

LIBRARY

# DAILY TRUST

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2010 RABI'U AWWAL 25, 1431 A.H.

TRUST IS A BURDEN

www.dailytrust.com VOL. 23 No 84 N150

Governor Sheriff splits  
Dikwa emirate



Page 4

Army: Jang's remarks  
naive, embarrassing



Page 3

## Inside Today's Daily Trust

### Business

House of Reps is keen on probing the alleged contract inflation on Abuja airport's second runway **31**



### Sport

Drogba, Essien, Eto'o, Kaita and Toure jostle for African Footballer of the Year award in Ghana today **53**

### Politics

Senator Abu Ibrahim says mega party will dilute the clique around Gen. Buhari **50**

### Africa

Libya has accepted an apology for acerbic comments by US officials on Gaddafi's speech **17**

## Uwais panel report:

# Jonathan throws out Yar'adua's review

By Muideen Olaniyi, Abdurrahman Abubakar & Nasidi Adamu Yahaya

AN "unedited" version of the Justice Mohamed Lawal Uwais panel report on electoral reforms was sent to the National Assembly by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan two weeks ago, Secretary to the Government of the Federation Mahmud Yayale Ahmed told demonstrating

members of the Save Nigeria Coalition (SNC) in Abuja yesterday. It indicated a major reversal of course by the Federal Government, since the Federal Executive Council [FEC] under President Umaru Yar'adua issued a white paper last year that rejected several key aspects of the panel's recommendations, notably on the appointment of the Independent National Electoral Commission [INEC] chairman by the National Judicial

Council. Addressing the protesters in front of his office, Yayale said with respect to their demand for electoral reforms, "We are aware of your concern regarding credible elections in this country. Only two weeks ago, the Acting President handed over again Uwais committee report unedited to the National Assembly. I will like to assure you that the National Assembly would do the necessary leg-

Continued on page 5

PHOTO: AFOLABI SOTUNDE



SECRETARY to the Government of Federation Mahmud Yayale Ahmed (right) addressing the Save Nigeria Coalition rally in Abuja yesterday.

## FEC meeting aborted at last minute

By AbdulFattah Olajide & Mohammed S. Shehu

THE weekly meeting of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) was cancelled again yesterday by Acting Presi-

dent Goodluck Jonathan. It was the second time in three weeks that the meeting would be cancelled.

The FEC meeting of February 24 was cancelled by the acting president

following the confusion that ensued on the return of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua from a 93-day medical sojourn to Saudi Arabia on that day.

The cancellation of yes-

terday's meeting, which was earlier rescheduled for 2pm from the usual 10am commencement time, was announced to ministers who were already seated in the Council Chambers

at the Presidential Villa in Abuja, by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed at about 2.05pm.

Continued on page 5



PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan's convoy drive through the starting point of Save Nigeria rally in Abuja yesterday.

## Jang warns against reprisals

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

GOVERNOR Jonah Jang of Plateau State yesterday warned those contemplating reprisals to desist or face the wrath of the law.

The governor gave the warning in a broadcast to the people of the state last night. He said Acting President Goodluck Jonathan had put security forces on red alert to deal with trou-

ble makers.

He advised rumour mongers to desist in the interest of peace in the state.

The governor declared a three-day period of fasting and prayers from today.

Jang said he had directed LG chairmen and traditional rulers to hold regular meetings in their domains and report, suspicious movements.

Speaking earlier in a BBC Hausa service programme monitored in Jos yesterday, Jang said the recurrent crises in Jos was sponsored by some people from outside the state.

"The Jos crises is not an indigene and settler issue because we have been living peacefully without ethnic or religious differences in Jos for many years but the crises that keep repeat-

ing itself was sponsored from outside the state," he said.

Jang said the perpetrators of the act should be punished to serve as deterrent to others but that the government had no control over the security forces, "because we have arrested people, some foreigners with arms, but they were taken to Abuja and released".

## We're not behind Jos killings- Fulanis

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

THE National Chairman of the Fulani group, Fula Development Association of Nigeria (FULDAN) Ahmad Usman Bello, has denied allegations that Fulani herdsmen were behind the recent attack in some Jos villages where hundreds of people were killed.

Speaking to newsmen in Kano yesterday, the FULDAN chairman said it was wrong to point accusing

fingers at the Fulanis, saying his kinsmen were peaceful.

"There is no evidence that our people did it. The crisis is either religious or ethnic," he said.

He said Fulanis were not the only Muslims in Plateau State.

"The question I want to ask is this, why are people mentioning the Fulanis? Are they the only Muslims in Plateau State? Or are they the only non-indigenes in the state? I want an

answer from the authorities. To say our people are behind this ungodly act is most unfortunate. They want to portray the Fulanis as terrorists, but we are not. This is our country and we consider this accusation as an attempt to tarnish our image," he added.

Bello maintained that the perpetrators should be brought to book, adding that prosecuting them would serve as a deterrent to others.

## Niger indigenes leave Plateau

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

HUNDREDS of Niger State indigenes are returning home from Plateau State as a result of the recurrent violent crises in the state.

Our correspondent learnt that buses and trucks have been conveying people from Plateau to Niger. Most of the returnees said they had enough of the killings in Plateau State. Alhaji Ndako, a returnee, said coming back to Niger would mean starting life from the scratch but that it was a sacrifice worth it since Plateau State had continued to grow in stages of violence.

Ndako who said he had lived in Pankshin for over 50 years, said the recent killings meant that no one is safe as violence could erupt just anywhere in that state.

"I am not ready to face the ordeal of losing members

of my family to violent deaths, I have decided to relocate my family from Pankshin to Niger, my state of origin. I don't know where to start from, but I am very sure that it would be safer for us to remain in our state since Plateau has gradually degenerated into one of the worst places people could ever live", he said.

He said the state chapter of the Association of Niger State indigenes had resolved to leave the embattled Plateau State as many, both Christians and Muslims, were moving home.

Niger State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) Mr Richard Oguche assured those coming back home that they would be safe as the police were on high security alert.

He however warned people who are with them not to cause problem in the state as the police would deal with anyone who triggers any act of violence.

## Jos: Police, govt disagree over casualty figures

From Ahmed Mohammed and Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Plateau State government and the Police Command have disagreed over the number of people killed during the recent attack on Dogo Nahauwa, Zot, Rasat and Kutgot villages in the state.

State Police Commissioner Mr Ikechukwu Aduba said at a press conference yesterday that a total of 109 people died while the state Commissioner for Information Mr Gregory Yenlong maintained that over 500 people were killed by Fulanis in the affected villages.

Speaking with newsmen, Mr Yenlong said the police were only being economical with the truth of the matter, saying, "As Commissioner for Information, I led both national, local and international media to the affected villages, journalists saw the people massacred and counted them, even members of the communities whose people were killed are alive and they know that they lost over 500 people".

Briefing newsmen yesterday in Jos, Police Commissioner Ikechukwu Aduba said the 500 and 371 credited to the state government through its Commissioner for Information was fabricated and should be disregarded.

Aduba said, "We have only one mass grave designated for the burial and body count of those buried was done in the presence of both government and police officers including the state Commissioner for Information. Those buried at the mass graves are 70, that includes 12 male children, 26 female children, 16 female adults, and 16 male adults", he said.

He said people buried by relations privately in Barikin Ladi were 18, Dogo Nahauwa 12 and those that died in the course of treatment at the Jos University Teaching Hospital were nine which brings the total number of casualties to 109. This figure is authentic and undisputed, he said.

Aduba said they arrested over 200 suspects in two categories, the first category includes 49 Fulanis who were arrested immediately after Dogo Na Hauwa. He said they owned up to carrying out the invasions and killings in the villages and that they were on revenge mission. He said investigations showed that some of the Fulanis were paid while some of them were volunteers but so far, they had not revealed the identities of their sponsors.

Mr Aduba said the police also arrested 151 people in Mangu and other surrounding villages for unlawful possession of prohibited fire arms and dangerous weapons and unlawful assembly.

## NYSC cows cause tension in Jos

From Ahmed Mohammed & Mahmud Lalo, Jos

FOUR cows meant for the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in Jos caused uproar yesterday when it was alleged that there were Fulani men inside the same truck as the cows, stationed to unleash another terror at nightfall.

The cows were kept at Tudun Wada by a female contractor for delivery to the NYSC camp next day.

Witnesses said one Mrs. Victoria was contracted by the NYSC to bring the cows to Tudun Wada because of the curfew hours, hoping to proceed with them to the camp from there.

"But the cows attracted the attention of people in the area where they alleged that some Fulani men had been brought to the area in the truck which also contained some baskets of tomatoes so that by night fall they would launch an attack on the people of the area", said a witness.

Dozens of youths then gathered to demand for the Fulanis. It took the intervention of the police to take the cows to a nearby station.

"But that did not satisfy the youths as they continued to pursue the cows to the police station. When the situation was about to escalate, the police alerted the army who came to rescue the situation", witnesses said.

"When the army came, the youths started stoning them and a Lieutenant Colonel was pushed around by the youths which prompted the army to start shooting, some people were wounded in the process", they added.

Police Commissioner Mr Ikechukwu Aduba who confirmed the incident said, "A woman called Victoria had received a contract to deliver cows to the NYSC Orientation Camp. When they reached Tudun Wada, some youths said they would not allow her to move out of the place with the cows which led to a disagreement. Four cows were kept at the police office when some youths threatened to take the cows". Mr Aduba said soldiers intervened by firing into the air to scare the people and dispersed the large crowd. "Three people were injured including a policeman whose teeth were brushed by a stray bullet while the remaining two were injured on their hands but there was no death", he added.

# Army: Jang's remarks naïve, embarrassing

THE Nigerian Army yesterday berated Governor David Jonah Jang of Plateau State over his accusation that the military was informed of an impending attack on some villages but failed to stop it.

In a statement by Director of Army Public Relations Brig. Gen AC Olukolade, the army said as a retired Air Commodore, Jang has demonstrated an embarrassing naivety in interpreting the dynamics of land operations.

The statement reads: "The Nigerian Army (NA) has noted with serious concern a statement made by the Governor of Plateau State, His Excellency, Da Jonah Jang to the effect that last Sunday's killings in the Jos South Local Government Area of the State could have been averted if the Army had acted on the early intelligence report he provided.

"Coming from a Chief Executive and Chief Security Officer of a State with substantial military background, it is unfortunate that Air Commodore David Jang (rtd)

has demonstrated an embarrassing naivety in interpreting the dynamics of land operations. The Governor would have spared the nation his unfortunate remarks if only he consulted sufficiently before making his inciting declaration.

"That Governor Jang visited the Defence Headquarters today Wednesday, 10 March, 2010 clearly indicates that he knows the appropriate authority to consult in the event of dissatisfaction with the action of any Army commander. Rather than follow this process, he resorted to inflammatory remarks targeted at rubbing the army. His allegation insinuating bias is indeed unfortunate.

"It is noteworthy that the Nigerian Army is involved in internal security operations in virtually all states of the Federation including Plateau State. The record of the Army's performance in all these operations has continued to attract commendation and appreciation even in the face of numerous challenges. Governor

Jang's ceaseless attack on the Army only goes to confirm his extraordinary partisanship to which the Army will not be blackmailed into supporting.

"It is common knowledge that the Internal Security operation in Jos, Plateau State is a joint military operation involving the various services and the Nigeria Police Force. This situation arose when the Police could not cope at the onset of the Jos crisis in January 2010 and the military was legally drafted to restore law and order in Plateau State. The operation now involves personnel of the Nigerian Army, Nigerian Navy, Nigerian Air Force, Nigeria Police and the State Security Service among others. It is therefore unfortunate that Gov Jang's spurious claims were specifically targeted at tarnishing the good image of the Army.

"The Governor may have his political or other intents to achieve, but he should desist from compounding issues, at least in the interest of the people who are endangered

by his proposition and disdain for the Army in particular.

"Although the Army is briefing appropriate authorities on its operations and believes that appropriate response to Governor Jang's attack on the Army is forthcoming, it is necessary to reassure Nigerians that the Army is not involved in any complicity as suggested by Governor Jang through his numerous channels for blackmail. The Army will continue to make its vital inputs into the ongoing joint operations of the Special Task Force as duly mandated by the Federal Government of Nigeria.

"The Nigerian Army wishes to make it emphatically clear that it has no other interest in the state other than commitment to the operation and restoration of peace. The Army high command is working in concert with Defence Headquarters to guide the operations of the Joint Task Force in Plateau State towards achieving Government's intention of ensuring adequate security in the area as quickly as possible."

## Pope denounces 'atrocious' Jos bloodshed

POPE Benedict XVI denounced the "atrocious" bloodshed in Nigeria on Wednesday after a massacre of Christian villagers, as police said 49 people would be charged over the killings.

As new gunfire added to the tensions around the flashpoint city of Jos, the pope added his voice to a chorus of international revulsion over the weekend slaughter which police say left 109 people dead but the state information commissioner said left more than 500 dead.

In his weekly general audience, Benedict offered condolences to the victims of the "atrocious violence causing bloodshed in Nigeria" and urged civil and religious leaders "to work towards security and peaceful co-existence".

"Violence does not resolve conflicts but only increases the tragic consequences," Benedict was quoted as saying by the AFP news agency.

## OIC Sec-Gen condemns killings

THE Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu has again voiced his grave concern on the recurring sectarian and communal violence in Plateau State of Nigeria.

Ihsanoglu, who condemned the latest killing of hundreds of people in some villages around Jos, restated the need for the authorities to take drastic measures that will decisively end the embarrassing circle of violence, achieve reconciliation between the communities and restore durable peace to the area.

While appealing for calm and restraint, he also urged all Nigerians to embrace genuine dialogue to resolve differences in order to promote harmonious coexistence and strengthen the foundation of unity in their country.



CHAIRMAN/CEO, Media Trust Ltd Malam Kabiru Yusuf (right) presenting a corporate gift to Gombe State Governor Muhammed Danjuma Goje, during a courtesy visit to the Government House, Gombe, recently.

## Jos: Northern senators, reps move to end crisis

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar, Nasidi A. Yahaya & Taraki A. Hassan

NORTHERN Senators Forum (NSF) yesterday set up a 16-member committee on Jos crisis "to objectively assess, intervene and resolve the Jos crisis once and for all."

Also, the Northern Caucus in the House of Representatives has set up a 20-man committee with a view to forestall the spread of crisis.

Senator Jibril Mohammed Aminu (PDP, Adamawa Central) is the chairman while Senator Joseph Akaagerger (PDP, Benue North-East) is the secretary of the committee. Senators John Nanzip Shagaya, Ahmed Rufai Sani, George Akume, Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi, Nuhu Aliyu, Mohammed Bello, Maina Ma'aji Lawan and Gyan Dalyp Dantong are members.

Others are Senators Grace Bent, Patricia

Akwashiki, Ibrahim Ida, Abubakar Gada, Mohammed Mana, and Nicolas Ubgane.

In a communiqué issued at the end of their two hour meeting held behind closed doors at the National Assembly, NSF said the committee has been asked to "study and suggest permanent solution to the crisis taking into cognizance the amicable resolution of similar crisis in Kaduna, Kano, Benue and Taraba states."

Also, the Northern Caucus in the House of Representatives yesterday set up a 20 man committee with a view to forestall the spread of crisis.

Chairman of the Northern caucus, Rep Tergu Tsegba (PDP, Benue State) said the committee would tour the 19 Northern States to meet with the people and leaders of the various states and discuss with them on the need to forestall a repeat of spread of the crisis other parts of the state.

## Sultan condemns reprisal attacks in Jos

By Abbas Jimoh

SULTAN of Sokoto and President General of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar has condemned the recent alleged reprisal attack that claimed over 100 lives in Jos South on Sunday. The sultan's position was made known in Abuja yesterday through the Secretary-General of NSCIA Dr. Lateef Adegbite.

He said the council is dismayed over the seemingly intractable Jos cri-

sis and that "it is time for decisive action against the evil ones."

"We are stunned by the latest violent outbursts in Jos, Plateau State, resulting in the destruction of numerous innocent lives. Reports making the rounds are that the savage acts were a reprisal by those who felt aggrieved at the massacre of over 150 persons at a spot during the immediate past Jos disturbances. It was a wrong reaction, for vengeance belongs to Allah. We must respect the sanity of life in all sit-

uations. The seemingly unending cycle of violence in Jos must stop. We call on the authorities to fish out the perpetrators of the dastardly killings and bring them to book without delay," Adegbite said.

"The Plateau State Government should seriously review its position and evolve a policy of accommodation that would give every citizen and resident a sense of belonging. The Government must be of and for all, regardless of ethnic origin or belief," he said.

## Save Nigeria Group Rally

PIX: FELIX ONIGBINDE



CROSS section of the group's members at the entrance of National Assembly, Abuja.



SAVE Nigeria group protesters carry a mock coffin at the rally in Abuja.



PROTESTERS march along a road during the rally

## Pro-Yar'adua Rally

PIX: AFOLABI SOTUNDE



PRO-YAR'ADUA protesters shout slogans during the pro-Yar'adua rally in Abuja yesterday



PROTESTERS gather during a counter-rally organised by supporters of President Umaru Yar'adua in Abuja



POLICEMEN running to secure the gate leading to the Presidential Villa thus preventing the Save Nigeria group from moving into the villa yesterday

# Gov Sheriff splits century old emirate

From Isa Umar Gusau and Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

GOVERNOR Ali Modu Sheriff of Borno State has divided the century old Dikwa Emirate into two, the Dikwa and Bama emirates. The old Dikwa emirate comprised of four local government areas; Bama, Ngala (Sheriff's town), Dikwa and Kala-Balge while the palace was in Bama town.

The state House of

Assembly yesterday confirmed Sheriff's request to divide the emirate as a result of which the new Dikwa emirate will have three local government areas; Ngala, Dikwa and Kala-Balge while Bama emirate will have one local government area; Bama. The new Dikwa emirate will have its palace in Dikwa town while the present palace in Bama town will serve as the palace for the new Bama emirate.

Similarly, the 24 dis-

tricts in the old Dikwa have been split between the two with 12 on each side. The new Dikwa emirate now has Ngala, Gamboru, Wulgo, Fada, Gumsu, Masa, Dikwa, Boboshe, Rann, Kala, Abori and Jilbe districts while the new Bama emirate will comprise Abbaram, Bama, Old Bama, Woloji, Gulumba, Walasa, Amchaka, Yabiri, Banki, Bararam, Soye and Dar-El-Salam districts.

Twenty two of the

28 members of the state Assembly in yesterday's sitting presided over by Speaker Goni Ali Modu approved the split. Members representing Dikwa, Hawul, Biu, Maiduguri Metropolitan Council, Mobbar and Gwoza state constituencies were absent. The two members representing Bama Local Government Area, Bama Central and Gulumba Woloji state constituencies also supported the creation of

the new emirate in Dikwa. Some of the members who spoke to our correspondent said the issue was beyond their control. Others said they supported out of popular request by their people.

Sheriff's request for the Assembly's confirmation followed the passage of a bill by the Assembly which gave him powers to create additional emirates. The Assembly amended Section 68 of the state Local Government Law 2000 to con-

fer on the governor, powers to create new emirates. Prior to that, the Assembly had on Tuesday February 2, 2010, unanimously voted against the bill. Twenty five out of 28 members who attended the sitting which was presided over by the Speaker, Goni Ali Modu, voted against allowing the bill to go for second reading following which the House decided that the bill be returned to the executive arm of government.



SUSPECTED members of MASSOB arrested and paraded by the police in Asaba, Delta State, yesterday.

## What Jang said about Daily Trust

YES, we were caught unawares, the present attack I don't know for what but what was written by *Daily Trust* today tried to justify it as a reprisal attack for what happened in Kuru Jenta on January 17.

To the best of my knowledge what happened in Kuru Jenta I don't think Fulanis were involved for what happened in Kuru Jenta. If you look at the houses that were burnt in Kuru Jenta, Kuru Jenta is a tin-mining camp, and houses burnt there, I mean everybody who lived there was involved.

You could not say it was one-sided because the houses that were burnt cut-across, which means the killings were cut-across.

But what happened there, some people moved *Aljazeera* there, and then covered dead bodies and start labeling them. When you cover dead bodies and start labeling them, who knew who you are covering?

And then today *Daily Trust* was saying it was because of what happened in Kuru Jenta, because Fulanis were killed in Kuru Jenta. Fulanis don't live in Kuru Jenta.

## FEC meeting aborted at last minute

Continued from page 1

Yayale said, "The acting president is just closing from an international agro-business seminar and coming back to the residence. He is equally engaged with other state duties. So he has asked me to convey to you that this executive council meeting is cancelled. Next week Insha Allah, it will be reconvened or any day the acting president deems it fit to reconvene it. I thank you for attending."

Despite the reason given for the cancellation of the meeting by Yayale, *Daily Trust* gathered that the acting president's inability to attend the meeting may have been occasioned by fatigue. A reliable Presidency source said Jonathan may have been weighed down by the high volume of work he has been doing since he took over the mantle of leadership. "The acting president has been working round the clock without a deputy since he was empowered by the National Assembly. So he needs to take it easy so that he doesn't break down. You can read the cancellation of the meeting in that light", the source said.

Another source said the meeting was cancelled because Jonathan was yet to make up his mind on the sacking of some ministers whose removal was to have been announced yesterday. "Consultations are still going on over the matter of removing some ministers. Pressure is being mounted on the acting president to spare some of the ministers who have been penciled down for removal. If the plan had been concluded they would have been removed today", the source said.

## Yayale's remarks to SNG

PEOPLE of Nigeria, I salute you. I salute in the name of Allah the Almighty. I salute you in the name of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. I salute you in the name of democracy. I salute you in the name of constitutionalism. I salute you in the name of accountability. I salute you in the name of unity. I salute you in the name of action.

When we received your request that you would like to hand over a letter to the acting president, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan GCON, the Acting President directed the Secretary to the Government, in my own person, to come and receive it. I found it very easy and natural to come and receive you, because yours is

a demonstration of democracy in action in Nigeria.

Democracy cannot survive if we do not hear the voices of everybody. What you have achieved in your own perception may be the very right thing to do, but you may have other opposing voice; but literally the superior reasoning takes effect in a democracy.

I would like to urge you, that in order to bring this democracy to fore, you know that in the machinery of democracy and the installment of government, political parties are very important. You will mobilise people like yourself to join political parties and be elected and come so that we can change Nigeria. What I would

like to say is that all of you .... I like the shouting, I like the shouting... shout again. I like it, express it! What I would like to say is that your three point demands are noted.

One, you want to know the status of your president. It is because you love your president that you want to know his status, because you elected him. You will not be denied.

Secondly, you would want us to take constitutional ways of dealing with the situation. This government is a creation of the constitution, and we will do what the constitution says.

Thirdly, we are aware of your concern regarding credible elec-

tions in this country. Only two weeks ago, the Acting President handed over again [the] Uwais committee report unedited to the National Assembly. I will like to assure you that the National Assembly would do the necessary legislation in terms of reviewing the Electoral Act and the Constitution in order to have a better electoral process.

The Acting President has asked me to assure you that every one of your demands would be looked into with immediate effect. I am a messenger, I have received your letter, and I am telling you that on my honour, I will deliver this letter to the Acting President.

## Jonathan throws out Yar'adua review

Continued from page 1

isolation in terms of reviewing the electoral act and the Constitution in order to have a better electoral process."

However, both chambers of the National Assembly denied yesterday that they received such a document from the Acting President. Some members of the Senate Committee on Constitution Review (SCRC), which was said to have received the copies of the report sent by the Acting President, said they received nothing of the sort.

Deputy Senate Majority Leader Victor Ndoma-Egba (SAN) told *Daily Trust* on phone last night that the National Assembly has copies of the Uwais report sent to it by President Umaru Musa Yar'adua last year. He said, "We have copies of the report for a long time. There has not been another version of the Uwais report. The only reports sent were those by Yar'adua."

On his part, SCRC member from Rivers State Senator Lee Maeba said he was not aware of any such transmission by the acting president.

He said, "I am not aware.

Maybe if I get to the National Assembly tomorrow I will ask my colleagues." Chairman of the SCRC, Deputy Senate President Mohammed Lawal Uwais said the committee will present its report to the whole Senate this month for further consideration.

The House of Representatives also said it did not recently receive "unedited" copies of the Justice Mohammed Lawal Uwais report on electoral reform as claimed yesterday by the SNG.

Chairman of the Committee on Media and Public Affairs Rep Esemeyi (PDP, Akwa Ibom State) told *Daily Trust* on phone last night that the House "is not aware of the presence of Justice Uwais report in its domain".

He said, "As I am speaking with you, the report is not sent to the House. I know it is not a secret document, and when it is sent to us, we will do all that is possible to ensure electoral reform". He said the House was ready to pursue the reform to its logical conclusion, saying however that they would also ensure relevant sections of the constitution are altered during the constitution review.

President Yar'adua had sent

six bills on electoral reform to the National Assembly for consideration. After the lawmakers requested for it, the president also sent unedited copies of the Uwais report for consideration alongside the electoral reform bills.

The demonstrating members of the Save Nigeria Group (SNG) had submitted a petition to Acting President Goodluck Jonathan demanding invocation of Section 144 on the health of and the dissolution of the Executive Council of the Federation (EXCOF).

The petition, read by Pastor Tunde Bakare during a rally which started at Unity Fountain Abuja, was handed over to Alhaji Yayale Ahmed for onward delivery to Acting President. The group also asked for the implementation of the Uwais Report on electoral reform and the sack of the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Maurice Iwu as well as the reconstitution of the commission.

They said "The refusal of President Yar'adua to resign from office on account of his deterior-

ating ill-health and failure to transmit a letter of vacation on time as required by the Constitution has resulted in a severe but avoidable constitutional crisis." They also demanded for a "Quick and thorough implementation of the Uwais Report on electoral reform starting with the immediate removal of Professor Maurice Iwu as Chairman and the reconstitution of the INEC with persons of impeccable integrity and competence."

Pro-Yar'adua group under the aegis of National Coalition of PDP Youths staged a separate rally at Eagle Square yesterday and said the ill health of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua is a natural occurrence and should not be used to disparage his integrity.

Addressing the rally, the National President of PDP Youth Development Front, Musa Yakasai, faulted the motive of the anti-Yar'adua protests.

Yakasai said that "the Acting President is the legitimate Commander-in-Chief whose ability is not in doubt", adding that "the three arms of government are functional, an indication that Dr. Goodluck Jonathan is in charge."

# Terrorism: Eritrean arrested in Nigeria pleads not guilty in U.S

EVIDENCE collected by the United States against an Eritrean charged with providing support to a Somali terrorist organization linked to al-Qaida includes lengthy statements he made to authorities, a prosecutor told a judge Tuesday.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher LaVigne made the revelation during a plea proceeding for Mohamed Ibrahim

Ahmed in Manhattan. Ahmed's lawyer, Sabrina Shroff, entered a not guilty plea on his behalf, the *Associated Press* news agency reported.

Ahmed, 35, was brought to the U.S. on Saturday from Nigeria on charges that he supported al-Shabaab, which was designated by the U.S. as a terrorist group in 2008.

Prosecutors say he gave the

organization 3,000 euros and studied weapons and explosives at a training camp. They say he bought an AK-47 rifle, ammunition and two grenades in April in Somalia.

LaVigne told U.S. District Judge Kevin P. Castel that evidence the government will turn over to the defense in the case includes extensive statements Ahmed made in Nigeria,

along with items recovered from him.

The prosecutor said Ahmed's statements were in six reports that amounted to 10 to 13 pages. As the prosecutor spoke, Ahmed nodded his head as he listened to a translator. The government wouldn't disclose details on Ahmed's statements.

Court papers indicated Ahmed might have been held

by authorities since November, when officials say he was found in possession of documents reflecting bomb-making instructions. The indictment also said his crimes stretch from at least January 2009 through last November.

U.S. authorities would likely welcome any information Ahmed can provide about al-Shabaab.



KANO State Governor Ibrahim Shekarau (right) with the Emir of Gumel, Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Sani, during a visit to the palace of the Emir in Gumel.

## Official: Malaysia deports three terror suspects

MALAYSIA has deported three terrorism suspects, including a Nigerian, who were among a group detained in January, a government lawyer told AFP news agency yesterday.

Malaysia in January it had detained nine foreigners and one Malaysian for "acts of terrorism" and said they were members of a militant organisation tracked down in cooperation with foreign intelligence groups.

Authorities said they are from

Jordan, Nigeria, Syria and Yemen - are on the "most-wanted lists" of their home countries and anti-terrorist organisations.

Government lawyer Mahmud Abdullah told the Kuala Lumpur High Court, which is hearing a case in which eight of the 10 detainees are challenging their detention as unlawful, that the 10 "are no longer in police custody".

The 10 were held under Malaysia's Internal Security Act (ISA), which allows for detention against suspected terrorists as

well as government opponents.

The majority were released the following day.

Detainees' lawyer Amer Hamzah Arshad said the government's attempt to deport the group before the case on unlawful detention was heard "undermines the due process of justice".

High court judge Ghazali Cha will rule on the matter on Thursday. Malaysian authorities have refused to confirm the identity of the 10 or say which terrorist organisations they are allegedly associated with.

## FG votes N242bn for commercial agric

By Tina A. Hassan & Sunday Williams

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan said the federal government has set aside the sum of N242 billion (US\$1.6m) to facilitate agricultural development in Nigeria.

Jonathan made the remarks yesterday in Abuja at the closing ceremony of a three-day High-level Conference on Agribusiness and agro-industries held in Abuja.

He said that the agricultural sector is the engine for broad-based economic development in Nigeria and must be given optimum priority. He said the money is not part of the N200 billion earlier availed by the Central Bank of Nigeria for the same purpose of boosting commercial agriculture but a fresh commitment of the federal government to turn around the sector in line with resolutions agreed to at the conference.

Jonathan tasked African leaders on agriculture saying, "Africa can surmount the threat of recession if we can diversify and exploit the available potentials nature has bestowed us with."

## Speed breakers threaten N348bn FCT budget

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE refusal of the FCT minister to comply with the resolution of the House of Representatives asking him to remove speed breakers erected on Abuja highways may stall the passage of the territory's 2010 budget.

The N347,546,131,129 budget is made up of N36,185,117,177 is for personnel cost, N33,167,430,942 for overhead cost, N278, 193, 583, 180 is capital expenditure.

The House had in October, 2009 passed a resolution directing the minister to remove all the speed breakers on the highways, which it considered as a

waste of public funds and archaic method of preventing accidents on the road.

The resolution urged the House not to consider the FCT budget until the speed breakers were removed.

The hurdle against the budget became glaring yesterday, when Rep Dino Melaye, noticing that the budget was listed in the order paper for debate on its general principle raised a point of order, complained of a breach of his privilege as the member who sponsored the motion that Aliero refused to comply with.

Melaye recalled the resolution of the House and asked Speaker Dimeji Bankole to call for executive session to discuss the matter.

## Dismissed CSO claims N113m damages from UniAbuja

By Atika Balal

DISMISSED Chief Security Officer (CSO) of the University of Abuja Mohammed Ibrahim Alfa has filed a suit before an Abuja Federal High Court, seeking the university to pay him N113 million for special and exemplary damages for breaching a contract agreement it entered into with him.

Alfa sued the Vice Chancellor of the University Professor J. S. A. Adelabu alongside the Registrar, M. B Modibbo, the university and its Governing Council for allegedly terminating his contract of appointment.

In a writ of summons, the plaintiff said the money asked for will be damages for arrears of three months' salary being payment for the period he has worked without pay, expenses and cost of travel and course fee for attendance of official course in the USA and expected salary for two years of the contract breached by the defendants amongst others.

The plaintiff avers in a statement of claim that three months to the expiration of his contract as CSO, he applied for renewal of the contract and it was approved.

The case, initially slated for mention yesterday, could not go further because none of the defendants was represented in court.

Also counsel to the plaintiff, Ibrahim Angulu, had served the defendants through a senior messenger in the office of the registrar, an act the court described as inappropriate.

Justice Anwuri Chikere said service should be effected properly to the registrar or through a senior officer and never through a messenger.

The case was adjourned to April 26 for mention.

# Assembly amends law to favour Speaker

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, Yola

THE Adamawa State House of Assembly has amended a law to include a clause that offers a generous lifetime pension to the former acting governor of the state James Barka, who is currently the Speaker of the House.

Known as Adamawa State Governor's Pension (Amendment) Law 2010, the law states that "Any person who through democratic process took oath and acted as a governor of the state" is entitled to "pen-

sion and such other benefits for life". The law also provides for free housing, free medical care, regular supply of vehicles, retinue of personal staff and protocol services to former governors and deputy governors. The amended law, made available to *Daily Trust* in Yola, differs from the earlier laws that spoke of only those who served as governors or deputy governors but silent on acting governors.

The lawmakers said the law was in compliance with Section 124 (5) of the 1999 Constitution, although

the section does not speak of acting governor.

But the House Chairman on Information Ahmadu Umaru told *Daily Trust* yesterday that the amendment became necessary because the previous law did not envisage the scenario of acting governor which the amended law has now taken care of. House Speaker James Barka had in 2008 served as acting governor of the state for two months within which a rerun election was held following the annulment of the governorship

election in the state. Section 124 (5) of the 1999 Constitution says: "Provisions may be made by a Law of a House of Assembly for the grant of a pension or gratuity to or in respect of a person who had held office as Governor or Deputy Governor and was not removed from office as a result of impeachment; and any pension granted by virtue of any provisions made in pursuance of this subsection shall be a charge upon the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the State."

The amended Adamawa gov-

ernor's pension law says the government shall among others offer ex-governors and ex-deputy governors special assistants, personal assistants, two vehicles, drivers and cooks. They shall also be provided with free medical treatment, a "furnished befitting five-bedroom house" (four-bedroom house in the case of the deputy), security and protocol services for them and their immediate family "at airports while undertaking local and international trips" and "in procurement of travel visas," it says.

## Gov sacks Kogi Specialist Hospital director

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

GOVERNOR Ibrahim Idris yesterday sacked the Chief Medical Director (CMD) of the Kogi State Specialist Hospital Professor John Enekele Onuminya.

The development, it was learnt, followed allegations of misconduct by the hospital's workers' union against Onuminya.

The workers, who were jubilating yesterday at the premises of the hospital, had accused Onuminya of financial mismanagement, high-handedness, inflation of contracts and violation of due process in the running of the hospital.

Dr Attah Ahmed, the leader of the workers' union said, "We are aware that Dr Onuminya has been given a letter of termination of appointment. His removal has not in any way affected service delivery in the hospital. We proved this yesterday (Tuesday) when victims of the Felele market trailer accidents were rushed to the hospital. We gave them the possible best treatment. As workers of the hospital, we will continue to ensure that the vision of the state government in the area of quality health care service delivery is not jeopardized". The director told our correspondent on telephone that he was not aware of his removal.

## Kogi accident: Seven more die in hospital

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE death toll from Tuesday's trailer crash in Lokoja, the Kogi State capital, has risen as seven of the injured victims died early yesterday. The state Sector Commander of the FRSC Mr. Yomi Asaniyan told our correspondent that the victims died of complications from injuries they sustained in the accident.

"The seven victims in question died in various hospitals within the state while receiving treatment.

The doctors, I am sure, are doing their best", he said. It would



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan (left), with the President of Sierra Leone, Ernest Koroma, when Koroma visited the State House, Abuja on Tuesday.

## JNI denies link to anti-Yar'adua rally

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE Jama'atul Nasril Islam (JNI) yesterday faulted media reports linking it to the protest rally by some interest groups on the ailing president Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

The Federal Capital Territory Commissioner of Police, John Haruna, had at a press conference in Abuja last Tuesday listed the names of organizations arranging a protest to include Future Nigeria Group, Save Nigeria coalition and the JNI. He described the rally as untimely and advised them to postpone it.

Reacting to the inclusion of JNI, the Acting Secretary General Alhaji Abdulkarim Muazu Palladan said the inclusion of the JNI was far from the truth. "JNI was very surprised to read in the national dailies that it was among the organizations proposing the rally. JNI is a religious organization and not a political one. We are purely a faith based organization," he said.

nor Ibrahim Idris who visited the hospital yesterday said the government would foot the medical bills of the injured.

**“A trailer carrying cement Tuesday lost control and killed over 70 people**

## Islamic group opposes move to register 'Alfa Sule' with CAC

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

THE Muslim Congress (TMC) has expressed concern over moves by a Christian group to use Muslim names to register its centre with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) under the name Alfa Sule.

It said a Christian group, Christ Chosen Vessels Dance Drama Ministry, had applied to the CAC to register its group with the name "Alfa Sule", a Muslim nomenclature.

Among Yoruba Muslims, Alfa means Islamic scholar or cleric, while Sule is a shortened form of Sulaiman/Suleiman.

Already, a film called "Alfa Sule", which features an Islamic cleric, produced by the said Christ Chosen Vessels Dance Drama Ministry, is generating reactions among Muslim organizations in Lagos and the South west.

TMC said in Lagos yesterday that Muslims were not against people preaching and calling God through drama and film production, but said it objects the use of "Alfa Sule".

President of TMC, Malam Luqman AbdurRaheem, said going ahead to incorporate a Christian Drama Ministry with Alfa Sule might threaten peaceful co-existence in Nigeria.

AbdurRaheem said the Christians in line with the spirit of the Nigerian constitution are free to register whatever association they like provided Islamic nomenclatures and symbols are not used or abused. He said the authorities in CAC should decline registration of the organization, as the objectives run contrary to Islamic names (i.e. Alfa Sule) added to the name to be incorporated.

He also called on law enforcement agencies to investigate this group as they may be acting out a script to destabilize peace in the country.

He said, "We wish to state unequivocally that this is another diabolical attempt by some evil-minded people to provoke Muslims in Nigeria, at a period when the nation is just recovering from condemnable Jos crisis. The Muslim congress is not against people preaching and calling to God through the medium of Drama and film productions, but we object to the use of "ALFA SULE".

PIC: NAN

## Gunmen kill 2 Nollywood stars

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

TWO Edo State Nollywood stars were late Tuesday killed in Benin by gunmen suspected to be hired killers.

Mr Erhauyi Ogbeide a.k.a Ukeke and Eghosa Idehen a.k.a Erejiro were killed at the home of Ukeke's father-in-law located at 39, Ore-Oghene Street in Benin at about 8pm.

They were said to be coming from a location in a community (Iguomo) where they had gone to shoot a film soon to be released.

The killers, who may have been on their trail, arrived at the house about an hour after they got there. The five killers were said to have made straight for the sitting room where the actors and their host were meeting.

They shot Ukeke twice at close range while Erejiro who had escaped into a bathroom was also shot at close range where he hid.

Ukeke and Erejiro's host simply referred to as Chief Olaye, was also shot by the bandits at the mouth before making away with handsets of the victims in a Toyota Camry car they had parked outside. Chief Olaye is now receiving treatment at an undisclosed hospital in Benin.

The Public Relations Officer of the Edo State Police Command ASP Peter Ogboi who confirmed the incident said the state commissioner of Police had directed the Criminal Investigation Department to take over the case.

## Jigawa gets c'ttee on water shortage

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

THE Jigawa State government yesterday set up a 12-man committee to map out modalities to address water scarcity in the state capital.

State Commissioner of Water Resources Alhaji Salisu Mahmoud disclosed this yesterday while responding to the recent protest by local water vendors in Takur Quarters, Dutse in an attempt to increase prices of jerry cans of water.

Alhaji Salisu, who admitted that there is acute water shortage in the state capital, attributed the problem to blockage of some pipelines, particularly in Takur quarters.

He said Takur quarters was saddled with shortage of drinking water for some time now, saying even though a section of the area does enjoy 24 hour water supply, other sections were not because of pipe blockage.

He said the 12-man committee was mandated to assess the problem and recommend the way out. He added, "In the mean time, the ministry has dedicated tankers for 24 hours supply of drinking water to the affected area".

The commissioner assured that the state government would act on the recommendations of the committee as soon as it receives the report, noting that the present administration was willing to tackle any social problem affecting lives.

# NPA board member wants Obasanjo's tenure probed

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

A board member of the Nigerian Ports Authority, Alhaji Aminu Babba Danagundi, has called on Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to begin his probe of federal ministries and parastatals from 1999. Danagundi who spoke yesterday in Kano said if the probe was because of abandoned

projects and non-execution of paid projects, it should begin from the immediate past administration.

"Nigerians can attest to the fact that there was serious corruption during that period, especially in power project contracts," he said.

According to him, if the probe begins from 1999, Nigerians would be convinced beyond reasonable doubt that it is not targeted

at people associated with President Yar'adua. Alhaji Dan Agundi advised the Acting President to concentrate on things that would ensure the growth of the country.

"What we need now is political stability and that is why we should not be making unguarded statements that are capable of throwing Nigeria into a crisis situation," he said.

Commenting on the General T.Y Danjuma-led advisory committee, Dan Agundi said the committee would not impact positively on the nation. He therefore called for the dissolution of the committee, saying it amounted to duplication of duties as there were ministers, special advisers, and the National Assembly who are all expected to advise Jonathan.



FROM left: Group Executive Officer, Ecobank Arnold Ekpe with the Director General UNIDO, Kandeh Yumkella, during the signing of MOU on cooperation between UNIDO and Ecobank Transnational Incorporated in Abuja yesterday

## Nzeribe warns on military incursion

From Johnkennedy Uzoma, Owerri

SENATOR Arthur Nzeribe says the military may take over government if nothing is done about the country's state of affairs.

Nzeribe who spoke at a news conference yesterday in Owerri said the nation in the past 10 years had

spent huge sums of money to build democratic institutions but those at the helm of affairs had not been able to live up to expectation.

The senator who represented Orlu Senatorial zone in the Senate between 1999 and 2007 said Nigeria was unconsciously heading towards military dictatorship.

He regretted that in May 1999 when democratic governance returned to the country after 30 years of military rule, infrastructure was in an abysmal state, adding that today the situation had not changed for the better. He said there were more cases of armed robbery, bribery, corruption and sexual offences

without any will to stop them.

"The nation's relationship with the military is precarious. We do not want them to take over, yet we keep doing things that make coup a profitable venture. My position is that the military should strike if they think the environment is ripe for that," he said.

## Varsity bans indecent dressing on campus

From Johnkennedy Uzoma, Owerri

THE Acting Vice Chancellor of the Evans Enwerem University Owerri Prof. Osita Nwebo has said henceforth, any student who is indecently dressed would not be allowed into the campus.

Nwebo said this yesterday in Owerri while addressing newsmen. He said the university authorities had empowered the security men at the gate of the university to enforce the order. He said the era where students of the university exposed themselves in the name of dressing was over. He also announced the ban on sale of hand-outs and text books in the university, adding that

any lecturer caught in the act would be dealt with according to the rules of the institution.

He said already, a bookshop had been established for lecturers who want to market their books. According to him, a committee to assess and determine the relevance and appropriate prices for the books had also been set up. He warned that any lecturer who flouts the order would be sanctioned.

He maintained that machineries had been put in place to ensure that examination malpractices and racketeering in the institution becomes a thing of the past.

## Plateau NUJ condemns attack on journalist

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

THE Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Plateau State chapter has condemned the attack on a reporter of Highland FM Station, Jos, Malam Murtala Sani on Monday at Dogo Na Hawa, venue of the mass burial of victims of last Sunday's killings.

A statement signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the union in Plateau, Katdaba Gobum and Isaac Shobayo, said while the union sympathized with

the affected communities, it appealed to the people not to take law into their hands.

"Journalists by virtue of their profession are law abiding citizens. The attack on the reporter came as a big shock to us considering the contributions of members of the fourth estate of the realm to the development of the state," the union said.

The NUJ called on government and security agents to get to the root of the latest attack and bring those behind it to book.

PIC: KENNEDY EDBONODJE

# Nigerian society is sick, says Iwu

From Ibrahim Chonoko, London

CHAIRMAN of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Prof. Maurice Iwu has described the Nigerian society as sick, lamenting that some Nigerians could descend so low in order to achieve their selfish interests.

Fielding questions at an interaction session with a cross-section of Nigerians in London on Monday, Prof. Iwu said no amount of modern technology use would give credibility and integrity to elections in the country if Nigerians lacked integrity and acted with

insincerity.

"Technology relies on people for integrity and credibility", Prof. Iwu said in response to the question on whether INEC was considering the use of modern communication technology such as email, twitter or face-book for voters to register or vote at future elections in Nigeria.

He said it was a sad reality of the Nigerian society that parents could let their children cheat at exams, forge their examination results or arrange for others to sit for their exams.

"Nigerian politicians find it very difficult to

accept electoral defeat", he said, lamenting that those who initially conceded defeat and congratulated the winner of the recent gubernatorial election in Anambra state later retracted their statements.

On the 2011 elections, Prof. Iwu said INEC "has all it takes to conduct a free and fair election in Nigeria", and described the Anambra elections as a test-case for INEC's hypothesis for the 2011 general elections, emphasizing that the polls were free and fair and reflected the wishes of the majority of the people of the state.

## TUC backs tenured appointment for permsecs

By Nasir Imam

PRESIDENT of the Trade Union Congress (TUC), an umbrella body of senior civil servants, Comrade Peter Esele, said the union strongly supports the tenure regime introduced by the government for top civil servants.

Esele said the reform because has become imperative, adding that "We support it wholeheartedly because the reform will address the vacancy crisis in the civil service."

Samuel Maikasuwa, a civil servant in Abuja, told

Daily Trust that there is palpable fear among civil servants that the reforms in the civil service, started during the Obasanjo administration, may die.

He said the foot-dragging over the swearing in of the new permanent secretaries recently is a pointer to that effect. Nine permanent secretaries in the Federal Civil Service and over 60 directors were retired in January.

Another civil servant, Ugochukwu Eliagwu, said over 48, 000 civil servants were sacked by the government under the

public service reforms as a way of improving the service and said the fear being expressed is that the present administration may want to tamper with the reforms and go back to the old ways.

"This is the second major purge in the top echelon of the civil service that the nation has seen in its 49 years history. The Yar'adua administration stepped up its efforts towards reform in the service by enforcing a tenured appointment for permanent secretaries and directors through a circular dated August 26," he said.

## Jos crisis: Right commission urges FG to get the killers

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has called on the Federal Government to bring to trial all persons connected with the latest violence that resulted in the loss of many lives in Jos and surrounding villages.

The commission also

urged the government to make public and implement the recommendations of the commissions of inquiry set up to investigate previous crisis that erupted in Plateau State.

NHRC's Executive Secretary, Roland Ewubare said, "Unless and until the perpetrators of these criminal acts are apprehended and brought to open and transparent

trial, the ugly cycle of attacks and reprisals will continue."

He said other issues relevant to the crisis particularly the dichotomy between indigenes and settlers and the issue of extreme poverty must also be squarely addressed in order to put an end to the senseless waste of human lives recorded in Jos in the recent past.

## Senator lauds Army over world peace

By Francis Okeke

CHAIRMAN of Senate Committee on Defence Ibrahim Ida has lauded the Nigerian Army for the 'heroic' role it is playing in ensuring the maintenance of peace across the globe over the years.

Ida made the commendation at the closing ceremony of the ECOWAS Senior Mission Leaders Course held at the National Defence College (NDC) in Abuja in which 24 senior military, police and civilian leaders were trained.

Ida said he was delighted that Nigeria was hosting the course for the fourth time stressing that the feat is in "furtherance of and consistent with Nigeria's contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security which has been exhibited in the country's participation in peacekeeping operations all over the world, even before her independence in 1960."

He congratulated participants and urged them as potential peacekeepers to do everything possible to promote peace, support the culture of peace and actively engage in preventive measures that will promote positive peace in our societies.

On his part, the Commandant of NDC Rear Admiral GJ Jonah said participants have been exposed to the UN principles of peacekeeping which include consent of the parties, impartiality, non-use of force except in self defence and defence of mandate, credibility, legitimacy and promotion of local/national ownership.

He said the course modules covered strategic leadership, military operations, resource management, policing in civilian dimension while traversing rule of law, human rights, gender, safety and security, conduct and discipline, legal framework for peace operations and public information among others.

## FG orders \$15m equipment for airports

By Shehu Abubakar

AVIATION Minister Babatunde Omotoba yesterday said equipment for the rehabilitation of the nation's airports valued at \$15 million have been ordered by the Federal Government.

The minister said this in Abuja while opening a meeting with foreign consultants on aviation sector institutional reform study.

Omotoba said the fund is part of the World Bank assisted economic reform and government project for the provision of basic infrastructural facilities critical to safety improvement in the aviation sector.

The minister said the study will focus on having an overview of the entire aviation sector in Nigeria, review and recommend structural changes of the

Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority and prepare a sector regulatory and development strategy, formulation of strategic institutional framework, implementation plan for the improvement of operations, safety and security of the aviation sector.

He assured workers that the restructuring will not lead to retrenchment of workers in the aviation sector.


Intelligent Air technology





### CompAir

Intelligent Air technology

**Available Range**  
 Flow 49-954 cubic feet per minute  
 1.4-27 cubic meters per minute  
 Pressure 7 -14BAR

**Portable Air Compressors**

- ◆ Low fuel consumption
- ◆ High efficiency
- ◆ Simple controls
- ◆ Reliable



*For more information call:*  
**Lagos:** Mr. S. Ojeme 08057494526 **Abuja:** Mrs. J. F Femi-Walsh 08057494537

**Port Harcourt:** Engr. Lawal 08057494535

*For more information contact:*



Plot 2 & 4, Block D Amuwo-Odofin Ind. Scheme Apapa /Oshodi Expressway, Amuwo-Odofin.  
 P.O. Box 391, Apapa.  
 Port Harcourt: 33, Elechi Beach Road, Mile 1, Port Harcourt.  
 Abuja: 28, Ndoia Crescent, Off Micheal Opara Opp Ibro Hotel, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja.

# Constituency plans recall of Senator over Yar'adua

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

ABOUT 150,000 signatures have so far been obtained to recall the Senator Representing Bauchi South Senatorial District, Bala Mohammed (Kauran Bauchi), for allegedly joining the agitation to impeach ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

Spokesman of a group called Concerned People of Bauchi

South Senatorial District for Actualization of Recall of Senator Bala Muhammad, Al-Amin Sani, told newsmen at a briefing Tuesday that a letter to that effect would soon be submitted to INEC.

"It is important to dissociate ourselves from him and ask for his immediate recall before he finally succeeds in tarnishing the excellent image and the reputation of the good people of Bauchi South

and by extension the entire people of the state and Nigeria as a whole", he said.

Meanwhile, the Special Adviser to the Bauchi State Governor on Assembly Matters, Abdulmumini Kundak, has described utterances by the Senator, who called the administration of Yuguda as confused and lacking focus, as the "ranting of an ingrate".

Reacting to an interview the

Senator granted the Hausa Service of Radio France International, Kundak, a former Deputy Speaker, told reporters in his office Monday, that the ANPP Senator had by that interview proved to the world that he was an absentee representative of the people who voted him into power.

"I am not surprised that he said such a thing. This is a man who only visited his constituency once

since he was elected three years ago. A think it is the man who is losing focus and is confused. He doesn't know what he is saying any longer.

If he had been frequenting his state he would have seen what this administration is doing to better the lot of the people but he prefers to idle away in Abuja and call His Excellency all sort of names", he added.

## Transparency Int'l probes Boko Haram killings

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

OFFICIALS from the London office of Transparency International Tuesday began investigation into the alleged extra judicial killings by security agencies during the Boko Haram crisis in July last year in Maiduguri and other parts of the North.

The investigation is being carried out by Transparency International and the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre which is headed by human rights activist, Auwal Ibrahim Musa Rafsanjani.

The team has already met some residents and interacted with journalists from different media organisations. The investigators are to meet

various groups including dependants and relations of some of those allegedly executed extra judicially by security agencies. The investigators will also meet with representatives of security agencies, especially the police and the military.

Auwal Ibrahim Musa Rafsanjani who is coordinating the investigations told our correspondent in an interview that the team was in Maiduguri to gather available information regarding the crisis to ascertain why it happened, whether intelligence reports were made available to government but not utilised, the magnitude of extra judicial killings carried out by security agents, level of destruction among others.

## Daniel's bodyguards manhandle airline passenger

From Nahimah Ajikanle, Lagos

SECURITY details attached to the Ogun State Governor Gbenga Daniel yesterday forced out a passenger who sat close to the governor in a Lagos bound IRS Fokker 28 aircraft from the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport Abuja.

The passenger, Greg Osu, a lawyer, said he bought a business class ticket from IRS but the governor's Aide de camp (ADC) pushed him out of his seat, saying he had no right being in the same cabin as the governor.

Passengers said an argument began from Abuja at about 09.02 am till they landed at the local wing of the Murtala Murtala Airport, Ikeja, Lagos about 10.12 am.

The security details were said to have threatened to hand the lawyer to the police on arrival earlier.

This development caused a scene at the police post of the new domestic terminal two where the lawyer was detained for questioning by the police. Other passengers who witnessed the incident on board the flight mobilized to the police station. The lawyer said he would press charges against the state government for the treatment.

Officials of IRS Airlines were absent at the police station. Narrating his ordeal, the passengers said,

"I am a lawyer, my name is Greg Osu, and they are saying that I bought a business class, secured a seat by the governor of Ogun State, they pushed me out, this is the bad experience we go through everyday, I got on board seated close to the governor, the ADC pushed me out, they said I can't seat near the governor, there were only four seats on the plane, and the four seats were occupied."

## Trailer crushes 4 in Benin

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

FOUR persons were Tuesday crushed to death by a trailer at the Uselu market along Ugbowo-Lagos road in Benin City.

Witnesses said the Mack trailer with registration number XG 633 BEN had a break failure and wanted to avoid running into the market when it swerved to the opposite direction, crushing the four. The victims according to the witnesses, were a middle aged

woman whose husband and children were waiting on the other side of the road, two motorbike riders and another young man.

The dead woman was identified as Mrs. Rita Oshawo, a nurse. Another witness said the trailer tried to avoid a group of street traders who were arguing with the state taskforce team along the road. Sympathizers were seen digging into the heap of sand carried by the trailer hoping to find any trapped victims. The driver was

said to have sustained serious injuries.

Edo State Sector Commander of the FRSC Mr. Henry Olatunji warned traders against street trading which he said was illegal and could endanger their lives and others. He confirmed that two persons died in the accident and their bodies had been deposited in a mortuary in Benin City while the injured were taken to the University of Benin Teaching Hospital.

## Jos: Fashola cautions on reprisal

From Nahimah Ajikanle, Lagos

LAGOS State Governor Babatunde Raji Fashola has advised people in his state not to contemplate any act of retaliation for the Jos killings.

Fashola who spoke in Lagos said Nigerians should begin to see themselves as brothers and sisters to curtail hostility.

"Whatever may have been the cause of all of these, we should sit down and put it together instead of anyone thinking of any reprisal attack."

According to him, security is a national issue and people should also realize that there is no other place like home, adding that the media has a role to play in ensuring that peace reigns.

"We are brothers and sisters, we are bound together by common a destiny, we have intermarried, we pray together, we worship together and we celebrate together and those are the things that bind us, our common humanity. We share water together, we spend the same money and thoughts that sug-

gest any fragmentation should be discouraged.

I think the media also holds this responsibility now to build peace and understanding. We have nowhere else to run to except this country and all of us must resolve to live together as one and if there are any persons who are promoting these kinds of things, let us find out why they are doing so and put an end to it so that innocent people, brothers and sisters stop going at one and other in this very unacceptable manner", he said.

## MASSOB members protest over Uwazurike's detention

From Johnkennedy Uzoma, Owerri

MEMBERS of the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) yesterday took to the major streets of Owerri to demonstrate over the continued detention of their leader, Chief Ralph Uwazurike.

The members in their thousands took over the major streets demanding his immediate release.

Uwazurike was detained on the orders of the Magistrate's Court in Owerri since February over alleged abduction of

one Pascal Okorie. They peacefully marched through Wetheral Road, Douglas Road, Orlu Road, Okigwe Road and others as early as 9:00 a.m, carrying placards with inscriptions: "Imo government, where is Uwazurike?, Governor should face his governance and leave MASSOB alone and release Uwazurike now among others.

Chief Okey Nwogu, Regional Administrator (Owerri B) told Daily Trust in Owerri during the demonstration that they had gone to the High Court, Owerri which was supposed to seat on the case Tuesday but nothing happened. "We were at the court and no sign of anything and we took to the streets to register our displeasure," he said. Nwogu, flanked by two other members of the group, Chief Aloysius Amuka and Chief Kingsley Ezeugo, said that they wanted also to know the wherea-

bouts of their leader.

"We are asking the government so many questions including if our non-violence is no longer good. We have seen violence but prefer peace. We are not happy that our leader is incarcerated, till now we don't know his whereabouts," he said.

### CORRIGENDUM

IN WEEKLY TRUST OF 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2010 THE ADVERT OF THE COMMISSIONING OF A.D RUFAL COLLEGE OF ISLAMIC AND LEGAL STUDIES MISAU WAS MISTAKENLY REFERED TO AS COLLEGE OF ISLAMIC AND LEGAL STUDIES, BAUCHI. THE ERROR IS REGRETTEED PLEASE.

### CHANGE NAMES

I formerly as **UTOMI ASHIAT OMOTOKE**, now wish to be called as **ADENIJI ASIAT OMOTOKE**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

"We are asking the government so many questions including if our non-violence is no longer good. We have seen violence but prefer peace

# Online Reactions

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



## Hoodlums attack FRCN, CNN reporters

IT is time Jos residents embrace peace and love one another. What they are doing is barbaric. The

world has developed beyond that. **Mohammad Umar**  
[awestumar@gmail.com](mailto:awestumar@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*  
It is unfortunate that even in the presence of Plateau State gov-

ernment officials, journalists who were carrying out their duties were attacked and nothing was

done about it. **Usman Neji Mohammed**  
[usneji2000@yahoo.com](mailto:usneji2000@yahoo.com)

### Trailer crushes 70 in Lokoja

I blame the government because all these things are happening because of bad governance.

**Imam Inuwa**  
[iigimam@yahoo.com](mailto:iigimam@yahoo.com)

It is a great tragedy, not only to the people of Kogi State, but Nigeria as a whole. May God have mercy on us and console the families of the deceased. Markets located along the road like the ones in Lokoja and Madala should be relocated.

**Mary**  
[moludoun@yahoo.com](mailto:moludoun@yahoo.com)

Isn't it time roadside markets were banned across the nation? Trailers should also be banned

from parking along the highways. The FRSC should take this seriously and compel all the tiers of government to comply. It is the duty of the authorities to safeguard lives and property, not to pay condolence visits and make promises of free treatment after the damage has been done.

**Bashir**  
[bashyr@gmail.com](mailto:bashyr@gmail.com)

From Allah we came and to him we shall return. May He give the families of the deceased the fortitude to bear the loss. I call on Gov Idris to speed up work on the international market.

**Tanimu Babanagari**  
[tanimubaba@yahoo.com](mailto:tanimubaba@yahoo.com)

## Jos crisis: Jang accuses army of inaction



PLATEAU State Governor David Jonah Jang

live together as a nation.

**Usman Ngaski**  
[ngaskiu@yahoo.ca](mailto:ngaskiu@yahoo.ca)

I don't think governors should be given full security control because of social and political influences. Security control must be at the center and I want people like Jang to know that objectivity is very important.

**Zanna Baruwa Gashua**  
[bukar.zanna@yahoo.com](mailto:bukar.zanna@yahoo.com)

Jonah Jang and the state Police Commissioner should be arrested and prosecuted for all the killings that took place in Jos. That is the only way to ensure lasting peace. Blaming the army will not solve the matter.

**Idris H.**  
[idrisharon4real@yahoo.com](mailto:idrisharon4real@yahoo.com)

The killing of innocent women and children in Kuru Karama and Kuru Jenta in Jos South is an act of genocide and the perpetrators must be fished out and brought to book. Can we say this is a religious crisis? Who can fight for God? God is not a God of destruction, but of peace. Let us not be deceived. Life is sacred and no one has the right to take the life of another.

**Alkali Yusuf**  
[alkaliesq@justice.com](mailto:alkaliesq@justice.com)

If Jang actually alerted the army before the attack then I don't think the military was fair.

**Solomon Bijimi**  
[solabijimi@ymail.com](mailto:solabijimi@ymail.com)

### Jonathan should prioritise electoral reform –Buhari

THIS country needs the likes of General Buhari because of his foresight and firmness. He is man of integrity.

**Zanna Baruwa Gashua**  
[bukar.zanna@yahoo.com](mailto:bukar.zanna@yahoo.com)

Really, what General Buhari

said is right. Our leaders should learn from what is happening in the country today because all that is happening is due to leadership failure. Let the people decide who they want as their leaders.

**Muhammed Adamu Chana**  
[chana7617@yahoo.com](mailto:chana7617@yahoo.com)

IT will not be a good idea to hand over complete power to the governor of a state because by doing that we would be changing the form of government from a Federal system to a Confederate system of government, that is reducing power at the center and redistributing it to the state government which is unconstitutional. A state of emergency should be declared in Plateau and a reconciliation board should be set up.

**Rabiu Muhammad**  
[muhammadrabiu09@yahoo.com](mailto:muhammadrabiu09@yahoo.com)

Your Excellency, in January when the Biroms massacred Fulanis, you failed to apportion blame, didn't you receive intelligence report then? Create job opportunities for

your people to stop this mayhem.

**Muhammad Guiwa**  
[dunguza3@hotmail.com](mailto:dunguza3@hotmail.com)

The commander in charge of Jos security should be sacked without delay. What stopped him from acting immediately he received situation reports from the governor. This is the right time to sack and prosecute him.

**ThankGod Danjuma**  
[tanxgod@yahoo.com](mailto:tanxgod@yahoo.com)

The Federal Government should take full control of security situation in Plateau State. I also hope that those behind this crisis can be brought to book. We need to believe that this country is one and that we are destined to

### Genocide on the Plateau: The way out

YOU have said it all. The Kaduna example can be used as a template for Plateau. It is time for the leadership and the media to understand that in this kind of crisis, there is no winner and no loser. We expect reconciliation, compromise and government neutrality.

**Sophie**  
[sophiee87@yahoo.com](mailto:sophiee87@yahoo.com)

In my opinion, the crisis in Jos is political and it is the responsibility of the media to ensure that information gets to the grassroots. I also want to use this medium to call on those responsible for the dissemination of information to make truth their watchword.

**Kabir Lawal**  
[slimsmart.kabir@gmail.com](mailto:slimsmart.kabir@gmail.com)

The way out of this Jos crisis is for us to learn to live peacefully with one and another. We should also have it at the back of our minds that no one has the monop-

oly to violence. I totally condemn what happened last Sunday in Jos and it is time government took the security of lives and property seriously.

**Almuhtaram**  
[jagwalmania@yahoo.com](mailto:jagwalmania@yahoo.com)

You are no doubt my role model because you always speak the truth. I read your articles and I must commend your unbiased reports and analysis. May Allah continue to enrich you.

**Gambo Haruna Jagindi**  
[jagindi2004@yahoo.com](mailto:jagindi2004@yahoo.com)

I think the army is being unfair with the way they handle crises in Jos and the police is just like a Boys Scout in Jos now. A UN peace keeping troop is needed here in Plateau. We, students are in the midst of it all, studying under duress. May God help us all.

**Amodu Adejo Emmanuel**  
[earljp@yahoo.com](mailto:earljp@yahoo.com)

### Police cannot stop armed robbery –Onovo

IT is really a bad sign for the country for the police to say that they cannot curb armed robbery. May God help Nigeria.

**Willy Wonka**  
[chuka\\_wilson@yahoo.com](mailto:chuka_wilson@yahoo.com)

The Nigerian police cannot stop armed robbery in Nigeria because they lack adequate equipment, yet they make use of the ones they have to kill innocent citizens.

**Mukhtar Dan Amarya**  
[dan\\_ayya@yahoo.com](mailto:dan_ayya@yahoo.com)

The government should take this matter seriously and provide the police adequate materials to discharge its duties efficiently so that lives and property



IGP Ogbonna Onovo

of Nigerians could be saved.

**Abubakar Chika Maru**  
[abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com](mailto:abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com)

Nigeria must provide the police with state of the art equipment to fight crimes in the country and allow them perform their consti-

tutional duties without interference.

**Shehu Koko**  
[mammekoko@yahoo.com](mailto:mammekoko@yahoo.com)

It is disheartening to read a newspaper report credited to the Inspector General of Police that "Nigerian Police cannot stop armed robbery in Nigeria". As the number one police chief in the country, we do not expect such utterances from him. This will now make armed robbers to terrorize citizens, after all he has told them that they are not capable of arresting them. He should either withdraw that statement or resign from his position.

**Danladi Daddy**  
[danlad22@yahoo.com](mailto:danlad22@yahoo.com)

## Idang Alibi

idangalibi@dailytrust.com; 08036938729

### What manner of a people are these?

On Friday February 26, that is exactly thirteen days ago today, a national newspaper, the Abuja-based *Leadership*, carried on its front page a gory caption story which conveyed a most horrifying pictorial details of a chilling and bizarre robbery incident that took place along the Lagos-Benin Road a few days earlier, precisely Tuesday the 23rd of February. According to the story with the headline *Robbers Take Charge*, a set of devilish armed robbers waylaid a luxury bus that was apparently conveying passengers from Lagos to the East.

After robbing some of the occupants of valuables, especially money, there were some passengers among them who had no money on them. Obviously incensed by their 'poverty' and the need to send a stern warning message to others that travellers must always carry money on them or risk being killed in a most gruesome manner, the armed rob-

The number one item on the agenda of every Nigerian is how to acquire money, money, money and yet more money

bers, who must be specie from the hottest places in hell, ordered the bus driver at gunpoint to drive his bus and run over the passengers who had no money. That set of passengers was already ordered to lie down on the road. And that was what the driver did. The picture told the rest of the story in lurid details.

The entrails of some of the victims spewed out; the heads of some were crushed; eyes of some popped out of their sockets; limbs were severed from the trunks of their owners and some were mangled like mashed potatoes. One sentence carries the story: We have a flawed humanity in Nigeria. Any one who sees the picture of that hellish encounter and is not moved to tears as happened to me must have been denuded of all human emotions by the wickedness that now rules this land.

I want to stress that this story was published some sixteen days ago. In other lands where a majority of the people still has normal human feelings, that robbery incident and the manner of its execution would have sparked off a storm of protest. This story would have provoked a national outrage in other countries. Thousands would have poured unto the streets demanding the resignation of certain government officials for dereliction of duty.

The Inspector-General of Police and other chiefs of law enforcement agencies would have been moved to tearfully offer their resignation, apologizing for their inability or incompetence in stopping such acts of man's inhumanity to man. A new police chief would have declared a national manhunt for those criminals. Generous ransom would have been promised any one who can give information that would help in the arrest of those callous and totally insensi-

tive hoodlums.

In other saner places, newspapers would have feasted on the story with uncommon gusto. The story would have dominated the news since them displacing any political story about Yar'adua, Jonathan and their orchestras from the front pages. TV talk shows would have concentrated on nothing else other than this story. Experts such as sociologists, psychologists and educationists would be in hot demand to say what could possibly be responsible for such act of wickedness.

But in Nigeria, nothing of the sort has been done. We regard it as one of those normal things that happen in Nigeria every day and see nothing special in that particular incident.

What sort of people are we that such a thing will happen and not many people seem bothered? Why have we, either by a conspiracy of silence or inaction, allowed life in our country to be nasty, brutish and short?

The manner of that robbery incident and our response or rather non-response to it is a summary of our country Nigeria. Nigeria is practically dead. We are living in a very depraved society and our souls are becoming more and more calloused by the day

The number one item on the agenda of every Nigerian is how to acquire money, money, money and yet more money. Many are deadly ready to acquire money by any means. They can kill, steal, and betray a friend, brother and business partner in order to acquire almighty money. It is now a crime not to have money. The politicians running the show see their position as opportunity to loot, loot and loot until they have so much that they and generations of their families will not be able to spend in a life time.

As I have said, the story of that robbery says a lot about our country Nigeria. See the action of the bus driver. In Nigeria today, no one is willing to become a hero, an icon or a role model by acting selflessly if the occasion demands it. We love our wretched life so much that no one thinks about others and about the life hereafter.

In other lands, some one in the position of that bus driver would have summoned the courage to tell the robbers that instead of him to run over those helpless passengers over whom he had a responsibility and with whom he had a shared humanity, the robbers should take his own life.

Such a statement may have even forced the robbers to become humane. But our bus driver had no such noble thought. His obvious excuse was that he was forced at gun-point to carry out the action and many Nigerians will support that man. He thought his life more valuable than those of the many others.

And this is what is going on as governance in Nigeria. Our leaders have power but they have no sense of responsibility to the people they are supposed to govern whatsoever. What a tragedy! Let no one say I am being unfair to that driver. He was the pilot or leader of that unfortunate expedition. He needs not be a philosopher before he can understand the fine points of responsibility, fellow-feeling and the demands of nobility.



By Uchenna Nwachukwu

### Yar'adua: Let's have some peace

Every country, no matter the stage of their development, is at one time or the other confronted with different challenges. But it is the way such challenges are handled at the end of the day that will reveal the stage of political maturity and development of such nations. Just of recent, Nigeria has had to confront the problem of illness and absence of President Umaru Yar'adua from the country. Ordinarily, this should not have been a problem since no human being on his or her own will pray to be sick even for a second, much less, staying in a foreign hospital for over two months. This is more so for a President who came to power determined to change the socio-economic circumstances of his countrymen and women as encapsulated in the seven point agenda. But even the strongest of us, against our wish and desire has had to at one time or the other, abandon what is perhaps dearest to our hearts to take care of our health. No doubt, majority of Nigerians understand this fact and this is no doubt responsible for the sincere outpouring of emotions and prayers across the country for the quick recovery of the President while he was away. The safe return of President Yar'adua to the

By their decision not to yield to the irrational demand of political agitators to support the removal of President Yar'adua from office

country is evidence that God do indeed listened to the prayers.

But reviewing the events of the past three months or thereabout, one is saddened by the ability of Nigerians, especially those in opposing political camps and some so called members of the civil society to contrive crisis when there is none. Instead of sympathy and support he deserved, this group continually savage President Yar'adua even on his sick bed with allegations of vacuum in government even when Dr Goodluck Jonathan is adequately filling in the gap as the Vice President and later Acting President.

One would have thought that with the return of President Yar'adua to the country and his assertion through his spokesperson, Olusegun Adeniyi that Dr Goodluck Jonathan would continue to act as president while his boss took time to recover fully, the unnecessary agitations that section 144 of the Nigerian constitution should be invoked by the Federal Executive Council, or rather more appropriately, the Executive Council of the Federation, would end. Unfortunately, that has not been the case, as it appeared that some of the agitators are pursuing an agenda far beyond the so-called and much trumpeted vacuum in governance.

The fact is that some people are just interested in creating a crisis that may in the end not do anybody any good. One cannot therefore fail to commend the 36

Nigerian Governors for saving Nigeria from anarchy and another unnecessary constitutional crisis by their recent and unanimous affirmation that resignation of President Yar'adua is not one of the options they will consider for resolving the contrived "political problem" which anyway exist mostly in the minds of those who never wish the country well. The decisions of the Nigerian Governors' Forum that President Yar'adua remains the President of Nigeria while Vice President Goodluck Jonathan will continue to act for him until he (Yar'adua) is ready to return to office has also brought down the needless anxiety which has jacked up the political temperature of Nigeria. Most of those selfishly calling on the State chief executives to support the removal of the President forget that both chambers of the National Assembly have a final say on the matter.

And it is noteworthy that the lawmakers have remained resolute that they have done their bit by empowering Vice President Goodluck Jonathan as the Acting President. In the circumstances, therefore, getting the constitutionally required two thirds of members of both chambers of the National Assembly to support the removal of President Yar'adua may well be tantamount to getting the biblical camel to pass through the eyes of the needle.

By their decision not to yield to the irrational demand of political agitators to support the removal of President Yar'adua from office, the Governors, led by Bukola Saraki of Kwara State have saved the National Assembly and the country from debacle that has the potential of destabilizing our foremost lawmaking institution. It is particularly gladdening that an overwhelming majority of members of the Federal Executive Council have put their love for their fatherland and their desire to help nurture Nigerian democracy above quest for personal glory and popularity. I will particularly implore FEC members to continue to support Acting President Jonathan as they have been doing even as they continue to pray for a quicker full recovery of President Yar'adua.

The Governors' Forum advice that the Minister of Information and Communications, Professor Dora Akuyili should be cautioned on her recent utterances is appropriate. The Minister should stop abusing the privilege she was given to serve in the cabinet by casting unfounded aspersions on her cabinet colleagues and other aides of President Yar'adua. Otherwise, if she feels that she has had enough of serving in the cabinet, she should just throw in the towel. I commend the Acting President Jonathan who has been very mature in the way he has been handling the affairs of the country since the President's return to the country. The Acting President should not allow himself to be distracted by those who continue to call for the invocation of section 144 of the Constitution of his boss as he (Jonathan) has been given the powers to exercise all presidential powers.

Nwachukwu wrote from Obosi, Anambra State.



## Your Letters

### Our leaders and their manners

It is a common assertion that it takes years to build a name, but it takes seconds to destroy it. It is well known that "GOOD MANNERS" play a vital role in human behaviour at any given society in the world. It is what makes a person different from other people, whenever he speaks or makes any action. Any

reasonable person is required to have good manners in any society, not to talk of a leader.

A leader who lacks a good manner is incapacitated or incapable of being in position of leadership. Yes, how can a leader address his subjects without manners? Or how can the followers appreciate their leaders that have no manners?

But unfortunately, these days you hear so many statements coming from the mouths of our supposed leaders, those statements that were very embarrassing and capable of inciting their myopic followers. I read about the statements by a group that called for

the removal of chief of army staff, GOC, and another tribal group calling for the sacking of CBN Governor.

All these statements are not expected of our leaders. The way our leaders behave and speak to other people is very sensitive. Let them show tolerance and be forgiving. I was surprised also when I heard one leader saying that "we shall see the end of pen in Makarfi". Is that statement a reflection of good manners from a leader?

**Ahmad Rasheed Makarfi,**  
C3, Tudun Wada Makarfi,  
Kaduna State.

## Text us on 08 131 8000 30

### Simple logic

NIGERIA is for everyone, so also is Jos, it is not for Christians alone; so if Clinton can demand that the killers of Christians to be brought to justice, why not also demand that killers of Muslims be brought to justice?  
**SAMEERA,**  
07036353939.

Abuja,

### Listen to Mantu

THE former deputy senate president is right: Jang is incompetent. Jang said he is not to blame for the crises in Jos, why? He has the critical role to play to keep the peace, if he had chosen to.  
**ABUBAKAR,** 08137709129.

### Even-handed

THIS massacre at Dogo Nahawa in Plateau should be investigated, alongside the last one at Kuru Karama. The outcome would

bring lasting peace in Jos.

**POLANG,** Jos, 08033916112.

### Blinded

IT is sad that not one Muslim would see things from the Christian point of view, and vice versa. We all need to be more objective because violence only begets more violence. *Daily Trust* also needs to be objective.  
**08035997620.**

### What's in the mind?

AS long as Nigerians say one thing publicly and go on to secretly do the opposite, peace will always evade us.  
**GAMBO Jacob, Narayi, Kaduna,** 08028621135.

### Basic truth

RELIGIOUS leaders should please talk to their followers to avoid sentiment; it leads to con-

flicts in the nation. We are all (Christian, Muslim) created from Adam and Eve. Why the constant fight among us?

**MUKHTAR**

08034229697.

Gaskiya,

### A stitch in time

THE crises in Plateau State are tearing the North apart. Leaders in the region must put a stop to this cycle of madness in Jos.  
**IJAI, Mararaba, Abuja,** 08054411522.

### Walk like an Egyptian

PRESIDENT Hosni Mubarak handed over power to his deputy, Nazif who assumed presidential powers and will hold the fort until Mubarak returns from his medical check-up. All these transpired within 24 hour. Why can't we practice simple rules?  
**07069110104.**



By Ibrahim Yusuf

## The rigmarole in Nigerian politics

THE emergence of the Chief Olusegun Obasanjo administration on May 29, 1999 as a democratically elected government by the people was thought by many as the beginning of a new dawn in Nigerian politics, because it was seen as peoples' wishes and choices were being respected and upheld to certain international standard. The overall result was adjudged by most Nigerians and the international community as alright as the forces of democracy were seen in active interplay.

As soon as the elected people of largely the PDP (otherwise christened as the Africa's largest party) and the rest were being sworn-in in their various designation and the grandiose celebrations that followed were over, the main thing if you like, to be reaped by the electorate as a better life condition in terms of human/infrastructural development as referred to by the political class as a 'Dividend of Democracy' by the ruling PDP were not forthcoming as campaigned. Instead of pursuing/embarking on laudable projects that are geared towards an overall development of the country and its teeming populace, such as efficient power supply, revamping agriculture as it is supposed to bring it to modern standard; total resuscitation of the educational sector, which is close to collapse, as well as the nation's industries. Insecurity across the length and breadth of the country has reached an alarming proportion which is detrimental to the overall economic development of the nation. In order to make the country develop and achieve its full potentialities in the above stated sectors as professed by the PDP and its leaders, it is pertinent here to make a clarion call on the political parties especially the PDP which has the overall control of the political positions in the country to immediately stop this rigmarole of non-performance and address those key issues squarely in order to make our country great and proud in the comity of nations.

It has now become, as if to say, that we have a tsunami-type democracy in the country as the earlier hopes and desires the electorate were having from May 29, 1999 were shattered beyond human comprehension by the political gladiators/riggers unknown in the political history of Nigeria. The super power party (PDP) has entrenched a political culture of Invasion/Graft in the polity (otherwise known in Hausa as *Wawura da Baba-Kere*) which has suffocated the political climate of the Nation. To worsen the situation, the party could be said to have concluded schemes/plans in eliminating opposition parties in the political arrangement of the country in collusion with the electoral umpire (INEC) paving way to a one-party state in the coming 2011 election. Despite the current numerical strength on the opposition political parties so registered (about 50 parties) they could be best described as private or personal associations/clubs which can hardly be called a party, as they possess no geographical spread in composition and presence nationally and lacking effective strategy and mechanism to upset the political dominance of the ruling party. Although the opposition parties are now trying to form a strong/reliable party through mergers and affiliation of the current ones, it is hoped that personal ego and greed should be the watch-word in the event the party comes to be in electing their key officers/flag bearers of the party.

The success of achieving this feat will undoubtedly send the shocker of a signal to the ruling PDP.

To the super power party (PDP) actors who are so enmeshed in political power to drunkenness, dreaming of ruling the nation for the next 60 years, have got a Herculean task ahead of them, come 2011 in the event a new formidable opposition party is formed. The electorate who have voted them in 1999 have reaped their so-called dividend of democracy of abject poverty, insecurity etc, and for those who think of playing the religion/tribe agenda are not going to get it under the platter of gold.

Finally, to the rest of us, the electorate, the die is cast and it is squarely our own business to rise to the political challenge to ensure the successful enthronement of true democracy in our great nation, and chase the perpetrators of all the rigmaroles.

Yusuf wrote from K15 Kamsalem Close Malali, Kadua.

# DAILY TRUST

## EDITORIAL

No. 20 P.O.W. Mafemi Crescent, Off Solomon Lar Way,  
Utako District, Abuja  
09-6726241, 6715364

## The Presidential Advisory Council

**A**cting President Goodluck Jonathan has inaugurated a Presidential Advisory Council, the creation and membership of which he announced a week ago. It is chaired by a former Minister of Defence, General Theophilus Yakubu Danjuma (rtd); it has twenty-five other members most of whom are veteran bureaucrats or technocrats whose inputs are expected to add value to governance. Government expects the council to provide alternative inputs into policy formulation, help promote good governance especially in the economy, power, security, electoral process, security infrastructure sectors, and encourage the fight against corruption.

Opinions are mixed as to what value such a committee appointed by a government of a transitory nature with barely 12 months to the next elections can add, especially given the fact that there are other decision-making organs like cabinet of ministers, a parliament and a retinue of aides and advisers, in place. Others have kicked at the council for its gender imbalance; and to some, it is the blatant fact that similar councils in the past have recommended roadmaps that were hardly followed. Still, some have argued that taxpayer funds should not be expended on an amorphous quasi-legal body whose advice would have no force of law and whose recommendations may be discarded by its appointing authority in the first instance.

Those familiar with the story of Nigeria would say that each sceptic has his reason. In 50 years of its existence as a nation, Nigeria has never lacked people with ideas; what it has seemed to lack is the perennial tendency to capitulate rather than push through policies and programmes that can transform the socio-political and economic fortunes of the country. But Nigeria should not remain static for the mere fact that past attempts at nation building have led to public disillusionment. The acting President alluded to this problem when he noted that "the best advertisement of good governance is its positive expression of happiness in the lives of the governed." Dr Jonathan hit the right chord when he assured that "the inputs of the panel would not be treated with levity" and that "the federal government will pay attention to contributions within the terms of reference of the council."

**W**e are not unmindful of the circumstances that brought Goodluck Jonathan into office, unique as they were. These will no doubt put him in the dock of present and future generations, whose judgments are not likely to be based on the propriety or rhetorical political correctness as much as his actions. Indeed the council chairman reminded Jonathan that the times were extraordinary and required urgent and extraordinary steps. He was spot-on when he urged the acting president to act quickly and aggressively now "when society can be trusted to be ... generous as to credit you with your successes and to excuse your errors."

Nigerians indeed can be excused if they snigger at these efforts at making impact. They have been taken for a ride far too often and for too long, without realising stated objectives. If current attempts mean more of the same, it would be a great opportunity lost, not only to him, but to the nation in general. We therefore urge the committee to get to work with the urgency, zeal and the determination that their task requires; submit a practicable document with a measurable time-frame, and for government to hit the ground running on that agenda with the doggedness that Nigerians begin to see hope in democracy and good governance. This is the only way to patch and re-inflate the balloon of hope already flattened by years of ineptitude and, recently, of uncertainty.

**KABIRU A. YUSUF:** Chairman/Chief Executive Officer  
**ISIAQ AJIBOLA:** Managing Director/Chief Operating Officer  
**MANNIR DAN ALI:** Executive Director/ Editor-in-Chief  
**ALI M. AKOSHILE:** General Manager, Business & Strategy  
**MAHMUD JEGA:** Editor, Daily Trust  
**SHEHU O. MOHAMMED:** Asst. General Manager, Finance  
**GARBA ALIYU ABUBAKAR:** Asst. General Manager (IT)  
**ABDULKADIR ALIYU:** Head, Advert

e-mail: [opinion@dailytrust.com](mailto:opinion@dailytrust.com)

## A political agenda for Nigerian women

**L**ast week, this column covered the presentations made at the Pre Summit on Participation of Women in Politics organised by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development. It ended with the recommendations made in my paper titled Women Participation in Politics: The Challenge of the Ballot Box. There were two sets of recommendations, the short term include measures that have been tried and tested such as mandate protection where by voters are given voter education, they cast their votes, monitor the counting and declaration of results to ensure that results announced reflect their votes. Others are establishment of a fund to support women aspirants, implementation of the Nigeria women's Political Agenda and resuscitation of the 100 Women's Group. This last recommendation involves establishing a network for community mobilisation of women voters which was developed after the 1995 UN Fourth Conference on Women, Beijing Conference. Two of the successful women politicians who are two term legislators, Honourable Saudatu Sani and Binta Garba told participants that the 100 Women Group strategy worked for them. Honourable Saudatu Sani said the Agenda was developed 15 years ago but the issues it sought to address were still important for effective participation of women in politics and public life. She also observed that the Better Life Programme for Rural Women initiated by the Late First Lady, Mrs Maryam Babangida provided economic support and helped to raise awareness among women on their role in their communities.

It is therefore appropriate to share with readers the origin and content of the Agenda and the 100 Women Group mobilisation strategy which were developed through a participatory workshop. In 1995, after the Beijing Conference, a group of activists with support from some development partners established Women in Politics Steering Committee that organised a national political summit at the FESTAC Hotel in Lagos. They planned to bring together 100 women representing all the states and various interest groups but over 100 women from all the states of the federation attended the Post Beijing Conference. Presentations were made on the obstacles militating against women's participation in politics. Participants were later divided into groups and the made comprehensive recommen-

### Civil Society Watch

By Hajiya Bilkisu (mni)

dations for effective participation of women in politics and public life. As a member of the Steering Committee for that conference and also a participant, I own the agenda and will readily share it with all. It was produced as a hand book and a guide for action. Out of that post Beijing initiative also emerged an advocacy group known as the 100 Women's Group to promote the Political Agenda and catalyse women for effective political participation. The strategies outlined in the Agenda are as valid today as they were when the document was produced over a decade ago. The Political Agenda for Nigeria Women was designed to fulfil the following objectives:

- To bring women's issues into

They are discouraged by regulatory and political structure and disenabled by a non-supportive cultural, economic and social environment for women's advancement" The Agenda identifies short-and long term goals. I will focus on the short term goals only. The first recommendation is the need to adopt affirmative action. This will translate to establishment of quotas for the representation of women in all sectors and at all levels of the political decision-making process and operation of laws which protect the interests of women.

The specific actions to be taken are, 30% representation of women in all sectors and all levels, both elected and appointed, reflection of women's 30% representation in all relevant legislation and enacting laws to implement international conventions ratified by Nigeria. To ensure that this is implemented, Nigerian women will be required to advocate and lobby for affirmative action at all levels through a broad-based constituency of women and women's groups.

Out of that post Beijing initiative also emerged an advocacy group known as the 100 Women's Group to promote the Political Agenda and catalyse women for effective political participation

the manifestos and agenda of political parties, organs of government and organizations outside politics, in order to create political consciousness of women's issues and right;

- To ensure that election candidates address women's issues and commit themselves to the translation off such issues into practical action;
- To raise the awareness of women who are in political parties and government concerning women's issues and right
- To educate women about the significance of their political participation and representation in order to ensure a responsible commitment to issues affecting their right and status;
- To ensure the continuity of women's participation in politics by mobilising and nurturing current and future leader.

The document states that "Nigerian women are under-represented in political organisations and in the structure and processes of the Political Transition Programme.

The second recommendation is focused on voters' registration and the need to ensure a consistent drive to ensure that all eligible women are registered to vote in order to enhance women's effective participation in politics. There must also be some measures put in place. Among these are maintenance of a standard voters' register, revision of voters' register to eliminate ghost names, adequate provision of registration materials, logistic, etc.

**W**omen should also advocate for a transparent and accessible programme for voters' registration and mobilise and organize grassroots women's groups to identify obstacles and monitor impact. The third recommendation is increase representation. This will require dedication of 30% of leadership positions and strategic appointments for women to offset current under representation. Specifically, this calls for 30% representation at ward, village, local government area, state and national levels within political party hierarchies, representation in cabinet, ambassadorial appointments, and other organs of government. The fourth is creating an enabling environment which will require the elimination of thuggish activity, violence, monetisation of politics, bribery, open balloting, collegiate voting systems, the denial of residency rights to women living or married outside their states of origin, intimidation, and undemocratic electoral processes.

In 1995, after the Beijing Conference, a group of activists with support from some development partners established Women in Politics Steering Committee that organised a national political summit at the FESTAC Hotel in Lagos

**COUNCIL FOR THE REGULATION OF ENGINEERING IN NIGERIA, (COREN)**

NO. 22 ADDIS ABABA CRESCENT, WUSE ZONE 4, ABUJA.

**COMMISSIONING OF THE HEAD OFFICE OF COREN**

*The President and Chairman of Council,*  
**Engr. Habu Ahmed Gumel, FNSE, FNIM, OON**

*On behalf of the*  
**Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria, COREN**

*Cordially invites*

**ENGINEERING PERSONNEL, ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS  
AND ALL OTHER STAKEHOLDERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO  
THE OFFICIAL COMMISSIONING OF COREN HEAD OFFICE**

*by the*

Honourable Minister of Works, Housing & Urban Development  
**Dr. Hassan Muhammad Lawal, CON**

**DATE:** Tuesday, 16th March, 2010.

**VENUE:** The New Head Office,  
No. 22 Addis Ababa Crescent Wuse Zone 4, Abuja.

**TIME:** 9.00am

*Stakeholders who have not received letters of invitation should kindly regard this as formal invitation.*

Engr. Felix Atume, FNSE, mni  
Registrar.

RSVP

08036007172, 08033245067, 08036126556

# TALK MORE

# FOR 50% FREE!



Now pay 50% less on Glo to Glo calls on Glo TALK MORE

- Glo to Glo : 30k / sec (N18 / min)
  - Glo to other networks : 60k / sec ( N36 / min)
- So what are you waiting for, avail this rate plan and enjoy talking to your near and dear ones this festive season and beyond.  
To subscribe to TALK MORE, prepaid customers dial \*100\*1\*2#

For details call 111, 200 or 300 from your Glo line.  
From other networks call 06000020121

Glo makes use of the right to use any or all of the above for sub-200m network only



Rule your world

# INTERNATIONAL

## Libya accepts US apology over diplomatic row

LIBYA signalled the end of a diplomatic row with the United States yesterday, saying it accepted an apology for acerbic comments made by a US official and wanted to deepen relations in all areas.

The Libyan foreign ministry "states that it accepts the apology and strong regret shown by the State Department," it said in a statement obtained by Reuters. The ministry said it "... welcomes resuming the exchange of visits between officials of the two countries and insists on its willingness to develop bilateral relations in all fields and within a framework of mutual respect."

US energy firms including Exxon Mobil, ConocoPhillips, Hess, Marathon and Occidental have invested billions of dollars in Libya, home to Africa's largest proven oil reserves.

The row with Washington centered on a speech Gaddafi made last month calling for a "jihad" against Switzerland, with which Tripoli has a long-running dispute.

The word is often translated as meaning "armed struggle" but Libyan officials later said Gaddafi meant only a trade embargo. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said Gaddafi's speech

reminded him of a previous address by the Libyan leader, which, he said, involved "lots of words and lots of papers flying all over the place, not necessarily a lot of sense."

Libya responded by summoning the US envoy in Tripoli to protest, then warning US energy firms they could suffer unless Washington apologized for Crowley's remarks. In Washington, Crowley apologized, telling reporters: "I understand that my personal comments were perceived as a personal attack on the president."

"These comments do not

reflect US policy and were not intended to offend. I apologize if they were taken that way."

The London-based Asharq al-Awsat newspaper quoted Shokri Ghanem, head of Libya's state energy firm NOC, as saying before the US apology that the diplomatic row had prompted Libya to start looking for new energy partners.

The Libyan foreign ministry's statement yesterday did not say whether the warning to US energy firms still applied.

Libya, which spent decades under international sanctions until it renounced weapons of

mass destruction in 2003, is still locked in a dispute with most European countries over entry visas that is linked to the Swiss row.

Libyan relations with Switzerland broke down in mid-2008 with the arrest of a son of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi in a Geneva hotel on charges of mistreating two domestic servants.

The charges were soon dropped but Tripoli cut oil supplies to Switzerland, withdrew more than \$5 billion from Swiss bank accounts and this month imposed a trade embargo on the neutral alpine country.

## 90 Rwandan rebels killed in eastern Congo

A United Nations official says 90 Rwandan rebels have been killed in restive eastern Congo. Spokesman Madnodje Mounoubai said yesterday that Hutu rebels from neighbouring Rwanda were killed during a two-week Congolese army operation conducted with the support of UN peacekeepers.

Mounoubai said that two rebel bases were destroyed and 68 other rebels surrendered.

Hutu rebels are blamed for

killing hundreds of villagers in eastern Congo. Rwandan and Congolese troops teamed up last year for a short operation against the rebels.

Eastern Congo has been wracked by violence since Rwanda's 1994 genocide spilled war across the border.

Hutu militias who participated in the massacres of more than 500,000 people sought refuge in Congo.

## Egypt's Mubarak leaves intensive care after operation

EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak left the intensive care unit of a German hospital yesterday, four days after having a gall bladder removed, Health Minister Hatem al-Gabali said.

Mubarak, 81, "left the intensive care unit this morning for an ordinary room at the Heidelberg

University Hospital," Gabali was quoted by the official MENA news agency as saying. "The president's general state is constantly improving," Gabali added, without indicating when Mubarak might leave the hospital. During the surgery on Saturday, Mubarak also had a growth removed from his small

intestine. In 2004, the president was treated in Germany for a slipped disc. Mubarak has delegated executive powers to Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif until he returns to Cairo. His health is usually a taboo subject in the country he has ruled since 1981, fuelling regular rumours.

## Mozambique 'to evacuate 130,000 from flood plain'

AROUND 130,000 people are to be evacuated in flood-prone Mozambique because of rising waters in three main rivers, state media said yesterday.

Government declared a red alert for regions along the mighty Zambezi River, Africa's fourth-longest which originates in Angola, as well as the smaller Pungwe and Buzi rivers, Noticias newspaper said.

The red alert imposes an evacuation order for the area. "Around 130,000 people were identified in areas of risk in three basins in the central region, namely the Zambezi, Pungwe and Buzi rivers," Noticias said.

"Our main concern right now is to save human lives.

In any case, the situation is

under control," said Joao Ribeiro, director general of the National Disaster Management Institute. Emergency centres have been created where tents, mosquito nets, medicine and food would be available.

Seasonal rains across southern Africa send water levels rising every year around this time, especially on the Zambezi which brings to Mozambique run-off from a long swathe of the continent as it runs toward the Indian Ocean.

Mozambique is a frequent victim of flooding during its rainy season. Deadly floods in 2000 and 2007 forced tens of thousands from their homes.

So far two flood deaths have been reported this year.



EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak.

# International

## Biden says Palestinians deserve 'viable' state

VICE President Joe Biden said yesterday the Palestinians deserve a "viable" independent state with contiguous territory, seeking to reassure them of US support after Israel announced plans to expand a Jewish neighborhood in disputed east Jerusalem.

The Israeli move has over-

shadowed Biden's visit, meant to promote a new round of US-led negotiations, and drawn Palestinian accusations that Israel is not serious about peace. Israel apologized for embarrassing Biden with the timing of its announcement, but made clear it has no intention of reversing its plan.

Capping a day of meetings with Palestinian leaders, Biden told his hosts that the US is committed to brokering a final peace deal — something that has eluded US leaders for decades.

"The United States pledges to play an active as well as a sustainable role in these talks," Biden

said. He stressed the Palestinians deserve an independent state that is "viable and contiguous," meaning the territory should not be broken up by Israeli settlement enclaves. It was a clear message to Israel that the US expects a broad withdrawal from the West Bank as part of a deal.

Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has given only conditional support for Palestinian independence and signaled that he wants to retain control of key parts of the West Bank, including Jewish settlements. The US, along with the Palestinians, consider settlements built on disputed lands to be obstacles to peace.

The Israeli plan to build 1,600 new homes in the east Jerusalem neighbourhood of Ramat Shlomo was an embarrassing setback for Biden, who arrived Monday hoping to build on an agreement by both sides to resume indirect negotiations through the mediation of US envoy George Mitchell.

The fate of Jewish settlements is one of the most contentious issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Some 270,000 settlers live in the West Bank, in addition to 180,000 Israelis living in Jewish neighbourhoods built in east Jerusalem.

## Cambodia to preserve Khmer Rouge sites for tourism

CAMBODIA will preserve 14 sites at the last bastion of the murderous Khmer Rouge, including the home of their leader Pol Pot, as tourist attractions, an official said yesterday.

Following Cabinet approval last week, the sites at Anlong Veng will be protected from destruction by local people and illegal encroachment, the area's district chief Yim Phana said. Anlong Veng, about 185 miles (300 kilometers) north of Phnom Penh, fell to government forces in 1998 after nearly 20 years of fighting.

The Khmer Rouge regime, under which an estimated 1.7 million people died from execution, disease and malnutrition, was toppled in 1979 but its guerrillas fought on in the jungles, with Anlong Veng becoming their last stronghold.

Yim Phana said the 14 sites include homes belonging to Khmer Rouge leaders, an ammunition warehouse and the grave of Pol Pot, who died in 1998. Once a remote town, Anlong Veng is now connected by good roads to nearby Thailand and Cambodia's greatest tourist attractions, the temples of Angkor.



US Vice President Joseph Biden, left, walks with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas past the honour guard, ahead of their meeting in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

The All-New Honda

# CR-V

**HONDA**  
The Power of Dreams

## Form. Function. Forward - Thinking

Whether it's just you and some friends. Just you and the family. Or just you and no plan, the CR-V is a great place to just be.

**Features** Aerodynamic and Streamlined Exterior, 17 inch Alloy Wheels, Multi-Reflector Halogen Headlights  
5-speed Automatic Transmission, 16-Valve DOHC i-VTEC, Dual-Zone Automatic Climate Control  
Advanced 4WD System, 8-way Power Adjustment Driver's Seat

13A, Adeniyemo Alakija/Akin Adesola Street, V/I, Lagos  
0702 8442088, 0803 3264526, 0805 7759889,  
01-8525040, 8520004, 8520005.

**VICTORIA ISLAND (I)**  
01-8983296, 01-8741047, 0702-8022472

**APAPA**  
01-8520222, 01-8524444, 0805-7761008

**IJESHA**  
01-8520202, 01-8520776, 8520203, 0805-7761004

**IKEJA**  
01-8520003, 01-8741005,  
0805 4799999, 01-8522062,  
0702 8006117, 0805 6149963,  
0702 8005924, 07028022371

**LEKKI**  
01-852 0001, 0803 9765 001

**ABUJA**  
0805 4099999,  
09-2348007, 2349384,  
08034099999, 08042133869.

**PORT HARCOURT**  
0805 4277777, 084-238317,  
0803 4277777, 0803 4299999.

**KADUNA**  
Tel/Fax: 062-237810, 211289,  
08037040138.

**KANO**  
0805-4399999, 0803-3264552,  
064-640862, 0803 9765 000,  
0805 9765 000, 0803 3617050

**MAIDUGURI:**  
07028024385,  
08052222324

**IBADAN**  
08055550477  
08039765001

**HOTLINES:**  
**SALES / LEASING -**  
01-8520010, 01-8520011, 01-8524444,  
01-8520776, 01-8525040,  
01-8520202, 01-8520222, 01-8520207,  
01-8520203

**Honda Finance**  
07028442088, 07028759613, 8520011,  
8525040, 8520004, 8520005.

**Honda Care** 3 Years Warranty  
3 Service Free

SALES, FINANCE, SERVICE, SPARES & BODY SHOP

**Comex**

Email: [hondasales@stalliongroup.com](mailto:hondasales@stalliongroup.com), [hondaservice@stalliongroup.com](mailto:hondaservice@stalliongroup.com), [hondacare@stalliongroup.com](mailto:hondacare@stalliongroup.com) Website: [honda.com.ng](http://honda.com.ng)



StepUP

## Discover a world where the more you talk the better it gets

Designed exclusively to fit your lifestyle, with a wide range of meaningful value added services and unique benefits.



Special Numbers



Access to VIP Airport lounge



100 Complimentary SMS



Exclusive internet offers



Exclusive Blackberry offers



50% Monthly Discount

Buy a Zain SIM card now and dial \*200\*1 to activate (#1,500 Monthly access fee applies)

For more information, visit [www.zain.com](http://www.zain.com), dial \*200# or call 111.

Terms and conditions apply.

[www.zain.com](http://www.zain.com)

A wonderful world

## International

## Niger Republic: Lessons from a poorer cousin



SANUSI Abubakar (middle) with Colonel Abdoukarim Goukoye (left), CSRD spokesman.

By Sanusi Abubakar

“THE world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page” says St. Augustine. I badly wanted to see Niger again, after some 35 years, to have a better understanding of that sparsely populated but large country with a larger heart, inhabited by some of the most civil and warmest people I know.

The snippets we were getting from the press coverage of the most recent coup d'état were too general. This convergence of personal and professional interests, added to my inability to grasp why the Nigerian press continues to rely on foreign reports and interpretations of events in this next-door neighbour of ours, made me approach my Editor-in-Chief, and Chairman of our Editorial Board, to send me to Niger to see things for myself and have a feel of the place that I last visited as an undergraduate. He readily agreed, and off I went, in my old car and, to my regrets, on a shoe-string budget.

The long journey from Abuja to Niamey was smooth and hitch-free, once one leaves the Nigerian side, that is. Once in Niger, we paid for road tax from Dan Issa to Niamey and a Laissez- Passer for a month.

We had already purchased the ECOWAS Third Party Liability insurance policy aka BROWN CARD, from Katsina. These were the only papers one needs to visit, aside from a valid Driving licence and other vehicle “partikulas” (as the Nigeria Police would say). The road was smooth and pot-

hole free for most of the 800 kilometres plus, right from Dan Issa to Niamey, except for some 30 kilometres before Madaoua. By the time we got to Birnin Konni it was around 7pm and we started contemplating staying the night for fear of armed robbers on the highway. “Drive on” was everyone’s advise.

The roads were very safe, they assured us. So we kept on driving, and got to Dosso about 11pm where, due to exhaustion, we decided to spend the night, despite being just an hour away from our destination. We got to Niamey the next day and started reaching out to our contacts. Within an hour of our arrival we got several feedbacks, and started fixing our appointments.

The new military junta was ready to see us immediately, so off we went to their temporary headquarters, and next-door to the where President Mamadou Tandja and his cabinet were meeting when the soldiers blasted the gates and arrested them. The CSRD spokesman, Colonel Abdoukarim Goukoye, received us warmly and regretted that the Head of State was not available to give us an interview. We chatted frankly and amicably for about an hour.

He however declined my request to see Tandja. After that we went looking for our other sources. I must add here that all those we requested to see were very willing and gave their time freely and generously, especially members of the international press corps, especially Gazali

Abdou Tessaoua of Deutsche Welle, Idi Baraou of BBC. Professor Ado Mohammed and his wife, Lydia of RFI were a delight to talk to, and his insights and explanations were penetrating and deep.

My friend and social activist, Moussa Tchangare, of ALTER-NATIVE was an encyclopaedia on Niger and its politics, and I learnt a lot from him. It was a delight to talk to members of the political parties, especially Mocratic Kassoum, former minister of information. I learnt a lot from all of them and I remain eternally grateful.

What I found most striking was the fact that the Nigerien elite is very civil, well educated and does not go around carrying empty titles which their discourse negates, unlike Nigeria where some professors talk like motor park touts. But then, unlike in our case where History and Geography are banned from Class One to JS 3, their own syllabus goes beyond the joke called Social Studies. They really were a delight to talk to.

However, the similarities between Niger Republic and Nigeria are many, and very striking indeed. So are the contrasts. If you are lulled into thinking you are in Nigeria it would not be a surprise. The sub-tropical climate is dry and hot, the vegetation sparse, the occupations are farming and animal husbandry. Most of the north is inhospitable desert.

The people, over 70 percent, are Hausas, with some Zarma,

Fulani, Kanuri and Touregs. Over 90 percent are Muslims, and most take their religion and culture seriously, as can be seen in the number of mosques and Koranic schools. The architecture is also similar, except that their finishing and use of urban space is more appealing.

But there the similarities end. Security is one area where you immediately realise you have left Nigeria. Every fifty kilometres or so, you come across signs saying HALTE, and they add the agency requesting you to stop, Duane (Customs), Gendarmerie (a military body charged with police duties among civilians), the Police or whatever. You stop, show your papers and you are off in a matter of minutes.

No one asked me for bribe or “wetin you carry” in my one week of stay. Actually, after driving for over 1,500 kilometres I was stopped only once by their Customs! On my way back I was stopped over eleven times by our own Customs, from Magama, on the Nigerian border, to Katsina, a distance of some twenty kilometres or so! Suddenly seven or more of them would appear from the bush, with touch lights and long sticks spiked with nails threatening to throw them under the car to force one to stop. No warning signs or civility here, thank you.

One cannot fail to notice the state of their roads; generally well maintained and very smooth. Also, all their electric poles are standing intact, with not a single portion showing signs of stolen cables. All sharp turns, bridges or

speed rumps are clearly marked. Electricity and urban water supply are both reliable, and people are generally very orderly. Accommodation is costly, and petrol cost twice what we are used to. The country is constantly facing serious food shortages because of unpredictable rainfall pattern.

One can go on, but I think you get my drift. Niger has found a way to manage its relative poverty very well, given its classification as one of the poorest nations on Earth. To quote Moussa Tchangare, “Gara talaucin mu da irin arzikin Nigeria”.

Needless to say, Niger is not only a nation that we share a 1,497 kilometres border with; it remains also our closest ally and friend, decades after being separated from us by British and French colonial adventurers.

Some said a journey is best measured in friends, rather than miles. In this regard I think I had a very successful trip, and look forward to maintaining my contacts. As for the soldiers in power there is just H. G. Wells’s advice: In politics, strangely enough, the best way to play your cards is to lay them face upwards on the table.

Some of their cards are still partially obscure. Carry the people along, honestly and openly, and leave when the applause is loudest. For, as Tandja learnt belatedly, even after you think you have slain the ram it may still survive. But then again, a country is more like the phoenix, rather than a ram and Niger will surely overcome its current predicament and rise again.

## International

# 2 men held for theft of Cyprus ex-leader's corpse

A suspect's remorse over his alleged role in the theft of the body of Cyprus' former president led to the corpse's discovery and three arrests, a police official testified yesterday. Tassos Papadopoulos' corpse vanished after being dug up and stolen from its grave on December 11.

It was found Monday reburied in another cemetery on Nicosia's southern outskirts in what Justice Minister Loucas Louca called a case of bodysnatching for financial gain.

One suspect, a 31-year-old Indian national, admitted to contacting Papadopoulos' family and offering to say where the body was in exchange for cash, according to testimony yesterday by police official Yiannakis Charalambous.

Charalambous said the Indian suspect disclosed the corpse's location, but received no money.

He said the suspect also told investigators he was recruited by two Cypriot brothers, aged 44 and 48, to help exhume and conceal the body, and agreed in hopes of earning enough to begin a new life abroad.

The Indian man and the 48-year-old Cypriot were in court for a custody hearing yesterday, but were still not identified by name. The court ordered they be held for eight days longer while authorities investigate on 11 charges including extortion, conspiracy to commit a felony and insult to religion. The 44-year-old brother faces similar charges but did not appear in court, as he is already a convicted felon serving life in prison.



HAITIAN President Rene Preval makes remarks to the press after meeting with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

# Obama hosts president of quake-ravaged Haiti

PRESIDENT Barack Obama met yesterday with Haitian President Rene Preval, renewing his pledge of US support for efforts to rebuild the quake-shattered Caribbean nation.

Top on the agenda for the meeting, which held ahead of an international donors' conference later this month, were ongoing relief, recovery, and reconstruction efforts in Haiti.

Preval is seeking billions of dollars to help rebuild his nation -- the poorest country in the Americas -- which lost 222,000 lives, 70 percent of its capital Port-au-Prince and more than half its economy in the January 12 catastrophe. The United States and United Nations last week announced a Haiti Donors' Conference to be held in New York on March 31 to mobilize international sup-

port for Haiti's reconstruction.

Yesterday's White House visit comes one day after Preval met here with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who called for new elections in Haiti as soon as possible. "I assured President Preval that the United States would work with the international community to hold elections as soon as appropriate," the chief US diplomat said.

Legislative polls originally set for February and March were postponed after the January 12 earthquake that demolished the capital Port-au-Prince and left a million Haitians homeless.

The elections call comes as quake survivors say poor governance, corruption and shoddy construction magnified a disaster that was hundreds of times less powerful than the quake in Chile but far more deadly and devastating.



## NIGERIA GENERAL ELECTIONS PROJECT JDBF 2

### EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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

DGD in Nigeria will focus on Electoral Cycle Support and Deepening Democracy within the framework of the Joint Donor basket Fund (JDBF) 2 that will support the electoral process and consolidation of democracy from 2009-2014.

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

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

1. Operations Coordinator (National Officer-C - Fixed Term Appointment) 1 post
2. Procurement Analyst (SB 4 - Service Contract)- 1 post
3. Procurement Associate (SB 3 Service Contract)- 1 post
4. Operations Associate (Office Manager)(SB3 - Service Contract)- 1 post
5. Human Resources Associate (SB 3 - Service Contract)- 1 post
6. Finance Associate (SB 3 - Service Contract)- 1 Post
7. ICT Support Associate (SB 3 - Service Contract) - 1 Post
8. Administrative Assistant (SB 3 - Service Contract)- 2 Posts
9. Drivers (SB 1 - Service Contract)- 2 Posts

**Closing date for the above posts 19 March 2010**

**This announcement shall be running with new openings in the coming weeks.**

**For further details on the job descriptions and application process, please visit <http://jobs.undp.org/> and submit applications.**

**UNDP is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture. Individuals from minority groups, indigenous groups, and persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply.**

**Qualified women are highly encouraged to apply.**

**All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.**

## Offer-Circular



Pursuant to the Debt Management Office (Establishment) Act 2003 and the Local Loans  
(Registered Stock and Securities) Act (Cap 214) LFN 1990

### THE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA

on the authority of the

### DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

on behalf of the

### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

Offers for Subscription by Auction

and is authorized to receive applications for

**₦20,000,000,000 FGN Bond 5.50% February 20, 2013 (Re-opening 3-year bond)\***

**₦20,000,000,000 FGN Bond 7.00% October 23, 2019 (Re-opening 10-year bond)\***

**₦30,000,000,000 FGN Bond 8.50% November 20, 2029 (Re-opening 20-year bond)\***

**Auction Date: March 17, 2010**  
**Settlement Date: March 19, 2010**

#### SUMMARY OF THE OFFER

**ISSUER:**

Federal Government of Nigeria ("FGN")

**UNITS OF SALE:**

₦1,000 per unit subject to a minimum subscription of ₦10,000 and in multiples of ₦1,000 thereafter

**INTEREST RATE:**

For **Re-openings** of previously issued bonds, (where the coupon is already set), successful bidders will pay a price corresponding to the yield-to-maturity bid that clears the volume being auctioned, plus accrued interest from the original issue date.

**INTEREST PAYMENT:**

Payable semi-annually

**REDEMPTION:**

Bullet repayment on the maturity date

**STATUS:**

1. Qualifies as securities in which trustees can invest under the Trustee Investment Act
2. Qualifies as Government securities within the meaning of Company Income Tax Act ("CITA") and Personal Income Tax Act ("PITA") for Tax Exemption for Pension Funds amongst other investors
3. Listed on the Nigerian Stock Exchange
4. All FGN Bonds qualify as liquid assets for liquidity ratio calculation for banks

**SECURITY:**

FGN Bonds are backed by the full faith and credit of the Federal Government of Nigeria and are charged upon the general assets of Nigeria

#### INTERESTED INVESTORS SHOULD CONTACT OFFICES OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING PRIMARY DEALER MARKET MAKERS (PDMMS):

Access Bank Plc.  
Afriland Nigeria Plc.  
Associated Discount House Ltd.  
Bank PHB Plc.  
CitiBank Nigeria Ltd. (Citigroup)  
Consolidated Discounts Ltd.  
Diamond Bank Plc.

Ecobank Nigeria Plc.  
Express Discount Ltd.  
Fidelity Bank Plc.  
First Bank of Nigeria Plc.  
First City Monument Bank Plc.  
First Securities Discount House Ltd.  
Guaranty Trust Bank Plc.

Kakawa Discount House Ltd.  
Oceanic Bank International Plc.  
Stanbic IBTC Bank Plc.  
Standard Chartered Bank Nigeria Ltd.  
Union Bank of Nigeria Plc.  
United Bank for Africa Plc.  
Zenith Bank Plc.

\* (1) The DMO reserves the right to alter the amount allotted in response to market conditions



**PRESIDENCY**  
**PETROLEUM PRODUCTS PRICING REGULATORY AGENCY**  
 Plot 1012 Cadastral Zone OOA, Central Business District, Abuja. P.M.B 609 Garki, Abuja.

**INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE INTERNAL PARTITIONING, FURNISHING AND KITCHEN EQUIPMENT OF THE  
 PETROLEUM PRODUCTS PRICING REGULATORY AGENCY (PPPRA) HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX,  
 CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, ABUJA**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Reputable firms with records of proven capability and successful execution of substantial and complex internal partitioning, furnishing, and provision of kitchen equipment are hereby invited to submit tenders for the furnishing of the new PPPRA Headquarters complex, Central Business District, Abuja.

**2.1. DESCRIPTION/SCOPE OF WORK**

The extent of works includes:

**Lot 1**

The supply and installation of the office partitioning works:

- High Quality 18mm thick imported Melamine-Faced-Chipboard (MFC) double faced partition, glue laminated at 180 degrees to approved specifications, with 2mm thick PVC lipping of approved colour and texture (see detailed drawings)
- Single and double leaf solid core flush doors (MCB) complete with frames architraves and iron monger (see detailed drawings).

**LOT 2**

The supply and installation of high quality office furniture:

- Conference room chairs
- Oval conference tables
- Office desk with
- Executive desk with round edge
- U – shaped executive desk
- Dining room table
- Reception desk
- Beds and bed side tables
- Bookshelf/cupboards (Types A,B,C and D)
- Executive swivel chairs
- Board room chairs
- 1- seater / 2 – seater settee
- 5-seater L shaped settee
- 2- seater and 3- seater sofa
- Side and centre tables with glass top
- Visitors chairs
- 2 in 1 connecting chairs for guest (waiting)

**LOT 3**

The supply and installation of the following kitchen equipments all in stainless steel (see detailed drawings and bill of quantities).

- Cold storage equipments
- Food preparation equipments
- Kitchen equipments
- Servery equipments

**2.2** In the light of the above, firms that have not executed single project costing at least Five Hundred Million Naira (N500,000,000.00) need not apply as they may not have adequate managerial capability, expertise and logistics to surmount enormous problems inherent in a project on a scale as massive as the new PPPRA Headquarters complex.

**3.0 PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS**

Success in the exercise shall be based on the aggregate scores recorded in the Technical and Financial proposals.

**3.1 TECHNICAL PROPOSAL**

Firms are advised to ensure that their tenders demonstrate requisite logistics, adequate resources in terms of skilled manpower and plan to achieve the target set out in the scope of works.

**3.2** Other requirements to be addressed in the Technical Proposal include the following:

- (i) Evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission, a copy of Memorandum and Articles of Association. (Original documents to be cited).
- (ii) Tax clearance certificate for the last three (3) years.
- (iii) Evidence of registration with the PPPRA
- (iv) Photocopy of Value Added Tax Certificate and evidence of VAT remittance.
- (v) List of professional Technical staff with qualifications and experience.

- (vi) Evidence of technology as well as equipments owned by the firm that will be available for the project, including list, description and specification.
- (vii) Company's audited account for the past three (3) years and letter of reference from a reputable bank confirming capacity to execute the project.
- (viii) Comprehensive company profile, including ownership structure of the firm.
- (ix) A set of drawings as well as schedules of furniture giving the specifications and quantities of the various items for pricing.

**3.3** Firms are advised to ensure that their tenders take into consideration, the need to achieve the highest level of workmanship, craftsmanship and indicate details and that they visit the site prior to completing their bid in order to familiarize themselves with the site and agree on logistics for completing the project in addition to the pricing of the schedule of work. A responsive bid must be inclusive of the following:

- i) Completion period for the supply and installation of the items/works from the time the contract is awarded.
- ii) Validity period of the proposals from the date of submission must be clearly indicated.
- iii) An electronic copy and five (5) sets of hard copies of back-up submissions containing detailed descriptions/specifications as well as graphic illustrations/pictures of all furniture to be provided by them for various categories of items listed in the schedules, if they are eventually successful as decisions will be predicated on cost vis-à-vis quality of the materials produced.
- iv) Cost of transportation to and installation on site as well as all other taxes and duties.
- v) Proposals should take cognizance of hierarchy of users of the spaces which is clearly discernible from the annotations on the drawings.

**3.4** Strict adherence to specifications by the bidders is required. Wherever they are in doubt, bidding firms are advised to seek confirmation from the consultants.

**4.0 SUBMISSION OF TENDERS**

Five (5) copies of the Technical Proposal duly shall be placed in a sealed envelope clearly marked "TECHNICAL PROPOSAL". Similarly 5 copies of the Financial proposal shall be signed, sealed and placed in a separate envelope clearly marked 'Financial Proposal' and with a warning "DO NOT OPEN WITH THE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL".

**4.1.** The envelopes containing the Technical and Financial Proposal shall be placed into an outer sealed envelope marked **PROPOSAL FOR THE INTERNAL PARTITIONING, FURNISHING AND PROVISION OF KITCHEN EQUIPMENT FOR THE NEW PPPRA HEADQUARTERS** at the top right corner and delivered within two (2) weeks from the date of this publication/advertisement to the Head, Finance and Administration Department, Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency, Plot 1012 Cadastral Zone A00, behind Central Mosque, Central Business District, Abuja FCT.

**5.0 OPENING OF TENDERS**

Tenders will be opened at 1.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 in the conference Hall of the new PPPRA Headquarters behind the Central Mosque, Central Business District, Abuja. Bidders are required to be physically present.

**6.0 DISCLAIMER**

This "Invitation for pre-qualification to enter into supply contract" shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA) nor shall it entitle your company to make claim whatsoever and or seek any indemnity from the PPPRA by virtue of such companies having responded to this invitation. All expenses incurred in preparing for the exercise and all expenses otherwise associated with the exercise shall be borne solely by your company.

Signed.  
 Head  
 Finance and Administration  
 For: Executive Secretary

## PEOPLES` DEMOCRATIC PARTY ZAMFARA STATE



**Lt. General Aliyu Mohammed Gusau (Rtd,)**  
National Security Adviser.

On behalf of the entire members of the Peoples` Democratic Party [PDP], I heartily congratulate Lt. General Aliyu Mohammed Gusau [Rtd,] on his reappointment into the exalted office of the National Security Adviser.

We have no doubt that his being called once again to serve in this capacity demonstrates the enormous respect the nation reposes on him. The fact that he is entrusted with this job at this material time further and clearly shows the confidence the people of Nigeria have on him.

Distinguished General, we are proud that our very own has been found worthy of such confidence and pray that the Almighty Allah guides and protect you as you once again face this enormous challenge.

LONG LIVE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA  
LONG LIVE ZAMFARA STATE  
LONG LIVE PEOPLES` DEMOCRATIC PARTY



**ALHAJI IBRAHIM MALLAHA**  
State Chairman  
Peoples` Democratic Party  
Zamfara State.



# BUSINESS

0805 1000 536

## China's trade offensive hurts local industry

By Sunday Williams

CHINA'S face has suddenly become so ubiquitous in Nigeria's major commercial cities with sub-standard textiles, machinery and auto-parts being the most prominent of the Chinese products being dumped in Africa's biggest market under a relationship that is heavily-tilted in favour of the Asian economic superpower.

The trade offensive by the Chinese finds

"They have done it not only in Nigeria but in other countries also," he told Daily Trust. "I was told recently that they have taken the design of a popular Hausa hat, the Zanna Bukar and are most likely going to bring their own version very soon. That is the Chinese for us." He says the Chinese are only taking advantage of the Nigerian government's failure to create an enabling environment for local industry to thrive as well as the absence of the technological know-how

joint ventures for positive impact in the local economy through which technological capacity is built and transferred, Chinese firms in Nigeria have been criticised for being 'closed' and hardly employ local experts. There are allegations that they even maltreat their local staff.

Nigerian Government may be unhappy with the swamping of its markets with substandard Chinese products, but there is, clearly, a ready market for them – as long as the smugglers keep them coming through the porous borders. In 2009 alone, the volume of trade between Nigeria and China reached about US\$ 6.5 billion with China taking the better part of the deal while Nigerian authorities get to boast about being China's second largest trading partner on the African continent after South Africa. While Nigeria's exports to China consist of mainly raw materials, the Chinese, on the other hand, flood Nigerian markets with all kinds of products including motorcycles, machinery equipment, auto parts, rubber tires, chemical products, textiles, garments, footwear and even children toys.

Official records show that there are 30 solely owned Chinese companies or joint ventures in Nigeria with interests in construction, oil and gas, technology, services and education sectors of the Nigerian economy.

And the Chinese are bent on making further inroads into the Nigerian economy in the years ahead. Just late last year, Chinese Companies proposed US\$50 billion to buy 6 billion barrels of oil reserves in Nigeria.

While some analysts believe that Nigeria's new economic romance with China is a policy to dump irksome traditional business allies from Europe, partly due to the disagreement in the signing of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) that defines trade and development relations between European countries and West African sub-region, others believe that it is part of Chinese strategy to take over the entire African continent markets from the traditional Europeans and American partners.

Either way, China appears to be winning and Nigeria, like most of underdeveloped Africa, looks poised to lose.

Rather than throwing open its doors to resource-hungry Chinese in a desperate clamour for Foreign Direct Investment, analysts suggest that Nigeria's government aim to counter-balance its lopsided trade relationship with China by reviewing the current structure of tariff and non-tariff barriers facing Nigeria's exports to China as well as encourage the diversification of exports to China beyond crude oil.

tives for exports," Maijama'a says. "Their government facilitates adequate incentive for the products to get to different countries not only Nigeria. So there is a serious policy by the Chinese government towards supporting their manufacturers to export to Nigeria but the reverse is the case in Nigeria." The Nigerian government has no clear cut incentive to support her traders or local manufacturers that will give them upper hand or make them com-



an easy market in Africa's most populous nation, no thanks to weak border control systems that allow smuggling to thrive as well as the country's serial failure to enforce its own import and foreign trade regulations. The proliferation of Chinese goods in Nigerian markets also makes nonsense of recent government policy that banned importation of some foreign products as part of a campaign to support local industry.

Bashir Borodo who heads Nigeria's Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), describes the Chinese offensive as "disastrous."

to challenge them. The National President, Nigerian Association of Small Scale Industrialist (NASSI), Sanusi Maijama'a agrees with Borodo but adds that the Chinese were only cashing in on a window provided by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) of which Nigeria is a signatory. He sees an opportunity in China's great Nigerian offensive, saying it ought to challenge local industrialists to improve the quality of their products so they can also compete on the world stage.

"Chinese products are in our markets because we wanted them and they are taking advantage of their government incen-

petitive. "I think this is the time where Nigerian government should make sure that its export and trade policies encourage and protect local manufacturers and traders."

Nigeria's official quality control agency, the Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) signed an MOU with two Chinese inspection agencies to see that importation of fake products are checked at the source of production in China but not much has so far been achieved under this arrangement. Rather than partner with Nigerian entrepreneurs in

CBN EXCHANGE RATES				BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES	
	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)		
CFA	0.286	0.296	0.306	<b>BUYING</b>	
DANISH KRONER	27.008	27.0997	27.1914	DOLLAR.....	N152
EURO	201.0782	201.7607	202.4432	EURO.....	N205
POUNDS STERLING	222.7033	223.4592	224.2151	POUNDS.....	N235
RIYAL	39.2827	39.416	39.5493	<b>SELLING</b>	
SDR	225.62	226.3858	227.1516	DOLLAR.....	N154
SWISS FRANC	137.3904	137.8568	138.3231	EURO.....	N208
US DOLLAR	147.31	147.81	148.31	POUNDS.....	N235
WAUA	224.7375	225.5003	226.2631	Source: S&J Bureau de Change, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja.	
YEN	1.629	1.6346	1.6401		

Stock Market Index	
Date:	Wednesday, March 10, 2010
Index:	23,412.41
Deals:	7,031
Volume:	394,821,893
Value:	N 4,026,896,536.73
Cap.:	N 5,638,236,644,048.92

## Business/Agric

# Small-holder farmers complain about agric loan conditions

By Idris Ahmed

FARMERS have kicked against some of the conditions for accessing the N200billion agriculture loans recently announced by the Federal Government, saying the conditions place the loans well out of reach of the intended target.

Under the Commercial Agriculture Credit Scheme (CACS) launched by the Federal Government, farmers wishing to benefit or are interested in accessing the loan must apply through a commercial bank of their choice, along with proof ownership of land and houses in high-brow part of town as well livestock.

The loans must be paid back within 10 years at 9 percent interest.

But small holder farmers for whom about N40billion has been set aside say that the loan conditions as requirement for accessing the loan are stringent and unfavourable, especially for rural farmers who can neither "own houses in high-brow parts of town" nor are able to present paperwork for their land since land in rural Nigeria is hardly registered with the authorities, anyway.

## 'Impossible conditions'

Rural farmland and houses in Nigeria are usually handed down the family line and governments in the cities hardly bother to keep records of such land.

"The conditionality for accessing the loan is wrong," says Chief Dan Okafor who heads the Potato Farmers' Association of Nigeria (POFAN).

He admits the scheme was a helpful initiative but adds that



INTERESTED farmers are also required to present livestock as collateral

the aim was being defeated by the 'impossible conditions' imposed by the government.

John Sauri, 31, a subsistence maize farmer in Kaduna's Saminaka village disagrees that the loans are meant for small holder farmers.

"I own a massive plot of land I inherited from my late father,

but I have no documentation for it," he says. "But despite having a land that size, I cannot access the loan because I cannot produce the paperwork!"

## Farmer enlightenment needed

Robert Ekemita, who owns a farm in Edo State agrees with Sauri, however, says there is a

great need for farmer enlightenment on how to access the money, especially the conditions for qualifying for loan.

He also thinks that involving all of Nigeria's commercial banks in the scheme was good and would make access to the loans much easier, he.

The Central Bank of Nigeria

(CBN), in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources launched the CACS programme to promote commercial agricultural enterprises in Nigeria.

When the scheme was launched last year, it was stated that in addition to banks, State Governments and the Federal Capital Territory Administrator could also borrow up to 20 percent of the loan proceeds for on-lending to farmers.

## Food security

The objectives of the scheme include to fast track development of the agricultural sector of the Nigerian economy by providing credit facilities to commercial agricultural enterprises at a single digit interest rate.

It also has the objective of enhancing national food security by increasing food supply and effecting lower agricultural produce and product prices, thereby promoting low food inflation.

Other objectives of the scheme were to reduce the cost of credit in agricultural production to enable farmers to exploit the potentials of the sector. It also hoped to increase output, generate employment, diversify the revenue base, increase foreign exchange earnings and provide input for the industrial sector on a sustainable basis.

But with the clumsy conditions for accessing the loans, it is hard to see how the government's dream of achieving food security could become a reality.



PROOF of land ownership is a requirement for accessing the N200 billion agric loans, but many farmers dont have Certificate of Occupancy.

CHEVROLET



CHOOSE TO CRUZE



CRUZE



Cars you can count on

SALES SERVICE SPARES BODYSHOP WARRANTY FINANCE

LAGOS: 01-8990226, 7637337, 01-8990223, 08037155824

VICTORIA ISLAND: 01-4627093, 08028375753, 08026689265, 08023821512

ABUJA: 09-7816909, 08033173567, 08036660898, 08029405555

KANO: 08055790133, 08025142659, 08034833895

PORT HARCOURT: 084-237705, 08033786993, 084-755016, 08056557664

ABA: 08035508569, 08033422333, 07042280945

CALABAR: 08051682544, 087-232932

BAUCHI: 08035813518

BENNE: 08034719058, 08056732606, 08039469277, 08023395025

Sales Hotlines: 01-7904212, 08035525691

Service Hotlines: 01-7904982

Email: nmi@cfao.com



INTERMOTORS

## Star Feature

# Is Nigeria a noise factory?

Our country is slowly turning into a very noisy place. This report examines this noisy, painful side to the 'happiest people on earth'.

By Nathaniel Jonah

**A**BDULLAHI Mohammed was happy with his new accommodation. Having searched frantically for over six months, he finally secured a two bedroom apartment in Karu site, on the fringes of Abuja, Nigeria's federal capital city. But no sooner had Mohammed settled down to the comfort of his new domicile, than he began to experience a major irritation. "A big generating set was placed directly adjacent my bedroom window, which makes so much noise that it interrupted my sleep. It took the direct intervention of the landlord before the generator was moved to another location, and even at that, the noise was still unbearable. But I had to come to terms with it because; I was not ready to lose the accommodation," he lamented.

Sharing Mohammed's despair is Frank Ukeh, a middle aged civil servant who lives in Nyanya. According to him, "I usually dread coming home from work because there is nothing to look forward to. I have two noisy neighbours who make us go through hell with their radio sets. A typical afternoon in my house is like you are in a music studio, with the two guys trying to outsmart each other with the noise of their radio sets."

But while Mohammed and Ukeh contend on a daily basis with noise pollution in their houses, Felicia Okoroma, a lawyer whose chambers is situated along Ladoke Akintola Boulevard close to Garki Market, is even more worried. "The noise pollution is so bad that I have practically developed a thick skin to it. Apart from the consistent drone of the generating sets, the loud din that emanates from the market across the road is very frustrating, especially as you realize that there is nothing you can do about it. Most times, the peace and quiet of many lives and homes is interrupted by noise emanating from neighbors' generating sets, as a result of incessant power failure, indiscriminate blasts of vehicular horns. I think the national Assembly should start considering a bill that will outlaw noise pollution in this country," she suggested.

**A**nother resident, Hassan Oche, who is not comfortable with this rise in noise levels, lamented "Sometimes the enlightenment or information these people thought they have passed to the passengers, is totally lost as nobody hears what they are saying, because it constitutes noise. I think their lead-

ers should either send the announcers to undergo some courses, where they shall be taught that passing information does not mean making noise, and blocking ears with messages that were never passed to the intending receivers. In some cases, people had entered the wrong vehicles due to the fact that they did not hear properly the destination the announcer was calling."

**M**ohammed, Ukeh, Okoroma and a host of other hapless Abuja residents are part of the 7.2 million Nigerians who might suffer from hearing loss and other health implication as a result of undue exposure to noise pollution.

In a chat with *Daily Trust*, Dr. Suleiman Ibrahim, an Abuja based environmental expert, explained that one of the principal sources of noise pollution in Abuja is neighborhood noise, which he said is the great variety of sources of noise, which may cause disturbance and noise to the general public. This according to him also includes road traffic and industrial noise affecting workers and residents. The impact is more easily felt in densely populated places like Abuja. In his words, "In a typical densely polluted urban area, noise pollution often emanates from a variety of sources. These sources include loud noise emanating from loudspeakers used by record stores, generating plants, pumping machines, grinding machines, television sets, musical sets, intruder alarms, night parties, churches and mosques," he explained, pointing out that other sources of air pollution include road traffic and vehicular emissions.

“I usually dread coming home from work because there is nothing to look forward to. I have two noisy neighbours who make us go through hell with their radio sets. A typical afternoon in my house is like you are in a music studio, with the two guys trying to outsmart each other with the noise of their radio sets.”



WITH generators at virtually every turn, Nigeria has become a

**F**indings by this medium also show that drivers, especially commercial taxi drivers instead of using their horns for the right purpose, end up using their horns to play music while on motion. In this instance, a driver moving across a distance of one kil-



ry noisy place.

ometer, will have his hand on the horn for the greater part of the journey. This attitude weakens the horns, and within a few weeks they stop blaring as they have been abused by the riders. When asked the reason behind the constant blaring of his horn, Femi Adekunle, a commercial taxi driver was quick to explain "I sound my horn whenever I want to overtake other vehicles, as a warning to them to move away from my way. Apart from that, I honk my horn whenever I am searching for passengers. You know, that is the only way you can tell passers bye, that you operate a cab service."

**B**ut while toeing a different line of thought, another taxi driver explained "the reason why I blare my horn so loudly, is because of the many reckless drivers on Abuja roads. So in order to be on the safe side, I press my horn to scare reckless drivers away from my path, and so far, this method has worked like magic," he said.

Also commenting on the increasingly worrisome menace of noise pollution in the FCT, Fadipe Bayo, an undergraduate of Chemistry at the University of Abuja, lamented "It is becoming

increasingly difficult to differentiate commercial and industrial areas, from residential areas in our towns and cities. The crux of the matter is that noise has become a way of life for many Nigerians, where everyone, both at work and at home, is exposed to excessive noise and, thus stands the risk of hearing impairment."

**W**hile drivers and other motorist blare their horns indiscriminately, the activities at the motor parks constitute a huge source of noise pollution. A visit to the Jabi motor park reveals an avalanche of activities which emit noise. The motor parks cause more noise pollution, because of their mode of operation. Dr. Abraham Oga, an Abuja based medical doctor, while commenting on the health implications of noise pollution also explained "most of those announcers in the parks are usually under the influence of drugs while on duty, and therefore lack the right sense of judgment to know that their actions constitute not only nuisance to their immediate environment, but serious pollution to the environment. Noise pollution could lead to hearing disorders. It can escalate ailments of those who have health

challenges, like hypertension, diabetes, mental derailment, and it can also cause sleepless nights or insomnia."

Nnamdi Okwerekwe, a legal practitioner, is however, of the view that a properly defined legal framework for enforcement of sanctions against noise pollution, is indispensable for success.

**H**is words: "Noise pollution has indeed become so much a serious issue that the intervention of the government has become necessary. Under the law, noise pollution falls under the category of what is known as nuisance. Like any other form of nuisance, noise pollution could be either private nuisance or public nuisance, depending on who is affected. When it is a single individual that is especially affected, what you have is private nuisance, and for which the individual can sue either to seek for damages or abatement of such nuisance or both. But where it is public nuisance, it is the state, that is, the Police or the Attorney-General that will prosecute the suspect for criminal punishment. However, one matter of general importance is that there ought to be a defined legal framework, to enable such control of nuisances operate efficiently. In other words, the government ought to make relevant laws that will define offences relating to nuisance, define individual and public rights as related to them, and stipulate procedures for seeking redress and applying sanctions."

**W**hile agreeing that the government should intervene to reduce the scourge of noise pollution, Friday Omana, a student said better planning of towns and cities is the ultimate remedy to the challenge. "Most of these activities causing noise pollution are usually inevitable. Therefore, proper town planning has become one very viable way of minimizing their effects. Through this, noise-generating establishments like factories and markets, will be located at places where their noise would not constitute nuisance to the public.

“In a typical densely polluted urban area, noise pollution often emanates from a variety of sources. These sources include loud noise emanating from loudspeakers used by record stores, generating plants, pumping machines, grinding machines, television sets, musical sets, intruder alarms, night parties, churches and mosques,”

## Business

# NITEL: N12bn unpaid salaries worry staff

By Yunus Abdulhamid

STAFF of struggling Nigeria Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) and its mobile arm, NITEL have appealed to Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to as a matter of urgency approve the payment of over 20 months of salaries owed them.

This is coming on the heels of the removal of the Director General of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), Christopher Anyanwu by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan. The removal is said to be in connection with poor handling of NITEL sale which has generated controversy since New Generation Consortium was named preferred bidder in February 16 in Abuja.

NITEL and MTEL has a combined work force of about 3,500. The 20 months' salaries are estimated at N12 billion.

Leading the staff to Daily Trust head

office yesterday under the Concerned NITEL/MTEL staff, Okonkwo Martins said: "What we are concerned about here is our salaries to end our misery. We have suffered for too long. It is clear now that the Acting President do not need any clearance from any one as he is fully in charge."

We are not interested in the alleged politicking as to who gets NITEL. We shouldn't be made to suffer for intrigues and interests.

Keneth Akpolayobi said: "If the federal government is showing willingness to pay our salaries, then it should be prepared to get anything from us. We hope the NCP will come out with positive results from this Friday's meeting, he said.

"The federal government paid workers of the Ajaokuta Steel Company last year. We are aware too the Acting President has recently ordered the company's re-opening. Why can't it the same be done to us?, Olusegun Jeofry asked.

## Africa imports \$33bn food annually

By Sunday Williams & Tina A Hassan

AFRICA imports \$33 billion worth of good annually. The continent also gets about \$3 billion food aid annually to bridge the gap between domestic food supply and demand, the Secretary General, UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has said.

Mr. Abdoulie Jannah made the remarks yesterday in Abuja at the closing session of the High Level Conference on the Development of Agribusiness and Agro-industry in Africa (HLCD-3A).

He said the overall performance of the food and agriculture system of the continent has been far below its potential and far short from expectations.

FAO data show that the continent has 265 million undernourished people with almost one out of every three people going to bed daily hungry. "The situation is no better at global level, where the share of Africa in world agricultural trade has decline from 15 percent in the 1960s to 5.4 percent in the 1980s and 3.2 percent in 2006. Moreover, intra-African trade represents barely 10 percent of Africa's total agricultural trade," he said.

Less than 4 percent of African total arable land is irrigated compared to 33 percent in Asia and the Pacific and 29 percent in the Middle East.

## Nigeria Central Switch begins operation

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

A major landmark achievement had been made in the nation's e-payment system, following the completion of the Nigeria Central Switch (NCS) project by the Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System (NIBSS), a body set up in 1993 by the Bankers Committee. With this development, all payment cards issued by banks in Nigeria will be accepted on all acceptable devices deployed in the country.

Speaking on Tuesday in Lagos, the Chief Executive Officer of NIBSS, Paul Lawal, said the completion of the project which started in 2004 will impact positively on the nation's economy, stressing that cardholders will now enjoy tremendous freedom to use their cards in a safe and secure manner in any place in the country, while delivering substantial benefits to all stakeholders.

Lawal disclosed that four banks and the major scheme operators in the country which include: Interswitch, e-transact, Valuecard and Chams are already connected to the project, stating that a globally renowned company in the area of electronic payment system technologies, ACI Worldwide Incorporated, is the technical partner. He listed NCS' benefits as: direct and immediate gains to the economy by providing great savings in foreign exchange, and also, banks and other players in the payment industry will rely on NCS while concentrating in their respective core functions.





Twice the fun of any cameras

## Dual LCDS make it easy

**ST550**  
 12.2 Mega Pixel 1.5" Front Dual LCD  
 3.5" LCD Size 24mm Ultra Wide  
 720P HD Lithium battery  
 5X Optical zoom Colors: Black/orange **N55,500**

**ES15**  
 10.1 Mega Pixel  
 2.5" LCD Size  
 3X Optical zoom  
 Alkaline battery  
 Colors: Silver Pink  
**FREE 2GB SD CARD**  
**N17,200**

**ES17**  
 12.2 Mega Pixel  
 2.5" LCD Size  
 3X Optical zoom  
 Alkaline battery  
 Colors: Black Pink  
**FREE 2GB SD CARD**  
**N19,750**

**PL50**  
 10.1 Mega Pixel  
 2.7" LCD Size  
 3X Optical zoom  
 Lithium battery  
 Colors: Black  
**FREE 2GB SD CARD**  
**N27,750**

**PL60**  
 10.1 Mega Pixel  
 2.7" LCD Size  
 5X Optical zoom  
 Lithium battery  
 Colors: Black  
**FREE 2GB SD CARD**  
**N31,500**

**WB550**  
 12.2 Mega Pixel  
 3.0" LCD Size, 720P HD  
 10X Optical zoom  
 24mm Ultra Wide, Lithium battery  
 Colors: Black  
**FREE 2GB SD CARD**  
**N58,500**

**FLASH CAMCORDER  
 SMX-F34BP**  
 >16GB Memory  
 >2.7" Schneider Lens  
 >Black >Lithium >42x (Intelli zoom)  
 >34x (optical zoom) **N52,500**

Authorized Point of Sales

<p><b>LAGOS</b>                  Brownmark Ltd. 0803-3008018, 01-7903566                  Park N Shop 01-7824887, 01-2623291                  Gafunk 01-7741951, 01-7744091                  Chuks-Pee Int'l 0803-3087010, 01-2557000                  Flexmore Ltd. 0702-8349185, 0702-820882                  Varig Nig. Ltd. 0803-3238062                  MGS 08081522222</p>	<p><b>ABUJA</b>                  Park N Shop 09-4135892, 0702-7856731                  Ethal Ventures 09-5238718, 09-5235800                  IB Computer 0808-3147121                  MGS 08088882228                  Bonitech 0803 7051202                  Ansel 08033021969                  De-Lawtech 08035928361</p>	<p><b>PORT HARCOURT</b>                  Park N Shop 0803-2357280, 084-240741                  Admas Digits 10803-3103804, 0803-7078090                  Zion Trend 0803-5509607                  Heritage Solution 0803-7414665</p>	<p><b>KANO</b>                  Optimum Links 064-208011, 0808-0331000</p>
<p><b>IADAN</b>                  Idea Konsult Ltd. 0803-3241996, 02-2411488</p>	<p><b>ENUGU</b>                  Nnabufu Ent. 08033133750</p>	<p><b>WARU</b>                  Hitech Distributors 0803-4264049, 0805-9005810                  Rolof Computers 0805-2509235, 0803-8922855                  Buzmik ventures 08035200172</p>	<p><b>CALABAR</b>                  Brownmark Ltd. 0702-830824</p>
			<p><b>BORNO</b>                  Jaybest Int'l. 0803-5757838</p>
			<p><b>KADUNA</b>                  Macromanna Tymezz 0803-4264049, 0805-9005810                  08035613997</p>

# Business/Aviation



A small plane crashed into a house

## Bankole: Reps keen on airport contract saga

THE Speaker of the House of Representatives Dimeji Bankole has stated that the House is keen on investigating alleged contract inflation of the Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport Abuja second runway.

Speaking at the Presidential Lounge of the Murtala Muhammad Airport, Ikeja Lagos on his arrival from Abuja, he disclosed that the House will look into the outcome of the hearing on the issue.

He said: "If you know anything about the House, we are very serious about our investigations into contract

sums and the desired outcome for those particular matters, there is an investigative hearing that the resolution of the House has come up with, and we will look into it".

The House Committee on Aviation had raised a motion against the contract, saying that the money was inflated compare to international standard.

Bethel Amadi, the Chairman of the Committee, had also directed the Minister of Aviation, Mr. Babatunde Omotoba, to produce all documentations of the said contracts, insisting

that all contracts must be put on hold until the House resolves controversies surrounding the matter.

The N63.5 billion contract was said to have not only been inflated but outrageous for construction of only runway when some airports were built with lesser amount of money.

Also, the project was said to have being stopped by the House due to the allegation that there were construction companies who bided lesser amount before contract was awarded to Julius Berger Construction Company.

## IATA: Air passengers soar

STORIES from Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

THE International Air Transport Association (IATA) has stated that the demand for international scheduled air traffic showed continuing improvement in January 2010 compared to the previous year.

According to the Association, January's passengers demand improved by 6.4% as against the 1.2% increase in passenger capacity in the same period in 2009.

IATA stated that the international cargo demand also showed 28.3% improvement with 3.7% increase in capacity, pushing the cargo load factor to 49.6% which was a significant change from the 40.1% recorded in the previous year.

Giovanni Bisignani, IATA's Director General and CEO said: "Airlines have lost 2-3 years of growth. Demand is moving in the right direction. The 3.0% increase in freight volumes from December to January is particularly encouraging. We can start to see the future with some cautious optimism, but better volumes do not necessarily mean better profits. Passenger yields are still 15% below peak. And we expect 2010 losses to be US\$5.6 billion." The association explained that there are large geographical differences in the improvement, saying that the strongest upturns have been seen in markets where economic recovery from the recession has been strongest in Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Bisignani stated further: "We are starting to see some encouraging signs in demand, albeit with large differences among the regions. Unfortunately, the constraints of the archaic bilateral system limit airlines from being able to respond as normal businesses to market opportunities. Political borders limit opportunities for consolidation. And we still require governments to negotiate open markets."

Trust Index	
Inflation	→ 12.3%
GDP	→ 6.90%
Budget	→ N3.1tr
External Reserves Acct	→ \$41.5bn
Excess Crude Acct	→ \$4.2bn
Poverty Ratio	→ 54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	→ 6%
Banks	→ 24
Oil Price	→ \$79 a barrel
Power Supply	→ 2,200MW
Oil output per day	→ 2.5mbd
Broad Money Supply	→ N10,796,734.5m
Credit to Private Sector	→ N10,018,035.3m
Inter-Bank Rate	→ 1.1600%
Treasury Bills	→ 2.02%
Deposit Rate	→ 12.28%
Prime Lending Rate	→ 18.38%

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE



### Arik Air

PH-Abuja: 08.45, 1212.50, 17.00 (Mon-Fri), 08.45, 17.30 (Sat), 14.40, 17.30 (Sun); Abuja-PH: 07.15, 11.20, 15.30 (Mon-Fri), 07.15, 16.00 (Sat) 14.40, 17.30 (Sun); Lagos-Kano: 12.20pm (Mon-Fri/Sun)  
 Kano-Lagos: 02.35pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Abuja-Kano: 03:35pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Kano-Abuja: 05:20pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Abuja-Gombe: 11:10am (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun); Gombe-Abuja: 12.30pm (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun); Lagos-Yola: Lag-Abj 04:50pm, via Abj-Yola 06:45pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Yola-Lagos: Yola-Abj 08:40am, Abj-Lagos 10:20am (Mon-Fri/Sat); Lagos-Maid: Lag-Abj 03:50pm, via Abj-Maid 06:00pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Maid-Lagos: Miud-Abj 07:30am, via Abj-Lag 09:15am (Mon-Fri/Sat); Abuja-Sokoto: 11:10am (Mon-Fri); Sokoto-Abuja: 12:50pm (Mon-Fri)  
 Abuja-Akure 02:10pm (Mon, Wed and Fri); Akure-Abuja: 08:50am (Mon, Wed and Fri); Lagos-Kwara: 07:30am, (Mon-Fri) 07.30, 03:50pm Sat 08:00am, 11:45am Sun; Kwara-Lagos: 4:10pm (Mon-Fri), 01:10pm, 05:30pm Sat 09:45am, 05:00pm Sun  
 Abuja-Kwara: 03:25pm (Mon-Fri); Kwara-Abuja 01.30pm (Mon-Fri); Lagos-Jos: 09:05am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); Jos-Lagos: 11.00am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)  
 ABV-QOW 02:30pm (Mon-Fri), 11:30am Sat 03:20pm Sun; Lagos-Kaduna: 10:20am, 04:10pm (Mon-Fri), 10.20 (Sat/Sun); Kaduna-Lagos: 12:10pm, 06:00pm (Mon-Fri), 12.10 (Sat/Sun); Lagos-Warr: 07:30am (Mon-Fri) 07:30am, 03:50pm (Sat), 08:00am, and 11:45am (Sun)

### Aero Contractors

Lagos-Kad: 08.00am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)  
 Kad-Lagos: 09.40am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)  
 Lagos-Jos: 11.15am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)  
 Jos-Lagos: 13.15pm (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)  
 Lagos-Abj: 06.50; 13.30; 16.30; 19.45 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 12.30 (Sun) 16.45 (Sat) Abj-Lagos: 07.30; 13.30; 19.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30, 14.30; 19.30 (Sun) 18.30 (Sat); Lagos-Ben: 07:45; 11:00; 15:30; (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun) 12.30; (Sun); 15.30 (Sat).  
 Ben-Lagos: 09.15; 12.30; 17.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 17.00 (Sat); 14.00 (Sun); Lagos-Cala: 13.15; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 08.30; 19.00 (Sun); Cala-Lagos: 14.45; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30 (Sun); Lagos-Enu: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 15.00 (Sun); Enu-Lagos: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat) 16.45 (Sun)

### Chanchangi Airlines

Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 10.00, 13.10, 15.30, 17.30  
 Abj-Lagos: 08.00, 11.45, 13.40, 15.30, 17.00  
 Lagos-Kad: 10.45, (on Fri), 17.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)  
 Kad-Lagos: 07.30 (Mon-Fri), 08.00 (Sat/Sun)  
 Nigerian Eagles Airlines (Virgin Nigeria)  
 Abj-Kano: 18.40 (Mon-Fri)/Sun  
 Kano-Abj: 08.35 (Mon-Fri) /Sat  
 Abj-Soko: 09:35, (Mon), 10:10 (Fri), 11:20 (Wed/Sun)  
 Soko-Abj: 11.35 (Mon), 12.00 (Fri), 13:20 (Wed/Sun)  
 Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 11.40, 14.00, 16.30, 17.00, 17.20; 18.30 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun), 8.00; 12.40; 13.10; 20:00 (Fri)  
 Abj-Lagos: 07.00, 09.30, 10.30, 11.15, 16.15; 19.15, 19.25, 19:35 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 14:55; 15:15; 20:45 (Fri); 19:45 (Sun); 11:25, 13:35, 16:25 (Mon)  
 Lagos-PHC: 07.40, 09.30, 10.00, 12.20, 13.30, 14.00, 16.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); PHC-Lagos: 10.50, 11.20, 12.45, 15.30, 16.15, 17.15 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); Lagos-Owr: 12:15; (Tue-Fri/Sun); 12:40 (Mon/Sat)  
 Owr-Lagos: 14:25 (Tue-Fri/Sun) 14:50 (Mon/Sat)  
 Lagos-Cal: 08:00 (Fri), 09:10 (Wed-Thu), 12:40 (Tue/Sat/Sun), 13:10 (Mon)

Cal-Lagos: 10.05 (Fri); 11.15 (Wed/Thu); 14.55 (Tue/Sat-Sun), 15.15 (Mon)  
 IRS Airlines  
 Lagos-Abj: 09.45, 11.45, 12.45, (Mon-Fri) 09.30, 12.45 (Sat&Sun)  
 Lagos-Kano: 06.15 (Mon-Fri), 16.30 (Sat/Sun)  
 Kano-Lagos: 07.30 (Mon-Fri), 10.30 (Sat/Sun)  
 Abuja-Kano: 10.30am (Mon-Fri/Sun)  
 Kano-Abuja: 11.45, 5.00 Fri, 12.15 Sun

### DANA Airlines:

Lagos-Abj: 07.20; 08.19, 09.00, 12.15, 15.30, 17.10 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)  
 Abj-Lagos: 07.20, 09.45, 11.25, 13.05, 14.40, 17.40 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)  
 Lag-Kano via Abj: 08.19, Abuja: 10.00  
 Kano-Lag via Abj: 11.25, Abuja: 11.25  
 Lagos-Enu: 14.40,  
 Enu-Lagos: 16.20  
 Lagos-PH: 09.27  
 PH-Lagos: 12.15

### Overland Airways

Lagos-Ilorin: 07.15 (Mon-Fri), Ilorin-Lagos: 16.15 (Mon-Fri)  
 Abuja-Ilorin: 15.00 (Mo-Fri), Ilorin-Abuja: 08.15 (Mon-Fri)  
 Lagos-Ibadan: 07.15 (Mon-Fri), Lagos-Ibadan: 16.15 (Mon-Fri)  
 Ibadan-Abuja: 08.00 (Mon-Fri), Abuja-Ibadan: 5.00 (Mon-Fri)  
 Kats-Abuja: 07.30 (Mon-Fri) Abuja-Kats: 15.30 (Mon-Fri)  
 Minna-Lagos: 09.40 Lagos-Minna: 13.00 (Mon-Fri)  
 Abuja-Minna: 09.00 (Mon-Fri) Minna-Abuja: 14.30  
 Jos-Kano: 10.15 (Mon-Fri), Kano-Jos: 11.30 (Mon-Fri)  
 Abuja-Jos: 09.30 (Mon-Fri), Jos-Abuja: 12.30

## Business/Telecoms

# 'Foreign investors inflate investment figures in Africa'

By Yunus Abdulhamid

**CAN you outline some of the issues bothering rural ICT connectivity in Africa?**

Africa, fortunately is not the only continent on the earth with ICT challenges in terms of rural connectivity. There are more lessons to derive here by looking at how other regions have done it to be successful. We need to emulate some of the best examples. From the North America region, to Asia, down to Australia and South America, there are good examples of rural connectivity in ICT.

In many of these instances, the government had a lot of parts to play, especially with regards to policy and regulatory frameworks, as well as the role of universal service provision funds. The government need to shepherd the operating companies and other stakeholders and sometimes have them punished for unethical practises.

We have become more and more aware over the decades that unless a fourth P is added to the business models that have been known as Public Private Partnership (PPP), ICT in rural areas and other kinds of development projects are not as sustainable as it should be. In the rural community as we know, incomes tend to be low, population seems to be more dispersed and the topography is sometimes a challenge. You have huge deserts.

There are large forest belts in certain part of Africa, riverine communities and then you also have to contend with harsh climatic factors. You know each time you put computers in a place you need air condition to have them in ambience temperature.

Beyond all of these, government tends to be very far from the people. In many part of Africa where the rural population constitute 70 percent of the entire population, people don't have interest in investing in businesses there not to mention in terms of ICT. They don't have a sense of ownership and do not partake in the management. They are simply there to consume the services.

We have found out that in the past 15 years of state ownership of enterprises in Africa, they have not been too sustainable. That is why the sustainability model being canvassed by the CTO and other agencies are promoting need to be incorporated. We are now calling on the local governments, the local corporative, union movements, even the faith based organisations as well as community based organisations to all come out because we all need each other.

Mr. Ekwow Spio-Garbrah is the Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO) headquartered in London. A Ghanaian and a minister of Information, Ekwow has been at the CTO for six years. He spoke to newsmen at the recent Stakeholders' Consultative Forum organised by the Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) in Yola. He spoke on ICT challenges in Africa among other issues. Excerpt.



CEO of Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation Mr Ekwow Spio-Garbrah

The arrangement would provide the risk sharing opportunity for the sustainability of rural ICT projects. We are not talking about giving more than 25% of the risk.

**F**ollowing the impressive gains Nigeria has recorded in telecommunication in the past decade, where do you see the industry in the country in the next five years?

In the next five years, with a population of 150 million people, depending on whose statistic you choose to believe, we've been told that up to 50 million Nigerians now have access to at least mobile phones technology-this figure could be disputed any-

way as to who the active users of GSM who have two to three sim cards-nevertheless, you still have another 50 million. If 50% of work has been done, it means you have another 50% of job to be done and that is on mobile phone alone.

Then, when you come to internet, I don't think more than 10% of Nigerians have access to the internet. Then, there is also the issue of having access to the internet and ability to use it effectively which have to do with literacy and ability to get the right education. A computer could be put in the village and the people would just look at it as ornament. Sometime, you even find

people who are educated up to university level having a computer on their table but do not use it because of lack of the requisite knowledge. It is not only in Nigeria but many other countries. We are going beyond infrastructure, services needed to ... in place and local content so that the information that is being provided is done in local languages. That would make ICT more users friendly.

And because technology is evolving all the time, if you want to know what ICT will be like in five years time in Nigeria, that is 2015, the technology would have advanced. Some of the telecoms operators would sell and bought each other.

CDMA and GSM technology that have been competing are expected to converge in what is known as Long Term Evolution (LTE). This will provide possibility for one phone to bear three sim cards, number portability, roaming agreements were you can roam up and down in the whole of Africa without having to change your sim card.

The key really is how to use ICTR for knowledge driven development. That is where Africa really will be challenged because the value of ICT is measured by the value of knowledge you are able to derive from it. We need to get to that level where we can compete with the Singaporeans, the Taiwanese, and the Silicon Valley experts. That is the big gap that Africa needs to fill if we are to compete in the global market place.

**Y**ou spoke about the International Telecommunications Union (ITU)'s figures and projection of \$60 billion. Do you have a time frame for that?

These are ITU's figure and I don't work for them. I don't want to represent their view here. But I know they have provided an estimate since 2008 that based on the way investment have been made up till that time, and claims companies were making that they were going to invest in the future, then it could be as much as \$60 billion worth of investment.

Again, it depends on how you count it. For example, if you hear that Bhati of India wants to buy Zain Africa region for about \$8 billion. Assuming that transaction fall through, somebody would say \$8billion investment has been made in Africa, but it is wasn't the case because the investment is already here.

They only bought it. Most foreign investors also inflate the figure of what they claim they have invested in the country's oil, mining sector just to look gorgeous to the local community.

All their air flight and hotel bills and other things they do all over the world, they include it into the so-called investment whereas the money has not really come into the country.

But I expected Nigeria to have a fair share of that investment, a good 10% equal to \$10 billion of that estimated investment because you have the market. You have 10 mobile operators- six GSM operators and four CDMA's.

And you have 2.3Mgz wimax just sold and NITEL being privatised; all these will shape the telecoms landscape in the next few years. In the next five year, you can hit a \$10 billion mark easily if you have replicable and scalable projects across the regions of the country. The multiplier effect could take the form of people developing local content program and it percolate down to the local areas in depth and reach.

**A**part from the problem of sustainability, what other challenges do you find in rural ICT connectivity?

Some people would say power because even if you bring the equipment, where are you going to plug them. Pertinent question; is the power constant? If there is no power, you need a generator and Air conditioner.

Literacy is another problem. For sure, listening to audio telephoning, there would be no problem but what about the data component? And again, maintenance of equipment poses a challenge. Must we always be flying maintenance engineers from Germany or repair equipment or can we train our own engineers here?

**W**ith the financial crises that have rocked the world economies since last year, do you think the projections made in the growth of ICT are still realisable especially considering the challenges of the Nigerian banking sectors in past months?

I cannot speak on behalf of the banks but I can tell you money follows good ideas. That is what I have learnt, having been in the world of banking for sometimes. It also applies to the ICT sector as well. If you write a one page proposal of idea, if it makes sense, you would be surprised where it will take you to.

Whether the money is Nigerian money, European or Chinese doesn't matter. It will come where a good idea is. That is why a country like Finland-who would think that a country like Finland would be a place where money goes-but Nokia went there with money to produce mobile phones because there was a good idea. Otherwise, nobody knows where Finland is.

In many part of Africa where the rural population constitute 70 percent of the entire population, people don't have interest in investing in businesses there not to mention in terms of ICT.

Business/Finance



Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)  
Wednesday, March 10, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
<b>2ND-TIER SECURITIES</b>				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	1	0.50	80,000	40,000.00
SECTORTOTALS	1		80,000	40,000.00
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>				
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	17	0.90	1,022,021	943,044.66
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	8	0.69	212,700	143,163.00
PRESKO PLC	1	5.32	60	324.00
SECTORTOTALS	26		1,234,781	1,086,531.66
<b>AIR SERVICES</b>				
AIRLINE SERVICES & LOGISTICS PLC	7	2.48	156,200	383,442.00
NIGERIAN AVIATION HANDLING CO. PLC	65	8.78	341,564	2,970,922.58
SECTORTOTALS	72		497,764	3,354,364.58
<b>AUTOMOBILE &amp; TYRE</b>				
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	5	0.50	117,200	58,600.00
R.T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	21	5.41	338,726	1,817,973.10
SECTORTOTALS	26		455,926	1,876,573.10
<b>BANKING</b>				
ACCESS BANK PLC	231	9.60	10,849,931	104,953,170.66
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	78	2.25	4,382,903	9,805,546.59
DIAMOND BANK PLC	155	8.90	38,330,659	337,441,200.14
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	83	5.67	2,263,342	12,548,578.32
FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	67	9.26	1,580,124	14,578,248.80
FIDELITY BANK PLC	165	2.76	15,535,713	42,140,710.62
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	840	15.27	27,075,965	405,123,140.03
FINBANK PLC	76	0.69	8,590,294	5,786,602.53
GT BANK PLC	431	18.25	14,597,385	267,030,484.23
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	56	8.93	4,187,071	37,206,356.07
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC	78	2.05	1,585,234	3,180,078.11
OCEANIC BANK INTERNATIONAL PLC	92	2.05	2,747,816	5,596,778.96
BANK PHB PLC	73	1.71	2,819,002	4,730,282.92
SKYE BANK PLC	160	7.14	12,148,400	84,704,353.93
SPRING BANK PLC	8	1.06	132,553	139,823.14
STERLING BANK PLC	50	1.85	4,771,731	8,899,652.75
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	266	13.51	28,883,180	388,499,603.33
UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	175	5.91	1,888,377	10,916,068.13
UNITY BANK PLC	24	1.00	1,380,633	1,430,060.86
WEMA BANK PLC	50	1.07	2,850,450	3,158,783.76
ZENITH BANK PLC	255	16.00	71,965,228	1,148,078,942.54
SECTORTOTALS	3,413		258,565,991	2,895,948,640.42
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	66	16.00	601,323	9,583,235.73
BENUCEMENT COMPANY PLC	27	53.34	285,570	14,927,023.73
CEMENT CO. OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	44	16.50	775,666	12,682,675.60
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	181	34.50	7,507,647	252,808,441.98
SECTORTOTALS	318		9,170,206	290,001,377.04
<b>CHEMICAL &amp; PAINTS</b>				
BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC	1	4.06	1,142	4,864.92
CHEMICAL & ALLIED PRODUCTS PLC	1	28.26	10	282.60
DN MEYER PLC	9	3.09	80,032	246,936.00
SECTORTOTALS	11		81,184	252,083.52
<b>COMMERCIAL SERVICES</b>				
AFROMEDIA PLC	2	0.51	23,000	12,190.00
COURTVILLE INVESTMENTS PLC	1	0.50	1,000	500.00
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	11	2.70	154,736	412,167.20
SECTORTOTALS	14		178,736	424,857.20
<b>COMPUTER &amp; OFFICE EQUIPMENT</b>				
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC	1	8.13	1,000	8,530.00
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	13	0.53	1,033,350	547,700.00
THOMAS WYATT PLC	1	1.75	50,000	87,500.00
SECTORTOTALS	15		1,084,350	643,730.00
<b>CONGLOMERATES</b>				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIGERIA) PLC	11	3.00	89,918	270,625.32
PZ CUSSENS NIGERIA PLC	52	27.00	2,551,117	67,195,952.84
TRANSNATIONAL CORP. OF NIG. PLC	57	0.57	15,306,608	8,434,652.06
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	67	45.00	1,589,385	71,836,858.32
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	151	24.69	5,478,300	134,253,382.98
SECTORTOTALS	338		25,015,328	281,991,471.52
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	28	5.08	477,124	2,432,390.48
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC	12	27.95	54,123	1,451,029.22
MULTIVERSE RESOURCES PLC	5	0.50	35,100	17,550.00
SECTORTOTALS	45		566,347	3,900,969.70
<b>ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY</b>				
CUTIX PLC	7	2.95	88,000	259,695.40
NIGERIAN WIRE & CABLE PLC	2	0.72	350,000	252,000.00
SECTORTOTALS	9		438,000	511,695.40
<b>F/BEVERAGES &amp; TOBACCO</b>				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	9	30.60	5,407	173,726.91
BIG TREAT PLC	20	0.82	821,700	673,294.00
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	101	16.78	3,663,215	60,956,639.17
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	228	13.26	4,653,840	61,697,630.12
DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	106	17.82	2,546,365	45,418,520.61
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	74	46.90	1,082,491	49,176,138.88
HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	25	8.80	186,816	1,662,997.10
NATIONAL SALT COY. NIG. PLC	78	6.35	3,112,244	19,691,388.48
NIGERIAN BOTTLING COY. PLC	20	25.65	153,806	3,758,535.18
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	41	270.00	87,763	23,778,806.79
NORTHERN NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	15	23.00	116,075	2,575,552.66
TANTALIZERS PLC	26	0.88	1,281,800	1,133,629.00
UNION DICON SALT PLC	1	5.71	3,275	17,783.25
UTC NIGERIA PLC	14	0.72	31,554	22,391.25

SECTORTOTALS	758		17,746,351	270,737,033.40
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC	7	1.00	54,895	54,895.00
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	17	2.37	329,206	783,662.34
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG. PLC	20	26.50	30,963	818,879.80
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	15	5.05	55,850	283,460.00
NEIMETH INTERPHARM. PLC	8	1.38	32,970	46,133.00
UNION DIAGNOSTIC & CLINICAL SERV. PLC	13	0.60	787,446	483,042.06
SECTORTOTALS	80		1,291,330	2,470,072.20
<b>HOTEL &amp; TOURISM</b>				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	5	3.37	101,000	328,530.00
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	2	1.43	2,500	3,475.00
SECTORTOTALS	7		103,500	332,005.00
<b>INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS</b>				
ALUMACO PLC	1	14.26	50,010	713,142.60
B.O.C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	17	10.37	250,150	2,593,498.50
NIGERIAN ENAMELWARE PLC	1	52.85	720	36,151.20
VITAFAM NIGERIA PLC	22	4.90	1,718,414	8,277,721.80
SECTORTOTALS	41		2,019,294	11,620,514.10
<b>INFO. &amp; COMM. TECH.</b>				
CHAMS PLC	13	0.69	696,145	469,781.15
STARCOMMS PLC	23	1.96	3,752,792	7,681,244.86
SECTORTOTALS	36		4,448,937	8,151,026.01
<b>INSURANCE</b>				
AFRICAN ALLIANCE INSUR. PLC	3	0.50	202,000	101,000.00
AICO INSURANCE PLC	402	1.06	9,360,423	10,058,036.74
CONTINENTAL REINSUR. PLC	5	0.93	217,000	204,660.00
CORNERSTONE INSUR. CO. PLC	11	0.50	2,474,765	1,302,673.50
CUSTODIAN & ALLIED INSUR. PLC	26	3.00	5,639,897	16,791,941.65
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	3	0.50	18,000	9,000.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	17	0.52	1,920,877	1,034,575.32
GUARANTY TRUST ASSUR. PLC	18	2.20	1,874,890	4,115,789.80
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	78,688	39,344.00
CONSOLIDATED HALLMARK INSUR. PLC	2	0.50	40,000	20,000.00
INTERNATIONAL ENERGY INSUR. COY. PLC	41	0.54	8,892,721	4,539,809.80
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC	33	0.52	2,347,852	1,189,634.80
LAW UNION & ROCK INSUR. PLC	9	0.52	444,970	225,530.00
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	12,000	6,000.00
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSUR. PLC	5	0.64	203,868	130,475.52
N.E.M. INSURANCE CO. (NIG.) PLC	36	0.52	1,456,223	752,971.24
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC	18	0.73	1,394,180	949,011.00
OASIS INSURANCE PLC	1	1.17	2,000	2,240.00
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	10	3.26	228,720	745,627.20
STACO INSURANCE PLC	3	0.76	43,000	31,390.00
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSUR. PLC	19	0.50	448,040	224,020.00
UNIC INSURANCE PLC	5	0.70	24,706	17,408.88
UNITY CAPITAL ASSUR. PLC	1	0.83	2,000	1,580.00
UNIVERSAL INSUR. COY. PLC	4	0.50	104,600	52,300.00
INTERCONTINENTAL WAPIC INSUR. PLC	15	0.89	219,302	193,888.14
SECTORTOTALS	691		37,650,722	42,738,907.59
<b>LEASING</b>				
C&I LEASING PLC	31	2.69	698,805	1,914,429.32
SECTORTOTALS	31		698,805	1,914,429.32
<b>MARITIME</b>				
JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERV. PLC	119	1.20	2,528,133	3,058,656.19
SECTORTOTALS	119		2,528,133	3,058,656.19
<b>MEDIA</b>				
DAAR COMMUNICATIONS PLC	52	0.70	10,024,437	6,893,119.50
SECTORTOTALS	52		10,024,437	6,893,119.50
<b>MORTGAGE COMPANIES</b>				
ABBAY BUILDING SOCIETY PLC	1	1.61	5,780	8,843.40
ASO SAVINGS & LOAN PLC	34	0.70	7,247,022	5,111,333.14
RESORT SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	5	0.50	2,152,000	1,076,000.00
UNION HOMES SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	27	0.85	1,099,270	321,803.90
SECTORTOTALS	67		10,504,052	7,117,980.44
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL INST.</b>				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC	14	0.92	1,640,893	1,553,153.20
DEAP CAPITAL MANAGEMENT & TRUST PLC	1	2.02	2,000	4,040.00
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	4	0.59	49,628	28,387.96
SECTORTOTALS	19		1,692,521	1,587,581.16
<b>PACKAGING</b>				
NIG BAG MANUFACTURING COY. PLC	367	2.30	1,475,695	3,370,254.89
NAMPAK NIGERIA PLC	1	6.99	100	665.00
SECTORTOTALS	368		1,475,795	3,370,919.89
<b>PETROLEUM (MARKETING)</b>				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC	95	42.58	506,576	21,665,722.30
BECO PETROLEUM PRODUCT PLC	7	2.20	73,300	153,197.00
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	6	69.79	2,260	160,375.00
CONOIL PLC	33	39.54	109,756	4,393,834.43
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC	35	7.16	328,265	2,303,747.70
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC	17	102.53	84,865	8,591,567.06
OANDO PLC	11	89.30	230,352	20,570,433.60
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	15	142.50	6,082	892,092.56
SECTORTOTALS	219		1,341,466	58,730,969.65
<b>PRINTING &amp; PUBLISHING</b>				
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	1	9.76	600	5,568.00
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	18	5.65	601,989	3,393,988.10
SECTORTOTALS	19		602,589	3,400,556.10
<b>REAL ESTATE</b>				
UACN PROPERTY DEV. CO. PLC	10	20.50	228,017	4,671,971.80
SECTORTOTALS	10		228,017	4,671,971.80
OVERALL TOTALS	7,031		394,821,893	4,026,896,536.73

What is Seat?  
It is the traditional term for membership on a stock exchange. An investment dealer or brokerage buys a seat on the exchange and one employee is designated as the seat holder.  
Google.com

GAINERS	MOBIL	4.88
	BCC	2.54
	FLOURMILL	1.89
	WAPCO	1.25

LOSERS	OANDO	4.69
	NB	1.60
	UACN	1.00
	ALUMACO	0.75



## WORLD BANK

### The Civil Society Fund (CSF) IN NIGERIA FOR YEAR 2010

The World Bank Country Office in Nigeria is inviting Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and other Civil Society Organizations to submit proposals for participation in its Small Grants Programme (SGP). The grant is generally aimed at supporting welfare enhancing, information dissemination and utilization activities by local level organizations and groups. Deadline for submission of proposal is **March 25, 2009**.

#### Objective of the Small Grants Program

The overarching objective of the SGP is to promote civic engagement for the empowerment of marginalized and vulnerable groups in the development process and to assist in skills and capacity building at the local level aimed at welfare improvement through information sharing and networking.

For this year 2010, the program would be devoted to

- strengthening the CSOs' capacity for independent public procurement monitoring
- promoting user feedback
- conducting activities that will enable the CSOs to channel citizen's voice and contribute to improved accountability.

The World Bank recognizes that CSOs are valuable actors in monitoring to inform demand from the state due to their flexibility, potential to link government and in working with vulnerable communities, as well as ability to focus and direct attention to areas such as gender, improved access, mobility and economic opportunity for poor communities. Their ability to identify priority issues for change, and pursuing a program of advocacy work to influence donors, policy makers and practitioners is also recognized.

The Bank is looking for innovative proposals that will assist the poor and marginalised by effective monitoring and oversight of the public sector to ensure improved service delivery that will lead to reductions in poverty and hunger.

#### Guidelines

For the Year 2010, only the following categories of NGOs, CBOs and CSOs are eligible to apply:

- a) Groups that have not received Small Grants support from the World Bank Country Office in the last 3 years;
- b) Groups that have been in operation for more than 3 years and have good track record (please attach evidence);
- c) Groups which are active in the areas of civic engagement in good governance or procurement, demand side of the fiduciary process and empowerment of marginalized and vulnerable groups.

Applicants should also note that grants to be awarded will not be more than N800, 000.00 and linkages/partnerships activities with co-funding will be highly favored. The activity proposed must also be doable within 9 weeks and be completed by May 2010. As part of the deliverable requirements, successful organizations will be responsible for attending a one day stakeholders meeting in August 2010 at the World Bank Country Office, Abuja, to share knowledge and discuss best practices. This meeting will be after completion of proposed activity.

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of (a) relevance of proposed activity to welfare improvement; (b) feasibility and sustainability of proposed activity and (c) clarity of proposal.

**Proposals can be hand delivered or courier to:** Small Grants Program Coordinator, (Attention: Human Resource Officer) Plot 433, Yakubu Gowon Crescent, Opp. ECOWAS Secretariat, Asokoro District, Abuja. **Please note that applications received after March 25, 2010 in the Country Office will not be acknowledged nor processed.**



### THIRD NATIONAL FADAMA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (FADAMA III)

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES  
Nafisah Plaza, Plot 502, Off Constitution Avenue, Central Business Area, Abuja FCT

#### Invitation for Bids

Issuance Date: 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2010.

PROJECT: Third National Fadama Development Project (Fadama III)

GRANT NO: TF056616-UNI

IFB No: NFCO/CEMP/GEF/NCB/01/2010

1. This Invitation for Bid follows the General Procurement Clinic for the Project that was cleared on the 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2010.
2. The Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a Grant from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies to finance the cost of the Third National Fadama Development Project (Fadama III). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Grant will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the **Procurement of Computers and Office Equipment**.
3. The National Fadama Coordination Office (NFCO) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of **Computers and Office Equipment**:

Lot/No	Item No.	Description of Items	Quantity	Bid Security	Delivery Period	Delivery Location
1	i	Desktop Computers and Accessories.	5	Not less than 3% of the bid price	60 Days	National Fadama Coordination Office, Nafisa Plaza, Plot 502, Off Constitution Avenue, Central Business Area, Abuja FCT.
	ii	Laptop Computers and Accessories	6			
	iii	Un-Interrupted Power Supply (UPS)	12			
	iv	Laser Jet Printers	7			
2	i	Stabilizer 2000 Watts	12	Not less than 3% of the bid price	60 Days	National Fadama Coordination Office, Nafisa Plaza, Plot 502, Off Constitution Avenue, Central Business Area, Abuja FCT.
	ii	Photocopying Machine	6			
	iii	AO Colour Scanner	7			
	iv	AA Scanner	3			
3	i	Public Address System	7	Not less than 3% of the bid price	60 Days	National Fadama Coordination Office, Nafisa Plaza, Plot 502, Off Constitution Avenue, Central Business Area, Abuja FCT.
	ii	Multimedia Projector & Screen	6			

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the: National Fadama Coordination Office, Nafisa Plaza, Off Constitution Avenue, Central Business Area, Abuja FCT.
5. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB), a procedure specified in the World Bank Guidelines: Procurement Under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, October, 2006. The bidding document will be collected by the representative of the bidder, or sent by courier services on request.
6. Complete set of Bidding Documents can be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Ten Thousand Naira Only (N10, 000.00) or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency**.
7. Bids must be delivered to the above office on or before **12 Noon on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2010** and must be accompanied by a bid security of **not less than 3% of Bid Price. Late bids will be rejected.**
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend on **12<sup>th</sup> April 2010 by 12 Noon, at the address in paragraph (4) above.**

National Project Coordinator, National Fadama Coordination Office, Nafisah Plaza, Plot 502, Off Constitution Avenue, Central Business Area, Abuja FCT. **08069609671, 08034333049, E-Mail fadamanfco@yahoo.co, Website www.fadama.org**

**Committee of Friends of  
SENATOR DR. AMADU ALI, fss; GCON; FRCP  
(Edin); MDA (U.I)**

---

*Cordially invites the general public to the  
**Foundation-Laying Ceremony**  
of the*

**AMADU ALI CENTRE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH  
AND COMPARATIVE MEDICINE**

*Situated in the*

**University of Agriculture Makurdi, Benue State**

*and*

**Public Lecture**

*on*

**ONE MEDICINE:**

**A new paradigm for Health Delivery in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

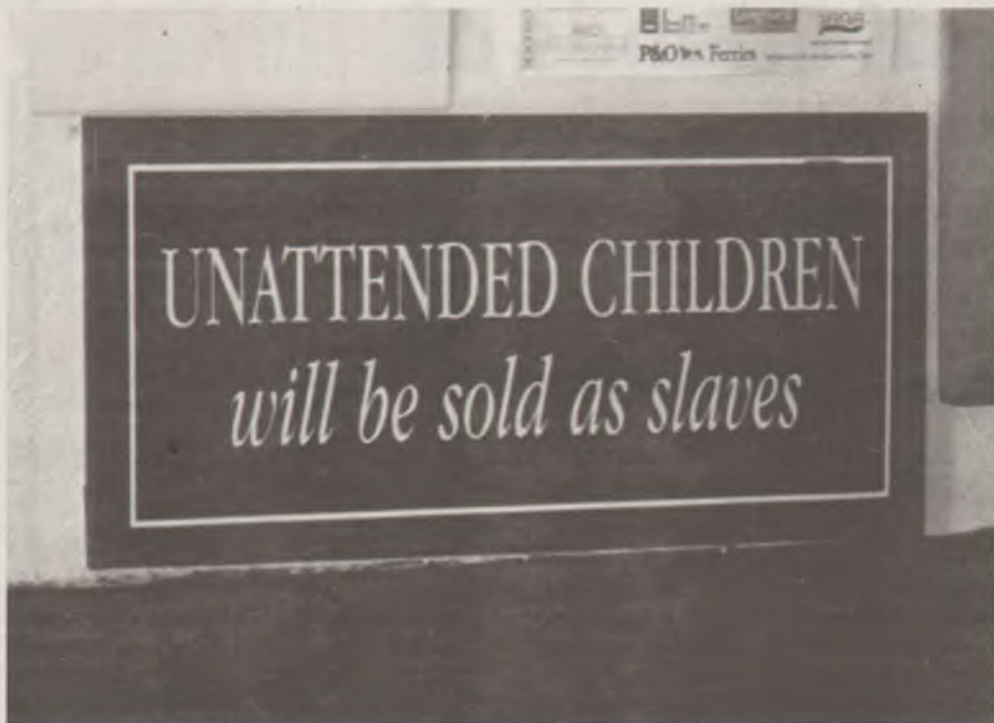
*By*

**Professor C.D. Ezeokoli, DVM (Cornell), Phd (Yale)**

Former Director, School of Veterinary Medicine and Clinical Director of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Faculty of Medical Sciences, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago

**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2010  
**Time:** 10 am  
**Venue:** Convocation Square, South Core,  
University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Nigeria.

Sign Language



Harsh but fair warning  
Photo location: Kent, by David Kitching  
Culled from telegraph.co.uk

EASY CROSSWORDS

8

**ACROSS**

1. Mixture of bones  
4. Whopping heart  
7. Arrow's path  
11. Salt solution  
12. Nothing necessary  
15. About  
16. Feedback  
18. Kip up  
20. Rye  
21. Night flower  
23. Malignant look  
24. Onak Roman  
26. British politician  
28. Del-ed show  
30. Child's room

**DOWN**

1. Major film  
2. Flourish  
3. Captain's delight  
4. Johnson of "Laugh In"  
5. Certain ending, succinctly  
6. Mink

**ACROSS**

14. Spare  
16. Mistletoe  
17. Trow a missile  
18. Personal cleaning  
19. In a mess  
20. Adversity  
21. With 28 Down, cry of a bird  
22. Fancy party  
23. Mayday signal  
24. Abundant  
25. Fossil, stone  
26. Psychic phenomenon

**DOWN**

7. Court great  
8. Shoulder of "Jaggy"  
9. Italian win  
10. Trunk find  
11. Abuse stickler  
12. Actress  
13. A full fruit  
14. British cyclist

**ACROSS**

14. Kinky vowel  
16. Debra's nose  
17. Pierced ring  
18. Loose loop  
19. Unpleasant  
20. Commit a gift  
21. Waxed  
22. Animal trap  
23. Cassino's steak  
24. Double seat  
25. Adverse medicine  
26. Greek letter  
27. Albanian character  
28. Parliker  
29. California's state motto  
30. Inhibitor

**DOWN**

8. Type monster  
9. Hoop's "red"  
10. Space port  
11. Unpleasant  
12. Folkloric figure  
13. Vague attention  
14. Mrs. McKinley  
15. Majestic bird  
16. More closely  
17. Defiant  
18. Baker's profession  
19. Jack of rhyms  
20. Deuce heater  
21. Double  
22. Most recent

**ACROSS**

31. Meaningful statement  
32. Short ad  
33. Pinger Mariah  
34. Hardee  
35. Talk source  
36. Horror author  
37. Bell ornament  
38. Like a dove

**DOWN**

39. Crew  
40. Clock past  
41. Evangelist's brother  
42. Thickly staked  
43. Experience  
44. "Remember Alamo!"  
45. Chasing sound

**ACROSS**

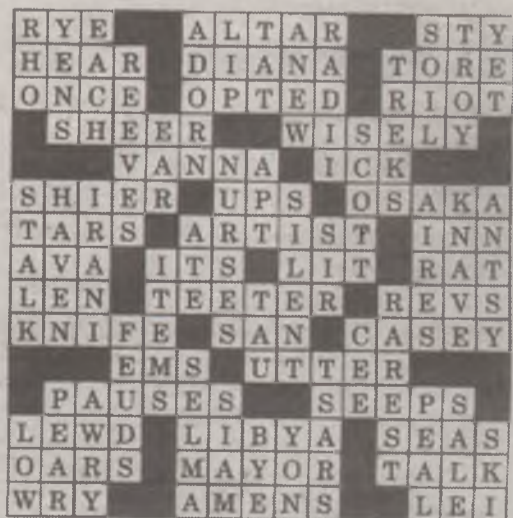
72. Supermarket passage  
73. Magnificent  
74. Name in Ales  
75. London pig  
76. Yoo-hoo  
77. Prepare a gift  
78. "Remember Alamo!"  
79. In an isolated location

**DOWN**

80. Non professional  
81. Handy device  
82. Licks (sag)  
83. Baccarat  
84. See of 29-Across  
85. "Remember Alamo!"  
86. Famous mother

Solution to Easy Crosswords

7



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.

104

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

Solution to Sudoku 103

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

DAILY TRUST

## EDUCATION

E-mail: education@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 08035910371

# FG reaffirms commitment to prioritise education

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

ACTING President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan said the Federal Government is determined to place a high premium on the education sector in order to facilitate the attainment of the country's vision of becoming one of the 20 largest economies in the world by

the year 2020.

The acting president disclosed this at the 22nd convocation ceremony of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri (FUTO).

Dr Jonathan, who was represented by the Minister of Education Dr Sam Egwu, said the Federal Government has embarked on aggressive infrastructural development including Informa-

tion and Communication Technology (ICT) to reposition federal tertiary institutions across the country.

He said that government will continue to provide the needed funding and support to all its institutions, pointing out that over six billion naira was released to six federal universities designated as centres of excellence which were picked

from the six geo-political zones apart from the regular funding of the institutions through interventions by the Education Trust Fund (ETF) and the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF).

The acting president expressed worry that the frequent strike actions by unions and associations in tertiary institutions have remained a matter of

concern to both the government and the citizenry, saying such situation cannot lend credence to our common resolve to actualize the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

He explained that government had made concerted efforts to broker peace with the various unions in the tertiary institutions to ensure uninterrupted academic activities.

## Ex-registrars commend JAMB over UTME

By Maureen Onochie

FORMER Registrars of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) have commended management and the board on the introduction of the new Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) for candidates seeking admission into the nation's tertiary institutions.

A statement signed by the spokesperson of JAMB Chinwe Ogbuka said the commendation was made by ex-registrars of the board Dr Mohammed Abdulrahman and Professor Bello Salim at a one-day retreat held in Abuja.

The statement quoted the ex-registrars as saying that the full implementation of the UTME would address the perennial problem of access to tertiary education in Nigeria.

Meanwhile, the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) has called on the management of the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board to ensure that the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) records no form of examination malpractice.

A statement signed by the national president

of NANS Comrade Jude Imagwe said "the challenges of having a good and malpractice-free examination may be tough but I see this development as a welcome one if all holes are effectively blocked. Having to write this examination once is a task that requires the assistance of all stakeholders in the educational sector to rally round and support."

Comrade Imagwe expressed worry over the outrageous number of candidates who have applied for the examination running into 1.5 million candidates, stressing the need to increase the logistics such as examination materials, supervisors, centres and security agents to ensure that the examination is hitch free.

According to him, the UTME "would lead to a reduction in the cost incurred by candidates and their parents in the registration and preparation for admission, they will now only register for one examination instead of two as has been the case in the past, it would provide final answer to the problem of over-subscription for the universities while the polytechnics/monotechnics and colleges of education are undersubscribed."



PROGRAMME Manager of British Council in Nigeria Ramatu Umar-Bako (right), facilitator in Northern Ireland Carmel Mulrine and facilitator in Nigeria Umar Kawu at a week-long long programme by the council in Kano recently.

## UNILORIN releases N26m for research

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE management of the University of Ilorin has released N26 million to the teaching staff of the university for research purposes in order to promote scholarship and research within the university community.

A statement issued by

the university said N15.6m was disbursed to the Central Senate Research Grant Scheme while the remaining sum of N10.4m was released to the 10 faculties of the university and the library.

The statement signed by the Director of Academic Planning Professor A. G. Oladosu said that each fac-

ulty got a flat rate of 50 percent of the allotted funds on the basis of equity and the remaining 50 percent on the basis of the number of academic staff it has.

"Some highlights of the guidelines of the Central Senate Research Grant are that research proposals should be university-

based, the research itself must be multi-disciplinary, the research should focus on specific societal problems and the research topic should be operational, relevant, useful, unbiased and acceptable. All categories of academic staff are qualified to apply," the statement said.

## Course restructuring is for school curriculum relevance – Commissioner

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Kwara state commissioner for Education, Science and Technology, Alhaji Bolaji Abdullahi said that the restructuring of courses at the College of Education, Oro was aimed at mak-

ing the courses being offered in college relevant at the primary school level.

The commissioner made the clarification at a reception organised for educationists from Kano, Jigawa, Kaduna, Lagos and Abuja who were on a visit to Kwara state.

The Commissioner said the state education reform agenda also became necessary as an instrument to restructure the education sector to ensure that teacher's recruitment are based on merit.

Speaking at the occasion, a

member of the Lagos state delegation Professor Oguntoye Anthony, commended the education reform agenda of the Kwara state government and described it as worthy of emulation by other state governments.

Also speaking, the educa-

tion sector support programme in Nigeria (ESSPIN) consultant to College of Education, Oro, Prof. Harold Thomas, expressed delight that the restructuring and reorganisation of all departments in the college have been successful.

# CAMPUS ROUNDUP

E-Mail: [campusroundup@dailytrust.com](mailto:campusroundup@dailytrust.com)

HOTLINE: 08035910371

## NANS condemns UNN's move to expel students

By Maureen Onochie

THE National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) has condemned moves by authorities of the University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN) to expel four students over their roles in the recent protest

against school fees increment.

The association also frowned at the N70m levy imposed on the students for damages to school property during the protest.

A statement signed by national president of NANS Comrade Jude Imagwe called on the management

of the university to reverse its decision otherwise "NANS will have no option but to move its forces of conscientious students from near and far to lay siege on UNN should the school authorities refuse to back-step from this proposed expulsion and damages levy plan."

"The way forward on the issue of fees increase and related matters in UNN is to convoke a tripartite forum of School Management, UNN-SUG/NANS leaders and UNN students' parents/guardians to work out the suitability, modalities and modus operandi of affordable

increment tied to visible performance benchmarks and parameters for sustaining any agreed increment beyond one session. This we also advice the Management of Ambrose Ali University (AAU), college of Education Ikere and the UNAD Ekiti state," the statement said.

### Students plan education sensitisation in riverside communities

THE National Association of Niger Delta Students (NANDS) has resolved to go to the creeks and hinterland to sensitise the youth on the importance of education.

National president of NANDS, Mr Lucky Emonefe, who disclosed this in Warri, Delta State, said the importance and power of education could not be over-emphasised.

He said the gains of education could not in any way be compared with what militancy could produce, explaining that militancy was violent and claimed lives at will.

He decried the level of poverty, underdevelopment and deprivation the Niger Delta region is suffering in spite of the gains of the Federal Government's amnesty programme.

He said that the suffering in the region as a result of oil exploration and exploitation had been responsible for turning the peaceful nature of the Niger Delta people into aggression.

"A hungry man is an angry man. We could only boast of dejection, hunger, deprivation and anger; these pushed us into youth restiveness, militancy and other social vices," he said.

### DO you have a story?

ARE you a university or polytechnic student or lecturer? Do you have interesting stories about social, economic and political activities on the campuses? Then CAMPUS ROUNDUP is a platform for you to share your story with our readers.

WRITE to the Editor through  
[campusroundup@dailytrust.com](mailto:campusroundup@dailytrust.com)



EXECUTIVE secretary of National Education and Research Development Centre (NERDC) Professor Godswill Obioma (left) and the former Minister of Education Mr J. Agada at a function in Abuja recently.

## Auchi poly expels 8 final year students, others

From Nathaniel John, AUCHIPOLY

AUTHORITIES of Auchi Polytechnic in Edo State has expelled eight final year Higher National Diploma (HND) students and two others indicted in a recent disturbance on the campus.

A statement from the office of the polytechnic's registrar Dr

Steve Iyayi, said the students were found to have breached their matriculation oath by participating actively in the disturbance.

The statement said investigation is still on, and that any student found to be involved in the disturbance would also be expelled.

The statement said that the

affected students had appeared before the Students Disciplinary Committee (SDC), adding that their expulsion was sequel to the report of a committee raised to investigate the issue.

It would be recall that on March 2, more than 50 students believed to be cultists, stormed the campus with various dangerous weapons. Some of them

who carried guns shot sporadically into the air and brandished their weapons while many students and staff who scampered for safety sustained injuries.

Rector of the polytechnic Dr Idogho Philipa, has also warned that any student found to have contravened the polytechnic's rules would be appropriately sanctioned.

## UNAD sacks six staff over financial impropriety

From Olaitan Kayode, UNAD

SIX staff of the University of Ado-Ekiti (UNAD) were sacked over alleged financial impropriety, Vice Chancellor of the university Professor Dipo Kolawole, has said.

The Vice Chancellor said five of the affected staff were from the bursary department while one was from the audit unit.

"Within the last one year, the university authorities dismissed

a member of staff in the audit unit while five others have been sacked at the bursary department for embezzling the institution's funds," he said.

He said the head of department of the Business Administration Department Dr Tope Aluko, was removed over alleged irregular transfer of students in the department while the faculty officer of Agricultural Science was also removed over allegations bothering on misconduct.

"Our effort is to sanitise the whole process and instill discipline in the system. We will not shield anybody that is found to be involved in any sharp practice," he said.

The vice chancellor, who put the monthly wage bill of staff at N130.9 million, said the institution receives N110 million monthly as subvention from the state government.

He said the shortfall in the subvention and the global eco-

nomical meltdown made the management to use its internally-generated revenue in running the university.

"If we implement the new salary structure we will be paying N187 million and we have arrears of N262 million to pay from July 2009 to February 2010. We are looking at the other critical ways of improving our revenue and sourcing for funds. One is to manage the revenue of the university properly," he said.

# CAMPUS ROUNDUP

E-Mail: campusroundup@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 08035910371

## Between University of Ado-Ekiti and illegal students

From Ikujuni Ebiwonjumi, Ado-Ekiti

THE dream of Kareem Bamitale, a 300 level student of the Department of Business Administration, University of Ado-Ekiti (UNAD), collapsed on December 2, 2009. It was the day Bamitale and 500 others were dismissed from UNAD over alleged illegal departmental transfer and admission racketeering.

Specifically, Bamitale was alleged to have been involved in an illegal transfer from one faculty to another. Like others in his shoes, he was accused of leaving his former department without proper documentation by the appropriate authorities.

Others were shown the way out over alleged admission irregularities that were detected during a screening exercise conducted in December 2009.

But while the school is beating its chest for weeding away such "illegal fellows," the affected students have already petitioned the Ekiti State House of Assembly, seeking that their dismissal be overturned.

In the petition dated February 9, 2010, the dismissed students urged the lawmakers to order UNAD authorities to reverse their dismissal as they all followed the normal processes of transfer and admission.

"We are surprised that we had had to spend between two and four years in our various departments before the institution discovered that we are 'illegal students'" they argued.

The students argued that they followed the normal processes by obtaining the transfer forms, which they filled and submitted to the Head of Department, who endorsed their final movement to their current departments.

They said they were very shocked by the claims that their documentations were incomplete as they had, over the years, written examinations before being registered into new sessions. The students further claimed that the dismissal had caused a lot of psychological problems and some of them had committed suicide.

The Vice Chancellor of the university Professor Dipo Kolawole, however argued that the decision to expel the students was in order, saying that "the university was able to establish the illegal transfer and other sharp practices by the students who are mainly from the Department of Business Administration. We have confirmed that the transfers were facilitated by some 'identified' senior lecturers and staff"

According to him, the step is



GOVERNOR Segun Oni of Ekiti State

part of the efforts by the management to sanitise and rid the university of illegal students who gain entrance through admission racketeering and other sharp practices, adding that "our goal is to restore the lost glory of the institution which is renowned for its academic excellence."

The Vice Chancellor identified the Department of Business Administration as the "most rotten and corrupt" in the university, and accused some of its senior lecturers of working in concert with "a cabal and a clique" in the department to facilitate lots of illegalities.

He rejected the students' claims that they were naive and therefore manipulated by the said clique, saying that "they (students) are always willing accomplices in the whole processes."

To check against a recurrence in the future, Professor Dipo Kolawole said the university authority has constituted a panel of enquiry to probe the activities of lecturers in the department.

He said as a first step, the university has removed the Head of the Department of Business Administration while the Faculty Officer of the Agricultural Science has been suspended over the same issue.

According to him, the decision to probe the activities of the lecturers followed the strength of allegations by the dismissed students, saying that "actually, we are also aware that there is no way this admission racketeer could be

done by one person; it must be a clique or a cabal in that department that is involved and that is why we want to identify them and establish their level of culpability."

He said the university will not shield anybody in its bid to sanitise the system. To ensure that no one benefits from the illegalities carried out over the years, the Vice Chancellor said the university has commenced the process of withdrawing certificates of some students that graduated within the last five years that were found to have been illegally admitted.

According to him, the school has ordered that the scripts of all the graduated students in the Business Administration Department in the last five years (from 2004 to 2009) should be deposited for scrutiny, screening and evaluation.

"If we find out that some people got the certificates of this university illegally - either through irregular admissions or using fictitious means - we will revoke or withdraw such certificates. 'Honestly, I am disappointed with the level of allegations levelled against some of the identified senior lecturers because they are supposed to preserve the dignity of the university. But they are bad eggs which are everywhere in the society. It is sad that those people, who should be at the forefront in the effort to reposition this university, are involved in admission racketeering and other sharp practices."

"Our goal here is to create a good name for the university and



MINISTER of Education Dr. Sam Egwu

bring back the glory of UNAD and not to impress anybody. It is our task and if we do not do it now, prosperity will not forgive us because the University cannot withstand another five years of decay," he said.

Professor Kolawole, who promised to look into other departments that are similarly rotten, calls for support from both students and staff. As he continues his mission to sanitise the university, the Vice Chancellor can count on the support of the Chancellor of the University, Oba Adedapo Popoola, Oore of Otun in Moba Local Government Area of Ekiti State.

Oba Popoola has advised the school authority to discipline all erring staff so as to instil sanity and make the university one of the best centres of learning in Nigeria.

"If some lecturers are involved in the transfer racketeering, they must be made to face the music; there should be no sacred cows. What I hear is saddening and I am happy that the Vice Chancellor has taken steps to sanitise the system," he said.

He suggested that the university should also extend its searchlights to fish out those that gained admission into it with forged certificates so as to rid the school of bad eggs.

The Vice Chancellor also has the support of the Ekiti House of Assembly. The lawmakers, while responding to the petition by the students, promised that they would not stand in the way of any

move that would cleanse the university of bad eggs.

"We can only advise the institution to handle the issue with the applicable and laid down rules and regulations of the university," says chairman of the House Committee on Education Mr Churchill Adedipe.

The House also advised affected students to seek fresh and genuine admission into the university.

An educationist, Dr. Ayokunle Obe, while noting that Ekiti State is known for academic excellence, described the situation at the university as "bad," adding that "all should be done to rid the school of illegalities, especially now that many institutions have cliques that lure innocent candidates and their parents into sharp practices."

Obe, however, blamed such unwholesome acts of some lecturers and staff on lack of regular monitoring of the activities of each department by the authorities.

He called for stiff punishment for staff found to be involved in any sharp practices in order to serve as deterrent to others.

While commending the university for the steps taken to cleanse the system, many observers also called for attention to other vices such as sexual harassment, intimidation and unauthorised levies by some lecturers.

They also called for improved welfare packages for university workers to enable them resist the temptation of such illegalities.

## News Extra

# The agonising decision faced by the parents of conjoined twins

## ... They share a heart... and must be separated

**I**t is one of the most agonising decisions any parent could have to make. Conjoined twins Emma and Taylor Bailey, three, will die if they are not separated because too much strain is being put on their shared heart.

But the odds that even one would survive the complex operation are extremely slim.

No twins born with one heart have ever been separated successfully.

Now doctors say that time is running out for their parents to make their choice.

Emma and Taylor, who are fused from the breastbone to the belly button, have already defied experts once.

They were expected to live for only 15 minutes because it was thought that their heart would become overworked as soon as they took their first breath.

But doctors say they must be separated in the next year or two to have any chance of survival.

The girls also share a liver. For the surgery to succeed, it is likely that they will both need heart transplants and one will need a new liver.

Their American mother Mandy Bailey, 32, who lives in Arizona, said: 'There's a tiny window of time for a separation. We have to get it completely right, if we wait too long then the operation cannot go ahead.'

'In the next year, life for all of us will be drastically different.'

'We know we have to make difficult choices. We understand the risks. But we also understand the outcome if we don't do anything.'

**S**he said that when the girls were born, all her husband Tor, a 34-year-old builder, had hoped for was to hear them cry just once.

'We were told they would live for minutes and then they would suffocate,' she added. 'The girls were handed to him straight away and they simultaneously inhaled and quietly cried. It was a magical sound.'

The twins' future was still uncertain when they were well enough to be discharged from hospital. They were given oxygen and medication to strengthen their lungs and have astonished doctors with their progress.

They can feed themselves and are learning to get about using a



**DILEMMA:** Emma and Taylor Bailey share a single heart, but must be separated if they are to survive



**FAMILY time:** The three-year-old twins with their mother Mandy, who is also mother to four other children



**WHEN the girls were born, doctors said they would live for only a few minutes**



**THE girls move around using a specially-adapted walker and are able to feed themselves**

special walker.

Mrs Bailey said: 'The girls are becoming different people and developing adorable little traits. Taylor is the bossy one.'

'Emma is a bit crazy, she's

always pulling funny faces.' The Baileys have four other children aged 11, nine, seven and two. Emma and Taylor have already had several smaller heart operations.

One in June last year involved placing a band around Emma's aorta to reduce her blood pressure.

Seattle Children's Hospital, which is overseeing the twins'

care, does not want to discuss the treatment.

Mrs Bailey said: 'We realise what a great miracle it is for our daughters to be alive and happy. They are a blessing for our family.'

## News Extra

# All the president's emails

In a unique experiment in democratic transparency, Barack Obama – a BlackBerry owner, and the first American president to use email while in office – has agreed to copy G2 in on his otherwise highly confidential electronic communications. Each week, we present a selection from recent days

**To: Stephen Barker, Principal, Sidwell Friends School <principal@sidwell.edu>**

**Subject: Re: Re: Bullying**  
Well, according to Malia, it started when a group of girls surrounded her at school and said, "Your Dad's such a weak president he's wavering on his promise to give Khalid Sheikh Mohammed a civilian trial." The next day it was, "Your Dad's such a loser he probably won't ram through a vote on healthcare before Easter, imperiling the credibility of his administration." Then it was, "Your Dad's so pathetic he couldn't prevent a solitary Republican senator from Kentucky, Jim Bunning, bringing half the federal government to a standstill for five days last week." You're clearly educating these kids well. And I know it's all true. That's not the point. If you want me to accept that standing invitation to come and speak to a school assembly on "what it's like to be the president" (goddamn stressful

right now), sort this problem out. Yours, Barack

**To: Rahm Emanuel <rahm.emanuel3@gmail.com>**

**Subject: Re: "Sources close to Rahm Emanuel"**

Of course I'm furious! Almost every day there's been a big piece in the Washington Post about how a "senior White House aide" thinks Obama wouldn't be in such a "crisis" if he'd "listened to his brilliant chief of staff". (You blew your cover in the Politico article where a "senior and strikingly attractive White House aide" was quoted as saying, "Frankly, I should be the fucking presi- I mean, I think Obama's exceptionally talented chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, might make a more effective leader.") You realise I'm the one who can fire you, right, not vice versa? I know you're the better headbutter. But I can ask the Secret Service to escort you from the premises. You have been



PRESIDENT Obama checking on his BlackBerry phone

warned. BHO

**To: All White House Staff**  
**Subject: Noise issues**

All: I know that many of you, like me, have found it hard to concentrate on work because of a persistent, rumbling, human-like noise – "like a cackling", as someone described it. It started around the time of the press leaks suggesting I might back down on my plan

to give the 9/11 mastermind a civilian trial in New York, reverting to a Cheney-style military tribunal. It's been getting louder (and "more triumphalist", as Axelrod put it, jamming his fingers in his ears) ever since. Well, acoustic engineers have traced it to some sort of sprawling secret compound in Wyoming that, weirdly, doesn't appear on Google Earth (!) – we're investigating further,

but meanwhile, industrial-style earplugs and noise-cancelling headphones are available from the facilities office. Patience, everyone. Barack

PS. The other sound – that distressed wail, almost like a keening – we know about. That's my liberal base. We're going to have to get used to that one, I'm afraid.

*Culled from guardian.co.uk*

## Miss me yet? George Bush advertising board stirs US public debate



A billboard along Interstate 35, in Wyoming, Minnesota which shows an image of former US President George W. Bush

**A** billboard with a picture of former President George W. Bush and a caption asking "Miss

me yet?" that mysteriously appeared at an American roadside has stirred public debate in the US. The sign, which was first dismissed as an internet hoax,

occupies a prominent spot by the I-35 motorway in Wyoming, Minnesota.

The sign was erected early last month and since then specula-

tion has been mounting as to its provenance.

Both right and left-wing internet sites have been posting photographs of it – initially

unsure whether it was a criticism or backing of President Obama.

But since then the firm that owns the advertising site, Schubert and Hoey, have revealed it was "paid for by a group of small businesses who feel like Washington is against them and want to remain anonymous".

The stunt, which apparently hoped to capitalise on Obama's growing unpopularity, has been the subject of media debate for the past month and the image has been viewed hundreds of millions of times.

On Tuesday the New York Times used it to illustrate a comment piece arguing that "more people miss him than don't".

National Public Radio was forced to prevent its website users from leaving "comments" about the poster, citing "personal attacks and name-calling".

# labour report

## NDE collaborates with Senator Mamora to train 102 youths

By Francis Okeke

THE National Directorate of Employment (NDE) and Senator Olorunnimbe Mamora representing Lagos-East senatorial zone recently trained 102 unemployed youths in six vocational trades. Out of the beneficiaries, 58 were resettled to go into immediate self-employment as entrepreneurs.

## 'Fate of 4400 NITEL workers on the balance'

By Francis Okeke

PRESIDENT of the National Union of Post and Telecommunications Employees (NUPTE) Mr. Sunday Alhassan yesterday warned that the suffering being experienced by staff of NITEL may increase following uncertainties surrounding the sale of the company.

Alhassan urged the Federal Government not to allow the indefinite suspension of the erstwhile Director General of the Bureau for Public Enterprises (BPE) Dr. Christopher Anyanwu to affect the smooth conclusion of the sale that saw the emergence of New Generations Telecommunication Consortium as preferred bidder.

He said that the union had met the Minister of State for Information and Communications Mr. Ikra Aliyu Bilbis before Anyanwu's suspension and he assured them that workers 22 months unpaid salaries would be paid when the transaction is concluded.

"The Minister of State had actually assured us that they would do all they can to make sure that workers entitlements are settled from the proceeds of this money that is going to be paid.

"He also made us understand that he is going to organise a meeting between the unions, the ministry and the core investors so that we could interact and get to know ourselves and when the takeover eventually kicks off, we are going to have a very good relationship as far as the welfare of the workers are concerned." The union leader urged his members to be "patient because we are doing all that is within our powers and the government's disposition to this whole process to our own understanding so far, to some extent is a sincere approach because if they were not interested in doing what will benefit the workers, they would not have invited us in the first place because what we saw in 2008 was summons to meetings and them briefing us about their decision.

"But in this case, the government had invited us to interact with us to get our views as to how we want the process to be executed."

## TUC holds delegates conference

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Trade Union Congress has concluded plans to hold its 8th triennial National Delegate Conference on 18th and 19th of March 2010 at the Oba Akenzua Cultural Centre, Benin City, Edo State.

They will use the conference to elect new national officers to run the affairs of the congress in the next three years, according to a statement from the congress.

Already affiliates of the congress have commenced full scale preparations to present formidable candidates to vie for the various offices.

Offices to be contested for at the conference include that of the president-general, deputy president generals, national treasurer and financial secretary. Others are social / publicity secretary and trustees and two positions for auditors.

The event which will be graced by personalities from within and outside the country has as its theme; Nigeria at 50; Issues and Challenges, and will be declared open by the Acting President Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, while the Edo State Governor Adams Oshiomole is the chief host.



DIRECTOR-GENERAL of the National Directorate of Employment NDE, Malam Abubakar Mohammed (right) and Senator Olorunnimbe Mamora (left) with one of the beneficiaries who received equipment at a ceremony to mark the graduation of the trainees in Lagos recently.

## RATTAWU lauds FG on new salary scale for journalists

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

CHAIRMAN of Kwara State Chapter of the Radio, Television, Theatre and Arts workers Union (RATTAWU) Comrade Gesua Abdulyekini said Federal Government's efforts to prioritize the welfare of civil servants in the country is a welcome one.

Abdulyekini, who gave the commendation following government's constitution of a committee on new salary structure for media workers headed

by Broadcasting Organisation of Nigeria (BON) Chairman Malam Abubakar Jijiwa appreciated the effort of the Minister of Information Prof. Dora Akunyili in facilitating the move that will ensure a better living for the media workers.

Gesua said there is no better way to motivate media workers for optimum and efficient performance than to improve their standard of living. He also urged the Federal Government to let the new salary structure go down to the state level immediately.

## Lagos chamber of commerce advises employers

Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

EMPLOYERS of labour in the country have been advised to look beyond money compensation if they hope to get the best out of their workers.

Others issues they should consider include career planning, training and development, performance management and staff well-being.

Managing Director of SENCE, Mrs. Ogo Ibok, gave the advice at a meeting of the Lagos Chamber

of Commerce and Industry (LCCL) Professional Practice Group (PPG) recently. Ibok is a member of the Chamber.

Mrs. Ibok, who spoke on the topic "Human Resource Management in Professional Firms", said that finding the right persons is difficult in an environment like ours with prevailing falling educational standards and severe skills shortage.

"This calls for innovation and general re-think of what is needed in a staff," she submitted.

# ENVIRONMENT

environment@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

## NESREA educates students on sanitation

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency, (NESREA) has taken its environmental awareness campaign to various primary and secondary schools within the Federal Capital Territory.

Deputy Director, Environmental Education Awareness, Mrs. Florence Otti said the students were chosen as the focal point of the campaign in a bid to catch them young by teaching them the need for clean environment.

Mrs Otti who spoke through the Principal Community Development Officer, Helen Ojiji told the children at the various schools visited by the Agency, to always dispose waste properly and avoid littering their environment. She said, "If you live in a clean environment, you will live healthy, but if your environment is dirty, you will fall sick. Everywhere is your environment. Don't drop anything on the floor even if it is at home, in school, in church or mosques."

NESREA's awareness campaign in schools is in collaboration with a non-governmental agency, Association for

Waste Recovery and Renewable Energy (AWARRE).

Also addressing the pupils, President of AWARRE, Princess Ezeuzo urged the pupils to teach other people at home or in school the importance of clean environment.

The students were also encouraged to set up environmental clubs in their various schools as a tool for spreading the message on clean environment.

Schools visited by NESREA include Model Primary School Kubwa III, LEA Primary School Kubwa I, and Junior Secondary School Gosa.

PHOTO: AP

## Insurers to take courses on climate change

MR Fatai Lawal, a member of the Governing Council of the Chartered Insurance Institute of Nigeria (CIIN), says the Institute will soon arrange courses on climate change for insurance practitioners.

Lawal said in Lagos on Tuesday that global warming which caused increases in sea level and flooding was one of the effects of climate change.

He said that such climatic calamities meant that insurance claims and premium would rise; adding that the development would also have an impact on insurance operations in Nigeria.

Lawal, who is also the Chairman of the Academic Board of the College of Insurance, said insurance covers in Nigeria did not involve natural disasters.

He, however, said that the cover could be extended to embrace natural catastrophes if additional premium was paid.

He said that although Nigeria was not within zones prone to such climatic disasters, the CIIN would, nonetheless, organise the courses to ensure that practitioners were up-to-date on global climate change issues.

Lawal said that the impact of most natural disasters was unimaginable and wondered how many insurance companies would be able to pay such claims.

He, however, said that for marketing purposes, it was advisable to avoid such areas because there must be tangible proof before insurance claims' payment were made.

He noted that an insurance company was not likely to pay for vehicles damaged during riots, fire outbreaks or flooding except the motor insurance policy was extended to cover such areas. (NAN)



A tree that fell on parked cars during the snow storm in Barcelona

## Barcelona hit with heaviest snowfall in 25 years

SCHOOLS were closed, roads were blocked and power was knocked as Barcelona was hit with its heaviest snowfall in 25 years.

Snowfalls of up to 50 centimetres (20 inches) were forecast for the worst affected areas of the region of Catalonia, prompting the regional government to cancel classes for more than 142,000 students at 476 public schools.

Power was lost in homes throughout the region, with energy company Fecsa-Endesa reporting 200,000 clients without electricity, mostly in the province of Girona.

Emergency services workers helped evacuate some 500 passengers who became trapped on trains traveling between Barcelona and Portbou, on the French border, which became stuck due to the lack of power, said regional interior minister Joan Boada.

Thousands of commuters were left scrambling for an alternative way to get home after the blizzard forced the suspension of bus services in Barcelona and the closure of five suburban train lines in the Mediterranean port city.

Barcelona city hall ordered the metro sys-

tem to stay open all night to help people move around the city.

Traffic on over 60 roads in Catalonia was either prohibited or restricted. Spain's border with France at La Jonquera was closed because of the snow, leaving some 4,000 trucks stranded, public television TVE reported.

While Barcelona's El Prat airport was operating normally, 21 flights out of the airport in nearby Girona were cancelled and nine others were diverted to other cities due to the snow and strong winds, airport officials said.

## Windstorm displaces houses in C/River

WINDSTORM wreaked havoc in some communities at Iko Asai in Akamkpa and Ekori in Yakurr Local Government Areas of Cross River state, displacing over 3,000 families and destroying 300.

The storm was so heavy that many houses were shaken to their foundations while trees including economic trees were either pulled down or cut off from their stems. Most of the economic trees affected are coconut, palm, pears, banana and plantain.

Many of the victims, particularly women and children, are exposed to harsh weather as they are presently sheltered in makeshift

rooms and huts. Further checks showed that public and private schools were also seriously affected, forcing students and pupils to study in un-conducive environments; disrupting teaching and learning process while some private schools have been forced to close down.

Carrying out an assessment of the disaster, the Director-General, State Emergency Management Agency, Mr. Vincent Aquah, MON lamented the spate of windstorm disasters in recent times in the State which has destroyed property worth millions of Naira. This he

attributed to the phenomenon of global warming.

A visually challenged man, (60yrs) Chief Moses Ekpe whose home was substantially destroyed said that when the roof of his house was suddenly uncapped with a loud bang he was in a confused state under the rains in his bedroom not knowing where to go to or what to do.

Other victims who spoke with our correspondent appealed to the State and the Federal Governments to promptly relief them with building materials to enable them rehabilitate their houses.



Prince DR. Vincent Eze Ogbulafor,  
OFR, KSS, KSG

## Congratulations

On behalf of myself, the Government and the good people of Bauchi state, I wish to congratulate our National Chairman of the largest political party in Africa, the PDP, Prince DR. Vincent Eze Ogbulafor, **OFR, KSS, KSG** on the conferment on him of a **Doctorate of Philosophy Degree in Management Technology** by the **Federal University of Technology, Owerri** for his laudable contributions to the political development of Nigeria and Africa.

My dear Chairman Sir, your visionary leadership has given our great party, the PDP a renewed assurance of a brighter future. The conferment is a testimony to your sterling leadership qualities. Bauchi is proud to be associated with your leadership.



Signed

His Excellency, the Executive Governor,  
**Mallam DR. Yisa Yuguda**  
Matawallen Bauchi.

## Environment



environment@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

# Copenhagen Accord: What future for the climate?

By Alex Abutu

AS the dust settles after what appeared to be a failed climate change convention in Copenhagen, leaders, delegates and experts have gone back to the drawing board to look at what went wrong and how to avert such in the future.

The convention was acknowledged as one of the largest gathering of renowned scientists, bureaucrats, climatologists and heads of governments yet it has the singular aim of deliberating on the threat of climate change on the world.

True to its billing and rating, the Copenhagen conference which is the 15th edition of all parties to the Kyoto protocol attracted over 50,000 delegates including observers, journalists, NGOs and about 130 Presidents and Heads of government.

The attendance at the conference was unprecedented as it surpasses the record of attendance ever witnessed in the history of the COP.

The Copenhagen conference for many reasons was expected to act as the catalyst through which an all embracing treaty with legally binding framework and spelled out commitment was to be agreed in the global efforts to cut emission of greenhouse gases.

This is as a result of the overwhelming scientific evidence of the destructive impact of climate change which has put the global economy under threat and long-

term prosperity, as well as the survival of the most vulnerable populations.

Copenhagen, therefore was to bring to fruition, the Bali road map, meaning that all political agreements arrived at the 13th edition of the COP in Bali was to be transformed into legally binding agreements that all parties including the USA were expected to commit to.

The Bali road map articulated in 2007 had provisions for a robust financial mechanism that would enable developing countries already bearing the impact of climate change have unhindered access to finance for adaptation and mitigation purposes.

Copenhagen was also to be that conference of parties where the USA was expected to take her leadership role in global efforts to reduce GHG emission as she was expected as one of the world leading emitter to join other countries in fashioning out a new protocol that would replace the Kyoto protocol whose first phase was to wind-up by 2012.

The Kyoto protocol till date was adjudged a partial failure due to the pulling out of the USA, hence all efforts was made to get the USA on board any treaty or protocol that may emerge from Copenhagen.

But the conference going by the momentum and pre-conference activities generated that rise global hope of a new and enduring

treaty to tackle the menace of climate change according to observers was a complete failure.

The coalition of NGOs that attended the conference described it as a gathering where leaders came, saw and did nothing.

"There came at the expense of the tax payer, saw nations being wiped away yet they did nothing," says one of the banner at the entrance of the Bella Centre, venue of the conference.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

addressing the largest global climate protest which attracted over 300,000 protestors from across the globe on the street of Copenhagen said: "The failure of the political process in Copenhagen to achieve a fair, adequate and binding deal on climate change is profoundly distressing. Our leaders must regroup, learn and make good their failure for the sake of humanity's failure."

Mike Peace, Chair of the Climate Justice Network in his

assessment of the conference said global hope of addressing the menace of climate change was lost to ego, selfish, political, economic interest of the developed countries.

"The conference was a gross failure, leaving developing countries without any hope of how to contain the ravaging impact climate change," said Hammer Johnson of the Global Climate Order.

Alex Abutu is a fellow of the UNFCCC media group



A man walks under an umbrella during heavy snowfall in Barcelona

## One in three say climate change is exaggerated

THE British public is becoming increasingly skeptical about the threat of climate change, it emerged last night.

Months of questions over flaws in climate change science and a lack of government action

have led to a sharp decline in the number of British adults who believe it is a problem.

The proportion of people, questioned in a survey by Ipsos Mori, who believe climate change is 'definitely' a reality,

has dropped from 44 per cent to 31 per cent in the last year.

The poll of 1,000 people also found a significant drop in those who said climate change was caused by human activities. Last year, one in three people

believed it was caused by people. Now just one in five hold this conviction.

Coupled with higher prices, for energy and other goods, this decrease will make it harder to persuade the public to support

action to curb the problem.

Edward Langley, Ipsos Mori's head of environment research, said the results suggest that it will be harder to get individuals to reduce their carbon emissions.

## Climate change index insurance for farmers

By Ngodoo Akuto

THE Copenhagen Accord puts the issue of climate change adaptation



NGODOO Akuto

centre stage. For Nigeria this is important. The linkage between adapting to climate change and tackling growing poverty in Nigeria is particularly strong. Today, climate change is perhaps one of the greatest barriers to achieving the MDGs. Disaster risk assessment, management, reduction and sharing are strong components of the framework for adaptation agreed upon in Copenhagen. A climate-based insurance tool will provide poor farmers and other vulnerable groups with measures to cope with climate variability and change. Insurance could help the poor deal with the risks they face on daily basis.

Unfortunately, only a

relatively small percentage of the richest in the world have access to insurance schemes. The world's poor have been left out of this form of protection, even though they are the most in need of it. Droughts, floods and hurricanes that are exacerbated by climate change often strip whole communities of their resources and belongings.

For instance, banks are unlikely to lend to farmers because drought and flooding can cause widespread defaults. Index insurance on the other hand, can resolve a number of problems that make traditional insurance unworkable in rural parts of developing countries. Unlike micro insurance where payouts are based on indemnity or losses, index insurance is an attractive alternative for managing

climate risk because it uses a weather index, such as rainfall, to determine payouts.

With index insurance contracts, an insurance company doesn't need to visit the policy holder to determine premiums or assess damages. Instead, if the rainfall recorded by gauges is below an earlier, agreed-upon threshold, the insurance pays out. Such a system significantly lowers transaction costs and allows these policy holders to apply for bank loans and other types of credit previously unavailable to them.

Unlike micro finance which has grown in the past few years, micro insurance or index insurance has yet to take root in Nigeria. The country needs to urgently put together concrete

disaster risk reduction and insurance related strategies in a three year work plan to harness the window of opportunities provided in the Copenhagen Accord on adaptation. Nigeria must begin to put in place policies and measures to create an enabling environment for index insurance to take off. Good international best practices have already been established in countries like Malawi, Ethiopia, India, Mexico and the Caribbean. Index Insurance is one measure that could help farmers adapt to climate change.

International Centre for Energy, Environment & Development  
ngodoo@icednigeria.org

## CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513  
email: citynews@dailytrust.com

# Driver in court over policeman, AEPB official's death

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A driver, Muhammed Ali, was yesterday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly causing the death of a policeman and an official of the Abuja Environmental Protection Board through wrong parking of his vehicle on February 24.

Prosecutor Silas Nanpan told the court that the accused person parked his tipper vehicle with registration number

XX 946 ABJ in a wrong manner along Nyanya -Mararaba highway by Phase II Primary School Nyanya.

According to him, a policeman, Muhammed Usman, who had one Abdullahi Chado as a passenger on his Jincheng motorcycle, rode into the stationary vehicle and as a result both of them died on the spot.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail.

Chief Magistrate Ahmed

Shuaib ordered that the accused be remanded in police custody and adjourned the case to March 17 for further hearing.

In another case, a driver was also remanded in police custody over an offence of dangerous driving, which led to the death of one Emmanuel Akaaza of Ado village, Nasarawa State on February 4.

Prosecutor Silas Nanpan told the court that the accused drove a Peugeot pickup van

with registration number XB 326 ABJ in a dangerous manner along Nyanya-Mararaba highway and on reaching Nyanya check point hit a pedestrian, who died on the spot.

The accused pleaded not guilty after listening to the charges and Chief Magistrate Ahmed Shuaib ordered that he be remanded in police custody pending when formal application is made for his bail.

The case was adjourned to March 17 for further hearing.

## Car importer jailed for cheating

By Usman A. Bello & Bunmi Omolehin

AN Abuja magistrate court yesterday sentenced a 30 year old car importer, Saidu Olaten, to six months imprisonment for cheating one Suleiman Talba of N600,000.

Police prosecutor, Patrick Obeta, told the court that Suleiman reported to the police that sometimes in April 2009, the accused collected the sum of N600,000 from him under the pretext that he would import a Honda Accord car (89 model) for him.

"The accused converted the money to his own use without bringing the car for the complainant and committed offences punishable under Section 312 and 322 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charges were read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and begged for leniency, saying the money is with one of his agent in Contonou.

After the plea, the prosecutor asked the court to try the accused summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) and Magistrate Folas-hade Oyekan sentenced the accused to six months imprisonment or an option of refunding the N600,000 to the complainant.

"If the accused serves the six months sentence, he should pay N600,000 as compensation to the complainant after serving the jail term," the magistrate ordered.

## Man accused of trespassing into party

By Hussein Yahaha & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A man was on Tuesday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly trespassing into a party venue and parading himself as a security guard.

The man, John Obinna of Hilltop, Off Alkali Crescent, Aso villa, Abuja, was arrested at Transcorp Hilton, venue of a party organised by the National Defence College.

Prosecutor Monday Akor told the court that on March 3, 2010, one Solomon Sarki of Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja told the police that the accused trespassed into a dinner party and impersonated as a security officer attached to Aso Villa.

"During police investigations, the accused claimed he was a security officer attached to Aso Villa but had no evidence to show that he was invited to the dinner," the prosecutor added.

He also stated that the accused could not prove his identity as a security guard attached to Aso Villa, adding that the accused thereby committed offences punishable under Sections 348 and 132 of the Penal Code Law.

When the two-count charge was read to the accused, he denied them and requested for bail.

In her ruling, Magistrate Omolola Oladipo granted the accused bail in the sum of N100,000 with two reliable sureties in like sums, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction.

The magistrate also ruled that one of the sureties must be a civil servant of any grade level while both sureties must swear to affidavits to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.



PIC: OGECHI OHALEE

MOTORCYCLES seized by officials of the DRTS for flouting FCTA's ban at Mabushi yesterday.

## Man jailed six months for burning batcher

By Usman A. Bello

A middle-aged man was on Tuesday sentenced to six months imprisonment by an Abuja magistrate court for mischief and escaping from lawful custody, offences contrary to Sections 336 and 172 of the Penal Code Law.

The accused, Timothy Samuel was jailed for setting ablaze a batcher belonging to one Yusuf Gambochi on March 3.

Police prosecutor, Francis Tanko, had earlier told the court that Yusuf reported to the police that the accused set fire to his batcher at Wuse Zone 3, adding that his late father's retirement

document got burnt as a result of the fire.

The prosecutor stated further that when the accused was brought to the police station, he absconded from detention before he was later re-arrested.

When the charges were read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and appealed to the court that he was not in his right senses when he carried out the act, adding that he has a wife and little baby to cater for.

The prosecutor urged the court to try the accused summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) and Magistrate Fatima U. Murktar sentenced him to

six months imprisonment or an option of N2,000 fine in the alternative.

In another case, a 20-year-old woman, Blessing Daniel, was yesterday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly stealing a hand bag belonging to Olakumbi Omisakin.

Police prosecutor, Adamu Abdullahi, told the court that the offence was committed on March 8 at Sky Memorial Complex, Wuse, Zone 5, Abuja.

He said Olakumbi reported to the police that she left her bag containing a HP laptop and other valuable documents in custody of the accused who

works in a business centre in the place for safe keeping but the accused dishonestly misplaced the bag and its contents.

"The accused committed an offence punishable under Section 288 of the Penal Code Law.

The accused denied the charges when they were read to him and requested for bail, which was not objected to by the prosecutor.

Magistrate Fatima U. Murktar granted him bail in the sum of N100,000 with a surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction with a fixed address.

The case was adjourned to March 14 for hearing.



**BAUCHI STATE GOVERNMENT**

**STATE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD (SUBEB)**

AJIYA ADAMU ROAD, NEAR AWALAH HOTEL ROUND ABOUT

P.M.B 0109 BAUCHI.

**INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION TO TENDER FOR THE DRILLING OF HAND PUMP FIITED BOREHOLES AND CONSTRUCTION OF VIP TOILETS UNDER UBE 2009 PROJECT.**

Republic Contractors are hereby invited by the Bauchi State Universal Basic Education Board to bid in the following projects:

- A Drilling of Hand fitted Boreholes
  - B Constructions of VIP Toilets (4 Pits)
- 2 To qualify for the bidding, the following documents are required.
- (i) Certificate of Incorporation of Company with the Corporate Affairs Commission.
  - (ii) Evidence of registration as a Contractor with the Bauchi State Government
  - (iii) Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three (3) years.
  - (iv) Evidence of Financial strength of the Company.
  - (v) Professional qualification of key personal of the company.
  - (vi) availability of plants and equipments to execute the works.
- 3 Pre-qualification document should sealed and marked CONFIDENTIAL and addressed to the Executive Chairman, Bauchi State Universal Basic Board, Ajiya Adamu Road, Near Awalah Hotel Round about. P.M.B. 0109. Bauchi, Bauchi State.
- 4 This is only an invitation for pre-qualification and not for tender and is valid for two (2) weeks from the date of this publication.
- 5 Only successful contractors will be contracted for tender after screening. Please.

**Signed**  
**KABIR ALI KOBI**  
 Public Relations officer  
 For: EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

**FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL)**

GUSAU P.M.B 1088 GUSAU, ZAMFARA STATE

**INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR EDUCATION TRUST FUND [ETF] INTERVENTION PROJECT YEAR 2008 and 2009 MERGED**

Applications are hereby invited from suitable and interested contractors with relevant experience and good track record for pre-qualification tender.

**PROJECT:** Construction of School of Technical Education Complex.

**PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

- i] Evidence of registration of Company with the Corporate Affairs Commission.
- ii] Evidence of professional qualification of key staff.
- iii] Evidence of similar projects completed within the past three years.
- iv] Tax clearance certificate for the last three [3] years.
- v] Evidence of VAT registration and remittance in the last three years.
- vi] Audited account for the past three [3] years.
- vii] Letter of attestation from the Bank to confirm the financial strength and willingness to support the company financially to execute the project.
- viii] Additional relevant information including GSM number.

Pre-qualification documents are obtainable at the office of the Registrar Federal College of Education [Technical] Gusau, Zamfara State.

**SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS.**

- i] The pre-qualification documents must be sealed and returned to the office of the Registrar not later than 2 weeks from the date of this publication.

The College reserves the right to reject any or all pre-qualification submission and or discontinue the tendering process at any time. Nothing in this advert shall be constructed to be a commitment on the part of the College nor shall it entitle any potential tenderer to make any claims whatsoever and or seek an indemnity from the College on account of responding to this advert. The College shall not go into correspondence with non pre-qualified contractors in any form.

**OPENING OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS**

Pre-qualification documents will be opened at 12:00 noon on Thursday, 25 March, 2010 and tenderers and general public are hereby invited.

Names of pre-qualified Contractors will be published on the Notice board of the College.

**TENDER DOCUMENTS**

Only contractors who have satisfied pre-qualification conditions above may be allowed to tender on payment of a non refundable fee of Twenty Thousand Naira [N20, 000] in bank draft payable to FCE[T] Gusau.

Tender documents, which must be completed and returned within one week, are obtainable at the office of the Director of Works upon presentation of evidence of payment.

**Signed:**  
**Registrar**

## Technician charged with assaulting woman

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 28-year-old technician was recently arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly assaulting one Adedokun Ololade of the National Assembly Police Division, Abuja.

Omopaniola Femi, who resides in Nasarawa State, was accused of assaulting Adedokun without any provocation.

Prosecutor Isenyo Adoche told the court that on March 2, the accused went into the administrative office of the National Assembly Police Division, assaulted the lady and in the process pushed her as well as damaged her cell phone valued at N33,000.

The prosecutor said the offence committed is punishable under Section 255 of the Penal Code law.

When the one-count charge was read to the accused, he denied assaulting the woman and requested for bail.

Magistrate Omolola Oladipo granted the accused bail in the sum of N50,000 with a reasonable surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction.

The case was adjourned to April 12 for hearing.

# Jisalo to declare Reps intention April

By Ogechi Ohalee

CHAIRMAN of the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) Zaphaniah Bitrus Jisalo will in April declare his intention to contest for a seat in the Federal House of Representatives.

This was disclosed by the AMAC's chairman Chief Press Secretary, Mr Ephraim Audu, who said residents of the coun-

cil area have been calling on the chairman to continue with his public service by representing them in the national level.

According to the press secretary, Jisalo will openly declare his interest after April 10th of this year, adding that his tenure constitutionally ends on that date.

"After his tenure, he will then articulate himself to know the next line of action even though

interest groups and individuals are interested to see him in the National Assembly to represent the interest of his people as they elected him twice as AMAC chairman," the secretary disclosed.

He said the council chairman established 30 new primary schools since 2004 and awarded scholarships to students of indigent communities worth two

million naira yearly.

"Other achievements were the establishment of several comprehensive health centres in seven communities, upgrading of 17 primary health centres, recruitment of doctors as well as nurses for various health centres.

He debunked rumours that the council chairman has made his political intentions known.

## Bizman in court over cheating

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

THE police Thursday arraigned a 48-year-old businessman before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly conniving with three others to defraud one Samuel Ikwunre of N76,000.

Timothy Olukpata of Angwa Cement, Karmo road, Abuja, was accused of committing the offence along with three other persons, who are at large.

Prosecutor Mustapha Mohamed told the court that on February 23, one Samuel Ikwunre informed the police that while he was at Julius Berger junction, the accused and his three accomplices took him to Angwa Cement, where he was duped of the sum of N76,000.

The prosecutor said the accused committed offences punishable under Sections 79 and 322 of the Penal Code Law.

When the two-count charge was read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail.

Magistrate Bashir Attahiru Alkali granted the accused bail in the sum of N50,000 with a reliable surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction and swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to March 23 for hearing.

## Drivers engage in battle over accident

By Usman A. Bello & Lami Sadiq

TWO drivers at the weekend engaged in a fight at Wuse Zone 6 Bus stop after their cars hit each other.

Our reporter, who witnessed the incident, noticed one of the drivers with blood stains all over his dress, holding the shirt of the other driver and shouting that he must repair his vehicle.

An eyewitness said trouble started when the driver of a Datsun Nissan car with registration number XE 921 KUJ hit a Mitsubishi bus with registration number XA 787 DAL by its side, as he was negotiating to enter the same lane with the bus.

He said the bus driver alighted from his vehicle to inquire from the car driver why he bashed his bus but the problem degenerated into an exchange of blows between the drivers and in the process the driver of the Nissan car head butted the bus driver and injured him on the forehead.

It took the intervention of traffic policemen in the area to control the situation and carry the injured driver to Wuse General Hospital.

## LCDA denounced activities of LCR

By Lami Sadiq

THE Lugbe Community Development Association (LCDA) has distanced itself from the activities of Lugbe Community Residents (LCR), who recently instituted a legal action against the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) over the planned demolition of the area.

A statement jointly signed by the Chairman LCDA, Prince M. Mustapha and others, said that the LCDA is the only approved

body by Lugbe Council of Chiefs and the umbrella body of property owners in Lugbe to speak on their behalf.

The statement states thus "The entire Lugbe community dissociate itself from the activities of the LCR and believes that their activities are not in the best interest of the community."

The LCDA called on Lugbe residents and the public not to transact any business with the group and thanked acting President, Goodluck Jonathan, for intervening in the planned demolition.

## Abuja group calls for stop to crisis

By Ogechi Ohalee

AN Abuja based Non-Governmental Organization, Swem Karagbe Club, has condemned the spate of wanton destruction of lives and property in the country, especially in Jos.

The group advised that a literate society would always resort to the veritable tools of dialogue during problem situation.

National President of the club, Architect Mlanga John Anyon, who spoke during the 14th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the club in Abuja, advised


club members to redouble their efforts in other to meet-up with the club's projections that consist of social visits to hospitals, prison yards, orphanages, special schools and rehabilitation centres in the Federal Capital Territory.

The club president urged members as well as all Nigerians to continue to pray for the speedy recovery of President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua so that he can continue the good works God sent him to do for Nigeria.

Architect Anyon also commended the Inde-

pendent National Electoral Commission for the recent governorship elections conducted in Anambra and said more needed to be done as there is room for improvement before 2011.

He said the NGO was created 14th years ago by a group of TIV indigenes staying in Abuja with the cardinal objectives of self sustainability, positive cultural preservation, social wellbeing and human capacity development in the face of global food crises and economic meltdown.



**MONEY TALKS**

More information at Free Seminar  
PRINCIPLES OF TRADER'S PROFESSION

**International currency market FOREX is a reliable and lucrative tool to increase capital.**

Alpari is a leader in providing training programs for FOREX trading. We know how to explain complicated things in a simple way in order to make Forex trading comprehensible for everyone. If you attend our introductory seminar you will learn what a trader's job is.

We adhere to a practical approach to giving our trainings and seminars. We are happy to share our knowledge and trading experience with you.

Sophisticated investment is a key to financial independence. One has to make a tremendous work to cultivate his abilities in order to get this independence. Knowledge, experience and work can open the door to success but you should keep in mind what risks are related to trading.

If you attend our seminar you will learn how to start FOREX trading and how to make money with minimum risk. You can increase your initial deposit several fold even if you start trading with a small amount of funds.

Free seminars: Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 10am-12pm.  
1st, 2nd & 3rd Saturday of every month, 11am-01pm.  
Training: Mondays-Thursdays (4 days) weekly, 12pm-4pm.  
Training Fees: N20,000

4th floor, 11A Allen Avenue (beside Mama Cass),  
Ikeja, Lagos Nigeria  
Tel.: +234 182 18274  
+234 803 4573593  
www.alpari-forex.com/en/nigeria/

alpari

# Inside Politics

## Makarfi/Sambo feud: Will the truce hold?

IN a much publicised peace meeting that was held at the Sir Kashim Ibrahim House, Kaduna State's seat of power, the Senator Ike Nwachukwu-led National Reconciliation Committee of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) had an apparently successful outing as Governor Namadi Sambo and Senator Ahmed Makarfi, former governor of the state, embraced each other to sign post the end of a running feud. The nagging question remains whether the cease fire will be respected.

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

IN Nigeria, the story is a familiar one, where an incumbent governor or president picks his successor, foists him on the party and electorate and the protégé coasts to victory. The godfather and godson, after the honeymoon, part ways, undermine each other and spill a lot of bad blood in the process. Somehow, the party intervenes and peace is brokered and the duo, for photo opportunities, hugs each other and mouth platitudes, promising to work together.

In Kaduna State, Governor Namadi Sambo and Senator Ahmed Makarfi, his immediate predecessor, played the script last week and the actors got a standing ovation. Using their supporters, the two men have been sniping at each other in a proxy war but last Saturday; they rode in the same car to Zangon Kataf. The duo, smiling and sharing jokes, sat next to each other at the Atyet-Atyap annual festival. Apparently, the frosty relationship has thawed and the antagonists are friends again.

Specifically, their relationship has come a long way and Makarfi, in the twilight of his tenure, conscripted Sambo to succeed him and against all odds, he pulled at all stops to succeed. On May 29, 2007, Sambo became governor of Kaduna State, and at first, they hit it off on a cordial note. However, as time went by, things started falling apart as Makarfi wanted to call the shots. The senator, according to reports, was given slots in the cabinet but the number didn't impress him. Makarfi, as it turned out, wanted juicy posts for his men and in particular, he angled for a ministerial position, especially for Alhaji Adamu Janfalan, the then Managing Director of Upper Niger River Basin. Young, dynamic and very able, Janfalan held key positions in the state agricultural project but politically, his nomination was fraught with danger. Specifically, he is a Hausa/Fulani Muslim from the northern senatorial district and his choice,

the governor argued, will alienate the southern zone. Sambo put his foot down, scouted round the south and nominated Felix Hassan Hyet to the federal cabinet, angering Makarfi.

Yet again, Makarfi wanted Alhaji Umar Sani, the Special Adviser on Media and Public Affairs, as well as Alhaji Hussaini Jallo to be sacked from Sambo's cabinet. However, rather than take action, Sambo demanded for explanation and Makarfi said they were not to be trusted. The governor was not convinced and the young men retained their portfolios. Sambo, in spite of this, still consulted Makarfi on party matters. In fact, according to reports, the governor asked for his input before changing party executives and flatly, Makarfi said he had no candidate but when the present exco emerged, he kicked against it. Particularly, Alhaji Yau Usman, Sain Jamaa and state chairman, didn't appeal to the former governor but Sambo, for the second time, stood by the choice. Makarfi, on the one hand, Malam Nasir El-Rufai, the former FCT minister and Mrs Nenadi Usman, ex minister of finance, on the other hand, are not on good terms and the former governor, according to reports, wanted Sambo to take sides with him but the governor declined. Instead, he volunteered to reconcile them but Makarfi demurred and took offence. Fourthly, the former governor wanted contract, a source alleged, to procure fertilizer for Kaduna State and Sambo promised to give him. However, instead of Makarfi, the governor gave another businessman and naturally, the senator took umbrage.

Significantly, at this point, the feud was just simmering but the Zaria water works blew the lid open. In 2009, in the appropriation bill, the federal government budgeted N3.3 billion for Zaria water works but the amount was spiked by the senate. Makarfi, as finance committee chairman, allegedly removed the project from the bill and Sambo, reaching out to the president,



GOVERNOR Namadi Sambo



SENATOR Ahmed Makarfi

got it back to the budget. Sambo, at this point, drew the battle line and his aides, all guns blazing, fired at Makarfi and his legacy, removed his nominees from office or reshuffled them out of relevance.

Expectedly, the Makarfi camp has its own story. The feud, according to a source, was a storm in a tea cup that Sambo's aides, political hangers and scavengers feed fat on. The senator and governor, he further said, have always been together but the hawks wanted to put them asunder. From 2007 till date, neither Makarfi nor his supporters have interfered with Sambo's administration, called for either Jallo or Umar Sani's sack, or sought for government's contracts. In 2009, projects like Gurara Dam and Zaria water works were not in the appropriation bill but Makarfi, Senator Caleb Zaggi and other legislators from Kaduna State, by lobbying their colleagues, included them in the budget. For this reason, according to him, it is wrong to accuse Makarfi of sabotaging the project.

Somehow, early last year, the storm receded when Makarfi, according to reports, reached out to Alhaji Tijani Hashim, Galadiman Kano and Sambo's business partner. The combatants, after the

peace meeting, laid down their arms but their foot soldiers kept exchanging fire. Eventually, calm was restored but mid last year, Makarfi's supporters, about 25 of them, petitioned PDP's national secretariat. The group, according to a source, comprised Alhaji Yaro Makama, former state chairman, Alhaji Bashir Zubairu, ex House speaker and Alhaji Ibrahim Yaro, a veteran of Kaduna politics, painted a doomsday scenario to the party top hats. In Kaduna state, the party is factionalised and in 2011, according to the petitioners, the in-fighting may cost it Kaduna State. Promptly, the national headquarters included it in the list of troubled states and the National Reconciliation Committee, without fanfare got cracking, travelling to states and shooting trouble.

The committee, led by Senator Ike Nwachukwu, a retired general, arrived Kaduna last Thursday, met with Makarfi and Sambo camps. On each side, ten members were selected for the parley and Ibrahim Yaro as well as Makama Rigachikun, all past chairmen, represented Makarfi's camp while Jallo, Umar Sani and Yau Usman, the current chairmen, were part of Sambo's delegation at the meeting. Initially,

the rendezvous kicked off on a rocky start as the Sambo group, according to a source, protested Rigachikun's presence. Rigachikun, they argued, is a member of the party's delegation and for this reason, he should be neutral. Similarly, the Makarfi group argued that as state chairman and part of Sambo's team, Yau shouldn't chair the meeting. Somehow, this difference was resolved and the meeting eventually held. The committee was given two weeks to reconcile the demands of both camps but Makarfi and Sambo, before the denouement, should always be seen together in public. The meeting, on this note, adjourned and the governor and senator, in public glare, embraced each other amidst ovation. On Saturday, in the same car, Makarfi and Sambo went to Zangon Kataf in the spirit of reconciliation.

However, in spite of the facade, the peace may not hold out as elements on both camps, for selfish reasons, will stoke the embers and the fire, as elections come close, will rekindle and this time with dire consequences for the party. According to a source, the peace process may be stalled because the party's intervention came very late. The Makarfi

camp, for over two years, has been in political Siberia and its cries, petitions and pleas for intervention were ignored. However, a government source contradicted the claim, listing the sports commissioner and his counterpart at the special duties as well as commissioner of NGOs as Makarfi's boys.

It is feared that the Makarfi group may present impossible conditions in order to stalemate the peace process. One source said they will demand the sack of Jallo and Umar Sani, the dissolution of the party's leadership and the recalling of all Makarfi elements that were kicked out of the cabinet. Significantly, the demand will be rejected by the Sambo camp and a stalemate will ensue to derail the peace process. Makarfi, in that event, will rally round the opposition, present a formidable candidate against Sambo in 2011.

However, this seems a tough act to follow because both AC and ANPP, the two main opposition parties, are virtually non-existent in Kaduna State. The rumps of both parties are believed to be laying in bed with PDP in an unholy alliance. So, heads or tails, the Sambo camp may have nothing to lose whether or not the peace holds out.

## Inside Politics

# Mega party will dilute clique around Buhari – Sen Abu

**SENATOR Abu Ibrahim** was the Katsina State gubernatorial candidate of ANPP in 2007. Recently, he led many members of the party in Katsina to the newly registered Congress for Progressive Change (CPC). In this interview with our correspondent in Katsina, he shed more light on certain issues including the disagreement over ownership of the former ANPP secretariat, now housing the CPC. Excerpts:-

From: Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

**Y**OUR recent movement from ANPP to CPC has caused some stir between you and some members of the ANPP leadership. Can you shed light on the issues?

Well, like I said, our decision was in line with the directives of our leader, Gen Muhammadu Buhari. He resigned and asked all his supporters to also leave the party [ANPP]. But as you can see even after we made the declaration, somebody came to deny it, saying it was only I the gubernatorial candidate of the ANPP in 2007 that left the party. He obviously did not care to check the facts. I'm sure he is now fully aware that out of the 27 members of the Katsina State exco, 24 have gone with us to the CPC. Out of 34 local government chairmen of the ANPP, 31 were also there when we made our declaration.

So it was obviously a decision of the whole. Surprisingly, when I returned from a trip, I saw a letter from the same person, claiming that the office we converted to CPC office was theirs. Unfortunately he was quite ignorant of the tenant-hip of the office; he forgot that when we were paying for the office, I insisted that they must put the name of Buhari Organization (TBO). In the letter, he said that we should stop using the office. How many years have we been contributing to pay for the office? So you can see the attitude of some members of the ANPP; they were not helping with anything but still think they can claim what has always been paid in the name of TBO. Now it is obviously that the ANPP in Katsina is dead, there is nobody except him in the party.

**A**nother concern expressed by people is that some very prominent ANPP

members in Katsina including Nura Khalil and the rest that ought to be with you during the declaration were not there. Does that not suggest a division amongst you?

No! No! No! Actually, the arrangement was a bit hasty. I would have loved it to be much bigger than what it was. But I take responsibility for the lapses which were as a result of the urgency with which we thought we should respond to Buhari's declaration. But still, anybody who did not resign from the party [ANPP] can say so publicly. You brought the issue of Nura Khalil; I believe that the man is no longer in ANPP because I never saw him attend any meetings while we were still there. Also, I never saw him contribute anything towards the running of the party after the elections. So he may be in ANPP somewhere not in Katsina.

**A**s someone close to Buhari, what is your take about people's perception of his problem having to do with those around him, who allegedly define friends and enemies for him?

You raised a question that I may not be the right person to answer, but definitely those who think they are with Buhari should think hard, I mean they should think of ways of promoting Buhari and not trying to promote themselves. My advice to them is that, Buhari needs people, so they don't need to scare people away from him, and yes, there are lots of accusations and outcries about those who call themselves members of TBO. The complaints are that some people around are causing problems for him and I believe now is the time for the General to take action himself. Definitely, I hear a lot of people complaining that these people are not being fair to him, because he may not even know what they are doing.



SENATOR Abu Ibrahim

**A**s someone close to him, what advice did you give him on the best way to handle such people?

I think everything will be taken care of now that we are coming together with other groups. As of now Buhari, Bafarawa, Atiku, Tinubu, Pat Utomi and the rest of them are still talking and I believe that with this, anything called TBO will be diluted. I am waiting to see a situation where party politics will take roots; internal democracy will come in, so that anybody who cannot reach out to the people himself will be left out even if he claims to be the son of Gen. Muhammad Buhari.

So I think we should be reasonably patient until the actual structure and integration of the mega arrangement come in place to dilute any small group that think they can control or manipulate Buhari.

**D**o you think the integration you are talking about can unsettle the ruling PDP?

You see, there is a report of sub-committees which are being considered and there was a meet-

sake of Nigeria.

**A**re you still interested in the gubernatorial contest in Katsina, if so, how will you structure the CPC that is just formed to face an already rooted PDP Katsina?

Quite frankly, I have not yet decided what position I am going to contest, or even to contest at all. You know you have to know the people who will make up this mega integration that is coming up before you form a decision.

On the issue of CPC, we are working on a stronger structure. Unknown to many people, we have been meeting with leadership of the AC and part of PDP. The three groups [CPC, PDP and AC] have even agreed at one stage to start going round the 34 local governments but we shelved the idea because of Yar'adua's sickness.

We have already agreed with a strong faction of PDP and AC leadership in Katsina and some ANPP leaders who agreed to come together with us and work. With this development I believe we will be able to confront the ruling PDP. PDP itself seems to be seriously dislocated in Katsina and I know there is no love lost between the faction loyal to Shema and the other one they call Abuja faction. At any rate, what has the government of Shema achieved in Katsina? All the expenditures are misapplied.

How can you build dual carriageway in Ingawa or Kankiya? This is needed where there is high traffic. Why should money be spent this way? But go to southern parts of Katsina and see what is obtained there. I went to a village called Tumburkai and I nearly shed tears. The same thing happened when I went to Guja village in Bakori. Nobody is spending money to build roads where they are needed. He is also building classrooms without teachers. It's pathetic that in most of our secondary schools there are no teachers but the governor is still awarding contracts to build classrooms. Many of the projects executed have no direct relevance to people's needs. So as far as I am concerned, I cannot see Shema winning election, in fact he did not win in 2007 anyway!

**PDP signs N11.5bn secretariat contract**

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) yesterday signed N11.5 billion contract for the construction of a new national secretariat of the party in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja.

PDP National Chairman, Prince Vincent Ogbulafor, signed the contractual document on behalf of the party while Mr Andre Guillou, Managing Director of BNL Engineering and Construction Limited signed for the contracting firm.

Before signing the contract, Ogbulafor said the complex, with a completion period of 126 weeks, will comprise 12 floors, with two floors for parking, adding that money for the project was raised through levies and contributions from party members.

He said the signing ceremony demonstrated the commitment of the party to institutionalize democracy in Nigeria and the project's completion would further strengthen the capacity of the PDP to discharge its role, adding that democracy thrives on strong institutions.

He thanked party leaders and especially Acting President Goodluck Jonathan who has been the Finance Committee Chairman and the Building Committee headed by Kaduna State Governor Namadi Sambo for their sacrifice to mobilize members to raise fund for the project.

While saying that "the PDP has scored another first being the only political party in this democratic dispensation to build a permanent National Secretariat", he charged the contractors to ensure that quality was assured.

In his remarks, the contracting firm's Managing Director Andre Guillou gave an assurance that the company would not disappoint in the execution of the projects according to the specifications.

Earlier, chairman of the Building Committee Architect Sambo pledged that his committee will do the supervision required on the project.

Members of the committee that attended yesterday's occasion were governors of Rivers, Kebbi and Bauchi states, representatives of the Senate President and Speaker; Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba and House Leader Tunde Akogun, Engr. Bernabas Gemade and Senator Stella Umoh among others.

# SPORT

**Hiddink named  
new Ivory  
Coast coach**

Page 55



# RISING STAR

## Alaba gets big breakthrough

ANOTHER Nigerian-born youngster is in the news in Germany, as David Olatokunbo Alaba suddenly emerges the next prodigy from Bavarian giants, Bayern Munich.

With Alaba getting into the starting line-up for Bayern's UEFA Champions League match against Fiorentina on Tuesday night, the lad with a Philippines mother and Nigerian father enters the club's folklore as their youngest player ever in the history of Europe's elite club competition.

In the same vein, Alaba is already the youngest Bayern player to ever feature in the German Bundesliga, just 17 years and 8 months-plus old, ahead of Ger-



DAVID Olatokunbo Alaba has emerged the next Nigerian football prodigy after playing a part in Bayern Munich's outstanding performance against Fiorentina in the UEFA Champions League on Tuesday.

**“ I had an offer from the Philippines to play for their national team but Nigeria never contacted me.**

many's Korea 2007 U-17 World Cup skipper, Toni Kroos.

Alaba is also being considered for regular playing time with the German giants, but has been deployed as left-wing-back for the while, which is not his natural position, but was compelled to play against Fiorentina as the club's regular for the role, Contendo is injured.

Dramatically, the youngster will never get to play for Germany or Nigeria, not even his mother's country, Philippines, as he returned to the nation of his birth,

Austria to launch his international career.

Alaba said he never thought about playing for Germany, but Super Eagles had been invited.

“Germany has never been an option for me anyway. I have only little relation to Germany. I had an offer from the Philippines to play for their national team but Nigeria never contacted me,” Alaba stated.

The 17-year-old central mid-

fielder has already made his record-breaking debut with the Austrian national team, practice with the professional squad of Austrian players to move to English giants Arsenal in the future.

David Olatokunbo Alaba was born on June 24, 1992 in Vienna, Austria, to Nigerian father George and Filipino mother, Gina. His father earns his salary as musician and rapper.

His mother was named Miss

Philippines in the 1980s and is a nurse. David Alaba started his football club playing days at 9 years old in the youth ranks of Bayern, but Austria Vienna picked up early on his talent and brought him into their youth academy.

Alaba rose quickly in Vienna's youth ranks, playing for their U-17s as a 14-year-old. As a 15-year-old he played with the U-19s and in April 2008 he was on the bench with the Austria Vienna

professional club.

In summer 2008 German giants Bayern Munich brought him to their academy. He played for the U-19s in 2008-09 and he started the 2009-10 season with Bayern's amateur team in the third league.

Alaba is considered a confident, grounded and intelligent young man. He helps to coach the Bayern U-11 team and also works as a helper at a school for handicapped.

## NPL begs Nnaji to withdraw court case

By David Ngobua

THE board of the Nigeria Premier League, NPL, has asked one of its members, Barrister Ray Nnaji, to consider the interest of the League and withdraw the court case he instituted against the NPL over elections into the board.

Moments after he was disqualified from re-contesting election into the board, a member of the out-going board and former commissioner for sports in Enugu State, Nnaji headed to the

federal High Court Enugu where he was granted an injunction to stop the NPL elections from taking place.

Nnaji, who bought forms to contest the election but failed to get the nomination of his home club Rangers, sought the injunction to declare the Nigeria Premier League as an 'illegal body'.

Arising from its sitting yesterday in Abuja, the League board pleaded with the aggrieved board member to withdraw the suit and consider the use of Alterna-

tive Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism to settle the matter once and for all.

“In the interest of the league family, the Board appealed to Barr. Ray A. Nnaji to withdraw the suit instituted against the Nigeria Premier League and also resort to use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism to resolve the matter once and for all”.

In his reaction, Nnaji told Trustsports that in as much as no problem is beyond solution, he won't withdraw the case until all

contentious issues are resolved.

He said he is still discussing with the board and it will be foolish of him to withdraw the case today and then head back to court again the next moment.

“There is no problem that is beyond solution. I was part of the meeting but I can not just withdraw the case without first resolving all issues. I am a serious minded person and would not like a situation where by I will withdraw the case today and still head back to court tomorrow”.

Nnaji maintained that once he is convinced that the body is ready to do the right things, he would not hesitate to withdraw the court case because he does not derive any personal joy or satisfaction by stopping the election from taking place.

“I believe in justice and I always want the right things to be done. If they want me to withdraw the case, they must be ready to address all the issues I have raised. We are still discussing and I don't want to talk much on this”.



# 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, Members of the State Executive Councils in the North – East 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 – East Zone.

Date: Friday, March 12, 2010  
Venue: International Hotel, Maiduguri  
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 consumer goods. The purpose is to build a strong economy that will contribute effectively towards achieving Mr. President's 7-point Agenda and vision 20-2020.

3. You are all cordially invited



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

**DR. A.K. Muhammad**  
Permanent Secretary  
ANNOUNCER

## NOTICE! NOTICE!! NOTICE!!!

### NOTICE OF SALE OF IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY

**MESSRS. UNITY BANK PLC.** of No. 72B Murtala Mohammed way, Kano (No. 589 Herbert Macaulay way, CBD, Abuja) vested with power of sale pursuant to deed of legal mortgage duly stamped and registered offer for immediate sale the under listed property belonging to **ALH. LABARAN NUHU** in order to recover the bank's exposure to **BILBAY & CO. LTD.**

1. All that property situated at No. 366, Sani Mainagge Quarters in the city District of the Municipal Administrative Area of Kano state covered by Certificate of Occupancy No. LKN/RES/RC/86/70.
2. Auction will take place at the site  
Date: 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2010  
Time: 12:00 noon

The auction is to the highest bidder and is absolutely at the discretion of the bank.

3. Any suitable offer for purchase by private treaty may be considered by the bank provided is in writing communicated to the bank or its solicitors, **Messrs. Abubakar D. Sani & CO.**, of No. 12/14 Beirut Road, Kano.

Telephone No. 08034533892  
Yours faithfully

Signed  
**PP: Abubakar D. Sani & CO.**



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

United Nations House, Plot 617/618 Diplomatic Drive, Central Area District, Abuja P.M.B. 2851 Garki  
Abuja, Nigeria Tel: 234-9-4616552, 4616555; Fax: 234-9-4618533

### Expression of Interest

As part of the joint Nigeria Prison Service (NPS) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) programme: Improving the Nigeria Prison Service adherence to international standards in the treatment of prisoners through human resource development, suitably qualified organisations are invited to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) to conduct Knowledge, Aptitude Practice survey in three prisons in Jos, Ikoyi and Port Harcourt.

- 1) establish a detailed sample assessment of the performance of the Nigerian Prison Service in respect to human rights standards; and
- 2) identify institutional needs, gaps and areas of good performance.
- 3) obtain information and data management capacity and practice, with detailed analysis of the situation concerning pre trial admissions, stay and releases; and
- 4) establish knowledge, attitude practices in the area of prisoners with HIV and AIDS

The contractor will conduct group meetings and individual interviews with representatives of all ranks of staff in each of the prisons as well as the State Controller of Prisons.

The surveys will use UN Standard Minimum Rules and other UN Conventions relating to treatment of prisoners as their benchmark.

Organisations and individuals interested will be expected to demonstrate knowledge and provide evidence of:

- 1). Significant knowledge of and expertise of the relevant international standard pertaining to prisons
- 2). Significant knowledge of and experience of interaction with, the Nigerian Prison Service
- 3). Conducting similar surveys
- 4). Collating, analysing and reporting data and findings
- 5). Have requisite operational capacity and submit (a) an institutional CV of no more than four sides of A4 and (b) personnel CV's of no more than two side of A4 each
- 6). be legally registered Nigerian organisation

#### Schedule of activities

The activity will be completed before end of June 2010. Draft reports will be submitted to NPS and UNODC before end of May 2010. Produce 6 bound copies of final report as well as two CD ROMs of report.

#### Payment schedule

- \* 25 % upon signing of contract
- \* 20 % upon submission of draft report
- \* Final instalment upon submission of agreed final report

Suitably qualified agencies should submit sealed bids, both in hard and soft copy and delivered to: National Project Officer (NGA/T52), UNODC Country Office, UN House, Abuja, Nigeria, on or before 5p.m., 25th March, 2010.

# Drogba, Essien, Eto'o jostle for African award



DIDER Drogba



MICHAEL Essien



SAMUEL Eto'o

TODAY, The African Footballer of the Year Award ceremony will be held in Accra, Ghana.

It is the highest honour handed to an individual from the continent. This year, the main contenders for the award are some of the continent's all time favourites: Didier Drogba, Samuel Eto'o, Michael Essien, Seydou Keita and Yaya Toure.

In his blog, Ryan's Rave, journalist Ryan Wilkisky looks back at how the five nominees have fared over the last year and speculates over who could or should walk away with the coveted award.

Join us as we take a look at this history and origins of this prestigious award.

The award has been handed out in its current form by CAF since 1993, though between 1970 and 1994, France Football magazine had a prize for the best African footballer, though that was discontinued in 1995 with the advent of the CAF version.

The very first winner was Nigerian striker Rashidi Yekini, who claimed the 1993 award while on the books of Portuguese outfit Vitória Setúbal.

In fact, the early years were dominated by Nigerians, with four of the first five presentations going to Nigerians, with just Liberian legend George Weah breaking the mould in 1995, the same year he became the only ever African player to win the

FIFA World Player of the Year trophy.

Other Nigerian winners early on were Emmanuel Amunike (1994), Nwankwo Kanu (1996) and Victor Ikpeba (1997).

The first north African player to claim the prize was Mustapha Hadji from Morocco, who capped a brilliant year in 1998 with Spanish la Liga side Deportivo La Coruna to win the trophy.

But since then the award has been won by west Africans alone, this despite the dominance on the continental scene of the likes of Egypt over the past decade. And with this year's finals lineup of Samuel Eto'o (Cameroon), Didier Drogba (Cote d'Ivoire) and Michael Essien (Ghana), that

trend will not change.

Eto'o is the only player to have won the CAF version of the trophy three times (2003, 2004, 2005), though Ghana legend Abedi Pele and George Weah claimed three titles each if one includes the France Football trophy.

Drogba claimed the title in 2006 and should have won it in 2008 too, but his absence from the handing over ceremony meant it went to Emmanuel Adebayor instead.

Mali international Fredi Kanoute (2007) is the only winner to have been born outside of the continent, having grown up in France but chosen to represent the land of his father.

## Adebayor roots for Eto'o

THE Glo-CAF Player of the Year awards ceremony is two days away, and tension has begun to mount in Accra, Ghana, where the African football 'Oscars' will be taking place. Local and foreign media, as well as guests, have been converging in the west African city to grace the event where Africa's top player of 2009 will be unveiled.

Most former and current African football stars have kept their preferences silent but Africa's incumbent football king Emmanuel Adebayor broke his silence yesterday whilst speaking to French satellite TV station Canal+.

"I think Samuel Eto'o should be the African player of the year, having made a glamorous 2009 season with former

With such performances, I can say Eto'o is the best

club Barcelona, and scoring 40 goals, including one in the Champions League final. With such performances, I can say Eto'o is the best," the City's forward said.

But Adebayor acknowledges the prowess of Ivory Coast's Didier Drogba whom he calls "my personal friend".

"Drogba is one of the best strikers in the world today. The guy can net you goals from any angle. People are surprised about Drogba, but I'm not. The guy does best what he knows how to do, and that's scoring goals," the 2008 CAF footballer of the year said.

One out of three big names in African football will be crowned as the new football king of the continent during a gala tonight at the Bartquet Hall in Accra, Ghana.

2006 winner Didier Drogba, three-time winner Samuel Eto'o (in 2003, 2004 and 2005) and Michael Essien are the final three nominees.

## Lagerback proposes Switzerland camp

NIGERIA Technical Adviser Lars Lagerback has proposed a camp in Switzerland to ensure adequate altitude training ahead for the Super Eagles ahead of the World Cup.

The Swede sent an email to the NFF on Monday proposing that the team camp in the European country and use that as a base for their upcoming friendly games, three of which are in London.

A top official of the federation disclosed that the NFF had no objection to the Swede's proposal.

"He says it is important for the players to train at high altitude, although he did not mention any particular city in Switzerland," he said.

The village of Juf in Graubunden canton, is the highest point in Switzerland, and also the highest in Europe at 2126 metres (6973 feet) above sea level.

That compares favourably with South Africa's highest elevation of 1970 metres (6462 feet) above sea level.

It is not certain if the village of just 6 families and a total of 24 people is what Lagerback has in mind but from whatever Swiss city is chosen, the Super Eagles will travel from there to Pyongyang on April 14 to play North Korea.

"The game is on the eve of their President's birthday so they are quite excited about playing us on that day," the NFF official said.



LAGERBACK

Proposed games against Paraguay on May 15, Colombia on May 26 and Ukraine on May 29 will also be prosecuted from the Switzerland base camp.

## PAST WINNERS

YEAR	Winner	Nationality	Club
2008	Emmanuel Adebayor	Togo	Arsenal
2007	Frédéric Kanouté	Mali	Sevilla
2006	Didier Drogba	Côte d'Ivoire	Chelsea
2005	Samuel Eto'o	Cameroon	Barcelona
2004	Samuel Eto'o	Cameroon	Barcelona/Mallorca
2003	Samuel Eto'o	Cameroon	Mallorca
2002	El Hadji Diouf	Senegal	Liverpool/Lens
2001	El Hadji Diouf	Senegal	Lens
2000	Patrick Mboma	Cameroon	Parma/Cagliari
1999	Nwankwo Kanu	Nigeria	Arsenal
1998	Mustapha Hadji	Morocco	Deportivo La Coruña
1997	Victor Ikpeba	Nigeria	Monaco
1996	Nwankwo Kanu	Nigeria	Ajax/Internazionale
1995	George Weah	Liberia	Milan/Paris Saint-Germain
1994	Emmanuel Amunike	Nigeria	Sporting CP/El Zamalek
1993	Rashidi Yekini	Nigeria	Vitória de Setúbal

## Klitschko: Lennox Lewis's mum prevented rematch

VITALI Klitschko has revealed how Lennox Lewis's mother stopped him getting a rematch with the former world heavyweight champion.

Lewis beat Klitschko in June 2003 in controversial circumstances, retaining his WBC title when the fight was stopped after the sixth round in Los Angeles. The Ukrainian had a deep cut above his

left eye but led on the judges' scorecards when officials ruled he could not continue. In the referee's opinion the cut had been caused by a punch, which meant that Lewis was automatically declared the winner.

If it had been ruled that the cut had been caused by a head-butt, Klitschko would have won the title as he was ahead

on the scorecards at the time.

Plans for an eagerly anticipated rematch never materialised, with Klitschko yesterday offering an interesting explanation for why that was the case. "Lennox promised me but his mum decided he wasn't going to fight," said the 38-year-old ahead of the Laureus World Sports Awards in Abu Dhabi.



LENNOX Lewis left, in action against Vitali Klitschko in Los Angeles seven years ago.

## Bolt, Serena win 2010 Laureus Awards

JAMAICAN sprinter Usain Bolt won his second Laureus Sportsman of the Year award Wednesday and American tennis player Serena Williams won the women's prize.

Bolt won three gold medals at last year's athletics world championships and set world records in the 100 and 200-meter races. Williams, who also earned the award for a second time Thursday, won the Australian Open and Wimbledon and regained the No. 1 ranking.

The Laureus Sports Awards recognize achievements in 2009.

Belgian tennis player Kim Clijsters earned the award for the Comeback of the Year. Clijsters won the U.S. Open last year after she was absent from tennis for almost two years, getting married and giving birth.

Two of the winners came from Formula One.

Britain's Jenson Button won the Breakthrough of the Year Award after winning his first drivers' championship, and the Brawn F1 outfit he drove for earned the award for the Team of the Year after almost going out of business in the off-season.

Three-time world surfing champion Stephanie Gilmore of Australia was named World Action Sports-person of the Year and swimmer Natalie du Toit of South Africa earned the Laureus Disability award. Du Toit is one of five athletes to have competed in the Paralympics and Olympics, after swimming in both events in Beijing in 2008.



BOLT

**Panasonic**  
ideas for life



BEHOLD YOUR JOY IN  
CRISP BRIGHT COLOURS.

**VIERA**  
LCD and Plasma TVs

"Introducing Viera Image Viewer"

With VIERA special SD facility, you can share clips of memorable moments with fan and friends, a large screen show of vivid pictures from your digital camera / cam coder movies.



S series



X series



C series



A series

**12 MONTHS WARRANTY**  
on all Viera LCD/Plasma TVs



### Panaserv Nigeria Limited

VI CENTRE: 247B, Muri Okunola Street, Victoria Island, Lagos. Tel: 01-4630129, 4630130, 4630131, 08059777923, 07029078156.

IKEJA CENTRE: 49, Allen Avenue, Ikeja - Lagos. Tel: 01-4602441, 4602442, 4602443, 07030719089, 07029078157.

ABUJA CENTRE: Suite A-11, Al-Mahila Commercial Complex, (Opp. KIA Motors), Garki Area 11, Abuja.

Tel: 09-7800455, 08054722547, 07058721632, 07029078158, 08191117899.

KANO CENTRE: 48, Bompai Road, Kano. Tel: 08063284539, 08098450790, 07029078166, 07029276069.

& DEPARTMENT STORES NATIONWIDE

**Panasonic** ideas for life

## Hiddink named new Ivory Coast coach

EXPERIENCED coach Guus Hiddink has agreed terms with the Ivorian Football Association to coach Les Elephants during the World Cup, according to a report from Dutch national broadcaster NOS. The report claims that Hiddink has signed a two-month contract with Ivory Coast, starting on May 15, 2010 and running until July.

However, the contract will be rescinded if Hiddink fails to prove within the next 10 days that his contract with the Russian FA has been terminated. The former Chelsea gaffer's contract with Russia was due to expire on June 30, 2010, but both sides have been negotiating about an early termination in the past couple of days.

Ivory Coast are in the market for a new head coach following the departure of Vahid Halilhodzic earlier this month. The Africans were also being linked with Philippe Troussier and Sven Goran Eriksson, but Hiddink always was their primary option.

Hiddink previously coached Holland (1998), South Korea (2002) and Australia (2006) at World Cup finals tournaments. The Dutch coach will start as Turkey coach after this summer's finals in South Africa.



Guus Hiddink has agreed to coach the Elephants of Ivory Coast at 2010 World Cup.

## Greece to investigate match-fixing claims

THE Greek Sports Ministry is to launch an investigation into match-fixing after receiving a report from European football's governing body UEFA. "The Secretary General of Sports, Panos Bitsaxis, delivered to the District attorney's office of the Supreme Court a file from UEFA, which concerns five football matches from the second division and one from the Super League," said a statement from the Greek Sports Ministry on Wednesday.

"These matches, according to UEFA and with various degrees of suspicion or technical conviction, were possibly pre-arranged."

"A cross-check with two other dossiers which have already been delivered has been requested and a preliminary investigation."

Super League club PAS Yiannina issued a denial they were involved in match fixing after Greek media reported their 2-1 win over Panthrakikos on Jan. 10 was included in UEFA's report because of unusual betting patterns relating to the game.

"PAS Yiannina would like to express its rage and repulsion concerning the publications that have come to light through television reports and websites," the club said in a statement. "I invite anyone to look at the match in question, with seven yellow cards, many scoring chances and shots which hit the post, not to mention the injuries suffered by our goalkeeper and find anything suspicious on or off the pitch. We express our indignation that Yiannina has become the subject of an incomprehensible, slanderous attack."

Panthrakikos, who were promoted last season but are struggling at the foot of the table, also released a statement, with major shareholder Theodoros Savvakis commenting: "A total of 2,685 supporters followed the game at the stadium and thousands more on live television. Everyone could see the effort made by the team and the chances we created to try and win the game." These allegations are the latest to beset Greek soccer.

A previous report from UEFA, concerning only second division teams, has already been forwarded to the Supreme Court and the Financial Crimes Squad.

Also, in December 2009 a preliminary UEFA report was turned over to judicial authorities in Athens for investigation after it mentioned possible match-fixing in 13 matches of the second division and two Greek Cup matches, involving 12 clubs.

A 2004 UEFA Cup match between Panionios and Georgia's Dinamo Tbilisi, which finished 5-2, was the subject of a UEFA investigation after unusually heavy betting, while Egaleo FC were fined in 2006 for "violation of the principles of loyalty, integrity and sportsmanship" and "creating favourable conditions for illegal betting practices" after they fielded a weakened team in an Intertoto Cup match.

## Referee errors part of football, says Beckenbauer

GERMAN legend Franz Beckenbauer pleaded on Wednesday for the rules of football to be left as they are, warts and all, because refereeing errors can be part of the sport's charm.

"Leave football as simple and as clear as it is, together with all its mistakes," Beckenbauer—a member of the executive committee of FIFA, the sport's governing body—told the German daily Bild. "The 1966 Wembley goal is part of football legend. We've been talking about it for over 40 years in England and Germany, and probably still will be in another 40 years. Just

like Maradona's 'Hand of God' goal (in 1986)."

The comments followed some radical proposals on Tuesday by Bayern Munich coach Louis van Gaal, including doing away with throw-ins, having two referees on the pitch and cameras replacing linesmen for off-side decisions.

Beckenbauer said that even with different camera angles, off-side decisions can be so tight that "at the end of the day only a human being has to decide." He conceded, however, that another official behind the goal line might help.

"It is being tested right now

in the Europa League, apparently with success," said the 64-year-old Beckenbauer.

"Players are holding and shoving less in the box because they know very well that someone right next to the goal is watching them very closely," said the World Cup winner for West Germany both as player and coach. "This goal referee would probably have seen Thierry Henry's handball in (France's) World Cup qualifier against Ireland," he added. And he said that it would also have meant that Bayern Munich, of which he is honorary president, would have had its cru-

cial 89-minute goal in last month's Champions League last-16 home leg against Fiorentina disallowed.

Replays showed scorer Miroslav Klose was yards offside. Having won the first leg 2-1 in Munich thanks to the controversial decision, Bayern went through on the away goals rule in Fiorentina after Arjen Robben and captain Mark van Bommel scored in Tuesday's 3-2 defeat. The result meant that the Bavarian giants—currently riding high at the top of the Bundesliga—went through on away goals after the score finished 4-4 on aggregate.

## Benitez backs Gerrard

RAFAEL Benitez defended his Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard on Wednesday after it was confirmed the midfielder would escape official censure for an alleged V-sign at a referee.

Television pictures appeared to show England international Gerrard gesturing angrily towards referee Andre Marriner after he was booked during a 1-0 Premier League defeat away to Wigan on Monday. That loss at the DW Stadium dented Liverpool's hopes of qualifying for next season's Cham-

pions League but the prospect of it being made worse by disciplinary action against Gerrard disappeared on Wednesday.

England's governing Football Association indicated Marriner had seen the 'incident' at the time but did not deem it worthy of further punishment. In those circumstances, the FA cannot take retrospective action. Benitez said after the game he had not seen the incident and after reviewing it on video he insisted on Wednesday: "Sometimes you move your fingers. It was

nothing. We are not considering it, it was nothing. "All the players know they have to behave on the pitch. I was more worried about the silly fouls we were giving to Wigan." After the match, Wigan chairman Dave Whelan criticised Liverpool's American co-owners George Gillett and Tom Hicks for failing to understand the traditions of the Anfield club. An annoyed Benitez said: "I do not talk about Wigan. I prefer to concentrate on my team. He (Whelan) should talk about his own club."



GERRARD

## THE THURSDAY COLUMN

Is'haq Modibbo Kawu

kawumodibbo@dailytrust.com 08059100368 (SMS only)

## I need a briefing on the state of Nigeria

"An eye for an eye will only make the whole world blind"  
- Mahatma Gandhi

It has become a standard truism that even a day can be too long in politics. So imagine my dilemma after a twelve-day absence from Nigeria: events have been fast-paced, cascading upon each other, leaving everybody breathless, in their intensity. Nigeria is going through a most difficult phase today and frankly returning home this week has been with a fair amount of trepidation. There's a huge pile of newspapers to plod through; a world of news to disassemble and a nation to interrogate when it has become increasingly difficult for most people to find the rational detachment to understand issues and offer a dispassionate assessment or even find the interconnectedness in phenomena. It is like living in a land where a sizeable section of the population has gone through a forcible process of lobotomy!

In the camps with the Saharawi people, there was not much news from Nigeria and the fact that I was soaking in the experiences of life of war and refuge, provided a totally different but nevertheless, humanly familiar backdrop, to the events unfolding in Nigeria. After all, the whole experience had a content list we could relate to: politics, efforts at nation building and the varieties of human experiences such as suffering, warfare, hopes for the future and the love of life. The human canvass is so broad, that it can take as much colour as we possibly can splash on it in our different corners of this world. Nevertheless, deep down in my mind, I knew that Nigeria remains the ever-active volcano with a seismic intensity close to its surface but ever spewing the ash of a deformed ruling class politics. In that scenario, the people are permanently the cannon fodder presented for a collateral damage which never receives compensation.

I returned to London last Thursday to be confronted with a surfeit of information about the burlesque which is playing out within the haloed precincts of Nigeria's presidency as President Umaru Yar'adua sinks deeper into a ghostly none-being, hidden from sightings by what is now called a "cabal" and the hawks of power fight out a duel of life over the spoils of state control, with an intensity so appropriate to the task at hand. In Nigeria, that task is to corner the right to be the looter-in-chief while in control of *prebends* of influence. Never mind that such a war of attrition lays everything to waste; who cannot see the result of the period of civil rule sine 1999 for what it is: spoliation of Nigeria; the criminalization of the state; the institution of impunity; the alienation and marginalization of its people and their increasing dehumanization and loss in orgies of wars?

As it was, on the afternoon that I entered London, I received an email from a non-Nigerian friend of Nigeria whose impeccable knowledge of the innards of Nigerian political life confirmed to me that Nigeria's ruling elite was truly locked in a vicious struggle for power even when the nation they preside over and loot with a manic frenzy is dying by instalments. But more worrisome is the irresponsible manner sections of the press have read a "North-versus-South" meaning into the politics, in obvious pursuit of agendas to destroy our country. Next was the news of the tragic reprisal killings of over three hundred people: men, women and children, in three villages on the outskirts of Jos, last weekend. It is this tragic event which has inspired

the quotation at the head of this piece. My heart bleeds that we have continued to harvest the death of poor people in conflicts that have a medieval ferocity to them.

Two issues are pertinent in the tragic killings of last weekend, as much as the earlier killings; the first is the deepening of irrelevance of the state and the failure of its intelligence gathering organs. But far more importantly, is that when a state cannot be seen to have the "relative autonomy" required to play the arbiter in conflicts arising in society or when in fact the state has become sucked into such conflicts as a willing participant in these conflicts, then a country runs the risk of people employing what Rufa'i Ibrahim called "self help" in solving problems of inter-communal relationships. The tragic killings in Jos have exhibited this problem in a most consistent, if unfortunate manner. The second issue arising was recognized by one of the most respected religious leaders in Nigeria today, Archbishop John Onaiyekan, who pointed at the deep socio-economic and ethnic tensions underlying relations between and within social groups in our country. The proper meaning here is that the state fails the people; the ruling elite steals resources that should ordinarily go into the processes of development leaving the people stranded desperately and forlornly on the margins of a confusing world. To escape the wrath of the people, these poor people are then set against themselves, after the whipping up of emotions around identities: ethnic and religious.

Unfortunately for Nigeria, the genie has escaped from the bottle and those responsible are too inept, corrupt and irresponsible to pull back from the brink. This is the background which took us to the no-win world of an eye for an eye, and in Plateau or elsewhere for that matter, everybody is headed for blindness! Clearly we cannot build progress on the basis of vengeful reprisals or turn back the hands of the clock, around new readings of history; these have been very

much at the heart of the recurrent crisis in Plateau state. The elite must denounce killings and orgies of violence by their side, on all sides, while the state must in turn prosecute those who have been responsible for killings on all sides as well. The main reason for the existence of a state is the protection and security of the people, all the people within the precincts of the state. It means that the state must possess an autonomy which allows every community to believe that the state can be trusted to be fair to all in times of peace or conflict. Unfortunately, this has not been the general pattern in our country, but especially in a crisis-prone state such as Plateau.

I returned home early on Monday morning to the normal hazards of Nigerian existence and these often start at the airport. The gentleman who queued in an orderly manner at Heathrow airport six hours ago, all of a sudden becomes a "big man" that will be asked to jump a queue by a posse of security men, who are really touts in uniform (often asking what you brought for them from your trip); of course the arrival hall has no functional air-conditioning system and after extricating yourself from the madness at the airport, you enter the chaotic traffic and finally arriving home, you find there is no electricity, something that even the dwellers of Saharawi refugee camps take for granted! Yes, I am truly back home and I need a briefing on the state of Nigeria!

I returned home early on Monday morning to the normal hazards of Nigerian existence and these often start at the airport. The gentleman who queued in an orderly manner at Heathrow airport six hours ago, all of a sudden becomes a "big man" that will be asked to jump a queue by a posse of security men

## SPORTS REPORT



BUNDLED out... Real Madrid's Gonzalo Higuain from Argentina falls during their second leg match against Lyon

## Lyon knock out Real

Real Madrid failed to qualify for the Champions League quarter-finals for the sixth straight season when they were dumped out 2-1 on aggregate by Olympique Lyon yesterday.

Real's dream of winning a 10th European title at their Bernabeu stadium in May was shattered by Miralem Pjanic's 75th-minute strike which secured a 1-1 draw for Lyon in the

last 16 second leg.

Cristiano Ronaldo had put the home side ahead in the sixth minute. Real looked to be well on course when Guti lofted a pass to Ronaldo and the competition's top scorer this season took his tally to seven with a low finish that flew between Lyon goalkeeper Hugo Lloris's legs.

But Pjanic picked up a loose ball in the Real area with 15 minutes left and hammered a volley past Iker Casillas.



TWO goal hero... Wayne Rooney

## United massacre Milan

Wayne Rooney scored twice again as Manchester United cruised into the quarter-finals of the UEFA Champions League after a 4-0 win over a feeble AC Milan sent them through 7-2 on aggregate yesterday.

Rooney, who scored twice in the 3-2 San Siro win, was on target again with a thumping header from a Gary Neville cross after 13 minutes—the England striker's eighth header in his last nine goals.

Milan went close with an early Ronaldinho header but seemed to lose heart after the goal and United's defence had a more comfortable ride than they had any right to expect in the knockout round of Europe's Premier competition against the seven-times winners.

Rooney tucked in his second two minutes into the second half, Park Ji-sung made it 3-0 after an hour and Darren Fletcher completed the astonishing rout with an 88th-minute header.