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Mark shouts down senator over Yar'adua



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FORMER Governor of Nasarawa State Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu flanked by EFCC operatives when he was arraigned for alleged fraud at the Federal High Court, Lafia, Nasarawa State, yesterday.

How '12 wise men' averted cabinet crisis

By Sulaiman Bisalla

A showdown between "Yar'adua loyalists" and "pro-Jonathan" ministers was narrowly averted at yesterday's meeting of the Federal Executive Council when Acting President Dr. Goodluck Jonathan approved a paper submitted to him by the so-called "12 wise men." A highly informed source told Daily Trust last night that Jonathan's approval of the "wise men's" paper formally brought to an end all efforts by his "loyalists" to invoke Section 144 of the Constitution and declare

the ailing President Umaru Yar'adua permanently incapacitated.

Daily Trust learnt that the comprehensive peace formula that averted the crisis was worked out on Tuesday night and early yesterday by some elderly ministers and a few young ones. Leading the "wise men" was Minister of Niger Delta and former Secretary to the Government of the Federation Chief Ufot Ekaette. Also in the team were Defence Minister Major General Godwin Abbe, Education Minister Dr. Sam Egwu, Interior Minister Dr. Shettima Mustapha, Petroleum Resources Minister Dr. Rilwan Lukman

and National Planning Minister Dr. Samsudeen Usman. Police Affairs Dr. Ibrahim Lame, FCT Minister Mohamed Adamu Aliero and Minister of State for Interior Chief Demola Seriki were also members.

They held two long meetings at the Ministry of Defence Headquarters in Abuja's Central Business District and later met twice with the acting president to present their suggestions. Jonathan apparently sought some changes to the memo, which the ministers later effected.

One of the bombshell explanations that guided **Continued on page 5**

Yar'adua's mum visits Aso Rock

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina, AbdulFatah Olajide & Muhammed S. Shehu

PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua's mother, Hajiya Dada, and members of the first family were in Abuja yesterday to visit the ailing President for the first time since his return to the

country last week.

Our correspondent who monitored the situation in Katsina reports that the President's mother left Katsina airport yesterday evening aboard a presidential aircraft no 5N-FGO in company of five other family members.

Her departure came barely three hours after some members of the first family, including first lady Hajiya Turai's immediate junior brother and two nieces of the President, also left for Abuja aboard a commercial flight, Arik.

Our correspondent reports

that a Presidential aircraft landed at Katsina airport at 4:00pm and at around 4:30pm, three personal cars from the family house arrived with the luggage and other personal belongings of the President's mother, before her own arrival at the airport

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GOODLUCK TO NIGERIA!



DR. GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN, GCON
ACTING PRESIDENT, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Mr Acting President

As we witness the birth of a greater Nigeria, your wisdom, humility and strength of character has given us peace and stability.

You are God's gift to Nigeria.

We urge you to stay focused and keep doing the good work you are doing.

You are a selfless Nigerian leader, and have been a loyal Vice President to **President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, GCFR**, for whose good health we pray.

We ask God to protect you while urging our security forces to be vigilant around you, for you are the symbol of our emerging democracy.

All Nigerians are grateful!
We now need to see serious action on the Niger Delta, Power and Electoral Reform!

Saudi police write Nigeria over Gummi

By Habeeb I. Pindiga

THE Saudi Arabian secret police wrote to the Nigerian mission in the capital Riyadh on Tuesday, saying they would now allow access to the leading Izala preacher Ahmad Gummi, who they have been holding for the past eight days.

In their letter, the police did not mention the accusations against Gummi but said they were still investigating, the Nigerian ambassador to Saudi Arabia told *Daily Trust* by telephone last night.

Abdullahi Garba Aminci said: "They wrote to us on Tuesday and asked us to send our people to visit him. But in their letter, they didn't tell us what they are accusing him of. They said they will tell us this only when they conclude their investigation."

The ambassador said the mission wrote back yesterday, listing the people who would visit Gummi, namely one of Gummi's wives, the consular-general in Jeddah and his deputy as well as two other officials. Dr. Gummi, son of the famous scholar the late Sheikh Abubakar Mahmud Gummi, was taken last week at his home in Makkah. The police also took away cassettes, religious books and computer from his home.

The trained medical doctor and retired Army Major returned to Nigeria from his Saudi base in 2004 and began the annual Ramadan preaching at the Sultan Bello Mosque in Kaduna. Although he resides in Saudi Arabia, he comes to Nigeria just before the Ramadan fast every year.

I saw Yar'adua drinking tea, says cousin

By Habeeb I. Pindiga

THE first person to publicly claim seeing President Umaru Yar'adua since the president's return from a Saudi medical trip eight days ago said he met him drinking tea on Saturday.

Zubairu Ali, who is a first cousin of the president and also spokesman for the family, told Al Jazeera TV that he met a very thin, sickly but recovering Yar'adua at the Presidential Villa in Abuja.

"By the look of his body, he is recovering. Because he became a very thin person. So you can see a person who is ill but he is recovering," Ali said, in a clip broadcast many times by the Qatar-based channel yesterday.

Asked if Yar'adua is able to walk, he said, "Yes."

On whether the president is able to talk, he said, "Yes."

Asked if Yar'adua is able to feed himself, Ali said, "Yes," and added, "Because when I met him in the villa, I met him drinking tea."

Ali also said he exchanged pleasantries with the president.

"He asked me, 'how are you?', I said 'I am ok,' 'how is our relation at home?' I told him they are ok and all they are greeting you and they are praying for you. And he asked me to convey his greetings and his gratitude to them," Ali said.

Ali could not say why the president is yet to meet Acting President Goodluck Jonathan. "Well, I don't know about that," he said.



FROM left: Minister of State for Petroleum Odein Ajumogobia, Minister of Information and Communications, Prof. Dora Akunyili and Minister of Petroleum, Dr. Rilwanu Lukman, during the Federal Executive Council meeting in Abuja yesterday.

CBN extends circulation date for non-polymer notes

By Idris Ahmed

THE Central Bank of Nigeria has extended the expiration of circulation date for the existing N5, N10 and N50 paper banknotes as legal tender indefinitely.

The banknotes were supposed to go out of circulation six months after a polymer notes were introduced. CBN introduced polymer notes for the denominations in October, last year. Some people are have started rejecting the banknotes.

A statement from Mohammed Abdullahi, Head, Corporate Communications Depart-

ment of CBN said it is unlawful to refuse to accept any legal tender currency issued by the Central Bank. "This means that these paper notes will continue to circulate side by side with the N5, N10 and N50 polymer notes", he said. He said the clarification has become necessary to allow for the seamless transition from the N5, N10 and N50 paper notes to the polymer notes and the gradual withdrawal of the existing paper notes. He said this is in line with the best practice.

He said: "The general public is, therefore, advised to continue to accept and spend the N5, N10 and N50 paper banknotes as they

remain legal tender. Banks are also directed to continue to accept such deposits from customers and members of the public.

He said that CBN also wishes to reassure Nigerians that the N50 polymer banknotes, whether with 6-digits or 7-digits serial numbers were issued by the CBN and that they are genuine banknotes.

"The numbers on the notes are consistent with the numbering system adopted by the Bank. Both sets of banknotes are fortified with adequate security features which make counterfeiting difficult," he said.

Road tax to hike petrol price by N3

By Hamisu Muhammad

THE Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) yesterday said it has gotten the approval of stakeholders to introduce road tax which will increase the price of a litre of petrol by N3.25k.

Board chairman of FERMA Abdulkadir Kure said this when he took the implementation campaign to the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA) in Abuja.

Kure said the road user charge will be infused in the petroleum products prices. Products to be affected include diesel and refined fuel to be taxed N3.25 and N4.75 respectively.

He said the agency was able to buy-in stakeholders support in the implementation of the

charges which is already in the FERMA establishment Act, amended in 2007.

Those that agreed to the immediate implementation of the user's charges as a solution to the deplorable road condition nationwide include the Nigerian Labour Congress, labour ministry, House committee on land transport, Petroleum Tanker Drivers and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria.

Others include Nigeria Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers, Trade Union Congress, National Association of Road Transport Owners, Association of Luxury Bus Owners, Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria and Federal Road Safety Commission.

Kure said the governing board made con-

certed efforts to bring the implementation of the law to fruition, adding that the board had written a letter to the Presidential Committee on Deregulation (Downstream Petroleum Sector) urging it to revive the current template at the PPPRA to enable FERMA obtain all the funds accruing to it pursuant to the provisions of the Act.

He further explained that an estimated N62.4 billion will be generated from the road users' charge annually out of which 40 percent will accrue to FERMA and 60 percent will be utilized by established state road maintenance Agencies.

PPPRA chairman, Ahmadu Ali said the road users' charge is in line with the global trend, but said it would have been more feasible if only the sector were deregulated.

Yar'adua: Reps say troops' deployment in order

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE House of Representatives yesterday said the deployment of Guards Brigade to protect ailing President Umaru Yar'adua during his return to the country did not breach any security.

Chairman of House Committee on Media and Publicity Rep Esemey Eyiboh (PDP, Akwa Ibom State) said this while speaking with news-

men yesterday. He also debunked reports by a national daily (not *Daily Trust*) that Speaker Dimeji Bankole confirmed coup attempt.

He said since the acting president did not complain of the troop deployment, the House assumes it didn't breach any security, pointing out that the matter strictly concerns executive arm of government.

Rep Wole Oke, chairman of the committee on defence, said the deployment of troop didn't

violate constitutional provisions.

He said: "we did not receive any complain of breach of due process by the acting President on the deployment of the troops during the return of President Yar'adua."

A former member of the Brigade of Guards and chairman of the committee on foreign affairs, Rep Umar Bature also said there was no breach of security in their deployment during Yar'adua's return.

Ulamas warn against removal of Dambazau

From I Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

MUSLIM clerics under the aegis of the Council of Imam and Ulama yesterday rose from an emergency meeting in Kaduna threatening to withdraw its allegiance to Acting President Goodluck Jonathan should he sack the Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Abdurahman Dambazau as advocated by the Northern Elders Christian Forum (NOSCEF).

NOSEF had after its quarterly meeting last weekend demanded the sack of the Chief of Army Staff and the Commander of Brigade of Guards for deploying troops along major roads in Abuja prior to President Umaru Yar'adua's arrival from Saudi Arabia without the consent of Jonathan.

Reading the communique issued at the end of the meeting in Kaduna, Secretary of the Ulama Council, Sheikh T. Sulei-

man, said the Acting President should be conscious of the fact that the Christians elders were not familiar with the workings of the national security system.

"We have noted the utterances by some Nigerians who have seemingly put the Muslims in this country on trial through various innuendoes and direct insult on the personality of the president who they see more as a Muslim than an ailing president," the forum said.

The council warned that the Muslim community would not keep quiet and allow the Christians elders treat national and political issues from a purely evangelistic perspective.

The group while condemning the composition of the National Policy Advisory Committee said the Acting President was not fair to Muslims. According to the forum, what Nigeria needs at this crucial moment is a display of mature political sense.

Gbong Gwom inaugurates c'ttee on Jos crises

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

COMMUNITY leaders in Plateau North Senatorial zone have formed a committee to search for solution to the crises in Plateau State.

The committee which is to be known as the Stakeholder's Consultative Committee was yesterday inaugurated by the Gbong Gwom Jos Da Jacob Gyang Buba.

The committee, according to the Gbong Gwom Jos, was part of the recommendations of traditional rulers in the state at a meeting last month in Jos. They had resolved that the community leaders must be engaged in the discussions towards ensuring lasting peace in the state.

Ninety community leaders were drawn from various ethnic and religious groups in Plateau North Senatorial zone. The Gbong Gwom Jos while inaugurating the committee, urged the members to be sincere in their contributions and to do everything possible to find a lasting solution to the crises in Jos, adding that the committee would be meeting monthly until its task of restoring peace in the state was achieved.

The community leaders comprise of leaders or representatives of ethnic groups and religious organizations such as the Igalas, Idomas, Tivs, Jarawa, Anaguta, Igbos, Yoruba, Shuwa Arab, Hausa, Fulani, Berom, South South, Youth, CAN and JNI.

The inaugural meeting which held yesterday was well attended as most of those invited turned up for the meeting.

The leaders of the Shuwa Arab community in Jos, Alhaji AbdulAzeez Haruna, who responded on behalf of the members of the committee, thanked the Gbong Gwom for the initiative and pledged that the members would be truthful and committed.



FROM left: Chairman, Presidential Advisory Committee on Jos crises Chief Solomon Lar, Chief Imam of Jos Central Mosque Sheikh Dawud and former Governor of Plateau State Chief Fidelis Tapgun, during the committee's tour of internally displaced persons' camp in the recent Jos crisis.

Ex-gov Adamu arraigned, gets bail

From Hir Joseph, Lafia & Misbahu Bashir, Abuja

THE Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) yesterday arraigned ex-governor of Nasarawa State Abdullahi Adamu at the Federal High Court in Lafia, a week and three days after his arrest over alleged N15 billion theft.

Adamu, who is also the People's Democratic Party (PDP) Board of Trustees (BOT) Secretary, was driven into the premises of the court along Shendam Road at about 9am in a blue Nissan Urvan mini bus with registration number BJ154KWL. He sat sandwiched by operatives of EFCC in the middle seat of the old bus which had no air-condition while a white Toyota Hilux truck with registration number BA457BWR conveying a bevy of armed policemen led the way as another Nissan Urvan with registration number BJ162KAL trailed behind.

The Head, Media and Publicity, EFCC, Femi Babafemi, said those arraigned alongside the former governor were, Alhaji Halilu Bala Usman, Alhaji Usman Aboki, Prince Nicholas Ukachukwu, Prince and Princes Limited, Jon-

abel Engineering Nigeria Limited, JCC International, Mbani Construction Company Limited and Shincoco Nigeria Limited. Others are Henry & Nick Associates Limited, Water Search Nigeria, Sneccou Group of Companies, Nicas Industry Limited, Addais Nig Limited, Faslan Ventures Limited, Yoojin Nigeria, Kiagama Company Limited, Sharafa Bros Nig and Riok International.

Adamu allegedly connived with Alhaji Aliyu Bala Usman, the Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs in the State between May 1999 and May 2007 and authorized directly the withdrawal of the sum of N2,456,000,000.00 in 36 months from the State Local Government Joint Account for a purpose and in a manner not authorized by law.

The defence counsel, Pius Akubo, told the court that the accused would need time to study the charges before taking plea, as they were only served a few minutes before proceedings.

He also pointed out that only three of the 20 accused persons were in court even as one of them, Baba Gbafwi's name was missing from the list of the accused on the charge sheet.

Prosecution counsel, Adeniyi Akintola, said other suspects not physically present in court were companies used by the suspects to perpetuate the criminal act. He therefore urged the court to adjourn for a few hours to enable the defence study the charges against them and take their plea accordingly.

Justice Buba adjourned proceedings for one hour. At the resumed hearing, the judge ruled that the prosecution had a duty to amend the charge sheet by including the missing name and properly serve the charges on the defence.

The case was adjourned to March 15, and the accused were granted bail in the sum of N500 million and two sureties who must have landed properties within the jurisdiction of the court and who would guarantee that the accused would not frustrate the diligent prosecution of the case against them.

The EFCC picked the former governor on February 22 for interrogation at its headquarters in Abuja. The EFCC was investigating Adamu over allegations of fraudulent award of contracts and stealing of public funds estimated at N15 billion.

FG pays N2.1bn to airways ex-workers, pensioners

From Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

THE Federal Government Tuesday started paying ex-workers and pensioners of the defunct Nigeria Airways.

About N2.1 billion has been set aside for the exercise. The liquidator, Babinthon Ashaye, flagged off the payment Tuesday at the premises of Sky power Catering Company Limited.

About 2,500 ex-workers and pensioners are expected to benefit from the payment and verification which is simultaneously going on in Lagos and the northern part of the country.

Comrade Lucky Engbele, one of the ex-workers, who also represented the Aviation Union Ground Alliance (AUGA) said the workers had asked for 25 years pension arrears, but government agreed to pay that of only five years. He urged the Federal Government to pay all their arrears to enable them move on with their lives.

He said the on-going payment would cover unpaid crew allowances for pilots, cabin crew and other technical personnel. It would be recalled that the Federal Government two years ago approved some billions of naira for the payment of five years pension arrears for both workers and pensioners of the liquidated carrier.

Kebbi gets new development areas

From Ismail Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi

THE Kebbi State government has added 27 additional development areas to the existing 21 councils in the state. By this creation, the state now has 48 local council areas.

The new development areas include, Sabiyel/kashinzama, Gulma/Lailaba, Arewa Gabas, Bayawa/Tigi, Zagga, ka'oje, illo, Ambursa/ Kardi, Fadama/ Zauru, Zogirma/ Tilli, Fana, Maga/kyabu Garewa, Bena, Murafa/ Bajida, Kambazza, Takari, Kuka/Nayelwa, Maikoko, Mungadi, Sambawa, Karaye, Birnin Yauri, Karishin, kwanji, Giro, Gungu, Senchi/Maga/ushe.

Governor Saidu Usman Dakingari during the swearing in ceremony of Sole Administrators for the local council areas in Birnin Kebbi explained that the state House of Assembly before creating the development areas, carried out series of consultations with political leaders, stake holders and important groups for the review of the Local Government Law of 2000. The governor said the road was now clear for his administration to continue with its general thrust on the role of development areas to bring about rapid socio-economic transformation at the grass roots in the state.

He noted that this would be a continuation of the state's march towards an evolution of contemporary local government system with interest in specific local needs and aspirations.

How '12 wise men' averted cabinet crisis

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the wise men, a source said, was a statement by Health Minister Professor Babatunde Osetimehin, who said Section 144 of the Constitution was defective from a medical point of view because no doctor could pronounce "permanent incapacity" on any man who is still alive.

The "wise men" told the acting president that there was the need for him "to take full charge" of the government and the country. They said the media campaign launched by Information Minister Professor Dora Akunyili against what she called "a cabal" around Yar'adua has portrayed both the government and the country in bad light.

The ministers then listed 5 resolutions, which they said tallied with the 36 state governors' conclusions the night before. They are that: 1] As acting president, Dr. Jonathan is not running a different administration but a continuation of the electoral mandate given to Yar'adua and himself in 2007, and that he should therefore resist any attempt to invoke Section 144 of the Constitution to declare Yar'adua infirm. They said the invocation of Section 144 would fail and "the consequences would be devastating for the polity."

2]. That Professor Dora

Akunyili must be called to order for running a campaign against the president and his family, "thus embarrassing the government of which she is supposed to be the spokesperson."

3]. The acting president should not make seeing Yar'adua a precondition for continuing to preside over the affairs of the nation or allow anyone to use it as an opportunity to remove him from power.

4. The acting president "should be wary of self-serving politicians, especially those from the Niger Delta region who are making inflammatory statements capable of causing confusion in the country."

5. The Acting President "should please note that any moves to unseat President Yar'adua can be sure to fail."

Daily Trust learnt that Jonathan accepted all the recommendations and apparently instructed the "pro-Jonathan" ministers to make no move at yesterday's FEC meeting.

Another very reliable source told *Daily Trust* yesterday that at the state governors' meeting on Tuesday, Bayelsa State Governor Timipre Sylva spoke first and described Yar'adua as "a good president who unfortunately happens to have health challenge."

He urged the meeting to take a tough stand on Akunyili.

During the governors' briefing of reporters that night, Sylva expressed this view publicly.

Sources at the meeting said Edo State Governor Adams Oshiomhole spoke next, recalling his personal discussion with Jonathan, where he said he warned that history "should not record him as the person who presided over a council where there was a move to remove his principal."

Other Governors who spoke at the meeting said "some people who don't mean well for the country" were behind the campaign to remove Yar'adua.

Daily Trust learnt that the South-South governors produced the consensus formula that Yar'adua remains President while Jonathan acts until he is fit to take over. They said anything to the contrary was akin to a civilian coup.

Incidentally, PDP national executive officers led by the chairman Prince Vincent Ogbulafor pushed the same viewpoint when they were admitted into the PDP governors' meeting, before all the governors met with Jonathan later that night.

Yet another informed source told *Daily Trust* that the issue of the advisory council appointed by Jonathan on Tuesday came up at the governors' meeting. The source said some governors expressed displeasure and

said even under the Obasanjo regime, people were never nominated from the states without consulting with the governors. At least one northern governor also said the fact that both the council's chairman, Lt. General T.Y. Danjuma and his deputy, Professor Ben Nwabueze were Christians was a political mistake.

Another important decision taken at the meeting was that PDP's zoning formula would remain for the 2011 election, in which case the presidency would still go to the North. The implication was Jonathan would not be able to run. While some Governors said that should not be announced publicly, Northern governors argued strongly that the party Chairman should announce it, which Ogbulafor later did.

The governors also decided that Akunyili's statement about probing the army due to the deploying of Guards Brigades men on the night of Yar'adua's return to the country was "reckless and dangerous," saying it was "capable of inciting the public to violence." They also condemned those who were calling for the removal of Chief of Army Staff Lt. General Abdurrahman Dambazau, saying the reckless utterances "are already affecting the military." They took exception to statements by Ijaw leader

Chief Edwin Clark calling on Jonathan to sack the military Service Chiefs.

The Governors however condemned last Wednesday's statement by the president's Special Adviser, Media Olusegun Adeniyi, on the day of Yar'adua's return, which addressed the acting president as Vice President. They however said the statement was later corrected and that after that, "no aide or family member of the president had interfered in governance at Aso Rock and that the acting president is fully in charge."

Daily Trust learnt that before yesterday's truce was worked out, the "rebel ministers" planning to push for Yar'adua's ouster were 9 in all, including Foreign Minister Chief Ojo Maduekwe, Mrs. Akunyili, Minister of State for Niger Delta Godsay Orubebe, Minister of Mines and Steel Mrs Diezani Allison-Madueke, Minister of State for Finance Remi Babalola and Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mahmud Yayale Ahmed.

However, a source said, a meeting of the "rebel ministers" at Akunyili's Radio House office was discontinued inconclusively when they heard that Jonathan had approved the truce document. Yesterday's FEC meeting was therefore an anti-climax, with ministers patting one another and no crisis occurred at the meeting.

Yar'adua's mum visits Aso Rock

Continued from page 1

at 5:05pm.

She was brought into the airport by two dark blue saloon 407 and 406 vehicles along with her escorts, and she immediately boarded the waiting aircraft that started taxiing at 5:13pm before its final take off at 5:15pm.

Earlier at around 2:00pm, a commercial airline left Katsina for Abuja with members of the first family and associates of the President including some aged women, Turai's brother and former Yar'adua chief of staff Alhaji Muntari Maimaje, his cousin Bala, Yar'adua's niece Fatima, his erstwhile SSG Dr Mustapha Inuwa and Dutsinma local government council chairman, Bashir Tanimu Gambo.

A source close to the family said Yar'adua's mother will stay in Abuja for a while, whereas the rest of the family members will only visit the ailing family member and are expected back in Katsina anytime soon. He said already, some of the family members have paid similar visits to the President in the Villa, and they said he is recuperating well.

Yar'adua's cousin, ex-legislator and chairman of the Katsina Peoples Congress Alhaji Zubairu Ali Gafai granted an interview to Aljazeera television yesterday, where he said he had seen the President and even shared a cup of tea with him.

However when this reporter visited his residence at Gafai quarters, Zubairu was said to have travelled to Niger Republic

and all efforts to reach him of his phone was unsuccessful.

Also on Tuesday another Presidential aircraft landed in Katsina airport to convey the Governor of Katsina state Ibrahim Shema and the President's close associate Alhaji Dahiru Barau Mangal to Abuja. They were said to have seen the President on Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabian authorities were quoted yesterday to have said that Yar'adua's health has improved. The Saudi authorities' testimony was contained in the report presented to the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting yesterday by the six-man delegation earlier sent by the Federal Government to Saudi Arabia to see Yar'adua while he was there.

"The Foreign Minister, His Highness Prince Saud Al-Faisal received us on behalf of the Saudi King and re-affirmed the commitment of the Saudi Government to promoting good relationship with Nigeria. He also assured the delegation that the health of President Yar'adua was improving", the delegation's report said.

The delegation comprised Secretary to the Government of the Federation Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, Chief Ojo Maduekwe, Dr. Rilwanu Lukman, Prince Adetokunbo Kayode, Prof. Babatunde Osetimehin and Dr. Abba Sayyadi Ruma.

Briefing newsmen after the FEC meeting presided over by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, Minister of Information and Communications Prof. Dora Akunyili said the six-man

team which was unable to see Yar'adua in Saudi, conveyed the appreciation of the Nigerian government to the Saudi Monarch "for the care and support given to our President."

"Preparatory to this visit, the acting president had addressed a letter to the Royal Majesty, King Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, introducing the delegation as a special envoy from the presidency. In the letter, the acting president conveyed the profound appreciation and deep gratitude of the government and the entire people of Nigeria to the king, for the kindness, hospitality, fraternal care and excellent facilities extended to President Umaru Musa Yar'adua."

Akunyili said on their arrival at the Riyadh Airport at about 10 pm, Saudi time on Tuesday 23rd February, the Nigerian Ambassador to that country, Alhaji Abdullahi Aminchi informed members of the delegation that he had received information that President Yar'adua had been discharged and was on his way back to Abuja.

"With news that the President had left Saudi Arabia for Nigeria, the delegation did not consider it necessary to proceed to Jeddah, where the President was hospitalized. Accordingly, they decided to return to Nigeria. The delegation departed Riyadh at about 5.30am on Wednesday 24th February 2010 and arrived Abuja at about 10.30 am. The Acting President was accordingly briefed on their return", she stated.

Akunyili also said the council approved N21.8 billion for the reconstruction of 35.14 kilometres Owerri-Elele Road linking Imo and River States. She said the road project is part of the post amnesty intervention programme of the Federal Government, saying it would boost employment opportunities, curb youth restiveness and generate wealth through increased socio-economic activities in the Niger Delta region. The contract was awarded to Messrs Arab Contractors Nig. Limited with the completion period of 300 months while the consultancy services was awarded to Messrs Cypress Konsult Ltd.

The Council also approved N1.4 billion for the rehabilitation of 15 kilometre Dengi-Jarmai road in Plateau State. The information minister said the contract was awarded under the ecological fund to Messrs Rockbridge Construction Limited with completion period of nine months.

The council also awarded a N236.9 million contract for consultancy services on Obifafu/Obrikon-Oben gas pipeline project to Messrs PetroGas Development Company with three months completion period.

The Minister of State for Petroleum, Mr. Odein Ajumogobia said the pipeline project, when completed would be useful in moving gas from the Eastern region to the western region of the country. Ajumogobia said the project would solve the problem of gas shortage for power generation.

Calm returns to State House

By AbdulFattah Olajide

THE tension pervading the Federal Cabinet since ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua returned to the country on February 23 gave way to calm yesterday as the weekly Federal Executive Council meeting presided over by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan was held in a more convivial atmosphere.

Unlike what obtained during last week's meeting which was cancelled eventually, ministers were seen in hilarious mood exchanging banter before and after the meeting.

When they arrived the Presidential Villa in Abuja for last week's aborted meeting, apprehension was written on the faces of many ministers. While in the Council Chambers many of them had kept to themselves while others were seen discussing in hush tones.

The diffusion of tension in the Federal Cabinet may not be unconnected with the intervention of the governors of the 36 states of the Federation who cautioned against the planned ouster of Yar'adua and insisted that Jonathan must carry on only as Acting President.

PDP warns against distracting Jonathan

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) yesterday accused socio-cultural groups, leading politicians and senior government officials of making divisive and destabilizing statements that were hindering the performance of Acting President Goodluck Jonathan.

Arewa consultative Forum (ACF), Northern Union (NU), Afenifere, Ohaneze Ndigbo, Alhaji Tanko Yakassai and Information Minister Dora Akunyili among others, contributed to the debate over the constitutionality of the long absence of ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

PDP National Publicity Secretary Prof. Rufai Ahmed Alkali advised all politicians, public office holders, the clergy

and socio-cultural groups to rise above petty politics and demonstrate the statesmanship that the current situation required.

He appealed to the media "to refrain from making their outlets available to people whose agenda is not in tandem with our common goal of national unity and stability" as 2011 general elections approach.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

Acting President: Court allows challenge against National Assembly

By Atika Balal

AN Abuja Federal High Court has granted a former Minority Leader of the House of Representatives leave to apply for judicial review of the purported resolution passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives which declared Dr. Goodluck Jonathan as acting President.

Hon. Farouk Adamu Aliyu and Sani Hussaini Garun Gabbas had gone to court are seeking a declaration that the Senate and the House of Representatives lack the constitutional powers to pass a resolution mandating Goodluck Jonathan to act president pending the return of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua from his medical leave in Saudi Arabia.

The plaintiffs are asking the court to quash the resolution purportedly passed by the respondents on January 27, 2010, declaring the President capable of performing

the functions of his office.

They want the court to declare that the resolution purportedly passed by the respondents on January 27, 2010, declaring President Yar'adua capable of performing the functions of his office is unreasonable, irrational, unconstitutional and unlawful.

The court on January 22 ordered the Executive Council of the Federation to within fourteen days consider, pass and publicize a resolution in accordance with provisions of section 144 of the 1999 constitution declaring whether the absence of President Yar'adua on medical ground since November 23, 2009 makes him incapable of discharging the functions of his office.

Respondents in the suit are Attorney General of the Federation and the Executive Council of the Federation.

Justice Adamu Bello adjourned till March 17 for continuation.



A procession at the National Assembly Abuja of people agitating for creation of more states.

Mark shouts down senator over Yar'adua

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

SENATE President David Mark yesterday blocked the attempt by a senator to open debate on the ill health and return of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua to the country after a long medical vacation in Saudi Arabia.

Senator George Thompson Sekibo (PDP, Rivers East) had raised a point of order citing several sections of the Constitution and the Senate Standing Rules indicating that the inability of Nigerians to have access to the president infringes on his right.

"We all recall that on November 23, 2009 the president was taken out of the country for medical attention. We are also aware that since that time efforts to see the president has not yielded results. Members of the House of Representatives and officials

of the PDP went and they could not see him. When six ministers went to see him in Saudi Arabia they were told that he has returned," Sekibo said.

Mark however interrupted the senator saying he is wrong to claim that his privilege has been breached by the situation surrounding Mr. President's health.

"All the digressions and points of order that you have raised have nothing to do with your privilege. Section 89 becomes relevant when 88 is in the equation. With all due respect, I think that this is not only unnecessary but we have wasted a lot on the issue of Mr. President's health. I rule you out of order," Mark said.

The senate president had stopped a similar move by Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba (SAN) during the early days of Yar'adua's absence. The Senate later allowed a debate which allowed Goodluck Jonathan to act as president.

Safe Tower Project: NAMA chief refutes EFCC claim

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin & John Chuks Azu

THE Director, Safety Electronics and Engineering Services of the Nigeria Airspace Management Agency Mr. Nnamdi Udoh yesterday told an Abuja High Court that he did not tell the EFCC that former Aviation Minister Professor Babalola Borishade forged his signature during the award of contract for the Safe Tower Project.

Mr. Udoh, who was a witness in the matter, disowns the statement before the court during a cross examination and emphasized that he never made such statement to the commission.

Borishade is being tried alongside former NAMA Managing Director, Roland Iyayi, former aide to Borishade, T.A. Dairo and Managing Director of AVSA-

TEL Communication Limited, George Eder.

Udoh said Borishade's counsel, Adebayo Adenipekun (SAN), showed him a letter from the president where it was stated that there was urgent need to replace obsolete equipment at the nation's airports and admitted that the new equipment that were installed at the airports by AVSATEL Communications Limited are world class standard.

Meanwhile, the trial Judge, Justice Sadiq Umar, adjourned further hearing on the matter till today (Thursday) and asked the prosecution to make available the statement of the witness to the anti-graft agency for cross examination.

Jonathan orders reinstatement of NHIS boss

By Mohammed S. Shehu, Sunday Ejike Benjamin & Atika Balal

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan has ordered Health Minister Babatunde Osotimehin to allow Mohammad Bello Waziri Dogo-Muhammad to complete his 5-year tenure as the Executive Secretary of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS).

The directive was contained in a letter addressed to Osotimehin through the office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation Mahmud Yayale Ahmed.

According to the letter made available to Daily Trust, the decision to reinstate Dogo-Muhammad was in line with Section 8(1)(c) of the National Health Insurance Act.

Prior to the directive, Dogo-Muhammad had secured a court injunction stopping the minister of health, Attorney General of the Federation, their agencies or officers from interfering or hindering his performance as the Executive Secretary of the NHIS pending the determination of suit.

Meanwhile, Dogo-Muhammad yesterday told a Federal High Court Abuja that the health minister wrote to the Central Bank of Nigeria and commercial banks to freeze his accounts

and not to honour any cheques issued by him.

Mr. Emeka Okoro, counsel representing the NHIS boss told the trial judge, Justice Adamu Bello that the action of the minister violates the order of an interim injunction granted by the court in February.

The counsel representing Dogo-Muhammad told the Court at the resumed hearing yesterday that he filed an affidavit on Tuesday to intimate the court of a document that emanated from the office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation on the directive of the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan.

The content of the letter, he said has bearing on the Plaintiff's contentions, both in the motion for interlocutory injunction and the main suit. The letter, according to him has been served on the office of the Attorney General, the second defendant in the suit.

Meanwhile, Dr. Kayode Olatoke said Dogo-Muhammad should have withdrawn his suit following the letter by the SGF directing that he should stay to complete his five years tenure as the NHIS boss.

Justice Bello adjourned the matter to April 27, for adoption of written addresses and hearing on the originating summons.

Boko Haram: Witnesses' absence stalls trial

From Sharafa Dauda & Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

THE trial of 90 persons accused of involvement in the Boko Haram crisis in Borno State last year yesterday suffered a setback as the prosecutors, led by Barrister Richard Balami, were unable to present any witness before the state High Court 11 in Maiduguri. In the case of the state against Bunu Bukar and 76 others, all 11 witnesses billed to testify before the court were absent.

In the second case between the state and

Malam Adamu Mohammed and 12 others, no witness was present to testify against the accused persons.

The presiding judge, Justice Alkali Gana Wakil, who was infuriated by the continued absence of the witnesses, gave the prosecutors till March 6 to present all their witnesses on the first case involving 77 persons or he would be forced to dismiss the case.

"We have so many pending cases that require our attention, hence the need for speedy discharge of cases", he said.

The lead prosecutor for the second

accused person and some of the first accused persons, Barrister Ahmed James Igoche, had earlier threatened to withdraw from the case if the prosecutor failed to bring the witnesses before the court as ordered by the judge.

"If I can drive throughout the night from another state to appear before the court, I see no reason why someone from within the state would not be able to appear to testify before the court. How many hours would it take to come here", he said. The lead prosecutor, Barrister Balami, the Dep-

uty Director of Public Prosecution at the state Ministry of Justice, told the court that the witnesses had so far been served with summons and pleaded for more time for them to appear before the court, saying he would do everything within his powers to ensure that they appear before the court as ordered.

The first case involving 77 accused persons is scheduled for hearing today while the second involving 13 accused persons was adjourned to March 24. All accused persons are to remain in prison custody.

ABU matriculates 11,000 students

From Isa Liman, Zaria

THE Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria yesterday matriculated 11,000 students for different degree programmes for the 2009/2010 session.

Acting Vice Chancellor of the university Professor Aliyu Muhammad said out of the 49,357 students who applied for admission, less than 20 percent of them were admitted.

He said though the number of students admitted may be seen to be low, the 11,000 students admitted had exceeded the university's JAMB quota by about 50 percent. Professor Muhammad therefore enjoined the new students to count themselves lucky

and try to justify the strenuous efforts made by their parents and guardians to secure admission into the university.

"If coming to ABU was your dream, you have now realized it concretely. You should therefore do all you can to meet the challenges of living and learning in a big university environment like the ABU", he said.

The breakdown of the 2009/2010 ABU admission showed that 2,958 students were admitted through direct entry, 6,701 entered through the Universities Matriculation Examinations (UME) while the ABU's School of Basic and Remedial Studies (SBRIS) was given 1,341 slots.

SSS impostor extorts N6m, nabbed

From Beatrice Onuchukwu, Awka

THE State Security Service (SSS) in Anambra State have arrested a 35 year old man, Cyril Chibuzor, for impersonating as an SSS operative and extorting over N6.4 million from people.

Mr. Ekpenyong Essian Eta, the SSS Director in the state who briefed journalists in Amawbia yesterday described Chibuzor as a fraudster who used the SSS to dupe people in the state, especially in Awka, the state capital. Eta said he specialized in frightening his victims that kidnappers were on their prowl, then offering to give protection while at the same time demanding service fees of not less than N31,250 every week. Eta said, "The suspect has received a total of N6.4 million from various Anambra citizens", he said.

He also said Chibuzor, a

native of Ihiala in Anambra State and an employee of the state civil service, held a fast food company in Awka (BeJoy) hostage for three years and collected a Mercedes Benz car from the company which he used as a security personnel under the SSS. The director further said, "Our services are free, we don't collect money to discharge our duties", adding that Chibuzor had no reason to impersonate the security agency.

He also lamented that Chibuzor's activities forced many entrepreneurs to migrate to other states, even as he said that the post of zonal director does not exist in the SSS. Eta who also displayed a bundle of receipts issued by BeJoy Fast Food Company covering various amounts of money paid to Chibuzor, said the suspect would remain detained while investigation continued.

CGOOD

VACANCY

The Positive Living Programme, made possible by the American people through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) is implemented by the Center for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA) and its partners. CEDPA is recruiting for the position of:

Senior Project Accountant

This position reports to the Director of Finance and Administration. The Abuja based Senior Project Accountant will provide bookkeeping and accounting support services to the Positive Living Project.

Essential Duties:

- Using Quick Books Accounting Software, review and produce monthly expense reports
- Assist in production and review of financial required reports e.g. SF269
- Assist with routine accounting functions, including but not limited to; accounts receivable, preparation of journal entries, financial reports and schedules and record keeping as directed by Director of Finance and Administration (DFA)
- Coordinate field officers to review field office financial reports and prepare monthly expenditure reports.
- Assist with annual audit procedures and response to audit inquiries as needed
- Cross train to reconcile bank accounts monthly
- Cross train to review travel expense reports.
- Cross train to ensure accounting, travel and procurement policies are followed.
- Train and assist CEDPA staff as necessary with financial forms and procedures.
- Assist project management team in preparation of budgets and budget forecast.
- Monitor and review project expenditures against approved budget.
- Preparation of monthly fund request and follow up with local banks
- Review and monitoring of Sub-grantees financial activities.
- Preparation of staff monthly payroll and payroll related schedules.
- Liaising with HQ on project financial reports and budget variances.
- Provide financial up-date to project management team for decision making.
- Perform other duties as assigned by the supervisor.

Required Qualifications

- B.Sc./HND in accounting or other related field required, qualified ACA.
- Minimum 2-3 years experience in USAID, CDC or other federally-funded grants/contracts administration. Knowledge of federal compliance rules, regulations and standards associated with federal funds and non-profit accounting (A-11-, A-122, A-133 and 22CFR226) a plus.
- Proficient computer/software skills, including a command Quick Books, MS Word and Excel.

Application MUST be received on or by March 8, 2010. Attach a CV and cover letter to: cedpanigeria@yahoo.com

Jonathan urges support for political leaders

By Akor Ojoma

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan has urged the church to continue to support political leaders and not to refrain from chastising them were necessary.

Jonathan said this while opening a national conference for

Christian leaders organized by the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in Abuja yesterday.

Represented by Deputy Senate President Ike Ekweremadu, the acting president said the church has played a pivotal role in the evolution of Nigeria within the last two centuries.

"In all the challenges the country has faced like corruption, poverty and other vices the church has always stood as a constant beacon of hope. Nigeria will eventually overcome these challenges to become a stronger democracy and united country." He said

Goodluck thanked Christians

for their prayers for the recovery of President Umaru Yar'adua and urged them not to relent in praying for the nation.

Dr Dela Adadevoh said in a keynote address that even though there have been an explosion of the Christian population in the 21st century, its impact has not been proportionate

to the number.

Earlier, Director of National Issues and Social Welfare of CAN Rev. Dr William Okoye said the conference was organized for Christian leaders of integrity who are committed to the transformation of the Nigerian state into a first-world nation, shaped by God-centred moral values.

Court orders remand of prison warden over contempt

By John Chuks Azu

A Federal High Court in Abuja has ordered the remand of a prison warden who stood as surety for an accused person that jumped bail.

Innocent Acholonu, an SPA attached to Kuje Division, stood as surety in 2007 for one Solomon Abuche, a principal party in a case of fraud who is now at large.

At the continued hearing of the suit titled Federal Republic of Nigeria vs. Solomon Ebuche on March 2, the judge said Acholonu refused to turn up in court despite several criminal summons served on him until an arrest warrant was

issued on him.

Counsel to the Acholonu, Barr Utuagha O. Anthony, appealed to the presiding judge to grant bail to his principal because he is a family man with an ailing wife and children to cater for.

He said Acholonu is willing to forfeit the N500, 000 bail bond to the court even though he did not conspire with the suspect.

The judge finally adjourned the matter to Monday, March 22, and ordered the remand of Acholonu in Kuje prison and said he may look into the bail application if the accused could forfeit the money in the bail bond.

NYSC to mobilise 90,000 this month

By Romoke W. Ahmad

ABOUT 90,000 youths who graduated from various institutions in the country have registered to be mobilised for the NYSC orientation slated for March, Director General of National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Brig. General Marharazu Tsiga has said.

He said this during a courtesy call to the Minister of Youth Development in Abuja. "Out of the ninety thousand, who registered, about seventy percent of them did their registration on-line and they are expected to get their call up letters on-line. NYSC has already begins the implementation of E-registration" the DG said.

Speaking on the problem of corps members' rejection, Tsiga said most of them especially those in Abuja usually reject themselves because of a particular place they want to go and serve for reasons best known to them.

The DG asked state governments to deploy corps members to areas they are best needed.

Youth Development Minister Senator Akinlabi Olasunkami, while responding, said he is impressed with the NYSC has achieved in terms of computerization of the scheme.

He called on the youths who will be mobilized to be of good conduct and channel their energy to areas where their service will be required.

FG moves to protect Nigerian passport

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

NIGERIA is seeking the support of a French firm to stop foreigners from using Nigerian passport to commit international crime.

Interior Minister Ademola Seriki made the request yesterday in his office when he received a team of Messrs Oberthur Technology Limited from France.

Seriki, who formally requested for "workable template on Nigeria's international travelling documents" from the French firm, said Nigeria is ready to protect its passports.

He said the issue of global security "becomes so complex that expertise from abroad are continuously required to tackling them."

The minister said Nigeria's security agencies are prepared to collaborate with experts and corporations that would put the nation in good stead to deal with international threats thus making the country's border secured.

Responding, representative of the Messrs Oberthur Technology Mr. Tunde Ayeni informed the minister that as experts in security, they employ the latest technology in providing cutting-edge solutions in areas like authentic travelling documents, border control methods, checks on fraud and anti-terrorism.

Comptroller General of Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), Mr. Chukwurah J. Udeh also tasked the visiting experts on their proposed plan.



A suspected cable thief, Abba Musa, who was trapped on a PHCN high tension pole along Damboa road in Maiduguri, Tuesday.

FCT Muslim pilgrims to pay N400,000 deposit

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE FCT Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board will commence the collection of Hajj fare deposit for 2010 from intending pilgrims today.

Speaking on this arrangement, the spokesperson for the board Aliyu Usman said arrangements have been concluded for the collection so as to prepare early for a suc-

cessful operation.

He said intending pilgrims are to deposit N400, 000 pending the official announcement of hajj fare this year.

Intending pilgrims are expected to make the deposit via a bank draft to area officers of the board at each of the six FCT area councils, Usman said.

He said the Executive Secretary of the board Dr Shu'aibu

Yakubu Kurfi has charged the area council officers to respect intending pilgrims and carry out their duty diligently without corruption.

On the issue of screening pilgrims, Kurfi said the traditional induction course for intending pilgrims is compulsory as its attendance and result would form part of the scores in the screening exercise.

PIC:ISA UMAR GUSAU

Amaechi goes tough on oil bunkering, seeks DPOs' transfer

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

RIVERS State Governor Chibuike Amaechi has asked the state Commissioner of Police to redeploy all the Divisional Police Officers (DPOs) in Ogoniland as part of measures to stop illegal bunkering activities in the area.

Addressing a stakeholders meeting of Ogoni people in Port Harcourt yesterday, the governor said since the general opinion of the Ogoni people indicate that security men in the area, including the police, aid illegal bunkering, it would be proper to redeploy the DPOs.

Police Commissioner Alhaji

Suleiman Abba told our correspondent on telephone that the call was not an indictment on the police.

"What happened is that the people of the area are worried over the proliferation of illegal bunkering so they complained and the security committee felt that some changes should be effected to boost their confidence and nip the problem in the bud", Abba said.

He added that this does not mean that the police were taking part in illegal bunkering.

Meanwhile Governor Amaechi has constituted a 44 member surveillance team with 10 persons

drawn from each of the four local government areas of Ogoniland, in addition to the council chairmen as automatic members and charged them with the duty of patrolling the area in collaboration with the police and the Joint (Military) Task Force (JTF) to fish out all illegal bunkerers.

The committee which has the chairman of Eleme Local Government Area Mr Oji Ngofa as its head, is charged with the responsibility of identifying those involved in illegal bunkering activities in the area and assist in apprehending them.

"We have to stamp out illegal bunkering from Ogoniland so

that the local economy can grow again", Governor Amaechi said, and urged the surveillance team to patrol the areas daily until illegal bunkering is stopped.

He advised them to work hard to achieve peace and security in the Ogoni axis of the state, and urged the people of the area to cooperate with the committee to provide a conducive atmosphere for businesses to thrive.

The state Commander of the JTF Colonel Mutiu Yekini said the task force had zero tolerance for any act of indiscipline among its members and any officer found to be conniving with those engaged in illegal bunker-

ing would be dealt with severely.

Monsignor Matthew Kukah, the presidential facilitator for the Environmental Survey/Clean-up of oil impacted sites in Ogoniland, expressed gratitude to Governor Amaechi for his effort in the successful completion of the exercise.

"Please let us cooperate with UNEP so that they can meet the timeline for the completion of the exercise in December 2010 and pave way for the clean-up of Ogoniland", Kukah said. Present at the meeting were United Nations officials as well as Ogonis drawn from all walks of life.

The traders lost property as a result of the crisis and managed to raise some funds to renovate their burnt shops in order to continue their businesses

Traders give Jos South 30 days to reverse decision on market

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE Bukuru Traders and Marketers Association have given Jos South Local Government Council 30 working days to reverse their position on the demolition of the Bukuru market or face legal action.

This was contained in a notice sent to the Chairman of the local

government from their counsel, Barrister Ahmed Garba who said the council would also be charged with unlawfully obstructing their legitimate businesses and claim N50bn damages.

Garba said the traders were tenants in law occupying the markets in Filin sarki, Cattle market Zango and Kugiya market and that the markets were affected by

the 17th January 2010 crisis that affected Jos North and Jos South Local Governments.

He said the traders lost property as a result of the crisis and managed to raise some funds to renovate their burnt shops in order to continue their businesses but that the local government was doing everything possible to stop them.

Shekarau claims N2bn in libel suit

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

KANO State Governor Ibrahim Shekarau is to appear before a Kano High Court on March 10 to give evidence in a defamation case against Lagos based magazine, *Business Eye*.

The governor is claiming N2 billion damages, retraction of the story and apology from the magazine.

When the case came up before Justice Tani Yusuf Hassan on Tuesday, counsel to the governor, Barrister Dapo Akinosu, said he could not testify in person earlier because he was in Abuja for an official assignment.

Shekarau sued the magazine for publishing a report on December 28, 2008 alleging that he had millions of dollars in eight foreign bank accounts.

The said the banks include the National Commercial Bank of El Giya Egypt, Hong Kong West Bank of Hong Kong, BIOA Africa Bank of France and

National Commercial Bank of Jeddah.

Others are National Westminster Bank of London, CITI Bank New York, US, CITI Bank London and Duetsch Bank of South Korea.

The letters of the banks' responses were tendered before the court as exhibits. In the responses, most of the banks said no accounts in the name of Ibrahim Aliyu Shekarau existed with them, while the Hong Kong Monetary Authority said the bank in question does not exist. BIOA Africa Bank, Paris was said to have been liquidated since 1994.

The defendants earlier claimed in their publication that Ibrahim Aliyu Shekarau is the name used by the governor to deposit the money in foreign accounts.

Also testifying before the court, a legal practitioner in the law firm representing Shekarau, Barrister Fidel Albert, said Shekarau had written to the eight banks demanding confirmation of the allegations the magazine leveled against him.

Unilorin donates to Haiti quake victims

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE University of Ilorin community yesterday donated over \$33,000 to the Haiti earthquake victims. The Vice Chancellor of the university Prof. Ishaq Oloyede who was the chief launcher said the launch was to help the victims of the January 12 earthquake.

Oloyede said as human beings, it was natural to face challenges and "The strength of human beings

lies in how much we can rally round our fellow humans in times like this".

The vice chancellor said he was pleased that the university staff could give a little out of their earnings and prayed that God would appreciate the gesture and avert natural disasters in Nigeria.

Speaking at the occasion, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University (Management Services) Prof. A. B. Olayemi

who is the chairman of the organizing committee, noted that Haiti was the first independent country in America after the slave rebellion in 1804 and the country is isolated as the only Francophone country in South America.

The vice chancellor promised to forward the signed document by all those who were present at the occasion along with the money to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Job Opportunity

Local Construction Superintendents Needed

Agriteam Canada is the lead Canadian Executing Agency working in collaboration with the State Ministries of Health in Cross River and Bauchi to implement the **Nigeria College/School of Health Technology & Primary Health Care Development Project** supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The project has a commitment to renovate and refurbish up to five existing primary health care facilities in Cross River and four in Bauchi states in the year 2010. The project is seeking to hire two (2) local short-term Construction Superintendents, one in each of the two project offices based in Cross River and Bauchi states to monitor, supervise and report on facility renovations.

Responsibilities: Reporting to the Field Manager in Calabar, Cross River State and the Deputy Field Manager in Bauchi State, the Construction Superintendent in each State will work in collaboration with the selected Local Government Area authorities, health facility management and the project's technical team to provide technical expertise, coordinate, supervise, monitor and report on all sub-contracts and services related to the renovation of the identified Primary Health Care facilities in each state. The local Construction Superintendents will ensure all key project principles are promoted, particularly related to community participation and partnership, accountability and transparency, local ownership and sustainability. The local Construction Superintendents will also ensure that renovation of health facilities follows and complies with Canadian and Nigeria Environmental Management Protocols. Details of responsibilities are contained in the job description for this position.

Qualifications: A degree in architectural engineering, or related discipline from an accredited university; at least five years of experience in designing, implementing and supervising quality renovation of primary health care or similar facilities within Nigeria;

familiarity with Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA); familiarity with Nigerian building codes, rules and regulations including Environmental Impact Assessment and regulations related to siting and design of latrines and facilities for the safe disposal of medical waste; liaising with a variety of stakeholders including governments, non-governmental organizations, health and other service delivery agencies; demonstrated ability to ensure timely, accountable, transparent and effective use of funds and a high quality final product; knowledge of the local cultural and political contexts in Cross River and/or Bauchi States; ability/willingness to work under stressful conditions, including travel to rural and remote areas; excellent oral and written communication in English and excellent computer skills.

Salary and benefits: commensurate with qualifications.

Please send CV and cover letter, indicating which of the two States you are applying for. Applications should be addressed to the Field Manager, Nigeria-Canada School/College of Health Technology and Primary Health Care Development Project and sent by mail or email to Catherine.Hakim@cnhtp.org latest by 4.00 p.m. on March 18, 2010 to any of the following addresses:

Cross River State:
College of Health Technology,
Mary Slessor Avenue,
Calabar
Administration: 08036983010

Bauchi State:
#10 Bununu Close
CBN Clinic
New GRA,
Bauchi
Administration: 08035032400

While we thank all applicants, please note that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted for an interview.

Mob kills robbery suspect

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

YOUTHS in Minna, Niger State yesterday killed a suspected armed robber.

The suspect was a

member of a gang caught robbing at Sabon-daga along the Minna-Bida expressway.

One other member of the gang was arrested while three escaped.

Mohammed Sanda, the 25 year robbery suspect who was arrested, told our correspondent that he started robbing two years ago, adding that he had never realized more than

N5,000 from an operation.

The father of two said they blocked the express road with boulders, stopped vehicles and collected valuables

from people.

Niger State Police Public Relations Officer Mr. Richard Oguche said the dead robber, Saboji, was killed early yesterday.

He said policemen

had been detailed to the area, adding that the community was doing its best to rid itself of hoodlums as the command would look into the matter.

Idris goes tough on LG chairmen

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

KOGI State Governor Ibrahim Idris has said that he would no longer tolerate any misconduct from local government chairmen in the state.

Idris who said this while addressing journalists in Lokoja, said there were allegations of corrupt practices and poor performance against some chairmen in the state. It would

be recalled that last week, the Chairman of Ibaji Local Government Area Mr. Abraham Uchola was suspended following allegations of corrupt practices.

"Remember that last week, I suspended a local government chairman for so many things he was alleged to have done. Based on the accusations against him, I asked stakeholders in the local government area to see me and after all par-

ties registered their grievances, we felt the chairman in question should be suspended and a committee has been set up to investigate the allegations.

"There are other local government areas that I need to revisit. I will not want to disclose the local government areas for obvious reasons, but you will soon hear from me. I expect the council chairmen to help me in managing the local government areas.

"Anyone of them who is not ready to do that or help his local government should consider himself out.

"I will not tolerate that. Whoever is found wanting will be dealt with accordingly" he said.

"Remember that last week, I suspended a local government chairman for so many things he was alleged to have done

'Corrupt politicians influence youths negatively'

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

THE Chairman of the National Democratic Coalition (NADECO) Chief Ayo Adebajo has said that corrupt politicians influence Nigerian youths negatively.

Adebajo also said the rebranding effort of the Federal Government would not achieve its desired goals if youths are not rebranded

to change focus.

Adebajo who addressed graduating secondary school students yesterday in Lagos spoke on the current issue in the country, saying the Presidency was not a private institution, but a public one.

He said the hide and seek game being played by President Umar Yar'adua was ridiculous and did not represent the Nigeria they

fought for.

He said things had to change in the country and that the change must begin from the secondary schools. He urged the students to eschew social vices and be committed to the growth of the country.

The event also witnessed the launch of a book, "We are the Future of Our Nation", which celebrates some Nigerians.

Amaechi orders sack of aides over lateness to meeting

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

GOVERNOR Chibuike Amaechi of Rivers State has ordered that his Special Advisers and Special Assistants who were either late or absent from this month's inter-ministerial meeting should be relieved of their appointments immediately.

Similarly, commissioners and permanent secretaries who were also absent or late without permission are to be queried.

Governor Amaechi who gave the order on Tuesday

at the monthly inter-ministerial meeting in Port Harcourt said he would meet

with the leadership of the Peoples Democratic Party in the state to decide on the type of disciplinary action to be taken against chairmen of local government councils who were absent.

Governor Amaechi expressed displeasure that the officials could treat such an important meeting with levity.

"I am supposed to be in Abuja with my colleagues, but I had to stay back because of the importance I accord Rivers State, so I

will not accept any excuse for this", he said.

The governor equally directed the Commissioner for Power as well as the Commissioner for the Urban Development Commission to commence the demolition of structures under the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) high tension lines to avoid electrocution of people.

In the same vein, he directed the Commissioner for Environment to demolish structures built on oil and gas pipelines in the state.

... Explains ban on foreign medical trips

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

GOVERNOR Chibuike Amaechi of Rivers State has given reasons why the state government stopped financing overseas medical treatment.

Speaking in Port Harcourt on Tuesday, Governor Amaechi said N1.5 billion was spent last year on medical trips abroad, adding that the money could have been used to build and equip at least three new health centres in the state.

"It is sad that most people who died as a result of absence of medical facilities in Nigeria could have been

saved", he said.

Amaechi said henceforth, no request for medical treatment overseas should be sent to him, adding, "Anyone who seeks medical treatment abroad should pay from his pocket, not with Rivers money", he added.

He therefore directed the Commissioner for Health to immediately pay all contractors handling the construction of new primary healthcare centres so that they could be put to use. On the management of hospitals in the state, the governor said a new structure would soon be put in place to test-run the out-

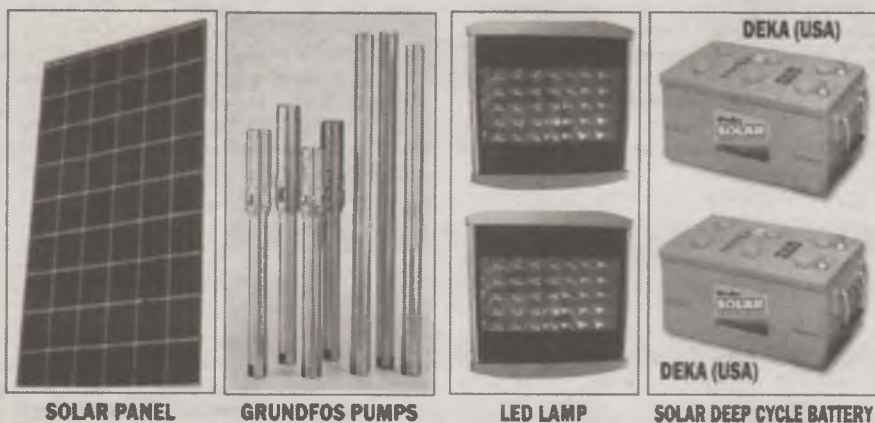
sourcing of hospital management to experts so that medical doctors could concentrate on the treatment of patients alone.



GOV Rotimi Amaechi

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Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



Guards Brigade Commander only answers to President – Ex-security chief

LET us be factual to ourselves, this nation must not be rubbished by sycophants and illiterates. Let us avoid sentiments. What we need is absolute peace and respect for the constitution.

Grace Rowlands
gracenard@yahoo.com

I am not surprised by your comments. How can you explain a situation where you have an Acting President with all the constitutional powers and he was not briefed about the arrival of the president. My question to Major Abubakar Adamu Mohammed is this, who is the constitutionally recognised person to receive the president and what has breaking the law got to do with whether heads of certain organisations are Christians?

Niyi Adebayo
niyi_adebayo@yahoo.com

Abubakar, thanks for the information. That is why people say, in the absence of fact, rumours are bound to reign.

Mic
micseye2002@yahoo.com

I feel it is not good for civilians in Nigeria to be uttering statements on the Nigerian military ignorantly. Thank you Major for enlightening the public, but try not to be sentimental.

K.M.
kibirumu@yahoo.com

Police officer dies in office

IT saddens me to hear that a CSP and OC Provost sleeps in the office because of lack of accommodation. If security agents in Nigeria are not secured, how can there be security in the nation? Let the NPF and the Police Affairs Ministry do something about this. May God give the family of late CSP Bala Audu and Nigerians the fortitude to bear the loss.

Isa Mariri
isamariri@yahoo.com

Rumpus in House over Akunyili



INFORMATION Minister Dora Akunyili

DORA has caused so much confusion in the country. She is talking too much.

Yusuf
yusuf_yaro@yahoo.com

What does she want to prove, that she loves Nigeria more than other ministers? It is so sad that the Minister of Information can divulge to every Tom, Dick and Harry, discussions held in private. If Aondoakaa was too vocal, what is Dora? Instead of trying to stabi-

lize the country, she is busy pointing fingers, creating divisions here and there. Whatever she has to say to her colleagues or other political appointees most of whom are from the PDP, need not be on television or radio. If any crisis erupts due to her unguarded statements, she'll have only herself to blame. I urge the Acting President to order her to keep quiet.

nomjisylvester@yahoo

This woman has a mission. She

has forgotten how she lobbied to be a part of the Federal Executive Council.

Haruna Abubakar
haroonzg@gmail.com

Let us face realities and do the right thing. The president and his aides should have confidence in the vice president by discussing all issues that concern the president's health. President Yar'adua's return to the country without the knowledge of the Vice President definitely raises some questions on trust.

M. Inuwa
ibmayo2005@yahoo.com

This is a very nice motion raised by a member of the House of Representatives over this woman who is trying to cause confusion in the country with her statements. She is only making them because she thinks she will benefit more when Goodluck Jonathan becomes the president of this country. I hope this woman will resign and leave the cabinet because occupying her position is expected to show full respect to the country's president.

Abubakar Chika Maru
abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com

This woman is trying to do her work, she has been trying to defend her office. Kudos to her and shame on those that are not making efforts for us know the

where about of our president. Truth, they say exalts a nation and gaskiya tafi kobo.

Dr. Genesis Dawuda
info@drgenesis.com

Dora Akunyili is now heading three ministries, Information, Communication and Special Duties. By her unguarded utterances, she has exposed her distaste for President Yar'adua who she verbally claims to be loyal to. We now know better. She has conducted herself in a manner that confirmed speculation by some people that she has an axe to grind with Yar'adua. Her problem is that she lost out in a power play over who controls the juicy parastatals between herself and her Minister of State. She wanted everything to herself and engaged the Minister of State in an unnecessary war over NCC.

Mal. Alkali Sokoto
bbkralkali@yahoo.com

I still cannot understand where Dora Akunyili is heading with these unguarded statements which are capable of plunging the country into a crisis. If Dora is not satisfied with the present arrangement, she should do this country a favour and resign. Let her wait until power is shifted to her region. Dora's comment on the Nigerian Army was provocative.

Abdu Isa Kofarmata
kmatagigi@yahoo.com

So Akunyili is 'fed up with lies about Yar'adua'

I don't see anything to admire in Akunyili's recent reckless statements. This woman is the nation's Minister of Information and she should not be talking too much. As a minister, she should present information in such a way as to calm frayed nerves instead of heating up the polity by effectively dividing people into pro and anti Yar'adua camps. Why is

she creating the impression that she likes Nigeria more than the other ministers?

Sylvester Nomji
nomjisylvester@yahoo.com

Kola-nut last longer in the mouth of the person who knows the value. I am very happy for our Minister of Information Dr.D.Akunyili and for her

encouragement to all Nigerians. She is the type of leader that Nigerians needs. Her conducts and services reminds me of the fifth and sixth lines of our national anthem (the labour of our heroes past shall never be in vain) Our past heroes made it possible for us to get independence. What did the leaders who took over after them do? To drag

us back? I am happy that God is raising generations that will respect our national pledge. I wonder if those who abuse their offices understand the meaning of our national anthem and pledge? or are they not Nigerians? Professor Dora, God will keep you for Nigeria.

Nmakama.I.Paul
stpaulcreations@yahoo.com

Govs stop move to oust Yar'adua

PLEASE, I will like to tell those who want our president to quit his job that our president is a human being like any other person. They should pity him. Let them imagine themselves in his condition, how will they feel? Please leave Yar'adua alone.

Mannir Aliyu
manniraliyu72@yahoo.com

Following the inability of the Federal Executive Council to meet last week due to the confusion created by the return of President Yar'adua, All eyes are still on FEC as we wait for them to deliberate on the state of the nation. For how long is the status quo going to be maintained in the presidency? Is Goodluck Jonathan going to be

Acting President forever.

Ibrahim T. Ibrahim
elkutigi@gmail.com

I think it does not matter whether the president is from North, South or even heaven. What our north needs now is a leader who can remove all the almajiris from our streets, who can competently stop the crisis on the plateau, who can provide a leadership that will change the status of the north. And to Dora Akunyili, I think she has no basis for criticising a system that she is a part of. To show us how serious she is, she should tender her resignation letter.

Nura Adamu
annoordra@yahoo.com

This issue of Yar'adua's health has taken a lot of our time and resources. I think it is about time we forgot about it and joined hands to support Goodluck so that we can move forward. I believe spending too much time on this issue will do us no good. We have a lot to do in this country, just think about it, we will be 50 this October and we have almost nothing to show for it.

Muhammad Ahmad
alkanawee@yahoo.com

Sincerely, the time has come for Nigerians to take a positive action. We have to be very decisive because we are the ones who voted for them. 2011 is the time for us to make a change, let us pray

for a better Nigeria.

Sagir
mushkilamafi@yahoo.co.uk



PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua

Idang Alibi

idangalibi@dailytrust.com; 08036938729

One day for sure

The title of this piece sounds very much like the title of a James Hardy Chase novel but it is not at all. Rather, it is about the current difficult-to-understand political situation in our dear country Nigeria. What we are trying to say here is that one day soon, the absurd jigsaw puzzle that has been unfolding right before our very eyes since the past ninety something days will be resolved one way or another. And when that surely happens we will now have the time and the serenity of mind to take stocks. We will have to ask very probing questions about the many odd things that happened in order to enable us to understand the working of the minds of those who were behind some of the clearly bizarre things that happened.

My confidence is built on the fact that nothing or no situation ever lasts forever. For sure, not too many days from today, it will become clear whether president

Why were they completely unmoved by the cry that their action was fast turning Nigeria from a banana republic to a pawpaw republic?

Umaru Musa Yar'adua who is reputed to have a miraculous recovery rate from his bouts of persistent illness will recover from his ill-health and reassume his position as president of the republic. On the flip side, his situation might grow worse and it will become crystal clear that some one else has to assume the mantle of leadership.

We can not continue to endure the confusion of an acting president operating under the shadow of an ailing president whose people do not want to let go. Whichever way things eventually go the dangerous hide-and-seek game we have been treated to in the past three months and a few days concerning the president's illness and his real whereabouts will surely come to a glorious or ignoble end. A new chapter will be opened in the life of our much abused country.

What I am yearning for is that which ever way the imbroglia is resolved; we should have the chance to interrogate the cabal that is said to be behind what I christen the "Umaru Musa Yar'adua Politicised Illness Show" and compel them to answer a lot of questions that are agitating the minds of millions of Nigerians. If it is possible, the tape of the interrogation should be aired on national TV so that those Nigerians who are interested in such matters will have a chance to understand some of the clearly incomprehensible things that took place. What I have in mind is not a payback time for the cabal for the tension they helped to generate in the polity but purely a national intellectual soul searching enterprise to learn from our traumatic experience.

For me, some of the issues to be resolved include: who and who are members of this so-called cabal? Are they mere men and women like some of us or

were they recruited from the kingdom of hell to hold a nation of 140 million people to ransom? Who was their arrow-head? Who conceived of what, at what time and how were their agreed strategies finetuned and put into effect?

What, in their individual background, is responsible for their fertile evil imagination and the dangerous schemes they plotted and executed? Who was their mastermind or brain box as we used to put it in the university? How were they able to coordinate their evil scheme of secrecy with such finesse, efficiency and effectiveness? Where was their situation room? Was it partly in Saudi Arabia and partly in Aso Rock and who were the prime movers in each of the locations?

How come they have such absolute contempt for the rest of the 140 million Nigerians? What were their motives for some of the incomprehensible things they did? Why did they do what they did? Were they motivated by the greed to hold unto power at least by proxy and to profit by so doing? Were they motivated by a mean-spirited dog-in-the-manger attitude to insist that they will plunge the nation into a serious political crisis if their man is not well enough to hold the reins of power? What sense of entitlement compelled them to think that they had a right to exercise power at the detriment of the nation? Was it their interpretation of the zoning arrangement which made them feel that the presidency was their own and that ill-health of one man should not deny them their diadem? Why were they completely unmoved by the cry that their action was fast turning Nigeria from a banana republic to a pawpaw republic? Why did they appear so impervious to reasoning?

Let the interrogators and open an aperture into their thinking or reasoning process. What gave them the confidence that the game that touches millions of other compatriots will be played according to the rules determined by a tiny few of them forever? Do they think that all Nigerians are such great fools that they will fold their hands and watch them forever toying with the destiny of 140 million people? Are they sadists who derive some perverse joy in reducing their nation from a potential giant to a laughing stock?

I am a curious person by nature and when certain things happen I am more interested in knowing some of the behind-the-scene things that took place than in the real drama that unfolded on the national stage as is the case with the Yar'adua political show. As a people, we are not much given to curiosity and I think that is what explains why we do not know many things and we are not making the kind of progress we ought to be making. Healthy curiosity enables a people to learn certain things and to block loopholes in the system in order to prevent certain undesirable things from happening in the present or the future.

If we understand what motivated the cabal behind the Yar'adua highly politicised illness to do what they did we will then be in a position to take the necessary step to prevent another cabal from doing a similar thing in the future.

I am anxiously waiting for that day. I know it will come for sure.

By Abu Najakku

With Sanusi at CBN, attempts to derail banking reforms will fail

Malam Sanusi Lamido Sanusi's honeymoon with some section of the Nigerian media was very brief, indeed. Even when he was nominated as Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, some in the media described him, accurately, as an Islamic scholar; but the description sought to discount his banking credentials.

Clearly, however, Sanusi Lamido Sanusi is also a seasoned banker as could be attested to by his distinguished career.

But no sooner had he begun far-reaching reforms at the Central Bank of Nigeria, than the same section of the media started to question his competence.

The disdain of this section of the media for Malam Sanusi could be located in the avalanche of avarice discovered in the banks managed by their benefactors in the wake of Sanusi's sack of the leadership of eight Nigerian banks last year.

Sanusi met banks being recklessly run by their helmsmen. They gave out huge sums of money as loans, sometimes to themselves, without collateral. In no

In fact, we should apply term limits for all our public office holders, including editors

time, these loans became unserviceable.

Some of the banks were overstaffed and the bank chiefs overpaid. Where and how did they get the money?

Now you have some faceless and cowardly Renaissance Professionals, sponsored by victims of the CBN reforms, muckraking Malam Sanusi. Why should Sanusi expose the rot in Oceanic Bank, Bank PHB, Intercontinental Bank, Fin Bank etc? Why should their managements be sacked and prosecuted? Why should Sanusi set up an assets management company? Why should the CBN set up a term limit for the Managing Directors of banks?

And so the Renaissance Professionals have constituted themselves as the leading attack dog against Sanusi and are fed upon by a national newspaper. This newspaper has abandoned all pretensions to objectivity and liberalism in their blind defence of one of the former Managing Directors of one of the affected banks who is also the wife of the brother of its publisher.

In an unprecedented hostile and partisan series of commentaries, the newspaper wrote three consecutive editorials seeking to pour cold water on Sanusi Lamido's courageous reforms.

First of all, Sanusi has an eye on the future. He is not going to allow huge sums of money to be loaned out without collateral. He is not going to allow these mind boggling loans to end up unserviceable. By sacking fraudulent bank

leaderships, exposing their criminality, putting them on trial and publishing the names of those owing these banks obscene amount of money, Malam Sanusi has shown a lot of courage and also set the tone for good conduct and transparency in bank management.

The CBN's injection of public money (620 billion naira) into these banks meant that none of them would be allowed to fail, but that they have to be sold in tandem with the philosophy of bourgeois economy which Nigeria operates. On this score, idle minds have speculated Sanusi's preference for Arabs to buy the available shares in these troubled banks. Another time they said he preferred South African interest, now they just say Northerners will buy them using Sanusi's chosen foreign fronts. *Haba!*

If these people from Sanusi's section of the country are really determined to own banks, they might as well use the same amount of money to establish new ones! After all one of them has just given out one hundred million dollars in charity! No. Sanusi will sell the troubled banks by April or May and he has no interest in who buys them except to say that he prefers those who have the wherewithal and will add value to them.

As for 10-year limit for Managing Directors of banks, this is a well thought out policy. It could be argued that it is precisely because these same people remained as MDs of these banks, converting depositors' money to their personal use, which made our banks sick. If longevity of service could bring stability, out banks ought to have been the strongest in the world. In fact, we should apply term limits for all our public office holders, including editors!

If Sanusi's predecessors have done their job properly, he would not have had much to do at CBN. Professor Charles Soludo, for example, merely toyed with reforms and not else, deferring to partisan politics.

Sanusi will weed out political banking. Over the years, these political bankers have learnt to cook up figures, finance unviable projects, grant insecure and un-payable loans to themselves and their cronies and arrange awards for their banks to the detriment of their depositors and the economy.

Sanusi will do whatever is necessary to safeguard depositors' fund and sanitize the banks. If staff figures are to deplete as a consequence, so be it.

At least, the banks now request for security before they give out loans and over N250 billion of such has been recovered. The European Investment Bank (EIB) and other credible institutions are warming up to invest in these troubled banks and acquire them.

Also, Sanusi has indicated that these top banks do not have to have the same figure of capitalization, perform the same roles and cover similar grounds. There could be regional and other types of banks to play different but complementary roles in order to rejuvenate the economy.

Najakku wrote from No 15, 352 Road, Gwarinpa, Abuja.



Your Letters

Positive observations from Yar'adua's absence

Nigerians deserve to be congratulated on making it unambiguously clear to members of the Armed Forces that their intrusion in partisan politics was no longer welcome. That, to me, is one indication that democracy is gradually establishing its roots in our society.

In the not-too-distant past, Nigerians and even members of so-called opposition parties urged military intervention even when

a crisis situation was arguably not as serious as the one occasioned by the prolonged and unauthorised absence of President Musa Yar'adua from the seat of power. Maybe, after all, there is something for which to thank Generals Ibrahim Babangida and Sani Abacha. Their corrupt and ruthless dictatorships would appear to have wizened most of us.

So our law-makers know how to amend a constitution! We have been begging them for quite sometime now but matters of selfish interest seemed to have prevented them from being interested. If they eventually succeed in amending Sections 145 and 144 of the 1999 Constitution they would have introduced two amendments into the constitution

that would prevent future leaders from vacating their seats indefinitely.

I thank President Yar'adua for this!

Maybe our lawmakers can now summon the courage to embark on a selective review or amendment of the Constitution. The presidency would deserve to be remodelled in the light of our ethnological realities. Of course whoever occupies that exalted position must also accept that for the duration of office he or she is some kind of commodity that cannot be shielded away from members of the public who are its owners.

Anthony Akinola can be reached at (anthonyakinola@yahoo.co.uk)

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Playing with fire

THE ongoing effort to tamper with or amend the constitution of our country to save the selfish interest of our so-called leaders has to stop, because it can lead to destruction of our fatherland.

MOHAMMED L, Kaduna,
07052070312.

Strange gifts

IMAGINE the unwanted conduct of the Governor of Niger state in distributing GSM SIM packs with his name on them to the civil servants.

M.H. TURAKI, Lapai,
08065239039.

Fallacy

IT is always said that the worst democracy is better than the best military government. This saying does not hold water; whoever believes it does not know history. All the industrial revolutions the world over took place under dictators,

08034994866.

Wrong on Akunyili

SYLVESTER C. Udemezue should be told that there is nothing right about Akunyili. Where were you

when she coerced the Ekiti electoral commissioner to abandon her 'Christian conscience' to conclude and announce a fraud? She is just a one-man cabal around Jonathan.

I.D. DEBA, 07031161795.

Right on her

AKUNYILI is bold and forthright; she has every right to say whatever she thinks is right. Don't quit, please. Remember, venom of a viper does nothing to the back of a tortoise.

ALI El-Gad, jr Maiduguri,
08095103339.

Let her be

LEAVE the woman alone. The fact that she was appointed minister by President Yar'adua doesn't mean that she should pass the wrong information to the world. Let her say things the way they are, after all her life is in God's hand, not men. Don't be afraid, Dora.

ABIGAIL Dang, Jos,
08038063521.

Sentiments aside

DON'T you think it is Mr President Yar'adua's SILENCE, not Professor Dora Akunyili's STATEMENT that

is heating up the polity?

DAHE, Suleja, 08096465688.

Divided nation

THE Yar'adua/Jonathan saga has rekindled the North-South dichotomy. Check the reactions in our various papers, Northerners siding Yar'adua while Southerners follow their own. It's unfortunate.

MUSA Guri, 08060287535.

Ousting Tandja

THAT article in the Tuesday column by Sanusi Abubaka was a masterpiece. Tandja might have his shortcomings but the actions of the so-called democratic giants left us in suspense. We wish Niger a quick return to democracy.

ADAMU Mohammed, Damboa Road, Maiduguri, 08060853461.

So Danjuma heads Jonathan's think-tank?

LITTLE wonder why we don't make much headway. I ask: Don't we have young vibrant men who are educated and can contribute their quota towards uplifting our great nation?

KELECHI, Abuja, 08038891118.



By Ferdinand Okorie

Look who's home

If you think that the political turf of our nation is already a complicated playing ground, think again because the return of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua into a waiting ambulance weeks into Dr Goodluck Jonathan's acting president role has made it a lot more complicated. *BBC* and *Associated Press* broke the news to the curious world and they have been on top of what has become a guessing game trying to figure out the implication of Yar'adua's return as it concerns the politics of our nation. Everyone wants to know whether his return inevitably cut life out of the acting role of Jonathan who is just getting into work. We are very excited that Yar'adua is home and we hope that he gets healthy soon. Given that he returned home into a waiting ambulance, the question remains about how healthy he is. 150 million Nigerians will agree to the fact that the current events happening around the executive arm of our government is far from what we desired.

As a nation, we do not need this complication right now. Everything possible, and within reach should be done not to allow cronies of both Yar'adua and Jonathan to take control of this situation to further their selfish ambitions. The millions of Nigerians who voted PDP and Yar'adua into office have the right to know how healthy Yar'adua is to return to the position of Commander-in-Chief. Royalists of both Yar'adua and Mr. Jonathan are not making the current situation any easier. They are busy trying to out-manoeuvre each other in the royalists' game of political apprenticeship. Believe it or not, it doesn't do any good to the millions of Nigerians faced with the challenges of daily living. Not today and never in the past to say the least has politicians and their army of royalists put the needs of the Nigerian people over and above their addictive drive to take power and keep it at any cost and expense.

We can only speculate at this time on the health condition of Yar'adua, while we are talking about it, it seems to us Nigerians that some people in Yar'adua's camp are apparently dissatisfied with the unanimous decision of the House of Assembly to transfer power to Mr. Jonathan. This move by the House obviously allows the nation to get back on track after what realistically was a lost of close to three months without a functioning executive arm of government. But since, as sad as it is, most of our democracy is built on royalists jostling for a selfish share of the national cake some people from Yar'adua's camp are seemingly dissatisfied with the acting role of Mr. Jonathan as the president who already is making changes that leave them in the dark and out of the loop.

Believe it or not, there are two factors that are the driving force of the current situation faced by the executive arm of government. The first of these factors is a perennial problem in the politics of our nation. It is the painful reality that politicians and their cronies will do everything within their power to keep a big chunk of the national cake coming to them while the rest of the nation suffers underdevelopment and sinks deeper into poverty. Politicians are more interested in serving their own needs and seeking their own comfort while the nation suffers. Our politicians are self-serving more than half of the time they spend in office. They serve their own interests and surround themselves with greedy royalists who will fight to keep them in power even when the chips of popularity are falling down on them. All that we have to show for the self-serving group of politicians we have is the increasing underdevelopment of our society; the near death of the middle class in our nation and that depth of poverty that have brought the bar of our nation's mortality rate at all time low. Millions of Nigerians sink daily into deep poverty and our economy lacks the status of a cutting-edge global economy. It's unacceptable to say the least.

The second factor that has created so much distraction to our executive arm of government is the apparent lack of communication between Yar'adua and Jonathan. Jonathan's effort to visit with his boss has been thwarted by the same self-serving royalists to Yar'adua. No doubt that these men ran a good campaign that eventually got them elected. But there seem to be a serious break down of relationship between Yar'adua and Jonathan which has a far-reaching consequence to the smooth running of the state. Both men are the leading figures at the executive branch of government. Having Yar'adua and Jonathan talking to each will do the nation a lot of good. The team spirit they built since they were elected is facing serious challenges as Yar'adua try to get healthy and back to work. Their cronies are taking control of the situation to further create division at the executive branch of government. This is far from what the nation need today especially as we are trying to win the fight against corruption and build a strong economic base for our nation.

Okorie writes from Chicago, USA.

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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The River Niger dredging controversy

Last week, remarks by acting President Goodluck Jonathan appeared to suggest that the Federal Government has suspended the dredging of the lower River Niger and directed the Federal Ministry of Finance to transfer the 19 billion naira earmarked for the project to the Ministry of the Niger Delta for it to be used instead to fortify the coastal shorelines in the area as a prelude to dredging.

The remarks understandably elicited widespread outrage in many parts of the country.

Though the acting president's aides were quick to attempt explaining the content and import of the remarks, it would seem that not much sense has been made as to clear the doubts of citizens as far as the rationality, propriety and timing of the decision is concerned.

After a meeting with the Federal Government's amnesty implementation committee, which comprises the governors of the Niger Delta region, ministers and other functionaries from the region held in the Presidential Villa on Tuesday, February, 23rd the government had issued the statement to the effect that the dredging was 'not the most pressing issue' on its agenda.

Since the decision, a lot of debate has ensued across the country and government has tried to make further clarifications on the decision presenting different reasons as to why the suspension has to be made. As cogent as the reasons may appear to be, several sections of the country view the decision as ill-timed and in disregard of national sensitivity, especially when placed against the backdrop of several factors among which is the fact that the money was specifically appropriated for dredging the lower Niger and the project was previously approved by the Federal Executive Council.

Regardless of new facts that might have emerged after the studies and environmental impact assessments have been done and taken into cognizance before the project was approved and subsequently awarded, the forum where the decision of the Federal Executive Council was reversed was not the appropriate or competent one.

What we believe the Acting President should have done, if the forum felt so strongly about the issue, was to refer the matter back to the FEC and thus in the front burner for public debate. A programme of enlightenment to explain the reasons the acting president considered it more urgent to fortify the coastlines first before the dredging the lower axis of the river commences should then have been announced. The announcement that Dr Jonathan made ignored the sensitivity of other Nigerians to the project.

The decision was ill-timed and unfair, given the huge economic and social advantages that the dredging will bring to the Nigerian people. It is necessary that very sensitive decisions such as this one taken by government should recognize the political, economic and social sensitivities of other stakeholders.

No matter how right or important major policy decisions may seem, it behoves on those who take them to consider several other issues that are likely to either enhance the workability of such decision or work against the realization of its objectives.

While it is acceptable that dredging the Niger River will open vistas of economic and social opportunities in the country, we should not however lose sight of the fact that there is need to ensure that hazards that may occur as a result of the dredging are equally addressed.

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A pre-summit on women in politics

Civil Society Watch

By Hajiya Bilkisu (mni)

The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development organised a pre-summit on participation of women in politics on February 23 2010. The venue was the National Centre for Women Development, on Better life Street in the Central Business District, Abuja. The event drew participants from all the states Ministries of Women Affairs, legislators from the National Assembly, women politicians, Civil Society and the media. The Honourable Minister of Women Affairs, Mrs. Salmatu Hussain Suleiman who was represented by the Director of Women Affairs, Mrs Esther Adeyemi welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of the meeting. She also presented the Minister's keynote address. She noted that the Ministry organised the pre summit to enable it deliberate on the important topic of the participation of women in politics. This complements the National Gender Policy (NGP) developed by the Ministry which also has the mandate to ensure its implementation. The policy specifies that women should occupy a minimum of 30 percent of all elective and appointive positions. The Ministry is concerned that in spite of previous efforts by women to effectively participate in politics and governance, their participation still falls short of the desired 30 percent as required by international standards, and the 35 per cent as entrenched in the National Gender Policy of 2006. Some of the perceived impediments have been identified by experts and the Ministry brought together experts to brain storm and develop a blue print for presentation at the Summit in April.

After the opening ceremony, participants discussed three main themes. The first was how to achieve 35 percent representation for women in elective and appointive positions. The presenters were women politicians, political party aspirants and Dr Kulu Haruna Abubakar of Edubest Consult. They provided the participants with tips on constituency mobilization, campaign organising and developing a lasting social contract with voters. The first session was chaired by Honourable Binta Masi Garba, the Chairman, House Committee on Women Affairs. The second session which focused on the *Challenge of the Ballot Box* was chaired by Honourable Saudatu Sani, Chairperson of the House Committee on Millennium Development Goals MDG while the third session focused on *Funding Issues* and was chaired by Her Excellency, the Deputy Governor of Plateau State, Pauline Tallen. Several legislators were in attendance; among them were Senator Patricia Akwashiki Hon. Abike Dabiri, Honourable Nkechi Nwaogu and Hon. Maimuna Adaji.

Two resource persons made presentations at the second session, Priscilla M Achakpa, the Executive Director of the Women Environmental Programme WEP and my humble self. Priscilla's paper began

with a review of the trend in women's participation in politics and discussed in detail the challenges faced by women during elections. Among them she identified entrenched socio cultural and religious attitudes and practices, patriarchal political system and male preference in politics, the disadvantaged economic status of women, inadequate education of most women, misconceptions about women in politics and public life, lack of/inadequate support from other women and several others. Her paper also outlined challenges that are related

who were successful and the unsuccessful all said they were faced with some form of cultural inhibition or open religious condemnation in their communities. I cited the case of a candidate in Kebbi State who had bright prospects but when she refused to withdraw, her male opponents got her husband to contest against her. There was also the case of a woman voter in Katsina state who was divorced at the polling station because she did not queue for her husband's candidate during the open ballot!

My paper also highlighted the obstacles the women politicians faced due to the anomalies in the operations of the political parties and the electoral system. Some female aspirants suffered defeat or were edged out through the unconstitutional political parties' formula of zoning posts while elec-

There was also the case of a woman voter in Katsina state who was divorced at the polling station because she did not queue for her husband's candidate during the open ballot

to voting and ensuring free and fair elections, such as inadequate polling booths, delay or non display of the voters' register in most states, and the electoral violence that has become a hallmark of politics in the country. Priscilla recalled that the 2007 elections were discredited by local and international observers and aggrieved women had very little avenue for redress and most of them could not afford the cost of a prolonged judicial process.

My presentation was similar to Priscilla's, the only addition being the various national law/ international conventions that support women's participation in politics and public life which I cited. Among them were the Nigeria Constitution, the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women CEDAW, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights UDHR and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. My paper also cited a research on the constraints faced by women in the 2007 elections conducted by Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative WRAPA. On financial constraints faced by women, the research showed that 90% of the aspirants cited dearth of resources as a serious constraint. They did not have resources to pay their registration fee, establish offices in their constituencies, and maintain the relevant campaign structures and basic logistics such as paying the cost of renting buses to be used by supporters during the campaign. On election related violence, the research also showed that fear of physical harm through open violence and intimidation accounted for the elimination of over 90% of the aspirants and measures to secure security failed to protect the aspirants. On socio-cultural constraints, nearly all aspirants, 98% of those

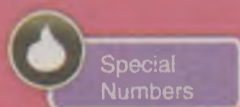
total fraud and other malpractices accounted for the "defeat" of many of the candidates. Parties' non compliance with party regulations also led to imposition of candidates and other irregularities. Women were also short-changed through outright rigging and unrest during primary elections, non-constitution of electoral panels by parties. In some instances there were no primaries held, yet results were declared for favoured candidates. Another constraint mentioned by the women was apathy in support for female candidates. The research showed that over 70% of aspirants attributed their poor showing to the low level of support they enjoyed from women in their constituencies while the lack of capacity even for the few political veterans amongst the aspirants was also a constraint. The coordination of their campaigns fell short of the desired quality to enhance their chances in the primaries.

Our recommendations were also similar. Priscilla recommended enforcement of the National Gender Policy, capacity building for individual's goals and aspirations and community based strategies which should include breaking of negative cultural and socio religious and other gender barriers. My paper made short term and long term recommendations. The short term recommendations 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. Known in local parlance as 'a kada, a raka a tsare', it worked in Bauchi and Kano states in the 2007 elections.



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DARAM DAM DAM

INSHA ALLAH

The National Councillors' Forum of Nigeria,
(Kaduna State Chapter), wish to invite the
General Public to the Honorarium Award to the
"Arc of peace and Development"

His Excellency, The Executive Governor of
Kaduna State;

Arc. Muhammed Namadi Sambo FNIA.
By its National body of the Forum

Arc. Muhammed Namadi Sambo FNIA
Executive Governor, Kaduna State
(The Bridge Builder)

Venue: Gamji Gate Multipurpose Hall,
Kaduna

Date: 05th - March - 2010

Time: 4:00pm prompt

COME ONE COME ALL

Signed:


Hon. A.A Yaronkirki Kajuru
National Publicity Secretary of the Forum &
Chairman Kaduna State Councillors Forum



His Excellency,
Arch. Mohammed Namadi Sambo, FNIA
Executive Governor, Kaduna State.
(The bridge builder)



Hon. A.A Yaronkirki Kajuru
National Publicity Secretary of the Forum
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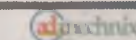
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INTERMOTORS



INTERNATIONAL

Uganda steps up search for mudslide survivors

RESCUERS clawed through mud in driving rain yesterday in a desperate bid to find survivors from a huge landslide feared to have killed hundreds in villages in eastern Uganda.

At least 80 bodies have already been found on the slopes of Mount Elgon and at least 300 people are missing in the villages.

More torrential rain fell as rescuers dug through the mud with spades and tools as mechanical diggers could not get up the slopes. Army helicopters flew up medical supplies to treat the injured.

After days of heavy rain, the mudslide engulfed the villages near the Uganda-Kenya border late Monday. Olyamboka Sam was praying when the disaster struck.

"I was in the church when I saw the landslide coming carrying stones and trees. Everyone was running from the church," said Sam, who was being treated for a fractured arm at a hospital in Bududa, the nearest town.

The 24-year-old man told how he saw two women, two children and a man carried away to their deaths. Other survivors said the mudslide moved so fast that victims had no chance to escape.

Teams from UN agencies were heading for the stricken villages on Mount Elgon with food and other relief items.

The Uganda Red Cross said 80 bodies had been recovered that at least 300 people were missing after the wall of mud came down the hills near Mount Elgon.

"The situation is really very terrible," said Bududa district Vice Chairman Geoffrey Natubu. "People fear there are actually 300 who have died." "It is raining quite heavily right now, so the place is becoming impossible to reach,"



SOLDIERS and villagers search for survivors after a landslide at Mbale District in eastern Uganda.

he added.

Doctors and paramedics at Bududa hospital struggled to cope with the numbers of injured survivors.

Namasa Elina, 18 said she believed 11 members of her fam-

ily were engulfed by the racing heaps of earth.

"I was in my house and I heard a noise. When I looked out I saw the mud was all around us. I shouted out 'we are dying, we are dying.'" "All of the people I was

with, my sisters in law, perished, except me and my own baby," Elina said. "The people came and they were so energetic that they managed to get me out. I was under the mud and I could hear them digging. I shouted to them,

'not over there, over here!' and they could hear me," she added.

Olyamboka Sam said that survivors now just want to leave the region. "People want to migrate from the village now. Hundreds were in the village.

At least nine killed in Mogadishu clash

AT least nine Somalis were killed and more than 30 wounded in an exchange of fire between government forces and Islamist insurgents in Mogadishu, witnesses and medics said yesterday.

Government forces moved in late Tuesday on positions held by fighters from the Al Qaeda-inspired Shebab rebel group in the southern area of Tarbunka, sparking a heavy exchange of gunfire and mortar rounds.

"Five civilians, including a child, died near Bakara.

Three of them were killed by a mortar shell while the other two were caught in the crossfire," local trader Hussein Mohamed told AFP. Several other Mogadishu residents who witnessed the intense skirmish gave the same provisional death toll.

A senior medical source added that three wounded people died of their injuries shortly after being admitted to hospital.

"More than 30 civilians injured during the clashes were brought in and so far three of them died," Mohamed Yusuf, director of the capital's main Medina hospital, told reporters. Government security officials claimed their forces had killed several insurgents during the attack.

"The Somali government forces battled bravely against the terrorists who had fired on their positions near Tarbunka.

They pushed the enemy back and killed several of them," officer Abdullahi Mohamed Sanka told AFP.

Japan crown prince looks ahead to Africa trip

JAPAN'S Crown Prince Naruhito said yesterday he hopes his upcoming trip to Ghana and Kenya will deepen ties between Japan and the African nations as well as his understanding of problems facing the continent.

Naruhito, heir to the world's oldest hereditary monarchy,

won't be making the March 6-15 trip with Princess Masako, who withdrew from most of her official duties several years ago because of a nervous disorder attributed to difficulties adjusting to palace life and the pressure to bear a son to continue the imperial line.

In Ghana, the crown prince plans to attend a health care symposium held in honor of Hideyo Noguchi, a Japanese doctor who died in Accra, the Ghanaian capital, in 1928 while researching a cure for yellow fever. Noguchi's face appears on the Japanese 1,000 yen bill.

ICC gets list of suspects in Kenya unrest

THE ICC prosecutor yesterday gave judges 20 names of "senior political and business leaders" he claims backed deadly violence after Kenya's 2007 presidential election, his office said.

The 20 were associated with the Party of National Unity of President Mwai Kibaki and the Orange Democratic Movement

led by Raila Odinga, which was then in opposition, prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo's office said in a statement. The two sides are now in an uneasy power-sharing government.

They "organised, enticed and/or financed attacks against the civilian population on account of their perceived ethnic and/or

political affiliation pursuant to or in furtherance of a state and/or organisational policy," it said.

Moreno-Ocampo filed his list after judges asked him last month for more information on his bid to open an investigation into violence that killed 1,500 people after Odinga accused Kibaki of voter fraud.

International

Arabs approve indirect Israeli-Palestinians talks

ARAB nations gave the green light yesterday for Palestinians to enter indirect negotiations with Israel for a preliminary four-month period, a decision likely to break the months-long deadlock over resuming Mideast peace talks.

The United States has proposed indirect negotiations, with American officials mediating, to end the impasse between Israelis and Palestinians over the conditions for resuming negotiations. Israeli-Palestinian peace talks broke down more than a year ago, when Israel launched a bruising offensive against the Gaza Strip's Hamas rulers.

The Arab approval gives Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas the political cover he needs to accept the offer.

Abbas has staunchly rejected direct talks unless Israel calls a complete halt to construction of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, and he had been wary of entering even indirect talks without Arab backing. The gathering of 14 Arab League foreign ministers in Cairo

agreed.

"Despite the lack of conviction in the seriousness of the Israeli side, the committee sees that it would give the indirect talks the chance as a last attempt and to facilitate the U.S. role," said Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa, reading from a statement.

Moussa said Arab foreign ministers backed the talks on the condition that they last four months. "This should not be an open-ended process," he said.

The ministers also said the indirect negotiations, which would see US officials shuttling back and forth between the sides, should not turn into direct Israeli-Palestinian talks without a total freeze in settlement construction.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu instituted a 10-month halt on new construction in the West Bank in November, but the measure does not include building that was already started or construction in east Jerusalem, the sector of the city Palestinians claim as the capital of a future state.



AMR Moussa, Secretary General of the Arab League.

Triple suicide blasts in Iraqi city kill 30

A string of three deadly suicide bombings killed 30 people in the former insurgent stronghold of Baqouba yesterday, including a blast from a suicide bomber who rode in an ambulance with the wounded before blowing himself up at a hospital, police said.

The bombings, Iraq's deadliest in weeks, come as Iraq is preparing for March 7 parliamentary elections. The crucial balloting will decide who will oversee the country as US forces go home and help determine whether Iraq can overcome the deep sectarian tensions that have divided the nation since the 2003 US-led invasion.

US and Iraqi officials have warned repeatedly that insurgents were expected to launch such attacks in an attempt to disrupt the crucial vote.

A man purporting to be Abu Omar al-Baghdadi — the leader of an al-Qaida front group in Iraq — has vowed to violently disrupt the vote.

The bombings could also affect the candidacy of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who came to power in 2006 and oversaw a return to relative stability in 2008 and 2009. Al-Maliki has continued to bill himself as the best candidate to assure security in Iraq.

A police spokesman in the volatile Diyala province, Capt. Ghalib al-Karkhi, said the blasts struck in quick succession in Baqouba, 35 miles (60 kilometers) northeast of Baghdad, and also wounded 48 people.

First, a suicide car bomb targeted a local government housing office next to an Iraqi Army facility. Within minutes, another suicide bomber blew up a vehicle about 200 yards (meters) down the street from the first blast at an intersection near the provincial government headquarters where many police and army personnel were located, al-Karkhi said.

China parliament examines growth, living standards

THE Chinese leadership's efforts to engineer a trouble-free succession and push both economic growth and improved living standards in coming years move to the national parliament from tomorrow.

The annual full session of the National People's Congress (NPC) will open with a report by Premier Wen Jiabao, who with President Hu Jintao is entering the last stretch of a second five-year term steering the world's third-biggest economy.

They are due to make way to a new generation of leaders from 2012.

Wen's speech in the Great Hall of the People will be as cautious as the Communist Party-controlled parliament, whose 3,000-odd delegates — officials, executives and workers and farmers — are chosen and trained to keep their criticisms muted.

Yet Wen's report and the 10 or so days of discussions will also address strains worrying China, including fast-rising property prices, income inequality and a skewing of loans and investment to projects favored by local governments.



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- (3). The Company must have an up-to-date Tax Clearance.
- (4). Tender fee is Fifteen Thousand Naira (N15,000.00) only. All payment are payable at Aso Savings and Loans, Area 11, Garki, Abuja to Abuja Municipal Area Council's Account.
- (5). For further enquires, contact the Head of Administration and Head of Department (Works) AMAC.

Tenders last from Thursday 4th March to Thursday 18th March 2010.



CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA NIGERIAN TREASURY BILLS TENDER NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by the Central Bank of Nigeria that the Federal Government of Nigeria Treasury Bills of 91,182 and 364-day tenors amounting to N5,000,000,000, N30,000,000,000 and N30,000,000,000 respectively would be issued by Dutch auction on Thursday, 11/03/2010.

All Money Market Dealers should submit bids through the CBN TEMENOS INTERNET BANKING between 9.00a.m and 11.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 10/03/2010.

Each bid must be in multiple of N1,000 subject to a minimum of N10,000. Authorized Money Market Dealers are allowed to submit multiple bids. A bid may be for authorized Money Market Dealers own account, Non - Money Market Dealers or interested members of the public. The result of the auction would be announced by 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 10/03/2010. The Bank reserves the right to reject any bid.

Allotment letters would be issued for successful bids on Thursday, 11/03/2010, while payment for the successful bids should be made to your account with Central Bank of Nigeria not later than 11.00am on Thursday, 11/03/2010.

*The Bank reserves the right to vary the amount on offer in line with market realities prevailing as at the period of auction of the Nigerian Treasury bills.

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VENUES AND DATES

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Off Kofun Expressway
(By Oando Petrol Station
Near Overhead Bridge)
Abuja

BENIN
17th - 19th March, 2010
NSE Benin Branch Secretariat
Awarisha Engineering Centre
194 Ekenwan Road, By
Faith Avenue Junction
before Angelus House,
Benin - City.

KANO
24th - 26th March, 2010
Technology Incubation Centre
Farm Centre, Kano

IBADAN
17th - 19th March, 2010
University of Ibadan
Conference Hall, Ibadan
Ibadan

MAIDUGURI
17th - 19th March, 2010
No C101 Ramat Shipping Centre
Maiduguri, Borno State

LAGOS
24th - 26th March, 2010
NSE Liaison Office
National Engineering Centre
1, Engineering Close
Victoria Island, Lagos

PORT HARCOURT
17th - 19th March, 2010
NSE Port Harcourt Branch Office
3, Bernard Carr Street
Water Works Yard
Port Harcourt

ENUGU
17th - 19th March, 2010
Cordial Hotel, 151
Chime Avenue
New Haven, Enugu

ILORIN
24th - 26th March, 2010
280 Effurun / Sapete Road
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Please note that application letters not accompanied with evidence of current remuneration and age will not be treated. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.



CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA

EXTENSION OF THE TERMINAL DATE FOR THE CIRCULATION OF N5, N10 AND N50 PAPER NOTES

The Central Bank of Nigeria wishes to inform the general public that the terminal date for the circulation of the existing N5, N10 and N50 paper banknotes as legal tender is hereby extended indefinitely. This means that these paper notes will continue to circulate side by side with the N5, N10 and N50 polymer notes. This clarification has become necessary to allow for the seamless transition from the N5, N10 and N50 paper notes to the polymer notes and the gradual withdrawal of the existing paper notes. Indeed this is in line with the best practice.

The general public is, therefore, advised to continue to accept and spend the N5, N10 and N50 paper banknotes as they remain legal tender. Banks are also directed to continue to accept such deposits from customers and members of the public.

The Bank also wishes to reassure Nigerians that the N50 polymer banknotes, whether with 6-digits or 7-digits serial numbers were issued by the CBN and therefore genuine banknotes. The numbers on the notes are consistent with the numbering system adopted by the Bank. Both sets of banknotes are fortified with adequate security features which make counterfeiting difficult.

For the avoidance of doubt, it is unlawful to refuse to accept any legal tender currency issued by the Central Bank.

(Signed)

M.M. ABDULLAHI

Head, Corporate Communications

3rd March, 2010



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- Should be keen on self development and able to learn fast
- Formal or informal work engagements post NYSC would be an added advantage
- Interest in local and world current affairs
- Interest in knowing how organisations work.
- Should be professional in outlook, with a high level of self confidence.

C. Senior Training Consultant

We seek results oriented and deadline driven professionals with a high level of integrity. This individual must have the capacity to deal with pressure; and the flexibility to adapt to and learn in new situations. They must be able to solve problems, take on responsibilities, exhibiting self control and management. This person must be creative and capable of analyzing and selecting relevant information and transfer knowledge.

Qualifications

- A good Social Science or Business degree from a reputable university
- A relevant Masters degree and some degree of international exposure will be an added advantage
- 5-7 years experience in designing and delivering training programmes or in organizational development

Skills / Capabilities

General Skills:

- Capacity to present different points of views assertively
- A team player with good supervisory skills
- An active listener

Specific/technical Skills:

- Ability to develop organisational assessment tools and be aware of organisational climate and culture
- Ability to define actual and required job performance gaps/training needs assessment
- Ability to define general and specific objectives and ask performance based questions
- Capacity to work with clients to develop and implement training solutions that meet clients' requirements and needs
- Ability to apply different methods and tools for training
- Excellent facilitation and presentation skills
- Excellent proposal and report writing skills
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications

Additional Requirements

Business Competencies:

- Business development skills
- Ability to persuade and negotiate
- Capacity to project trends and possible implications
- Ability to identify information and use this information to support the business

If you are convinced that you fit any of these profiles, please send your application, along with your CV to enquiries@restral.com as well as to margaretubeze@restral.com (please ensure you indicate your specific area of interest).

All applications must be received within two weeks of this publication.

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RESOLUTION BY NORTHERN MEMBERS CAUCUS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

We the Northern Members caucus of the House of Representatives met on 02/03/2010 and resolved as follows;

1. That the acting president, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan shall continue to enjoy our support in the exercise of all the powers of the office of the president as acting president in line with the resolution of the House of representatives.
2. That should the Acting President observe any impediment in the course of the discharge of his duties, we are willing and ready to remove such impediment(s) in order to facilitate his efficiency and effectiveness.
3. The Caucus expresses grave concern- over recent statements credited to the information Minister suggesting systemic undermining of the functioning of the Acting president, regardless of its security implications. Under the doctrine of collective responsibility, she as a cabinet Minister is incompetent to make public statements in contradiction of the collective decision of The Federal Executive Council (FEC) irrespective of her personal opinion. The correct option in the circumstances of her total objection to decision of FEC is to resign.
4. The Caucus urges all public officers particularly members of FEC to refrain forthwith from making further inflammatory statements capable of undermining the peace, stability and unity of Nigeria. They should concentrate on their constitutional role of service delivery to the nation through diligent budget implementation.
5. The Caucus expresses loyalty and confidence in the sovereignty of Nigeria and urges all Nigerians to exercise the highest sense of nationalism by shunning divisive manipulation from any quarters.
6. The caucus once again enjoins all Nigerians of goodwill to continue praying for the speedy recovery of Mr. President, Alh. Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

Rt. Hon. Terngu Tsegba
Chairman Northern Caucus
House of Representatives.

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536



PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

DIRECTOR, Home Finance Department, Federal Ministry of Finance, Baba Gidado Mohammed representing the minister (right) being assisted by FRSC Corps Marshal Dr. Osita Chidoka to commission the bank, during the commissioning of Safeline Microfinance Bank Limited in Abuja recently.

Freight forwarders' registration ends April 15

From Auwalu Umar, Kano

THE ongoing registration of freight forwarders, freight forwarding companies and service providers in the freight forwarding chain, which began on February 1, will end on April 15. This was disclosed by Registrar and Chief Executive of Council for the Regulation of Freight Forwarding in Nigeria (CRFFN) Mike Jukwe at the council's stakeholders meeting in Kano yesterday. The registrar, who spoke on CRFFN's statutory responsibilities, said the council reviewed the ongoing on-line registration process in addition to the introduction of manual registration that started yesterday. He also said the council equally introduced bulk registration for big corporate bodies, saying all that the council needs is an invitation to come over to any corporate office for the registration.

Jukwe therefore implored all prospective freight forwarders to take advantage of the exercise to register as section 14(1) of the act 2007 establishing the council stated that "a registered freight forwarder shall use the abbreviation 'RFF' after his name" while section 14(2) emphasizes that "subject to the provisions of this act, a person shall not practice or carry on business under any name, style or title containing the words 'freight forwarder' unless he is registered under this act". He said section 18(1) further explains that "the council shall register annually all organizations or firms performing freight forwarding services" while section 18(2) directs that "notwithstanding the provisions of any other laws, no organization or firm shall practice as freight forwarders in Nigeria unless it is registered by the council".

N200bn agric loans: All banks to participate in disbursement

By Idris Ahmed & Tina A Hassan

THE Central Bank of Nigeria has extended the disbursement of the N200 billion agricultural loans to all the commercial banks in the country.

When the agricultural loan was announced last year, only First Bank of Nigeria Plc and United Bank for Africa (UBA) were selected to disburse the fund.

Union Bank Plc, Zenith Bank Plc, Unity Bank Plc and Fidelity Bank Plc were later added to the banks. CBN Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi said on Tuesday that the scheme is now open to all banks. He said N43 billion has been disbursed from the fund to farmers as at December 31, 2009.

Responding to question on the slow disbursement of the loans, governor Sanusi said the first two banks were asked to return the money to CBN because of delay in its disbursement. "We had initially increased the number of banks to six. We have finally said that any bank that is able to find commercially viable agricultural projects can come and use the fund", he said. He said the disbursement is an ongoing process. "The banks are taking the credit risks, they are restructuring to

ensure that their customers meet the acceptable criteria", Sanusi said. On the allegation that the loan was reduced to N100 billion, the governor said the fund still remains N200 billion.

The fund is been managed by the CBN and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources. Ten banks were originally earmarked to disburse the fund before UBA and First Bank were eventually selected. The remaining eight banks - Union Bank Plc, Zenith Bank Plc, Unity Bank Plc, Fidelity Bank Plc, Bank PHB, FinBank Plc, Intercontinental Bank Plc and Sterling Bank protested of their exclusion from the scheme. This protest was what made CBN to increase the number of banks to six and the eventual extension to all the banks, Daily Trust learnt.

Shedrack Madlion, the Director in the Admiral Environmental Care Limited had told Daily Trust in an interview that: "The two banks this money was lodged should also be able to account for the N666million as cash flow from this money that has been with them. The rural farmers have not gotten any money. The procedures to disbursement this money was not feasible and achievable. Farmers that put food on the Nigeria's table do not have bank account. Government has not been able to come up with a proper pro-

gramme to reach him, so who are you dis-bursing to?"

Farmers have described the extension of the disbursement of the loan to all banks as a welcomed development. They however said that the requirement for accessing the loan is still unfavourable especially to small holder farmers in the rural areas.

National President of potato farmers' Association of Nigeria (POFAN) Chief Dan Okafor said the effort of the CBN is commendable but the conditions for taking the loan is wrong. "The conditionality for accessing the loan is wrong", he said.

An Edo farmer Robert Ekemita said involving all the banks is good. He said the banks must go public and create awareness among Nigerians so that interested farmers would know the conditions of getting the loan. He said the issue of collateral is still a problem. When the scheme was set up last year, its modus operandi was that the participating banks shall appraise the farmers' applications, disburse funds at reasonably determined interest rates, and monitor performance.

The banks were also to collect principal and interest payments and remit same to government, while retaining 0.5 percent interest payment as fee.

Trust Index

Inflation	→ 12.3%
GDP	→ 6.90%
Budget	→ N3.1tr
External Reserves Acct	→ \$41bn
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	→ N10,730,793.1m
Credit to Private Sector	→ N10,155,442.0m
Inter-Bank Rate	→ 2.2600%
Treasury Bills	→ 2.645%
Deposit Rate	→ 12.56%
Prime Lending Rate	→ 19.03%

CBN

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

2/12/2010

	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.2897	0.2997	0.3097
DANISH KRONER	26.8799	26.971	27.062
EURO	200.1899	200.8681	201.5462
POUNDS STERLING	230.5512	231.3322	232.1132
RİYAL	39.36	39.4934	39.6267
SDR	226.2265	226.9929	227.7592
SWISS FRANC	136.5655	137.0281	137.4907
US DOLLAR	147.6	148.1	148.6
WAUA	226.801	227.5693	228.3376
YEN	1.6378	1.6434	1.6489

BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES

BUYING	
DOLLAR.....	N150
EURO.....	N206
POUNDS.....	N237
SELLING	
DOLLAR.....	N151
EURO.....	N208
POUNDS.....	N240

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

Stock Market Index

Date:	Wednesday, March 3, 2010
Index:	23,019.16
Deals:	6,649
Volume:	331,900,852
Value:	N 2,925,168,023.70
Cap.:	N 5,543,972,473,293.06

Business

NUJ to establish micro bank

THE Lagos State Council of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) plans to establish a microfinance bank to guarantee a secured future for both serving and retired journalists. The Chairman of the Council, Alhaji Wahab Oba, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Tuesday in Lagos that the Council had inaugurated a committee to work out a blue-print on the bank. He said that the committee would work toward getting the licence "and as soon as this is done, the bank would take off." Oba said all media houses would be encouraged to own shares in the micro-finance bank. He said the microfinance bank became imperative for the council to address what he described as "critical financial issues and guarantee a secured future for journalists." "We found out that most of our members retire into penury without any means of livelihood." He said that those that fell into this category were those who worked hard, put in everything they had and refused to compromise. (NAN).

Abuja residents reject non-polymer lower notes

By Tina A. Hassan

AS the deadline for the phasing out of the non-polymer N50, N10 and N5 notes draws to a close, more Nigerians are refusing to transact business with anyone using the notes. An investigation by *Daily Trust* reveals that people are apprehensive that they may not be able to get the banks to change the notes for them before March 31st which is the official deadline given by the Central Bank of Nigeria to stop using the replaced notes. Some traders within the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) who spoke to *Daily Trust* said they have decided to stop collecting the old notes because they fear that people would use them as dumping ground so such that by the time the deadline expires, they would lose their money. A trader who sells fruits along Wuse market said: "I don't go to the bank so if I collect the money I cannot change it and I would be the one to lose." An Okada man who spoke said he has no problem collecting the non-polymer notes because it is all Nigerian money except if the money is badly mutilated. He said: "Is not Nigerian money? If you give it to me, I would collect it because it is still our money but some people are refusing to collect it even though the time for not using it is not over." Others said they would not collect it even if it means being taken to the police station because the money is no longer valid since it has been replaced by the polymer type.

'Unity Bank wins awards at Trade fair'

By Abubakar Momoh

UNITY Bank Plc said it has been named the Overall Winner of the just concluded Kaduna International Trade Fair. The trade fair closed last Sunday. The bank said it was also named the Most Functional Bank, which earned it a total of five awards at the popular international Trade Fair now in its 31st year. This is according to a statement by Fred Apeji, a consultant for the bank. The statement was signed by Crispin Oduobuk Head, Corporate Communications of Unity Bank. Presenting the Overall Winner award to the Management of Unity Bank at the end of the Trade Fair, it said, the President of the Kaduna Chamber Commerce, Industry, Mines and agriculture (KADCCIMA) Hajiya Saratu Aliyu commended the bank for good service delivery at the International Trade Fair. She said the support of the bank, along with that of other organizations, made the hosting of the Trade Fair possible.

Minister faults BPE's power reforms plans

By Yunus Abdulhamid

MINISTER of Power Dr. Lanre Babalola has faulted the action plans by the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) in the power sector which intend to adopt the Rehabilitate, Operate and Transfer (ROT) strategy.

Speaking in Abuja when he visited the Director General of the BPE, Babalola urged the agency to reconsider the Rehabili-



A train on the move.

Trains to resume service in April

THE Nigeria Railway Corporation (NRC) is to resume passenger Mass Transit Train Services (MTTS) in six cities in April.

The Managing Director of the corporation, Mr Adeseyi Sijuwade, said in Lagos that the newly-acquired locomotives would be used for the service in Lagos, Kano, Maiduguri, Jos, Enugu and Port Harcourt.

MTTS, popularly referred to as the workers' train, was suspended in 2009 following the poor state of the locomotive engines.

The Federal Government imported 50 locomotive engines from China (2101 Class) to boost NRC's shuttle services, he said, adding that more than 20 locomotive engine drivers had been trained in South Africa.

"We have trained 20 drivers in South Africa while another set of engineers will soon depart Nigeria for Brazil to take part in the manufacturing and assemblage of the remaining 20 locos to enhance their skills," Sijuwade said.

He said as soon as the various washed sections of the tracks

in Akere, Niger State were fixed the corporation would also resume inter-city train services there.

"The inter-city mass transit services are crucial to the economic lives of city workers and traders. This is because it is cheaper and affordable," Sijuwade noted.

He, however, warned those trading along the railway corridors and the tracks to keep off, threatening to clampdown on them.

The Director in charge of Mechanical Department of the corporation, Mr Fidat Okhiria, also told NAN that the model C25 six-axle locomotive engines with 2,500 horsepower were designed for Nigeria's needs.

"With an average of 90 passengers per coach, the locomotives can conveniently move 4,500 passengers at a go.

"The locomotives are self-loading and testing in the sense that they have the capacity to determine the quantity of goods and passengers they can carry.

"They can also detect any fault in the system with the help of an in-built black box," he said. (NAN)

Why we're rejecting old naira notes — Lagosians

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

MARKET men and women as well as commercial drivers in Lagos said they are rejecting the old naira notes of N5, N10 and N50 denominations because they "fear that if they keep on collecting them they may remain unspent till March 31."

Despite the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)'s announcement that it has put the deadline for the spending of old naira notes up to March 31, many marketers and commercial drivers have been rejecting the notes.

Checks around major markets and motor parks by our correspondent in Lagos yesterday revealed that most sellers and drivers only accept the new polymer notes.

Many sellers interviewed at the Ikotun market said they decided to begin the rejection because they don't operate bank accounts and they fear others may not collect the notes from them if they wanted to spend them.

Some others said though they operated bank accounts but they are rejecting the notes because they fear the CBN may rescind on its March 31 and therefore render the old notes with them useless.

Mrs Idiat Edimogun, a market woman at the Ikeja market told our correspondent that as soon as market women heard that the old naira notes would soon be phased out of circulation, they started rejecting them from buyers. She said the controversy has been affecting their sales as its rejection often lead to confrontation between sellers and buyers.

Checks around market like Alaba rago, Mile 12, Idi araba, Agege and others dominated by Hausas revealed that traders at these market are still accepting the old naira notes.

Mallam Abdullah Tanko Maitaba, who sells at Alaba market said since the old naira notes are still regarded as legal tender there is no reason to reject them.

He called on CBN to make announcement in local languages to threaten those who reject the old notes.

power is vital to the development of the nation, a statement issued by the BPE spokesman Mr. Chigbo Anichebe said.

In his remarks, the Director-General of BPE Dr. Christopher Anyanwu said to ensure the success of the electric power reform, the Bureau has lined up series of activities to engage and sensitize all stakeholders in the sector. He assured the Minister that the Bureau would carefully study the observations raised and come out with an acceptable action plan for the reform program.

tate, Operate and Transfer (ROT) strategy of the transaction in favour of an outright sale as investors had shown more interest in buying it to further develop and operate as an Independent Power Plant (IPP). "ROT is at odds with approved strategy for generation companies, and it is not just about privatization but a means to an end," he stated.

He charged the Bureau to collaborate with the relevant stakeholders to ensure an early completion of the exercise as

Business

Jos faces economic blackout

From Ahmed Mohammed & Mahmud Lalo, Jos

JOS, the capital city of Plateau State, is being deserted by businessmen and investors. The hotels are drying up. Meetings schedule to hold in Jos have been shifted to another state. The economy is shrinking. There is fear of the unknown. Travellers do not want to pass the night in Jos. Business activities are being crippled.

Hitherto, the abundant agricultural and mineral resources in Plateau State had provided a solid base for the industrialization of the state, industries which can be profitably established using local raw materials are food processing, beer and beverage industries utilising wheat, barley, maize, Irish potatoes, yam, fruits and vegetables produced in the state; milk and milk product industries based on modernized livestock rearing on the Jos Plateau.

There are also local raw materials to support building material industries such as clay bricks, ceramics, tiles, glass, steel and metal sheets. There are opportunities as well as for the expansion of the production of animal vaccines, bottling of spring water, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and toiletries in the state.

The recurring crises in Jos between 2001 and 2010 have crippled so many businesses, because apart from destruction of lives and properties, the crises crippled economic activities in the state and left only locals and indigenous traders perform-



GOV Jonah Jang

ing their businesses in the state. This has happened as a result of looting, burning and destructions of hotels, shops business premises and offices. Most of the people whose proprieties were burnt down find it difficult to go back to the businesses due to security reasons and perhaps lack of capital.

Some of the hoteliers recorded law patronage due to the absence of National and international conferences, cer-

emonies, dinners, seminars, launchings, meetings and other officials functions hosted in the hotels, even guest who used to visit hotels during vacation find it difficult to visit the state for fear of their lives.

When Business Trust visited, some of the five star hotels in Jos were without guests or visitors. Some of the hotel workers that spoke to our correspondent on anonymity said they hardly found one or two guests per night

unlike in the past when they used to have a full house. They also express fear that the money the hoteliers make may not be able to take care of their salaries, electricity and water bills.

National President of Hoteliers and Plateau State Chapter Mr. Tunde Oladapo could not give statistics of his members whose Hotels and business premises were burnt after the crises but majority of them could not go back to business after the November 28, 2008 crises and the recent one also left many wandering.

He also stressed that unless government assist them majority of them cannot go back to the business since they will not be able to rebuild their burnt hotels due to the high cost of building materials

A lecturer at the University of Jos, Barrister Solomon Selcap Dalung said who is currently conducting a research on how the Crises affected tourism, industries and investment opportunities in Jos said "because of the level of destruction done to buildings, properties and offices of investors in the town, investors could not return to business.

Barrister Dalung said what he discovered is that some investors have relocated to other states for fear of their lives and investments.

The don said the only businesses that still remain functional are those run by the locals and have indigenous interest. He described the situation as dangerous for the future of the state.

He said: "I was the only one that slept in one of the biggest hotels as part of my research activities on tourism, industries and investment opportunities. This confirmed to you that so many investors left the state because the investors used the hotels as accommodation."

Chairman of Car Dealers and Sellers Association Plateau state chapter Alhaji Yahaya Kega said most of their business premises have been burnt down. According to him, they lost over 2,000 cars and trucks and majority of them lost their capitals and they could not continue with the business, adding that most of them have left and those that remain are planning to leave soon.

Yahaya Kega said his members lost two billion naira and if they are not compensated they cannot go back to business.

State Commissioner of Information and communication Mr. Gregory Yenlong said: "It is true that the crises forced so many people to leave the state, but I will assure you after we settle what is before us, we will scout for all investors and businessmen that left Jos wherever they are, we will make sure that they return to Jos and we will give them adequate security to continue with their businesses here."

Mr. Yenlong added that a committee was set up to look for these people and where they relocated to, so that they will come back to Jos because "we have the economic climate and we have many investment opportunities that need to be explored".



DOWNTOWN Jos, inset is a tomato truck attacked during a recent crisis.

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- BAUCHI:** Atikalei, Aftaka, Aihayiri, Darazo, Daura, Debe Mai Kasuwa, Deben Kasa, Degele, Dembon, Diehika, Dindima, Diraya, Dogon, Balingi, Garin Kanaawa, Garka, Gayawa, Geji, Geram Madaki, Gilar, Garsili, Gumale Gumduri, Gwagwalura, Kura, Kusinawa, Kuachiyai, Kuagol, Kwambo, Kusanfayal, Lafiya Lafiyaru, Lago, Laka, Lamba, Lami, Natsira, Ngettanni, Pansharu, Pella Tabilang, Polchi, Rampa, Reri, Ribina, Rigan Mallam Shehu, Rigansi, Wada, Tumpore, Tungan Garda, Wahu, Wailo, Wajiya, Wom, Wontin Dada, Wuro Bungu, Wuro Nagge, Wuro Amarara, Asikoro, Belebebin, Biogbolo, Edepie, Ekeke, Fangbe, Heso, Kpansi Ogu, Onopa, Opolo, Opu, Yaka, Ekeh, Eupi, Oturkpo, Geri, GRR Oturkpo, Herbavor, Mingam, Igbori, Ihalav, Ihom, Ijani, Ikpenget, Idringee, Ortaver, Ortsenga, Oturkpo, Pilla, Pillar, Saakwagh, Saka, Shaapela, Shajil, Shauron, Sherya, Tyor, Tyorkpa, Tyoryam, Tyowanje, Uaam, Uanhandu, Uanngio, Uantsua, Uanzum, Uavande, Uda, Yange, Yasev, Yacamen, Yazun, Yeghel, Yior, Yongokor Zun, Zuabo.
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- EBONYI:** Abakaliki, Ekenwan, Eyaen, GRR Idunmasumidiode, Iguenan, Ikpoba, Iyaro, New Benin, Obazaogbon, Obenevbi, Akpa, Amala Umuzee, Ameki, Nguo, Pugu, Rukunawanu, Coal Camp, Emene, Enugu, GRR Enugu, Ofoto, Ogbaku, Ogbaku Ndiagu, Ogui New Layout, Ogui Nike, Ogui Urban, Oji River, Onodi, Onuba, Oji Garin Lanotaki, Garin Mallam Ali, Gombe City Jabular, Jamji, Jerikom, Jumari, Kafareti, Kanawa, Kanuel, Galadima, Zongo Mari.
- IMO:** Akabo, Akri, Akuthube, Amaze, Amabo, Amatta, Amaji, Ruban, Abu, Nkede, Nempu, Ngbele, Ngor, Nguru, Nkwesi, Nnebukuwu, Norie, Obibi, Obinze, Ofekata-Orodo, Ogbaku, Ogehi, Lailau, Umu Nam, Umu Neke, Umu Oma, Umu Owa, Umu Oye, Umuaka, Umukabia, Umuma, Umunoha, Umudili, Hamborawa, Hudda, Jan Guara, Kafin Kadiri, Katanga, Kazaura, Kere, Kude, Kuku, Kuluru, Kunkurawa, Kwarta, Mijin Goggo, Ungwan Noma, Ungwan Rafin, Ungwan Rijiya, Ungwan Rimi, Ungwan Sadiku, Ungwan Sarkin, Ungwan Sarkin Paul, Alore, Atumbu, Baba Rugo, Bachirawa, Badume, Balin Kogi, Baure, Butawawa, Chinomawa, Dalili, Damargu, Dan Gora, Dan Zabusu, Gazana, Gurum, Gurulaida, Gwarabawa, Hamdulahi, Harbau, Hawan Dawaki, Imawa, Indabo, Jangaza, Kadawa, Kademi, Kafin Ojama'a, Maitsidau, Makoda, Malamawa, Malikawa, Mesado, Ranka Remi, Rijiyar Zaki, Rimi Zakara, Rimi Gata, Rugar Duka, Saki, Wak, Warwade, Yadaquari, Yakasai, Yakuu, Yan Dutse, Yan Mammam, Yankamaye, Zuga.
- KATSINA:** Abukur, Aclaha, Batagari, Katsina, Koda, Kafansan, Machinjim, Maje, Marnami, Nafuta, Rade, Rimi, Sabon Gari, Sandamu, Shinkafi, Tamba, Tsa, Tsakatsa, Yan Iajaje, Iega, Kade, Kalgo, Kangawa, Kaura, Kwari Kuasa, Kwazari, Kwiyu, Lani Maisama, Liba, Maidada, Massama, Rafin Guzumai, Yelwa, Zara Birnin, Zaura.
- KOGI:** Ajaokuta, Agassa, Agbachi, Aguma, Ajaokuta Steel Rolling Mill, Anka, Emere, Ero, Governor's L, Ohunene, Ojogobi Layout, Oke Padi, Okene, Okene Eba, Oruwawa, Takumena.
- KWARA:** Eiyenkorin, Adabata, Adangba, Ahoro, Offa, Ogele, Oloje Area, Oterere, Sabo, Shao, Tanke, Wala.
- LAGOS:** Abraham Adesanya Estate, Adeniji Adede, Agege, Ajanbon, Ibeju Lekki, Ibonwon, Idimu, Ifako / Ijaye, Igbodu, Iju, Ikeja, Ikorodu, Ikotun, Imeseju, Itokin, Iwaje, Jaguna, Kosofe, Lagos, La Town, Shala, Shekungba, Shomolu, Sura, Surulere, Tewon.
- NASARAWA:** Aban, Agbade, Agwaragu Gofa, Akarekuru, Kande, Kwasi, Bukan Tambari, Bukar Allah, Bukar Saidi, Burru, Danka, Duduguru, Gandu, Gandun-Sarku, Garaku, Garaku Township, Gidan Machu, Mallam Salau, Mandara, Mante, Mumua Korami, Murya, Nassarawa, Nindam Daji, Ningo, Ningun, NTA Keffi, Nunku Town, Babun Tunga, Bida, Bossa, Dachino, Ejidiko, Ekogi, Emisagi, Emwala, Fakunba, Gauraka, Gurusu, Kaku, Kuchigi, Kwamba, Magwe, Wuyi Samu, Yefaji.
- OGUN:** Abeokuta, Abeokuta North, Abeokuta South, Agbara, Ago-Iwoye, Agoro, Ajejanle Araromi, Ake, Abi Idowu, Ifo, Igangan, Ijagun, Ijapo, Ijebu Dde, Ijebu Afeyese, Ijebu-igbo, Ijoko, Ikenne, Ikoto, Ifaro, Ilesan, Ilugun, Imala, Imeko, Imolisa, Ogunleye, Ogunmakin, Ojusunjo, Oke Aregba, Oke Mosan, Oke Olubadan, Oke Oregba, Oke-Ijebu, Okoto-Ajeganle, Oluwu, Orile.
- ONDO:** Akure, Ifon, Ikare, Oka-Akoko, Okitipupa, Ore, Owo Igbe, Ikare-Akoko.
- OSUN:** Apomu, Ede, Ejigbo, Gbongan, Ibe, Agodi, Aiyetoro, Akinkunmi, Akinyele, Akobo, Alafara Area Ibadan, Alagbade, Alalubosa, Aleshinko, Apata, Apete, Asileke, Ayegun Township, Ibadan, Ibadan North, Ibadan North East, Ibadan North West, Ibadan South East, Ibadan South West, Idi Iroko area, Idi Oke Abu, Ile-Oluwo, Iseyin, Iseyin Township, Iyanganju, Jericho, Jobete, Karake, Kongi-Bodija, Ladegbe, Magaji, Mokola, Moniya, Ogbomoso-South, Ojalamo, Ojoo, Ojutaye, Oke Bola, Oke Mapo, Oke Oran, Olo Market, Olokamoron, Oloni 7 Academy Area, Olorunsin Township, Owoyo, Oyeteju, Oyo Town, Oyo Township, Sabo, Sango, Takwo, Takie, UCH, Uli, Yabiye, Ara Ibadan, Yidi Area, Agodi Ibe Barakin, Kuru Baba, Barakin, Sabon Gidan Kanat, Barakin Werram, Biyok, Bukuru, Gwan, Heipang, Hoss, Iyos, Pasa Kal, Rijom, Sopp, Tashok, Torok, Turu, Unguwar Momen, Unguwar Agwa, Akpajo, Alesa, Rilua, Rhode, Artillery, Borokiri, Choba, Diobu, GRR phase III, Iriebe, Konko, Mbolli, Ngbuoba Mile 4 Area PH, Ogbunabali, Old GRR, Oraputa, Orogbum, Port Harcourt City, Rumigbo, Rumukurushi, Rumuodumaya, Rumuola, Rumuoma Chetu, Umu-Eket, Umu-Eketu, Umuibekwu, Umuigbeluwo, Umu.
- SOKOTO:** Adarawa, Alhassan, Arewa Dandi, Badu, Bar Galadiman Gari, Gidan Liman, Jariagi, Jeldu, Kassarawa, K Magaji, Shagari, Sokoto, Tabkin Kaitua, Tambauei, Taf Cbazan, Jalingo, Janbargu, Jankurwo, Jaura Bamiwo, Jera Pantu Tugang, Rumnde Kudin, Ungwar Abba, Vosho, Babateduwa, Bajejo, Baine, Chana, Dalawa, Dagare, Gabdan, Gabo, Gamawa, Gandadura, Garin Dumsa, Karia, Kintinkis, Kukar Gadu, Kusulua, Kurung Mazagune, Mbalido, Nasarawa, Ngogin, Po Wau, Yendiski.
- ZAMFARA:** Bakura, Damaga, Dempo, Dutsin Kura, Gada, G Mallam Yay, Gidan Sakarawa, Gusa, Shadiya, Shirgi, Talata Mafara, T Yabaka, Yankara, Yarntama, Yar

Business/Analysis

Oil summit: A gathering of disagreement

By Hamisu Muhammad

THE Nigerian Oil and Gas Conference has now become the largest and strategic industry summit for Nigeria's oil industry which reveals government plans and updates from the major industry players. The recently concluded event in Abuja had turned to a perfect ground for controversial statements from the international oil companies and government officials on the proposed reforms in the country.

The much talk about conference came and passed with many issues unresolved between the government and the oil giants. Some of the issues that dominate the conference include petroleum reforms, proposed under the Petroleum Industry

Bill and the deregulation of the downstream oil sector.

The reforms came under serious attacks long before the conference but the oil majors have used the summit to raise more dust on the reform template. On one side, the government officials were busy defending the reforms.

The oil companies are threatening that up to \$50 billion of investment could be undermined if the reforms go ahead.

The international oil companies accused government of sidelining them in the implementation oil the reforms by rushing the proposed law to the parliaments without much input from their own side.

Despite this, the acting President Goodluck

Jonathan said at the summit that he remains committed to overhauling the oil industry so that it better serves the country's national interest.

"Oil must be an agent for good and development not violence, war and impoverishment. Our goal is to ensure that the benefits of petroleum be enjoyed and seen to be enjoyed by all Nigerians." Jonathan told the gathering.

He added: "I want to reassure Nigerians and our foreign partners of our unwavering commitment to pursuing the reform in this sector with an eye on our national interest primarily and also in meeting the market demand for energy security".

Minister of state for Petroleum Resources, Odien Ajumogobia also

said during the conference that the PIB is a piece of legislation that is still before the national assembly it's a profound document in term of what it seek to do which is transforming the governance's arrangement in the industry, strengthening the institutions, creating a more transparent industry, by and large to create a new legal framework and a robust successful industry in Nigeria.

He said part of the solution to the inefficiency of the downstream oil sector is the implementation of the deregulation which is at the final stage now.

He said the transformation of the NNPC or the national oil company is at the heart of the reforms at the moment. There is the lack of clarity in term of role between the Ministry, the NNPC, and the regulatory agencies. "There is a lot of controversy", he said.

"The new reform seeks to make the NNPC profit oriented and commercial entity to compete with other IOCs and to make decision on the economics of the projects and to be accountable to its shareholders.

Shell made a shocking remark at the conference through a presentation made by the Ann Pickard, Shell's out-going Executive Vice President for sub-Saharan Africa.

Pickard argued that oil industry reforms embarked by the government could drive away a whopping \$50 billion of investment. "The PIB threatens to make a bad situation worse ... If passed in its current form it will take years to correct its mistakes".

Pickard argued that



RILWANU Lukman, Minister of Petroleum

Nigeria's position as the continent's premier oil and gas region was under threat. Indeed Angola surpassed Nigeria as sub-Saharan Africa's leading oil producer last year.

"Nigeria's position in global oil and gas markets cannot be taken for granted," said Pickard.

Chevron gave a heavy blow to the reforms in a presentation made by its managing director in Nigeria, Andrew Fawthrop. He warned the government: "We have to work closely together or billions of dollars will end up going

elsewhere."

Analysts believe that Shell and Chevron are key in the Nigeria's oil industry but despite the challenges about to be posed by the new reform, their presence in the country is certain because even if they pull out investment another company – either Nigerian or Chinese – will take their place.

One noticeable factor is the large presence of Chinese firms at the exhibition ground, signifying a strategic entrance into the Nigerian oil industry by the Chinese investors.

“Analysts believe that Shell and Chevron are key in the Nigeria's oil industry but despite the challenges about to be posed by the new reform, their presence in the country is certain because even if they pull out investment another company – either Nigerian or Chinese – will take their place.”



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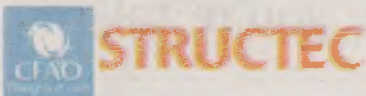


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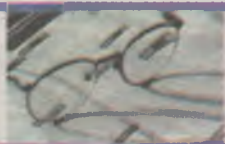
Port Harcourt: Engr. Lawal 08057494535

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Port Harcourt: 33, Elechi Beach Road, Mile 1, Port Harcourt.

Abuja: 28, Ndola Crescent, Off Micheal Opara Opp Ibro Hotel, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja.

Business/Finance



Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
ADSWITCH PLC	1	2.30	46,000	100,740.00
AFRIBANK PLC	5	0.51	118,200	60,007.00
JULI PLC	1	3.37	11,401	36,597.21
SECTOR Totals	7		173,101	196,344.21
AGRICULTURE				
FTN COCOA PROC. PLC	20	0.87	876,529	758,494.63
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	26	0.65	471,355	301,670.17
PRESCO PLC	25	5.71	835,153	4,628,000.25
SECTOR Totals	71		2,183,039	5,688,225.05
AIR SERVICES				
AIRL/SERV. & LOG. PLC	3	2.49	62,173	154,810.77
NIG. AV. HAND. COY PLC	80	8.58	1,435,214	12,302,096.88
SECTOR Totals	83		1,497,387	12,456,907.63
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	6	0.50	55,000	27,500.00
R. T. BRISCOE (NIG.) PLC	30	5.08	519,192	2,645,942.25
SECTOR Totals	36		574,192	2,673,442.25
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	232	9.52	14,711,007	139,853,587.53
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	79	2.50	4,610,660	11,483,883.05
DIAMOND BANK PLC	86	8.80	3,591,216	31,607,624.03
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	106	5.70	1,671,867	9,644,091.11
F/CITY MON. BANK PLC	71	9.05	5,072,761	45,905,447.97
FIDELITY BANK PLC	146	2.65	15,201,370	39,577,696.55
FIRST BANK OF NIG. PLC	852	14.65	13,647,325	198,809,491.66
FINBANK PLC	89	0.68	5,035,993	3,395,412.28
GTBANK PLC	460	18.34	15,619,047	285,500,174.45
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	69	8.55	1,994,666	16,553,867.35
INTERCONT. BANK PLC	57	2.00	1,119,189	2,242,989.33
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	128	2.10	7,332,741	15,326,715.32
BANK PHB PLC	65	1.91	1,815,525	3,465,765.99
SKYE BANK PLC	200	7.15	7,005,375	48,995,013.92
SPRING BANK PLC	24	0.90	722,739	650,394.41
STERLING BANK PLC	40	1.75	2,461,640	4,256,426.64
UNT. BANK FOR AFR. PLC	191	13.05	6,030,936	78,455,526.89
UN. BANK OF NIG. PLC	185	5.93	4,368,660	25,775,338.80
UNITYBANK PLC	37	1.05	2,030,802	2,081,580.36
WEMA BANK PLC	46	1.22	1,657,547	2,006,968.62
ZENITH BANK PLC	251	15.71	85,416,033	1,338,187,535.45
SECTOR Totals	3,414		201,117,099	2,304,775,531.71
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	72	16.20	817,789	13,241,247.96
BENUCEMENT COY PLC	37	50.50	479,333	24,044,793.77
CEMENT CO. OF N/NIG. PLC	44	16.21	1,013,242	16,402,593.64
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	51	35.00	695,201	24,167,237.07
SECTOR Totals	204		3,005,565	77,855,872.44
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS NIG. PLC	12	3.69	305,332	1,126,675.08
CHEM. & ALL. PROD. PLC	17	28.26	252,468	7,365,672.72
DN MEYER PLC	10	2.95	180,508	532,489.24
SECTOR Totals	39		738,308	9,024,837.04
COMMERCIAL/SERVICES				
AFROMEDIA PLC	6	0.51	711,000	372,450.00
COURTVILLE INVEST. PLC	2	0.50	25,000	12,500.00
NAT. SPORTS LOTTERY PLC	1	3.57	100	340.00
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	9	2.60	197,555	513,083.40
SECTOR Totals	18		933,655	898,373.40
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC	16	2.99	244,888	729,251.89
CHELLARAMS PLC	1	14.13	500	6,715.00
PZ CUSSONS NIG. PLC	39	25.29	348,407	8,802,973.39
TRANS. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	78	0.53	16,240,133	8,938,237.08
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	80	43.00	397,723	17,041,501.38
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	73	25.19	1,243,801	31,179,084.09
SECTOR Totals	287		18,475,452	66,697,762.83
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	26	5.05	333,818	1,698,013.04
JUL/BERGER NIGERIA PLC	22	28.00	204,718	5,722,460.59
MULTIVERSE RES. PLC	9	0.50	500,500	250,250.00
ROADS NIGERIA PLC	1	3.46	100	329.00
SECTOR Totals	58		1,039,136	7,671,052.63
ENGINEERING TECH.				
CUTIX PLC	5	2.89	67,700	199,801.00
NIG. WIRE AND CABLE PLC	6	0.82	806,800	672,088.00
SECTOR Totals	11		874,500	871,889.00
FOOD/BEV. & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	9	30.60	7,567	243,127.71
BIG TREAT PLC	20	0.71	620,686	452,284.64
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	58	15.25	601,248	9,237,008.54
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	153	12.70	1,819,935	23,149,880.96
DANG. SUGAR REF. PLC	146	16.51	2,304,117	37,981,753.86
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	75	45.01	630,075	28,375,234.45
H/WELL FLOUR MILL PLC	45	8.53	295,783	2,518,911.67
P. S. MANDRIDES PLC	1	5.95	2,000	11,320.00
NAT. SALT COY NIG. PLC	34	6.08	685,990	4,179,123.54
NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC	15	27.00	27,242	726,017.75
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	34	270.00	46,556	12,766,955.82
N/NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC	4	23.00	3,142	69,124.00

TANTALIZERS PLC	13	0.91	290,911	265,849.01
UNION DICOM SALE PLC	1	8.21	10,000	82,100.00
UTC NIGERIA PLC	6	0.75	55,000	39,600.00
SECTOR Totals	614		7,400,252	120,070,491.95
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC	12	1.05	140,924	148,427.16
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	21	2.26	723,937	1,600,347.70
GLAXOSM. CONS. NIG. PLC	21	27.30	140,471	3,828,793.30
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	23	5.04	116,471	598,341.60
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	5	1.47	27,674	38,949.29
U/DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	23	0.58	1,085,283	637,752.84
SECTOR Totals	105		2,234,760	6,852,611.89
HOTEL & TOURISM				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	6	3.15	1,581,150	4,975,645.50
SECTOR Totals	6		1,581,150	4,975,645.50
IND./DOMESTIC PROD.				
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	3	10.39	27,350	270,218.00
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC	3	0.50	20,600	10,300.00
VITAF OAM NIGERIA PLC	21	4.70	358,975	1,682,265.60
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	5	0.63	25,000	15,000.00
SECTOR Totals	32		431,925	1,977,783.60
INF. & COMM. TECH.				
CHAMS PLC	35	0.68	1,795,270	1,215,429.70
STARCOMMS PLC	24	1.96	2,356,247	4,696,148.16
SECTOR Totals	59		4,151,517	5,911,577.86
INSURANCE				
AFRICAN ALL. INSUR. PLC	1	0.50	18,500	9,250.00
AIICO INSURANCE PLC	116	1.05	7,319,128	7,708,035.32
CONT. REINSURANCE PLC	11	0.96	3,636,540	3,560,955.40
C/STONE INSUR. CO. PLC	21	0.52	2,778,827	1,398,614.17
CUST. AND ALLIED INS. PLC	23	2.90	1,700,541	4,939,148.90
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	10,000	5,000.00
GREAT NIG. INSUR. COY PLC	1	0.50	2,000	1,000.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	38	0.57	3,182,800	1,723,748.00
GUAR. TRUST ASSURANCE PLC	15	2.19	906,894	1,962,137.86
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	12,000	6,000.00
CONSOL. HALLMARK INS. PLC	5	0.50	34,000	17,000.00
INT. ENERGY INS. COY PLC	30	0.56	3,156,374	1,717,911.64
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC	53	0.50	6,584,846	3,309,576.46
LAW UNION & ROCK INS. PLC	9	0.53	823,400	415,490.00
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	10,000	5,000.00
MUTUAL BEN. ASSUR. PLC	5	0.64	57,402	36,737.28
N.E.M. INSUR. CO. (NIG.) PLC	28	0.52	414,756	215,007.68
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC	22	0.68	1,251,620	863,401.60
OASIS INSURANCE PLC	1	1.17	10,000	11,200.00
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	37	3.43	1,086,665	3,872,823.45
REG. ALLIANCE INS. COY PLC	1	0.50	2,000	1,000.00
SOV. TRUST INSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	32,000	16,000.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	2	0.76	13,000	9,490.00
STAND. ALL. INSUR. PLC	53	0.52	12,277,600	6,339,037.00
UNIC INSURANCE PLC	13	8.88	973,946	742,198.96
UNITY KAP. ASSUR. PLC	3	1.00	100,000	100,000.00
UNIV. INS. COMPANY PLC	2	0.50	37,000	18,500.00
INT. WAPIC INSUR. PLC	16	0.95	1,193,514	1,155,976.22
SECTOR Totals	512		47,625,353	40,160,239.94
MEDIA				
DAAR COMMUNIC. PLC	20	0.64	97,000	64,510.00
SECTOR Totals	20		97,000	64,510.00
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ASO SAVINGS & LOAN PLC	14	0.63	203,050	128,827.60
RES. SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	9	0.50	999,000	499,500.00
UN/HOMES SAV. & LOANS PLC	28	0.88	1,083,622	966,617.83
SECTOR Totals	51		2,285,672	1,594,945.43
OTHER FINAN. INST.				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC	9	0.95	674,332	642,403.32
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	4	0.59	81,580	47,982.17
SECTOR Totals	13		755,832	690,385.49
PACKAGING				
NIG. BAG MAN. COY PLC	293	2.25	15,566,873	34,491,141.98
SECTOR Totals	293		15,566,873	34,491,141.98
PETROLEUM(MARK.)				
AFRICAN PETROL. PLC	46	41.25	313,891	12,948,003.75
BECO PETROL. PROD. PLC	2	2.13	15,000	30,450.00
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	15	69.79	44,712	3,176,326.02
CONOIL PLC	108	39.54	970,612	38,369,273.68
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC	27	5.99	4,315,550	25,721,748.50
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC	14	93.00	55,486	5,165,157.50
OANDO PLC	15	93.99	3,930	369,380.70
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	12	142.50	8,371	1,216,402.10
SECTOR Totals	239		5,727,552	86,996,742.25
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	33	6.00	651,270	3,912,174.84
SECTOR Totals	33		651,270	3,912,174.84
ROAD TRANSPORTATION				
ASSOCIATED BUS COY PLC	6	0.98	162,900	159,642.00
SECTOR Totals	6		162,900	159,642.00
THE FOREIGN LISTINGS				
ECOBANK TRANSN. INCORP	22	16.04	451,447	7,232,033.22
SECTOR Totals	22		451,447	7,232,033.22
OVERALL Totals	6,649		331,900,852	2,925,168,023.70

What is Arbitrage
The simultaneous purchase of a security on one stock market and the sale of the same security on another stock market at prices which yield a profit.

Google

GAINERS	
BCC	0.49
HONYFLOUR	0.40
IBTC	0.39

LOSERS	
AP	2.17
CAP	1.48
CADBURY	0.50



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRIBUSINESS AND AGRO-INDUSTRIES IN AFRICA

7-10 March, 2010, @ The Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Congress Hall, Exhibition ground, Abuja & Eagle Square, Abuja, Nigeria.

The Federal Government of Nigeria will host a High Level Conference on the Development of Agribusiness and Agro-Industries in Africa (HLCD - 3A) at the Congress Hall, Transcorp Hilton, Abuja.

The Conference is jointly organised by the Federal Government of Nigeria, UNIDO, FAO, IFAD, UNECA, AU, and AFDB. It will convene Heads of State and Government, Honourable Ministers of Commerce and Industry, Agriculture and Water Resources, Policy Makers, International Financial Institutions, Food Industry Leaders and Agro-Industry Specialists

INVITATION TO EXHIBITORS

Stakeholders in the Agricultural sector and interested members of the general public are invited to participate in the exhibition of Agribusinesses and Agro-industries during the High Level Conference on the development of Agribusiness and Agro-industries in Africa holding at the Eagle Square Exhibition ground (Adjacent to Federal Secretariat Phase II, Abuja Nigeria from 8-10th of March, 2010.

Objectives of the Summit

The summit is expected to highlight how investments in Agribusiness and Agro-industries can help African Countries and their International Partners to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to increase private sector investment flows into the Agriculture sector in Africa by mobilizing resources for Agribusiness and Agro-industries Development from domestic and international financial systems. The initiatives will support a well-coordinated effort by African governments, regional bodies, relevant UN and other international agencies, as well as the private sector to share knowledge and harmonize programmes in ways that capture synergies, avoid fragmented efforts and enhance developmental impacts. It will also support an investment programme that will significantly increase the portion of Africa's agricultural products that is transformed into differentiated high-value products, such that by 2020, more than 50 percent of the continent's food products sold in the domestic and international markets will be in processed form.

Expected participants

Expected participants will include:

- Heads of Government in Africa;
- Ministers of Agriculture; Commerce/Trade; and Industry of the various Countries of Africa;
- State Governments, Agriculture; Trade and Industries Commissioners
- Captains of Agro-Industries and Agro-allied enterprises;
- Agricultural fresh produce, marketing and logistics Companies;
- Input manufacturers and supplies Companies;
- Tractors and equipment manufacturing Companies;
- Land clearing equipment manufacturers' and
- Irrigation, drainage and land reclamation equipment manufacturers.
- Parboiled Rice processing equipment manufacturers;
- Participants are also welcomed from the private sector outside Africa.

Exhibitors will have the opportunity to:

- Present their company at a reasonable cost, to a broad audience;
- Make business contacts with participants from all over Africa;
- Show case products and services;
- Provide information on the state-of-the art technologies for production, processing and marketing strategies in food and Agriculture;
- Cultivate business relations with participants and decision makers for mutual innovative businesses;
- Promote increased economic growth and inter-regional Trade as well as food security in the various countries of Africa.

International Free Passage for Exhibited Goods And Equipment

- Goods and equipment to be exhibited will have duty free passage into Nigeria and exit after the program; and
- All immigration, Customs and Agricultural quarantine services will be facilitated by the Government of Nigeria.

VENUE: The Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Congress Hall, Exhibition ground, Abuja & Eagle Square, Abuja, Nigeria

Exhibition Space

The total Land Area for the Exhibition is 20, 000sq meters. The following facilities will be available as follows: (a) Built-up Booths with roof measuring 3x3m and multiple of this dimension. (b) Open spaces.

The exhibition ground will be commissioned and declared open at 1500 Local time on the 7th, March 2010.

Exhibition Fees

The fee is Fifteen thousand naira (15, 000) or US\$100 only, per square meter for the booth space and Three Thousand (N3, 000) or US\$20 per sq meter only, for the open space.

Payment will be made at the conference registration desk, Transcorp Hilton Hotel, on arrival.

Exhibition Service Package Per Booth

This package includes:

- 1 wall socket of 15 amps rating and 1 wall socket of 13 amps rating;
- Provision of wireless internet access socket;
- An air-conditioned space;
- One point of fluorescent lamp;
- 2 chairs;
- 1 table;
- 1 waste bin etc.
- 3x3m floor rug.

For further information, please contact

The Culture and Exhibition Sub-Committee Room
226H, Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry,
Area 1, Abuja, Nigeria.

Tel: 08059607059; 08036020149; 08057437416

E-mail: awebola2007@yahoo.com; mosescgc121062@yahoo.com;
mosesaaadewuyi@yahoo.com;

Reservation

This notice provides a reservation form which gives you the opportunity of booking your exhibition space. You are invited to return this form as soon as possible preferably by e-mail to: vchude@yahoo.co.uk

The exhibition space will be allocated on a first come first served basis. An early reservation will ensure your participation at this prime event. The space will officially be reserved in your name upon receipt of your payment.



National Organizing Committee Secretariat, Federal Ministry of Commerce & Industries, Abuja. Tel: (+234-80) 67766543, (+234-81)36942303, (+234-70)59382925 UNIDO Regional Office: UN House, Plot 617 & 618, Central District Area, Garki, Abuja. Fax (+234-9) 4618543, Tel: (+234-9) 4618513, 4616308, (ext) 6301 Mobile=(+234-80)34022093, 33154400. Email: b.alkhabit@unido.org, vchude@yahoo.co.uk. Website: www.hlcd-3a.org

D.D. DODO & CO.

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Tel: 09-4131583,
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Tafawa Balewa
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P. O. Box 6576
Ios-Nigeria.
Tel: 073-453467

KANO:

5, Zoo Road
Kano.
Tel: 064-667837
Fax: 064660944

UNWARRANTED ATTACK ON THE INTEGRITY OF THE ARMY AND THE REPUTATION OF ITS HIGH COMMAND.

The attention of the Nigerian Army and the Chief of Army Staff, Lt. General A. B. Dambazau (our Clients) has been drawn to a couple of libelous publications in some inconsequential websites alleging acts of corruption against the Chief of Army Staff and the Nigerian Army with regard to contracts "awarded" ever before Lt. Gen. Dambazau assumed office as Chief of Army Staff.

These false publications are obviously sponsored by dishonest and dubious elements trying to defraud the Nigerian Army through blackmail, campaign of calumny and false contractual claims.

These baseless and spurious allegations ordinarily ought not to be dignified by any response except for reason of their potential to mislead and misinform the public. On behalf of our clients however, we have caused letters demanding a retraction and an apology of the libelous publications to issue against these websites and their sponsors.

We have the full mandate of the Nigerian Army and the Chief of Army Staff to proceed against these elements by instituting actions for libel in the Courts of law and to press criminal charges for injurious falsehood under relevant penal statutes.

Our instructions are however not limited to these elements but extends to any and all persons who seek unjustifiably in any way to disparage and denigrate the Nigerian Army and/or the reputation of its High command and officers.

As an institution fully subordinated to civil authority and law, the Nigerian Army and its officers shall have recourse to the law courts in protecting their reputation while being fully committed to the security of the nation and the defence of Nigeria's territorial integrity.

Signed: **D. D. DODO & CO.***(Legal Practitioners & Arbitrators)*

SOLICITORS: D. D. DODO (SAN); ACIARB., J. Y. PAM; NASIR A. DANGIRI; AUDU ANUGA; PAULYN ABHULIMEN; CHINEDU UMEH; TERHEMBA GBASHIMA; A. F. JUMBO; KAUNA PENZIN; KALAT BAGAIYA; NJIDEKA ODILI; A. A. DODO

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AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF NIGERIA
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCE

EXECUTIVE STAFF VACANCY

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are hereby invited from suitably qualified candidates for the post of Provost Federal College of Veterinary and Medical Laboratory Technology, Vom under the aegis of the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria of the Federal Ministry of agriculture and Water Resources.

Qualifications: Candidates must have a PhD in any area of veterinary and medical laboratory technology with a minimum of 10 years research/teaching experience. In addition candidates must have detailed ability to provide academic/administrative Leadership and have clear vision for development of the College of Veterinary and Medical Laboratory Technology to meet required priority in the field. In addition to the above candidates must not be over 60 years old.

Terms of Appointment: A single Term of 5 years only.

Duties: He/She is the Chief Executive of the college and therefore responsible for the academic and administrative management of the college.

Salary: Political Office Holders' Salary Scale.

Method of Application: Applicants are requested to submit 12 typewritten copies and one electronic copy on CD of their Curriculum Vitae and photocopies of their credentials. Functional phone numbers and email addresses should be indicated in the CV. Three referees should be requested to send their reports to the address below. All applications and referee reports should be marked "**Confidential Application**" at the top left corner of the envelope and addressed to:

The Executive Secretary,
Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria,
Agricultural Research House,
Plot 223D, Cadastral Zone B6,
Mabushi,
P. M. B. 5026, Wuse,
Abuja, Nigeria.

Deadline: The deadline for submission of applications and referees reports is 15th April 2010. Any application received after this date will not be considered. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.



Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Nigeria
State Governance and Capacity Building Project
Credit number: 4084UNI

IFB Title: Procurement of Office Equipment and Furniture
IFB Number: BSGCBP/NCB/010/02
Issuance Date: March 4th, 2010

1. The Federal Government of Nigeria *has received credit* from the *International Development Association* toward the cost of State Governance and Capacity Building Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this *credit* to payments under the Contract for *Procurement of Office Equipment and Furniture - BSGCBP/NCB/010/02*

2. The Bauchi State Governance and Capacity Building Project now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Procurement of the followings:

Lot No.	Description of Goods	Quantity	DELIVERY LOCATION
Lot 1	Computers and Accessories	Assorted	Room 020, Abubakar Umar Secretariat, Yakubun Bauchi road, Bauchi, Bauchi State, Nigeria.
Lot 2	2.4m V-SAT, Connectivity and Network attached storage	Assorted	-Do-
Lot 3	Power generating set & Inverter	Assorted	-Do-
Lot 4	Furniture	Assorted	College of Administration & Business Studies, Izare, Katagum LGA, Bauchi State.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Bauchi State Governance and Capacity Building Project at Address given below and inspect Monday to Thursdays, except on public holidays.

5. Qualifications requirements include:

Evidence of previous Supply (Sale) of Similar Good Proposed for the last Five (5) years.

Last Three (3) years Audited Financial Statement to demonstrate the financial capability of the Bidder in terms of Profitability and Adequate working capital. A margin of preference for certain goods manufactured domestically *shall not* be applied.

Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in *English language* may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee of *Twenty Thousand Naira (N20,000.00) Only*. The method of payment will be Cash or Bank Draft in Favour of Bauchi State Governance and Capacity Building Project. The Bidding Documents will be collected by the representative of the Bidder or send by courier services on request

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before *10:30 a.m on April 1st 2010*. Electronic bidding will *not* be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at *10:30 a.m on April 1st, 2010*. All bids must be accompanied by a *Bid Security* of at least *2% of bid price* or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

8. The address (es) referred to above is (are):

Attn: Mohammed Aminu Ibrahim
Project Coordinator,
Bauchi State Governance and Capacity Building Project
SPCU Secretariat,
Abubakar Umar Secretariat Phase 1
Yakubun Bauchi Road (Opp. Central Bank Building)
Ground Floor, Room 020, Bauchi, Bauchi State.
E-mail: bauchisqcbp@yahoo.com

ADVERTORIAL

AREWA YOUTHS FORUM

Prof Dora Akunyili, threat to national unity

The present political crisis, occasioned by President Umaru Yar'adua's prolonged absence from the country and his subsequent return is, to say the least, unfortunate. It is even quite disturbing that the situation has become a veritable platform for some people to pursue their narrow, devilish and primitive interests.

It is instructive to note that the power play thrown up by Mr. President's ailment virtually has exposed the desperation, the narrow-mindedness and the hypocrisy of not our politicians and top government officials, who are today in position of authority courtesy of Mr. President's benevolence. It is not only embarrassing but disgusting the way and manner, those saddled with the responsibility of ruling the country at the highest level, have overnight become agents of doom for the same country, in an attempt to feather their nest at the expense of Mr. President.

We have noted, with dismay, the recent vituperations of the Minister of Information, Prof. Dora Akunyili against her fellow ministers, whom she disrespectfully referred to as **CABAL**. This we believe, is aimed at attracting to them hatred without any verifiable justification.

We have gone through the many statements of Akunyili since her sudden re-branding, several months after being in the same league with her supposed **CABAL** in "hiding the truths about the health of Mr. President." What we have found amusing is that up until this moment Akunyili has not deemed it fit to first apologise to Nigerians over her involvement in the game of deceit she is accusing the **CABAL** of, or what she discovered to have made a turn-around.

We, hereby, challenge Akunyili to disclose the names of this so-called **CABAL**, the detail of what they have been doing the roles played by each one of them, because it is only from there that we can know who did what in the Federal Executive Council regarding the health of Mr. President.

We think it is highly irresponsible for a minister of the federal republic to turn into an agent of destabilisation and a threat to national unity.

Even though it is an open secret that she was not happy with her ministry of information portfolio, as her initial target was to be made the health minister to control larger budgetary allocations, Madam Re-branding graciously accepted and profusely thanked Mr. President for the less juicy posting, how ludicrous?

The antecedents of Akunyili of not being a team player became manifested, when she engaged her minister of state in an open confrontation over a mere schedule of duty.

Public office is all about team work, confidentiality, trust and ability to manage crisis within a team without name-calling in the media: These are attributes that Akunyili clearly lack and which made Mr. President not to post her to the health ministry because obviously she lacks the capacity to manage such a huge and critical sector.

What is expected of any public officer, who feels he or she is on higher moral pedestal than his boss or colleagues is to honourably and quietly disengage rather than dragging in the mud the name people laboured to establish many years before they came into contact with her.

We wonder where Akunyili was when former President Obasanjo's cabal were busy persecuting former Vice President Atiku Abubakar on economic and political fronts to the extent of brazenly declaring Atiku's seat vacant. Did Akunyili write a memo to Obasanjo, even if not as NAFDAC boss but a private citizen with conscience? Or has she finally regained herself?

It is now clear why Obasanjo, despite his alleged likeness of her refused to make her a minister during his eight-year tenure in spite of her alleged lobby through the strongman of Ibadan politics, the late Alhaji Lamidi Adedebu.

It is clear from Akunyili's attitude and the subsequent unfolding events that the whole issue was a grand design, orchestrated by a section of the country in league with some unscrupulous northerners whose bread is no longer being buttered by the government patronage backed by massive media support, to scuttle the North's to see out its eight-year tenure.

To even the casual observer, it is clear that Mr. President's ill health has been politicised just to ensure that even if he decides not to contest the 2011 election, he will certainly not be in a position to determine who succeeds him.

It is the highly regrettable that our democratic institutions, such as National Assembly, can be blackmailed by a section of the country to put aside the provisions of the constitution that the honourable members and distinguished senators swore to uphold, defend and protect to confer acting status on Vice President Goodluck Jonathan.

To add salt to injury, the resolution was passed against an order by court of competent jurisdiction. All these illegalities were not enough to attract the attention of our flamboyant re-branding information minister and her sponsors.

As if to confirm our fears that the whole agenda was aimed at rubbishing the north and its leadership, symbolised by Mr. President, as soon as he was empowered as acting President, albeit illegally, the first action Goodluck Jonathan took was to commence the process of stalling the dredging of the River Niger, which contract Mr. President, against all odds, awarded and flagged-off after over 40 years.

Not only the project was suspended, the manner it was done certainly exposed the motive behind all the unnecessary brouhaha about the President's ill health. The action was clearly illegal and a slap on the National Assembly as the diversion of the funds meant for the project was diverted to projects in the Niger Delta without any virement from the legislature as demanded by the constitution.

However, in the eyes of Akunyili and her sponsors all these are okay, but not for Mr. President to recuperate from a sickness that he did not afflict himself with.

It is disturbing how people can turn truth on its head in an attempt to achieve a hidden agenda. Is it not mischievous for anybody to accuse the Chief of Army Staff of illegal deployment of troops to provide security for Mr. President upon his arrival from Saudi Arabia?

Is the *modus operandi* of the Brigade of Guards a secret that this professional and extremely loyal General is being made a sacrificial lamb in order to realise the hidden agenda? Or is it another hatched job to ensure the removal of the only Muslim in the committee of the nation's security chiefs?

It is just unfortunate that some northerners, in the face of all these shenanigans, refused to read in-between, but instead some of them, particularly our so called elders and states governors including that Minna based rabble-rouser, who by accident parades himself as chairman of the northern governors forum, chose to disparage the President and, thereby destabilise the system just because they want to be picked as Vice President to Goodluck. May the soul of the great *Sardaunan* Sokoto rest in peace.

We have waited for days for one of these so-called northern elders or the governors to protest the brazen illegality, but, as the proverb goes: a leopard never changes its spots, for all what they are after is who will make it to the dream Goodluck cabinet.

However, our consolation is that we are in a democracy, which affords us the liberty to pay these traitors in their own coins as we approach 2011. We therefore warn that whatever happens, they will never be allowed to preside over our affairs again, directly or by proxy, rigging or no rigging.

We, in the Arewa Youths Forum have decided that enough is enough. No one, including our so-called elders, should take us for a ride any more. We demand that the issue be handled strictly within the confines of the constitution and the rule of law.

For Akunyili and her cohorts, **we demand their immediate resignation and unreserved apology** for plunging the nation into a state of anxiety, uncertainty and ridicule in the eyes of the international community in pursuit of their personal interests.

Enough is enough! The North is tired of this blackmail.

GAMBO IBRAHIM GUJUNGU
National President

Gambogojngo@yahoo.com, arewyouth1@yahoo.com

Sign Language



Never knew George is into this business

Photo location: Norwich, Norfolk, England, by Annisa Kan
Culled from www.signspotting.com

EASY CROSSWORDS

ACROSS

- Cheerful energy
- Lamb's sire
- Occupation
- Portion (out)
- Tavern quaff
- Ventilates
- Foundation
- Very angry
- Trims (hair)
- Warhol's work
- Gratuity
- Inquire
- Sudden bite
- Pasteed
- Pasta dish
- After Jeremy
- Dose (of)
- Grand narrative
- Bread unit
- Face features
- Negative term
- Of our star
- Raw mineral
- Life's conclusion
- Infamous fiddler
- Aid and —
- That girl
- Family car
- Process (film)
- Unabridged
- Pury
- During each
- Pea casing
- Farm animal
- Self-esteem
- Purpose
- Pay increase
- Cruel insult
- Crooner King Cole
- Holiday sights

DOWN

- Army stations
- Mr. Wallach
- Irritate
- Proximate exit
- Like: 2 wds.
- Hero's award
- See 53-Down
- Cooking liquid
- Provide
- Kid's challenge
- Twirl
- Metal rod
- Push resort
- Distress code
- Monocle site
- Armed combat
- Revered people
- Hoag
- Muscle spasm
- Big fuss
- "High" time
- Malt events
- Terminate
- "The Tell-Tale Heart" author
- A Gershwin
- Taxi's crest
- Wisp audibly
- Before, to Burns
- Adjust, as a watch
- Western show
- "Nothing but — truth..."
- Assistant
- Hill insect
- Caviar base
- Wish 7-Down, seventh President
- Go for clips
- Does wrong
- Bridal headpieces
- Dried plum
- More chilling
- Diana of song
- Fold mama
- Noted samurai
- Couple
- Put into words
- Ms. Gardner

3

Solution to Easy Crosswords

JOE HAS PAY
ALAS FALLS CAVE
MERE ONION ICES
OSCARS BOLDER
UNDERWEE
BARN LED GRIN
RODEOS TOM STOP
YAM YEARNED ATE
ERIC ARE TABLET
STEM CAT NAYS
LAG TAPER
HELPED MASTER
DIVA MOVES ERIE
OVER SWISS RACE
TEN NET SOL

2

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.

99

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

Solution to Sudoku 98

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

DAILY TRUST

EDUCATION

E-mail: education@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 08035910371

ETF tasks institutions on utilisation of N41.4b intervention fund

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

THE Education Trust Fund (ETF) has called on the institutions that benefited from its N41.4b intervention grants to make effective use of the funds, saying that un-accessed funds would not be released after the November 30, 2010 deadline for completion.

Chairman Board of Trustees of ETF Dr Musa Babayo, who disclosed this in Abuja,

said ETF has taken bold steps to ensure that the tertiary institutions in the country get needed infrastructural upgrade that will make them compete globally.

He said the ETF grants for the selected institutions were approved by the Federal Government to address the insufficiency of physical infrastructure and ensure the provision of instructional materials.

According to him, the ETF intervention will facilitate the attainment of the seven-

point agenda of the present administration and help in the realization of Nigeria's vision of becoming one of the top 20 economies in the world by the year 2020.

Dr Babayo also explained that the N41.4billion will be specifically used to develop Central Teaching/Research Laboratory to be located in the six focal universities and improve the teaching and learning environment.

The six focal universities are University

of Ibadan, University of Nigeria Nsukka, University of Benin, Ahmadu Bello University, University of Ilorin and University of Maiduguri and they will be getting N5.5 billion each amounting to N33 billion.

Apart from the six focal universities, three polytechnics will receive N1.2 billion each; three Colleges of Education will receive N1.1 billion each while Nigeria Defence Academy will receive N1.5 billion.

CMD to establish 36 training institutions, says DG

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

THE Centre for Management Development (CMD) will establish additional 36 world-class training institutions across all states of the federation between now and 2020, Director General of the centre Dr Kabir Kabo Usman, has said.

Speaking at a press briefing in Lagos, Dr Usman said the centre will also provide management training to public sector, private sector and the small and medium enterprises, among others.

He said the centre would be rebranded to reflect its new posture attitude to service delivery, adding that plans are underway to provide robust ICT infrastructure to enable the centre to operate a paperless administrative environment.

NTA TV college matriculates diploma students

By Andrew Agbese, Jos

THE Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) TV College, Jos, has matriculated its diploma students for the 2010 academic session.

The matriculation exercise was the first for diploma students since the school was established more than 30 years ago.

Rector of the college Dr Ayo Fasan said the diploma students were matriculated in order to give the students a sense of belonging and to make them feel part of the institute.

He urged the students of the college to be part of the solution to the many challenges facing the country,

saying the broadcast industry which they were going into plays a crucial role in the society.

He said the broadcast industry has become a very demanding one where competitiveness is growing by the day, and encouraged the students to be dynamic to adapt to the demands of the industry.

Dr Fasan explained that the institute has put in place certain facilities that will help the students become the professionals they strive to be by offering not only academic theories, but practical that will make them fully equipped for the broadcast industry anywhere in the world.



MINISTER of Education Dr Sam Egwu (left), the Executive Secretary of Nigeria Education and Research Development Council (NERDC) Professor Godswill Obioma and Professor Onyejeme Zie at a conference organised by the council in Abuja recently.

UNILORIN committed to reabsorbing sacked lecturers-VC

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin Professor Is-haq Oloyede has reiterated the commitment of the university to ensuring a smooth absorption of the lecturers who had been disengaged from the university.

Professor Oloyede said this at the Harmattan Semester meeting of the university congregation for 2009/2010 academic session held last week.

"The Supreme Court judgement is final and it behoves on us to make the decision smoothly implemented. We as a university are taking all steps to make sure all problems relating to the salaries are solved and we expect

the departments to ensure that. We want all of us to make sure the peace on campus is not disrupted in any way," he said.

Professor Oloyede also expressed happiness that the university was ranked number one in Nigeria in the current webometric ranking, stressing however that the university is yet to reach its target as it is still ranked number 55 in Africa.

He urged members of the congregation to do everything possible to ensure improvement in the ranking by doing little things such as accessing minutes and agenda of meeting through their email boxes, adding that "the less paper we have, the more

globally competing we are."

While responding to a question by Professor J. F. Olorunfemi on the use of identity cards, Professor Oloyede said that the university needs as many security agents as the members of the university community.

The congregation also discussed the replacement of motorcycles with tricycles on campus, and the director of the university's Health Services, Dr Ajiboye reported that the introduction of tricycles has impacted positively on the well-being of the university community as there hasn't been any report of orthopaedic cases at the university clinics since the introduction.

Council maps out strategies on policy for education

THE National Council on Education has promised to map out innovative strategies on policy options and best practices for the development of education through public private partnership.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education Professor Oladapo Afolabi,

made the promise at the opening ceremony of the technical session of the 56th Meeting of the council in Abuja.

He assured stakeholders that at the meeting that "we shall consider memoranda for council's approval with a view to mapping out innovative strategies on

policy options and best practices".

He expressed the commitment of the ministry for total restoration of the country's education system to its former glory, and called on the participants to deliberate and consider the reports from various sub-sectors of education for the realisation of

the goal of the meeting.

Speaking at the meeting, the FCTA secretary for Education Alhaji Hussaini Pai, expressed delight that the meeting had taken up the challenge to find lasting solution to the perennial inadequate funding of the education sector.

DAILY TRUST EDUCATION

CONTISS: Selective implementation causes rumble in Yobe

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

STATE owned tertiary institutions in Yobe state are in a serious condition of dissatisfaction as fears loom over an impending strike following the state government's approval of Consolidated Tertiary Institutions Salary Structure (CONTISS) for the academic staff of the College of Education (COE) without including other tertiary institutions in the state.

The CONTISS was approved for the COE because its staff boycotted lectures, demanding the new pay model while College of Administration and Business Studies Potiskum, College of Agriculture Gujba, Ateku Abubakar College of Legal and Islamic Studies Nguru and Idriss Alooma Polytechnic Gaidam played 'good guys' and continued work when the COE lecturers went on strike.

The strike by the academic staff of the COE made the students to stage a protest in July last year and beat up the provost of the college because of anger. However, the crisis was resolved after the state government approved incre-

ment on the salaries of the protesting lecturers following the intervention of Yobe State House of Assembly.

The House of Assembly had at a special sitting invited the Secretary to the State Government (SSG) Engineer Babagoni Machina, the Head of Service Alhaji Dauda Yahaya, the Commissioner Education Mohammed Alamin, the provost of the college Dr Usman Mohammed Dakasko, the chairman of Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASU) of the College and the chairman Non-Academic Staff Union of Universities (NASU).

Honourable Surajo Wakil who represents Bade Constituency in the House, had earlier moved a motion on the need for the lawmakers to intervene in the crisis which according to him had subjected the students of the college to untold hardship and was threatening the existence of the college.

Daily Trust learnt from a reliable source at the House of Assembly that more than 40 academic staff of the college tendered their resignation letters during the strike, and picked appointment in other states.



GOVERNOR Ibrahim Gaidam

In his presentation, the SSG Engineer Babagoni Machina told the House that the state government was ready to abide by any agreement reached by stakeholders.

"As soon as the union leaders and our team of negotiators agree and immediately the Head of Service has finished all the necessary paper work, His Excellency will expressly approve the findings," he said.

On his part, the Head of Service told the House that an agreement was reached between the protesters and the state government on the need for the payment of 80 percent CONTISS to the academic staff. He however said that the request by the non-academic staff who were equally calling for their inclusion in the CONTISS was not approved.

However, while the staff of COE were pleased with the decision of the state



MINISTER of Education Dr Sam Egwu

government, others from the remaining higher institutions are now planning to take the "strike option" in order to press home their demands.

Mallam Mohammed of the College of Administration Potiskum said government should have taken a 'holistic' decision on all the institutions instead of "rewarding those that protested."

"Government did not take a wise decision by

approving the CONTISS for COE Gashua alone despite the fact that they had been on strike for over eight months," he said.

Bulama Yusuf, a student in one of the tertiary institutions, said students of the institutions would descend on their provosts if they allow their lecturers to go strike.

He said lecturers in all the institutions in the state "have equal status and should be treated equally."

FCT SUBEB to train 3,603 teachers

By Maureen Onochie

THE Federal Capital Territory (FCT) State Universal Basic Education Board said it will train 3,603 teachers this year in order to improve their skills and methods of imparting knowledge to students.

Executive chairman of the board Musa Maikas-uwa Yakubu said this while speaking at the flag-off ceremony of the UBE training activities for year 2010.

He said the training programme will be practical in nature, and called on the teachers to be active during the training.

"The objective of this

training is to equip our teachers and head teachers as well as principals with the necessary skills and methods of teaching and how best to manage our schools. It is my hope that this will enhance effective teaching and learning in our schools," he said.

In his remarks, the Executive Secretary of Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) Dr Ahmed Modibbo Mohammed said that the Federal Government is determined to ensure that qualitative education is given to school aged children.

"The government intervenes through the

Universal Basic Education Commission in the provision of Teacher Professional Development Programme (TPDP) by setting aside 10 percent of the FGN/UBE intervention fund for that purpose," he said.

On his part, the training coordinator of the FCT SUBEB, Abubakar Dantsoho told Daily Trust in an interview that the training was organised in five centres including Junior Secondary School Jabi, Science Technical Secondary School Garki, Gifted School Gwagwalada and Government Secondary School Kwali.

Minister advocates acquisition of mother languages

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

THE Minister of State for Education Hajiya Aishatu Jibril Dukku has stressed the need to promote the acquisition of mother languages and international languages.

Speaking during the celebration of 2010 International Mother Language Day, Hajiya Aishatu said acquisition of the languages will serve as a solid foundation which is needed from the home and will be a base for amplified development that will break incessant communal, cultural, professional and economic barriers for our citizens.

The minister, who was represented by an Assistant Director in charge of French

Language Project in the ministry Mrs Constance Uzor, said the National Policy on Education has given the necessary direction on mother language.

She said the Education Ministry has shown leadership by initiating various language projects including the French language project, an advocacy for multilingualism and focus on Nigerian languages.

She urged Ministries of Education in the 36 states of the federation to develop similar projects to serve as a leverage to encourage the use of mother language both in teaching and learning that will cut across the strata of education from the crèche to tertiary and non-formal education.

30 students qualify for second round of science competition

By Maureen Onochie

30 students have qualified for the second round competition of the 7th edition of the International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO) which will take place in Abuja this year.

The competition which was concluded at the Bells Sec-

ondary School, Otta, Ogun State last weekend began with 90 participants representing the 36 states of the federation including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

While addressing the students at the end of the camp programme, the Minister of Science and Technology Dr Alhassan Bako Zaku urged the students to embrace science

and technical education for the country to move forward technologically.

Zaku said the screening competition was to ensure that Nigeria produces the best students for the 7th edition of the IJSO, stressing that Nigeria, being the host, cannot afford to fail the nation.

CAMPUS ROUNDUP

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ABU expels 83 students for malpractices

From Isa Liman, ABU

THE Senate of Ahmadu Bello University's (ABU) has approved the expulsion of 83 students for various forms of examination malpractices, acting Vice Chancellor of the university Professor Aliyu Muhammad, has said.

Muhammad, who made this known yesterday during the 2009/2010 matriculation ceremony of the university, said the

approval was given at the last meeting of the Senate.

"The Senate of the university took that giant stride of expelling the 83 students for various cases of examination malpractices because we want our ABU to regain its past glory and reemphasize its role and position as the leading university in Nigeria, the university that has given birth to other universities and colleges of higher learning

in Nigeria. For this, ABU has no room for any rascals; be they cultists, religious extremists or any other person who through his conduct would tarnish the image of the university," he said.

Premising from the ABU's Senate expulsion decision, Muhammad enjoined the matriculating students not to involve in any kind of examination malpractice as the university views such offence as gross

indiscipline.

He added that the present management of the university has during the last few months begun the process of re-inventing ABU in order to redefine its mission and re-orientate its staff and students.

Muhammad also used the occasion to advice the matriculating students to uphold to the oath they have taken, which stipulates total obedience to the uni-

versity's rules and regulations, saying that the rules and regulations were designed to provide conducive atmosphere for learning and teaching to enable students actualize their dreams.

The highlight of the occasion was the administration of oath for the students where the 11,000 matriculating-students sworn to be of good behaviour throughout their stay in the university.

Why politicians must be committed to students' welfare, by NANS

By Maureen Onochie

THE Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Joint Campus Committee of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) has called on politicians in the country to be more committed to the welfare of students.

This was contained in a communiqué issued at the end of a meeting of its leaders and stakeholders held in Gwagwalada.

The communiqué signed by Comrade Akoshile Mukhtar said that the welfare of students should be paid attention to by politicians at all levels.

The communiqué also urged local government councils to erect buildings to supplement the accommodation available for students and provide shuttle buses to ease transportation for the students.

"We are ready to throw our weight strongly behind any aspirant whose past records has shown evidence of listening ears to the electorate and shall mobilize students massively to vote for candidates that effect rapid development to our territory," the communiqué 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

EDITOR-in-Chief of Media Trust Limited Malam Mannir Dan-Ali presenting a gift to Rector of Kaduna Polytechnic Engineer Danjuma Isah, when he visited Kaduna Polytechnic recently.

UMTE: Candidates call for more enlightenment

THE 2010 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) candidates have appealed to the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) to enlighten them more on the examination.

JAMB introduced the unified test for admission to universities, polytechnics and colleges of education in 2009 and is testing the process in the 2010/2011 academic session.

Some candidates told the *News Agency of Nigeria* in Lagos on Sunday that proper enlightenment was necessary to ensure that

they were adequately guided during the examination.

"The new examination is still not properly understood by many candidates; we still need more enlightenment to approach it. For instance, the format and how the examination would be conducted is still not clear to candidates," said Tola Awojobi.

He urged JAMB to embark on a comprehensive media campaign to eliminate mistakes by candidates.

Another candidate, John Fatoyinbo, said

the system of admitting candidates into the various institutions—polytechnic, colleges of education and universities—was not clear.

For Kate James, the examination body should help the candidates to overcome their fears and anxiety about the examination.

"Many of us are expressing anxiety about the exam because of the fear of the unknown. UTME is a new examination and we do not know the form it is going to take. JAMB owes it a duty to give us constant enlightenment about the examination to allay our fears," she said.

Bida poly earmarks N33m for Mass Comm dept building

THE Rector of Federal Polytechnic Bida, Malam Abdullahi Sule, said that N33 million has been earmarked for an "ultra-modern building" for the institution's Mass Communication Department.

Malam Sule told the *News Agency of Nigeria* in Bida that the building would accommodate

lecture halls, offices for both academic and non-academic staff and a befitting studio.

The rector said that work on the project had reached about 75 percent completion and assured that on completion the edifice would be provided with furniture and modern studio equip-

ment.

"We embarked on the construction of the structure in our bid to provide a conducive atmosphere for the staff and students of the department," he said.

The rector, who warned staff against any act of laziness and insubordination, also said that

the management would continue to reward staff who were dedicated to their duties.

He also advised students to shun cultism, drug abuse, examination malpractice, indecent dressing, and any act that were capable of jeopardising their academic pursuit.

labour report

'Turkey trip offered us ideas to create more jobs'

In this interview, the Director General of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) Malam Abubakar Mohammed speaks on a recent study tour by 46 officials of the directorate to Turkey and what Nigerians should expect from the institution in terms of service delivery. He also spoke on other engagements of the directorate.

By Francis Okeke, who was in Turkey

Recently state coordinators and other officials of the NDE went to the Republic of Turkey for two weeks; why did they go to Turkey?

This thing happened as a fall-out of a visit of the then Minister of Labour Prince Adetokunbo Kayode with some of us in the parastatals in his entourage to Turkey. His colleague in Turkey invited him and we were there as part of his entourage. While there, we seized the opportunity to see establishments and institutions. We had the opportunity to see Turkish workers at work. When we came back, I realised I had seen a lot of ideas that I believe my colleagues in the NDE who are working in the field should know. I had the privilege and the opportunity to see and observe good practices and work ethics of the Turks. I also saw and observed strategies that the Turkish government had put in place to fight its own level of unemployment and poverty that it has; not that it is as gross as Nigeria's but for the little they had, we saw some very good practices that they established.

When I came back, I discussed with members of my management and I told them what I saw and it occurred to us that it would be useful if the 37 coordinators got the opportunity to see these things I saw and was describing to them. I knew that I can always summon all of them and hold a meeting with them and brief them but I thought that it was much better if I could get them exposed to those values, issues and ideas that I saw. So it was that we initiated a kind of bilateral relationship with the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA).

So far, from the briefings I am getting, I believe it was a huge success but the report is yet to come to my table. I have had discussions with various state coordinators and the leader of the delegation and they expressed that their report is coming. We hope through this report, to start a follow up process that will see us concretising the gains of such a tour. All in all, I must say it was our modest effort at building a vibrant corps of field workers. We at the headquarters give them leadership but the actual work is being done there. Since coming to



NDE boss Malam Abubakar Mohammed

office, we have been encouraging state officers to initiate activities, schemes and collaborations that may boost our participation even outside the budgetary provisions of the Federal Government. This is the idea of sending them there and let me say that even before I read the report, I am satisfied that we took the right decision.

How would that trip affect productivity in your directorate?

We were able to observe some good practices; in particular, attitudes. You see in a worker, there are three things you need, skills, knowledge and attitude. We didn't send them to Turkey to go and obtain bachelor's degrees, we said go and observe certain values and also how your counterparts in other places are approaching the world of work. Already, they are assuring me that by sending them outside, we have opened their brains and allowed some fresh ideas to come in to them and I believe that very soon, you will begin to see the effects of this tour in my officers at the state level in terms of the kind of the ideas they generate within their environment and the kind of activities they propose to us. We have not exhausted all avenues of generating mass employment. I believe in each state, the state officers led by the state coordinators can always propose to us schemes and activities that are state specific and community specific. We have fired their imagination, kindled their enthusiasm and from feelers I get, I am satisfied that we will say thank God for the tour.

Talking of specifics, Turkey is a traditional society but they

have been able to get their rural women massively involved in such outdoor skills acquisition programmes; how can you translate the trip into such enthusiasm in Nigerian women especially in northern Nigeria?

Let us not get this image of the north, fact of the matter is that if you go to our rural areas, the women farm, they don't farm in their rooms, they come out to the farms in the bush, they farm, they tend gardens and do all sorts of things. The fact of the matter is that unemployment and poverty do not draw a line from north, south, east and west; from men, women, aged and even young. If you are keeping track of my activities with women in all the states of the federation where we train them on income generation activities, you will see they are practising and producing. The north of the 2010 is different from that of the last century. Our women are participating actively in all spheres of life. Look at the physically challenged people, women; what is it that women don't do? We have no problems, what is left is for my officers to generate ideas that will attract the women to come. So far in vocational skills, in technical skills, agricultural skills and entrepreneurial skills, they are participating actively but within these broad areas, my state coordinators will now come up with strategies that we never thought of or considered but which can come now thanks to the experience they had in Turkey.

Were you able to achieve your set goals for the past year?

It excites me to discuss our performance for last year. One of the most beautiful things for last year

was that the distinguished senators and honourable members of the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria were probably my greatest allies. They collaborated with NDE; we went to constituencies in collaboration with them from their leadership to distinguished senators and Members. They came to us and invited us and we went to their areas and trained the youths. I am excited about it because the executive has put so much confidence in NDE and here we are with an assembly that is reposing an equal amount of confidence. It is a matter of joy for us.

There was a time when we could not even dare to announce our name on air. We had our lows but it is our highs now. I am proud to tell you that the executive and the National Assembly have given us so much confidence. Only on Friday, I was in Lagos to join distinguished Senator Mamora in celebrating the end of the training he did in collaboration with NDE in his constituency in Lagos. Mrs. Fas-hola was there, the commissioner for women affairs was there, the commissioner for poverty alleviation, and all of them are there to celebrate with NDE what we did together. We thank God that these institutions now believe in NDE. A few years ago, it was not like this. It is all an expression of confidence. Whatever has happened between last year and this year is as a result of the cooperation, support and understanding of the past minister of labour and productivity, board members, executive members and more importantly, the staff of the NDE. We together did whatever it is we did.

When I was sending them forth to Turkey, I told them that we pledged to the Federal Government of Nigeria that our address is www. harder meaning "we will work harder." I am not saying because we had a good time in 2009 we will rest, no; we are not resting. I have always tried to say that we have done so much, we are doing so much but fact of the matter is that to put somebody in employment is to put him in a sustainable job; a sustainable job requires that the economy responds to it. If you train people, you give them the wherewithal but if there is no demand for their service, they collapse. I keep telling people that if there are forces that close down our textile industry, close down our breweries, close down our tyre manufacturing industry and our vehicle assembly plants, what is the NDE projects in the face of such forces? They will not spare them and the force I am talking about is globalisation, it has dras-

tically affected our economy and my beneficiaries and trainees are operating in the same environment. So, those things that will affect the big outfits will affect my people. Sometimes it is like tying a rope and somebody is untying it from the back. If you are not charitable, you will think we are not doing anything. Job generation is not on the exclusive list of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the states, NGOs, CBOs, wives of state governors and local government chairmen, everybody has a stake. We are now conscious that the greatest challenge we face this century is unemployment and poverty.

You talked about globalisation, NDE is a Nigerian outfit but poverty and its eradication is a global thing, apart from Turkey, are you planning to collaborate with other agencies and other countries to fashion out a sustainable job creation strategy?

Nigeria regularly attends the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) forum and other international fora. Recently we were in Kariba Zimbabwe for the African Regional Labour Administration Centre (ARLAC) meeting and the issue was how to implement the global jobs pact which is ILO's response to the problem of unemployment. Nigeria actively participates, we exchange experiences, we exchange ideas and every time we come back, we are the better for it. Agreed, Turkey is opening the first chapter in such specific bilateral operations with Nigeria but more will come with time. You know that the ILO gives us a forum where nations of the world meet. ARLAC gives us a forum where Africans nations meet and in these fora, we have been exchanging ideas, we have been briefing ourselves on the various ways the problems are manifesting in our various countries and we are learning from each other.

Between December 2007 to date, our programmes have seen a lot of restructuring because whenever I come back from such meetings, I bring the papers to my colleagues, we read them and discuss them and always come out with new ideas on how to do other things differently. The challenge we are facing is of upgrading our practices to suit the demands of our national developmental agenda.

To answer your question, we have started with Turkey but we are not going to rest. We will explore all other avenues. I am not going to pre-empt what we are going to do about it but I am telling you we will explore all means of enhancing the work of NDE.

News Extra

Jacob Zuma brands the British 'old fashioned imperialists'

... Just hours before meeting the Queen

South African president Jacob Zuma caused diplomatic embarrassment yesterday by branding the British as 'old fashioned imperialists' - just hours before meeting the Queen.

The visiting polygamist president, 67, accused the UK of harbouring a feeling of cultural superiority he attributed to the country's colonial past.

He spoke out over press reports in Britain which highlighted details of his colourful private life ahead of his state visit to London, which started yesterday.

Mr Zuma, who has married at least five times, has 19 children, has fought off corruption charges and been acquitted of rape, will dine with the Queen at a glittering affair staged in Buckingham Palace's ballroom alongside his latest wife.

Known as JZ to his friends - the president is travelling with Thobeka Madiba Zuma, 33 years his junior, who he married in January.

The South African President arrived in Britain Tuesday for a busy three-day state visit.

In comments published yesterday in an interview with South Africa's *Independent* newspaper group he said: 'When the British came to our country they said everything we did was barbaric, was wrong, inferior in whatever way.'

'Bear in mind that I'm a freedom fighter and I fought to free myself, also for my culture to be respected.'

And I don't know why they are continuing thinking that their culture is more superior than others, those who might have said so.

'I am very clear on these issues, I've not looked down upon any culture of anyone, and no one has been given an authority to judge others.'

'The British have done that before, as they colonised us, and they continue to do this, and it's an unfortunate thing,' he said.

Asked for the Prime Minister's response to the comment, Gordon Brown's spokesman said only: 'We are very much looking forward to welcoming the head of state of South Africa.'

'It is a very welcome visit by a very important member of the international community.'

The spokesman defended Mr

Brown's decision to miss Prime Minister's Questions in order to attend the welcoming ceremony.

'It is always the case that the head of government is at the receiving ceremony for a visiting head of state,' he said.

Plans for the ceremony had been made on a minute-by-minute basis long before the event, and it would have been 'inappropriate' for the PM to seek to alter the arrangements in order to attend the House of Commons,



ALL smiles: The South African President Jacob Zuma greets the Queen



THE Queen looks on as South African President Jacob Zuma greets Gordon Brown during a ceremonial welcome on Horse Guards Parade yesterday



PRINCE Philip with Jacob Zuma's fifth wife Thobeka Madiba Zuma during a ceremonial welcome yesterday

said the spokesman.

Opposition parties were consulted on the decision, he added.

Horse Guards Parade, where Trooping the Colour is held, was filled with officers and soldiers

from the Grenadier Guards yesterday for an official inspection by Mr Zuma, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh.

The two men then joined the Queen and Mrs Zuma for a state

carriage procession along the Mall to Buckingham Palace, where the statesman and his wife are staying during their three-day visit.

Mr Brown will miss Prime Minister's Questions in the Com-

mons to take part in the ceremony.

He will hold talks with Mr Zuma today when Zimbabwe is expected to be high on the agenda, along with climate change, the global economy and the football World Cup, which South Africa is hosting this summer and England hopes to host in 2018.

Later yesterday the Queen and Duke were billed to host a private lunch for their guests then afterwards the party will view artefacts tracing royal relations with South Africa in the Palace's picture gallery.

In the evening, the Queen will preside over a state banquet for her South African guests - a glittering affair staged in Buckingham Palace's ballroom.

Today's events will see the presidential couple visit a Sainsbury's store in Greenwich, south-east London and the Olympic Park in Stratford.

Later that evening Mr Zuma will give a speech during a banquet at the Guildhall hosted by the Lord Mayor of London.

Tomorrow, the final day of the state visit, Mr Zuma will formally say goodbye to the Queen before visiting the Prince of Wales at Clarence House.

Charles and the president will meet representatives from the Prince's charities involved in South Africa, after which they will join a business-focused round-table discussion on climate change, youth opportunities and the built environment.

A profile on the South African presidency's website declares: 'South Africans know and love him for his prowess on the dance floor and his impeccable vocal cords.'

His love of song can be seen in renditions of the ANC song *Umshini wami* - translated as *Bring Me My Machine Gun* - at pro-Zuma rallies.

News Extra

'Chile earthquake knocked Earth off its axis and made days shorter'



A police officer guards a street in Talcahuano, Chile, Tuesday after it was flattened by the earthquake

The Chilean earthquake has shortened the length of the day by making the Earth rotate faster, according to NASA scientists.

But you might not have noticed, as it was only by about one-millionth of a second.

Richard Gross has revealed the disaster, which has killed at least 795 people, shortened the length of a day by about 1.26 microseconds. A microsecond is one millionth of a second.

Perhaps more impressive is how much the 8.8 magnitude quake shifted Earth's axis.

Dr Gross, from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, calculated the quake should have moved Earth's figure axis (the axis about which Earth's mass is balanced) by about three inches.

Earth's figure axis is not the same as its north-south axis; they are offset by about 30 feet.

By comparison, Dr Gross said the Sumatran earthquake from 2004 should have shortened the length of day by 6.8 microseconds and shifted Earth's axis by 2.76 inches. It didn't shift the



THE Chilean disaster has shortened the length of the day by 1.26 microseconds

Earth's axis as far because the earthquake was located nearer

the equator.

Dr Gross said the calculated

changes in the length of a day are permanent. But he added: "These

“ An earthquake can make Earth rotate faster by nudging some of its mass closer to the planet's axis, just as ice skaters can speed up their spins by pulling in their arms

changes are very, very small.

The length of a day is the time it takes for the planet to complete one rotation - 86,400 seconds or 24 hours.

An earthquake can make Earth rotate faster by nudging some of its mass closer to the planet's axis, just as ice skaters can speed up their spins by pulling in their arms.

Conversely, a quake can slow the rotation and lengthen the day if it redistributes mass away from that axis, Dr Gross said.

CITY NEWS



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Teenage mother takes 57-yr-old lover to court

By Usman A. Bello

A teenage mother has instituted a case against a 57-year-old man for impregnating her and refusing to take responsibility for her baby.

Our reporter learnt that the girl (names withheld) was a student when she became pregnant and had to stop her education.

Counsel to the teenager, Barrister Esther Uzoma had on November 5, 2009 approached an Abuja Customary Court for justice, stating that the 57-year-old Nwachukwu Ikechukwu impregnated the girl and refused to take up her responsibilities as well as that of her baby.

During cross examination, Ikechukwu admitted mak-

ing love to the girl and said she neither decline his advances or struggled with him when he made love overture to her.

Ikechukwu's counsel argued in court that the act which culminated into the pregnancy was an illegal act.

He said his client bears no damage to the teenage girl but the court declined to comment on and adjourned the case.

At the resumed hearing yesterday, counsel to the teenage girl told the court that the case has been adjourned severally due to the absence of the defendant and his counsel.

She said the case was adjourned at the convenience of the defendant, adding that failure to appear today further affirmed the plaintiff's fear

that the defendant was planning to abscond.

Barrister Uzoma prayed the court to foreclose the defendant's argument since the defendant had failed to conform to his own request and enter into judgment, saying the court has a duty to all parties in a case.

After listening to the plaintiff's counsel, Judge Omavuzi E. Oniovosa foreclosed the defendant's argument and adjourned the case to March 8, 2010 for the plaintiff's counsel to address the court.

After the hearing, Barrister Esther Uzoma informed our reporter that all the teenage mother is asking for is for the defendant to be responsible for the baby and her education as she was in JSSS 11 when she was impregnated.

Student caned for stealing goat



THE student being caned in the court premises yesterday.

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 21-year-old student, who was arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for being in possession of a stolen she-goat and three turkeys, yesterday told the court that he actually stole the animal to get money to buy clothes for himself.

The student was however found guilty and caned 12 strokes in the public as well as sentenced

to one month imprisonment or to pay N3000 as fine.

Prosecutor Yilkudi Dungji told the court that the accused who resides at Bwari Area Council was arrested at Lugbe market for being in possession of a she-goat and three turkeys suspected to have been stolen.

The prosecutor stated further that during police investigations, the accused confessed to the crime,

saying that the animals belong to somebody at Bwari.

According to the prosecutor, the offence committed by the accused is punishable under Section 319 of the Penal Code Law.

When the one-count charge was read to the accused, he pleaded guilty, admitting that the animals were actually stolen.

"I actually stole the she-goat and turkey with the intention of reselling them to get money to buy clothes for upkeep to belong with my peers," he said.

Having admitted the crime, the prosecutor asked the court to try him summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC).

In his ruling, Magistrate Abdullahi Aminu ruled that the accused be caned publicly and the order was later carried out in the court premises.

Can we rely on you to do the Job?

Our client, Galaxy Backbone PLC, is a public enterprise of the Federal Government with the mission to operate a unified Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure platform and services that addresses the connectivity, transversal and other technology imperatives of the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of the Federal Government. The company is committed to excellence in service delivery in accordance with globally proven practices. In line with the on going expansion of operations, our client wishes to fill the following vacant positions.

Position: Head, Security

Reports to: Chief Human Resources and Administration Officer

Job Objectives

To provide physical security and safety for employees, key facilities and assets of the company

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Oversee a network of security operatives and vendors.
2. Identify protection goals, objectives and metrics consistent with corporate strategic plan.
3. Manage the development and implementation of company security policy.
4. Physical protection responsibilities will include asset protection and workplace violence prevention.
5. Oversee incident response planning, investigation of security breaches.
6. Work with outside consultants as appropriate for independent security audits.

Job Requirements

Education: ■ First degree ■ Retired army personnel Major-Colonel

Key Competency Requirements Knowledge

- Knowledge of all aspects of security
- Knowledge of Nigerian legal procedure
- Previous experience in security matters

Skills/Competencies

- Excellent written & oral communication skills.
- Organizational and analytical skills
- Honesty and Reliability
- The ability to work on your own & take initiative
- Flexibility and adaptability.
- An understanding of confidentiality issues and the use of discretion.

Position: Internal Audit officer, Systems

Reports to: Internal Auditor

Job Objectives

To contribute to the entire Internal Audit function in enforcing compliance and review of internal controls sufficient for safeguarding organisational assets.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Conduct systems Audit in an IT environment on regular basis
2. Ensures that transactions exhibit completeness and accuracy of records as they affect Information assets
3. Carry out special investigation/surprise audits on Information systems and other technical matters as assigned by Head, Internal Audit
4. Conduct Internal Audit as it affects the requirements of Information Security Management System.
5. Periodically embark on site verification of company IT assets

Job Requirements

- BSc or HND in Accounting or computer related fields/Electronic Engineering, CISA is a must.
- Professional Qualification in Accountancy eg ACA, ACCA will be an added advantage.

Key Competency Requirements Knowledge

- Good communication abilities
- Excellent proficiency in Systems audit and use of at least one Systems Audit tools.
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How to apply:

1. If you wish to apply for the position, please send your CV(Microsoft Word format) as an attachment to the e-mail addresses- iao@kimberly-ryan.net (for Internal Audit Officer) and hs@kimberly-ryan.net (for Head, Security)
2. Submission closes two weeks from the date of this advert.

Only short listed candidates will be contacted. For any enquiries call 09-8703188

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Thugs injure PDP member at Kwali

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

A member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Kwali Area Council chapter, Ibrahim Mishebwa, was on Tuesday evening beaten to stupor by thugs suspected to be sympathetic to the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) at Ijah-Pada village, in Yangoji Ward.

Our reporter learnt that the incumbent council Chairman, Mr. Danlami Saleh Yebu and his supporters were on a campaign tour to the community when some thugs mounted a road block to prevent the PDP members, including the council chairman from entering the village.

PDP Kwali council Chairman, Alhaji Salihu Kolo, while narrating the incident, said as they approached Ijah-Pada village,

some youths blocked the road with heavy log wood but some PDP members removed the wood and the entourage entered into the village.

"After the campaign finished and we were consulting, some youths believed to be sympathetic to ANPP accosted us and began to whip one PDP member with motorcycle throttle string, thereby inflicting injuries on the victim," the chairman said.

He disclosed that the victim's wise decision to run to the chairman's house saved him from being killed by the youths.

The victim, Ibrahim Mishebwa, who is presently recuperating in a hospital, told our reporter that the thugs besieged his house at around 8 pm and pulled down his room door as

well as destroyed his property.

He said after people in the chairman's house took him to hospital, the thugs trailed him to the hospital, before five of them were arrested by the police.

An ANPP elder in the council, Yakubu Danlami, blamed the problem on a PDP member who went to remove the bill board of an ANPP Chairmanship candidate, Joseph Shazin.

He said an ANPP member accosted the PDP member and queried him for removing ANPP aspirants' posters and bill board.

The police Area Commander at Gwagwalada, Ishaku Barau, could not be reaching for comment, but a senior police officer confirmed the incident and said five persons have been arrested in connection with the incident.



PIC: ABUBAKAR SADIQ ISAH

THE spot where a nine-year-old boy was crushed to death by a fallen fence ...Saturday.

Bizman jailed for receiving stolen property

By Usman A. Bello, Maureen Onoche & Olotu Samuel

A businessman, John Chukwu, was yesterday sentenced to one month imprisonment by an Abuja magistrate court for receiving stolen property from one Anthony Adikoro.

Police prosecutor, Adamu Abdullahi stated in court that on February 25, the accused who

resides at airport road bought a stolen Samsung M620 phone from one Anthony Adikoro without a receipt. He said the accused bought the phone for N3,000 and later sold it at N3,450, adding that the offence is punishable under Section 317 of the Penal Code Law.

The accused pleaded guilty when the charge was read to him and begged the court to temper justice with mercy.

The prosecutor asked the court to try the accused summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) and Chief Magistrate O.O. Oyewumi sentenced the accused to one month imprisonment or N2,000 as fine option.

The chief magistrate also ruled that the accused should buy a phone for the nominal complainant.

Student charged with breach of trust

By Usman A. Bello & Olotu Samuel

A 25-year-old student, Anthony Adikoro, was on Tuesday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for alleged breach of trust.

Prosecutor Adamu Abdullahi told the court that the accused collected a Compaq Laptop valued at N120,000 and a Samsung phone valued at N14,500 from one Anene Hilda on the pretext that he was going to download internet facilities for her on January 15, and ran away to an unknown destination, until he was arrested at Wuse market on February 25.

He said the accused committed an offence contrary to Section 312 of the Penal Code Law.

The accused, who was not represented by a counsel, denied the charge and requested for bail, which was not objected by the prosecutor.

Magistrate Fatima Murktar granted the accused bail in the sum of N50,000 with a surety in like sum and ordered that the surety must live within the court's jurisdiction as well as have a fixed address.

The case was adjourned to March 17 for hearing.

FRSC seeks council support over road accidents

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) Tuesday advocated for support from Kuje Area Council in reducing road accidents.

FCT Sector Commander of the commission, Mr. Nseong Akpabio, stated this when he paid a courtesy visit to the council Chairman, Mr. Danladi Etsu Zhin at Kuje.

Akpabio thanked the council for assisting the FRSC unit command with office accommodation as well as helping its officers, adding that the commission has concluded plans to embark on road safety campaigns in schools and will arrest under-aged drivers that ply the road.

The sector commander expressed his dismay at the behaviour of some traders who display their wares on the roads,

noting that such attitude puts the lives of both buyers and sellers at high risk as a vehicle might fail brake.

He advised the council boss to provide a more convenient place for the traders and also informed him to use his position to facilitate the execution of the Kuje-Gwagwalada road project.

Akpabio also solicited the assistance of the council boss in ensuring that cyclists take the usage of helmets seriously, as FRSC officials are ready to be strict on the enforcement.

Earlier in his remark, the council Chairman, Mr. Danladi Etsu Zhin, pledged his administration support to the FRSC.

"Over the years, a very good working relationship has existed between Kuje Area Council and FRSC and I am assuring you that we will continue to build on it," he said.

Man jailed for trespass

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

AN Upper Area Court in Gwagwalada Monday sentenced a 28-year-old man, Ochuko Anibor, to six months imprisonment for trespassing into a house belonging to one Anozie Ginika. The accused was however given a fine option of N3,000.

Prosecutor Lydia Bawa, an inspector of police, told the court that the accused conspired with one Boniface now at large to commit the offence.

She said the duo entered into the complainant's house and made away with two hand sets and N4,600 cash on January 23, add-

ing that the accused was arrested the same day.

When the charge was read, the accused pleaded guilty to trespass and begged for leniency through his lawyer, Mr. Jacob Chikwe.

The lawyer appealed to the court to temper justice with mercy because his client agreed to the crime he committed.

Judge Adamu Wakili, in his ruling sentenced the accused to six months imprisonment or N3,000 as fine.

He granted him bail in the sum of N70,000 with a surety in like sum, on the charge he denied.

The case was adjourned to April 6 for hearing.

Coalition urges quick passage of FOI bill

By Samuel Olotu

THE National Coalition for Greater Nigeria (NCGN) Tuesday called on the National Assembly to quickly pass the Freedom of Information bill so that Nigerians can have easy

access to information around government circles.

NCGN's President Taiye Garrick said if such a bill had been passed, the nation would not have been thrown into darkness as to the true state of President Yar 'adua's health.

Garrick stated this during a press briefing in Abuja.

He called for the cooperation of Nigerians in defending democracy and constitutional rule, adding that the international community should repatriate stolen money stacked

abroad by public officers.

Also speaking, the FCT Trade Union Congress Chairman, Comrade Aliyu Hakeem, implored journalists to question why the Public Procurement Council has not been inaugurated for a long time and

contracts are doled out on daily basis.

According to him, journalists as well as civil society organisations are members of the proposed council and could have done a lot to detect fraudulent contracts awarded.

ENVIRONMENT

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Etisalat introduces eco friendly SIM cards

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

ETISALAT Nigeria has announced its preparedness to introduce a first-of-its-kind eco-friendly SIM cards into the Nigerian market which fits well into its environmental protection CSR initiative. The tel-

communications company is also set to unveil the unique environmental friendly SIM cards with its new 0818 number range.

The Eco-friendly SIM cards and the new number range have recently been launched into the Nigerian market.

Manufactured with 50% less plastic, the new SIMs generates only 8 grammes of carbon (CO₂) emissions thus reducing its footprint by half compared to a classic SIM card which generates 16g of CO₂ emissions per card.

By using just half of the nor-

mal quantity of plastic in older type SIMs, the new eco-friendly SIM card from Etisalat also reduces waste. The procedure, patented by Oberthur Technologies, allows for the manufacturing of two SIM cards with the same amount of plastic used to manufacture one. Until now,

individual SIM cards were produced on sheets of plastic cut out from plastic the size of a regular credit card.

According to Etisalat CEO, Mr. Steven Evans, "As a responsible corporate organization, we recognize the need to create an eco-friendly environment."

Fire guts Unijos primary school building

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

AN evening fire on Monday gutted a four class room block of the University of Jos Primary School in Jos.

The fire which started at about 5pm, according to eyewitnesses, destroyed the content as well as the roofing of the four class room block leaving only the walls standing.

As at the time our correspondent visited the premises of the school, members of the immediate school management were inspecting the level of damages caused by the fire and declined to make any comment.

However, the Deputy Registrar, Information Office, University of Jos, Mr. Steve Otowo, as at the time of filing this report told our correspondent that the cause of the fire could not be ascertained as investigation was still going on adding that the incident will not affect academic activities in the school as there are other unaffected blocks.

Most of the people found around the scene of the incident could not tell what actually caused the fire, however some of them who spoke on condition of anonymity, told our correspondent that there was an uncontrolled bush burning somewhere around the blocks which later escalated to the building.



© Eric Lefranc/Solent

A forlorn polar bear cub is comforted by its mother as they drift miles from shore on a rapidly shrinking iceberg

AMML sensitises Abuja traders on fire prevention

By Nasir Imam

RECENTLY Abuja Markets Management Limited organized a Fire Drill for traders in Area 7(UTC) Shopping Complex, one of its managed-Facilities.

This was in collaboration with the Federal Fire Services of the Federal Capital Territory Administration.

Traders closed their shops

for the early part of the day and trooped to the lecture and demonstration ground where they were taught basic types of fire and how to fight them.

In his welcome address at the event, Managing Director, Abuja Markets Management Limited (AMML) Abubakar Usman Faruk, represented by Bldr. Aliyu Ova (AGM, Operations), said the exercise is part of an

on-going effort in all the AMML-managed Markets at sensitizing the traders and private security personnel in the market on fire fighting and preventive measures.

He noted that as professionals in Facility Management, disaster management commences with preparing for eventuality, adding that in the market, Fire outbreak is the most dreaded disaster, hence the need to be perpetually

conscious of it, learn more about it and prepare to nip it on the bud whenever it occurs.

Later in an interview, Bldr. Ova explained that apart from this sensitization, the Company also fixes installations and fire fighting equipments such as hose reels, fire hydrants fire extinguishers, fire fighting machine (Rosenbug) in AMML-managed facilities as part of fire protection measures.

Charcoal business threatens climate change adaptation

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

NIGERIA'S booming charcoal business has continued to blossom, putting doubts on the adaptation level in rural areas where mass tree felling for charcoal has continued to surge.

Although mass tree felling for the purpose of producing charcoal is a business of the rural areas especially in the North Central part of the country, the exploding population of people in Nigeria's urban centres relies on the end product for cooking. Charcoal business is not new

to the country, as blacksmiths used it for over a century before the present time. However, the period between 1990 and 1995 raised its use from blacksmithing to domestic cooking after Nigerians manufactured "Abacha Stove", which is used to hold the charcoal while it burns to cook food. The stove was so named because it was manufactured during the administration of Nigeria's former military leader, Late General Sani Abacha. It is fast taking over the kerosene stove among the urban poor because of the increasing scarcity of kerosene.

Daily Trust observed that the charcoal business is booming in most rural areas as good farm hands are fast entering it, abandoning farming which is being done only at subsistent level. "We cut down the big trees and burn them to produce charcoal through some traditional means", said one at a local charcoal factory in Akwanga in Nasarawa State.

He refused to disclose his identity, but told Daily Trust that his family now relies on the business in many ways including feeding, school fees for the children, and other basic things of life which farming

could not afford because of the persistent lack of fertilizer.

Mr. Samson Samuel Ogallah, Programme Officer, Communications Outreach and Networking of the Building Nigeria's Response to Climate Change (BNRCC)/Nigerian Environmental Study/Action Team (NEST) confirmed our observation. Ogallah said "lack of awareness, lack of alternative to fuel wood and poverty among most Nigerians are most of the reasons while charcoal business is still thriving in most communities across Nigeria."



FG wants climate change clubs in schools

From Monday Osayande, Asaba

THE Federal Government has directed all the 36 states of the Federation to establish climate change clubs in their schools and colleges for younger generations to imbibe in the positive means of checking the menace.

The Minister of Environment, Chief John Odey gave the directive at the development of a low carbon economy and climate change stakeholders forum held on Monday in Asaba, Delta State.

Odey said there is need to engage the younger generation, and community mobilization campaign on climate at all course across the state, for them to key into the climate issues. The Minister also directed the states to go into researches that will be useful to people in line with federal government adaptation strategies.

In his paper: Roles of state government in the implementation of low carbon in Nigeria towards mitigating climate change in Nigeria," Odey noted that the Copenhagen Conference on climate change last year focus on the

legal aspect of what is needed to address the emission of greenhouse gases.

Delta State Governor Dr. Emmanuel Uduaghan, remarked at the forum that the formation of climate change clubs in school will go along way to place our people in the right part of climate change issue.

Uduaghan called on the stakeholders to join hands with governments to stop gas flaring or "if we cannot stop gas flaring, it would be a vote of no confidence on the National gas master plan.



THE newly commissioned property safety and security management, Surveillant Fire Ltd. office, located at 15 Kasumu Street, Shangisha, Lagos

NOA holds workshop on waste to wealth

From Johnkennedy Uzoma, Owerri

MOST of urban cities in Nigeria such as Lagos, Ibadan, Kano, Kaduna, Aba among others generate 50,000 metric tons of waste daily without proper management. If these states take into the consideration of managing it, will not only help to reduce hydra headed problem of unemployment but would as well generate energy, ensure a clean and safe environment and empower the youth.

It was in the spirit of this that the National Orientation Agency NOA, Imo State, packaged a one-day workshop titled "Waste to Wealth" with the theme Waste Recycling As A Tool For Wealth Creation and Employment Generation held at Villa Mariae Hall Owerri.

The Director National Orientation Agency (NOA), Imo State Mr. Vitus Ekeocha during the workshop said that it was aimed at carrying out sensitization campaign to raise consciousness on the huge potentials of waste. He said that the operation keep Nigeria Clean campaign of the Agency has been able to draw national attention to the enormous wealth in waste with a view of mobilizing Nigerians to create wealth from waste for national development.

Plateau Fire Service saves N321bn properties

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE Plateau State Fire Service has explained that they have saved properties worth N321.6 billion from fire incidents in Plateau State from January to December 2009.

State Director, Fire Service, Mr Michael Dung, stated this while briefing newsmen yesterday in Jos over the activities of his ministry, he said "they respond to calls in two ways through fire disaster and natural disaster, in all the two operations 41 people died, 40 people injured, 17 people rescued and over 43.3bn properties lost.

Mr Dung said they received 306 calls on fire disaster and 22 calls on natural disaster and they responded to the quickly despite their short comings.

The Director identified lack of manpower, shortage of water, shortage of hydrant water, misuse of the water, lack of functional vehicles, and lack of training of staff for development as the major problems hampering their activities".

NESREA challenges pupils on environment

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE Director General of the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency, NESREA, Dr. Ngeri Benebo has challenged Nigerian children to spear head environmental awareness cam-

paign in the country.

Dr. Benebo gave the charge when she received students of Government Secondary School Nyanya, Abuja.

She said, "When as young children you imbibe the attitude of nurturing your environment, you are able

to inculcate that in people around you so as to ensure a safe environment in the future."

She observed that the need to ensure healthy environment has become even more pertinent as poor environmental practices have "long lasting effects which include

poor harvest, depletion of the ozone layer, exposure to diseases, changes in climate, among others."

The D.G disclosed that NESREA was ready to partner with any school in areas of environmental awareness so as to assist pupils in educating people around them.

Fire disasters are both natural and manmade –Expert

Badanga Ahmed Lamidi is the President, Fire Disaster Prevention and Safety Awareness Association of Nigeria, a non-governmental organization (NGO) that helps create awareness on the need to prevent fire disasters nationwide.

He spoke to Nasir Imam. Excerpts:

What specific contribution are you making towards the prevention of fire disaster?

I have contributed in the area of fire prevention, control and management, this initiative is conceived to promote activities/programmes that will help to reduce and miti-

gate the risk of fire disasters in our local and urban settlements.

The research conducted by our NGO shows significant low level of awareness on fire safety in Nigeria, less than 2% of the 140 million inhabitants of the country's population presently have the required basic fire safety knowledge.

Based on this fact, my NGO have conducted the 1st market fire campaign in Nigeria, bush burning prevention programs, youth violence and arson fire prevention programme, fire safety club in Nigeria schools, vehicle Fire prevention campaigns, and represented Nigeria at interna-

tional fire forum at globally levels among others.

What are the frequent causes of fire and what are the best preventive measures?

The cause of fire could be natural or manmade, In Nigeria the most frequent causes of fire are manmade as a result of human or machine error, ignorance and negligence that often lead to markets fires, industrial, residential or bush burning etc. The most preventive measures are massive awareness as well as building the appropriate legislative framework to enhance effective fire service delivery.

You recently travel to the US

on a fire prevention mission; could you tell us what happened there?

The mission was to represent Nigerian at a Global Leadership Fire Conference in Chicago and Washington DC, where fire experts from over thirty eight countries converged to advocate for effective fire service delivery globally through knowledge sharing. The conference exposed me to the latest fire prevention and fire fighting techniques that has further help in my work on fire safety in Nigeria.

It is said that there is a Bill on fire prevention before the NASS, at what stage is it now?

The bill is currently at Committee level, public hearing has been conducted where various stakeholders have made their input and our NGO played a major role in the whole process.



BADANGA Ahmed Lamidi



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 25 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.

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



KADUNA STATE GOVERNMENT

KADUNA STATE RURAL ACCESS AND MOBILITY PROJECT
CREDIT NO.: CR 4408-NG

SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF
RURAL ROADS NETWORK USING OUTPUT AND PERFORMANCE
BASED CONTRACTS (OPRC) IN KADUNA STATE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

This request for Expression of Interest (EOI) follows the General Procurement Notice (GPN) for this project that appeared in the Development Gateway Market Web Site and appeared in Development Business, issue no. 725 of 30th day of April, 2008.

The Kaduna State Government has received a credit of from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the Rural Access and Mobility Project (RAMP I) in Kaduna State and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Consultancy Services Supervision of Construction of Rural Road Network Using Output and Performance Based Contracts (OPRC) in Kaduna State

The objective of the consultancy is to provide technical and financial supervision in order to ensure that works are carried out in accordance with the contract and to the satisfaction of the Employer in rural areas covering nine local government areas of which the rural roads have been grouped into four lots; two in the north and two in the south. A second objective is to draw as much experience as possible from the contracts to assist the possible wider deployment of Output and Performance Based Road Contract (OPRC) contracts on other parts of the road network.

The Consultant shall provide construction supervision including the provision of qualified experienced personnel, management, co-ordination and efficient execution of these services.

The implementing agency, the State Project Implementation Unit (SPIU) on behalf of Kaduna State Ministry of Work and Transport, now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff etc). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

The consultant will be selected using Quality Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method of selection of consultants in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, published in May 2004 edition revised October 2006.

One original and three copies of the Expression of Interest must be submitted in a sealed envelop clearly marked "Expression of Interest for Consultancy Services Supervision of Construction of Rural Road Network Using Output and Performance Based Contracts (OPRC) in Kaduna State (RAMP-I, Kaduna)"

Interested Consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 8:00AM to 4:00PM.

State Project Implementation Unit (SPIU) is not bound to short list any firm.

Expression of interest must be delivered to the address below not later than 6th April, 2010 by 12:00Noon.

Attention: Engr. Musa T. Tete (Project Coordinator)
State Project Implementation Unit (SPIU)
Kaduna State Rural Access and Mobility Project,
Ministry of Works and Transport,
No 12 Sokoto Road, Kaduna,
Kaduna State,
Nigeria.

Email: musatete@yahoo.com or kad_ramp@yahoo.com
Phone: (+)234-803-3899313



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Founding Partner, GHK Architects

VENUE:

AGIP RECITAL HALL, MUSON CENTRE,
LAGOS.

DATE:

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2010

TIME:

9:00AM - 2:00 P.M

Engr. F. Ajibade Oke, FNSE
Chairman, Organizing Committee

Mr. Babatunde Amode
Executive Secretary



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCON) REGULAR PROGRAMMES FOR 2010

MARCH - DECEMBER, 2010

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for participation in the year 2010 Regular programmes to be conducted by the Administrative Staff College Of Nigeria (ASCON).

MARCH, 2010

S/N	COURSE TITLE	DATES
1.	Public Enterprise Management Course (BMR 601)	1 st Run - March 6 - 19, 2010
2.	Governance and Sustainable Development Course (GSR 601)	1 st Run - March 6 - 19, 2010
3.	Management Consulting Course (RCR 600)	1 st Run - March 27 - April 23, 2010

APRIL, 2010

S/N	COURSE TITLE	DATES
1.	Advanced Public Enterprise Management Course (BMR 701)	1 st Run - April 10 - 23, 2010
2.	Advanced Management Course (PAR 700)	1 st Run - April 10 th - 23, 2010
3.	Train-the-Trainers Course (HRR 601)	1 st Run - April 10 - 23, 2010
4.	Personnel/Human Resource Management Course (HRR 604)	1 st Run - April 10 - 23, 2010
5.	Advanced Financial Management Course (EFR 700)	1 st Run - April 10 - 23, 2010
6.	Database Management Course (CTR 602)	1 st Run - April 10 - 23, 2010
7.	Advanced Records Management Course (CTR 701)	1 st Run - April 10 - 23, 2010

MAY, 2010

S/N	COURSE TITLE	DATES
1.	Public Enterprise Financial Management Course (BMR 602)	1 st Run - May 29 - June 11, 2010
2.	General Management Course (PAR 600)	1 st Run - May 29 - June 11, 2010
3.	Gender in Management Course (HRR 603)	1 st Run - May 29 - June 11, 2010
4.	Financial Management Course (EFR 600)	1 st Run - May 29 - June 11, 2010
5.	Conflict Management and Resolution Course (GSR 604)	1 st Run - May 29 - June 11, 2010
6.	Use of Computer for Financial Management Course (CTR 613)	1 st Run - May 29 - June 11, 2010
7.	Facilities Maintenance Management Course (CTR 605)	1 st Run - May 29 - June 11, 2010

JULY, 2010

S/N	COURSE TITLE	DATES
1.	Advanced Public Enterprise Financial Management Course (BMR 702)	1 st Run - July 3 rd - 16, 2010
2.	Advanced Management Course (PAR 600)	2 nd Run - July 3 rd - 16, 2010
3.	Advanced Personnel/Human Resource Management Course (HRR 701)	1 st Run - July 3 rd - 16, 2010
4.	Advanced Train-the-Trainers Course (HRR 702)	1 st Run - July 3 rd - 16, 2010
5.	Advanced Project Management Course (EFR 701)	July 3 rd - 16, 2010
6.	Legislative Management Course for staff of the National State Assemblies and Local Government Councils (GSR 602)	1 st Run - July 3 rd - 16, 2010
7.	Records Management Course (CTR 606)	1 st Run - July 3 rd - 16, 2010

AUGUST, 2010

S/N	COURSE TITLE	DATES
1.	Advanced Public Enterprise Management Course (BMR 701)	2 nd Run - August 14 - 27, 2010
2.	General Management Course (PAR 600)	2 nd Run - August 14 - 27, 2010
3.	Personnel/Human Resource Management Course (HRR 701)	2 nd Run - August 14 - 27, 2010
4.	Supply Chain Management Course (EFR 604)	August 14 - 27, 2010
5.	Primary Health Care Management Course (GSR 605)	1 st Run - August 14 - 27, 2010
6.	Accelerated and Sustainable Rural Development Course (GSR 606)	1 st Run - August 14 - 27, 2010
7.	Computer-Based Management Information System Course (CTR 601)	1 st Run - August 14 - 27, 2010
8.	Management Consulting Course (RCR 600)	2 nd Run - August 28 - September 24, 2010

SEPTEMBER, 2010

S/N	COURSE TITLE	DATES
1.	Public Enterprise Management Course (BMR 601)	2 nd Run - September, 11 - 24, 2010
2.	Public Sector Auditing Course (PAR 601)	September, 11 - 24, 2010
3.	Governance and Sustainable Development Course (GSR 601)	2 nd Run - September, 11 - 24, 2010
4.	Legislative Management Course for staff of the National, State Assemblies and Local Government Councils (GSR 602)	2 nd Run - September, 11 - 24, 2010
5.	Use of Computer for Financial Management Course (CTR 613)	2 nd Run - September, 11 - 24, 2010

OCTOBER, 2010

S/N	COURSE TITLE	DATES
1.	General Management Course (PAR 600)	3 rd Run - October, 2 - 15, 2010
2.	Advanced Train-the-Trainers Course (HRR 702)	2 nd Run - October, 2 - 15, 2010
3.	Labour Management Relations (HRR 602)	October, 2 - 15, 2010
4.	Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Course (EFR 603)	October, 2 - 15, 2010
5.	Organisational Security Management Course (GSR 604)	1 st Run - October, 2 - 15, 2010
6.	Conflict Management and Resolution Course (GSR 604)	2 nd Run - October, 2 - 15, 2010
7.	Advanced Records Management Course (CTR 701)	2 nd Run - October, 2 - 15, 2010

NOVEMBER, 2010

S/N	COURSE TITLE	DATES
1.	Advanced Public Enterprise Financial Management Course (BMR 702)	2 nd Run - November, 6 - 19, 2010
2.	Advanced Management Course (PAR 700)	3 rd Run - November, 6 - 19, 2010
3.	Advanced Personnel/Human Resource Management Course (HRR 701)	2 nd Run - November, 6 - 19, 2010
4.	Training Methods and Presentation (HRR 617)	November, 6 - 19, 2010
5.	Project Management Course (EFR 602)	November, 6 - 19, 2010
6.	Organisational Security Management Course (GSR 604)	2 nd Run - November, 6 - 19, 2010
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DECEMBER, 2010

S/N	COURSE TITLE	DATES
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Inside Politics

Election petition: APGA backs INEC's proposal

THE All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) has called on the judiciary to step up its efforts and ensure election petitions are disposed of within three months as being proposed by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

INEC recently proposed three months for disposal of election petitions contrary to the six-month proposal by the retired Justice Muhammed Uwais-led Electoral Reform Committee

"Let the judiciary step up in its efforts so that within the 90 days that INEC is asking for, it would have finished all cases and the elected person sworn in," an APGA official said in Lagos.

Mr Nkem Lemchi, the Secretary of the Lagos chapter of APGA said yesterday that swearing people into office while cases were pending before the tribunals was an anomaly.

Lemchi, however, flayed the proposal of INEC to spend N5 billion to conduct revalidation of the voters register between April 19 and June 18.

He said the amount was on the high side for just the review of voters register

"But if it is ideal that they can work with that amount, let it be given to them so that we will be on the safe side.

"But my position is not even about the money that is going to be spent, but about the consciousness of the people who this money is going to be handed over to," the APGA chieftain said.

The scribe also implored the government to as a matter of urgency to fill the vacant board positions in the commission in line with the Electoral Act. (NAN)

“Let the judiciary step up in its efforts so that within the 90 days that INEC is asking for, it would have finished all cases and the elected person sworn in.

FCT council polls: Iwu's final litmus test

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

THE Federal Capital Territory Area Council's election scheduled for April 10, is going to be the last election to be conducted by the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Professor Maurice Iwu before his first tenure expires in June this year. It is also about the last election to be conducted by the commission before the 2011 general election.

Emerging from last month's governorship election held in Anambra State, Professor Iwu has been basking in the euphoria of what was described by many as the success recorded in the conduct of the election. Even though the same notion is held by many Nigerians, not a few analysts believe that the election was so perceived only because it was devoid of the kind of violence and barefaced rigging that had been the hallmark of elections in Anambra State.

Those who contended that the Anambra election fell short of standard had been quick to point at the alleged massive disenfranchisement of eligible voters that was made possible by the shoddy handling of the voters' register. Therefore, after the Anambra election, the question that readily came to the mind of many Nigerian voters is whether the same problems associated with the voters' register exist in other parts of the country.

Those who came up with this question are looking forward to the FCT council election to see if the same problems will surface. Indeed commentators and observers are preparing to beam their searchlight on the Prof. Iwu-led electoral commission to put it to one more test before 2011.

The commission has announced that 16 out of the 52 registered political parties in the country have so far declared interest and submitted necessary documents of their candidates for chairmanship and councillorship positions in the six councils. The councils which include Abuja Metropolitan Council (AMAC), Gwagwalada, Abaji, Kwali, Bwari and Kuje are currently awash with posters of the aspirants of various political parties. Also noticeable are public signposts and campaign vehicles carrying portraits of various candidates. These are in addition to jingles in local radio and television.

Meanwhile, amid high expectations from voters, Resident Electoral Commissioner of the FCT Dr. Steven Many said the commission is poised to deploy high sense of professionalism to ensure credible election. Dousing fears of possible failure on the part of the commission, Manzo said the FCT election is being modeled to set the pace for the 2011 election provided

that the stakeholders in the election cooperate sufficiently with the commission. "We want to create a lasting legacy," he told Daily Trust in Abuja.

But some observers of Nigeria's electoral process have argued that as long as elections are conducted under the present electoral laws, the known problems associated with Nigerian elections will rear their ugly heads. Many believe that INEC is still subject to the caprices of the ruling party because it does not have complete financial independence. Many more also believe that the commission needs to be unbundled as recommended by the Justice Mohammed Uwais committee on electoral reform. But more worrisome is activities of political thugs as well as the alleged partisan role of INEC and the security agencies.

The primaries of the various political parties were hotly contested towards the end of last year. In particular, that of the ruling Democratic Peoples Party (PDP) was marred by violence, especially in AMAC and Gwagwalada forcing fears that the scenarios may be repeated during the general elections in April.

In fact, even after the primary elections, it does not appear that the politicians are unwilling to prosecute a violent free race. In Abaji Area Council, for instance, Action Congress (AC) supporters were reported to have sustained various degrees of injuries in a free for all at a campaign rally. They claimed to have been attacked by supporters of a rival party.

However, the INEC boss said the commission is ready to ensure that the elections are conducted in free and fair atmosphere. He assured that the activities of thugs would be checkmated. The electoral boss also pledged to ensure that the pitfalls recorded in the Anambra election do not resurface in the FCT.

As part of measures to check violence and secure the elections, INEC said 3,000 security operatives would be needed in the 614 polling units. It would be recalled that 23,000 policemen were deployed to Anambra State during the last governorship election in Anambra.

Indeed analysts say the number of policemen deployed to safeguard elections in pockets of areas in Nigeria send foreboding signals ahead of the 2011 election. This is because when nationwide polls will be held, every area will have to make do with whatever the state command of the Nigerian police can muster for the election.

Another problem emerging problem is the voters' resister which is no doubt a crucial aspect of the election. At the moment, there are many qualified voters in the country whose names are not in INEC's



PROFESSOR Maurice Iwu

list of voters. This came to the fore in the Anambra polls and it is likely to reoccur in all parts of the country. It is believed that from the last registration exercise, many under-ages must have come of age by now.

But the FCT electoral boss said all voters in the areas affected have been given the opportunity to verify their names on the register, which had been displayed for 10 days. However, even with this measure, some voters told *Daily Trust* that their names were not in the said list and their rights to vote will be violated during the April poll.

Debunking such claim, the head of Public Affairs of the commission in the FCT, Mr. Okizie, said most of the voters complaining should blame themselves because they took the issue for granted and refused to verify their names within the stipulated period. He however said if such voters are in possession of their temporary voters' cards will be allowed to vote.

The Transition Monitoring Group (TMG) and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have also raised alarm concerning the late distribution of materials to voting centres, and sometimes complete failure to do so. But the FCT INEC boss Many said that the distribution of materials would begin as early as 5.30am on the day of election to ensure that materials get to

polling booths at least by 10 am so that voting can commence immediately.

The INEC boss, however, complained about the apathy of FCT voters towards election. He said from experience only about 10 per cent of the residents do participate in elections.

By and large, as the elections approach, analysts are of the view that INEC's ability to conduct free and fair election under a secure environment in the FCT is crucial because Abuja, by virtue of its status as the nation's capital, is the eye of the nation. According to some observers, there is no reason for failure.

“Commentators and observers are preparing to beam their searchlight on the Prof. Iwu-led electoral commission to put it to one more test before 2011.

Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Raji'un

It is with heavy heart but total submission to the will of Almighty Allah that the Board, Management and Staff of Urban Development Bank of Nigeria Plc announce the death of **MR. HAKEEM OLAMIDE SANUSI**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank, who passed away on February 22, 2010, in the United States of America after a brief illness.

Hakeem worked hard to improve the lives of Nigerians through the provision of efficient urban infrastructure. He will be missed and remembered for his sense of dedication, focus, enthusiasm and pragmatic approach in solving challenges of urban infrastructure in Nigeria.

He is survived by his wife, Anne, two children and the rest of his family. We pray Almighty Allah grants him *Al-jannah firdaus*.

BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Body arrives Nigeria on Virgin Atlantic at 5:55am, today (Thursday) 4th March, 2010.

Internment at 4:00pm same day at Kajola/Ijigba Quarters, Off Oda Road, Akure, Ondo State.



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A New Presidency, A New Mandate?

We are genuinely baffled by the direction, shape and form the on-going political debate in the nation is taking since President Umar Musa Yar'adua travelled to Saudi Arabia for medical treatment. This deafening noise has steadily gathered momentum, and increasingly taken a shrill, strident and bellicose hue the moment the National Assembly passed its resolution proclaiming Vice-President Dr. Goodluck Jonathan Nigerian's Acting President, and Commander-in-Chief of her Armed Forces. President Yar'adua's return on 24 February 2010 to continue his medical recuperation and rehabilitation back home, rather than douse the fire being deliberately stoked by insatiable power mongers, has even provided them yet more ammunition to sustain a pertinently contrived political crisis.

What is the issue we are addressing above? **Daily, the mass media, particularly its print wing, is drenched with outbursts about a "new national beginning", "the re-birth of a nation", "what the Jonathan Presidency means to Nigerians", "US, UK, EU congratulate Nigeria's new leader", "the Jonathan mandate" and some such sensational banner headlines.**

We are at a loss at the import, meaning and significance of this highly imaginative flight of fancy. We wondered if the INEC indeed conducted a mid-term presidential election, with a winner declared and ostensibly took an oath of office. We really had to think hard to remind ourselves that the last Presidential election was conducted in 2007, and those elected expected to hold office till 29 May 2011.

Why are we baffled about this exuberant talk of a new Presidency, and a new mandate? We are embarrassed because we recall that the PDP nominated Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'adua as its Presidential candidate, and he subsequently selected Dr. Goodluck Jonathan as his running-mate. The term running-mate is significant. It symbolises an indissoluble political union, a binding political marriage contract, and presumably a deep, inter personal relationship that is defined principally by honour, loyalty, worthy character and unparalleled integrity.

When both won the election and were sworn in, they elected to stand by one another, to swim or sink with one another, to support one another, to defend one another no matter the odds, the situation or the circumstance. In the USA, for example, a Presidential candidate's search and eventual selection of a running mate, a helper and a political consort is the single most important political process aside the Presidential election itself. That process permits no margin of error, for the running mate is a President in waiting should anything happen to the President, and must possess the requisite loyalty, presence of mind, dedication, commitment and loyalty to his boss, and to faithfully execute the terms of the social contract they jointly signed with the people on the basis of which they were elected in the first place.

Since their election and subsequent swearing-in on 29 May 2009, both President Yar'adua and Vice-President Jonathan have been implementing this social contract (7-Point Agenda, Vision 20:2020, and most particularly the issues of electoral reform and the Amnesty programme in the Niger Delta) to the best of their ability, in togetherness, unity of purpose and single-minded deliberation. That was until President Yar'adua travelled to Saudi Arabia on medical ground on 23rd November, 2009.

From the moment he was elevated to the position of Acting President, Dr. Jonathan has been under tremendous, if not excruciating pressure, by dark, brooding and shadowy forces to de-link from the Yar'adua Presidency. He has been urged on, cajoled and literally threatened to "become his own man", to cast his sick boss aside, and to dismantle his (Yar'adua's) political infrastructure. Sign that this pressure may be finding its mark was signalled in the Acting President's eerie, difficult to explain broadcast to the nation. Quite a number of Nigerians

were clearly dumbfounded, wondering if a coup d'etat had occurred and a new leader emerged. Apart from the perfunctory reference to President Yar'adua the speech was laden with ominous references to "this administration", "the administration" a vague, bogus theme that may imply the beginning of a new Presidency, a new mandate. The speech was quickly followed by a spate of "congratulatory" messages and "solidarity" visits to the new "helmsman" until Dr. Jonathan saw it wise to call a halt to that horrendous, cretinism and mindlessly opportunistic charade.

However, over the intervening period, Dr. Jonathan seems to be finding the right kind of balance, between his acting position and the substantive presidency of his boss, Umaru Musa Yar'adua. He is talking about the Presidency which remains one, of integrating all Presidential staff into one pool, until his boss returns to work. He has also spoken about his loyalty to Yar'adua but it is curious that a serving Minister has been allowed to cast aspersions on the Presidents' aides and possibly his wife, the First lady.

Challenges remain for the Acting President. The drum-beats of political war are over sounding louder and louder, and he is still being pushed to cross the Rubicon, to **seize** complete power and begin an uncertain political journey to the unknown. He is being told to dissolve the cabinet and reconstitute it in order to achieve the intent of section 144 of the constitution. Other more fanciful plots are afoot. His loyalty is being tested to the full, and how he behaves in the coming weeks will show whether Yar'adua made a fatal mistake in choosing him as his running-mate, as his political marriage partner in the first place.

Treachery wears many colours, none of them honourable. It is the product of towering ambition, which is made of sterner stuff, as Macbeth declared. When Yar'adua accepted the selection of Jonathan as his running mate, he must have assumed that he is trust-worthy, disciplined and a loyal man. Yar'adua needs that loyalty now, more than at any other time in his Presidency.

The Vice-President of the United States of America, Joe Biden described the training his late mother gave and the impeccable moral values he was raised with. He recalled her words: "You are defined by honour but redeemed by loyalty"

Acting President Jonathan has ample space to operate, to be an administrator of men and resources, to drive the electoral reform process and the post-Amnesty rebuilding of the Niger-Delta, to deepen the oil sector reform and guarantee steady power supply. He should concentrate on governance and avoid, like a plague, the temptation of grabbing total power. If he were to be pushed beyond the threshold of reason and commonsense into the twilight zone of power-mongering, and betrays his boss in that process, history will not only be pitiless on him, but will judge him most harshly.

An advertorial titled "Goodluck to Nigeria" has been in the newspapers in the past few days but our attention was first drawn to it on Sunday, February 2010 as it was conspicuously placed on page 3. For those who think League of Patriots may be raising a false alarm about the creeping campaign of building a cult following around the Acting President and possibly introduce division in the Presidency, pause, take a deep breath and reflect on the following words that began his eulogy.

"As we witness the birth of a greater Nigeria, your wisdom, humility and strength of character has given us peace and stability..."

"...you are the symbol of our emerging democracy"
Is this a new Presidency, a new mandate?

Dr. Abel Uwadiba
National co-ordinator



Ohanaeze Ndigbo SPEAKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S RETURN

1. The return of President Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua GCFR to Nigeria after three months of medical attention abroad is welcome news. This is what **Ndigbo** and all well-meaning Nigerians have prayed for over the last several months. Mr. President, **Ndigbo na si gi Nno.**
2. However, the shrouded manner of his return in an air ambulance and this, after the form of medical care that money can buy, coupled with the fact that he has not yet been able to show himself publicly to his country men and women who prayed fervently for his recovery, clearly indicates that, for Nigeria, it is not yet UHURU.
3. A cardinal constitution requirement for election to the presidency of Nigeria is evidence of sound health of mind and body. This stipulation on health conditions is expected to apply throughout the duration of the President's tenure of office. This is why the constitution provides for a certification to that effect whenever there is a reason to do so. Clearly, the recent and current events surrounding Mr. President's health urgently warrant that certification.
4. Prior to Mr. President's return, the Vice President, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan GCON, was invested by the National Assembly with the status of Acting President and Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces to the great relief of many anxious Nigerians and friends of Nigeria concerned over a possible governance.
5. Our country cannot have two Presidents in office at the same time – one ailing and unable to cope with the onerous demands of his high office and the other also exercise his functions as Acting President. The President's return has, therefore, provided the opportunity to rectify this debilitating anomaly.
6. To save this nation further underserved agony, short of Mr. President deciding to relinquish office on grounds of incapacitating illness, **Ndigbo** now call on the relevant constitutional organs to immediately set the process of ascertaining the fitness or otherwise of the President to continue to exercise his functions as demanded by his exalted office.

Amb. Raph Uwechue OFR
President-General, Ohanaeze Ndigbo

26 February 2010

SPORT

Goals feast as
Nigeria maul
Congo 5-2

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Lagerback unveiled

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE

By David Ngobua

NEWLY appointed Technical Adviser of Super Eagles, Lars Edvin Lagerback was yesterday unveiled by the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) in Abuja.

The unveiling ceremony which took place shortly before the international friendly match between Nigeria and Democratic Republic of Congo was done by Chief Patrick Ekeji who represented the Sports Minister and Chairman of the National Sports Commission (NSC) Engr. Sani Ndanusa.

Speaking at the unveiling ceremony, the minister's representative said Lagerback was appointed because he emerged the best out of all the other coaches who were interviewed for the job.

He noted that even as the other coaches did well in the interview, the Swede was the one who convinced the interview committee the most because he was able to satisfy all the demands put forward by the committee.

"We chose him because he has those things which other coaches either don't have or possibly had but couldn't express themselves very well at the time."

Ekeji disclosed that before the arrival of Lagerback on the scene, the committee was on the verge of appointing Englishman Glenn Hoddle as Eagles Technical Adviser.

"Lagerback is a very organized man. He will bring his confidence and organization to bear on the team," he added.

Before he presented the coach to Ekeji for unveiling, the president of the Nigeria Football Federation, Alhaji Sani Lulu Abdullahi commended the interview committee for doing a thorough job.

He said the committee has pro-



SUPER Eagles new technical adviser, Lars Lagerback acknowledging cheers from the crowd during Nigeria's friendly match against Congo in Abuja yesterday. Lagerback was also unveiled by the NFF yesterday.

duced a man who will impart the right mentality into the players.

Lulu said even as the effort in 2007 which produced Berti Vogts did not yield the desired results, Lagerback has already shown enough confidence, humility and readiness to work for the success of the team.

He maintained that the appointment of a foreign coach

to lead the Eagles to South 2010 World Cup is not to say the federation has lost confidence in indigenous coaches.

"The appointment, unveiling and signing of contract with the new foreign Technical Adviser does not mean NFF has lost faith in Nigerian coaches.

We would encourage them to continue to improve so that one

day an indigenous coach will be considered good enough to lead Nigeria to the World Cup".

On his part, Lagerback said he is impressed with the hospitality and positive things which have been said about him, adding that the opportunity to work with Nigerian players is indeed gratifying.

The coach reiterated his readi-

ness to give equal opportunity to all Nigerian players no matter where they come from as he said it is the surest way to get the best players for the national team.

Lagerback therefore said instead of dwelling so much on what he is capable of doing for Nigerian football, he will allow the ball do the talking on his behalf.

Nigeria slides in world ranking

NIGERIA lost six places, sliding down to the 21st position in the latest world ranking released on Wednesday in Zurich by the world football body, FIFA.

The Super Eagles, who shot up to the 15th position in the February ranking after the bronze medal from the Orange African Cup of Nations held in January, lost 77 points.

They are now third in Africa, dropping from their

second position of last month.

Egypt, winners of the Nations Cup in January, dropped seven places from their 10th position last month to 17th. However, the Pharaohs remain number one in Africa.

Cameroon's Indomitable Lions retained their 20th position in the world and moved up to second in Africa. Cote d'Ivoire also maintained their 22nd position in the world and fourth in Africa.

Ghana's Black Stars dropped by

a notch from their 27th position to 28 in the March ranking. The Ghanaians finished runners-up in the Nations Cup in Angola.

Algeria also went down to 32 from last month's 31st position, while Gabon moved up to 43rd from 44.

However, there were no major changes at the top, where Spain still held on to their number one position with Brazil, the Netherlands, World Cup holders Italy retaining their second, third and

fourth positions respectively.

Germany, Portugal swapped places.

While Germany moved up to the fifth place from number six, the Portuguese dropped one position from the fifth to the sixth place.

France remain at number seven and England moved to number eight from the ninth position.

Argentina went down to the ninth position from last month's

eighth position.

Greece gained two places to number 10. The Greeks and Argentines are Nigeria's Group B opponents in the June 11 to July 11 World Cup in South Africa.

The Eagles' third group opponents at the World Cup are Korea Republic and they are ranked 53rd.

Burkina Faso, Mali and Tunisia are ranked 51, 54 and 55 respectively.

Goals feast

■ Nsofor shows class against Congo

By Ismaila Lere

MALAGA of Spain striker, Victor Obinna Nsofor showed the way as skipper of a make-shift Super Eagles squad yesterday evening, but the team surprised all fans at Abuja National Stadium with a 5-2 spanking of visiting DR Congo.

With Nsofor showing the way, alongside four other foreign-based players - Elderson Uwa Echiejile, Sani Kaita, Peter Utaka and Apam Onyekachi - it was ample inspiration they gave the array of home-based players in the squad, playing their hearts out to impress new technical adviser, Lars Lagerback, who was watching from the stands after his official unveiling to the media earlier same afternoon.

At half-time, Lagerback, led by NFF President Sani Lulu Abdullahi and former Nigeria

Coach James Peters, came down from the VIP Suite to wave to the scanty crowd, as well as shaking warmly the stand -in coaches, Daniel Amokachi, Fatai Amoo and Aloysius Agu.

OB Odense of Denmark striker, Utaka put Nigeria ahead early in the game before Osamudiamen Idehen increased the tally and Obinna Nsofor made it look easy with a third. Congo reduced arrears with a 42nd minute strike by forward TP Mazembe's

Mbenza Bedi.

Bedi scored a second goal for the visitors in the second half but that was after Nsofor hit a second and Idehen had a shot deflected into the net by a Congolese defender.

The match was played against Congo as a result of the planned game against Paraguay being cancelled at the last minute.

OB Odense of Denmark striker, Utaka put Nigeria ahead early in the game



NIGERIA'S Victor Obinna Nsofor, left, challenged by a Congolese defender during their international friendly match at the National Stadium in Abuja yesterday. Nigeria won 5-2.

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FIFA accolades lift Lukman

FORMER Golden Eaglets and Flying Eagles skipper, Lukman Haruna has found more favour and another shower of praise coming his way, as a special commendation from world football governing body, FIFA has added to the lad's rising profile at AS Monaco of France.

With the timid-looking midfielder still holding his own in the main team of the French aristocrats, FIFA has recognized Haruna's emergence in the Ligue Un mainstream and the youngster is now rated among world football's most promising stars of the present.

The list of emergent stars being celebrated by FIFA includes Romelu Lukaku, Mario Balotelli, Nassim Ben Khalifa, Sergio Canales, Jonathan dos Santos, Douglas Costa, Wilson Cuero and Alan Dzagoev.

Born April 12, 1990 in Jos, Haruna Lukman first played football for Moderate Stars Academy and Global Crystal Academy in Nigeria.

Lukman excelled under late Coach Yemi Tella at the 2007 FIFA U-17 World Cup in Korea and it is understood that Haruna was chased by a number of Europe's top clubs including Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid, FC Porto and Benfica.

However, on 29 December 2008 signed his first professional contract by AS Monaco, he runs to 30 June 2012.

He was called into the provisional Nigeria national football team squad for the 2008 African Nations Cup but was cut from the final 23-man squad. He did however make his debut for the Super Eagles in the warm-up game with Sudan which Nigeria won 2-0.



PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE

SUPER Eagles Team B players celebrate one of the five goals they scored against the Democratic Republic of Congo during their international friendly match in Abuja yesterday. The game ended 5-2 in Nigeria's favour.

Senegal maul Greece

SECOND-HALF goals by Mamadou Niang and substitute Guirane Ndaw gave Senegal a 2-0 away win over Greece in a friendly international.

Greece in no way justified its 10th place in the world rankings-up from 12th last month — announced by FIFA a few hours before the match as it was outplayed throughout.

It was Greece's first preparation game ahead of the World Cup in South Africa — it will play further friendlies against Paraguay and North Korea before this summer's finals, where it will take on Nigeria, Argentina and South Korea in Group B.

Both teams started tentatively and it was not until the 27th minute that a chance was created, Niang breaking free only to see his shot blocked by goalkeeper Alexandros Tzorvas.

At the other end, Greece striker Georgios Samaras just failed to meet a cross by Pantelis Kapetanios in the 37th minute.

Senegal, which did not qualify for the World Cup, stepped up its game in the second half although it was the home side which nearly opened the scoring in the 61st minute. Senegal goalkeeper Khadim Ndiaye fumbled the ball which midfielder Costas Katsouranis lobbed towards goal, only for Souleymane Diawara to clear just before it crossed the line.

In the 71st minute, Marseille striker Niang, who is the top scorer in the French league, received a pass by Dia just outside Greece's area, split defenders Nikos Spiropoulos and Sotirios Kyrgiakos with a clever dribble and placed the ball past goalkeeper Costas Halkias, who had replaced Tzorvas at halftime.

No rift between NFF, PTF - Ekeji

MR. Patrick Ekeji, Director-General of the National Sports Commission (NSC), on Tuesday denied any conflict between the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), and the Presidential Task Force (PTF) on the 2010 World Cup.

Ekeji, who made the clarification in Abuja at a meeting with the House of Representatives Committee on Sports, allayed fears of any such conflict between the two bodies.

"PTF does not bother itself with the general administration of football; it only gives the NFF support and it has never interfered with administrative issues.

"One of the mandates of the PTF is to help NFF upgrade the technical

aspect of the national team.

"PTF has not taken over the job of NFF as is widely believed by Nigerians. It has never given directives to the NFF.

"The core mandate of PTF is to qualify Nigeria for the 2010 World Cup. It has no business with the day-to-day running of football in the country," he said.

On the five-month contract for the nation's new Technical Adviser, Lars Lagerback, Ekeji said the coach had all the requirements to handle the Super Eagles for the mundial and beyond.

Alhaji Sani Lulu, President of NFE, said the contract was just a litmus test for the coach, adding that

the 1.8-million dollar contract was due to the short term programme.

He added that the amount would be reduced if the contract was extended beyond the World Cup, adding that the details were being worked out and would be made public soon.

Lulu said there had never been any conflict between the NFF and PTF as misconstrued by the public.

"We are very conscious of the mandate of the PTF. We will continue to represent the interest of the country.

"We will utilise the little resources we have to transform football in the country," he said.

Rep. Dino Melaye (PDP-Kogi),

a House Committee member, said there was need for development of football at the grassroots.

He, however, queried the rationale for the five-month contract for the technical adviser.

He said there could be conflicts between the NFF and PTF, over interference with the job of the coach.

Rep. Igo Aguma (PDP-Rivers), said the NFF should desist from deceiving Nigerians by promising them what it could not deliver.

He advised the football body to focus more on developing football at the grassroots, rather than encouraging foreign football administrators.

Kaita secures loan move for World Cup

SUPER Eagles midfielder Sani Kaita on Tuesday in Abuja said his move to FC Alania Vladikavkaz, Russia, was to get good playing time ahead of the 2010 World Cup finals.

Kaita told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that he decided on the move to the Russian club to be in a club where he could be playing top-flight football.

"I weighed all my options considering the situation at AS Monaco and for the sake of my future, I moved so as to get first team action regularly," he said.

"I just returned from a loan move to Lokomotiv Moscow, and people are likely to see it as my being off-loaded or something but that is not the case.

"The issue is that I have to move to play regular football and

be able to be in a position where I can move immediately after the World Cup."

Kaita said that his manager had already secured a deal for him with Spanish La Liga club Espanyol, and he would be joining the club for the next league season.

Kaita, one of the four foreign-based players invited for Wednesday's international friendly with DR Congo in Abuja, said he was

ready to fight for a permanent shirt in the Super Eagles.

"I am ready for whatever and it does not matter what I have to do to get that. I am ready to be a first team player," he said.

FC Alania Vladikavkaz is replacing FC Moscow in the Russian Premier League later this year, after the later dropped out of the league for financial reasons.

S/Korea beat Ivory Coast 2-0

GOALS from Lee Dong-gook and substitute Kwak Tae-hee gave South Korea a 2-0 win over Ivory Coast in Wednesday's friendly at Loftus Road.

Lee's volley gave the Koreans a fourth minute lead in front of a small crowd of its red-shirted fans at the home ground of English Championship side Queens Park Rangers.

Defender Kwak sealed victory for the Koreans when he headed home Kim Jae-sung's corner in the 90th minute.

"We played very well and it is a good win for us but there is a lot of work still to do before the World Cup," South Korea coach Huh Jung-moo said.

Ivory Coast, who fired coach Vahid Halilhodzic last weekend after a poor African Cup of Nations, played under the temporary charge of Georges Kouadio as it chases the services of Guus Hiddink for the upcoming World Cup.

Kouadio declined to speak to the media after his side's defeat. Also watched by former England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson and Brazil coach Dunga.

Eriksson's presence suggested maybe Hiddink is not the only manager the African nation has set its sights on. South Korea play Argentina, Nigeria and Greece in Group B at the World Cup.

THE THURSDAY COLUMN

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Sun-baked thoughts from Saharawi refugee camps

I write these lines from the February 27 refugee camp of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, close to Tindouf in the south-west of Algeria. I am visiting with the POLISARIO front to celebrate the 34th anniversary of the founding of the republic. The country has been under Moroccan occupation since the 1970s and Western Sahara is the last issue in the decolonization process in Africa. I am writing on Monday evening, after a very busy day of celebrations and visits to two schools, including one for the physically-challenged; a vocational training centre; a rehabilitation project for the war wounded; the military museum which contains war weaponry seized from the Moroccans, which was like the United Nations Security Council of weapons, as they came from France, the USA and the former USSR! I have experienced the depth of warmth and kindness we have received here only in South Sudan. There seems to be something about adversity which makes people especially kind, apparently!

I left Nigeria in the early hours of last Wednesday, being awake the whole night as the story of the return of President Umaru Yar'adua broke in the international media. I stayed glued to Aljazeera television, because it was clear that Yar'adua's return would throw a cat amongst the pigeons of Nigerian politics and the little I have heard in the difficult settings of travels between the refugee camps and the liberated areas of Western Sahara, have been as juicy as they come! But first things first; travel within Africa can be a nightmare, and fifty years after the declaration the year of Africa in 1960, destinations within our continent and between our countries are still as difficult as ever. In my case, I travelled to London, overflying Algeria, in order to get a flight to the Algerian capital, Algiers. And since the flight was for ten on Thursday morning, I had to stay the night at Heathrow airport. Africa is our lives yet it is still so far away!

When you are away from home, thoughts of home have a timbre to them that are not the usual; maybe the fact of removal from scenes of daily lived life offers a different aperture to look at our society in a different way or something even more. But anyhow, there is a mix of longing, dread and surety which potently, give home a presence and absence that define us. One of the people on this trip to Western Sahara is Dipo Fashina, philosophy lecturer and our old comrade from Ile Ife. On Wednesday night, at the hotel in Algiers, we were discussing the experiences of progressive activism in the past thirty years and the frightening manner that social life has evolved in Nigeria. We were deeply worried about the narrowing of social consciousness and the loss of a sense of history as much as the death of history as a subject of learning in our schools. How can a country make a sense of its present or build the blocks of its own future when history and memory have been so short-circuited? Nigeria is poorer and will continue to be, if we do not reinstate history and its study.

The emergence of globalization has come with several drawbacks and one of the more unacceptable has been the manner that our memory and history have been endangered. The right to write and study our history is one of the greatest achievements of the struggles against the colonial phase of imperialism. Pioneering historians like Cheikh Anta Diop in Senegal, Adu Boahen in Ghana and Kenneth Dike in Nigeria, paved the path of history that ensured that the fight for national liberation could be placed in a con-

text of the re-conquest of our historical destinies. With the deepening of integration into the world of globalized capitalism, we became part of a new reality: the disappearance of citizens and the emergence of consumers. It is citizens who think about history because they have rights and responsibilities in democratic societies; the consumer does not need to think nor remember. Memory does not work in the favour of those who want us only to consume and keep consuming! A culture of dependency thrives where people do not think along a path of historical knowledge. Nigeria is an archetype of this malady and witnessing the manner our rulers carry on leaves us with no doubts that memory is really in very short supply. Nigeria moves in cycles of incompetence because among other problems, history is not a guide for enlightened action.

Amazingly enough, the past few days amongst the Saharawi people have breathed life into the historical sense of purpose that we have been talking about. People who have to conquer every inch of their realities seem to valorise history as an essential block of resistance construction. The Saharawi people organized a reception for a dozen activists visiting from the occupied areas of Sahara, located behind



People who have to conquer every inch of their realities seem to valorise history as an essential block of resistance construction. The Saharawi people organized a reception for a dozen activists visiting from the occupied areas of Sahara, located behind walls and armies of the Moroccans

walls and armies of the Moroccans. The incredible connect between the visitors and the host refugee population was a delight which underlined just why wars to keep a people, any people, colonized, invariably become a futile endeavour. Last year in Asmara, I saw the tanks museum, which was the graveyard of Ethiopian war materiel and today we have also seen the different weapons that the Moroccan monarchy has thrown at the stubborn resistance of these ordinarily very humane people. And believe me when I say that they are as spontaneously

kind and friendly as all other African peoples. If you have ever been in Juba, South Sudan, then Western Sahara will give you the same feeling of being amongst your brothers and sisters!

You might be wondering about just how little I have talked about Nigeria in this piece, in a very direct manner. There is not much information to build an analysis around. Okay, the BBC reported that Dora Akunyili gave an interview about a cabal which runs the government. It is curious that she is still in that government, looking from out here; or might it be that she is attempting to build empathy knowing that she would certainly be booted out of cabinet the moment Yar'adua gets a handle on the process of governance? There was also a Swedish (who?) that has been appointed as coach of the Super Eagles after a predictably annoying process of name dropping by the incredible men who run the football federation! A few days can be a very long time indeed in "Nigeria watch". But it is still a thrill to have come into Algeria, known as the land of a million and a half martyrs, because it is Algeria which fought the bloodiest war of national liberation on our continent. It is unfortunate that I eventually did not get the opportunity to soak in as much of its heroic history as I would have loved. History is also one reason why the African peoples must conquer the right to be able to travel with relative ease within our continent. To have to get into ex-colonial capitals before reaching our brothers and sisters in other African countries is simply unacceptable!

SPORTS REPORT



PROTESTS... Fans have vented anger at the Glazers.

Glazers staying at Man U, says Gill

Manchester United chief executive David Gill said yesterday there was no prospect of the Glazer family selling the club as he questioned the wisdom of a proposed takeover.

A group of wealthy Manchester United supporters, the Red Knights, confirmed on Tuesday that they had begun moves towards a possible takeover of the heavily-indebted club.

But Gill told the Soccerex conference in

Manchester on Wednesday the Glazers were staying at Old Trafford.

"The owners are very long-term owners and have shown that with Tampa Bay (American football team), which they took over in 1994-5," he said.

"They are not sellers, (but) that's not saying people like these Red Knights can't come forward with some ideas.

"But there is no indication to mean that they want to sell and in that case they cannot buy the asset, it's not for sale."



LEONID Tyagachev

Russian Olympic C'ttee head resigns after flop

The head of the Russian Olympic Committee resigned on Wednesday in the wake of the nation's worst performance at the Winter Games, news agencies said, citing the committee's spokesman.

When contacted by The Associated Press, however, the spokesman said only "that information is not confirmed," before hanging up. He did not deny making the statements to the Russian media or say the information was incorrect.

Leonid Tyagachev, a former sports minister, took over as head of the Russian Olympic Committee in 2001. In the wake of the Vancouver Games, President Dmitry Medvedev has warned that sports officials would be fired if they failed to resign voluntarily.

The news agencies Interfax and ITAR-Tass cited Gennady Shvets as saying that Tyagachev had tendered his resignation. "This obviously concerns the Russian athletes' performance at the Vancouver Olympic Games," Interfax quoted the spokesman as saying.

