent allocation of the houses, constructed at the

cost of N2.5 billion."

Sada explained that in view of the large number of applicants for the 500 housing units, the state government had decided to construct more houses in the state capital this financial year (2010).

Already, he added, arrangement had been concluded for the

building of another set of houses as land had been acquired along Daura road for the project comprising 180 housing units.

"However, this time around the houses will be low cost houses so as to reduce the cost for the people."

Sada also said that the state government was looking into

the possibility of acquiring land along Jibia, Batsari, Dutsin-ma and Kano roads in the state capital on which to construct additional low-cost houses.

The commissioner reiterated the state government's determination to provide shelter to the citizens.

(NAN)

JMDB warns against illegal banners, billboards

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Jos Metropolitan Development Board (JMDB) has warned against the fixing of illegal banners, billboards as well as the pasting of posters within the Jos - Bukuru Metropolis.

The board gave the warning yesterday in Jos through its Director of Information and Public Relations, Mr. Yakubu Gomos.

According to Gomos who decried the presence of illegal billboards and fliers around the city, said the situation was unfortunate adding that the board has made several efforts to remove the illegal structures.

He lamented the way companies and religious bodies engaged in pinning banners and posters anywhere illegally without coming to the board.

Commenting on the political season which will usher in the pasting of posters around the city, Gomos said it is unfortunate that most of the political parties are found wanting in that regards stressing that "the most annoying thing is that most of this political parties, to be specific, the biggest political parties will come out in the dead of the night and start fixing posters".

He added that the board is collaborating with the police, "so that they can help us apprehend most of these defaulters.

"He lamented the way companies and religious bodies engaged in pinning banners and posters anywhere illegally without coming to the board.



THE newly constructed additional wing at the National Assembly complex, Abuja

Land owners give Kaduna ministry ultimatum

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

A seven day ultimatum has been given to the Kaduna State Ministry of Lands and Survey to clarify an alleged illegal acquisition of a large portion of land at the state trade fair layout along Zaria road.

Owners of the land in a letter by their solicitor, Mamman

Nasir and co, signed by Suleiman Shu'aibu esq., challenged the ministry to explain the reasons for the demolition of their property on the said land or face legal action.

"Our clients are respective title holders and or to whom offer have been validly granted by you ministry as evidenced on their title document but our briefings have revealed that their respec-

tive properties are at risk of being destroyed on the authority of your ministry," it stated.

It added that facts on ground revealed that some of their clients' properties are already being destroyed by way of demolition of their already developed portion of the land in use.

"Our clients who are becoming restless and aggrieved by

the acts now taking place at the property in issue desire an urgent response to this letter to enable us properly advise them accordingly. We hope and urge that within seven (7) days from the date of receipt of this letter of demand, you will respond accordingly to avoid the necessity of any legal action," the reads.

Plateau to build governor's lodge, terminus market

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

PLATEAU State Government has completed arrangements to build the Governor's Lodge for the State Governor and the burnt Jos terminus market.

Commissioner of Information, Mr Gregory Yenlong, stated this while speaking to Daily Trust in Jos. He said government completed all the

bill of quantities for the two projects and the contract for the building of a house of the governor will be awarded this year.

Yenlong said when the present administration came on board the governor, the deputy governor and the Speaker of the State House of Assembly had no government lodges reserved for them.

He said they secured accommodation for the speaker, and the renovation work in the Deputy Governor's lodge had completed and she will move in any moment.

He said both the Governor and his deputy reside in their personal houses

The commissioner said government will build a standard shopping center in the market.



GOVERNOR Jonah Jang

PROPERTY

FG to rebrand museum and monuments

From Halima Musa, Kano

THE Director General, National Commission for Museum and Monument (NCMM), Mallam Yusuf Abdullah Usman has come up with a three point-agenda to reposition the National Museum and Monument to make it reach inter-

national standard. Usman made the disclosure while addressing the management, curators and heads of stations of National Museum and Monuments in a meeting held at Mambayya House yesterday.

The three-point agenda according to the DG was to facilitate the establishment of community muse-

ums, diversification of museums and identifying world heritage. He explained that the 3-point agenda would be pursued under some cardinal principles.

The principles, he said, includes "inventory, conservation, promotion and research and training. By inventory I mean taking note of

heritage resources; movable and non movable. By conservation I mean, those sites that are identify will be developed and by promotion I mean sustainable management," he said.

Usman, who is just two months on the seat, further highlighted the strategies he would adopt to

succeed in the rebranding, saying his administration was ready to empower museum to operate with certain level of independence, standardisation of museum, establishment of national museum in Abuja and equipping all the museums with facilities that would enhance its operations.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE



DIRECTOR General Consumer Protection Council (CPC), Felicia Umenyi (middle), Deputy Director Surveillance and Enforcement, Emmanuel Amlai (left) and Assistant Director Legal Service, Emmanuel Ataluba at a press briefing on the activities of the council in 2009 in Abuja

Keffi community gets N5m borehole donation

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

MAYANKA, a rural community in Keffi local government area of Nasarawa State where water scarcity is perpetual, is now heaving a sigh of relief with a bore hole donation worth N5 million from a philanthropist.

The donation came with overhead tanks and a standby generator to power supply.

Alhaji Ibrahim Bala Maskolo, the philanthropist who is eyeing the Keffi-West Constituency in the Nasarawa State House of Assembly come 2011 election, said the donation was a demonstration of his commitment to end the suffering of the constituency and therefore boost the socio-economic life of the area once he gets into the House.

He told a crowd of community members and supporters during the project commissioning at the village square, yesterday that he desires to their support for him to continue with the practical provision of relief including infrastructural development which has been lacking in the constituency.

"This project among others, like the construction of hospital wards and supply of equipment translates my utmost desire to give my people the practical thing that would elevate them to the next level in terms of their socio-economic activities", Bala Maskolo said, who therefore urge the people to make positive use of the project and guard it against vandalism.

Keffi local government chairman, Idris Muhammed Idris who accepted the donation on behalf of the community thanked the donor for the initiative and described the gesture as a revolution for the development of the area.

Mortgage bankers want FG to implement social housing

By Nasir Imam

MORTGAGE bankers in Nigeria have recommended that the government should introduce appropriate intervention mechanisms to facilitate social housing in the country and as such interventions should address issues as affordability gap financing, land and infrastructure subsidy, effective secondary market, liquidity provision, interest rate subsidies, fiscal incentives, targeted housing subsidies.

The decision, a fallout of the

Chief Executive Officers 9th Annual Retreat on the theme Liquidity Facility as Strategic Tool for a Viable Housing Finance Sector in Nigeria organised by the Mortgage Banking Association of Nigeria (MBAN) in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja recently.

They expressed the need for member-institutions of the Association to pro-actively address issues that hinder capacity to extend mortgage credits to their teeming customers has always been the main motive; and in an environment where the inclement

economic conditions have made provision of affordable housing a mirage

The communiqué endorsed by MBAN President, Mr. Abimbola Olayinka, and Executive Secretary, Mr. Kayode Omotoso, aligns with the "Affordable Housing" policy agenda of the government as reflected in the report of the Vision 20:2020 committee set up by the Presidency

The mortgage banks also resolved that PMIs should work assiduously towards the enhancement of their shareholders' funds

capital both by private placements as well as through the capital market.

MBAN reiterates the critical need for a Mortgage Liquidity Facility (MLF)/Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in Nigeria to provide access to long term funds (refinancing/re-discounting) from the Capital Markets that would enable PMIs extend mortgage financing thereby increasing affordability and availability of Mortgages and ultimately enhancing home ownership for as many Nigerians as possible, through Mortgage Arrangements.

Council completes Buguma water scheme

THE Asari-Toru Local Government Council of Rivers has completed work on the Buguma water scheme at the council's headquarters.

The Chairman of the council, Mr Ojukaye Amachree said in Port Harcourt Wednesday that with the completion of the project, Buguma residents now enjoyed safe drinking water.

He said the project had already been inaugurated and

that residents were elated at the development. Amachree said that the completion of Buguma water project was a fulfillment of his electoral promises to the people.

"On assumption of office, I noticed that my people lacked safe drinking water.

"After proper assessment of the situation, I embarked on the water scheme to ensure water supply. Today, I am glad my

people now have portable water," he said. The chairman said the council was also building the Ido and Abalama communities' water projects which would be completed in February 2010.

Meanwhile, residents of Buguma have been reacting to the new water project inaugurated for them.

One of them, Mrs Alice George commended the chairman for fulfilling his electoral

promises to the people.

"We thank the chairman for the water project. It is a big relief after years of traumatic experience. With this project, the chairman has brought joy to all us more so in this Christmas" she said.

Another resident, Mr Tamuno Bestman said it was dream come true for the people to be enjoying pipe borne water after years of hardship. (NAN)

CITY NEWS



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News about your capital city

Corrigendum

In our news story titled 'Demolition: Kagini residents protest defiance of court' and published on Page 46 of January 4, 2010 edition, it was stated that the FCT authorities disobeyed two court orders.

We have since found out that only Judge Hafsat S. Sadiq of Chief District Court II granted an interim order restraining the FCDA, AMMC, FCT minister and the commissioner of police from demolishing houses or evicting the residents of Kagini Village pending the determination of the motion on notice slated for January 15, 2010.

The order given by Justice Othman A. Musa of the Abuja High Court was for the FCTA, Federal Capital Development Control, Inspector-General of Police, Commissioner FCT Police Command and Attorney-General of the Federation to be put on notice to appear before the high court to show cause why the order sought by the applicants to stop the demolition should not be granted.

The mix-up is highly regretted - Editor.

PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE



AN overloaded van at Kuje last Sunday.

Residents want PHCN to return transformer

By Romoke W. Ahmad

RESIDENTS of Phase III Jikwoyi, Abuja, yesterday called on officials of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) to return a transformer removed from the area six months ago that left the place in darkness.

Some of them lamented that they spent the festive period without electricity, adding that PHCN officials have made no move to return the transformer.

"The transformer that serves the whole of Phase III developed a fault on June 23, 2009 and was returned in September after repairs but it developed fault almost immediately," a resident stated.

He said some PHCN officials removed the transformer in September and said they were testing it, adding that since then they have not heard anything concerning the transformer.

One of the landlords of the area said they are tired of going to PHCN office to plead for the return of the transformer because their earlier visit to the place did not yield fruit.

He said members of the community approached PHCN officials to inquire whether they can contribute money for them to repair and return the transformer but got no response.

According to him, residents of the area have resigned their faith to the situation on ground and have acquired generators.

"Even business activities have been greatly affected by the long delay in replacing the transformer and we are disappointed with PHCN," a resident added.

PHCN's Business Manager in Jikwoyi, Engr. Ibrahim, informed that the transformer will be restored very soon as it is being worked upon.

He said the problem emanated from the contractor who is repairing the transformer, saying PHCN is sincerely sorry and will try to speed up the repairs work so that the transformer is returned quickly.

FCT teachers to embark on warning strike

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah & Yunus Abdulhamid

PUBLIC primary school teachers in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) will as from January 11 to 15 embark on a warning strike over non-payment of their monetization and 40 percent rent arrears.

This was disclosed in a communiqué issued at the end of an emergency meeting of the executives of the FCT chapter of the Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT) and signed by the union's Chairman, Comrade Hassan Jibir and secretary on Tuesday at Gwagwalada.

The communiqué stated that the union executive's decision to embark on the five-day warning strike was after the deliberation on an agreement reached by the FCT Administration with them in August 27, 2009, over the non-payment of monetization as well as 40 percent arrears for 2007, 2008 and eight months in 2009.

The teachers observed that it was only primary school teachers in the FCT that have,

not benefited from the arrears despite having shelved a strike action to press for its implementation.

He said the teachers' union is convinced beyond doubts that primary school teachers in the FCT have no hope of getting the arrears despite the fact that they have exploited all available and congenial avenues within its disposal.

The union warned further that the failure of FCT Universal Basic Education to pay 50 percent monetization and 40 percent arrears within two weeks grace, starting from January 18 to 29, will lead teachers to resume the suspended strike on February 1, 2010.

In another development, the FCT Universal Basic Education Board (UBEB) has warned Head Teachers of schools in the FCT against collecting unauthorised fees from students, as such would attract severe sanction from the authority.

Chairman FCT UBEB, Alhaji Musa Maikasawa Yakubu sounded this warning in Abuja yesterday at a meeting

with head teachers from primary schools in the territory.

He said all UBEB schools are tuition free and that the only legitimate fee that could be collected is the Parents Teachers Association (PTA) fee, which is usually agreed between the school authority and parents.

The UBE boss stated that the meeting became necessary following series of complaints the board was receiving and admonished over 200 head teachers in attendance to be committed to their jobs as well as maintaining discipline among staff/ students.

Alhaji Musa also assured the teachers that N4.2 billion has been approved by government in December for the payment of monetisation arrears to them.

According to him, "President Yar'adua approved the payment of the monetisation arrears since December and the Ministry of Finance is putting finishing touches to the process and before March it is expected that

everything would be ready.

He said the approved arrangement is such that 50 percent of monetisation would be bore by the federal government, 30% by the area councils and 20% by the FCTA."

However, the National Union of Teachers (NUT), FCT chapter has vowed to go on with a five-day warning strike over the non payment of the monetisation allowance as at December.

Comrade Shehu Alhasan, who is the Head Teacher of Gidan Magoro Local Education Authority Primary School and the FCT National Representative of the NUT, said the body decided in their meeting to go on a warning strike because December 31, 2009 was the promised date for the payment of the monetisation allowances.

According to him, teachers, especially those at the grass roots and foundation level of education have not been given sufficient attention and incentives in Nigeria for optimum performance.



OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL FOR THE FEDERATION

RE-SAN LAMENTS NON-AUDIT OF PRESIDENCY, NASS ACCOUNTS

The attention of the Acting Auditor-General for the Federation has been drawn to the above article which was published on page 6 of the Punch Newspaper of Tuesday, December 15, 2009. He has therefore directed that a rejoinder be issued to correct the misleading assertions contained in the publication so as to put the records straight.

In the publication, Prof. Taiwo Osipitan of Law Department of the University of Lagos among other things alleged that neither the accounts of the executive arm of government nor that of the National Assembly were audited and published from the inception to the end of the Obasanjo Administration.

For the avoidance of doubt the audited Accounts of the Federal Government are submitted annually to the National Assembly as one composite report in-line with section 85 (5) of the Constitution of the Federal Government of Nigeria, 1999. The Constitution does not require the Auditor-General to submit separate reports in respect of each arms of government. The Audited Accounts of the various segments of the Federal Government, be it Ministries, Departments or Agencies, including the Presidency and the National Assembly are therefore not submitted in piecemeal to the National Assembly. However, the Annual Report of the Auditor-General contains comments and observations on the accounts of each arms of government including the Executives, Legislature and Judiciary and expression of his opinion on the financial statements of the Federal Government.

The Acting Auditor-General for the Federation has taken up very seriously the issue of timely submission of Audit Reports to the National Assembly since assuming office on May 18th, 2009. The 2007 Report was submitted in July 2009 by the retired Auditor-General while the 2008 Report was submitted in October 2009 by the Ag. Auditor-General for the Federation.

This represents the first time in 22 years that the Reports of the previous year accounts will be submitted within the following year precisely less than 10 months after the year ended which is in tandem with the provision of the Constitution that requires the Auditor-General for the Federation to submit the Audited Reports nine months

after the end of the fiscal year. The Office is therefore up to date in rendition of Annual Reports to the National Assembly.

The submission of 2008 Annual Report of the Auditor-General for the Federation was widely reported in the Dailies and one would have expected that an academician of Prof. Osipitan stature would have gotten access to such information.

The National Assembly is the representative of the people of Nigeria and once the Auditor-General for the Federation submits his Report to the National Assembly, it could be deduced that he has reported to the people and such reports from that moment becomes public document.

This timely submission of up to date Audited Accounts of the Federal Government to National Assembly is verifiable and questions on any aspect of the Audited Accounts of the Federation should be channeled to the National Assembly.

The Auditor-General for the Federation cannot hold brief for the Auditors-General of some States that according to the article "managed to publish a one or two-page summary of their audited accounts". But Prof. Osipitan has every right as a Nigerian to pick holes in the published audited accounts of such states and get clearance from those states.

We wish to state that this Office appreciates the growing interest of Prof. Osipitan and any other Nigerian or Organization in the Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation and the exercise of its constitutional duties.

A genuine interest in the Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation will deepen and promote the transparency policy of this Administration and engenders accountability in the Nation. Such genuine interest is demonstrated where comments are based on verified facts, and fair to all concerned. This is very important to avoid questionable conclusion and half-truths which have capacity of misinforming the wider Nigerian people to whom the Auditor-General for the Federation reports.

Florence Dibiazue-Eke (Mrs.)
Head of Press and public Relations Unit,
Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation.

AEPB to arrest mobile newspaper vendors

By Lami Sadiq & Usman A. Bello

THE Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) yesterday warned that it will no longer tolerate the activities of criss-crossing newspaper vendors, who run after moving vehicles at traffic junctions.

Director of the board, Dr Abubakar Shehu Yabo, said at a press conference in Abuja that vendors found criss-crossing junctions and running after moving vehicles in the name of selling newspapers will be arrested and prosecuted henceforth.

He advised vendors around the FCT to revert to their designated newspaper sales stand, stressing that the FCT ministerial task force have been instructed to arrest and try in a mobile court any vendor found disobeying the law.

The AEPB boss also stated that the zero tolerance also include street hawking, begging and destitution, which he said is in line with the present administration's policy on sanitization, to ensure that the FCT is kept clean and free from illegal activities.

He said the FCT can only cope with Gbagyi street beggars, whom he said will be taken to a centre for rehabilitation to provide them with skills, while beggars that come from other states will be repatriated to their states of origin.

Dr Yabo explained that the board plans to distribute about 50,000 waste bins before the end of 2010, adding that the second consignment of 6,000 waste bins has arrived at the board's office for purchase at the price of N16,500.

Car burns at Kado Village

By Maureen Onochie

A five series jeep belonging to one Ezekiel Akpan, was on Wednesday razed by fire that began inside the car's engine, along Kado Village, Abuja.


The car owner, who appeared dazed, said the fire might have been caused by an electrical fault which the car developed lately.

He said a motorist beckoned to him to stop while he was driving, adding that he ignored the man and later heard a strange loud sound

that made him stop to see what the problem was.

"The engine of my car was on fire and I watched the whole vehicle burn, although other motorists parked to assist me with their fire extinguishers to put out the fire," Akpan said.

He said the car had a problem but he had been postponing a visit to the mechanic because of time, adding that his hope was to manage the car till the weekend so that the mechanic can work on it.


FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA
PUBLIC NOTICE
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION
POST-BASIC (STEP-B) PROJECT
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GIRLS' COLLEGE (FGGC), BWARI, ABUJA
IDA CREDIT No. 4304-UNI
(IFB NO: STEPB/FGGCB/NCB/1/09)

This is to inform all Bidders who purchased our bid for the Procurement and Installation of Laboratory & Technical Equipment, Chemicals, Generator, Instructional Materials and Text Books IFB No. STEPB/FGGCB/NCB/1/09 that the closing date is now Monday 1st February, 2010 and the bid opening is also the same date Monday 1st February, 2010 at 2.00pm, same venue

The Project Manager,
Science & Technology Education Post-Basic (STEP-B) Project
Federal Government Girls' College (FGGC) Bwari, Along Nigeria Law School Road, Bwari
P.M.B. 02, Garki-Abuja
e-mail: stepbfggcbwari@yahoo.com, Telephone: 08024164647, 08051764228

signed: Management

ARMY WELFARE HOLDINGS LIMITED

NOTICE OF WINDING UP

The General public is hereby notified that the above named Company has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for winding up in accordance with the Company and Allied Matters Act 1990.

Any objection to the winding up should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja.

SIGNED
GAJI & ASSOCIATES

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN STUDENTS (NANS) L'ASSOCIATION NATIONALE DES ESTUDIANTES NIGERIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

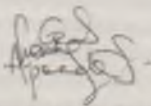
Williams Ubong Building, June 12 Secretariat, University of Benin
President: Jude Gabriel Imagwe, Uniben, 08037144619
Secretary General: Western Uwagbame Iyamu, Uniben, 08062900420
Senate President: Dauda Kazeem, OOU, 08032422347
Website: www.nansonline.com

NANS 2010 NEW YEAR PRAYER FOR NIGERIA

For:
Speedy Recovery for President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua;
Rapid National Development in 2010; Peace & Wisdom to Achieve Vision 20: 2020; Strike & Crisis Free Academic Year

During:
Jumat Service, Friday 8th January 2010
Central Mosque, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria
&
Sunday Mass, Sunday 10th January 2010
Sunday Mass, Our Lady Queen of Nigeria Pro-Cathedral, Abuja

Theme:
O! God of Creation, Direct our Noble Course



Jude Imagwe
President

Trust Islamic Forum

In the name of Allah the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful. All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. We testify that there is no diety worthy of worship except Allah, and that Muhammed (peace be upon him) is His prophet and messenger. May the benediction and blessings of Allah be on Prophet Muhammed who is the noblest of mankind, his household, his companions and those who follow their foot steps till the day of resurrection.

Suicide bombing is haram

By Shaykh Ibn 'Uthaymeen

WHAT is the ruling regarding acts of jihaad by means of suicide, such as attaching explosives to a car and storming the enemy, whereby he knows without a doubt that he shall die as a result of this action?

Indeed, my opinion is that he is regarded as one who has killed himself (committed suicide), and as a result he shall be punished in Hell, for that which is authenticated on the authority of the Prophet (sal-Allaahu 'alayhe wa sallam).

(((Indeed, whoever (intentionally) kills himself, then certainly he will be punished

in the Fire of Hell, wherein he shall dwell forever)), [Bukhaaree (5778) and Muslim (109 and 110)].

However, one who is ignorant and does not know, and assumes his action was good and pleasing to Allaah (Subhaanahu wa Taaala), then we hope Allaah (Subhaanahu wa Taaala) forgives him for that which he did out of ignorant ijtihaad, even though I do not find any excuse for him in the present day. This is because this type of suicide is well known and widespread amongst the people, so it is upon the person to ask the people of knowledge (scholars) regarding it, until the right guidance for him is differentiated from the error.

And from that which is surprising, is that these people kill themselves despite Allaah having forbidden this, as He (Subhaanahu wa Taaala) says:

{And do not kill yourselves. Surely, Allaah is Most Merciful to you}, [Soorah an-Nisaa., Aayah 29].

And many amongst them do not desire anything except revenge of the enemy, by whatever means, be it halaal or haraam. So they only want to satisfy their thirst for revenge.

We ask Allaah to bless us with foresight in His Deen and action(s) which please Him, indeed He is all Powerful over all things. Kayfa Nu'aalij Waaqi'una al-Aleem - Page 119



FAROUK Mutallab

ASK YOUR IMAM

What is Salafiyyah as a manhaj (path or methodology), and can we claim to belong to it? Can we criticise those who do not belong to it or who object to the word Salafi and so on?

The Salafis are the followers of the way of the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) and his Companions, because they are the ones who came before us (the Salaf) and who advanced ahead of us, so their followers are the Salafis.

With regard to taking Salafiyyah as a path or methodology which a person follows and regards as misguided those Muslims who differ with him, even if they are following the truth, and taking Salafiyyah as a partisan path is undoubtedly contrary to Salafiyyah. All of the Salaf or early generations called for unity and harmony around the Sunnah of the Messenger (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) and did not regard as misguided those who differed with them with on the basis of their understanding and interpretation, except when it came to matters of 'aqeedah or beliefs, because they regarded those who differed with them in these matters as misguided. But with regard to practical issues they were often easy-going.

But some of those who followed the path of Salafiyyah in modern times started to regard as misguided everyone who differed from them, even if that person was correct, and some of them adopted a partisan approach like that of other parties which claimed to belong to the religion of Islam. This is something that is to be denounced and cannot be approved of, and it should be said to these people: Look at the way of the righteous early generation (al-salaf al-saalih), what did they used to do? Look at their way and how open hearted they were in the case of differences in which ijtihaad is justified (and differences of opinion are allowed). They even used to differ concerning major issues, matters of belief and practical issues. You will find some of them, for example, denying that the Messenger (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) saw his Lord, whereas others say that he did see Him. You will see some of them saying that what will be weighed on the Day of Resurrection is deeds, whereas others will say that it is the books of deeds that will be weighed. You will also see them differing a great deal with regard to matters of fiqh having to do with marriage, shares of inheritance, buying and selling, and other issues. Yet despite all that they did not regard one another as misguided.

Salafiyyah in the sense of being a particular party with its distinguishing characteristics and in which the members regard everyone else as misguided, these people have nothing to do with Salafiyyah at all. As for the Salafiyyah which means following the path of the Salaf in belief, word and deed, in calling for unity and harmony and mutual compassion and love, as the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: "The likeness of the believers in their mutual love, mercy and compassion is that of a single body; when one part of it is suffering the rest of the body joins it in fever and staying awake" -- this is the true Salafiyyah. End quote. By Shaykh Muhammad ibn 'Uthaymeen (may Allah have mercy on him). Liqaa'at al-Baab al-Maftooh, 3/246 Majmoo' Fataawa wa Maqaalaat Samaahat al-Shaykh Ibn Baaz, 11/406.

MSSN petitions Lagos House of Assembly over LASG's action

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

THE Muslim Students Society of Nigeria (MSSN), Lagos State Area Unit, has petitioned the Lagos State House of Assembly, complaining against what it called "the anti-Islamic stance of the State Government".

In the petition dated December 28th, 2009, the MSSN alleged that the state government under the representation of Mrs. Sarah Sosan, the deputy governor, "has not only been showing her dislike to Islam, but also expressing her hatred and insensitiveness to the plight of the Muslim students."

In the letter jointly signed by its Ammir (president), Mallam AbdulHammeed Bankole and Secretary, Mallam Idris Abdul-Hameed, MSSN said rather than encouraging the student body, the state government has been attempting to scuttle its activities.

The letter read in part: "This is to bring the attention of the Lagos State House of Assembly (under your able leadership) to the anti-youth, anti-student, anti-scholarship and anti-islamic stance of the Lagos State Government as reflected in the deliberate demonstration of hate by the Lagos State Deputy Governor, who oversees the Ministry of Education, Mrs. Sarah Adebisi-Sosan. Going by all sense of morality and convention, it is assumed that a public officer whose oversight functions includes ensuring all-round development of youths, should perform that task with passion, dedication and enthusiasm.

However, to our dismay, the state government under the representation of Mrs. Sosan has not only been showing her dislike to Islam, but also expressing her hatred and insensitiveness to the plight of the Muslim Students.

"The ongoing Annual Islamic Vacation Course (IVC) was scheduled to hold at Lagos State Model College, Badore. The Planning and logistic towards organising a hitch-free vacation programme have been channeled towards the venue. Barely three working days to the commencement of the event, Mrs. Sarah Sosan, cancelled the approval to use the school without appreciable (if any) official explanation.

"It may interest the honourable house to know that the venue was duly and officially applied for, required fee paid and approval given through a letter dated 15/09/2009 with Ref No. ED111/SCH.ADM/02/71. But to our shock, the Deputy Governor who heard the announcement on radio immediately ordered the Tutor-General in Education District 111 to cancel the approval on 21/12/09 with Ref No. ED111SCH.ADM/12/VOL8, through similar programmes are allowed in other state-owned schools (Government College, Agege is a case in point).

"The action of the government brought serious and unimaginable pains and hardship not only on the traumatized organisers, but also the over 4000 innocent participants. The cancellation of the approval barely 72 hours to the commencement of the

programme smacks of a deliberate attempt to truncate the programme and frustrate the Muslim students. The huge financial loss incurred as a result of this singular act no doubt runs into millions of hard-earned funds.

"Efforts to get the intervention of the Executive Governor through letter of protest did not yield any result. Hence, organisers have to spend money on reversing all earlier made plans including advertisement, purchase, invitation, conveyance of members from far and near, as well as logistics among others.

"Not too long ago, the Deputy Governor in the same spirit ordered that some club activities of secondary schools be brought to Friday at Jumat time. It took the intervention of some organisations and well-meaning Lagosians before the order was reversed.

"The MSSN is a peace-loving and law abiding organization. Any other students' organisations might have taken to the streets in protest. But we are of the strong opinion that redress could emerge if the House attention is sought.

"The counter-productive attitude of the Lagos State Government to a 55-year-old organisation whose products are contributing meaningfully to the society in all works of life is disheartening.

"We therefore call on the Honourable House of dispassionately intervene and redress this situation so that this orgy of religious discrimination being championed by the Deputy Governor will not continue."

Inside Politics

PDP will end ANPP's dominance of Borno in 2011 - Ex Gov Goni

SECOND Republic governor of Borno State, Alhaji Muhammed Goni believes that the PDP in his state has put its act together to bring an end to ANPP's streak of victories. He told **Nasir Imam** in an interview in Abuja that the PDP will block all loopholes to ensure that a level playing field is provided for future elections. Excerpts:

YOU were reported to have been officially received into the PDP fold at a ceremony in Maiduguri recently. What is the reason for this move?

What happened is that I actually took some sort of sabbatical from active politics. I detached myself from all forms of political partisanship because at a point I felt the need to give the younger ones the opportunity to take charge and take the country out of the woods. It took me this while to realise that there is need again to come back into politics in order to partake in nation building because as things look now, the country needs all hands on deck to deal with the myriads of problems confronting it. My state, Borno, is a classical example of how things have deteriorated owing largely to the bastardisation of the values of probity, transparency and democracy. When people keep quite in the face of such challenges, then we run the risk of surrendering our future and that of our children and even the unborn ones to some anti democratic elements who will hide under the garb of democracy to perpetrate all forms of anti democratic antics.

But the PDP in Borno State is said to lack the capacity to put its house in order.

Not anymore. It is now clear that the democratic aspect of our political activities is improving. You know there has been a change in the leadership of the party at the state level and from what I have seen of the leadership style, I am convinced beyond any doubts that the days of ruthless and self destructive leadership that has been the bane of the party's development are over and this can be seen in the way democratic values have been imbibed. PDP has no reason to lose any election in Borno State going by its strength in the state; we have all that is required to win elections at all levels in the state but the lack of unity at the top strata of the party has always worked against us. Our opponents have always fanned the embers of this lack of unity because they have always benefited from it. The PDP in Borno State has suffered the consequences of disunity and indiscipline, but now that we have realised our mistakes, I think the sky will be our limits. The commendable leadership role that has been played by the Minister

of Interior Dr Shettima Mustapha in encouraging reconciliation within the party and with those that have been wronged sometimes back which resulted in the unity that has been forged gives me additional hope that we can indeed surmount our inadequacies in order to win Borno in the 2011 elections Insha Allah.

WHY do you think there should be change in Borno state?

Things are happening wrongly in Borno State and above all the state is gradually becoming a one party state not on the basis of the superiority in strength but due mainly due to the fact that we have allowed mediocrity and naivety to prevail. I am in the PDP to help revive it, to help in uniting it and to ultimately put hands together with other democrats to give quality service to the people. You can see the kind of mediocrity on display in the state and the childish manner the state has been governed in the last few years. The only way to free the state from the clutches of mis-governance is to make the PDP achieve its full potentials and gather its full strength in order to massively overwhelm the ruling PDP to take



ALHAJI Muhammed Goni

over power and offer quality service to ensure sustainable growth.

Are you optimistic of victory in Borno states, going by what some people think is ANPP's strength in the state?

I would not have bothered myself with the trouble of going back into partisan politics if I am not too sure of our chances this time. I have told you the reasons behind the party's shoddy performance which is tied to lack of unity, something that has been dealt with very well. We are also emboldened by the signs from the people who desire change because

they have seen that Borno should have been better development wise if the resources that have accrued to it have been wisely and prudently spent. People have been left to wallow in abject poverty in the midst of plenty and I can assure you that what is required to sensitize the people and open their eyes to these realities is just to have in place a sound mobilisation policy to reach out to the entire state and to make sure that nobody is allowed to compromise anybody in the chain of election process and in no time the people will vote right. There is serious hope that the PDP will take it this time around.

'Why detractors are after Aliero'

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

SOME politicians, land racketeers and some civil servants in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) are not comfortable with the achievements of Senator Adamu Aliero as Minister in the last one year so they have mounted a campaign of calumny against him, Alhaji Abdullahi Zuru, the minister's Senior Special Assistant has disclosed.

The minister's aide who was briefing a group of journalists in Kaduna, also said that the aim of the campaigners is to tarnish Aliero's image, distract him from work and to pitch him against President Umaru Yar'adua. According to Zuru, some of these detractors even went to the extent of distributing Aliero's posters in some states, proclaiming that he wanted to be president of Nigeria in 2011.

"When that did not succeed, they produced a comprehensive radio jingle enumerating his achievements and suggesting that he is aiming higher, brought it to FRCN Kaduna where it was aired", he said. The minister's office had to write FRCN formally to stop the jingle because it was anonymous, he added. Right now, the minister's aide continued, the campaigners are capitalising on President Umaru Yar'adua's absence to cause further mischief by producing posters with Aliero and Vice president Goodluck Jonathan, saying that he wants to be vice president in the event that Jonathan becomes President. "These posters are now

in circulation in some states of the federation", Zuru said. The Minister's aide stated that his boss has no hand in the production of those posters and that if the aim is to pitch him against the country's leadership, the plot had failed. Zuru who listed Aliero's achievements in the last one year as minister, also said that his success is unprecedented in the history of FCT administration.

"Since the establishment of Abuja around 1976, no administration has come up with a policy and programmes that are strictly aimed at facilitating the development of the Federal Capital city towards ensuring favourable living conditions for the residents," he said. According to Zuru, the minister inherited 12 abandoned projects when he assumed office about a year ago. The projects were stalled because of lack of funds and they required about N300 billion to start them as the contractors had already left site.

He added that Aliero took a census of these projects which spanned water supply, transportation, schools and waste disposal and presented a memo to FEC, he further said, adding that the minister got approval and the projects were revived. Apart from these projects that he inherited, Aliero also initiated new ones by opening up the FCT, Zuru said. The minister has decided to provide infrastructure, sewage lines, electricity and pipe borne water at Wuye, Maitama extension, Jahe and Abuja North West through public private partnership, Zuru added.

Anambra: NNPP advises against campaign of calumny

By Abbas Jimoh

AHEAD of the Anambra gubernatorial polls next month, the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) yesterday urged political parties and their candidates to eschew politics of bitterness, mudslinging and campaign of calumny and to concentrate on issues that can convince the electorate.

The party made the call in a communiqué at the end of its emergency meeting on the cam-

paigned tactics for its candidate, Ogochukwu Egolom.

"The NNPP is concerned that despite repeated calls by well-meaning people of Anambra State and Nigerians, candidates especially those from the "so-called" bigger parties do not seem to show that they have the interest of the state at heart," the communiqué said and urged candidates in the election to eschew bitterness and aim at facilitating a peaceful and credible election.

...CPC to adopt candidate

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

THE newly registered political party, Congress of Progressive Change (CPC) has said it will support a popular candidate in the forthcoming February 6, 2010 Anambra gubernatorial election, saying if the party was registered

earlier, it would have got a flag bearer.

CPC's Protém Chairman, Senator Rufa'i Sani Hanga told journalists after the party's maiden National Executive Meeting in Abuja yesterday that the party does not regret being unable to produce a candidate for the election.



UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, NIGERIA

2008/2009 CONVOCATION CEREMONIES

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC AND IN PARTICULAR THE 2008/2009 GRADUATING STUDENTS

The University Community, the Public and in particular the 2008/2009 graduating students are hereby informed of the 2008/2009 Convocation Ceremonies scheduled for **Wednesday, January 20 and Thursday, January 21, 2010** as part of series of activities which will commence on **Tuesday, January 12, 2010**.

Details of the events are as listed below:

1. **Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2010
Event: Pre-Convocation News Conference to be addressed by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Tolu Odugbemi, OON, NNOM, FAS
Venue: Senate Chamber, Main Campus, Akoka.
Time: 11.00 a.m.
2. **Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2010
Event: Convocation Lecture
Title: Whither Nigeria?, Or Wither!
Guest Lecturer: Prof. Oyewale Tomori, OON, NNOM, FAS, Vice Chancellor, Redeemer University, Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, Ogun State.
Chairman: Dr. Olawale Babalakin, OFR, SAN.
Venue: Main Auditorium, University of Lagos, Main Campus, Akoka.
Time: 2.00 p.m.
3. **Date:** Tuesday, January 19, 2010
Event: Chancellor's Pre-Convocation Cocktail
Venue: Chancellor's Lodge, 3, Oduduwa Way, Main Campus, Akoka.
Time: 6.00 p.m.
4. **Date:** Wednesday, January 20, 2010
Event: Congregation for the award of First Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates and prizes of the Faculties of Arts, Education, Environmental Sciences, Science, Social Sciences and Distance Learning Institute
Venue: Multipurpose Halls, University of Lagos, Main Campus, Akoka.
Time: 11.00 a.m.
5. **Date:** Wednesday, January 20, 2010
Event: Alumni Reception
Venue: Guest Houses Quadrangle, University of Lagos, Main Campus, Akoka.
Time: 6.00 p.m.
6. **Date:** Thursday, January 21, 2010
Event: Congregation for the conferment of Higher Degrees and the award of First Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates and prizes of the College of Medicine, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Faculty of Dental Sciences, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, Faculties of Business Administration, Engineering, Law, Pharmacy and School of Postgraduate Studies.
Venue: Multipurpose Halls, University of Lagos, Main Campus, Akoka.
Time: 11.00 a.m.

Conferment of Honorary Degrees on the following four distinguished personalities:

1. Mr Kofi Annan, Former Secretary-General, United Nation
2. Chief Emeka Anyaoku Former Secretary, Commonwealth of Nations
3. Professor Umaru Shehu, CON, Former Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, University of Lagos.
4. Professor C.O. Taiwo, Emeritus Professor of Education

Venue: Multipurpose Halls, University of Lagos, Main Campus, Akoka.
Time: 11.00 a.m.

7. **Date:** Thursday, January 21, 2010
Event: Convocation Exhibition
Venue: Main Auditorium, University of Lagos, Main Campus, Akoka.
Time: 3.00 p.m.
8. **Date:** Thursday, January 21, 2010
Event: Convocation Production
Title: Synthetic Strands
Venue: Main Auditorium, University of Lagos, Main Campus, Akoka.
Time: 6.00 p.m.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Payment by graduating students:

Complete Academic Outfit - Gown, Hood, Cap and Scroll
Each graduating student is expected to pay as follows:

- (1) Academic Outfit -
 - (a) Purchase: N8,600 (Bachelor's Degree)
N11,100 (Master's Degree)
N14,100 (Doctorate Degree)
 - (b) Hire: Bachelor's Degree - N8,600 with refund of N6,100
Master's Degree - N11,100 with refund of N8,100
Doctorate Degree - N14,100 with refund of N11,100

on the return of the academic gown on or before 31st January, 2010.

- (2) Academic Outfit will be available in the Faculties.
- (3) Alumni Association: Membership/Registration Fee:

Bachelor's Degree	-N1,000.00
Postgraduate	-N1,500.00

DIRECTIVES FOR PAYMENT AND REFUND

- (a) Graduating students are to pay for gown and scrolls into Account No. 020710000000280 in Intercontinental Bank (nationwide) and collect Blue copy of the teller. Name and Faculty should be indicated boldly on the teller.
- (b) Blue copy of the teller should be submitted to the Faculty Officer to obtain outfit.
- (c) (If applicable), return academic outfit (after use) to the Faculty Officer and obtain a clearance slip.
- (d) Submit clearance slip to Faculty Officer to obtain attested teller.
- (e) Proceed to Intercontinental Bank with the attested teller to collect refund.

INVITATION CARDS FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS

Each graduating student is entitled to two invitation cards. The invitation cards and complete set of academic outfit made up of gown, hood, cap and scroll would be available for collection on presentation of receipt/teller for payment at the Faculty/College/School/Institute as appropriate. Convocation Brochure and Academic outfit are to be collected at the various College/Faculties/School/Institute of the graduating students.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Tolu Odugbemi, OON, NNOM, FAS, congratulates all graduating students, parents, guardians and well wishers on this occasion. He appeals for cooperation with the University in ensuring a hitch-free and eventful convocation.

OLUWAROTIMI O. A. SHODIMU Esq.
Registrar and Secretary to Council

TRUST CLASSIFIED

THE LORD'S VALUABLES FELLOWSHIP CENTRE

This is to inform the general public that the above named foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for Registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Rev. Bar Anthony Ifeanyi Uwechia
2. Pst Blessing Ngozika Uwechia
3. Barr. Chiedu Orajika
4. Maureen Uwechia
5. Pst Victor Lamuels
6. Fazing Noel Nampon
7. Ngozi Dolly Onugha
8. Mrs Ikwo Charles Uwechia
9. Mr Daniel Moses Nwanne
10. Mrs Jocelyn Asuquo
11. Pst Tobo Olaitan

Aims and Objectives

1. To propagate the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, to all the ends of the end.

2. To add value to life like Jesus Christ

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, Maitama District Abuja with 28 days of this publication.

Signed: **Emeka Muoghali Esq. of Landmark Solicitors Suite C2, Royal Plaza, Beside EFCC, Wuse II, Abuja.**

UMUODU PEOPLES ASSEMBLY

The general public is hereby informed, that the above named association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied matter Act, of 1990.

TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Patron Sylvanus O. Uka
2. Mr. Sydney N. Ugwuadu
3. Mr. Oliver Okerefor
4. Mr. Jonathan A. Eke
5. Moses O. Onuoha
6. Simeon A. Ugwuadu
7. Mr. Peter Ugwuade

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To bring under one umbrella the people of umuodu community.
2. To promote the welfare of all members.

Any objection to the registration of the above Club should be forwarded in writing to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: **Simeon A. Ugwuadu Secretary**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **MISS PATRICIA PATRICK** now wish to be called **MRS PATRICIA DAVID UDAGA**. All former documents remain valid. C.O.E. Zuba Abuja and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **CHIAMAKA EBELE OZOH**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS CHIAMAKA EBELE OMOYELE**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **NKEMEJINA ONYINYECHUKWU OKORO**, now wish to be known as **NKEMEJINA ONYINYECHUKWU ADEKUNLE**. Philips Consulting and general public please take note.

I, formerly **MISS IMADEYUNUAGBON CLARA EHIMWENMA**, now **MRS OMUSI CLARA EHIMWENMA**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS PATIENCE OJOMA MUNDI** now wish to be addressed as **MRS. PATIENCE OJOMA ADEKA**. All documents remain valid. University of Abuja, NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS MERCY EYITEMI ASIN** now wish to be addressed as **MRS MERCY EYITEMI FELIX-SOKOH**. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

I, formerly **MR. EMMANUEL INUWA** now to be called **MANI INUWA**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly **MISS AMINA SULEIMAN IBRAHIM**, now wish to be called **MRS AMINA ABDULRASHEED IBRAHIM**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, **MISS ROSELINE JUSTINA FINEFACE**, now to be known and called **MRS JUSTINA ROSELINE OKWARAUBA**. All former documents remain valid. Public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS CHRISTIANA GARBA**, now wish to be known & addressed as **MRS KYAUTA GARBA EMMANUEL**. All former documents remain valid. TARABA STATE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, TARABA STATE TEACHING SERVICE BOARD and general public please take note.

Formerly **SHOYINKA MOGBOJUBOLA JOY** now **IGBOKWE MOGBOJUBOLA AYOMIDE**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly **MISS FANTA MODU**, now **MRS BINTU ABACHA**. All former documents remain valid. Borno State Teaching Service Board and the general public to take note.

I, formerly known as **HADIZA ABDULAZEEZ**, now wish to be known as **HADIZA HUSAINI**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly **MISS TEMITOPE OLUWATOGBE**, now **MRS. TEMITOPE ALALE**. All documents remain valid. General public take note.

FORMERLY KNOWN **ZANNAH KACHALLAH IBRAHIM** NOW, WISH TO BE ADDRESSED AS **MOHAMMED KACHALLAH IBRAHIM**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENT REMAIN VALID, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AS **RIFKATU YUSUF**, NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS **MRS RIFKATU JOHN PANADANDA**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENT REMAIN VALID, NIGERI POLICE FORCE AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC PLEASED TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AS **MISS GRACE WAKILI**, NOW WISH TO BE ADDRESSED AS **MRS GRACE ALI J. MAMZA**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID, NIGERIA POLICE FORCE AND GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY **ILORAH EMMANUEL FRANCIS CHIEDOZIE** NOW WISH TO BE ADDRESSED AS **HARUNA EKWUEME EMMANUEL CHIDOZIE**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY AND GENERAL PUBLIC TO NOTE.

I **HALIMA AMINU** NOW WISH TO BE CALLED **HALIMA AMINU DANTSOHO**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. FCE ZARIA, AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY ZARIA, AND GENERAL PUBLIC TO NOTE.

I FORMERLY **MISS CHUKWU JOY UCHENNA** WISH TO BE ADDRESSED AS **MRS GODSON JOY UCHENNA**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. THE GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE

I, formerly known as **MISS SULE JUMMAI** now wish to be known as **MRS. JOHN JUMMAI**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public to note.

I, formerly **MISS RUTH EJIMA ADEJOH** now wish to be called **MRS RUTH EJIMA IBRAHIM**. NMCN and general public please take note.

ASSOCIATION OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATORS

This is to notify the general public that the above named body has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja, for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

Trustees are:

- Dr. Nuru Abdullahi
- Mrs. Yetunde Allen
- Mrs. Uwan Yahaya
- Mr. Gregory Nkechuwu Ibe

Aims and Objectives:

The aims of The Association shall be to encourage and enhance quality teaching, research and collaboration in entrepreneurship education among tertiary institutions in Nigeria. The Association shall:

- (i) achieving above through conducting regular review and upgrading of curriculum and syllabus.
- (ii) Build capacity of teachers on the models, approaches and best practices for effective teaching of entrepreneurship in Nigeria
- b. Provide a forum for its members for the exchange of beneficial ideas regarding topical issues around business development, social development and general economic development
- c. Endeavour through regular contacts, seminars, conferences and round tables to maintain and improve academic excellence and good image of Nigerian institutions of higher-learning in entrepreneurship education.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, FMB 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight days from the date of this publication.

Signed: **Dr. Murtala S. Sagaji Secretary**

WORLD CHRISTIAN MEDICAL MISSION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Dr. Akwaras Asheku Lansbol - Chairman
2. Dr. (Mrs) Mercy Wakili Isichei - Secretary
3. Dr. Michael Ayedima Misauno - Member
4. Rev. Sunday Adams Pam - Member
5. Dr. (Mrs) Ndunno Asheku Akwaras - Member

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To meet the health and spiritual needs of the less privileged through free medical services.
2. To promote, spread the aroma of Christ everywhere through medical missions.
3. To create a platform for others with similar burdens, desire and vision
4. To develop and inculcate a sense of selfless service among members and volunteers
5. To encourage personal and spiritual growth among members and proficiency in their various professions.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: **Secretary**

FOUNTAIN CLUB OF LAGOS

This is to inform the general public that the above named club has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Kizzio Okafor
2. Emmanuel Uwakwe
3. Uchenna Unemuo
4. Tony Mgbefala
5. Marcel Ugwuakwe

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To bring about brotherly love and progress amongst members.
2. To encourage members to see each other as brothers outside their native origins by promoting good friendship amongst members.
3. To assist members in difficulty or as the occasion may demand in accordance with the constitution.
4. To encourage and assist members in achieving set business goals.
5. To encourage members to be upright and honourable in their dealings with one another and with the general public.

Any objection(s) against registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 555 Ndafa Square, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: **Barr. Blessing O. Okeke**

SAVED BY GRACE PENTECOSTAL APOSTOLIC CHURCH

This is to inform the general public that the above named Church has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Pastor Usanga Okon Eflong
2. Elder David Nelson
3. Elder Friday Etukudo
4. Deaconess Mercy Usanga Eflong
5. Deaconess Ikwo Ekanem
6. Barr. Akaninyene Ben

Aims and objectives:

1. To preach and propagate the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. To promote the welfare of members and minister love of God to all.
3. To establish church branches and missions for purposes of teaching the Gospel.
4. To render charitable services to the less privileged members of the society.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5 Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: **Pastor Usanga Okon Eflong (Chairman)**

THE UNITED FRIENDLY BROTHERS CLUB ABUJA

This is to inform the general public the above named Club has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Mr. Benjamin Adeniji
2. Barr. Charles Ugwu
3. Mr. Augustine Okweche
4. Chief John Egaredon

Aims and objectives:

1. To promote unity and progress among friends.
2. To foster unity and progress among members.
3. To promote the welfare of members.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5 Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: **Ojefia Whisky**

SOKOTO POLO CLUB PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Election and Re-activation Committee of Sokoto Polo Club wishes to inform all old Polo Club members that the updating of membership is currently going on. All those interested in renewing their membership should contact the Secretary of the Committee (Alh. Isiya Bakori), at No. 2 Rabah Road, Gawon Nama Area Sokoto, or call GSM numbers, 08033109727, 08033257750, 08032222678, 08033644544 and 08033148297 to collect the required forms for updating membership.

Those interested in applying for new membership should also contact the Secretary or call any of the GSM numbers provided to collect the required application forms.

The exercise will commence from Friday the 25th December, 2009 and shall end on Sunday the 10th of January, 2010.

Signed
Ahaji Mujtaba Ahmed (mni, mfr) DCG rtd.
Chairman of the Committee

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is inform the general public of the loss of original R of O with file No. KB20223, plot No. 3509/F01, Kubwa. Belonging to **FAROUK UMAR BANDE**. All efforts to trace it proved abortive. If found please call this No. 08055242331.

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the general public of the lost of International Passport with the No. AOC 617778, belonging to **BELLO USMAN MUHAMMED**. All efforts to trace the missing documents prove abortive. British High Commission, Nigeria Immigration Service. If found please return to the nearest police station.

Signed:
Bello Usman Muhammed

SPORT

Utaka off to
Sochaux
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Only luck can make Eagles win Nations Cup - Lumumba

By David Ngobua

WITH few days to the commencement of the 2010 Africa Nations Cup in Angola, former NFA presidential aspirant and proprietor of Jos City Raiders FC, Hon. Lumumba Dah Adeh has said if luck smiles on the Super Eagles of Nigeria, the team can win the championship which begins on January 10 in Angola.

Speaking to Trustsports yesterday in Abuja, the former member of the House of Representatives said although the team's preparations for the championship has left much to be desired, with luck on their side, the Eagles would be able to spring surprises.

He observed that the 2010 Nations Cup will be keenly contested for but if the aspect of luck which he described as very crucial in all human activities is taken into consideration, the Nigerian national team would be able to achieve impressive results.

Lumumba said even as countries like Coted'voire, Ghana, Mali, Cameroon, Egypt, Algeria are favourites to win the championship, if the Eagles step up their game and luck complements their efforts, they may end up winning the championship.

He however said Nigeria's major problem is how to prepare well before any major competition. "Most people have written off the Super Eagles but I want to say that with luck on their side, the

team can spring surprises. Personally, I will not be surprised if the team wins the championship. With a dint of luck, anything can happen. But to be honest with you, if the team does anything spectacular at the championship, it will be by luck.

"The championship favourites are countries like Coted'voire, Ghana, Egypt, Cameroon, Mali and Algeria. This is not to say any other country will not win. If luck shines on Eagles, they may end up recording their third African title. My only worry is that up to this moment, we have not fully understood the importance of early and adequate preparations before major championships".

Lumumba said preparations for a championship is not all about attractive match bonuses and allowances but putting in place some of the basics which are necessary for team building and cohesion.

The former presidential aide on National Assembly matters maintained that as a Nigerian, he would be so happy if the Eagles eventually lift the trophy in Angola but expressed serious doubt as he observed that if preparation is anything to go by, the Eagles chances are really slim.

"Just like any other patriotic Nigerian, I would be really happy if the Eagles win in Angola. However, I won't expect so much so that in the end, I will be able to accept any result that comes out



SUPER Eagles midfielder John Mikel Obi, left, in action against Kingston Laryea of Ghana.

of the team's participation.

"I therefore join other sports enthusiasts in the country in pray-

ing for the team. I wish the team the best of luck as it aspires to make the country proud".

NFF uncertain whether Eneramo will travel to Angola

THE Super Eagles camp in Durban, South Africa, is uncertain if striker Michael Eneramo, who was dropped on Monday, will travel with the team to Angola on Friday.

Eneramo played in Wednesday's friendly scoreless draw with Zambia in Durban.

Eagles' Media Coordinator Petruside Idah told NAN that he was not certain whether the Esperance of Tunisia player would return home or travel with the team to Angola.

Idah described the friendly warm-up game between the two Orange Angola 2010-bound sides as tough, saying he believed they were cautious.

"I believe it was a tough match all the same," said the spokesman.

However, FC Sion of Switzerland defender, Obinna Nwaneri has sent words of consolation to dropped Esperance of Tunisia striker.

The former Enyimba International of Aba stopper told brilafm.net that football is all about opportunities and says not all invited players will make the final list for a major competition.

"Everyone cannot be at the Africa Cup of Nations. At least, we have tried to this level. I want him to bear with the coaches, because they make the decisions," he said.

Nigeria are drawn in Group C against Africa Cup of Nations champions Egypt, Mozambique and Benin Republic, while Zambia will face Cameroon, Tunisia and Gabon in Group D.

The championship kicks off on Sunday in Luanda with hosts Angola facing Mali in the opening match of the Jan. 10 to Jan. 31 tournament.

Amodu keeps things tight

DESPITE playing his final friendly before the Nations Cup behind closed doors, Nigeria coach Shuaibu Amodu refused to show his hand, keeping his cards firmly glued to his chest.

However, one thing his choice and deployment of personnel did show is that the coach is open to tactical flexibility.

Last month, the Super Eagles coach told journalists he would build his team on the founda-

tion of the team that secured the World Cup ticket in Nairobi.

But despite having all but one of those players available, with Femi Ajilore left behind at home, Amodu's starting line-up was a study in head-scratching puzzle.

Only four players (Enyeama, Nwaneri, Mikel and Yakubu) in his starting line-up against Zambia started in Nairobi.

If the line-up was puzzling, the formation was equally startling. For a man who has favoured 4-3-3

for most of the campaign, Amodu chose to go with a 4-2-4 formation, obviously looking to explore his wide options.

That decision left his two-man midfield exposed to exploitation by the Chipolopolo in the first half, with Media Officer Idah Peterside, admitting that first half play had been patchy.

But the introduction of skipper Nwankwo Kanu in the second half turned things around, Peterside, a former international said.

"Kanu was unbelievable. He came in, and things totally changed. Our passing was better, our movement was better and the team played a lot better than they did in the first half."

That view was shared by another ex international, former African Player of the Year Kalusha Bwalya, who conceded that the Eagles were in control of the second period.

"It was a good match. I thought the game was tough. Our boys did

very well in the first half, but things got tougher in the second half and I thought Nigeria were in control," the FIFA Technical Committee member stated.

As is usual with Amodu, his starting eleven against Egypt will probably remain a closely guarded secret until game time, but one key clue from Wednesday's game is that the former BCC coach is prepared to shake up his tactics, and possibly, his personnel on January 12.

Arsenal swoop for Lacina Traore

Hails 'the new Emmanuel Adebayor'

ARSENAL boss Arsene Wenger is considering a £3.6million move for giant CFR Cluj striker Lacina Traore who has been dubbed 'the new Emmanuel Adebayor'.

The Ivory Coast teenager stands at 6ft 8in and has caught the attention of Wenger after a string of eye-catching performances in Romania, reports The Daily Mirror.

Wenger has stated he will have to buy a striker this month if Nicklas Bendtner fails to recover from a groin injury quickly as he is already without Robin Van Persie until April. Theo Walcott is also struggling for full match fitness.

Traore has scored just six goals in 21 matches but Wenger believes he can help turn the 19-year-old into star - just as he did with Adebayor who he signed from Monaco in 2006 for £7m.

The Togo hitman was subsequently sold on to Manchester City for a staggering £25m.

Cluj president Iuliu Muresan has confirmed Arsenal's interest in the player and said: 'We have been in contact with Arsenal but have not received any concrete offer. Four million euros is the fee we are looking for.'

Traore has admitted it would be a 'dream' to play in the Barclays Premier League with the Gunners.

He said: 'It would be a dream for me to get to play on a team so great. I have a chance there because Arsene Wenger relies heavily on young players.'

'It is sensational to hear Wenger is watching me. I could be a success in England. Even though I am still young, I have a lot of experience and a lot of ambition.'



LACINA Traore stands 6ft 8in and could be a big hit in the Premier League

In 2010, I will demonstrate who I am - Drenthe

REAL Madrid winger Royston Drenthe has declared that 2010 will be the year that he shows his quality at Real Madrid.

"This year I am going to succeed and demonstrate who I am. I am very happy at Real Madrid," said the young Dutchman of Suriname heritage. Drenthe also revealed that Los Blancos central defender Pepe, who was operated on successfully after suffering a season-ending ACL tear in Madrid's match against Valencia, visited the club's training facility early this morning to greet his team-mates. Drenthe said the towering Portuguese was "looking very pleased" with his recovery.

Drenthe has had a tumultuous career at Real Madrid since moving to Los Blancos from Feyenoord in the 2007 season. Many believe the Dutchman should have spent a year out on loan before landing in the Spanish capital and Drenthe has been relegated to the bench for much of his career at the Bernabeu.

Last season, the Madrid faithful seemed to have lost their patience with the winger, whistling whenever he had possession of the ball, but this season the fan reception has been more patient.

TRUST CLASSIFIED



In the Light of Truth The Grail Message

"Bear in mind that every life on earth is a short time of schooling, and that you yourselves do not cease to exist when you lay aside your physical body. You will continually live or continually die! Continually enjoy bliss or continually suffer!"

Abd-ru-shin

Grail Centre Madalla, Madalla Suleja Road 08054183304

AUCTION! AUCTION!! AUCTION!!!

There will be a public Auction/Sales of unserviceable PEUGEOT 406, BED FORD (Truck), BED FORD (Bus), MERCEDES BENZ MBO 814 (Bus), MERCEDES BENZ 1414, Two TOYOTA COASTER (Bus), 165KVA ROLLS-ROYCE Diesel Engine and 60KVA PEKING GENERATING SET commencing today FRIDAY 8TH January, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at Federal Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Federal Secretariat - Abuja.

For more details please contact appointed:

AUCTIONEER: Sambo Dikko (Nig) Ltd, No 27, Banmalla Street, Wukari, Taraba State 0802-663-8234

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as MISS RITA FATU OKEWU, now wish to be MRS RITA FATU OKEWU - SANMI. All former documents remain valid. general public please take note.

I formerly known as MISS OKE-OGHENE OJOBARIOGBO ODHIGADA, now MRS OKE-OGHENE OJOBARIOGBO ODESOKI. All former documents remain valid NMCW and general public to note.

I formerly MOSES LEKE ADEYEGUN now wish to be called MUSA ADEYEGUN. All former documents remain valid. UJAPLC and public to note.

I formerly MISS GRACE ATUME, now MRS GRACE DOMINIC IORAPUU TSAGA. All former documents remain valid. National Institute for Cultural Orientation (NICO) and the general public note.

I formerly known as MRS NSHOKIBE NKORIGHERE MAJAFU-EKPANG wish to be called and addressed as MRS NASHOKIBE JAMES OJIE. All former documents remain valid. National Institute for Cultural Orientation and the general public should take note.

I formerly known as MISS EMEM AKPAN AFFIAH, now MRS EMEM SAMSON ROBERTS. Former documents remain valid. ICAN, ICEN, Brunel Engr & Consulting Ltd and general public to note.

I formerly known as MISS OKEKE ELIZABETH NDIDI, now MRS SHEDRACH-NNAMANI ELIZABETH NDIDI. Former documents remain valid. Education Secretariat, SEB Abuja and general public to note.

Former AMINAT DAUDA ELAYO is now AMINAT AHMADU ABUBAKAR. Former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS FALA SHADE AKINROGBE, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS SHADE OSIBO. All other documents and Credentials still remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly DR. LAWAL ZAINAB AJOKI now wish to be known as DR. (MRS) ABDULKADIR ZAINAB AJOKI. Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria and general public to note.

I, formerly known as MRS. EUNICE HABU now wish to be addressed as MRS. EUNICE DANLADI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

The general public is hereby informed of the loss of original offer of Terms of Grant/Conveyance of Approval with Ref. No. MFCT/ZC/AMAC/LUE MF6497 dated Dec 1997 for plot Zha (MF6479) within Lugbe 1 extension in favour of Cecilia Kanu Chuchuma. All effort made to trace it proved abortive. If found please return to any nearest police station.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public of the original loss of documents: Grant/Conveyance of approval of Plot No.1199 about 600sqm in Dawaki Ext. (Re-location layout bearing Audu Dirma belonging to Nasara Auja Rabo whosoever transact business with this documents does that at his/her own risk.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the original land documents: Grant/Conveyance of Approval of Plot No. 1232 of about 550sqm in Dawaki Ext. (Re-location layout) bearing Mr. Wilfered Ade. Whoever transact business with the said documents does that at his/her own risk as reported by Nasara Auja Rabo.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public that the original Customary Certificate of Occupancy (No. KAC/FCDA/LP&S/KN-738) in the name of MR. AHMED BABAH SULEIMAN of No. 52 Nouakchott Street, Wuse Zone 1, Abuja is declared missing. All effort made to trace the said document proved abortive. If found please, return to the nearest Police Station or STARLIGHT TRAVELS & TOUR LIMITED, Suite 24 Mangal Plaza, Wuse Zone 1, No. 1 Garoa Street Off Nouakchott Street, Abuja.

Signed:

MR.AHMED BABAH SULEIMAN

I FORMERLY MR ANEKWE EMMANUEL CHIBUEZE WISH TO BE ADDRESSED AS MR GODSON-ANEKWE EMMANUEL CHIBUEZE. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. THE GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

I, formerly known as DORIS NONYE ACHINIHU wish to be called as MRS DORIS NONYE OKERE. All former documents remain valid. BANK PHB, Federal Poly Nasarawa and general public should take note.



GROUP C PREVIEW



THIS group is widely seen as a two-horse race between defending champions Egypt and two-time winners Nigeria with the opening group game between the two favourites crucial to the final outcome from this section.

Mozambique and Benin are the other teams in this group based in the Angolan city of Benguela.

The Mambas of Mozambique may be staging a return to the tournament finals 12 years after their last appearance in Burkina Faso, but they were impressive in the qualifiers for Angola 2010 as they beat Tunisia and held Nigeria to a draw in Maputo.

The Mozambicans, who have failed to progress beyond the first round in their three previous Nations Cup outings, have been together for a long time and this has translated to a near-perfect understanding and cohesion on the pitch.

Again, the team's staying power and athletic ability have caught the eye with both the experienced campaigners like skipper Manuel Bucuane aka Tico Tico and Dario Monteiro and younger stars like Elias Pelembe all willing to lay down their lives for the country's cause.

The big minus for this team built by Dutchman Mart Nooij in the last three years is that save for one or two players, they are largely an inexperienced squad and short of exposure as most of the players ply their trade back home in Mozambique and in neighbouring South Africa, with just a sprinkling of pros based in

Europe.

Benin, on the other hand, will be making their third Nations Cup finals appearance after their debut in 2004. They also held their own in their qualifying group to finish behind group winners Ghana and ahead of star-studded Mali. Their qualifying record included a 1-0 home win over group winners Ghana.

In EC Metz striker Razak Omotoyossi and Paris Saint-Germain forward Stephan Sessegnon, the Squirrels have two top-rated performers.

Nigerian-born Razak Omotoyossi is the team's leading scorer with 14 goals in 28 appearances. The former Helsingborgs striker netted eight goals in the 2010 World Cup/Nations Cup qualifiers making him one player to watch out for in Angola.

Sessegnon brings flair and dare to Benin. He made his international debut in June 2004 against Cameroon. Like Omotoyossi, this will be his second Nations Cup finals. Sessegnon has continued at PSG to impress with his vision, skill and occasional goals sparking a transfer chase among top English clubs Chelsea, Manchester City, Everton, Liverpool and Arsenal.

Both Mozambique and Benin would therefore fancy their chances particularly as top contenders Egypt and Nigeria are in Angola without several of their key stars mainly as a result of injury.

The Pharaohs will be without strikers Amr Zaki, Mido as well as the mercurial Mohamed Aboutrika, meaning the six-

time champions will line up a largely inexperienced forward line in Angola.

Real Zaragoza ace Ikechukwu Uche, leading scorer for Nigeria in the qualifying tournament with four goals, has been ruled out as a result of a long-term knee injury.

Also, there still remains fitness concerns over Wolfsburg striker Obafemi Martins, Everton defender Joseph Yobo and striker Yakubu Aiyegbeni, who has just returned from an Achilles tendon injury that kept him out of action for almost a year.

While Nigeria are still celebrating a dramatic qualification to the World Cup, their biggest Group C rivals are smarting from losing out to bitter regional foes Algeria to the global soccer extravaganza

in South Africa.

"Losing out narrowly on the World Cup ticket to Algeria was really very painful and we have resolved to put that behind us to focus on retaining our Nations Cup title in Angola," said Egypt coach Hassan Shehata.

"My players were dispirited as a result of the shock, but I have been talking to them and psyching them up for the tough task in Angola. Playing against Nigeria will not be easy but let's see how it goes."

Both teams cancelled out each in a scoreless draw when they last clashed at this tournament in Tunisia in 1994.

Nigeria coach, Shuaibu Amodu, on the other hand, has insisted that his team will not be preoccupied with only Egypt in their first round

group.

"We respect Egypt, but they are not the only team in our group. We will therefore not take the other teams in our group, Mozambique and Benin, for granted if we are to go beyond the group stage," declared Amodu, who would most likely be given the boot if the Super Eagles fail to reach at least the semi-final of Angola 2010.

Former Nigeria skipper, Austin 'Jay Jay' Okocha, will back the Eagles to fly high in Angola despite growing pessimism back home.

"Amodu's side has been criticised, but they showed great spirit to make it to the World Cup. I'm hopeful," said Okocha, who played a key role as Nigeria won their last Nations Cup crown 16 years ago.



NIGERIA'S Osaze Odemwingie will be Super Eagles' lynch pin

Egypt

TALENT ALL OVER THE PITCH

The player's versatile play of Amr Zaki and the marking of Mido are key to success. Coupled with the credible pace of Zaki - who is in good form - there is a double whammy of fast forwards in the centre of an attack and the fearless efforts of Hassan Shehata ready to break down defences.

Nigeria

ROTATION CAN CAUSE PROBLEMS

Nigeria have qualified for the tournament but coach Shuaibu Amodu has a problem - he does not have a fixed player line-up to make use of. The last time he used a fixed line-up was in 2004 when he coached the team to a surprise quarter-final appearance. Facing a defensive-minded Benin, Amodu will have to rely on his rotation.

Mozambique

CREATIVE BUT CAN BE WASTEFUL

Left winger Osaze Odemwingie is a key player in the attack. He is a creative player who can break down defences. However, he is a wasteful player and can be wasteful in the final third. He is a key player in the attack and can be a key player in the attack.

Benin

IMITATION IS THE SINFUL TACTIC

A lack of depth in the attack means Benin will have to rely on the pace and finishing of Razak Omotoyossi and Stephan Sessegnon. They are a creative team but can be wasteful in the final third. They are a creative team but can be wasteful in the final third.



GROUP D PREVIEW



FOUR times African Champions and losing finalists from the 2008 Africa Cup of Nations tournament Cameroon are the bookmakers favourite to progress from Group D at the 2010 event in Angola.

Under new management in the form of the highly successful tactician Paul Le Guen, the Indomitable Lions have shown a vast improvement in form over the last six months.

The real question could be who of the other three Group D sides based in the South Western Angolan city of Lubango will join Cameroon in the knock phase.

Tunisia, champions when they hosted the competition six years ago, as well as 1994 finalists Zambia, who are making their third successive appearance at the Nations Cup, and Gabon, who return to Africa's premier competition for the first time since 2000, will battle it out to see who could in effect be the runners-up to Cameroon.

The Indomitable Lions, who finished off their qualifying group as winners, which also ensured that they qualified for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, begin their quest for a fifth African title against Gabon on January 13.

The West African rivals faced each other during qualifying for Angola, and both games played in September last year were won by Cameroon.

In the Le Guen era, Cameroon's star names, such as Inter Milan striker Samuel Eto'o, have not met their potential. Eto'o has found goals easier to come by than under former mentor Otto Pfister, and will again be Cameroon's dangerman.

But this time round he has an equally deadly strike partner in the form of Lyon's John Makoun.

A lot will also rest on the shoulders of the Arsenal playmaker Alexander Song and defender Carlos Kameni will steady the ship from the back.

Tunisia could have been the most challengers to Cameroon in the group but they have opted for a young team replacing their foreign-based players with younger domestically-based players.

Zambia do still have players with experience to help pull them through a lot will rest on the shoulders of Oussama Darragi, a

central midfielder who will have to use his creative genes to inspire Tunisia.

The 2004 champions look to have an inexperienced back-up strike-force, therefore their first-choice pairing of Amine Chermiti and Isaam Jooma will have to fire them up front.

Chermiti was not given enough time to make an impression in Ghana two years ago so this is the time for him to shine.

Tunisia find themselves in a similar position to where they were two years ago. That time around young players Yacine Mikari and Chaouki Ben Saada rose to the top to help take them to the quarterfinals.

Now established internationals Mikari and Ben Saada will have to guide the other young players in their team in Angola as they were helped along two years ago.

Zambia in the meantime will be looking to go better than they did two years ago and qualify for the knock out stages of the competition, although they have qualified for the last three Nations Cups, they last made it to the second stage at the 1996 tournament in South Africa.

This Zambian team looks like a well-balanced team, perhaps as strong as their team was in 1994 when they were the beaten finalists.

They look particularly strong in attack with Chris Katongo leading their charge along with Collins Mbesuma and James Cha-

manga. Opening the competition with a win against Tunisia in their opening match could lay a good foundation for the Copper Bullets on which to build on.

What helps the Zambians is that they have a team with players competing for every place from the goalkeeping position, where Kennedy Mweene and Kalilo Kakonje are battling it out for the number one spot.

Through the defence and midfield, Zambia finished third in their qualifying group behind Algeria and Egypt but they have an opportunity to qualify for the second round and wipe off their tag of the nearly man of African football.

Gabon round off the group and they are fortunate enough to have played against Cameroon, which will have given them an idea of what to expect from the group favourites.

Gabon began the qualifying rounds in red-hot form but faded away later on.

They do possess enough quality to cause an upset or two Daniel Cousin with two goals in four qualifying matches will pose a threat up front. The Hull City front man has the experience to carry the attack for them.

Midfielder Eric Malongou of French side Nice will add fight to the Gabonese midfield, it will be a battle for them as they are not a consistent team and lack experience in defence which could count against them.



ALEXANDER Song is Cameroon's engine room



DARRAGI, Carthage Eagles playmaker

Gabon

ADEBAYOR LEADS FROM THE FRONT

With a squad of 20 players, Gabon is only one of the teams that has a full complement of players at each of the full-back positions. The national team is a blend of young and experienced players.

Key players: Agass, Toure, Akakpo, Moutou, Moutou, Fofie, Ousseni, Sallou, Jalyte, Adebayer.

Cameroon

ETO'O IS STILL THE ONE TO WATCH

With a squad of 20 players, Cameroon is one of the teams that has a full complement of players at each of the full-back positions. The national team is a blend of young and experienced players.

Key players: Gerem, Bassong, R. Song, Amoo-Ekoko, Makoun, Eto'o, N'Goumou, Eto'o, N'Goumou.

Tunisia

PACKED MIDFIELD IS HARD TO BREAK DOWN

With a squad of 20 players, Tunisia is one of the teams that has a full complement of players at each of the full-back positions. The national team is a blend of young and experienced players.

Key players: Karami, Fagel, Ghazi, Miliou, Toure, Kayed, Ben Khelifa, Darragi, Ben Saada, Juma.

Zambia

PACE IS THEIR BIG THREAT

With a squad of 20 players, Zambia is one of the teams that has a full complement of players at each of the full-back positions. The national team is a blend of young and experienced players.

Key players: Muzandu, Muzandu, Muzandu, Muzandu, Muzandu, Muzandu, Muzandu, Muzandu, Muzandu, Muzandu.

THE FRIDAY COLUMN

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Who are the true Federalists? (I)

The impending constitutional review has once again thrown open the old debate about the nature of Nigeria's federalism. Many years of military rule and the penchant of the Nigerian politician not to play according to the rule have eroded what little remained of the federal principles on which governance is supposed to be based.

Chief Anthony Enahoro correctly observed that most of the anomalies in the body politic were created by the military, especially the chipping away at, and in some cases even wiping out of, the nation's federal characteristics. But from there they always approached Nigeria's immediate post-independence history with an attitude shaped by a measure of conspiratorial historiography and a dose of sophistry that always begged the question at hand. And it went like this: The military destroyed federalism; the military was Northern; and, so, the North destroyed federalism—or had it destroyed for its benefit. Simple, but unfortunately, it just doesn't happen to be a very scientific way of understanding who destroyed federalism or who benefitted from the destruction.

Federalism is a form of government in which power is constitutionally shared among constituent units so that each federating unit has responsibility over a particular set of stated functions over which it exercises full sovereignty.

No doubt, federalism means controlling your resources 100 per cent; but the resources that you can control in this fashion is the portion you get when the entire national income has been shared out. Keeping all of the resources found in your area while yours is a part of a larger whole sounds like secession or independence. And if you attempt to do that after you have enjoyed the resources of other areas is like going to dinner at someone else's table and, at the end of the meal, departing with his spoon.

Almost all those lampooning the North with innuendoes, words and even books were beneficiaries of Northern largesse.

And as was shown in *Surviving Without Oil*, the resource control argument has been without precedent or logic; and, if it proves necessary, it can be shown with specific examples how all these lawyers of old and the so-called pioneer accountants of the South-West were trained in the UK with Northern funds. At that time, the North itself, in what must have looked like a conspiracy against its own people, had only Barewa College; but was sending money to the centre to train the products of Western and Eastern schools in Europe.

It is indeed not surprising that these people are insisting on true federalism; it is in fact a good thing that they insist on it now, considering the fact that the nation had to fight a war to re-federalize the polity after Ironsi's unitary misadventure. What is surprising is that those who believe themselves federalists, think others unitarists; themselves democrats, others feudalists, are the ones turning around and insisting that the presidency must rotate to their areas, forgetting that, in a democracy, that is for numbers—and numbers alone—to decide where the presidency goes. What does 'rotate' mean in a democracy? Yet, they imagine themselves federalists even before they have become democrats.

Nowadays, everyone says he wants true federalism, many perhaps without knowing what that exactly means, beyond the fact that truth and federalism sound good to the ear and therefore can't be bad. Or, they say they want resource control, or fiscal federalism or sovereign this or that. It has become almost a way of poking fun. It is not often that it is cornered, but once it was.

At the Citizen Annual Dialogue, State of the Nation, in 1992, the late Dr. Bala Usman, in what was his best outing that I had seen, took all the shine off the resource control argument, exposing its quasi-treasonable nature in a way that left Ken Saro-Wiwa, its famed apostle, nonplussed and

a speechless wreck. We all thought the whole question behind resource control should then have been put to rest there, but, instead, it was the national will that had been put to test.

Most military leaders have come from the North, but where did the benefit of their anti-federalist actions go?

If we take the most contentious issue in Nigeria's federal set-up, we can just see how one instance of interference by the military took place and which section of the country benefitted from it. On Tuesday, September 22, 1992, Christy Essien-Igbokwe gingerly made her way up the steps that led to the high table inside the Ibom Hall in Uyo. The occasion was the fifth anniversary celebration of the creation of Akwa-Ibom State, and President Ibrahim Babangida, the man who created the state, was there in person. Akwa-Ibom had been created but it had no revenue base like other coastal or Niger Delta states; but there was oil out at sea belonging to the Federal government and they thought they could get it. Christy went up to Babangida and knelt and prayed, some said cried, saying that she would not rise from that position until he agreed to abrogate the onshore-offshore dichotomy. Governor Obong Akpan Isemin had made the same appeal earlier; and Christy remained on her knees.

In a move that must now rank with some of the greatest mistakes of the military, Babangida obliged the so-called

Lady of Songs and agreed to the abrogation of that dichotomy. It was all fiction really. There was no relationship between what was onshore and what was offshore to have any dichotomy to abrogate. But Babangida agreed to abrogate it and gave them oil that belonged to the Federal Government. Obviously, Nigeria's revenue allocation formula should not be allowed to be decided by the generosity of a Northern general or by the ability of a songstress to stoop to conquer.

Nor should it be decided by the ability of some governors of the South-South to

compromise Northern legislators or by the moral failure of the latter not to refuse oblige the former. Perhaps Alhaji Umar Ghali Na Abba, former Speaker of the House of Representatives should tell the nation the details of how the abrogation took place. But in general, we all knew how they got the dichotomy abrogated; and they ought very well to know how they have got to give it up. Whatever Babangida's motive, it remains a mistake and a very costly one that must be reversed just like all the others before it. There were the following: Ironsi's Unification Decree, Gowon's repudiation of hand over date, Murtala's purges, Buhari's Decree Four, Babangida's 1988 Civil Service Reforms, Abacha's Succession Bid; and all had been reversed. A mistake committed by the military is no acceptable way of creating a legal fact or altering the facts on the ground, especially in a move that alters the national condition so profoundly. Today, the abrogation of this dichotomy has brought about the greatest threat to the attainment of a balanced federation in the country. It just must go.

But the real truth about federalism in Nigeria that none of its current vociferous proponents is ready or honest enough to mention today is that the Eastern Region consensus so much didn't believe in it that it could coalesce around and use Ironsi to force unitarism down the nation's throat; while the Western Region consensus, despite Chief Obafemi Awolowo's book and many pronouncements, didn't believe in it strongly enough to wish to fight for it; and, as a result, the Northern Region consensus was left severely alone to champion it and later to fight the civil war that tempering with it caused. One came to federalism only after defeat; the other after the fence on which it was sitting was pulled down by Northern victory. Yet today all of them are trying to crucify the North as the section that is opposed to federalism.

SPORTS REPORT



MICHAEL Essien

Essien doubtful for Ghana's opener

Michael Essien is doubtful for Ghana's opening match at the African Nations Cup finals in Angola on Monday despite making a return to training this week, the Ghana Football Association said.

Essien had been allowed to remain in London and trained with his club Chelsea on Wednesday before preparing to depart for Angola, where Ghana play their opening

Group B match against Togo in Cabinda.

The midfielder has been recuperating after suffering a hamstring injury in the European Champions League last month.

"Coach Milovan Rajevac will be assessing the midfielder because he has yet to regain full match fitness before taking a decision on when to start his captain for the competition," the association said on its website (www.ghanafa.org).



JOHN Utaka

Utaka off to Sochaux

Portsmouth striker John Utaka is in talks with French side Sochaux over a six month loan. The Nigeria international has been on the fringes at Portsmouth and wants regular football.

Avram Grant is considering a recall for striker David Nugent, on loan at Burnley, as a result of the club's transfer signing embargo.

“Almost all those lampooning the North with innuendoes, words and even books were beneficiaries of Northern largesse”