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TRUST IS A BURDEN

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Yayale to take charge

...As Jonathan jets to US

By Mohammed S. Shehu, with agency report

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan travels to Washington tomorrow to meet U.S. President Barack Obama on his first foreign trip since he assumed presidential powers in February.

Jonathan has no officially-designated deputy and there was no announcement yesterday

on who holds forte in his absence, but a source said Secretary to the Government of the Federation Mahmud Yayale Ahmed will take charge of affairs.

Yayale is the next most senior government official after Jonathan. On Tuesday, he represented the country in Washington, where he and the U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton signed

the U.S.-Nigeria Bi-National Commission agreement.

The acting president would be away till Thursday, indicating that the weekly cabinet meeting may not hold on Wednesday next week.

Jonathan's spokesman Ima Niboro confirmed that the acting president would travel to the U.S.

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ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan (left) with the Lamido Adamawa, Alhaji Muhammadu Barkindo Aliyu Musdafa, during his visit to State House, Abuja, yesterday.

Atiku's camp split

By Suleiman M. Bisalla & Abdulmutallib Abubakar

ALLIES of former Vice President Atiku Abubakar are sharply divided

over his decision to return to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), as the opponents of the move push ahead their plans with top opposition politicians to form a broad-

based coalition to challenge the ruling party in the next general elections.

Many of Atiku's associates, including former Senate President

Iyorchia Ayu, former PDP National Chairman Audu Ogbeh and chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Action Congress Alhaji Lawal

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Assembly sacks Ondo speaker, deputy

From Adewale Giwa, Akure

THE Ondo State House of Assembly yesterday impeached the Speaker, Taofik Olawale Abdulsalam and his Deputy, Mayowa Akinfolarin as well as other principal officers of the House.

They were removed by 18 of the 26 members of the House who said they were tired of their leadership style.

Moving the motion for the impeachment, Kele Bolodeoku, a PDP member like Abdulsalam and Akinfolarin, said the House no longer had confidence in the leader-

ship. The impeachment motion was backed by the 18 lawmakers who had earlier assigned the impeachment notice.

News of the resignation of the Speaker and his Deputy was broadcast on radio and television stations in the state around 8.30 am. The resignation story was however denied by the Speaker.

The lawmakers unanimously appointed Samuel Adesina from Odigbo constituency II as their new Speaker.

Addressing a news conference after the impeachment, the spokesperson of the lawmakers, Kele Bolo-

deoku said the House was not sponsored by the executive as was being rumoured.

He said, "The House is an independent institution, it has impeached a Speaker before, he is here with us today (pointing to the predecessor of Abdulsalam, Bakkita Bello) and we have just impeached another one. No Governor, whether past or present, has ever sponsored impeachment in Ondo State. We are presenting the new face of Ondo State House of Assembly to the governor and the people of the state. Something that is very crucial about discharge

of duties in leadership position is good leadership. And one of the problems we have in this country is inability to have proper leaders in proper places and that is what prompted the House to impeach the Speaker. Most painfully, the Speaker lacks good Leadership. He was impeached as a result of ineptitude in office; we have not levelled allegations of fraud, corruption and moral decadence against him. They are good men and to the best of our knowledge, they enjoyed good relationship with the Governor of the state.

The impeached Speaker, Taofik

Abdulsalam described the action taken by his colleagues as illegal. He also denied the report that he has tendered his resignation letter.

Mr. Abdulsalam who addressed a press conference in company of 10 lawmakers, said his purported removal was not in line with constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which stipulates that the Speaker can only be removed by two-thirds majority votes.

Meanwhile, the Ondo State Governor, Olusegun Mimiko has expressed surprise at the change in the leadership of the State House of Assembly.

Bauchi suspends 3 council chairmen

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

THREE council chairmen in Bauchi State were yesterday suspended from office, 48 hours after they resumed office after an earlier suspension.

Twenty council chairmen in the state were suspended by the

state House of Assembly about six months ago to pave way for investigations into allegations of contract scam.

The ad-hoc committee of the House that investigated them had submitted its report last week where it recommended among other things, that 19 of them be

allowed to return to their seats except that of Zaki Local Government.

Our correspondent gathered that the three were suspended vide a letter from the office of the SSG Ibrahim Dandija Wednesday night.

The affected council chair-

men include those of Toro, Isa Mohammed Kufai who is also the state

ALGON chairman, Adamu Bello of Giade LG and Ahmed Mohammed Wabi of Jama'are.

Isa Mohammed Kufai, chairman of Toro LG and state ALGON chairman confirmed their suspension on telephone.

"Yes, three of us were yesterday suspended again from office but we are trying to resolve the matter amicably. I will not say more than that for now", he said.

The suspended chairman of Giade, Adamu Bello, who also spoke on phone said, "I have

received my letter of suspension and I have nothing against anybody but Allah is the judge. As I talk to you, I am on my way to my house to await any further directives from the authorities", he said.

Our correspondent gathered that the council chairmen had stopped last minute withdrawals by the protem chairmen and there were hot exchange between them when the protem chairmen realized the returning chairmen had stopped banks from clearing their checks.

In tomorrow's

WEEKLY TRUST

Kano politics without Rimi



Now that the beloved political icon is gone, what will the political landscape of Kano look like?

After the recent tragic deaths of three people in Benin, we bring you the story behind the alarming rise in deaths caused by electrocution

PHCN's CABLES OF DEATH



WEEKEND MAGAZINE

Why I feel I'm Egyptian

Alicia Keys



Plateau bans commercial motorcycles

From Andrew Agbese, & Mahmud Lalo, Jos

PLATEAU State Governor Jonah Jang yesterday signed into law, the bill prohibiting the operation of commercial motorcycles also known as "Okada" within Jos-Bukuru metropolis.

This is despite the one day sit at home strike embarked upon by the commercial motorcycle riders yesterday to dissuade the state governor from

signing the bill into law.

A statement by the Director of Press in Government House James Mannok said with the signing of the bill into law, the operation of commercial motorcycles had been banned from the area comprising the greater Jos master plan.

The bill which also regulates the operation of commercial tricycles and private motor cycles in Jos and Bukuru was passed by the Plateau House of

Assembly last week and had been awaiting the signature of the governor to take the effect of law.

He said the law banning the operation of okada in the Jos-Bukuru metropolis as well as restricting the operation of commercial tricycles and private motorcycles was with immediate effect.

Yesterday the commercial motorcycle riders protested the passage of the bill by the House by refusing to operate in the capital city.

Police arrest 15 over Rimi

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Jaafar Jaafar and Ruqayya Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

FIFTEEN persons have been arrested in connection with last Saturday night's attack on late Muhammad Abuabar Rimi, Inspector General of Police Obannaya Onovo has said.

Onovo disclosed the arrest of the alleged bandits yesterday when he paid a condolence visit to the residence of the former governor, saying the police solicited the assistance of local vigilante and traditional rulers to apprehend the suspects.

The said arrest is coming days after Acting President Jonathan Goodluck ordered the police to fish out the robbers that attacked the former governor along-

side his co-travellers on Wudil road and dispossessed them of handsets and money.

"It is very unfortunate that the incident occurred on that road, because that particular road has been under constant police surveillance and patrol for a very long time," he said. Onovo vowed to improve security situation in the country and prevent recurrence of such incidents by improving partnership between the police and local communities with a view to identifying and arresting miscreants and hoodlums before they commit crimes.

Earlier at the State House, the Inspector General of Police said it was unfortunate that despite the fact that late Rimi struggled and fought for the masses all through his life, he lost his life to armed robbery attack.

'Iwu won't quit until tenure ends'

By Abbas Jimoh

CHAIRMAN of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Prof. Maurice Iwu would not quit his position until the end of his tenure if he was not reappointed.

Iwu's spokesman, Mr. Andy Ezeani, told *Daily Trust* last night in Abuja Iwu has a constitutional mandate which ends in June and that all the excitement being generated is unnecessary.

A top presidency source had told *Daily Trust* last Sunday that Prof. Iwu's five-year tenure as INEC boss will come to an end when he leaves office this weekend. But Ezeani said "Iwu has always said that he is serving the country and going against such mandate will not be in the best interest of democracy and national development." There have been various rallies for and against Iwu in recent days. The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) together with several human rights and civil society groups staged a protest urging the government to quickly sack Iwu.

Also penultimate week, some youths staged a demonstration in Abuja urging the government to reappoint Iwu, who they said is the best person to deliver credible polls in Nigeria.

The United States of America has through its Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Johnnie Carson demanded for Iwu's sack saying that the electoral body under him has not served the interest of Nigerians.

God'll see Nigeria through – Mark

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki Hassan

SENATE president David Mark yesterday expressed optimism that God will intervene in a positive way in the political and economic travails Nigeria is facing.

Mark spoke at an early morning prayer session at St. Mulumba Catholic Chapel, Apo Abuja, organised by staff in the Office of the President of the Senate to mark his 62nd birthday yesterday.

While calling on Nigerians to continue to pray for the nation and its leaders in order to overcome these challenges, Mark said: "There is no gift that is bigger than the gift of prayers. Pray for those you love and those around you. Politicians go through a lot of temptations, countless in number, it is only through our support, fasting and prayers that they can survive and triumph," he said.

Reverend Father Jerome Bello prayed for continuous democratic stability in the country and wisdom for the leaders to deliver the dividends of democracy to the citizenry.

Those at the prayer session include INEC chairman Professor Maurice Iwu, Environment Minister John Odey, Women Affairs Minister Mrs. Josephine Anenih, Commerce and Industry Minister Mrs. Josephine Tapgun and state Minister for Information & Communications Labaran Maku.

Visit to Yar'adua: PDP on standby, says Ogbulafor

By Mohammed S. Shehu

NATIONAL Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party Vincent Ogbulafor said the national working committee of the party was on standby waiting for its turn to be invited to meet ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

Barely a week after meeting with Muslim clerics ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua continued to receive several visitors including Christian cleric early this week. Among retinue were Governor Isa Yuguda of Bauchi State, who is his son-in-law, business mogul Alhaji Dahiru Mangal, who is a close political associate of Yar'adua's, as well as Alhaji Shehu

Inuwa Imam.

Responding to questions from State House Correspondent yesterday shortly after meeting with Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, Ogbulafor said the national leadership of the party is waiting for an invitation.

Asked when will the PDP leadership going to see Yar'adua, he said: "Whenever we are invited. We are on standby."

About eight governors were also sighted at the Aso Rock Villa yesterday. They included Timipre Sylva of Bayelsa, Ibrahim Shema of Katsina, Danjuma Goje of Gombe, Namadi Sambo of Kaduna, Bukola Saraki of Kwara, Rotimi Ameachi of Rivers and Liyel Imoke

of Cross River.

None of the governors spoke to State House Correspondents after separate meetings with Jonathan. But sources said Syva's visit might not be unconnected with the purported rift between him and Acting President.

On their mission in the Presidential Villa, Ogbulafor said they were in the State House to "brief the Acting President."

He also denied that the postponement of the party's NEC has to do with the health of the president saying it was because of the "loss of some of its members, Rimi and the senators."



RESCUERS work to extricate Carlos Eduardo dos Santos, 24, from the ruins of a house knocked down by a landslide in the Guaratiba neighbourhood in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Wednesday. Flooding and mudslides killed at least 102 people in southeast Brazil, authorities said.

Jonathan meets northern traditional rulers

By Mohammed S. Shehu

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan has urged traditional rulers to continue to pursue peaceful co-existence of all citizens within their domain just as he commended the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar for commitment to peace and stability in the country.

He made this known during a visit by a delegation led by Alhaji Yahaya Abubakar, the Etsu Nupe to the State House to deliver a special message from the Sultan.

Jonathan expressed appreciation to the Sultan for his commitment to the progress

and growth of the country, acknowledging him as one of the great leaders of the nation. He assured that the document presented will be studied and necessary action taken to move the country forward.

Abubakar was also accompanied by the Emir of Kazare, Emir of Lafia, Etsu of Karu and Magajin Gidan Sokoto. He called on leaders to be just and fair in balancing religious and ethnic issues in the interest of the nation.

Earlier, Jonathan, according to a statement by his spokesman, Ima Niboro, had received in audience the Lamido of Adamawa Mohammed Barkindo A. Musdafa,

During the meeting, he expressed his good wishes to the Lamido and urged him to continue in the illustrious tradition of his father.

Earlier, Musdafa expressed his delight and support for the Acting President and called on his Fulani kinsmen to remain calm and law abiding. The Lamido was accompanied by former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, Wali Mohammed Abba, Wakili (Dr) Hassan Adamu, Galadima Murtala Aminu, Dangaladima Mohammed L. Ribadu and Wakili Gurin. National Security Adviser, Gen. Aliyu Gusau was also in attendance.

Foreign reserves drop to \$40.48 billion

NIGERIA'S foreign reserves fell to 40.48 billion dollars at the beginning of April from 41.54 billion dollars in February, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) said Thursday.

"The CBN has 40.48 billion (30.34 billion euros) in foreign exchange reserves as at April 1, 2010," the bank said in a statement.

It said the reserves stood at 41.54 billion dollars on February 24, but did not give any

reasons for the drop.

The CBN said the reserves are "sufficient to finance 17 months of import, far in excess of the internationally-accepted three months requirement".

CBN governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi had earlier predicted an improvement in the level of foreign reserves.

He said last month that if the rising prices

of crude oil in the international market was sustained and there was an increased output in local oil production, there would be an improvement in the level of foreign reserves.

Owing to relative peace in the oil-rich Niger Delta, Nigeria, world's eighth oil exporter, currently produces more than two million barrels of oil per day as against around one million barrels some months ago.

Minister bans first class travel for agency heads

By Idris Ahmed & Yunus Abdulhamid

MINISTER of State for Finance Mr. Remi Babalola has warned heads of parastatals under his supervision to desist from travelling with public funds using first class ticket.

Babalola reminded the heads of parastatals to adhere to existing public service rules and code of conduct that bar ministers, members of boards of parastatals and other public officers from travelling by first class with public funds.

He gave the directives in Abuja at a meeting with the heads of the five parastatals and officials of the ministry to review the operations and performance of the agencies. The parastatals include: the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Insurance Commission, Securities and Exchange Commission, Nigerian Export Import Bank, and the Investments and Securities Tribunal.

"As much as possible, foreign trips should be pruned to only very essential ones that can add value to your mandates," the minister added.

"Non-performance and abuse of office would not be tolerated," said Babalola who chairs the Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC).

Babalola solicited the cooperation of all the heads of parastatals and reminded them that time was of essence and should therefore "hit the ground running".

The parastatals' chiefs assured the minister of their support and promised to work assiduously to achieve the mandates of their respective agencies and the government in general.



PRODUCTION Maintenance Manager Malam Ladan Abdullahi (right) and Deputy Manager (Production) Malam Ali Ahmad Geidam (left) both of Media Trust Limited, with Mass Communication students of the University of Maiduguri, during their visit to Corporate Head Office of the company in Abuja, yesterday.

Ribadu's asset declaration case adjourned till April 15

By Atika Balal

THE Code of Conduct Tribunal (CCT) in Abuja has fixed April 15 for its next sitting in a case of non declaration of assets instituted against former Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Nuhu Ribadu.

Ribadu was asked to appear before the tribunal for allegedly failing to declare his assets as required by the public officers Code of Conduct laws of Nigeria.

The tribunal was meant to sit yesterday, but counsels to all the parties sat in chambers and agreed that a new date be taken.

Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF) had at the last adjourned date applied

to withdraw the case but acting Chairman of the tribunal, Justice Murtala Sani advised the Prosecutor to formalise the application for withdrawal for proper documentation at the next sitting of the tribunal.

Dr. J. O. Olatoke had told the tribunal that his application for withdrawal had nothing to do with a new application Counsel to Ribadu intended to file before CCT seeking that the case be struck out.

He had also told newsmen that the withdrawal of the case was the decision of the former AGF, Prince Adetokumbo Kayode (SAN) who on assumption of duty as AGF reviewed the cases on ground and directed that it should be withdrawn.

559 died of contaminated food in 2yrs

By Romoke W. Ahmad & Sunday Williams

A total of 559 people died of food borne diseases out of the 2.5 million recorded cases in 2006 and 2007 in Nigeria, Director General of the Consumer Protection Council (CPC) Mrs. Ify Umenyi has said.

She said "some of the cases could be directly linked to consumption of contaminated street vended food."

Mrs Umenyi was speaking yesterday in Abuja at the pre-workshop press conference on quality and safety of street vended food in Nigeria, jointly organized by CPC and the National Orientation Agency (NOA).

She said in 2008, the council survey on street vended foods within the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) was depressing in terms of quality and safety which presupposed that the situation could be worse in the hinterland where most facilities like potable water, electricity are in shorter supply.

In his remarks the Director General of National Orientation Agency, Alhaji Idi Faruk said the upcoming workshop which would be in collaboration with the wife of the Benue State government Mrs Yamisi Dooshima Suswam.

He said it will feature training for food vendors, exhibition of foods and beverages and agricultural produce as well as cooking competition, adding that the objectives of the workshop include educating of food vendors on the best practices in ensuring quality of street food and safety of consumers.

The workshop will also set model in areas of food presentation, preparation and preservation, to mobilize consumers to support the campaign to regulate street vended food in Nigeria among other things.

Participants for the three-day workshop would be drawn from the 36 states of the federation including Abuja and starts April 13, 2010 in Markudi, Benue State.

Rights commission says local government election 'grossly abused'

By Misbahu Bashir

LOCAL Government Council elections are grossly abused in Nigeria, the Executive Secretary, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Roland Ewubare, has said.

Ewubare said at a press conference yesterday in Abuja "Local Council elections remain one of the most abused and distorted elections in Nigeria." He said genuine opposition is not allowed and government emasculates the choice of the electorate. He said in most states and the Federal Capital Territory, governors and ministers appoint or select councils chairmen through fraudulent

means. "This is why chairmen of councils are not accountable to the people," he said.

He said the Commission will deploy its officials to monitor the conduct of the area council polls in the FCT on 10, April 2010 and will report any act of malpractice to appropriate authorities.

He said elected representatives must be accountable to the people and the only way electorate can check their excesses, is through free and fair election. It could also reduce corrupt practices.

"Election should not be seen as an end but rather a means to fulfil the yearnings and aspirations of the people," he said.

12 to contest Sudan's presidential polls

By Abbas Jimoh

THE first multi-party elections scheduled for next Sunday and the referendum on the fate of Southern Sudan in January 2011 may be in jeopardy unless some pressing issues were urgently addressed, the Sudanese Ambassador to Nigeria Dr. Awar Mursi Taha said yesterday in Abuja.

He was speaking at a public lecture organised by the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) in conjunction with the Sudanese Embassy in Nigeria themed, "Issues on Peace, Democracy and Development in Sudan".

Taha said the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed in 2005 is now at critical and final phase said. "The country is scheduled to hold its first national multi-party elections next Sunday, followed

by a referendum in January 2011. These two events are two major milestones that will shape the future of Sudan."

He said that the National Elections Commission (NEC) has confirmed that 12 candidates are contesting for office of the president of the Republic, two for the president of the government of Southern Sudan, 189 for state governorship, 4136 for the National Assembly, 8708 for the state legislatures and 627 for the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly.

Director General of IPCR, Dr. Joseph Golwa, who said that developments in Sudan is not only important for Africa but for the world as the election which was earlier scheduled for 2008 was shifted to 2009 and now April 2011, added that all hands must be on deck by all stakeholders to ensure the success of the election.



A passenger commuter bus heading to Lagos Island somersaulted on the third Mainland bridge before catching fire.

PHOTO: KAYODE EKUNDAYO

Atiku's return to PDP is okay, says Sule Hamma

By Suleiman M. Bisalla

HEAD of Secretariat of the National Democratic Movement (NDM) Alhaji Sule Hamma yesterday described former Vice President Atiku Abubakar's return to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) as the reunion of politicians with similar thinking and ideological inclination.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* on telephone yesterday, Alhaji Hamma said it is "a normal realignment of political forces" signifying that people of similar mind set "will always flock together."

Atiku has been involved with General Muhammadu Buhari, Alhaji Attahiru Bafarawa, ex-Sen Bola Tinubu in the NDM to form a broad based political party to remove the PDP from power in 2011. But Atiku's media aide Alhaji Garba Shehu told BBC Hausa Service on Wednesday that his boss will indeed rejoin the PDP.

Alhaji Sule said the move is good for Nigeria to move forward stressing that there is no ideological compatibility between Atiku and most of the political actors in the NDM.

Hamma said the NDM platform is the third attempt to construct a political alliance with the former vice president, adding that he was not surprised over Atiku's decision to abandon the group.

Alhaji Sule insisted that the current political struggles eventually create groups that share the same thinking and allow each group to identify its opponent.

...It's a blow to opposition

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

CONFERENCE of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) yesterday said the return of former vice president Atiku Abubakar to the Peoples Democratic Party poses a threat to the opposition parties planning to wrestle power from the ruling party.

CNPP's National Chairman Alhaji Balarabe Musa said dethroning PDP would now be a very herculean task, adding that Atiku's return to PDP is a "great loss" to politicians who want to bring meaningful democratic change in the country in 2011.

Atiku's media aide, Garba Shehu, on Wednesday said the former vice president and his supporters decided to rejoin the PDP following disagreements within Mega Summit Movement (MSM).

The CNPP chairman however said Atiku's reunion with the PDP did not take them by surprise, because the former VP and his supporters only left the PDP in 2007 due to disagreement with Chief Olusegun Obasanjo.

Yayale to take charge

Continued from page 1

tomorrow. "Jonathan this Saturday will be making his first official trip outside the country since he assumed executive powers," Niboro told *Reuters* news agency, adding that the acting president would return home on Thursday.

Efforts to get officials to confirm on record if Yayale would take charge in Jonathan's absence were unsuccessful. Niboro did not answer his calls and did not

reply to text messages sent to him.

Jonathan is bound for U.S. on the invitation of the American president to attend a maiden nuclear security summit organised by the U.S. government.

Reuters quoted a presidency source saying the two leaders would focus their discussions on ways to prevent global terrorism, four months after Umar Faruk Abdulmutallab allegedly tried to blow up a U.S. passenger jet as it

neared Detroit.

Apparently in preparation for the discussions, Jonathan held a meeting yesterday with Faruk's father Umaru Mutallab behind closed doors at the presidential villa in Abuja.

Dressed in white traditional Babban Riga, Mutallab came alone to the Presidential Villa and met with the acting president for close to an hour. But he did not speak to journalists afterwards and there was no official state-

ment as to what they discussed.

Separately, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano will be meeting top Nigerian government officials in Abuja on April 11 to discuss aviation security.

The U.S. was the first major foreign power to publicly congratulate Jonathan after he assumed executive powers in February from ailing President Umaru Yar'adua, who remains too sick to govern.

Atiku's camp split

Continued from page 1

Kaita, are said to be on their way back to the PDP. A source close to the former vice president said the dispute between Abubakar and Ogbah was resolved yesterday at the instance of Ayu in Abuja.

But there are other Atiku associates who vehemently oppose the decision to rejoin the ruling party, with some calling it a betrayal.

A source close to the former VP said many of Atiku's allies are not happy with the decision but are hush-hushing about their feeling.

Dr. Usman Bugaje, a one-time political adviser to Atiku, and a long-standing associate, disagreed openly with the decision. He said the move was a display of lack of ideological disposition. Speaking on the BBC Hausa yesterday, Bugaje, who is also the National Secretary of the Action Congress, said those returning to the PDP with Abubakar lack

political ideology.

In the past few weeks, Atiku said he consulted widely with many of his associates leading to his decision to return to the PDP. His media aide Garba Shehu confirmed on Wednesday that a decision has been taken to rejoin the PDP, and that majority of Atiku's associates supported the idea.

But Bugaje said, "Whoever is doing politics because of somebody lacks ideology, and he will be following his political leader to wherever he goes. But those who have political ideology will always remain in a political party that has ideology."

He also noted with dismay that the same people that Atiku is returning to meet in the PDP are those who sabotaged him and scuttled his political ambition few years ago.

But reacting to Bugaje's comments, one of Atiku's close allies who does not want his name in print said the AC scribe is enti-

tled to his opinion. He said when Bugaje said the same thing at a meeting in Katsina regarding Atiku's movement to the PDP, he was rebuked by some elderly politicians who told him he was being rude in his approach to the matter.

He said Atiku neither plays godfather politics nor coerces people into agreeing with him. "Therefore any of his associates is free to disagree with him over any issue," he said.

The source said the decision to decamp to the PDP was the outcome of discussions with allies on the way forward in the present political circumstance.

When asked about the resentment being expressed in Adamawa State over Atiku's planned return to the PDP, the associate said Atiku, Governor Murtala Nyako and other stakeholders have settled their differences.

"In fact the state governor is to shoulder the grand reception

Disquiet in prisons service over promotion

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

POLYTECHNIC graduates with the Higher National Diploma have allegedly been discriminated against in the recent promotion of senior prison officers across the country and the exercise is threatening to polarise the prison service along regional lines, Daily Trust has learnt.

In a petition to the Comptroller General of prisons Olusola Ogundipe, the affected officers alleged that in the last promotion exercise, about 261 senior officers were promoted and out of this number, only 61 are from the north.

The exercise, according to Mohammed Aliyu Ahmed, a Superintendent of prisons from the Nasarawa State command, "has now reversed the seniority of the prison department in favour of southern prison officers."

According to the petitioner, Section 4(4.2.3) of the prisons scheme of service which came into effect in 1996, states that HND or first degree is the benchmark for the Superintendent cadre. After getting that requirement at the point of entry, there is nowhere that it is stated that an additional qualification is required for an officer's progression in the prison

service, he noted, adding that subsequent promotion is predicated on attending courses and passing the promotion interview and examinations.

However, in the recent promotion, not a single HND holder was promoted to the next rank, Ahmed said. He wondered how it could be explained that the entire HND holders, who are incidentally mostly northerners, could have failed the promotion examination and interview.

Ahmed said unofficial information making the round in the service has it that only first degree holders and those who have Masters degrees would henceforth be

considered for promotion. He also alleged that even those who did not sit for the examination were promoted because of the ethnic affiliation to the powers that be in the service.

According to the petitioner, the prisons condition of service which came into effect since 1996 has neither been amended nor repelled and it gives guidelines on recruitment into the various cadre, point of entry and progression in the service. Ahmed said that the point of entry has remained HND or first degree for General Duty staff even after the El Rufai-led public service reform.

The petitioner further said that he has written to the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Head of Service, and the National Assembly committees on Interior ministry in order to highlight this alleged anomaly which is threatening to bring disaffection within the service.

When *Daily Trust* called ACP Kayode Adeyemi, the Public Relations Officer of the service, he declined comments and directed all enquiries to the Civil Defence, Immigration and Prison Services board, arguing that it is the only body which can explain the criteria that was used in the last promotion exercise.

Bizman escapes death over kidnap

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

A business man in Niger State, Alhaji Abdullahi Jimoh, popularly known as 'Flamingo', was nearly killed yesterday over an alleged attempt to abduct four children between the ages of two and three.

According to Ndagi, a witness, he was caught by people at the Kasuwan Gwari area of Niger State while using Akara, (local bean cake) to lure children into his tinted Hilux jeep. He said moves by the 65 year old owner of several estates in Niger State became suspicious when the four children followed him into his vehicle.

Ndagi explained that it was when he couldn't give any valid reason why he was carrying the children along with him and his subsequent flight that people around felt he was up to some mischief.

"It was when he took to his heels that we realised he was about to kidnap the children as he was unable to give useful explanation on why the children were in his car as none of the parents of the children were aware of what was happening", he said. Emeka, owner of the shop where the fleeing Jimoh took refuge, said he was trying to sell his wares to one of his regular customers when suddenly the man ran into his shop.

He said out of fright, he bolted out only to find about 300 people with all sorts of weapons shouting and throwing stones at his shop as they were asking him to come out.

He said in an attempt to save his shop from being burnt, and the life of the accused, he ran to the police station from where a team of armed police personnel came and dispersed the angry crowd. Emeka said Jimoh was severely wounded and would have been killed if the police were not there on time.

In his explanation, the business man said he was buying sugar cane, adding that it was when he was giving them out to some children who came begging that four men on motorcycles pounced on him and started beating him.



WORKERS offloading items from an articulated vehicle that fell over at Orile Iganmu bus stop in Lagos yesterday.

PIC:NAN

Board, UNICEF to sponsor 400 girls in Sokoto

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

AS part of efforts to ensure that poverty does not hinder indigent girls from acquiring higher education, the Sokoto State Universal Education Board (SUBEB) and UNICEF have earmarked N210 million to sponsor 400 of such girls for NCE training.

SUBEB Chairman Alhaji Umaru Nagwari who disclosed this in Sokoto yesterday said the move was aimed at further boosting girl-child education in the state. He added that it was also geared towards encouraging the parents to allow their children acquire higher education.

Nagwari said the 400 indigent girls would be used as role models in their respective local government areas during and after their

NCE courses. He disclosed that the beneficiaries would also be given automatic employment on the successful completion of their studies.

Giving a breakdown of the sponsorship, the SUBEB chairman explained that last year, 100 indigent girls were admitted into the Shehu Shagari College of Education Sokoto while this year 300 of such girls were also admitted into the same college. Alhaji Nagwari disclosed that in 2009, about N 19 million was expended on girls for the payment of their registration fees, tuition fees and other logistics while over N 55 million was spent on them this year.

The remaining N 144 million will be spent on the female students up till to completion of their three years courses, he added. The sponsorship is for the period of 2009 - 2012.

3 die as Edo doctors' strike continues

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

THE current indefinite strike by medical doctors in Edo State has begun to take a toll on the state.

As at yesterday, two days into the strike, three patients taken to the University of Benin Teaching Hospital died as a result of doctors' refusal to attend to them.

A father of one of the patients, Solomon Osarenhen, told newsmen how his four year old daughter was taken to hospital (UBTH) for an emergency operation Wednesday.

He said on getting to the hospital, he was told that the doctors were on strike and could not attend to her.

"Because of the emergency, we rushed the girl to a private

hospital for the operation, where she died, he said.

Apart from this incident, two other patients at the same hospital died as a result of neglect by doctors.

But the chairman of the Nigerian Medical Association in the state Dr Osahon Enabulele said he was not aware of the deaths.

He explained that despite the strike, doctors were still under obligation to treat emergency cases as well as patients still on admission.

Dental and medical associations in the state are on an indefinite strike to protest the kidnap of the Chief Medical Director of the University of Benin Teaching Hospital Professor Micheal Ibadin by unknown gunmen Tuesday on his way to the office.

Amaechi worries over use of funds by LGs

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

RIVERS State Governor Chibuike Amaechi has expressed concern over the utilization of funds meant for Primary Education and Primary Health Care system by local government councils in the state.

Governor Amaechi who spoke during the swearing-in of the new Chairman of Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Council Mr. Raymond Wokocha at Government House, Port Harcourt yesterday said council chairmen should account for how the funds meant for those sectors were used.

The governor recalled that it used to be the responsibility of local government councils in the state to pay salaries of primary school teachers, renovate and maintain primary schools as well as building and renovation of primary health centres before now, and wondered why there had been no significant improvement in the performance of councils even when the state had taken over such responsibilities.

"They used to pay primary school teachers' salaries totalling over N1billion, we have taken that over, we paid with our own money, not their money, the question to ask is what happens to that money in their possession?", the governor said.

He charged the new chairman to serve with the fear of God, utilize the resources of the council to impact positively on the lives of the people and avoid what led to the removal of his predecessor.

Speaking to newsmen after the ceremony, the new Chairman of Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Council Mr. Raymond Wokocha said the focus of his administration would be on the proper utilization of funds to impact positively on the people and fight corruption.

Man fakes kidnap to dupe mother

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

PLATEAU State Police Command has paraded a suspect who claimed to have been kidnapped to dupe his mother.

Police Public Relations Officer ASP Mohammed Lerama yesterday while parading suspects before newsmen at the Plateau Police command said the suspect who claimed to have been kidnapped phoned his mother and asked her to pay the kidnapers

N80, 000 before his release, adding that he advised the mother not to inform the police and that the money should be paid through his personal account.

ASP Lerama said, "The mother quickly alerted the police in Enugu State before sending the money and the police contacted the bank to place the account on a watch list and raise alarm on any person who showed up to withdraw the money, and the suspect was arrested when he attempted

to withdraw the money".

The suspect, Mr Obumneme Okeke, told newsmen that he was a 200 level Psychology student of the University of Jos and that his mother takes care of his needs and education but he needed money to do some personal things so he lied to his mother and asked her to forgive him.

ASP Lerama said the other suspect, Mr Manchang John of Anguwan Dalyop, forcefully took a teenager, 12 year old Aisha Idris

to a room and wanted to kill her. In the process, the victim raised an alarm which attracted neighbours who rescued her while the suspect escaped.

He said the suspect abandoned a knife at the scene but he was trailed by soldiers, arrested and brought to the police.

The suspect, Mr Manchang, said he was drunk and only attempted to rape the girl but did not want to kill her and pleaded for forgiveness.



PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

PERMANENT Secretary, Federal Ministry of Tourism, Culture and National Orientation Alhaji Seidu Ozigis (left) handing over to the new minister Alhaji Abubakar Sadiq Mohammed, in Abuja.

Managers oppose reappointing ministers

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

RECYCLING ministers is inimical to Nigeria's development, particularly when they are not delivering on their mandates, the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria (CIPMN) has said.

"In a country of 150 million, there is no doubt that we have abundance of skills and knowledge in different people from different parts of this country. So it is not defensible that only a few people are being fixed into positions of authority in Nigeria", Mr. Musa Rabi, the Registrar and Chief Executive Officer CIPMN told journalists in Lagos.

Rabi who was briefing journalists on the institute's annual general meeting (AGM) yesterday strongly condemned recycling, saying the institute would not support it.

"Our institute does not support the recycling of people whether it is by age, geographical location or certain specific interests that are not in line with the national interest. Like is done in well organised societies, people with the right skills are given positions and they serve for a purpose and their services are reviewed against their performances."

"If you are reappointing a minister, does or she deserve that reappointment? You may have been considered for a particular position based on your perceived competence but did you deliver so why reappoint the person? Even though there are political considerations, we should look at the national interest", he noted.

Rabi explained that recycling is not a good practice. "We believe in the institute that for Nigeria to develop, professional associations must be taken into consideration. We urge the government to consult professional bodies in taking decisions."

On AGM he said members would consider the accounts and activities of the institute in the last year. He also noted that the president and chairman of council and the vice president's positions are up for grabs.

Wakilin Adamawa extols Rimi's virtues

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

THE Chairman of the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) Ambassador Hassan Adamu, Wakilin Adamawa has extolled the virtues of late former governor of Kano State Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi, saying the deceased was the best politician Nigeria ever had.

Speaking to newsmen yesterday after a condolence visit to Rimi's residence, Ambassador Adamu said with the demise of the political icon, the country had lost a rare gem of inestimable value. According to him, Rimi was a true democrat and pillar of democracy who died championing the cause of the masses and survival of democracy in the country.

"Rimi was a true democrat who dedicated his life to the common man and the survival of the nation's democracy," said the ambassador.

He also said that late Rimi was an international political figure of repute who meant a lot not only to the people of Kano State or to the diverse people of the country but to the entire people of world.

Ambassador Hassan Adamu noted that late Rimi was a firm believer of democracy who believed that democracy was worth fighting for. He said the deceased was a selfless politician who gave his last penny to the needy.

The elder statesman however said there was need for the security to further increase security in the country in order to safeguard the lives and property of the nation.

ALGON boss faults FG on agriculture

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

OGUN State Chairman of the Association of Local Government of Nigeria (ALGON) Mr. John Obafemi has faulted the Federal Government's control on the agriculture sector, submitting that such would continue to retard development in the sector.

Obafemi who also sought increase in the sharing formula of the federal allocated revenue from the present 20.6 per cent to 30 per cent for the third-tier of government, said such rise would address the suffering of people at the grassroots.

The Remo-North Local Government Chairman in Ogun State in his lecture entitled, "Grassroots

Development, Local Government as a Catalyst" delivered at Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Ogun State council on Wednesday, noted that the Federal Government involvement in the agriculture sector had been ineffective in providing solutions to the food challenge in the country. "Since the local government has the control over the mass of lands in the country, it is this tier of government that should be in control of agriculture and the not the Federal Government. The Federal Government concerns itself with responsibilities it has little or no facilities to effectively administer by virtue of its position relatively to the beneficiaries of those responsibilities," he said.

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) AND THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

Following the increasing deluge of public complaints regarding indiscriminate erection of telecommunication base stations and masts across the country, including the reactions from the telecom industry, it has become absolutely necessary for the Federal Ministry of Environment to clarify some issues and state categorically as follows:

1. The primary mandate of the Federal Ministry of Environment entails the protection of the natural environment against pollution and degradation, and conservation of natural resources for sustainable development in Nigeria.
2. The vision of the Ministry is for the nation to develop in harmony with the environment, and her mission is to ensure environmental protection, natural resources conservation and sustainable development.
3. It is the primary responsibility of the Ministry to make policies, while it is the responsibilities of her specialized Agencies to operationalize and carry out the implementation of such policies in line with the respective mandate and functions of the Agencies. The Departments of the Ministry and the Agencies work together and complement each other towards achieving the overall goal of the Ministry.
4. The National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) is one of the four parastatals of the Ministry. NESREA among other things, is empowered to enforce all environmental laws, guidelines, policies, standards and regulations in Nigeria, as well as enforcing compliance with the provisions of all international agreements, protocols, conventions and treaties on the environment to which Nigeria is a signatory.
5. At the One-day Interactive Session with Key Stakeholders in the Telecommunications Industry in Nigeria organized by NESREA in collaboration with Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) on 8 September, 2009 at Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja, and chaired by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Mr. John Odey, the recommendations in the Communiqué clearly stated that **proper site-specific Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should be carried out on all new installations**. It further stated that compliance monitoring and enforcement of the provisions of the site specific EIA and possession of environmental audit reports of the base stations and masts will commence by 1st January 2010.
6. It is the responsibility of the Federal Ministry of Environment to oversee the conduct of an EIA process by a proponent, including the issuance of an Environmental Impact Certification and Statement. While it is the statutory responsibility of NESREA to ensure that the elements/issues identified in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are complied with, as well as to ensure that the environmental audits of existing telecommunication masts and base stations are carried out according to extant regulations and guidelines.
7. Consequently, the telecommunications industry is to:
 - a) Ensure that proper site specific EIA is carried out on all new installations, and
 - b) Submit the environmental audit reports of all existing masts/base stations to NESREA on or before 24th May, 2010.

There should be no further confusion or ambiguity regarding the responsibilities of the Ministry or her agencies, including NESREA. Where there is doubt or need for further clarification, such enquiries should be directed to the Office of the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Environment, Mabushi, Abuja.

Signed
Dr. B. N. Olorunfemi, FNMGS
 Permanent Secretary,
 For: Honourable Minister

Hurdles for rebuilders of Jos homes

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE consultative committee for the restoration of peace in Jos set up by the Gbong Gwom Jos Da Jacob Gyang Buba has placed more hurdles for those who wish to rebuild their burnt houses in Jos-Bukuru metropolis.

The committee recommended that henceforth, those who wish to rebuild properties destroyed during the crises should first seek

clearance from security agencies in the state, after which they would also get the approval of community leaders of the area where the property is located as well as the permission of the land and survey unit of the local government council.

The recommendation is contained in a communiqué issued by the stakeholders' consultative forum for the restoration of peace in Jos North, South and environs which was inaugurated last month.

The communiqué signed by the chairman and secretary of the committee, Dr. Jonah Madugu and Sarah Ocheke said it was only with a proper clearance from these agencies and individuals that destroyed properties would be rebuilt in Jos-Bukuru metropolis.

Other recommendations the committee made for the restoration of peace in Jos include the setting up of similar committees for leaders at community level

should be established and inciting sermons should be reviewed from time to time and those responsible should be called to order as well as recommended that rumour mongering and circulation of inciting publications should be checked and those found wanting should be prosecuted.

It also added that the influx of strangers in neighbourhoods within Jos and environs should be monitored and promptly reported.

Student commits suicide

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

A final year student of Accounting in the Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma in Edo State, Benjamin Oghayerio, allegedly committed suicide early yesterday in Benin.

Benjamin's body was found in his room at number 17, Etinosa Street, Ugbiyoko quarters in Benin.

According to the deceased's elder sister, Mrs. Rosaline Ogbemudia, Benjamin had packed up his luggage in preparation to go back to school.

Though the cause of the suicide was not ascertained, a note left behind by the deceased indicated that frustration of having carry overs in school, family crises and membership of a secret cult led him to take the action.

But a community leader in the area, Lucky Igbinovia, described the deceased as an easy going individual who had never been found in conflict with anyone in the area.

Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Peter Ogboi said the police were investigating the matter.

Ogun judiciary workers suspend strike

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

THE two months strike by judiciary workers in Ogun State has been called off.

The workers who were demanding payment of new salaries however assured that the strike would resume by April 29 if the government does not begin payment.

The state chairman of the Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN) Prince Adesina Adesanya said in Abeokuta yesterday that the decision to suspend the strike was to honour the newly appointed Head of Civil Service Mrs. Iyabo Odulate who had promised to intervene in the crisis. He said, "The body met with the new HOS

and we want to honour her by suspending the strike till April 29. If the government fails to pay us the new scale, we have no option than to continue the strike."

Adesanya said the state labour union leadership and other stakeholders were present at the meeting. The workers had earlier staged warning protests over the implementation of the Consolidated Judicial Salary Structure (CONJUSS) which payment they affirmed should have started from January 2010. The state Police Command and the Nigerian Prisons had both complained about the effect of the strike on suspects and awaiting trial persons.

Idris appoints judges, khadis

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

GOVERNOR Ibrahim Idris of Kogi State yesterday approved the appointment of three High Court judges and two khadis of the state Shariah Court of Appeal.

The judges are Olutimeyin Samuel Obayomi, Ayoola Rukayat and Akogun Haruna Benson, while the khadis are Musa Ibrahim Mohu and Isa

Danladi Akogun.

A statement from the Secretary of the Kogi State Judicial Service Commission Mr Olayinka Faniyi said the approval followed the recommendation of the National Judicial Council (NJC) as provided for in Section 271 sub-section 2 of the 1999 constitution. The statement further said the new judges and khadis would soon be sworn-in.

Lagos sacks 87 LASTMA workers

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

FOLLOWING public outcry over excesses of members of the Lagos State Transport Management Authority (LASTMA) 87 workers of the agency have been sacked in the past one year while 115 cases are still pending.

The Commissioner for Transportation in the state Professor Bamidele Badejo disclosed this yesterday at a press briefing in Lagos. He said following public out-

cry, Governor Babatunde Fashola had set up a unit to deal with complaints against LASTMA by affected motorists.

The commissioner said for the fact that LASTMA had intensified its operations in various zones in the state to curb violation of traffic regulations, especially driving against traffic (one way), there has been a drop in the number of people who died on Lagos roads.

According to him, the state recorded 578 accidents

during the year under review as against 589 recorded in the previous year while 93 people died as against the 102 recorded in 2008/2009.

Badejo noted that during the year under review, LASTMA recorded 58 attacks on its personnel resulting in eight deaths. He appealed to members of the public to report erring LASTMA officials to the appropriate authorities for necessary action rather than taking the law into their hands by attacking them.

Fraud: Adamawa commissioner gets bail

From Ibrahim Muhammad, Yola

A High Court sitting in Yola, Adamawa State, yesterday granted bail to the state Commissioner for Housing and Urban Development Alhaji Magaji Ibrahim and a former Director of Finance in Tongo Local Government Ibrahim Gangyibenso, who were remanded in prison custody over an alleged fraud.

They were arraigned by the EFCC before Justice I. K. Banu of the High Court 3 in Yola on a 20 count charge of criminal conspiracy, criminal breach of trust, falsification and forgery of documents, offences punishable under the penal code laws of Adamawa State.

The first accused, Ibrahim, was Chairman of

Toungo Local Government Area before he was appointed commissioner.

The EFCC had on March 7, 2009, received petitions from some concerned citizens of Toungo Local Government Area accusing the two of siphoning and diverting funds of the local government meant for specific development projects in the area.

According to the petitioners, the accused persons, with an approval from the state Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, obtained a loan of N25 million from Union Bank Plc for some specific projects in November 2006. The said loan was misapplied and partly siphoned into private pockets.

The EFCC's counsel had earlier objected the bail application sought by the defence counsel, Kabir Zwingina, arguing that the offence committed was not bail able.

The presiding judge granted the accused persons bail on condition of one reliable surety each with evidence of landed property in Jimeta and must be resident within the court's jurisdiction.

Speaking to newsmen after the court session, counsel to the defendants, Kabir Zwingina, expressed appreciation with the bail, saying justice would prevail. Top government officials including commissioners were at the court as a mark of solidarity with the commissioner. The case was adjourned to 24th-26th May.

MINISTRY OF BUDGET AND ECONOMIC PLANNING
Office of the Chairman Millennium Development Goals (MDG/CGS)
Programme Implementation Committee
Usman Faruk Secretariat Sokoto
P.M.B. 2016, Sokoto Tel: 060 - 233008
SOKOTO STATE MDG/CGS 2009

NOTIFICATION TO PREQUALIFIED AND INVITATIONS TO BID FOR THE EXECUTION OF VARIOUS PROJECTS.

Following the prequalification exercise of various companies/firms Conducted by Sokoto State on the 4th - 6th March, 2010, and with the approval of the committee to proceed to the next stage of the tender process i.e. issuing of financial bids, the under listed (Qualified) companies/firms are hereby invited to come forward and collect the financial bids documents for the execution of various projects in accordance with the 2009 MDG/CGS Grants.

The names of the prequalified contractors/firms are as follows

S/N	PRE-QUALIFIED COMPANIES NAMES FOR SOLAR BOREHOLE	S/N	PRE-QUALIFIED COMPANIES NAMES FOR FREE MEDICAL CARE	S/N	PRE-QUALIFIED COMPANIES NAMES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VIP LATRINE	S/N	PRE-QUALIFIED COMPANIES NAMES FOR GROWTH MONITORING PROJECT
1	M-Tech Abu-Steel General Construction	1	G.S Shehu Nig Ltd	1	Y. Tarkiya Ent.	1	Akoon Multi Services Ltd
2	Sabonah Global Ventures	2	Nasari Ventures	2	Yar Bungudu General Enterprises	2	Nasari Ventures
3	M. Tech Universal Concept	3	Sabonah Global Resources	3	Mairigaru General Enterprises	3	Alumina Printing press
4	M.M.C Global Ventures	4	Seula Acquired	4	Fofko Nazru nig Ltd	4	Harrada Integrated Services
5	Tarkiya Global Company	5	Ribalia Nig Ltd	5	Green Steward Rd	5	Gross Sky International
		6	Amolan Marketing Nig Ltd	6	Masari Construction Comp	6	Yusuf Nazariya Enterprises
				7	Saba Garzu & son	7	Vision 435 Rd
				8	Maa-ma indilahi trading comp	8	Appropriate Marketing Contracting Nig. Enterprises
				9	Majidat Multi Trading Company	9	Okanta Pharmacy
				10	Nasari Adamu Makaba & Son	10	Biogenet Consult
				11	Musa Ada mai Mai Enterprise	11	Takko Yaddo
				12	Samba Huda Mabaalventures		
				13	Kalambana Trading Comp		
				14	Dabone General Enterprises		
				15	Yar Bungudu General Ent.		
				16	Hope World Wide Multi Links		
				17	Mumma Mumma Nig Ltd		
				18	A.M. AZEEZ Nig. Ltd		
				19	Dula General Enterprises		
				20	BRK Links Consultant		
				21	Musoni Nig Ltd		

The Pre-qualified contractors are required to pay the sum of N5,000 (Five Thousand Naira) only to the Finance Officer of the State MDG Unit for bid document. The collection, completion and return of the bid documents will last for only two weeks from the date of this notice. Completed bid documents should be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked i.e. Financial Bid for (Name of Projects/Programme) at the top right hand corner of the envelope. Envelope shall bear the name, address and phone number of the company addressed:-
CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS

Closing date, for submission of bids shall be two weeks from date: this notice is published.
OPENING OF BIDS
The financial bid opening will be conducted on Monday 26th April 2010, by 10:00 am at the conference room Ministry of Finance, Usman Faruk Secretariat Sokoto.

SIGNED
State MDG Focal Person
For: Chairman
MDG/CGS Implementation Monitoring Committee.

Tafida harps on quality education

From Ibrahim Chonoko, London

NIGERIA'S High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Dr Dalhatu Sarki Tafida has stressed the need for students to be given all-round quality education that would enable them have a firm grasp of the world around them.

Receiving staff and students of Igbinedion Educational Centre, Benin City, at the Nigeria High Commission in London on Wednesday, Tafida said education should be geared towards making students "know everything about

their environment and the world".

He said "total education" should not be aimed at making students cram for the purpose of passing examinations, and attributed the high standards achieved by the university to the huge investments made by its founder and proprietor, Chief Gabriel Igbinedion.

Tafida told the visitors that since his assumption of duties two years ago, he had strived to make improvements on the services rendered to Nigerians and the public, stressing that a lot of progress had been made.

He said staff of the commission now render services without discrimination or seeking gratification from the public, warning that anyone caught demanding gratification in the discharge of their duty would be dealt with severely.

Speaking earlier, the leader of the delegation, Lady Cherry Igbinedion told the High Commissioner that they were in the UK on a 10-day educational trip, which is part of Igbinedion Education Centre's learning programme to expose students to world politics.

She said the entourage had visited numerous places of interests in London such as Westminster and Buckingham Palace and learned so much about the history of the United Kingdom.

Total education should not be aimed at making students cram for the purpose of passing examinations

Women council leaders deny tenure elongation plot

By Akor Ojoma

THE leadership of the National Council of Women Societies (NCWS) has denied allegation by Women Coalition for Equity and Justice that it is plotting to impose themselves on members for a third term.

The allegation by the women coalition was contained in a communiqué after its meeting held in preparation for the forthcoming NCWS convention and election, signed by the group's national co-ordinator Mrs Adeola Salahu and three other members.

But the outgoing NCWS President Hajiya Ramatu and all the executive members representing the state branches of the association said they had no intention of holding a third or extra term.

Ramatu said the leadership only ratified the request of women nationwide who through the National Executive Council members voted by over 2/3 in favour of its stay in office for a period not exceeding one year.

She said the resolution is within the precinct of the constitution of NCWS as contained in Article V Section 12(2) which states inter alia "where 2/3 majority of the National Executive Council or the general Assembly honestly believes that it will be in the interest of the council to extend the tenure for a further period of one year in any particular case to enable it achieve its set objectives..."

Ramatu said the NGO Women Coalition for Equity and Justice is a fictitious one as it is not an affiliate member of NCWS.

'US can't dictate to us on Iwu'

THE United States has no right whatsoever to dictate to us as another sovereign nation as far as our domestic affairs were concerned.

The Executive Secretary, CITAR-NGO, Kaduna Muhammad Alhaji Yakubu made the call yesterday in reaction to America's call for the sack of Chairman of Independent National Electoral Commission of Nigeria (INEC).

Muhammad noted that it is not for America to dictate to Nigeria who should be our electoral umpire, saying "no matter what may have transpired under Professor Maurice Iwu as INEC head, we reject in totality

the US' call for Iwu's sack."

US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Johnnie Carson reportedly told the BBC Monday that Iwu was incapable of organising credible election.

But Muhammad argued that Iwu's almost five-year tenure was not comparable to one of the US electoral head who has spent over 20 years in the saddle where institutional rigging similar to the one which ushered in former President George W. Bush for a second term was unprecedented, adding that "America as a country do not have the moral justification to criticise our electoral system let alone call for Iwu's sack."

Self-rule: Saharawi Republic seeks Nigeria's support

By Aisha Umar Agaie

THE Chief Negotiator of Saharawi Republic M'hmed Khadad yesterday sought for Nigeria's involvement in the search for peaceful and fair solution of the conflict between Saharawi and Morocco.

Speaking with journalists at the embassy yesterday in Abuja, Khadad said Nigeria has always been in the support of freedom of the African continent and elimination of colonialism and apartheid in South Africa.

He said Nigeria supported the right of Saharawi people to self-determination and peaceful struggle against Spain first colonial power since 1975, adding that

Nigeria and Saharawi should promote consultation between them.

Khadad said most Saharawi people have become refugees in other countries in the last 34 years just because they are asking for their democratic right to decide their future.

West Sahara country is the only Africa country that is yet to get its independence African continent, but the major constraint in achieving freedom is western powers in African matters.

About 50 Saharawi activists have been arrested and jailed by Morocco.

Lagos based lawyer Fami Falana appealed to Nigerian to help Saharawi in its struggle for independence as Nigeria did for South Africa during struggle against Spain first colonial power since 1975, adding that they will make it impossible for the Moroccan embassy to operate in Nigeria as long as the independence of Saharawi is not achieved.

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Tue 13th April 2010	British Council Abuja	12 noon to 5pm

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Email: Nigeria@mdxgulf.com

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



Power ministry: Senators back Jonathan

MR. Acting President has always been the chairman of the steering committee for NIPP projects. He has always

been in charge of supplying the needed 6000MW promised by the administration.

Nigerians should therefore

not be fooled by his retaining the power ministry. He was the headmaster of those who failed us earlier and there-

fore we should not expect any miracle from him. We can only pray that this time he is able to surprise us by ensuring that,

at least, near stable supply is attained.

Musa
mbabankwado@yahoo.com

Jibril Aminu: Removing Yar'adua will be wrong

I quite agree with Prof. Jibril Aminu that the ailing president should not be removed from the office. What he needs from us now is prayers. The acting President has been given all the powers, including the power to appoint and sack ministers, advisers, etc. He is also the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. He has gotten all the power, therefore any attempt now to remove the ailing president will be seen as selfish and power drunkenness.

Abdullahi Ibrahim
giriabdul@yahoo.com

Professor Jibril Aminu has said that it would be callous and irresponsible to contemplate removing President Umaru Yar'adua from office because of his illness. Aminu should tell us what the constitution says about a person who is incapacitated by illness to perform his functions. Will Jonathan act in perpetuity as acting president? We are too tribalistic in this country. Aminu is saying this because this Yar'adua/Jonathan regime is seen as a northern government and not a



PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua

Nigerian government. It is a pity.

Ferdinand Abua
ukeashi@yahoo.com

Whether or not they remove Pres. Yar'adua from office does not take away the fact that the presidency 2007 - 2015 is the political right and turn of the North-west geopolitical zone of Nigeria. This is not a PDP arrangement but an arrangement demanded for and accepted by Nigerians as far back as 1994 and implemented since 1998. If rotation and power shift is good and was implemented for the South-west from 1999, why is it wrong and unjust for the North-west zone?

Comrade Igbini Odafe
eigbini@yahoo.com

There must be times when the emotion gets the better part of any human being. It is understandable. We have gone with this line of thinking without abating, swallowing the posturing and provocative displays of the clique around the president. The learned Professor must realize by now that it is inimical to good governance for things to remain as they are now. It is therefore time for the elder statesman, intellectual and a distinguished Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to wear his nationalist toga and espouse a clear resolution of this problem: that Yar'adua resigns honorably or be declared incapacitated.

Emeka K. Duru
emmyduru@aol.com

What are the consequences of not reporting to work for more than ninety (90) days, even when it is the result of ill health? (Please refer to the conditions of service). Exemplary leadership is what this country needs.

Aimola, E. Kehinde

kehindeaimola@yahoo.com

Our big Prof. Aminu should know that it is not only about presidential powers that are conferred on the vice president. The constitution needs to be adhered to; what does the constitution say about an ailing president who cannot perform his functions over a stipulated period of time? I think the president has to honorably relinquish power in the interest of peace and let us have a substantive president and vice president as well. Remember that the world is laughing at us as the only country without a sitting president.

Albert, USA
albertojapah@yahoo.com

Removing the President from office should be seen from a more patriotic angle. I believe that his removal is recommended to secure the future of this country as rightly suggested by the Senate during the sitting yesterday. This is not about Yar'adua but all of us. He is a great President but we cannot stand against nature.

Moses Azi
mosesshya@yahoo.com

Ex-diplomat's son dies in police custody

SO the police cannot longer protect someone who is under arrest. Anybody that is under arrest is under police custody. How could people beat late Ajakaye on the way to the police station?

Shehu Hassan
alshshehu_2005@yahoo.com

"The faceless people beat him up on the way to the police station". ...A typical cover-up statement for police culpability.

Aliyu Yusuf
agyusuf@yahoo.com

This is totally false and unreal! The DPO in that station has to be investigated!

Akkin Makinde
graphlordz@gmail.com

Jonathan warns on friction between ministers, state ministers

TO avoid friction and delay in implementation of projects, only one minister is required in a ministry. There are instances where decisions cannot be taken by a minister of state if the Main Minister is not around. In that case, what is the use of the minister of state? There is a Permanent Secretary who is also a political appointee who assists the minister in the day to day running of the Ministry and besides, the minister can appoint special advisers and assistants to help him. Therefore to avoid unnecessary conflicts and save costs the position of minister of state should be scrapped.

Ahmed Kwa
ahmedkwa60@yahoo.com

For Jonathan to touch lives as Acting President, he has to free himself from the servile tradition that pervades Aso Rock. That tradition was handed down since 1999 whereas ministers swear by the constitution to be faithful and honest to the people while the reality is that they owe their appointment to the President and are willing to tell lies to retain their jobs. Even when they are clearly wrong, they do not have the charity and the morality to resign their appointment.

Abubkr Badru Jkamshi
damurna@yahoo.com

Atiku returns to PDP

HIS return to PDP is not news, his visit to Otta farm some months back was an indication that this will come to pass. His return depicts the desperation on his part to be No.1 citizen of this great Nation. Note: power comes from Allah to whom He wishes. Your return to PDP cannot make you automatic president of this nation. If Allah willed it that you shall be, so shall it be without you returning to the fold that humiliated you in the past.

Ndanusa Babakatcha
nbabakatcha@yahoo.com

Finally Atiku is back under the umbrella he helped to build but the biting insects that drove him out in 2007 are still there with their sharp stings. AC, reserve his seat he will soon be back! Your Excellency, if I were you I will refurbish AC, serv-

ice it and push on to present a formidable opposition 2011.

Muhammad Guiwa
dunguza3@hotmail.com

It is clear to all that the return of Atiku Abubakar to PDP is informed by one reason: the desperate desire to be the president of Nigeria. Now that the PDP by its internal arrangement has resolved that its presidential candidate will be from the north, what else do you expect Atiku to do now that it is clear that Umaru Yar'adua cannot run for a second term?

Ibrahim Tsadu Ibrahi
elkutigi@gmail.com

Everybody knew that Atiku will surely go back to the PDP. It has been anticipated for long. The proposed new party is for people with sincerity of purpose who are trying



FORMER Vice President Atiku Abubakar

eliminate negative activities in our electoral system.

Abubakar Jalo
aibrahim407@yahoo.co.uk

Thank You Mr. Atiku for rejoining your former party (PDP). This shows that you have a hidden agenda of contesting the presidential Election under the umbrella of the PDP. Know that Buhari will

be contesting opposite you on the platform of the Mega Summit.

Yahaya Ibn Idris
ibnidrees@gmai.com

I am sure Nigerians will resist people like Atiku coming back to power.

Hussain
hyashe@gmail.com

I have seen nothing wrong for Atiku to return to his former party PDP. I want remind us that politics is just like a football club. You can play for one club today and decide to move to another club tomorrow and it is not an offence if you feel that you want to return to your former club as long as the management has an interest in your return. That is how politics is.

Abubakar Chika Maru
abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com

Buhari blames Rimi's death on insecurity

YOU are absolutely correct General. Insecurity is not only threatening our lives and properties but even the continued existence of this country. Look at what is happening in Niger-Delta, the Boko Haram episode, the Jos-Plateau mayhem

etc. These and many more are giant indicators of security lapses prevalent in the country. As a matter of urgency, government should recruit more policemen, provide them with working tools, effective training, pay rise commensurate with their job

and above all take care of the families of policemen who lose their lives while on duty.

Muhammad Guiwa
dunguza3@hotmail.com

I agree with General Buhari about

Nigeria's insecurity. I am sure he will make it one of his priorities if he ever leads this country. The three most disturbing elements in Nigeria are security, accountability and transparency.

It is very much difficult for a country to prosper with these ele-

ments militating against it daily and to my surprise, the ruling class are not taking these as their priority. They are only interested in concocting what is not feasible.

Zanna Baruwu Gashtra
bukar.zanna@yahoo.com

“ Hajiyaye Liman
(maumarzuq@yahoo.com)

Daughters of Eve

Years have gone by from when we were young girls. To keep young, chic and fit, Hajo and I realized we needed to have an exercise routine in our schedules. Trekking would be it, we thought.

To have a good trek, one would need a good partner to chat with; and you'd cover distances you never imagined.

We don't have specific timing to our exercise routine. We however try to make it after the Isha'i prayers with the husbands accompanying us when they are available, otherwise we may have do with a brother or son, for security we'd like to think.

We take different routes each day and see as far as we can go. One day we decided to start on Rabah Road, taking the entire length of it, from the junction near Halal Fountain Hotel to its beginning at the intersection near Arewa House, with the moonlight and the occasional headlight from cars passing by. There was enough light for a good trek. The weather was just alright. So we trudged on, passing the NAF Club junction with bright lights from shops across the club, speakers blar-

Do these girls calculate the risk they take each day? With ritualists prowling about

ing music of 'Abami Eda', Qur'anic recitations, etc. It was quite chaotic. We passed Radio Close and then I noticed young girls standing from point to point, they'd stroll a bit and then stop, going nowhere, with a car or two slowing down to talk to them. It was clear they were soliciting to whoever cared to notice them. Hajo then whispered that I should look across the street, and there was a bunch of them, some even donning tiny hijabs, 'to show their identity', she clarified to me. 'So sad', I answered shaking my head.

Your religion does not matter when you indulge in such "trade". There's no difference. One feels anguished when one remembers these girls are human beings who deserve to treat themselves and be treated better. They are someone's children. A woman carried a burden through nine whole months, bearing one discomfort or another, to have them.

Are we going to keep looking away as these lives get wasted? Where's Government? Where are the NGOs, Women/Human Rights organizations, Religious bodies and other stakeholders - Parents and Guardians, etc? Hajo asked. Yes, I also wondered. Shall we wait for more tragedies to happen before stepping in? What tragedy could be

more than 'Honour Trafficking'? Let us go out there and compete with these guys soliciting hopefully we can save some souls.

Souls from whom God's greatest gift to is being exploited, time and again with no love, care or concern.

These Souls endure so many forms of battering, I thought as I looked at their young faces as we passed by. I wondered what pushed them to this trade. How can I help? I pondered as I trekked through Marnona Road, another dark corner where they freely cluster together perhaps to share tales and experiences while some men shamelessly walk away with their chosen ones. Is it poverty that pushes some of these girls to this trade or is it greed? What have we done to address these issues as members of the society that breeds these unfortunate incidences? How do we prevent this abuse of humanity? Your guess is as good as mine. However, we all have a stake in finding a solution to this ravaging menace.

Do these girls calculate the risk they take each day? With ritualists prowling about, the insults, and perhaps beatings, the degradation, diseases, etc. Is it worth the pittance they are paid? How does one live this double life? You assume a new role, new personality as soon as you take off that garment of chastity and honour nature bestowed on you. You become different an individual. Your names now are prostitute, call girl, *ashawo*, *karuwa*, to mention a few.

Living two lives can't be easy, for it will surely take its toll on you sooner or later, if diseases don't wreck havoc on you. If however someone eventually takes you warts and all, or for better or for worse what morality do you possess to prevent your child from indulging in this unworthy trade someday? You degrade yourself as a human being. Your worth and values are more than anything on this earth.

Why would one reduce oneself to an object for 'sale' where one is given pittance for this sinful act, often times nothing! What is the gain, the sin or the sense of worthlessness? Womanhood is an honour and much better than whatever amount is eventually paid in exchange for the pride and glory of a woman.

Each time you indulge in this act, remember you have been degraded to a level that you and the worthless change thrown at you are equal. So put your head up my sister for no one has the right to do this you.

Put your head up; let your pride manifest.

Put your head up, you can stop this today.

Put your head up, you don't need an easy way out.

Put your head up, there is no price for your pride, dignity and honour. Stop this waste and degradation to human lives in whatever guise it is called. *Runs*, *Aristo*, *Kwangila*, *Daduro* have spoilt lives and killed dreams. Let's put a stop here!

“ By Sani Yusuf Mijinyawa

Atiku: Beyond the cacophony

Former Vice President Abubakar's decision to return to the PDP is no doubt one of the most difficult decisions he has ever faced. And predictably, his decision to rejoin his original political family of choice (PDP) has evoked outrage and disbelief among many Nigerians, including of course some of our newspaper columnists. Such sentiments are understandable in the context of what the former Vice President went through politically, especially following his open confrontation with his former boss, General Olusegun Obasanjo.

He was loyal to a fault to the former President until the third term controversy tore them apart. The fact that the tenure extension was widely unpopular its collapse was just a matter of time. On May 16th 2006, the attempt to change the Constitution to extend Obasanjo's tenure kissed the dust and the former President never forgave Atiku for joining the national opposition to the third term project.

As part of the strategy to achieve a third term ambition, former President Obasanjo moved so fast to destroy all the sources of Atiku's political strength and influence. Elected officials of the PDP, including the National Chairman were removed arbitrarily by Obasanjo and installed his yes men as new leaders. The former President carried out the policy of

Atiku's reluctant exit from the party in the first place must be understood within the context of this grim scenario

re-validation of party membership cards and de-registration of Atiku's followers throughout the country, including his home state of Adamawa.

With Atiku and his followers deliberately frustrated and ostracized, they were constructively expelled from the party against their will. Since Obasanjo could not get a third term, despite installing Col. Ahmadu Ali as the PDP National Chairman who officially endorsed tenure extension, his next game plan was to ensure Atiku didn't get the party's presidential ticket.

Despite the frustration of de-registration, Atiku still remained in the party. But it was clear the new leadership imposed by Obasanjo didn't want Atiku as its presidential candidate because of his hostility to third term. As expected, the party revealed its cover and finally suspended Atiku for three months, though the party's constitution allows for one month suspension. Despite a court order that the suspension breached the party's constitution, Obasanjo's men still went ahead to follow up the suspension with outright expulsion.

Thoroughly frustrated and with his options unmercifully limited, because the 2007 presidential election was fast approaching, Atiku Abubakar reluctantly left the PDP and embraced the Action Congress (AC). He became its presiden-

tial candidate in the face of all hurdles from INEC, EFCC and Obasanjo's men. Given his belated entry into the race and obstacles raised against him, the fact that he participated in the election at all was a miracle!

Atiku Abubakar was a founding member of the PDP and he remains sentimentally attached to the party. Despite his reluctant exit, the party remains close to his heart and mind because nobody would want to destroy what he contributed to build. He enjoys tremendous goodwill from party leaders, despite the fact many of them kept a discreet distance from him to avoid Obasanjo's anger or EFCC blackmail.

It is an indisputable fact that Atiku is a mainstream politician who doesn't want to be peripheral player. All the existing opposition parties have failed to rise to the challenges of mainstream national politics. Despite all the criticisms against the PDP, no sincere person would deny that it is more firmly and widely established across the country than the opposition parties.

No one should uncharitably blame Atiku for his pragmatic approach to the current realities of Nigerian politics. If Atiku is sentimentally attached to the PDP, that is largely because he was part of the effort to build the party into a formidable political force. He didn't seek to destroy the PDP in the first place; he was instead, forced to leave because the then new PDP was structured in Obasanjo's image. Regardless of his best efforts to remain a loyal party man, the PDP was packed with Obasanjo's men and their undisguised mission was to force Atiku out of the party. Deliberate obstacles were created to ensure he was ultimately expelled from the party because he refused to support the party's official policy of endorsing the third term agenda.

Atiku's reluctant exit from the party in the first place must be understood within the context of this grim scenario. The deliberate policy of exclusion and discrimination against Atiku and his supporters was such that he must quit to pursue his ambition elsewhere, despite the limited time available to him. The PDP was personalized by Obasanjo and his private vengeance against the former Vice President became the party's official policy.

Humiliated and discriminated against, Atiku was politically at the end of the tether within the PDP. Should we sincerely ignore these cruel realities in understanding the circumstances that forced Atiku to leave? Should a man confronted with this unpleasant choice be honestly accused of lacking consistency and principle? Given the energy and resources he devoted to the birth and growth of the PDP, should Atiku be blamed if he rationally comes to the conclusion that he must return to the fold?

The deliberate destruction of internal democracy by Obasanjo's PDP forced Atiku out of the party. But now that the PDP has been involved in national reconciliation and the re-union of former members, no fair-minded person should blame Atiku if he chooses to re-join a family of which he was a prominent member.

Mijinyawa can be reached at mijinyawa@yahoo.com



Your Letters

Send your letters to letters@dailytrust.com

Re: Time to do away with celibacy law

I read with interest the above mentioned article by one of your columnists, Idang Alibi.

My advice to my Christian brothers and sisters, especially the Monks/Priests, who engage in these unwholesome acts of defiling innocent souls, to read the Holy Book, the Qur'an, Surah 57 (Al-Hadid), verses 27-29. The translation of the meanings of the verses is as follows:

Verse 27: Then, we sent after them Our Messengers, and We sent Jesus, Son of Mary and gave him the Injil (Gospel). And We ordained in the hearts of those who followed him compassion and mercy. But the monasticism which they invented for themselves, We did not prescribe for them, but (they sought it) only to please God therewith, but they did not observe it with the right observance. So we gave those among them who believed their (due) reward; but many of them are fasiqun (rebellious, disobedient to God).

Verse 28: O you who believe in Moses (i.e. Jews) and Jesus (i.e. Christians)! Fear God,

and believe in His Messenger (Muhammad S.A.W), He will give you a double portion of His Mercy, and He will give you a light by which you shall walk (straight). And He will forgive you. And God is oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

Verse 29: So that the people of the scripture (Jews and Christian) may know that they have no power whatsoever over the Grace of God, and that (His) Grace is (entirely) in His Hand to bestow it on whomsoever He wills. And God is the Owner of Great Bounty.

Aisha Idris, Bauchi (local-rib@gmail.com)

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Some light please

IT seems to me that the Ministry of finance is a preserve of a particular section of the country. Can someone please explain why this is so, given that even the new ministers posted there are from this section?
08026087548.

Jonathan is brilliant

MR Acting President, I, for one, is the only Nigerian to understand your brilliant political strategy. Mr Hon. Minister for Power, let there be LIGHT and we'll surely give you the automatic ticket to the 2011 PRESIDENCY!!
D.B. Ibrahim, Katsina, 08024685505.

Yar'adua's guests

I want to strongly advice to those that find themselves at the Villa to please tell the nation the correct condition of the president's health, or stop visiting him because it could become chaotic and or may cause confusion.
A.A. Kolwas, Gombe, 08029676908.

What next?

AS Christian leaders held closed-door meeting with acting president Goodluck Jonathan, is it necessary for their Muslims counterparts to protest exclusion, just the way Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) protested when some Muslim leaders met ailing president Yar'adua?
SULAIMAN Aliyu, Yaba, Lagos, 08061617077.

Hypocrisy by any name

EVERYBODY was on Yar'adua's neck for not disclosing the state of his health to Nigerians. Now some Muslim and Christian leaders have gone to 'see' Yar'adua, and they are not telling Nigerians what they 'saw'.
REMY, Abuja, 08065300351.

What would they say now?

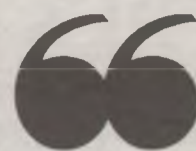
MY Christian Chiefs, you condemned Muslim leaders for visiting Yar'adua. What do you have to say about the Christian leaders that have now visited him too?
SULEIMAN A. Alkali, Jos, 08033699484.

Mad by association

I thought the senate president was one of the more level-headed leaders we have in Nigeria. But I was disappointed by his recent statement calling Libyan President, Muammar Gaddafi, a mad man. I did not expect such a statement from number three man in the country. If Gaddafi is a mad man, all African leaders are mad men, because Gaddafi is the immediate past chairman of AU.
DAUDA Chul, 08068934435.

What men can do...

FEMALE ministers, we are looking forward to your motherly performance in your various ministries. Please don't let us down, Aviation minister, please give us clean, organised, standard airport halls in Abuja, Kaduna, Port Harcourt, and Kano before you go. Let the public utilities work well for once! All hail the amazons!
08033056419.



By Babayola M. Toungo

Atiku's daingdong politics

THE crowds around Atiku Abubakar, former Vice President, former Presidential candidate of the Action Congress, and former co-convenor of the National Democratic Movement (NDM)/ Mega Summit Movement (MSM) seem to be permanently in cocoon, detached from the real world where the rest of us live and interact. While Atiku flirted with the PDP for the past two years, the party that the NDM/ MSM is supposed to kick out of office, his spin doctors have just discovered another way, hitherto undiscovered, to provide the excuse for him to dump the Action Congress party that he formed with his associates way back in 2006 when the heat in the PDP kitchen got too hot for him. Before Atiku and company formed ACD/ AC, in November 2006, he was in the process of "consulting" with General Buhari on how to come together for the 2007 general elections and defeat the PDP.

After the 2007 elections, Atiku went into hibernation in Dubai, leaving his followers in the lurch. With Bola Tinubu delivering Lagos state to the AC, and not fleeing the country, it was only natural that he should assume the party's leadership. In Atiku's absence, Tinubu nurtured the party to strength in the South Western part of the country while the party withered in the North East, except for Taraba State where the gubernatorial candidate of the party in 2007 continued to shoulder the responsibilities of the party. The AC has gone into virtual extinction in most parts of the country except for those rare occasions when Lai Mohammed or Usman Bugaje chose to remind us that the AC is still there, all it needs is a compressor! With its dismal outing in both the 2007 general elections and the 2008 gubernatorial re-run in Adamawa State, the party practically went off our political radar in the North East, bar Taraba State. It is in this state of affairs that Atiku decided to court General Buhari, former Sokoto governor Attahiru Bafarawa, who had also formed his party - the DPP - in the run-up to the 2007 general elections, and Tinubu, who by this time was the one calling the shots in AC; and after the snub he got from Obasanjo, whom he visited in Ota while trying to snuggle his way back into the PDP fold.

Realising in 2006 that he had lost out with Obasanjo, and still obsessed with the notion of becoming president, Atiku tried to latch on to the coattails of General Buhari by joining the former head of state's probably genuine fight against Obasanjo's tenure elongation. It provided the spin doctors the opportunity to cast him as the arrowhead of the anti-third term brigade while we are all aware he only came out after General Buhari went to the National Assembly to canvass for its rejection and well after the then Senate President, Ken Nnamani, made his position known about Obasanjo's planned appropriation of the country's political power. Overestimating his political strength, Atiku decided to go it alone for the 2007 elections; the electorate delivered their verdict in no uncertain terms.

The dwindling political fortune was now undeniable. Once more, it to General Buhari that he ran to for political shelter. Aware that the AC was now in the firm grip of Tinubu and the south western political establishment, Atiku again mooted the idea of floating another mega party to save the country from the vice grip of the PDP. In concept, it was a good idea, but it was Atiku's intention for floating it that was suspect. Those who had misgivings said it would be a vehicle for the actualisation of personal ambition, not the interest of the country. When he was made aware that personal interest should be subsumed into collective interest, he decided it would be wise to return to the PDP, a party that is daily behaving like a demonic child devouring its parents.

Atiku is within his rights to join any political party or association he so desires, but he should have the courage of his convictions by stating the reasons for the choices he makes, and not make lame excuses. In a pathetic attempt to justify his rejoining the PDP, it was alleged that the former vice president said among other things that General Buhari's joining of the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) was primarily responsible for his action. But he forgot to tell Nigerians that while he was of the AC and Bafarawa of the DPP, General Buhari was more or less a political orphan among them. While all the time that Buhari had no party, he never complained of the fact.

Though many people had warned Buhari to be wary of Atiku; the retired general gave him the benefit of the doubt. In hindsight now, the general must realise he made a mistake back the. This latest chameleonic act will ultimately convince General Buhari who his political friends are, and who is not.

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DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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Calabar tarmac incident

Recently, an Abuja-bound aircraft, ready to take off from the Margaret Ekpo International Airport, Calabar had to delay its flight after a man driving a taxicab rammed the vehicle into the belly of the aircraft. The incident, which happened in broad daylight baffled aviation industry watchers and sent tongues wagging over the driver's motive, and the safety of the nation's airports. It also once again brought to the fore the many security breaches involving aircraft and airports, especially at a time when air safety is a serious global concern. The Calabar incident is particularly disturbing because the driver in question was said to have gained access to the tarmac through a security entrance used mainly by air force personnel. The car apparently smashed through two barriers before it hit the plane's fuselage. No other person, apart from the driver of the car, was injured and the passengers were safely evacuated and flown to their original destination.

The incident brings to three, the number of such embarrassing incidents involving safety issues at Nigeria's airports. Not long ago, a simulation exercise at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, revealed the poor level of preparedness of the various safety agencies at the airport in real-life emergency conditions.

And while the exercise caught several primed agencies napping, a live exercise involving Nigerian journalists on a similar simulation flight from Abuja to Port Harcourt nearly ended in tragedy when the air force plane landed well but skidded off the runway and made for the bush; several of the passengers and crew were injured. Ironically, most of those injured in that accident were people undergoing simulation on how to handle actual emergencies.

With these blunders happening at a time when Nigeria appears to be relishing a relatively long period of air safety following a spate of deadly mishaps, there is need to take the level of insecurity the Nigerian airspace very seriously. It is rather sad, that a marked taxicab gained access into what should normally be a restricted high security zone, usually accessible only to authorized personnel. This is why the ease of access by a man driving a marked taxicab should be a matter of considerable concern to the authorities, and an area of interest to the probe panel into the incident that the federal government has ordered.

Having bungled other forms of security, air safety ought to be one of the most closely monitored. Access to airports has become commonplace even to persons who ordinarily should have no business being there. This is exacerbated by the culture of impunity that allows high ranking public officers and private individuals and their vehicles unimpeded access to the tarmac. Officials exempted by security clearance must be conscious of this in order not to compromise the general safety of the airports and the public. Such exemptions given to people who are not heads of states or governments, tend to tie the hands of otherwise professional security personnel to think that those who drive unto the tarmac are privileged to do so.

The investigation into the Calabar incident should be thorough and the panel's findings made public, not just for its deterrence effect, but with a view to subjecting other security lapses to public scrutiny and remedy. Those who are found to have shirked their responsibilities in this and other security incidents should be adequately punished. Above all, government and security agencies must take serious measures to restore the confidence of the flying public to the safety of aircrafts, airports, passengers and crew.

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Beyond Rimi's death

The sudden death of Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi, former governor of Kano state and a frontline politician has sent a shock wave across the nation. Rimi was not an ordinary politician. He was outspoken and progressive, at least in the early and most colourful days of his political career. Generally speaking, Nigerian politics is populated by an uninspiring admixture of sycophants and courtiers. Though Rimi too appeared to have lost his political bearing in later days, he was no doubt a prince of Nigerian politics. But all this is a matter for another day.

Rimi died of heart related complications, an hour after he and three others in his vehicle had an encounter with armed robbers at Darki/Gadar Janna near Wudil in Kano state. Essentially, Rimi died of natural causes, triggered by a man-made menace. Thus, Rimi was a direct victim of Nigeria's pervasive insecurity, which, over the years, has claimed the lives of tens of thousands of ordinary Nigerians. The Acting President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, has already ordered the Inspector General of Police to investigate the robbery incident which led to the death of the frontline politician. According to the Force Public Relations Officer ACP Emmanuel Ojukwu, "The IGP had directed the CPs in Bauchi and Kano to pull their operatives and detectives to identify and arrest the attackers for prosecution".

Yet, we must appraise the country's insecurity beyond the circumstances that led to the unfortunate death of Rimi. It has been reported that the robbery incident in question took place at a scene very close to a police checkpoint. Ordinary Nigerians, who are the major victims of the daily robberies on Nigerian roads, and bewildered by the sheer brazenness of the bandits on the highways, often talk of the road being sold to the robbers for a certain period. They may not be entirely wrong. After all, the former President, Olusegun Obasanjo, had once observed in his characteristic candour that the "police hire out their guns to armed robbers". Corruption has become endemic in Nigeria, and like a malignant cancer, eaten deep into its social fabric. Undoubtedly, the police couldn't have been immune to a social ailment that has attacked the whole nation. However, I consider police corruption as criminally infectious because, in addition to encouraging corruption and crime in other institutions, it also gives the criminals the protection they do not deserve. Most certainly, if the Nigeria Police could put its house in order, it needs not look very far to apprehend the armed robbers pestering the nation.

Travelling across Nigeria has become a nightmare. Even in the once tranquil northern region, bizarre robberies take place with astounding frequency. Many reasons have been adduced to explain the upsurge in crime. One hackneyed thesis that has been bandied about is the infiltration of foreign bandits through the country's porous borders. While several foreigners have

Abba Gana Shettima

agshettima@gmail.com

been captured or killed during robbery operations over the years, we cannot continue to blame foreigners for all the banditry on Nigerian roads. Evidently, Nigerians commit more than a few of the robberies and in many cases, allegedly with the direct or indirect connivance of security agents.

In my considered view, there is a combination of factors responsible for the crime wave. First, recent conflicts such as the series of communal conflicts in Plateau State and last year's *Boko Haram* uprisings have clearly shown that there is a frightening proliferation of small arms in the country. Quite often, some of the armed robbers use sophisticated weaponry which march or even

users must slow down to deftly negotiate the potholes and valleys.

Thus, it is just not enough to 'arrest and prosecute' Rimi's attackers, as ordered by the Inspector General of Police. This is simply a panic measure; a selective response to a crime which occurs daily across the nation. Must our leaders and the security agencies always wait for a high profile incident such as this for them to develop interest in the precarious security situation in the country?

While desperate situations require desperate measures, the nation must take a hard look at the overall social and economic environment in addressing the security siege. There is also an urgent need to evolve a modern police force capable of responding to the challenges of the bandits.

When the police boldly inscribe "Operation Fire for Fire", "Operation Flush", "Operation Aradu", "Opera-

Thus, it is just not enough to 'arrest and prosecute' Rimi's attackers, as ordered by the Inspector General of Police. This is simply a panic measure; a selective response to a crime which occurs daily across the nation

out-smart those of the police. This is indeed a serious development; a national security breach of frightening proportion.

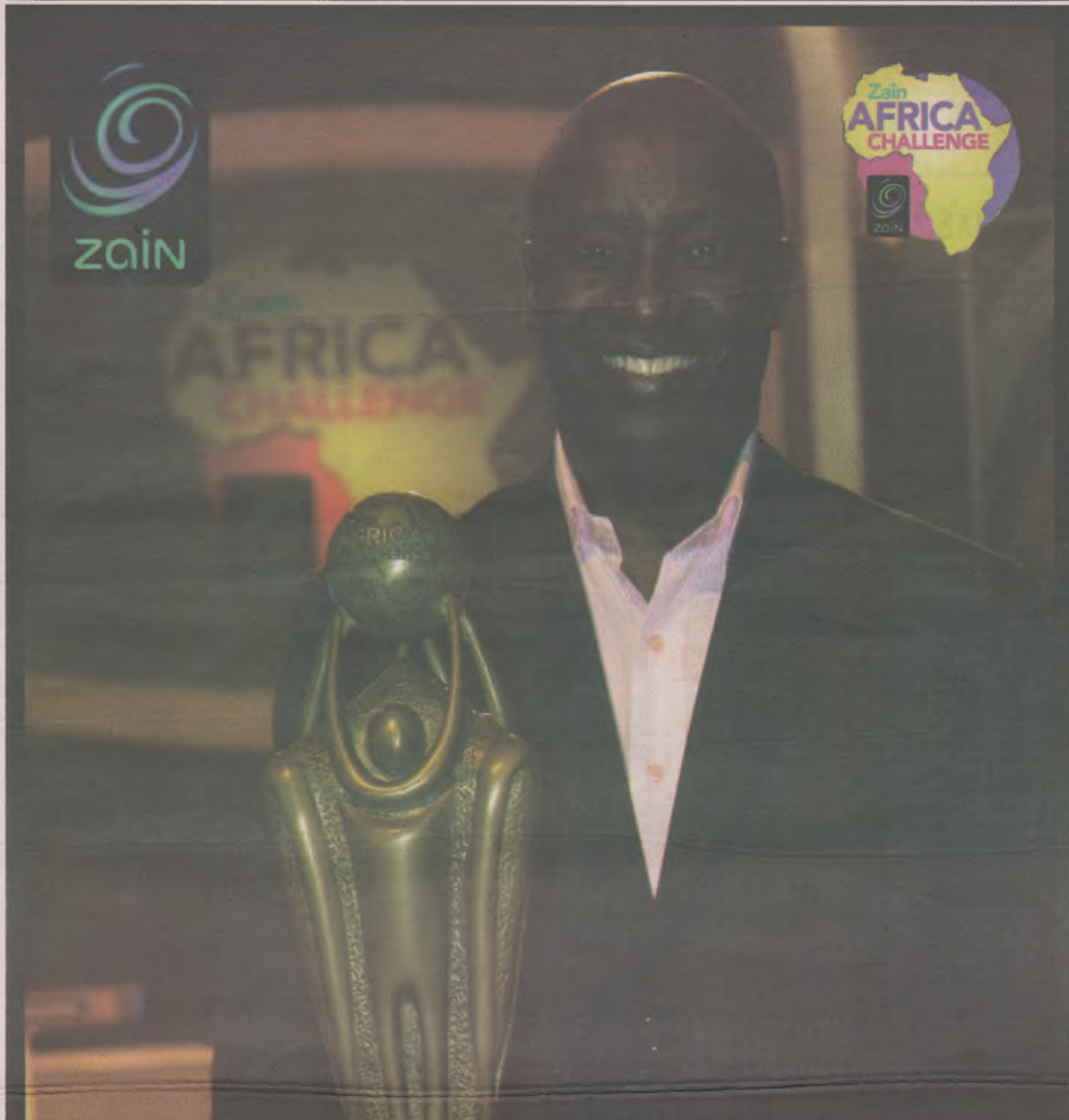
Secondly, the level of poverty stalking the nation is astounding, with majority of the people living below the poverty line. The oppressive neo-liberal policies poised on the nation since 1999, and the current global economic meltdown has further compounded matters. Since 1999, with the onset of democratization, the Nigerian state has continued to retreat from the lives of the people, as evidenced, for example, by the deregulation of the downstream sector of the petroleum industry and many other similarly obnoxious policies which put the economy first and the people last.

Third, the collapse of rural economy and society and the subsequent pauperisation of farmers and pastoralists over the decades have also greatly contributed to the crime upsurge especially in the agricultural north. For instance, in some instances, the robbers have been found to be local residents armed with hunting rifles, bow and arrows.

Fourth, the very high rate of unemployment among the youth, including hundreds of thousands of young graduates who have been intoxicated by years of fermented frustrations, is bound to produce negative social consequences, including a rise in crime. Fifth and finally, the very deplorable condition of the roads has, in no small measure, contributed to the growing cases of highway banditry. Bad roads are good for criminals! In many cases, the robbers do not need to mount barricades on the road, since road

tion Warjanjan" etc. on its vehicles and goes about as if that is enough to frighten the robbers, it only betrays its weakness. Such inscriptions make me feel more besieged and threatened by the menace of armed robbers. It was thus not unanticipated that when the late Rimi's driver tried to frighten the robbers by telling them that "the police could come and open fire on all of us", one of the robbers simply responded "to hell with the police". What...?

On a final note and beyond the security siege, the way and manner Rimi's case was handled at the Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital (AKTH) leaves much to be desired. According to the late Rimi's driver, three of them (the driver, Rimi's son Nura and the body guard) were the people who lifted the already unconscious Rimi into the emergency ward. Where were the emergency medical personnel on duty? How could such a patient, apparently with a serious cardiac condition, be received so lethargically by a tertiary health institution? Well, again, ordinary Nigerians who daily come into contact with our teaching hospitals have many bitter experiences to tell. The attitude of many of the health personnel in such hospitals is very disheartening. I once took a cousin to the University College Hospital Ibadan (UCH) for radiotherapy. Though the patient was in a very dire condition and we had come from a very far distance, it took days and series of pleas before they could start treating him. A juvenile doctor, who could hardly take blood samples, was also asking me whether I spoke any English, as if speaking English is synonymous with knowledge.



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A wonderful world

INTERNATIONAL

Sudan's Bashir promises 'free and fair' elections

SUDANESE President Omar al-Bashir yesterday promised the country's first multi-party elections in over two decades will be 'free and fair', as campaigning for the April 11-13 vote winds down.

"The elections will be fair and free and clean and exemplary," Beshir told a large gathering at the site of a massive hydroelectric plant in northern Sudan, marking the project's final phase. They will be clean, because "elections are a religious duty," the Islamist-leaning leader said at the event, which was broadcast on state television.

Sudan will hold its first multi-party vote since 1986 on Sunday, which will include presidential, legislative and local elections.

The Sudanese leader, who focused his campaign on economic development and has taken his rallies across the country, chose to wrap up at the site of his flagship project, the Chinese-engineered Merowe Dam.

"All our projects... are a religious duty," Beshir told the gathering. The dam's inauguration on March 3, 2009, came on the eve of announcement by the International Criminal Court of the issue an arrest warrant against the Sudanese leader for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the western region of Darfur.

The 66-year-old leader, who has led Africa's largest country since 1989, has been scrambling to maintain credibility after a boycott by opposition parties. During yesterday's brief speech, Beshir made no mention of the boycott.

The Umma party, one of the two largest opposition groupings in the country, announced late on Wednesday its boycott of the election at all levels. Umma was among a group of opposition parties that had given the Sudanese government four days from April 2 to implement key reforms in return for a pledge to take part in elections that would be pushed back to May.

But on Tuesday, the national elections commission had insisted that the vote would go ahead as planned from Sunday till Tuesday.

"The political bureau discussed the issue over the past two days... In the end, we came to the conclusion that our conditions for postponing the elections had not been accepted," said Sarah Nugdalla, a senior member of the Umma's politburo. The Umma announcement came just hours after the European Union said it was pulling its election monitors out of Darfur, citing insecurity.

The former southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement had already decided to boycott the election in northern Sudan, after withdrawing their presidential candidate Yasser Arman from the race. The SPLM said however it would still field candidates in the sensitive border states of Blue Nile and South Kordofan, where the party enjoys support.

With the withdrawal of both Beshir's key challengers -- Arman and Umma's Sadiq al-Mahdi -- little suspense remains in the race and Beshir looks to secure a comfortable win. The election is seen as a prelude to a crucial referendum on southern independence scheduled for 2011. North and south Sudan were engaged in a bitter decades-long civil war that left around two million dead and some four million displaced.

The two parties signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005, which provided for both the elections and the referendum.



SUDANESE President Omar al-Bashir, has promised the country's first multi-party elections in over two decades will be 'free and fair', as campaigning for the April 11-13 vote winds down.

Niger junta lifts house arrest for Tandja aides

NIGER'S junta has lifted house arrest on 14 people close to toppled president Mamadou Tandja, a police source and one of those involved said yesterday. "The measure was lifted yesterday (Wednesday) at the end of the day," the police source told AFP, asking not to be named.

"It's true, the measure has been lifted," said Ali Sabo, the vice-president of the former ruling National Movement for a Developing Society, who had been

under house arrest.

Sabo said that the four policemen watching over his home left at 10:00 pm (2100 GMT), but told AFP that his passport had been confiscated. Souley Oumarou, a lawyer for those detained by the junta, told AFP that "the passports of all (his) clients had been taken away" by the authorities, a move he denounced as "illegal".

On April 2, the 14 people, who are political or business leaders, were put under house arrest

shortly after being freed following several days in detention on "suspicion of undermining state security," according to the junta.

When the police left, Mouctar Kassoum, former minister of communication, ended a hunger strike that he had begun on Sunday to protest at being under house arrest. "He ended his hunger strike shortly after the withdrawal of the policemen posted in front of his house," said Cherif Alhassane, Kassoum's former press attache.

Rwanda refugees in Uganda refuse to return home

ABOUT 10,000 Rwandans living in a Ugandan refugee camp are refusing to go home eight months after they were instructed to leave, an official told AFP yesterday. Uganda has taken away their right to cultivate land in the camp in an effort to compel to them leave.

"We have about ten thousand Rwandans remaining in Nakivale," said Festo Wafuta, assistant commandant of the camp near the Rwandan border. "They say they will not go home, one, because of land issues in Rwanda, and the other is ... these gacaca courts," he added, referring to Rwanda's local justice initiative to try genocide crimes at grass-roots level.

All Rwandan refugees remaining in Uganda, the vast majority of whom are Hutus, the majority group that carried out the 1994 genocide, were told last year to leave Uganda by July 31 following a decision by both governments and the UN refugee agency that Rwanda is safe for all ethnic groups.

International

Obama, Medvedev sign treaty to cut nuclear arms

CASTING aside years of rancor, President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev yesterday signed the biggest nuclear arms pact in a generation, lacing the moment with new warnings of sanctions for an intransigent Iran.

The treaty, sealed after months of halting negotiation, is significant not just for what it does but for what it symbolizes: a fresh start

for the United States and Russia, and evidence to a watching world that nuclear disarmament is more than a goal.

The pact commits their nations to slash the number of strategic nuclear warheads by one-third and more than halve the number of missiles, submarines and bombers carrying them.

That still leaves the two countries with enough nuclear fire-

power to ensure mutual destruction several times over, but the move sets a foundation for deeper reductions, which both sides are already pursuing.

"It sends a signal around the world that the United States and Russia are prepared to once again take leadership," Obama said moments after he and Medvedev signed the treaty in a gleaming, ornate hall in the Czech Repub-

lic's presidential castle.

The pact will shrink the limit of nuclear warheads to 1,550 per country over seven years, about a third less than the 2,200 currently permitted. Looming over the celebration was Iran, which in the face of international pressures continues to assert that its uranium enrichment program is for peaceful purposes, not weapons. Six powers, the US, Russia,

Britain, France, Germany and now China, are in talks in New York about a fourth set of United Nations sanctions to pressure Iran into compliance.

"We cannot turn a blind eye to this," Medvedev said in a show of solidarity. But he said he was frank with Obama about how far Russia was willing to go, favoring only what he called "smart" sanctions that might have hope of changing behavior.

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov later elaborated by saying, for example, that Russia would not endorse a total embargo on the delivery of refined petroleum products into Iran. Such products might be targeted in other ways, or sanctions on Iran's energy sector might be avoided altogether to avoid running into deal-breaking opposition from Russia or China.

The nuclear arms pact now faces a ratification vote in the Russian legislature and the U.S. Senate. At home, Obama's team is struggling to get the required 67 votes, and the president himself is directly involved.

He said he was confident that Democrats and Republicans would see that the treaty protects U.S. interests — an upbeat view of bipartisanship in a town where its been scarce. "I feel confident that we are going to be able to get it ratified," Obama said.

Negotiations between the US and Russia got bogged down in disputes, including Russia's objection to US missile defense plans for Europe. The Kremlin is still concerned about the plan but sought to tamp down talk it would withdraw from the new treaty if there is a buildup in the missile defense system. Russia codified its option to withdraw in a statement in connection with the treaty.



PRESIDENT Barack Obama, left, and his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev, right, shake hands at a press conference after signing the newly completed 'New START' treaty reducing long-range nuclear weapons at the Prague Castle in Prague, Czech Republic yesterday.

Israel corruption trial for ex-PM suspended

AN Israeli court suspended the corruption trial of former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert yesterday, a day after a longtime confidant of the ex-premier was arrested in a multimillion-dollar bribery scandal.

Olmert was mayor of Jerusalem when the bribery allegedly took place. It is not clear whether he was implicated in that case because there is a partial gag order on it.

The money allegedly changed hands to promote several real-estate projects, including a large development in Jerusalem that required a radical change in zoning laws.

On Wednesday, police arrested six men suspected of involvement in the case.

Among them was Olmert's longtime confidant Uri Messer, who police suspect acted as a middleman, funneling bribes to a high-ranking city hall official who was not identified.

The other suspects included a former city hall official and property developers. Messer was responsible for Olmert's campaign finances and the two were partners in a law office.

Olmert is standing trial on separate corruption charges that include illegally accepting funds from an American supporter and double-billing Jewish groups for trips abroad.

Messer has been questioned numerous times

over the charges.

The formal charges against Olmert include fraud and breach of trust. Israel's Justice Ministry has not said what penalties Olmert could face, but the fraud charge alone could carry a prison term of up to five years.

The incidents in question date from his time as Jerusalem mayor and later as a Cabinet minister, but emerged after he was elected prime minister in 2006.

American supporter, businessman Morris Talansky, said he had given Olmert hundreds of thousands of dollars, some of it in envelopes stuffed with bills. His testimony helped galvanize public opinion, and in late 2008 Olmert was forced to resign.

The trial began last September. Yesterday, the Jerusalem district court agreed to suspend the case until May, a four-week delay, after Olmert's lawyers said he couldn't receive a fair trial in the current climate.

At the hearing, Olmert's lawyer Eli Zohar demanded "to stop this trial here and now." Another Olmert lawyer made a personal plea to the court to allow for more time to prepare.

The judges read a statement saying they partially accepted the request to suspend the trial and that it would resume May 6.

The 63-year-old Olmert has largely been out of the public eye since leaving politics.

UN judges reject Karadzic's attempt to halt trial

JUDGES at the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal yesterday rejected former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic's latest attempt to halt his genocide trial.

Karadzic asked Tuesday for his trial to be stopped, saying it was unfair for prosecutors to be allowed to use around 1,500 statements and pieces of testimony from previous trials at the UN court without giving him a chance to cross-examine the witnesses. In a four-page ruling yesterday, judges said Karadzic would have "ample opportunity to bring evidence to rebut" the prosecution's case.

Karadzic's trial is due to hear its first witness Tuesday. It has been repeatedly delayed since he boycotted the prosecution's

opening statement in October, complaining that he had not had enough time to prepare.

The former president of the Bosnian Serb mini state is defending himself against two counts of genocide and nine other counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed during the 1992-95 Bosnian war.

Prosecutors allege he masterminded Serb atrocities throughout the war, including the murder of around 8,000 Muslims in the Srebrenica enclave, Europe's worst massacre since World War II. Karadzic was arrested in 2008 on a Belgrade bus after 13 years as a fugitive. Judges have given prosecutors 300 hours to present their case against Karadzic. His trial is expected to stretch into next year.

ADVERTORIAL



AREWA CONSULTATIVE FORUM

SOKOTO STATE CHAPTER

The Chairman,
Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF),
National Secretariat,
11A Sokoto Road, Kaduna.

Sir,

REQUEST OF THE SOKOTO STATE CHAPTER OF THE ACF THAT LT GEN J. T. USENI RELINQUISH HIS LEADERSHIP POSITION OF THE ACF

As a unanimous decision of the entire Executive and General members of the Sokoto State Chapter of our Forum, I write to you on the above subject matter.

The Sokoto State Chapter of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) wishes to draw the attention of the leadership of the Forum to the recent partisanship and consequent awkward position of Lt-Gen. J. T. Useni (Rtd), Chairman Board of Trustees of the Arewa Consultative Forum in relation to the affairs of the Democratic Peoples' Party (DPP) in general and the on-going election petition litigation over the 2007 Governorship Election in Sokoto State in particular. Our members are not comfortable with Lt. Gen J. T. Useni's high profile involvement in partisan politics as National Chairman of the DPP, which is considered to be incompatible with the position of respect and responsibility he occupies in the ACF.

We wish to recall briefly that the ACF was borne out the vision of its founding fathers to establish one umbrella organization for the people of the Northern State which would as a sentinel over social economic and political issues that affect them. In performing this role, the ACF adopted a policy of non-partisanship in consideration of its policies and activities, even as it welcomed all Northerners into its fold, irrespective of their individual partisan leanings. Significantly, members of its main organs were also carefully composed of prominent leaders who are regarded as fathers of all in every sense of the word. It was this factor more than any other that earned the confidence of the majority of the people of the Northern States thereby making the ACF the leading Pan-Northern Socio-cultural Non-partisan organization.

It is therefore understandable that while the membership is open to all Northerners irrespective of partisan political affiliations, its leading organs have been occupied by eminent Northerners distinguished by their non-involvement in partisan politics, especially at such levels as would compromise their role as fathers of all members whose perception of issues affecting the North and sense of judgment should not be swayed by partisan sentiments.

It is in the light of this background to the ACF that we of the Sokoto State Chapter find it necessary to raise alarm about the continued presence of Lt. Gen (rtd) J. T. Useni in any of the leading organs of the ACF, talk less of chairing anyone of them. His Chairmanship of the DPP in particular renders him a misfit for such positions because he is too steeped in partisan politics to be able to rise above petty party sentiments in considering matters in the overall interest of the people of the North. Lt Gen. (rtd) J. T. Useni has obviously forgotten the founding objectives of the ACF or he is deliberately holding onto such a strategic leadership position in the body despite his clearly partisan incompatibility in order to exploit it for his own narrow political pursuits. We wish to recall how Gen. Muhammadu Buhari voluntarily relinquished his leadership position in the ACF structure when he decided to contest the 2007

Presidential Elections. This is the mark of true statesmanship that we expected Lt. Gen. J. T. Useni to emulate in order to protect the ACF from the vagaries of partisanship.

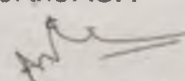
We of the Sokoto State Chapter of ACF are convinced beyond reasonable doubt that Lt. Gen (rtd) J. T. Useni's National Chairmanship of the DPP alone is inimical to the collective interest of the generality of our members, and this should be the case for all ACF members who expect their leaders to be fathers to all members. If any doubt remains about Lt. Gen. (rtd) J. T. Useni's incompatibility in the leadership of the ACF, his direct involvement in the on-going litigations over the 2007 Governorship Elections in Sokoto State, especially in placing and signing advertisement in national newspapers (see Leadership March 1, 2010 page 18 among others) wherein he declares a vested partisan interest in the said litigations, clears any uncertainty.

He cannot claim ignorance of the political configuration of Sokoto State and the tension being generated by the protracted litigations over the 2007 Governorship Elections in the State and therefore his advertised role as a promoter of DPP interest in the litigations is bound to conflict with his "fatherly" role as an ACF leader, at least as far as the generality of the people of Sokoto State are concerned.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Sokoto State Chapter of the ACF remains true to the founding objectives of the ACF, especially in upholding nonpartisanship and thereby embracing all interested citizens of Sokoto State, irrespective of their partisan political affiliations. It is in pursuit of the sustenance of the non-partisan spirit and noble ideals of the ACF that we are responding to the concern being expressed by many of our members and drawing attention to the unacceptable conflict of interest and contamination of the leadership stature of the ACF, arising from the continued presence of Lt. Gen. (rtd) J. T. Useni on the Board of Trustees of the ACF, while being the National Chairman of the DPP. We are unequivocal in our stance and demand that, he should resign from the ACF leadership position without further delay.

We look forward to an appropriate response to our submission as soon as possible so as to reassure our concerned members that this thorny issue is receiving its deserved attention.

Sir, thank you and accept assurance of the highest esteem of the Sokoto State Chapter of the ACF.


Hon. Chika Umar
(State Secretary)



SHARIA COURT OF APPEAL

FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY

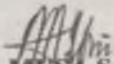
Head Quarters, Gudu District
Joseph Gwanwork Street
Abuja.

NOTICE OF TENDER OPENING

The General Public and Contractors that submitted documents for **Expression of Interest** in response to our earlier advertisement of 27th March, 2010 published in the *Daily Trust* and *New Nigeria* Newspapers; are hereby informed as follows:

1. The closing date for submission of Pre-qualification is 15th April, 2010 at 12 Noon.
2. That all Tenders submitted would be opened on the 16th of April, 2010 by 11AM.

Venue: Sharia Court Conference Room,
Gwagwalada, FCT Abuja.


ALH. MUSA S. LIMAN,
Secretary Tenders Board,
For: Chief Registrar

Justice Mu'azu Aliyu House
Kabama Layout, Layin Zomo
Samaru P.O. Box 434,
Zaria, Nigeria
Web: www.garmaje.com
Email: info@garmaje.com
Tel: 07042425255, 08037806450, 09054919030

Garmaje Institute

Radio Journalism (A Garmaje Ent.)



We are pleased to present to you Garmaje Institute of Radio Journalism, a private, non-governmental Educational services arm of Garmaje Enterprises. Its here to provide skilled training in radio broadcasting that will produce competent radio broadcasters of International standard. It is our desire to foster the objectives of our nation in the production of high-level skill-trained workforce with commitment necessary to national development. This skilled training, applies to all fields of study. It's a fact that a graduate of, say agriculture, stands to be a well-informed reporter, intelligently reporting issues surrounding agriculture. The same applies to graduates from the Faculties of Human and Veterinary Medicine, Engineering, Sciences, Social Sciences, Business Admin...name it! Graduates, naturally, have been equipped with strong grounding in the subject matter, and the ability to apply knowledge relevantly to the solution of societal problems. Once we impart to them the principles and skills of radio programme making, they become the most suitable radio news and factual programme makers any reputable Broadcast Station in the world would wish to have.

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(The institution has professionally experienced staff and visiting lecturers. We have a conducive environment for learning equipped with Broadcast facilities necessary for the training. Entry Method; Application form should be purchased in person with a fee of N1000 [one thousand Naira] at Garmaje Institute of Radio Journalism, Justice Mu'azu Aliyu House, Kabama Layout, Layin Zomo, Samaru Road, Zaria, Kaduna State, Nigeria. The Institute will assist candidates in getting accommodation at reasonable cost, where requested. Fee covers tuition & guide-notes only.

Signed:

Ibrahim A. Musa Garmaje,
Executive Director



AREWA CONSULTATIVE FORUM

No 11A Sokoto Road, P.O. Box 1149, Kaduna-Nigeria. Tel: (062) 218007, 218009, Fax: 218004
Website: www.arewaconsultativeforum.org
E-mail: info@arewaconsultativeforum.org

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

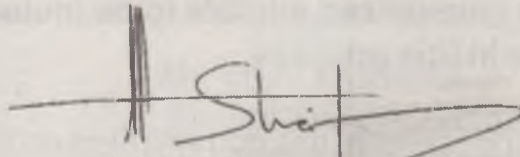
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of the members of Arewa Consultative Forum will be held at the **Main Hall of Arewa House, No. 1 Rabah Road, Kaduna, on Wednesday 28th April, 2010 at 11:00 O'clock** in the forenoon to transact the following business:-

AGENDA

To receive the Report of the Board of Trustees, the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2009 and Report of the Auditors thereon.

Dated this 5th day of April, 2010

By order of the Board of Trustees.



(Signed)
Colonel Musa Shehu
Secretary-General

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nigeria would like to invite registered Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) for Pre-qualification and possible inclusion in a database of NGOs specialized in the following areas:

Elections
Media
Conflict Management
Political Parties
Gender
Human Rights, Rule of Law and Access to Justice
Youth
Other Democratic Governance areas not specifically mentioned above

The United Nations Development Programme in Nigeria, through the Democratic Governance for Development (DGD) project is looking to complete a comprehensive roster of NGOs working in the area of democratic governance in Nigeria.

Interested NGOs must meet the eligibility requirements for consideration which can be downloaded at the following UNDP websites: www.undp.ng.org, www.undp.org. The application template can also be downloaded from the websites.

SUBMISSION DETAILS:

The EOI and supporting documents must be received not later than the 18th of APRIL 2010 by 3:00 PM (local time) and must be forwarded to the address below in a sealed envelope clearly labeled "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PRE QUALIFICATION OF NGOs in NIGERIA" PLEASE INCLUDE THE NAME OF THE NGO AND THE GEO-POLITICAL ZONE OF INTEREST.

SALIMA KANE
OPERATIONS MANAGER
UNDP/DGD 4TH FLOOR
ELIZADE PLAZA, OPPOSITE BOLINGO HOTEL
CENTRAL AREA, GARKI (ABUJA)

The EOI submissions that are not in compliance with the requested information as outlined above will be not be considered eligible to be included in the next stage in this process.

This EOI does not amount to a commitment on the part of UNDP, either financial or otherwise. UNDP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOI without any obligation to inform the affected applicants of the grounds for acceptance or rejection.



KADUNA POLYTECHNIC

P.M.B 2021 Kaduna, Nigeria

ADVERTISEMENT FOR MAY 2010 CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS

This is to inform members of the general public, especially Civil Servants that the registration for the May 2010 Civil Service Examinations conducted by the College of Administrative Studies and Social Sciences (CASSS), Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna has commenced. The examination is scheduled to take place at the various centres from Tuesday, 4th May - Thursday, 6th May 2010.

Interested Civil Servants outside Kaduna should contact the Civil Service Examination Co-ordinator of their various States, while those in Kaduna should contact the Civil Service Examination Office, located at the College of Business and Management Studies (FORMERLY CABS, UNGWAN RIMI CAMPUS) Kaduna Polytechnic for registration on or before 25th April, 2010 when sales of forms is expected to close.

Prospective candidates can also call **AUWALU GARBA** on 08023376752

SIGNED:

ALH. MAMOON A. ABUBAKAR,
REGISTRAR



THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (NACOFED)

Cordially invites the General Public to a 2-day

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE EMERGENCE OF THE NIGERIAN ECONOMY FROM THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISES

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LE MERIDIEN HOTEL, UYO, AKWA IBOM STATE, NIGERIA

APRIL 15TH – 17TH, 2010

April 14th, 2010: ARRIVAL, REGISTRATION AND ACCREDITATION

PAPERS TO BE PRESENTED

- Financial Sector Regulation and the Prospects for Economic Growth in the Nigerian Economy
- Nigeria Capital Market in the Post-Economic Crises and the Prospects for Growth
- Economic Recovery and the Prospects for Infrastructural Development in the Sub-National Entities in the Nigerian Economy

RESOURCE PERSON

MAL. SANUSI LAMIDO SANUSI
Governor
Central Bank of Nigeria

MS. ARUNMA OTEH
Director-General
Security and Exchange Commission

MR. ONNO RUHL
Country Director
World Bank

SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR:

Dr. GOODLUCK JONATHAN, GCON
Acting President, Federal Republic of Nigeria

GUEST OF HONOUR:

Chief Godswill Akpabio
Governor, Akwa-Ibom State

CHIEF HOST:

Mr. Olusegun O. Aganga
Hon. Minister of Finance

HOST:

Mr. Remi Babalola
Hon. Min. of State for Finance.

Signed:

CHAIRMAN, LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE



NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON QUALITY AND SAFETY OF STREET VENDED FOOD

Jointly Organized by
NATIONAL ORIENTATION AGENCY (NOA)
 &
CONSUMER PROTECTION COUNCIL (CPC)

In Collaboration with the
OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY, BENUE STATE

Date: 13TH - 15TH April, 2010 **Venue:** J. S. Tarka Foundation, Makurdi, Benue State **Time:** 9.00am

PROGRAMME

DAY 1. Tuesday, April 13, 2010

OPENING CEREMONY

8.00 - 9.00am	Registration of Participants
9.00 - 9.10am	Arrival of Dignitaries
9.10 - 9.20am	Arrival of Guest Speaker
9.20 - 9.30am	Arrival of Honourable Ministers
9.30 - 9.35am	Arrival of the First Lady of Benue State, Her Excellency, Architect Yemisi Dooshima Suswan
9.35 - 9.40am	Arrival of the Wife of the Senate President, Mrs. Helen David Mark
9.40 - 9.50am	Arrival of the Chairman, Senator (Dr) Mrs. Iyabo Obasanjo-Bello, Chairman Senate Committee on Health
9.50 - 10.00am	Arrival of the Special Guest of Honour, Wife of the Acting President, Her Excellency, Dame Patience Jonathan
10.00 - 10.05am	NATIONAL ANTHEM
10.05 - 10.10am	Opening Prayer
10.10 - 10.20am	Introduction of Guests
10.20 - 10.30am	Address by the Director-General, NOA, Alh. Idi M. Faruk, MFR.
10.30 - 10.40am	Address by the Director-General, CPC, Mrs. Ify Umenyi
10.40 - 10.50am	Address by Her Excellency, Architect Yemisi Dooshima Suswan, First Lady Benue State
10.50 - 11.00am	Remarks by the Chairman, Senator (Dr) Iyabo Obasanjo-Bello
11.00 - 11.10am	Performance by a Cultural Troupe
11.10 - 11.40am	Keynote Address by Prof. G. O. Adegoke, Department of Food Science and Technology, U.I. Ibadan
11.40 - 12.00noon	Goodwill messages
12.00 - 12.10pm	Address by the Special Guest of Honour, Wife of the Acting President, Her Excellency, Dame Patience Goodluck Jonathan, who will declare the workshop open
12.10 - 12.15pm	Vote of Thanks
12.15 - 12.20pm	Closing Prayer
12.20 - 12.25pm	NATIONAL ANTHEM
12.25 - 1.00pm	Group Photograph/Tea Break

TRAINING SESSION

1.00 - 1.40pm	Paper 1: Food Preparation, Presentation and Preservation by Dr. O. J. Oluwatola, Fellow, Nigeria Institute of Food Science & Technology (NIFST)
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1.40 - 2.20pm	Paper 2: Factors that Affect Quality and Safety of Street Vended Food: Buying right by Representative of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources
2.20 - 2.40pm	Paper 3: Water, Sanitation and Waste Disposal in Street Food Vending by the Director-General, NESREA, Dr. Mrs. Ngesi S. Benebo, JP. -

DAY 2. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2010

9.00 - 9.40am	Paper 4: Appropriate Use of Agrochemicals on Farm Produce by Prof. Tertumun Avav, Department of Crop and Environmental Protection, Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Benue State.
9.40 - 10.20am	Paper 5: Health Hazards Associated with Consumption of Contaminated Street Vended Food (SVF) by the Hon. Minister of Health.
10.20 - 11.00am	Paper 6: Regulation and Code of Hygienic Practice for Street Vended Food by the Director-General, Standard Organization of Nigeria, Dr. John Akanya - SON
11.00 - 11.30am	Tea Break
11.30am - 12.40pm	Interactive Session
12.40 - 1.20pm	Communique
1.20 - 2.20pm	Lunch

END OF TRAINING SESSION

2.20 - 5.00PM	Preparation for the Cooking Competition
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DAY 3. THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2010

9.30 - 10.00am	Arrival of the Special Guest of Honour, Her Excellency, Mrs. Helen David Mark, Wife of the Senate President.
10.00 - 10.10am	Introduction of Guests
10.10 - 10.20am	Remarks by the Special Guest of Honour, Her Excellency, Mrs. Helen David Mark, Wife of the Senate President.
10.20 - 11.00am	Briefing on the order of Cooking Competition and the Judges
11.00am - 12.00 noon	Cooking competition
12.00 - 1.00pm	Inspection/Assessment of Food by Judges
1.00 - 1.20pm	Collation of Results
1.20 - 1.50pm	Announcement of Results/Award of Prizes by Her Excellency, Mrs. Helen David Mark, Wife of the Senate President.
1.50 - 2.00pm	Vote of Thanks
2.00pm	Food Exhibition/Fair Ends
2.00pm	Departure

HOSTS

Arc. Yemisi Dooshima Suswan
 Wife of the Governor of Benue State

Alh. Idi M. Farouk, MFR
 Director-General, National Orientation Agency

Mrs. Ify Umenyi
 Director-General, Consumer Protection Council



YOBE STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

**INVITATION TO TENDER FOR STATE
CONDITIONAL GRAND SCHEME 2009
PROJECTS**

Yobe State Government in conjunction with the Federal Government of Nigeria (Millennium Development Goals) hereby invites reputable Contractors Registered with Yobe State Works Registration Board (Yobe State Tenders Board) for the under listed Lots.

- Lot – 1 Construction maternal and Child Health Centers
- Lot – 2 Constructions of Perimeter Fence and Gate House
- Lot – 3 Construction 2bedroom Matron Quarters
- Lot – 4 Construction Modified VIP Latrines
- Lot – 5 Renovations of Existing Health Centers
- Lot – 6 Procurement and supply of Anti Malaria Drugs
- Lot – 7 Procurement and supply of Treated Mosquitoes Nets
- Lot – 8 Procurement and supply of Hospital Equipments
- Lot – 9 Procurement and supply of Medicines and Drugs

Interested Contractors are requested to collect Tender Bids Documents from the office of the Secretary Millennium Development Goals (MDG), Advisers Complex, Maiduguri Road, Damaturu, upon payment of non-refundable fee of N30,000.00 only per Lot, payable to the office of Secretary State Tenders Board, Ministry of Finance, Damaturu .

REQUIREMENT:

- i. Company Certificate of Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission.
- ii. Three years Tax clearance.
- iii. Evidence of similar job (s) executed in the past.
- iv. Ability to complete the project within specified period.

SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENT

The Tender Document should be packed in a sealed envelope marked "CONFIDENTIAL TENDER BIDS FOR MDG 2009 PROJECTS LOT..... and should be deliver not later than two weeks from the date of this publication, address to the Secretary, Millennium Development Goals, Advisers Complex, Maiduguri Road, Damaturu.

Notwithstanding the submission of tender bids document, the Ministry of Budget and Planning is not;

- i. Committed or obliged to include any company in the exercise or award contract to any contractor or agents or associates.
- ii. Will only recognize and correspond with duly authorized officers of the companies through individuals or agents or associates acting on their behalf as duly works registered with Yobe State Tenders Board.
- iii. Reserves the right to reject in part or whole tender bids package.

Full contact address, telephone numbers and email Address are to be provided, all concerned should note.

SIGNED
Shettima Balube
(Secretary Tenders Board)
For: Honourable Commissioner (MOF)



NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS, ABUJA

**ADDENDUM TO
ADVERTISEMENTS**

The National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) had in its recent advertisements published in the Federal Tenders Journal, Vanguard and Daily Trust Newspapers on the 9th and 18th March, 2010 for the projects listed in the table below, **inadvertently omitted a Statutory Requirement.**

Consequently and in compliance with provisions of the Pension Reform Act 2004, the following additional information are required to be submitted for all pre-qualification, Expression of Interests and Tender submissions by Nigerian Firms and Joint Ventures:

- i. Evidence of Employees Open Retirement Savings Accounts (RSA) with a Pension Fund Administrator of their choice.
- ii. Evidence of Remittance of both employer and employee pension contributions to the appropriate Pension Fund Custodian.
- iii. Evidence of Remittance of transfer of all Pensions Funds and Assets prior to the commencement of the Pension Reform Act to licensed pension operators.

SN	ADVERT PROJECT TITLE	DATE OF PUBLICATION	MEDIA
1	Request for Expression of Interest for the Conduct of Baseline Survey in Twelve States Benefiting from the NHIS-MDG/Maternal & Child Health intervention Project.	15 th March, 2010	Daily Trust and Vanguard Newspapers Federal Tenders Journal
2	Request for Proposal for a Consultant to Conduct a National Workshop on Health Insurance for Retirees in Nigeria	9 th March, 2010	Daily Trust and Vanguard Newspapers
3	Request for Proposal for a Consultant to Conduct a National Summit on Social Health Insurance for Students of Tertiary Institutions.	8 th March, 2010	Federal Tenders Journal

Following these amendments, companies/firms that have already submitted their documents should forward the above information to the address below within 7 days of this publication i.e. April 14, 2010.

The Head, Procurement Division
National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)
Plot 297, Shehu Yar'Adua Way
Utako District,
Abuja.



INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED CHEMISTS OF NIGERIA (ICCON)

ANNOUNCES

THE 2010 PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

The Institute wishes to inform the general public and qualified Chemists in particular of the Commencement of the qualifying Professional examination for admission into membership.

FOR WHOM:

Chemists with a minimum qualification of B.Sc./HND in Chemistry or Chemistry related disciplines (including Biochemistry, Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Chemical Engineering) with at least 2 years post- NYSC cognate experience.

METHOD OF APPLICATION/PROCESSING

1. Applicants should download the form from Institute website, fill and send to the Secretariat for processing. Form can also be obtained from the Secretariat.
2. Successful applicants, after screening, would be contacted and formally advised on the payment for the examination materials, venues, etc.
3. Examination/ Course material would be sent to all successful applicants to prepare for the examination within 3 months.
4. There will be a revision / interactive session with resource persons on the topics a day or two preceding the examination date.
5. Induction of successful applicants holds in November 2010.

COURSE CONTENT

Module 1 - Chemistry and National Economy
Module 2 - Principles of Chemical Management
Module 3 - Production and Quality Assurance Management
Module 4 - Modern Methods of Chemical Analysis
Module 5 - Principles of Environmental Impact Analysis
Module 6 - Project Management
Module 7 - Business Law

DEADLINE

1. All application should reach the Secretariat on or before May 31st 2010

CENTRE/DATES

Examination holds in September 2010 at Lagos, Benin and Abuja centres simultaneously. Specific venues would be duly communicated

EXAMINATION FEES

The sum of N20,000, which covers the course materials and other logistics, is charged as examination fee per candidate. The fee is *payable only* when the applicant has been certified for the exam.

PAYMENT

Account Name: ICCON IGR
UBA PLC: Acct No.: 049100040000015

Evidence of payments to be sent to the Secretariat by e-mail or through SMS with the following information

Name, Amount paid, Date of payment, Bank/Branch, pay-in-slip) Teller number.

Please be informed that applicant's names (Surname first) are expected to appear on the payment tellers, irrespective of who made the payment, for proper reconciliation.

For more details, please visit our website or contact the Registrar 3rd floor, former W.H.O. building, 443 Herbert Macaulay Way Yaba. P.M.B. 2057, Sabo Yaba Lagos.

e-mail: icconng@yahoo.com/info@iccon.org.ng

website: www.iccon.org.ng

Tel: 01,7401419, 08052386665, 08023211746

ICCON: *Recreating Nigeria's Economy through Chemistry*



NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGY (NITT), ZARIA



INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR EXECUTION OF YEAR 2010 PROJECTS

The Nigerian Institute of Transport of Technology (NITT), Zaria invites suitably qualified and reputable contractors / Consultants with proven competence and experience to apply for Pre-Qualification for execution of any aspect of works listed below:-

1. Completion of Transport Technology Centre (TTC) Construction (Road Network).
2. Completion of Transport Technology Centre Construction (Building).
3. Equipping of Transport Technology Centre.
4. Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings.
5. Completion of Access Road Network.
6. Human Capital Development (Consultancy).
7. Sports Complex Development.
8. Master Plan Review.
9. Landscaping and Beautification (Consultancy).
10. Landscaping and Beautification (Works).
11. Upgrading of Clinic.
12. Development of NITT Outreach Programmes (Consultancy)
13. Development of NITT Outreach Programmes Works).
14. Construction of Transport Technology Centre (TTC) Phase II

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT

Contractors / Consultants interested in tendering for the works are hereby advised to apply for Pre-Qualification. The application shall contain the following information / documents:-

- a) Evidence of Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).
- b) Evidence of up to date Registration with Relevant Professional bodies.
- c) Evidence of Tax Clearance for the last preceding (3) years.
- d) Company Audited Account for the preceding three (3) years
- e) Evidence of Financial Capability and Banking support.
- f) Evidence of similar jobs done within the preceding three (3) years.
- g) Technical Qualification and Experience of key personnel
- h) VAT Registration and Evidence of remittances for the preceding three (3) years.
- i) List of Construction / Relevant Equipment, their status and locations.

SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Interested Contractors / Consultants are requested to submit their Pre-Qualification document, in Sealed Envelop marked "NITT 2010 PROJECTS: PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR _____ indicate aspect of works" at the top left hand corner of the envelop, to:

The Director General/Chief Executive
Nigerian Institute of Transport Technology
(NITT), P.M.B 1148
Basawa Road
Zaria.

To reach him within two (2) weeks from the day of this publication.

COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

Tender Documents shall be available for collection by Pre-Qualified contractors upon payment of non-refundable tender processing fees of N50, 000.00 for project 3 and N20, 000.00 for other projects.

TENDER SUBMISSION

Completed Tenders shall be submitted to Director General/Chief Executive within two (2) weeks from day of commencement of collection of tender documents. Bids shall be opened immediately on expiration of tendering period.

Please Note:

Interested companies / Consultants wishing to bid for more than one aspect of the work must submit separate Pre-Qualifications for each aspect(s). Tenderers and the general public / Civil Society Organizations shall be invited to witness bids opening.

Signed
MANAGEMENT

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536

PHOTO DESIGN: AA GAIDAM



Fuel scarcity looms as NUPENG begins strike today

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG) yesterday ordered all its members in Warri zone comprising Edo, Delta, Ondo, Ekiti and Kogi States to begin an indefinite strike today.

The group said the industrial action has become necessary given the refusal of Pat Onosen enterprises Nigeria Limited and Chevron Nigeria to honour a collective bargaining agreement reached by the parties.

Rising from an emergency meeting, leaders of Warri zone of NUPENG, Wednesday night directed its members from Mid-night Friday (today), to close down operations and commence an indefinite strike to compel both Chevron and Pat Onosen Enterprises Nigeria Limited, a contractor to Chevron Nigeria Limited to honour the said the agreement.

A resolution reached at the end of the

meeting and signed by Comrade Edmond Ofudje Comrade Otite Onohwhohwo, Chairman and Senior Assistant General Secretary, Warri zone respectively, reads: "April 7, 2010, an emergency Zonal Council meeting was called to discuss among other things, the case of the violation of the CBA signed between Pat Onosen Enterprises Nigeria Limited (a Contractor with Chevron Nigeria Limited) and Pat Onosen branch of NUPENG.

At the meeting, efforts by the leadership of the Union in the zone to patiently dialogue and bring the management of Pat Onosen and Chevron to see reasons to honour the sanctity of CBA signed was debated. Furthermore, propositions put forward by the Union to amicably and peacefully resolve the issues with both concerting managements were x-rayed on the basis of mutual benefit.

"Therefore, when it became clear that all efforts by NUPENG had been rebuffed by management who were already perfecting tactics to permanently disadvantage

our members; and perpetually make Nigerian workers slaves in the oil and gas industry; the council had to resolve as follows: That the management of Pat Onosen Enterprises Nigeria Limited And Chevron Nigeria Limited should respect the sanctity of the CBA signed in 2007 and implement same immediately in the interest of industrial peace and harmony that all branches of the union across the Zone (Warri Zone of NUPENG), are by this resolution of the Warri Zonal Council, directed to join the industrial action from Friday April 9, 2010 in solidarity with our Pat Onosen comrades.

"Council also calls on well-meaning Nigerians to prevail on the managements of Pat Onosen Enterprises Nigeria Limited and Chevron Nigeria Limited to respect the signed CBA so as to spare the oil and gas industry, the Nigeria masses and indeed the economy any hardship their harsh and hard line posture will cause."

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Arik Air

PH-Abuja: 08.45, 12.12.50, 17.00 (Mon-Fri), 08.45, 17.30 (Sat), 14.40, 17.30 (Sun);
 Abuja-PH: 07.15, 11.20, 15.30(Mon-Fri), 07.15, 16.00 (Sat) 14.40, 17.30(Sun);
 Lagos-Kano: 12.20pm (Mon-Fri/Sun);Kano-Lagos: 02.35pm (Mon-Fri/Sun);
 Abuja-Kano: 03:35pm (Mon-Fri/Sun);Kano-Abuja: 05:20pm (Mon-Fri/Sun);
 Abuja-Gombe: 11:10am (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun);Gombe-Abuja: 12.30pm (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun); Lagos-Yola:
 Lag-Abj 04:50pm, via Abj-Yola 06:45pm (Mon-Fri/ Sun); Yola-Lagos:
 Yola-Abj 08:40am, Abj-Lagos 10:20am (Mon-Fri/Sat);
 Lagos-Maid: Lag-Abj 03:50pm, via Abj-Maid 06:00pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Maid-Lagos: Maid-Abj 07:30am, via Abj-Lag 09:15am (Mon-Fri/Sat); Abuja-Sokoto: 11:10am (Mon-Fri); Sokoto-Abuja: 12:50pm (Mon-Fri)
 Abuja-Akure: 02:10pm (Mon, Wed and Fri); Akure-Abuja: 08:50am (Mon, Wed and Fri); Lagos-Kwara: 07:30am, (Mon-Fri) 07.30, 03:50pm Sat 08:00am, 11:45am Sun; Kwara-Lagos: 4:10pm (Mon-Fri), 01:10pm, 05:30pm Sat 09:45am, 05:00pm Sun
 Abuja-Kwara: 03:25pm (Mon-Fri); Kwara-Abuja: 01.30pm (Mon-Fri); Lagos-Jos: 09:05am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); Jos-Lagos: 11.00am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 ABV-QOW 02:30pm (Mon-Fri), 11:30am Sat 03:20pm Sun; Lagos-Kaduna: 10:20am, 04:10pm (Mon-Fri), 10.20

Stock Market Index

Date : Thursday, April 8, 2010
 Index: 26,716.70
 Deals: 10,387
 Volume : 797,405,367
 Value: N7,219,693,711.60
 Cap.: N6,462,114,648,761.37

Trust Index

Inflation —————> 12.3%
 GDP —————> 6.90%
 Budget —————> N4.6tr
 External Reserves Acct —————> \$41bn
 Excess Crude Acct —————> \$3.2bn
 Poverty Ratio —————> 54.4%
 Monetary Policy Rate —————> 6%
 Banks —————> 24
 Oil Price —————> \$85 a barrel
 Power Supply —————> 2,500MW
 Oil output per day —————> 2.6mbd
 Broad Money Supply —————> N10,796,734.5m
 Credit to Private Sector —————> N10,018,035.3m
 Inter-Bank Rate —————> 1.1600%
 Treasury Bills —————> 2.02%
 Deposit Rate —————> 12.28%
 Prime Lending Rate —————> 18.38%

CBN

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES

31/3/2010

	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.2842	0.2942	0.3042
DANISH KRONER	26.6742	26.7647	26.8552
EURO	198.6635	199.3379	200.0122
POUNDS STERLING	223.351	224.1092	224.8673
RIYAL	39.28	39.4134	39.5467
SDR	223.6309	224.39	225.1491
SWISS FRANC	139.0541	139.5261	139.9981
US DOLLAR	147.3	147.8	148.3
WAUA	223.3905	224.1488	224.9071
YEN	1.5762	1.5816	1.5869

BUYING

DOLLAR.....	N150
EURO.....	N203
POUNDS.....	N233

SELLING

DOLLAR.....	N151
EURO.....	N205
POUNDS.....	N236

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

Business/Aviation

British Airways, Iberia sign merger pact

BRITISH Airways and Spanish airline Iberia have signed a deal to merge and create one of the world's biggest airline groups.

The merger, which was provisionally agreed in November last year, is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

In a statement the two companies said the merger would benefit shareholders, employees and customers.

It is expected to save the airlines 400m euros (\$533m; £350m) a year.

The new company will be called International Airlines Group, but the BA and Iberia brands will continue to operate as normal.

The company will have its headquarters in London, with BA shareholders retaining 55% ownership of the company.

In total the group will operate 419 aircraft, flying to more than 200 destinations, and carry a total of 62 million passengers a year, BA said. BBC.

African airlines protest EU's blacklisting

THE African Airlines Association (AFRAA) has expressed concern over the European Union's latest list of airlines banned from the European airspace due to safety concerns, saying that the act is not fair enough to the operators in the African region.

The Secretary General of AFRAA Mr. Nick Fadugba in a statement stated that thirteen of the 17 countries affected by the EU ban are from Africa, with a total of 111 African airlines "blacklisted."

According to him, "Air safety is AFRAA's number one priority and we are the first to admit that Africa needs to improve its air safety record. However, while the EU list may be well-intended its main achievement has been to undermine international confidence in the African airline industry."

Fadugba explained that "The ultimate beneficiaries of the ban are European airlines which dominate the African skies to the disadvantage of African carriers. If any list is to be published, it should be done by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the global regulator of aviation safety, which has a known track record of impartiality."

US biggest airlines in merger talks

TWO of the biggest airlines in the United States - United and US Airways - are discussing a possible merger, reports say.

The companies are said to have spent two weeks deep in talks but have not yet reached a deal.

There have been a number of tie-ups between prominent airlines since their industry was hit by sharply higher fuel prices and the global recession.

Spokesmen for both companies said they would not comment on the speculation.

Reports of the talks in the New York Times and Washington Post newspapers prompted stocks in both airlines to rise in after-hours trading on Wednesday.

US Airways shares leapt by \$1.35 - or 20% - to \$8.17, while United's parent company UAL Corporation rose \$1.53 (8%) to \$20.48.

A merger between the two companies would create America's second-biggest airline after Delta Air Lines, reports say.

The International Air Transport Association said the global airline industry sector would make a combined loss of \$2.8bn (£1.9bn) this year, with European and US airlines suffering the most.

BBC.

Lufthansa pilots call off strike

PILOTS at Lufthansa, Europe's biggest airline, have called off a four-day strike planned for next week.

The airline and the pilot's union, Vereinigung Cockpit, said they had agreed key points for arbitration talks over the coming days.

The pilots had planned to strike from Tuesday to Friday next week over the terms of a proposed pay freeze.

A similar strike in late February was called off after one day when both sides agreed to new negotiations.

Like other airlines, Lufthansa is trying to push through cost-cutting plans in the face of the global financial crisis, soaring fuel costs and competition from low-cost rivals.

Cabin crew at rival British Airways went on strike for seven days last month in protest at pay and working conditions. The airline is currently negotiating with the crew's union to try and avert further strike action. BBC.



BODY scanners being installed at the Murtala Muhammad International Airport Lagos

Airline operators shelve strike over terminal charges

Stories from Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos, with agency reports

THE Airline Operators of Nigeria (AON) has shelved its planned strike because following the intervention by the Minister of Aviation, Mrs Fidelia Njeze.

Members of AON had threatened to withdraw their aircraft with effect from April 19 over insistence on advance payment of terminal charges by the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA).

AON's Assistant Secretary General, Alhaji Muhammed Tukur, told newsmen in Ikeja on Thursday that the association decided to shelve the strike as the minister had waded into the matter.

Tukur said the minister had ordered NAMA to maintain the status quo of payment pending the resolution of the matter.

He said that the minister had convened a meeting between NAMA management and the airline operators for April 14 to resolve the controversy.

NAMA had on Tuesday made clarification on the introduction of the controversial Terminal Navigation Charges (TNC), saying it was in line with international standards.

NAMA's General Manager, Public Affairs, Mr Supo Atobatele, in a statement said that both the agency's enabling law and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) supported the levy.

Atobatele cited relevant section of NAMA Act, No. 48 of 1999 as empowering the agency to charge the levy.

Business

We're tired of name change, Zain subscribers say .No need to worry - Company

By Zakariyya Adaramola

AS Zain Nigeria sets to change its name to Bharti, its subscribers said they are tired of frequent name change by the telecoms operator even as the company said its subscribers needed not worry because quality service delivery has nothing to do with name.

Speaking to Daily Trust, a subscriber, Mrs Nafisah Tajudiin, said she was tired of frequent name change by the management of the first licensed GSM network in the country. She said the Zain buy over by Bharti was just a noise to confuse the subscribers on the network.

She said 0802's name on her phone's screen is still V-mobile, wondering why the management failed to effect the name change from its subscribers' phones' screens long after the name change.

Another subscriber, Mrs Obedatu Aliu, advised the management of the 0802 network to stop changing the company's name as this may affect its business.

But speaking yesterday with Daily Trust on phone, Zain spokesman, Mr. Emmanuel Otokhine, said the GSM operator's subscribers needed not worry themselves as neither Zain nor Bharti had announced any name change.

According to Mr. Otokhine, even if Zain finally decided to change its name to Bharti it would not in any way affect quality service from the company.

"I don't know where people heard that we are changing name. I think our subscribers need not to worry because even if Bharti finally decided to change Zain's name it would not affect anything negatively in the network," he said.

Also, the National Association of Telecommunications Subscribers of Nigeria (NATCOMS) said though change of name that is almost synonymous with the first licensed GSM operator, which has 0802, 0808, 0708 and 0812 on its network, portrays instability and can create a little doubt in the minds of its subscribers as to the longevity of the company in the country its new buyer, Bharti Airtel, will definitely turn it around and crash tariffs.

Speaking with Daily Trust on phone yesterday, the president of the NATCOMS, Chief Deolu Ogunbanjo, said though the frequent name change by the first licensed GSM network might make its

subscribers to have a doubt in the ability of the company to deliver good service, the new buyer will definitely come to give the other operators a

good fight in the country.

Chief Ogunbanjo said from what he knew of Bharti Airtel, the company would come to crash tariffs in order to make a statement in the

country.

According to him, the recent sale of 0802 network will not affect their services in Nigeria as its buyer is known for delivering qual-

ity services in the areas they operate.

"Yes, the subscribers may have doubts as to the longevity of the 0802 network due to its frequent name change.

But let me tell you that I do not think 0802 network will die in the country and also I do not believe that but-over will affect their service in the country," he said.

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Travelogue

Red is the colour of Idanre

It was a harvest of red colours recently, when the Director General, National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM) visited the enchanting Idanre hills in Ondo State, to inaugurate a committee for Oke –Idanre, which is being proposed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



IN Idanre, dance is popular.

By Tadaferua Ujorha, who was in Idanre

WHILE in Idanre to cover an event, you can't miss the rich red colour. Red

is everywhere. It radiates power and courage, and extends an aura where the ceremony is taking place. The women are dressed in red. The Owa of Idanre and some other Obas are dressed in

red too. Headties are red, and around the Olori's (wives of the Obas) are some flashes of red. In Yorubaland, the Obas go to events with their wives, or wife as the case may be. The beautiful beads



OBA Frederick Aroloye, Owa of Idanre.

worn by the women are a shade of red. Red is the colour of Idanre, and red is the colour of dance, it seems. Go to Idanre if you wish to see nicely tied red or semi-red headties. Headties are part of tourism. Idanre makes me think like this. The mud houses are made of the rich red earth. Some will say that the song, which captivates the audience at the event, has a certain redness to it as well. Women raise an enchanting song. When an Oba comes into the large hall at the foot of the Idanre hill, two smiling and dancing women step forward and kneel before the Oba, who carries a horsetail, just as the kneeling women do. The women raise their horsetails in front of the Oba, who stands at a spot taking in the sight, while also being part of it. The music wells, the excited drums throb. It's a sight loaded with magnetic power and meaning, and is quite unforgettable. Soon we are entertained with the plate dance, a dance which is quite popular among the people of Idanre. In Yoruba this is called 'Ijo Awo'. As the name suggests a man carries two plates, a plate in each hand and begins to dance

and turn around at a steady speed. He dances and turns, the women keep up the music and song. The metallic objects unite in song, and are more talkative than the emotional drum. But the plates do not fall from either hand. This is just a piece of the special spell which Idanre has always cast on visitors over the years. The women now raise another song.

The event was the inauguration of the Oke Idanre Management Committee at Idanre in Ondo state, and this held on March 25. Present were the Owa of Idanre, Oba Frederick Adegunle Aroloye, Director General, National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM) Mallam Yusuf Abdallah Usman, Tola Wewe, the Commissioner for Culture, Ondo state, Remi Adedayo, Director, Monuments, Heritage and sites NCMM, Amos Olorunnipa, Curator Akure Museum, and many other chiefs of Idanre, and Obas from neighbouring communities, as well as the people of Idanre. In his welcome address the Owa of Idanre declared his support for



IDANRE plate dance.



'WOMEN raise an enchanting song'



YUSUF Abdallah Usman, DG NCMM.

the Oke Idanre project, which has been nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This will make it the third such site in Nigeria, after Sukur in Adamawa State, and Osun Oshogbo in Osun state. His words 'I am reassuring you that you have the support of all my people on this project: however, more still needs to be done in terms of publicity and awareness creation... Some of the dilapidated buildings will need to be rehabilitated. I wish to draw your attention and that of the state government, to the yet to be completed hall at the entrance to the site at the foot of the hill'. The Owa added that he recently approved the sum of one hundred and twenty five thousand naira to rehabilitate some buildings around the Oke Idanre site. A panel from UNESCO, ICOMOS and IUCN will visit the site in the near future, to determine its suitability as a UNESCO World Heritage site. A day earlier when the director General NCMM visited the Owa of Idanre, he was impressed with the fact the Owa of Idanre who is in his 80s, still finds time to climb the 570 steps to the summit of Idanre

hill from time to time. At the summit of the hill is an 800 year old palace, many shrines and places where oaths are made. There are also many intriguing rocks, as well as many plant, animal and bird species. His words 'My heart was gladdened when I learnt that you always climb up to Oke-Idanre cultural landscape to perform traditional rites, and all chieftaincy ordinations take place on the Idanre hill, supervised by your Majesty in spite of your age'. He added that the NCMM is optimistic that Idanre cultural landscape will be enlisted in the World Heritage list, and that 'the nomination dossier on Oke Idanre has been assessed and certified to be complete, and the dossier met all the technical requirements outlined in

operational guidelines concerning completeness'. The management committee for the Oke-Idanre site has the following members: Director, Museums, Heritage and sites, NCMM, Commissioner for Tourism, Ondo state, General Manager, Ondo state Tourism Board, Owa of Idanre Kingdom, Chairman, Idanre local government, Oba of Atosin Idanre, Oba of Alade Idanre, Heritage Manager, NCMM Akure, Dr Charles Akinde, Field Assistant on Heritage Site. The previous day the DG was at the Akure museum where he was warmly received by the Staff. He enthused; 'I am always fascinated when I come to Akure. The friendliness among staff is impressive. Continue to work as a team with the Curator. Promotions, for as long

as I remain DG will be regularly done'. Akure Museum is the second Museum to be visited by the DG since his appointment as head of the Commission.

Amos Olorunnipa, Curator of Akure Museum speaking at the event, says that the museum has been expanded to include a kitchen and a security post. He added that staff go out from time to time to do research, such as the education department, which is doing research on the tourism trail in Akure. There is a plan to have a gallery at the Akure museum, he said, to be themed 'Masks and masquerades: The voices of Ancestors'. The staff expressed joy at the recent promotion exercise which the DG supervised, and also gave him a gift and offered prayers just before his team left for the nearby palace of the Deji of Akure, which has been in existence since 1150AD. Trumpet sounds announce the arrival and departure of the Deji. As at Idanre, the Deji was accompanied by his Olori to the hall where the guests were received.

in Ondo state, a well packaged dossier has been submitted to UNESCO before the deadline of February 2010. The DG also appealed to the state government to intervene and release the Hilux project/ Heritage vehicle which was initially attached to the Akure Museum, but which has been withdrawn. His words 'withdrawing the vehicle has slowed down our heritage programme in the state'. It is on record that ten years ago the present Governor Mimiko of the state, argued for the inclusion of Idanre as a tourist site. Tola Wewe, the Ondo state Commissioner for Tourism says 'There is a plan to have a golf course at Atosin neighbouring community within Idanre hills. Also a 5 star hotel is planned for Idanre. Very soon Idanre will be number one in the world'. Remi Adedayo, Director, Museums, Monuments and Sites, NCMM posits 'In the next four years, there will be seven World Heritage Sites in Nigeria'. A booklet provided at the event indicates 'The Oke-Idanre cultural landscape contains active worship places which are strong symbols of the religious practices of the people today. The spiritual link to the site is reinforced through the installation of Kings (Owas) and their burial at Oke-Idanre. The continuity of festivals linked to historic events and ancestral worship in Idanre, is a strong unifying factor that facilitates social cohesion.'

While all these were going on the visitors kept taking note of the rich cultural treasures of the state, which are evident in both Akure and Idanre. Then a difficulty suddenly presented itself: how do you take a picture of a smiling, fair woman, dancing joyfully, like a happy, rainbow, without your camera falling?

The trip to Idanre was sponsored by the NCMM.

When the team visited Government House Akure, it was received by Dr Kola Ademujimi, the Chief of Staff to the Governor of the state. In his speech at the event the DG told the gathering that 'Oke Idanre is the third property we are presenting to UNESCO World Heritage Centre for inscription into the World list. The process of producing the nomination dossier, a highly challenging intellectual exercise, involving various professionals such as Anthropologists, Historians, Geologists, Archaeologists, Botanists, etc began in 2004. Working with the Ondo state government through our office in Akure, and in conjunction with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism

Business

No more emergency for power sector — Minister

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

"THERE is no declaration of a state of emergency in the power sector but we are working in an emergency manner to achieve the objectives of the power reforms, Minister of State [Power] Architect Nuhu Somo Wya has said.

Fielding reporters' questions shortly after addressing staff of his ministry on assumption of duty yesterday Wya who retained his former portfolio as Minister of State [Power] in the reconstituted federal cabinet enjoined Nigerians to embrace the power sector reforms.

"We are not declaring a state of emergency in the power sector but we are working in an emergency manner to

achieve the goals of the power sector reforms", the minister said pointing out that the sector is a chain of various stakeholders.

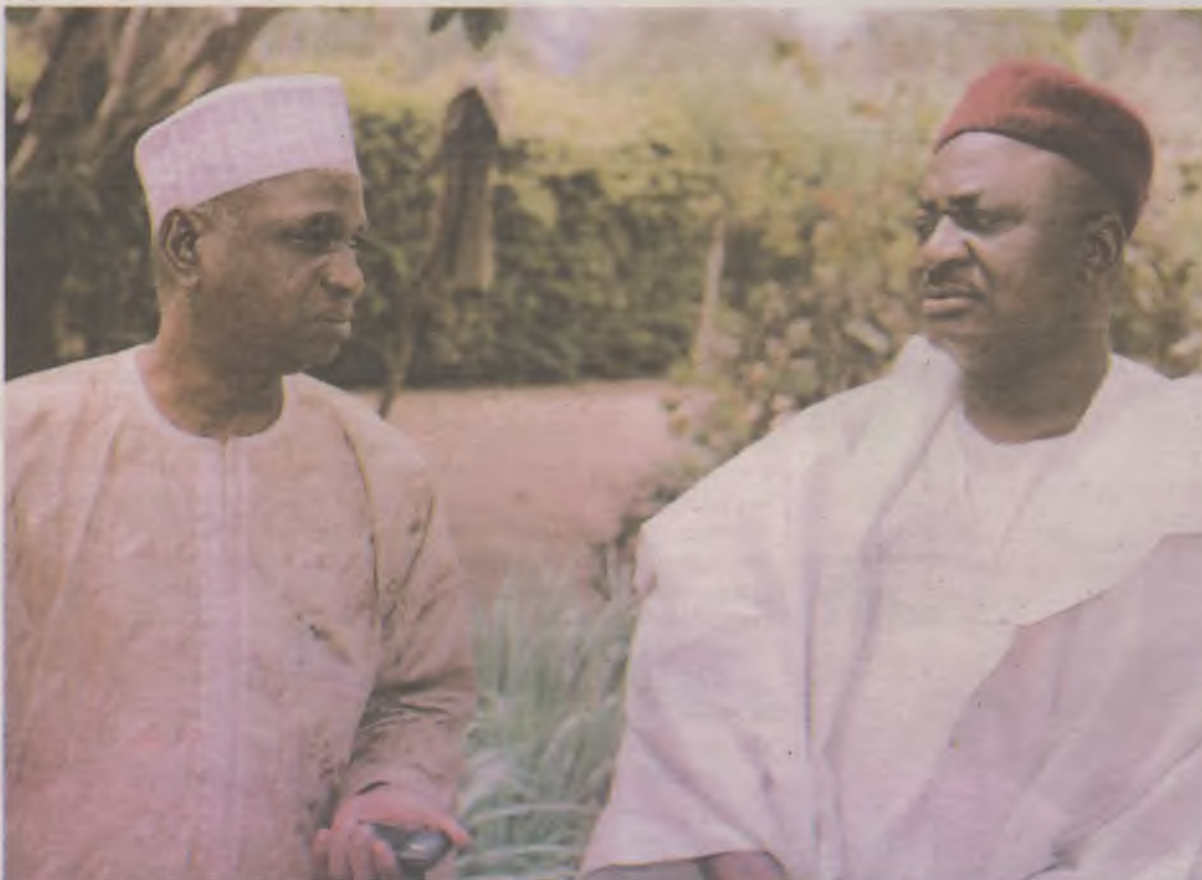
Describing the overseeing of the power sector by the acting president as cheering news, the minister said: "Mr. acting President has a strong passion for power and he will do everything possible to unravel the mystery surrounding the sector."

He said the focus of his administration would be to improve on power generation through reinforced transmission and distribution as well as making gas available in sufficient quantity. The ministry, he said, would create the enabling environment for private investors as well as

provide a conducive atmosphere for present and new participants in the power sector.

The minister said his reappointment to the ministry is a return journey to a normal course saying: "This is a reaping period for us; we have planted, tendered and we shall surely achieve magnificent results."

Addressing staff of the ministry earlier, Wya tasked them to take their jobs seriously and brace up for the challenges ahead, warning that indolence would not be condoned. "Electricity is generated at the field. Therefore no director would be expected to be seated in the office under the comfort of an air conditioner at the expense of field work", he said.



FROM left: Alhaji Usman Bello, Executive Secretary, National Sugar Development Council and Chairman, House Committee on Industry, Rep. Solomon Agidani, during a sensitisation visit to Savannah Sugar Company in Numan, Adamawa State, recently.

MAN welcomes Jonathan's takeover of Power Ministry

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

THE Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) has welcomed the taking over of the Power Ministry by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, describing it as a good omen for the reforms in the Power sector.

The new federal cabinet was inaugurated Tuesday with the acting President taking charge of the Power Ministry while Architect Nuhu Somo Wya retained his former portfolio as Minister of State [Power].

Vice President of MAN, Walid Jibrin, said in a telephone interview with *Daily Trust* that with the taking over of the Power Ministry by the acting President the Association was hopeful that the problems that have bedevilled the power sector over the years would be addressed.

"He [the acting President] is seriously concerned about the problems connected with the power sector and he has shown demonstrable seriousness towards addressing them", Jibrin said pointing out that "last year when it became apparent that the Presidential mandate of 600MW due to manifest challenges it was the acting president [then vice president] that came out to apologise to Nigerians."

Reiterating that the Power sector had gone through a lot of problems that impacted negatively on the Nigerian economy over the years, especially the manufacturing sector, Jibrin who is the Sarkin Fulanin Nassarawa, said: "We [MAN] welcome the new development with the hope that the acting President will bring about the

desired reforms in the sector."

Commenting on the issue of gas shortage that has been the bane of electricity generation in the country the MAN vice president attributed it to what he referred to as the equation of gas price with that of black oil. He said: "If you equate gas price with black oil price that of black oil will always go high."

Meanwhile the Minister of State [Power] Architect Nuhu Wya was yet to officially assume office by press time yesterday. Although he was said to have breezed into his office after the federal cabinet inauguration on Tuesday *Daily Trust* learnt that a formal meeting with the ministry's staff was yet to take place.

A meeting to this effect which was scheduled to take place in the ministry's conference hall by 9:30am yesterday could not hold. Head of the Public Relations unit of the Ministry, Mrs. Badejo said the Minister remained behind at the instance of the acting president after attending yesterday's federal executive council meeting.

CBN knocks MFBs over unethical practices

By Tina A. Hassan & Yunus Abdulhamid

THE Central Bank of Nigeria yesterday criticized operators of micro finance banks over what it considered as unethical practices and refusal to follow set down regulations.

Director of Other Financial Institutions Department (OFID) of the CBN Femi Fabanwo said the state of micro-finance practices in Nigeria leaves much to be desired because practitioners are not following the regulations of the business.

Femi was addressing the National Association of Micro-finance Banks (NAMF) at the formal inauguration of the association in Abuja yesterday.

He said micro finance banks in Nigeria should be able to imbibe professionalism in their operation that could catapult them into global reckoning.

He frowned at MFBs collecting third party cheques and demanding collateral from customers which are only allowed by the universal banks.

"It is our desire to have a virile micro financing regime and an association that would be self regulatory to promote optimum results. Unlawful practices such as insider abuses are some of the practices we have observed in recent time.

This could land some of the MFBs into trouble," Femi said.

"CBN has commenced standard examination of all microfinance banks in the country in collaboration with the NDIC.

"The exercise would be concluded before the end of May. When the results come out, we will take regulatory measures that will ensure stability in the industry and ensure that practitioners are really doing microfinance," he added.

NAMF is expected to be a self regulatory body to micro-finance banks in Nigeria and an advocacy platform for all such banks regarding microfinance operations.

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Hasal Microfinance Bank, Rogers Nwoke who is also the Chairman of NAMF, Abuja chapter, said the issue of collateral should not be the focus for microfinance banks since their operations are defined along small credit to small businesses.

Meanwhile, National Chairman of the Transition Committee of NAMF Chief Mathias Omeh has appealed to journalists to support micro banks through accurate reporting and representation especially in differentiating between microfinance banks and other financial institutions.

"The Association was hopeful that the problems that have bedevilled the power sector over the years would be addressed."

Business

Local govt can boost grassroots economy — Kumbotso chairman

Alhaji Mannir Babba Dan Agundi, the chairman of Kumbotso Local Government Area of Kano State, explains in this interview how micro credits reduce crimes among youths. Dan'Agundi, who recently emerged the best local government chairman in the state and the North West zone, says among other things that grassroots development would only be attained when governors stop tampering with local governments' funds.

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

PEOPLE are of the belief that when local governments are given total financial freedom, corruption will breed?

This is not true. It is detrimental to grassroots development for state governments to be excising some parts of our grants. The belief that if local governments are given free hand, they will be corrupt is untrue. The corrupt one will remain corrupt whether their funds are released without tampering or not. I think Kano was unique since 1999 during the administration of Dr Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso, and still the present administration of Malam Ibrahim Shekarau still maintain the practice of giving local governments financial freedom.

Our grants here in Kano are not touched by the state government as they come from the federal government. Even as the only local government chairman from the opposition party, I receive my grants intact without any interference from government. So such freedom gives me the ability to touch many areas. I think for the country to grow and develop, local governments must be given their money by governors. Other state governments should borrow a leaf from Kano in order to develop.

Local government chairmen are seen as corrupt and non performers, what is the recipe for success?

For one to succeed in Local Government administration, one has to look at the following three aspects. Number one, you have to cater for the need of the people, the staff and then the politicians. So for you to succeed you have to balance these three aspects so that you can achieve a meaningful development in your administration. Once a chairman ensures that these three aspects are taken care of, the administration will surely succeed. I have done it in 1999 to 2002 and I am doing the

same now. And thank God I am very happy that I can go anywhere within my local government without harassment or any embarrassment. I can come out from my home anytime I so wish. If you do this you will not see hoodlums, thugs or any other miscreants around you.

Then there is also the issue of security. You must also ensure the security of lives and property of the people. This is because without peace, not development will be attained. For instance, we at Sheka Danmaliki Ward we are facing the problem of insecurity before. Putting the yearning of the people into account, we are now building a police station in the area so that crime rate in the neighbourhood will reduce. So I believe this will deter criminals from the area as we have rampant cases of murder among the young people. We tried our best to empower the youth so that with something to do, they would not engage in criminal activities. Some of them were trained under what we called poverty alleviation programme, through micro loans.

There are two ways in this case, those who want to be reformed, they will be assisted in that way and those who prefer to go astray, the law will bring them to the right direction. To ensure security of lives and property in your local government, you must also ensure that the security agencies are given allowances to ensure effective service delivery. If they are given regular allowances, they can even go and raid the place without even my knowledge.

For local government to succeed there should be a partnership and collaboration with the state and federal government so that the country will be the better. For example, NAFDAC is responsible for safeguarding the health of the nation through sanitising drugs. At the local level, we are responsible for giving licences to patent medicine stores. If you look at this country, we have 774 local governments. In

my local government alone, I have about a hundred patent medicine stores. Does NAFDAC have the capacity and the personnel to carry out regulatory activities on these stores? This is where the collaboration and partnership comes. Using fake drugs in the society is causing a lot of problems, especially Kano. So these are some of the important aspects of governance at the grassroots.

Taking you back to the micro finance initiative, how does it help curb crimes?

It helps in many ways. I think there are consultants appointed by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to give entrepreneurial training in the geo-political zones of the country. Kano is one of the centres because of the alarming rate of unemployment. I think they did go round and select certain number of youths, both men and women, so that they will train them and show them how to acquire loans and credits. The logic behind the training is to acquaint people with knowledge on how to manage businesses and use the loans sensibly. We always have problem with people refusing to pay back loans.

We have selected five to 600 people in the local government who have finished the course and arrangements have reached advanced stage for them to start benefiting from the micro credit. There is a facility lying at the micro finance banks that are not accessed because of lack of entrepreneurial skills. But with such trainings, they will be able to access some interest-free loans. Our intention is to even open the micro finance bank but we are still mulling over the idea because people hardly value government-owned ventures, and also because of some financial constraints.

But we still hope that an independent entity will come up with the idea as we have already done the feasibility study on the issue. Although micro credits are not physical developments, yet they ensure peaceful coexistence

among the people.

Violence among the youth is reduced to barest minimum because of the empowerment through this scheme. Although it is development in abstract, it may be one of the areas of development that made me emerge the best in Kano State and also the best in the North-west. Despite being from the opposition party, the Kano State House of Assembly might have also looked into this area to score me the highest in the state.



ALHAJI Mannir Babba Dan'Agundi



EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES

A young, dynamic and well capitalized Capital Market Operator (A member of the Nigerian Stock Exchange) does as a result of repositioning strategy, require the services of outstanding and competent professionals with suitable qualifications and proven high network marketing abilities (Marketing Managers) and an IT Officer hits Head Office located in Abuja.

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Minimum Qualification - Marketers:

- ~ First Degree or its equivalent with minimum of 2nd Class lower/lower Credit in any Social Science and Business related course.
- ~ MBA and/or any relevant professional qualification(s) will be an added advantage.
- ~ Minimum of 5 years cognate experience in Capital Market Operations.
- ~ Must demonstrate sufficient and proven satisfactory performance in similar position(s). ~ Must be computer literate and between the ages of 25-40 years.

Minimum Qualification - IT Officer:

- ~ B. Sc or HND Computer Science with minimum of 2nd Class lower/Lower Credit.
- ~ M. Sc and/or any relevant professional qualification(s) will be an added advantage. ~ Minimum of 2 years experience with international exposure.
- ~ Must be between the ages of 23-30 years.
- ~ Must be versed in software packages including IT business solutions, Power Point, Excel and other relevant software packages.

How to apply

Interested and qualified candidates should please submit their hand-written applications and detailed Curriculum Vitae within 2 weeks of this advertisement to: The Managing Director/CEO PCML P. O. BOX 16042 Wuse - Abuja.

Note: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted

Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Thursday, April 8, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	21	0.53	2,021,000	1,088,074.00
SECTOR Totals	21		2,021,000	1,088,074.00
AGRICULTURE				
FTN COCOA PROC. PLC	62	1.21	5,971,900	7,145,036.00
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	10	0.79	780,610	616,681.90
PRESKO PLC	26	6.50	404,358	2,689,655.63
SECTOR Totals	98		7,156,868	10,451,373.53
AIR SERVICES				
NIG/AVIAT. HAND. COY PLC	94	12.73	2,596,953	33,059,211.69
SECTOR Totals	113		3,313,482	35,144,311.08
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	383	10.38	14,458,217	154,397,358.53
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	45	2.86	2,241,513	6,410,727.18
DIAMOND BANK PLC	145	9.85	11,306,613	109,300,950.50
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	103	7.00	2,697,127	19,022,367.58
F/CITY MON. BANK PLC	118	9.30	67,747,583	622,321,635.56
FIDELITY BANK PLC	219	3.31	7,312,112	24,689,455.98
FIRST BANK OF NIG. PLC	965	17.98	27,027,422	487,862,724.89
FINBANK PLC	123	0.70	19,965,782	14,336,968.28
GTBANK PLC	709	22.80	21,332,815	486,609,791.00
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	85	11.99	2,485,221	29,161,922.44
INTERCONT. BANK PLC.	113	2.38	7,948,353	18,862,851.82
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	108	2.16	5,337,503	11,529,006.48
BANK PHB PLC	174	1.83	34,983,674	63,130,882.56
SKYE BANK PLC.	260	8.17	15,570,854	124,391,111.29
SPRING BANK PLC	26	1.07	607,681	671,511.66
STERLING BANK PLC	119	2.90	8,185,693	24,211,334.15
UNT. BANK FOR AFR. PLC.	394	16.12	60,023,421	965,219,289.74
UN/BANK OF NIG. PLC	226	5.97	5,874,098	35,641,550.98
UNITYBANK PLC	39	1.05	6,002,048	6,231,014.26
WEMA BANK PLC	22	1.15	485,365	558,169.75
ZENITH BANK PLC	439	19.48	48,348,112	930,351,542.49
SECTOR Totals	4,815		369,941,207	4,134,912,167.12
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	66	24.87	826,948	20,566,196.76
BENUE CEMENT COY PLC	89	60.80	2,732,346	167,286,778.72
CEM. CO. OF N/NIG. PLC	76	25.90	2,088,906	54,039,589.40
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	58	39.90	3,125,784	124,608,171.60
SECTOR Totals	289		8,773,984	366,500,736.48
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS NIG. PLC	10	6.55	141,999	928,641.85
CHEM. & ALL. PROD. PLC	6	29.67	34,867	1,084,169.55
DN MEYER PLC	7	2.92	134,800	394,594.00
SECTOR Totals	23		311,666	2,407,405.40
COMMERCIAL/SERV.				
AFROMEDIA PLC	5	0.53	124,079	65,761.87
COURTVILLE INVEST. PLC	4	0.50	585,000	292,500.00
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	40	3.71	2,046,685	7,593,173.35
SECTOR Totals	49		2,755,764	7,951,435.22
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEV. (NIG.) PLC	32	4.63	481,346	2,207,672.41
CHELLARAMS PLC	1	13.43	2,300	30,889.00
PZ CUSSONS NIG. PLC	62	30.00	619,175	18,595,858.50
SCOA NIGERIA PLC	1	8.71	325	2,691.00
TRANS. C. OF NIG. PLC	60	0.56	9,402,315	5,218,424.16
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	144	54.70	3,868,385	210,281,986.10
UNILEVER NIG. PLC	89	28.71	1,638,098	47,150,577.94
SECTOR Totals	389		16,011,944	283,488,099.11
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	73	7.49	2,290,327	17,154,549.23
JULIUS BERGER NIG. PLC	35	41.89	2,559,166	107,203,463.74
MULTIVERSE RES. PLC	3	0.50	239,200	119,600.00
SECTOR Totals	111		5,088,693	124,477,612.97
FOOD/BEV. & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	10	35.41	64,231	2,274,419.71
BIG TREAT PLC	15	1.17	532,303	622,794.51
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	105	19.00	2,404,961	46,077,578.84
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	321	21.49	3,521,411	75,313,025.20
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	160	21.00	6,574,654	135,964,475.04
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	159	74.00	3,207,774	235,554,958.79
H/WELL FLOUR MILL PLC	92	8.55	3,953,991	35,603,373.60
NAT. SALT COY NIG. PLC	127	10.18	4,592,040	46,646,871.74
NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC	34	35.70	404,749	14,639,198.30
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	29	283.50	109,024	32,444,009.47
N/NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC	11	35.62	155,909	5,534,177.80
TANTALIZERS PLC	80	1.34	5,885,195	7,935,040.74
UTC NIGERIA PLC	7	0.85	180,083	153,070.55
SECTOR Totals	1,150		31,586,325	638,762,994.29
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	84	1.58	3,489,188	5,403,196.57
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	70	3.36	4,210,922	14,732,839.44
GLAXOSM. CONS. NIG. PLC	12	28.00	135,049	3,780,795.31
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	57	6.74	2,369,740	15,720,443.06
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	11	2.03	463,881	941,678.43
PHARMA-DEKO PLC	1	4.97	10	47.30
UN/DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	26	0.86	2,403,600	2,064,574.00
SECTOR Totals	261		3,072,390	42,643,574.11

HOTEL & TOURISM

CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	4	3.55	54,875	185,477.50
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	22	2.61	2,212,024	5,773,382.64
SECTOR Totals	26		2,266,899	5,958,860.14
IND/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS				
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	18	10.20	211,633	2,122,436.16
NIG. ENAMELWARE PLC	2	47.70	6,840	309,988.80
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC	5	0.53	86,000	44,346.00
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	41	6.14	2,410,989	14,606,448.10
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	1	0.58	9,305	5,396.90
SECTOR Totals	67		2,724,767	17,088,615.96
INF. & COMM. TECH.				
CHAMS PLC	42	0.89	4,860,448	4,325,798.72
MASS TEL. INNOV. NIG. PLC	1	0.50	100,000	50,000.00
STARCOMMS PLC	85	2.80	9,574,167	28,876,282.84
SECTOR Totals	128		14,534,615	33,252,081.56
INSURANCE				
AFRICAN ALL. INSUR. PLC	1	0.50	3,000	1,500.00
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	49	1.49	1,826,286	2,721,166.14
CONTINENTAL REINS. PLC	7	0.93	2,100,000	1,953,000.00
C/STONE INSUR. CO. PLC.	19	0.60	1,400,000	839,700.00
CUST. & ALLIED INSUR. PLC	53	4.09	7,614,062	30,326,188.58
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	3	0.50	14,234	7,117.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	39	0.94	4,237,950	3,941,402.00
GUAR. TRUST ASSUR. PLC	91	3.10	9,974,830	30,683,912.98
CONS. HALLM. INSUR. PLC	3	0.50	10,210	5,105.00
INT. ENERGY INSUR. COY PLC	50	0.64	4,388,005	2,808,323.20
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	88	0.55	30,795,338	16,456,971.02
L/UNION & ROCK INSUR. PLC.	59	0.55	21,140,745	11,375,279.71
MUTUAL BEN. ASSUR. PLC	80	0.57	25,511,723	15,107,616.99
N.E.M. INSUR. CO. (NIG.) PLC	38	0.68	3,938,705	2,678,319.40
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	25	0.85	2,278,938	1,937,097.30
OASIS INSURANCE PLC	2	0.97	30,929	28,763.97
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	9	3.76	86,245	339,390.67
STACO INSURANCE PLC	82	0.50	16,669,348	8,405,409.00
STAND. ALLIANCE INS. PLC	65	0.54	7,536,802	4,064,873.08
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	17	0.87	511,402	451,043.16
UNITY CAPITAL ASSUR. PLC	12	0.58	13,785,000	7,735,300.00
UNIVERSAL INSUR. COY PLC	7	0.50	201,964	100,982.00
INTERC. WAPIC INSUR. PLC	13	0.87	193,625	171,629.75
SECTOR Totals	812		154,249,341	142,140,090.95
LEASING				
C&I LEASING PLC	34	4.00	623,546	2,497,017.64
SECTOR Totals	34		623,546	2,497,017.64
MARITIME				
JAP/OIL & MARIT. SERV. PLC	140	1.81	7,582,997	13,725,224.57
SECTOR Totals	140		7,582,997	13,725,224.57
MEDIA				
DAAR COMMUNIC. PLC	60	1.38	554,320	764,961.60
SECTOR Totals	60		554,320	764,961.60
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ASO SAV. AND LOANS PLC	84	0.57	23,088,332	13,254,046.78
RES. SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	11	0.50	30,234,754	15,117,377.00
UN/HOMES SAV. & LOANS PLC	65	0.96	8,650,607	8,085,468.88
SECTOR Totals	160		61,973,693	36,456,892.66
OTHER FINANCIAL INST.				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC.	12	0.89	1,876,592	1,670,166.88
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	26	0.60	7,563,445	4,538,008.81
SECTOR Totals	38		9,440,037	6,208,175.69
PACKAGING				
NIGERIAN BAG MAN. COY PLC	550	4.00	6,655,115	27,180,641.23
BETA GLASS CO. PLC	14	16.43	301,315	4,950,605.45
NAMPAK NIGERIA PLC	6	6.32	100,000	632,000.00
POLY PRODUCTS (NIG.) PLC	2	4.02	52,000	209,040.00
SECTOR Totals	572		7,108,430	32,972,286.68
PETROLEUM (MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	213	37.50	2,097,827	79,159,671.73
BEKO PETROL. PROD. PLC	44	1.71	2,543,072	4,421,421.81
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	12	69.79	15,734	1,119,641.18
CONOIL PLC	49	44.00	165,423	7,335,776.20
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	52	8.30	416,269	3,473,453.60
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	19	118.67	59,474	7,057,779.58
OANDO PLC	128	98.39	4,306,263	423,556,714.67
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	6	149.62	6,774	1,064,195.40
SECTOR Totals	523		9,610,836	527,188,654.17
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	5	7.90	12,650	102,792.30
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	13	8.05	212,555	1,671,320.25
SECTOR Totals	18		225,205	1,774,112.55
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROP. DEV. CO. PLC	30	25.00	284,880	7,117,709.00
SECTOR Totals	30		284,880	7,117,709.00
ROAD TRANSPORTATION				
ASSOCIATED BUS COY PLC	23	1.13	657,853	737,317.89
SECTOR Totals	23		657,853	737,317.89
THE FOREIGN LISTINGS				
ECOBANK TRANS. INCORP.	24	20.00	1,027,081	20,457,097.37
SECTOR Totals	24		1,027,081	20,457,097.37
OVERALL Totals	10,387		797,405,361	7,219,697,116.00

What is income stock?

A security with a solid record of dividend payments and which offers a dividend yield higher than the average common stock.

Google.com

GAINERS

MOBIL	5.65
OANDO	4.68
FLOURMILL	3.50
JBERGER	1.99

LOSERS

BCC	3.19
UNILEVER	1.51
HONYFLOUR	0.45
ACCESS	0.44

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Alleviating menstrual cramps

By Akor Ojoma and Romoke Ahmad

MANY women experience menstrual cramps medically called dysmenorrhoea just before and during their menstrual periods. For some women, the discomfort is merely annoying. For others, it can be severe enough to interfere with everyday activities for a few days every month. Menstrual cramps or dysmenorrhoea are dull, throbbing or cramping pains in the lower abdomen.

According to Dr Emeka Anene, director Jikwoyi Medical Centre "Dysmenorrhoea is a painful menstruation with no identifiable pelvic pathology.

This occurs at the time of menarche that is the first time a girl or young woman menstruates or shortly after. It begins before or after the onset of menstrual flow and continues for 48 to 72 hours." Dysmenorrhoea may precede menstruation by several days or may accompany it, and it usually subsides as menstruation tapers off. Dysmenorrhoea may coexist with excessively heavy blood loss.

Treating the underlying cause is key to reducing the pain. Menstrual cramps that aren't caused by some underlying condition tend to lessen with age and often disappear once a woman has given birth.

Types

There are two types of dysmenorrhoea - primary and secondary dysmenorrhoea.

Secondary dysmenorrhoea is diagnosed when symptoms are attributable to an underlying disease, disorder, or structural abnormality either within or outside the uterus. Primary dysmenorrhoea is diagnosed when none of these is detected.

Secondary dysmenorrhoea could be caused by other medical problems such as endometriosis (abnormalities in the lining of the uterus), adenomyosis (non malignant growth of the endometrium into the muscular layer of the uterus), pelvic inflammatory disease, uterine fibroids, cervical narrowing (In some women, the opening of the cervix may be so small that it impedes menstrual flow, causing a painful increase of pressure within the uterus.), uterine malposition, pelvic tumors or an IUD (intra-uterine device).

Symptoms

The main symptom of dysmenorrhoea is pain concentrated



in the lower abdomen, in the umbilical region or the suprapubic region of the abdomen. It is also commonly felt in the right or left abdomen. It may radiate to the thighs and lower back. Other symptoms may include nausea and vomiting, diarrhoea or constipation, headache, dizziness, disorientation, hypersensitivity to sound, light, smell and touch, fainting, and fatigue. Symptoms of dysmenorrhoea often begin immediately following ovulation and can last until the end of menstruation. This is because dysmenorrhoea is often associated with changes in hormonal levels in the body that occur with ovulation.

Causes

During menstrual periods, your uterus contracts to help expel its lining. Prostaglandins, hormone-like substances involved in pain and inflammation, trigger the uterine muscle contractions. Higher levels of prostaglandins are associated with more severe menstrual cramps.

Many experts believe that severe contractions constrict the blood vessels feeding the uterus.

The resulting pain can be compared to the angina that occurs when blocked coronary arteries starve portions of the heart of food and oxygen.

Menstrual cramps also may be caused by: Endometriosis, uterine fibroids, adenomyosis, pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) and cervical stenosis.

Treatment

For treatment of primary dysmenorrhoea, symptoms usually subside with appropriate medication such as aspirin, felvin, ibuprofen, naproxen, ketoprofen, mefenamic acid etc.

These drugs should be started at the onset of bleeding to avoid inadvertent use during early pregnancy and taken for 2-3 days.

Oral contraceptives are another alternative. By stopping ovulation and decreasing prostaglandin levels, they may eliminate cramps.

Treatment of secondary dysmenorrhoea depends on the cause which may vary from conservative drug therapy, hysterectomy, antibiotics and surgery. In addition to the above, Dr Anene said assuring the patient and dis-

pellling of anxiety and concern over its cause via adequate explanation is helpful. "If one medication does not provide relief, another may be recommended.

Low dose contraceptives provide relief in more than 90 % of patients and are indicated in women who are sexually active but do not desire pregnancy. Taking analgesics agents before cramps start in anticipation of discomfort is advised."

Self Care

For relief of painful menstrual cramps and their associated discomforts, start with a hot bath. The water helps relax the uterus and other tensions that may be contributing to the problem.

Place a heating pad on your abdomen. The flow of heat can provide soothing, temporary pain relief.

Exercise regularly. Aerobic exercise such as walking, swimming, running, bicycling, and aerobic dance may diminish cramping symptoms. For some women, exercise may inhibit prostaglandins or help release endorphins, the brain's natural painkillers.

BBC's *The Outnumbered*

How much time should we spend on our children?

By Cassandra Jardine

A study shows that the amount of time we spend on childcare has increased. Is that, wonders Cassandra Jardine, a good thing for our children?

No doubt frightened of being told to go to bed while I read my book, my 11-year-old son asked on Tuesday night if we could watch a DVD together. He gave me a choice of two: Michael McIntyre Live at Wembley – oh please not – and the 1986 film that launched River Phoenix's brief career, *Stand By Me*: a story about four 12-year-old boys who go off together down a railway line to find a dead body.

Yes, I said, eager like any guilt-ridden working parent to tick the box called "childcare" while also doing the crossword, lying on my bed, and running a bath. We cuddled up together cosily for an hour and a half – less if you subtract the times when I had to leave the room for fear that one of the other children was about to be mown down by a train. But that happy evening left me with a problem of definition when I opened yesterday's newspaper. Could film-watching with one armed draped around a child be reckoned among my working mother's childcare minutes, as quantified by Dr Oriel Sullivan?

The Oxford University sociologist gave a paper at the British Sociological Association's annual conference in which she looked at how much time parents spend on childcare, and how this has changed since 1975. There appears to have been a dramatic shift: men are up from 8 mins per day (scarcely enough for a bedtime story) to a princely 32 to 36 mins (enough for two stories and a fight about bedtime).

Women, meanwhile, have made even greater strides towards child-centredness. In 1975 working mothers spent just 8 to 21 minutes on childcare, which makes it hard to understand how they ever managed to feed their children, let alone have rows about homework

and lost shoes.

Twenty-five years later, that had increased to a magnificent 51 to 86 minutes. According to Dr Sullivan, who has not yet had time to crunch through thousands of time-use diaries for 2005, the upward trend appears to continue: not only are parents spending more time with their children, both sexes are also devoting more hours to household chores. Hooray. Children are getting far more attention than ever before from both working parents and they are living in clean homes. Fingers crossed, they should end up sane and healthy.

It sounds like unequivocally good news, but not everyone agrees. "This intensification of parenting is a pretty bad thing," says Professor Frank Furedi, who wrote *Paranoid Parenting*. "There's a slightly obsessive dynamic at work that makes mothers, and increasingly fathers, live their life for their child."

"And are children the better for it?" asks a cynical friend who, like all working parents, is constantly anxious about getting it right. "If we are all so much better at parenting, why is it that when children come to my house for lunch they seem unable to say a word, and just sit there playing with their PSPs?"

Tricky one that. Nice as it would be to congratulate ourselves for once on doing something right, we may be fooling ourselves. It may even be an illusion that we are spending more time with our children. To some extent, Sullivan says, we are simply reclassifying activities – such as watching films – as childcare because it suits our self-image. My father, for example, would never have described watching the cricket, with me looking bored in the same room, as childcare; I bet he would now.

But however slippery the data, it is abundantly clear within minutes of meeting any parent that, regardless of how much time we spend with our children, we are obsessed by them.

They have become domestic gods, our purpose in life, the focus

of our spending, ambitions and spare time.

Weekends are no longer about parents amusing themselves, while children tag along. It's the children who decide what to do – our only stipulation is that they let us tag along. We do, however, like to insist that they choose from a list of improving activities that may one day mean they get into the right secondary school, and top university. They'll thank us for it, we assume.

I plead guilty. When my five children, now aged 11 to 20, were younger I would start every weekend by asking them what they wanted to do. Greeted by blank looks, I would take them off, protesting, to a museum or gallery. As they crashed around annoying adults, I would hiss like a latter-day Joyce Grenfell, telling them to behave while I pointed out interesting facts about Impressionists or Henry VIII. A low point occurred in the Prado Madrid where I sang so tunelessly to quieten my bored son that other visitors begged me to shut up.

Every parent I know has been through the same rigmarole. "Changes in the educational system have put pressure on parents to instill in children their cultural capital," Sullivan notes. We want them to do at least as well as we have ourselves. That seems to mean taking them to Shakespeare, aged five, in the hope that somehow the wonder of the language will result in a lifelong love of literature, rather than a yearning for an ice cream in the interval.

All this anxious attention has its good side, of course. "My father was a remote figure, in a way that few fathers are nowadays," says Carl Honore, father of two and author of the childcare book, *Under Pressure*.

"It's something we should celebrate about modern life." As a striving sort himself, he has made a conscious effort to rein in the busy parent's tendency to make every second count.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

FRAGMENTS

By Safiya I. Dantiye
safiya.dantiye@yahoo.com

When people abuse kindness

BY being kind enough to help a person in distress often, one may in fact be setting oneself as the sole provider of that person. This is because every time that person has a financial problem you will be the one he will rush to regardless of whether you have the means or not; but you have already set yourself up, therefore you must have something to give him, even if you have to borrow it!

Those living in big cities are very familiar with 'visitors' who wait for them outside their houses whenever they visit their hometown. While some waylay them and pounce on them at sight, some others have the temerity to send for them; they begin to cite their financial woes which range from school fees, illness, lack of food items and a host of other problems. It is little wonder that some people have to borrow money to settle such problems and pay the debt later.

There are instances, even in the cities when some people harass the wealthy ones for money, but not all wealthy people are generous. Some would insist that you find something productive to do; they promise to help you to set it up, rather than give you a small amount every now and then. People usually steer clear of such people, because with all your 'hospital cards' and the drugs you are supposed to buy, you can hardly get a kobo out of them.

One man says giving such people money encourages indolence; he would empower anybody to set up a business in a modern clever way, such as a loan. He says this is to ensure that people would really do the business or else, he snorted some would marry other wives with the money or spend it on other things.

But there are some men (it usually affects men) that are so soft hearted, they will go any length to help other people, some even do so at the detriment of their families even though they may not be necessarily wealthy.

In a particular incident, a man who is generous to a fault helped one young man in Abuja, and suddenly he had become the young man's mentor! Every once in a while he would go and ask him for money to buy food stuff, or to help with his rent, in Abuja of all places. The young man hardly went to greet him, unless he wanted to seek financial assistance and the man kept helping him with whatever amount he could, until one day when he had enough. And so he told him off, after all the young man was not his relative and he had never known him before. He had become a debtor all in the name of being kind to him, and the young man as the debt collector, so to say.

That is why many of those generous people find themselves in a quandary, while you are enjoying your weekend with your family, very early in the morning one uncouth man may send for you, only for you to come out and meet a stranger, who begins to tell you his financial problems and expects you to solve them instantly. The worst is if you work as a bank manager, the local people assume that as a bank manager you must have money to give everybody.

The situation gets worse if you take your time before you come out to see your 'visitor' he would be displeased that you have kept him waiting. But Islamically, according to Hajiya Aishatu Munir Matawalle, an Islamic scholar in Kano, it is not compulsory to see a visitor if you are not so disposed to it. She said, "If you cannot see the visitor, you can ask him to come at a time that is convenient for you. And even though people will describe you as an elitist when you do so, saying things like *kaji Bayahude! kaji Banasare!* (of being too elitist), Islam allows you to see visitors at the time you like."

With mobile phones, your friends and relatives can tell you they are coming to see you, and if you are not disposed you can fix another time, but those 'visitors' may not even be known to you, and they expect you to drop everything you are doing simply because they feel you ought to grant them audience so as to solve their financial problems.

"My kindness is my undoing," I heard one man lament, because people take him as *baitilmali*, (the nation's treasury), where every citizen has a right.

People really need enlightenment, they need to know that if a person helps them, he does it out of free will and it should not be taken as a pass to harass him into solving their financial problems. Everything has a limit, so why can't you try to find something to supplement your income, instead of *maula?* (clever way of begging, by saying you have financial problems.)

Health interactive

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

Advice by Dr Aminu Magashi

What causes priapism?

I visited my doctor one week ago because I was having painful erection and he told me I have Priapism. Not much is done to me in the hospital. Please what is this condition, its causes and remedy?

Joseph

Priapism is a condition where the blood that circulates through the penis becomes trapped in its spongy tissue. It can cause irreversible damage to the penis and prevent the patient from having a normal erection.

If an erection continues for more than 4 hours, seek immediate medical attention. If priapism is not treated immediately, penile tissue becomes damaged.

Priapism is not too common.

Some of the symptoms are;

1. persistent erection with sexual stimulation
2. painful erection with sexual stimulation

Among the common causes are:

1. Sickle Cell Anaemia
2. Spinal cord disorder
3. inflammation of the urethra
4. Leukemia (children with priapism usually have leukemia.)
5. Injury to the blood vessel that controls erection

The condition can be treated and it also depends on the cause. Placing a towel-covered ice pack over the penis usually stops the erection. In some cases, the doctor will need to withdraw blood from the penis.

Some of the complications may occur during and after the treatment. Some types of complications are:

1. priapism reoccurring
2. bleeding from the holes placed in the penis as a part of the shunting procedure
3. infections
4. infection of the skin around the penis
5. damage to the urethra

Problems with Condom Breakage

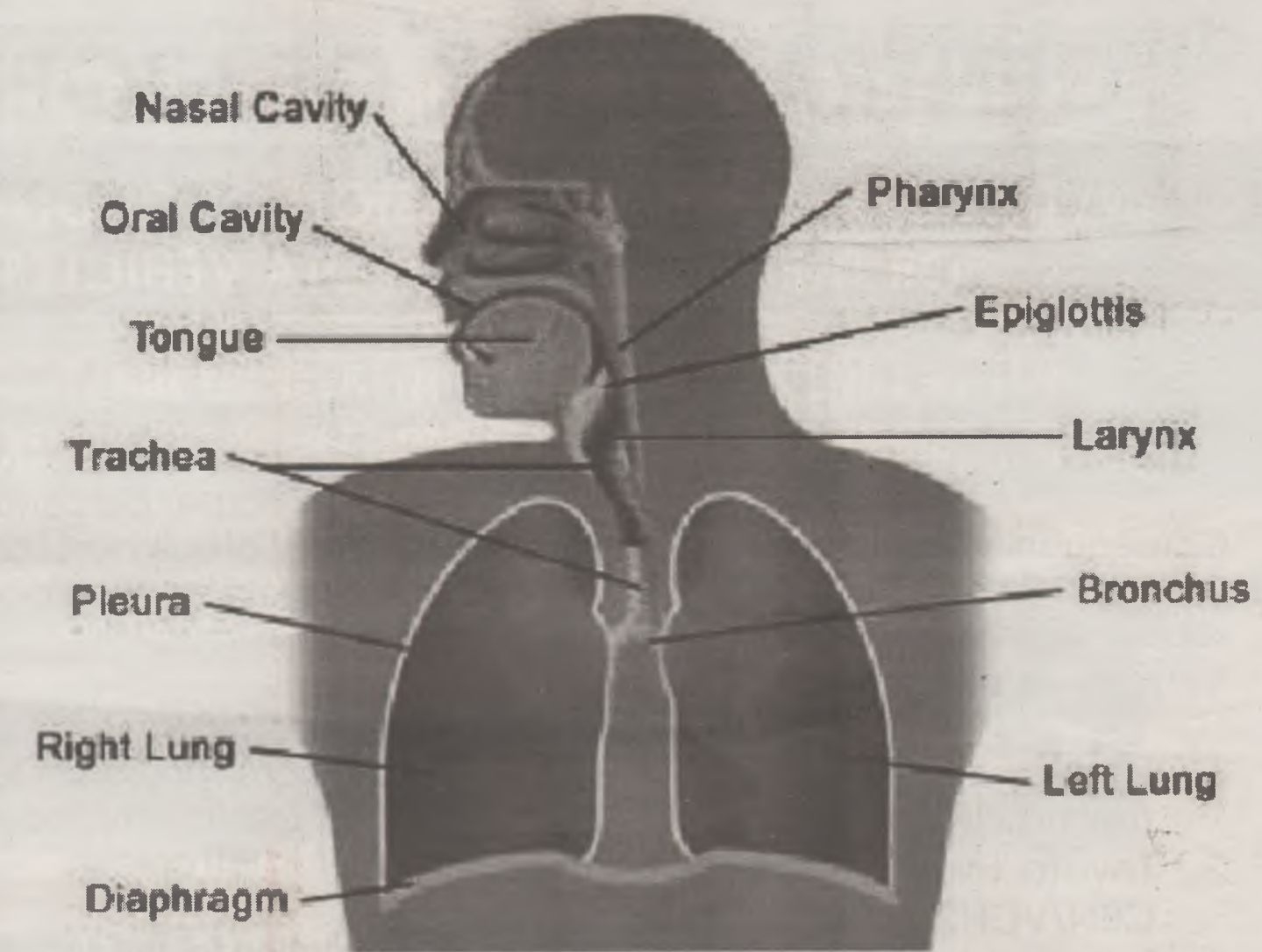
My wife is a student of a very demanding course, so we resort to using condom to avoid pregnancy. Last week, the condom busted as we were having intercourse. Please how do we avoid that in the future?

Elijah

At times Condom breaks or falls off during intercourse.

Some of the measures you will take if it breaks are as follows:

1. If the condom breaks while you're having sex and before ejaculation, immediately stop, pull out and put on a new condom.
2. If ejaculation has



occurred, pull out carefully and your wife should wash away any semen that has leaked out with soap and warm water.

3. She can shower or wash her genital area thoroughly with soap and warm water.

4. She should not douche after a condom breaks. Douching can force infectious microbes deeper in the vagina. Douching also causes membrane irritation, increasing the risk of disease transmission.

Some of the reasons why condom slips off or breaks are:

1. It was put on incorrectly
2. The expiration date passed
3. It was exposed to high temperatures or ripped wherever it was stored

Why am I crying?

May Allah bless you for your tireless and dedicated work to humanity through this weekly column. Recently, I noticed that whenever I am having intercourse with my husband, tears used to fall on my cheek. At times, it happens after the intercourse. Although I must confess to you that our relationship over the months has gone sour.

Worried married woman

A lot of social problems could

lead to your situation, you were likely confused, frustrated, or maybe even embarrassed due to one problem or the other. It happens to many people especially women.

Sometimes the cause of the tears is obvious, but most times, it appears to be a mystery. To help you solve the mystery, these are the most common reasons your emotional threshold may break down during intercourse and lead to crying.

1. A problem in the relationship. Even if you're not aware of it, an issue between you and your husband may be weighing heavily on your subconscious. Although the relationship may appear to be going great, any unresolved resentment can snowball into something greater and work its way into your sex life. Sex is a very emotional experience for some women, and you may find harboured feelings breaking free once you and your husband make that connection.

2. Relationship fears. Any fear related to the relationship - such as concerns that your husband may be thinking about leaving you, finds you less desirable, or isn't as interested in sex as he used to be - can leave you feeling vulnerable.

3. Hormones, hormones, hormones. We all know that pregnancy can make a woman emotional, much like sex. During

acts of sexual intimacy, your hormones are raging, potentially sparking a sea of mixed emotions. A few tears may not be a huge issue

You may voice out your concerns to your husband, someone close to you or your counselor and doctor.

What is Chronic Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)?

A friend of mine has been diagnosed with Chronic PID; please what is the problem all about?

NN

Chronic infection and inflammation of the internal genital organs of a female is known as chronic pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). PID often starts with an infection such as acute sexually transmitted infection like gonorrhea or more commonly chlamydia. Chlamydia infection may go undiagnosed for years. While the infection is usually mild in terms of symptoms, it produces chronic inflammation of the pelvic organs with scarring, adhesions, and tubal blockage. The damaged organs also become vulnerable to infection by other bacteria, so that chronic PID often involves multiple bacteria.

Typically, chronic PID results in the formation of adhesions, frequently massive, between

pelvic organs. This includes the uterus, fallopian tubes, ovaries, bowel and pelvic side walls. The ovaries are frequently encased in scarring and tend to develop cysts. The tubes are typically blocked at their terminal end (hydrosalpinx) and tend to be enlarged, with thick and inflamed walls. Because of bowel involvement in pelvic adhesions, bowel symptoms such as abdominal cramps and constipation are frequent. Pelvic pain of variable pattern and severity is common including severe generalized or localized pain which is crampy or constant. There is a tendency for heavy periods or intermenstrual irregular bleeding. Infertility can also occur with chronic PID.

Acute PID is usually accompanied by severe pain and fever and is treated with high dose antibiotics, often given through an intravenous infusion. Occasionally, a mass-like collection of pus forms, known as a pelvic abscess.

Pelvic abscesses are successfully treated by drainage of the abscess with a catheter or by means of laparoscopy in a hospital.

Chronic PID, especially when accompanied by severe chronic pain or by recurrent episodes of acute pain and fever is a debilitating condition.

A gynecologist will evaluate any lady with Chronic PID and institute desired management.



CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA

INVITATION FOR THE SUBMISSION OF QUOTATIONS FOR THE SUPPLY OF TOYOTA VEHICLES

The Central Bank of Nigeria requires the supply of Toyota vehicles to the Bank under the 2010 budget.

Consequently, the Bank wishes to invite **ONLY ACCREDITED** Toyota dealers to submit quotations for the supply of Vehicles as follows.

1. Toyota 30 seater Coaster Buses (ref.no.CBN/VCH2010/01)
2. Toyota Hilux , 4x 4 DC, (ref. no. CBN/VCH2010/02)
3. Toyota Landcruiser VX (ref. no. CBN/VCH2010/03)

1.0 SCOPE OF WORK

Provision of Vehicles listed above.

General Requirement

Only ACCREDITED Toyota Dealers wishing to carry out the above job should submit the following:

- a) Evidence of accreditation by Toyota Nigeria Ltd.
- b) Evidence of employees Retirement Savings Accounts (RSA) with a pension fund administrator
- c) Evidence of remitting employer and employee pension contributions to the appropriate pension fund custodian
- d) Evidence of transferring all

Pension Funds and Assets prior to the commencement of the pension reform Act to licensed pension operators.

e) Indicate percentage discount in the event of bulk purchase.

f) The quotation should be inclusive of all taxes.

3.0 SUBMISSION

Quotations should be forwarded in a sealed waxed envelope boldly marked at the top left corner:

**" Quotation for the supply of
to the Central Bank of Nigeria"**

And address to :-

**The Secretary,
Major Contracts Tenders
Committee(MCTC),
2nd Floor, Wing C,
CBN Head Office Complex
Central Business District,
Abuja, FCT Nigeria**

CLOSING DATE

All submission must be received at the above Address on or **before 16th April 2010**

OPENING DATE

Tenders will be opened on 20th April 2010

Signed:
MANAGEMENT

Female circumcision: Why the practice still continues

By Mulkat Mukail

FEMALE circumcision also known as female evacuating and female genital mutilation is any procedure involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other female injury to the female genital organs whether for cultural traditional, religions or other non therapeutic reasons.

It is practiced throughout the world and concentrated most heavily in Asia and Africa approximately 2000 years ago, generally as one element of a rite of passage preparing young girls for womanhood and marriage.

In the northern part of Nigeria, the shuwas believe that female genital mutilation reduces the uncertainty surrounding paternity by discouraging or preventing women's sexual activity outside of marriage. Though the societies that practice circumcision vary in many ways, most girls receive little education and are valued primarily for their future role as sources of labor and producers of children.

Girl's virginity may be considered essential to her family's ability to arrange her marriage and receive a bride price, as well as to family honor. In some lands, a prospective husband's family may have the right to inspect the bride's body prior to marriage, and regularly check their infibulated daughters to ensure that there are still closed.

In this context, parents see both infibulations and early marriage as means of ensuring that their daughter remains "pure" and thus worth the bride price. In Borno State, a Shuwa girl who has not been circumcised is not considered marriageable.

Female circumcision advocates have many claims of why this procedure should be done, the Yorubas believe that if the distorts touches a man's penis the man will die. As well as the belief that if a baby's head touches the distorts that the baby will die or the breast milk will be poisonous. Some societies also believe an unmodified distorts can lead to masturbation or lesbianism. There are so many reasons why female circumcision is practiced.

However the girls' desires to conform to peer norms make them eager to undergo circumcision, since those who remain uncut may be teased and cooked down on by their age mates.

In addition, the ritual cutting is the offer embedded in ceremonies in which the girls are feted and showered coins, cloths, gold earrings, and bangle, and their families are honored, she has henna put on her hands and feet. The preliminaries are regarded as a celebration where she is the centre of attention.

But later they put her in a gadhan, which is shaped like a deep dish. They lay her across it and hold her legs open. There are often three people holding her very tight when she is one in the gadha.

The equipment is handmade, a sharp curved knife which is not stabilized. And the girls is given no anesthesia, it is usually mostly by old women who are no medical practitioners. Paranoiac circumcision (excision with infibulations) means that the entire distorts and the labia minora are cut away and the two sides of the labia majora are partially sliced off or scraped



raw and then sewn together, often with catgut. In Sudan and Somalia, thorns are used to hold the two bleeding sides of the valve together, or a paste of gum Arabic, sugar and egg is used. The introits or entrance to the vagina is thus obliterated which is purpose of the operation except.

The practice of female circumcision has had immediate and lifelong psychological effects on the estimated 100 to 140 million woman and girls who have been subjected to this procedure. The experience has also been related to a range of psychological and psychosomatic disorders. Symptoms can manifest themselves in veins ways.

Including those associative with post traumatic stress syndrome. Seven physical health consequences can also emerge like shock Anemia, the Fermat her of cysts and abscesses, urine relation, wound

infection and the accumulation of menstrual flow in the vagina and uterus.

In addition to the factors underlying the practice, FGM is seen as a "family affair" and a personal decision in which the government should have no say.

Another main reason found for the continuation of the practice is a drive to control women's sexuality before marriage as a means of ensuring virginity.

In 2008, the World Health Assembly passed a resolution. (WHA16.c6) on the domination of FGM, emphasizing the need for concerted action in all sectors health, education, finance, justice and women affairs.

WHO has made efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation with focus on advocacy, developing publications and advocacy tools for international, regional and local efforts to end FGM within a

generation;

They have also made efforts on research generating knowledge about the causes and consequences of the practice, how to delimit it, and how to care for those who have experienced FGM.

WHO is particularly concerned about the increasing trend for medically trained personnel to perform FGM. WHO strongly urges health professionals not to perform such procedures.

Obviously, all of the myths are designed to justify and continue female genital mutilations.

From which men derive power and control over women as a group, this is of course the reason why this operation continues today and why they are being rapidly introduced into the modern sector though out African continent with the collusion of western men.

Sign Language



Will this deter the kleptomaniacs?
 Photo location: New York City, by Marina Rutenberg
 Culled from www.signspotting.com

EASY CROSSWORDS 28

ACROSS

1. Utter, basically
10. Choice show
16. Hunt through
20. Name in the news in 1946
22. Impudent
23. Sky ride name
24. Parental sub
25. Wolfish appraisal
26. Trough start
27. Bail out
28. Denial
30. Waste
31. Staff symbol
32. Dignities
34. Award when in every grade month
35. Military power
39. Adverse condition
40. Chills
41. Peaks
42. Intrude
43. Quaggy spots
44. Cypress protrusion
45. Crow's nest escapant
46. Non-flying wing
47. Person you might recognize
48. Atomic amount
49. Goes back on
53. Slippery folks
55. Death
57. Sewer skulker
58. Do a worker's job
59. You can check your bag up here
60. Terrain formation
61. Valuable source
62. Match
63. Stamp purchase
64. Carriers of Mexico
65. Ice layer
66. Charismatic
68. Disappointed
69. Flory relaxation
70. Umbrella
71. Lighthouse chamber
72. Unfil
74. Disgrace
76. Salmo genus
78. Theresa's command
77. Done with radical
79. Advance
79. Instrument of cure
80. Puzzles
81. Fumble
84. Some novelettes
85. Cypriot's name
86. Fringed socks
87. Balkan state, formerly
88. Courage pick
91. Memorable mark
92. Veldt denizen
93. As required
94. Spent
95. Path in life
98. Capped top
99. Guts to
101. Asped-up state
104. Advantage
106. School-marmish act
108. Gun's limit
107. Parcel title
108. Tinkles
109. Champagne

DOWN

8. Fold female
9. Descends
10. Spray
11. Poker declaration
12. Prono (in)
13. Lacy in a station
14. Think big
15. Suit fabric
18. Marking tool
17. Kim of kites
18. In the arms of Hygieia
19. Pinches
20. Daughter of Loki
22. Bunchy proposition
23. Good, in Caesar
34. African critters
35. Clinic tests
36. Promotes to many citations
37. Strong hunter
38. Soccer, see later?
43. Explain

Solution to Easy Crosswords



27

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.

124

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

Solution to Sudoku 123

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



BENUE STATE GOVERNMENT

62 Happy Cheers To A Great Nigerian



*O*n behalf of the government and people of Benue State, I wish to felicitate with our dear son, Senator (Dr) David Bonaventure Alechenu Mark GCON, President of the Senate, Federal Republic of Nigeria on the occasion of his 62nd birthday anniversary.

Mr. Senate President Sir, we in Benue State are very proud of your track record of many years of service to our dear country. Your leadership of the Senate in particular and indeed the National Assembly has provided great impetus to the stability and growth of our democracy and ensured the flow of democracy dividends to our people.

As you mark your 62nd birthday therefore, we join millions of Nigerians in praying for your good health and long life.

May the Almighty God grant you the courage, wisdom and protection in the years ahead as you serve our Fatherland.

Happy birthday, our great Leader and many Happy Returns.

SENATOR (DR) DAVID BONAVENTURE ALECHENU MARK GCON,
President of the Senate, Federal Republic of Nigeria

Rt. Hon. Gabriel Suswam
Governor, Benue State.



News Extra

'Thatcher of Central Asia' takes control in Kyrgyzstan after bloody revolution

A new 'provisional government' was in place in Kyrgyzstan yesterday after a dramatic and bloody revolution toppled its unpopular authoritarian president.

Key opposition figure Roza Otunbayeva - dubbed the Thatcher of Central Asia and a former ambassador to Britain - is heading the new government.

Yesterday it was desperately seeking to restore order and halt a wave of looting after violence in which 74 were killed and more than 500 wounded.

America, which has a military base in the country that is used as a hub for transporting supplies to Afghanistan, was watching events closely yesterday.

“ Otunbayeva stressed yesterday: 'We have a caretaker government now in place, and I am the head of it.' ”

Russia also has a military base in the country, a former Soviet state. Russian prime minister Vladimir Putin gave his seal of approval to the opposition in a phone call yesterday amid suspicions Moscow will seek to bring the country under its wing.

On Wednesday night Putin strongly denied he or the Kremlin was behind the bid to topple Bakiyev.

'Neither Russia nor your humble servant nor Russian officials have anything to do with these events,' he said, accusing Bakiyev of nepotism.

American President Barack Obama and his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev were meeting in Prague yesterday to sign a historic nuclear disarmament agreement. It is not clear if the situation in Kyrgyzstan will be discussed.

Yesterday Otunbayeva vowed 'nothing will be changed' regarding the U.S. air base. The U.S. was seeking assurances that there would be no disruption to its military flights.



KYRGYZ protesters waving the national flag ride on a truck in Bishkek following the protests

Russia said its air base was on 'high alert', adding that it was operating normally.

Otunbayeva has demanded the formal resignation of unpopular authoritarian President Kurmanbek Bakiyev.

He fled Bishkek Wednesday and was believed to be holed up in his provincial stronghold of Osh.

The new leader discounted a report by China's Xinhua News Agency that Bakiyev had already quit as ruler of the country.

'The president is trying to consolidate his electorate in the south, in order to continue defending his positions,' she said.

'The opposition insists that he stands down.'

Otunbayeva stressed yesterday: 'We have a caretaker government now in place, and I am the head of it.'

'It will remain in place for half a year, during which we will draft the constitution and create conditions for free and fair elections.' She insisted she was in 'full control' despite signs that the country remained volatile.

Otunbayeva pleaded with the army to end any support for Bakiyev - a demand that proved the opposition were not totally confident the old order would not fight back.

'We call on the army not to take up arms,' she said.

And in a bid to halt looting, she said: 'We ask you not to give in to provocations, or to destroy and loot the property'

Cont'd on page 42



'THATCHER of Central Asia': Roza Otunbayeva, shown here at a press conference in Bishkek yesterday, claims she is the head of the new provisional government



KYRGYZSTAN'S President Kurmanbek Bakiyev is said to have now fled the country



EMPOWERING THE MASSES THROUGH



First, it was **100 Delta City Taxis**
Then, **100 Delta City Buses**

Now it's the commissioning of
200 brand new Delta City Buses,
to boost public transportation in Delta State

Date Friday 9th April, 2010
Time 10.00a.m.
Venue The Cenotaph, Asaba
Guest of Honour Mr Nduka Obaigbena
Publisher THISDAY Newspapers

*Attendance is strictly by invitation

Another demonstration of His Excellency, Dr. Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan's commitment to improving the welfare of Delta State citizens.



GOVERNMENT OF DELTA STATE
www.deltastate.gov.ng



Dr. Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan
Governor, Delta State

News Extra



HASSAN and Hussein Benhaffaf, the conjoined twin boys.

The parents of conjoined twins said yesterday their baby sons had won the "battle of their lives" after they were successfully separated in a 14-hour operation at Great Ormond Street hospital in London.

Hassan and Hussein Benhaffaf, described by their parents as "little fighters", are in intensive care in a stable condition, according to surgeon Edward Kiely.

About 20 staff, including four anaesthetists and four surgeons,

worked in shifts during the complex procedure.

The boys were joined at the chest but did not share any major organs.

Their parents Angie and Azzedine Benhaffaf said: "The sun is shining today for our two little fighters, who have won the battle of their lives."

Mr and Mrs Benhaffaf, from east Cork in Ireland, added: "Words cannot express the relief and love we feel for our two boys. We thank God, we thank the surgeons and the gifted team at Great

Ormond Street hospital, and we thank from the bottom of our hearts the Irish nation and everyone who prayed for our beloved twins.

"We are so proud of the courage and strength that Hassan and Hussein have shown, and they both have made the world a much better place with them in it."

The twins' mother travelled to University College Hospital in London to give birth after scans showed they were conjoined.

After their birth in December, the twins returned to the care of

Conjoined twins win 'battle of their lives'

Hassan and Hussein Benhaffaf are in a stable condition after being separated in a 14-hour operation involving 20 staff

Cork University maternity hospital then went home, where they have been helped to grow stronger to give them the best possible chance of surviving the operation.

Kiely, a consultant paediatric surgeon at Great Ormond Street hospital, said: "I can confirm that the twins Hassan and Hussein Benhaffaf have been separated in a 14-hour operation yesterday. The twins are in intensive care and are sedated but stable. We are pleased with how the operation went."

In a poem written before the operation, Mrs Benhaffaf said she and her husband were told dur-

ing the pregnancy the boys might share a heart.

But their cries turned to tears of joy when "my little fighters were born" on 2 December, she wrote. Her poem said the twins had "fought to be here" and the operation to separate them was their "final battle".

The Benhaffafs relocated their entire family, including daughters Malika, four, and Iman, two, for the operation and recovery period and expect to remain in London for up to four months.

A special fund was set up in Ireland to help the family cover medical costs.

Culled from guardian.co.uk

'Thatcher of Central Asia' takes control

Cont'd from page 40

of ordinary citizens. Some of us were killed and wounded, and we must do everything in our power to help them.

ominously, while the former KGB secret services seemed to be in opposition hands, there were suggestions the Interior Ministry, which controls the police, were not fully onside.

Key opposition figure Omurbek Tekebayev spoke of a power vacuum. "So far the Interior Ministry is not obeying anyone - neither the opposition temporary government nor the old regime. It is doing nothing," he said.

Later there were claims that senior officers had sworn allegiance to the opposition nominee as Interior Minister Bolot Sherniyazov.

All top police and ministry officials in the capital were fired, it was claimed.

The new 'provisional government' also banned senior Bakiyev cronies from leaving the country.

Otunbayeva said the country's prime minister Daniyar Usenov had resigned, and stated the country's pro-Bakiyev parliament was dissolved with parts of the constitution suspended.

Opposition leaders in Wednesday's tumultuous events



ATTACK and revenge: Left, a police officer kicks a protester on the ground during Wednesday's violence. Right, wounded police officers huddle together for protection Wednesday as protesters attacked them



put the death toll at more than 100 after the security forces shot at crowds numbering 5,000 in central Bishkek. Hospital sources suggested the true figure was 74.

In major unrest, protesters had laid siege to government buildings

and the main state TV studios.

Bakiyev came to power in this mountainous state bordering China five years as a popular hero in the Tulip Revolution.

But he soon gave his relatives, including his son, top govern-

ment and economic posts and faced the same accusations of corruption and cronyism that led to the ouster of his predecessor, Askar Akayev, given safe haven by Moscow.

A new \$2 billion aid deal from

Moscow led to Kyrgyzstan cancelling America's rights to use an air base it had operated since 2001.

Later Bakiyev gave the U.S. a temporary reprieve in exchange for a huge increase in rent to \$60 million a year plus other support.

PROPERTY

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FMBN woos foreign investors

THE Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN) is expecting off-shore facilities from four international investors for housing development, according to the Managing Director, Mr Abdul-salami Ahmed.

He made the announcement on Wednesday in Lagos in an interview and said the bank would issue multiple international debt instruments, using a standard documentations framework for a transaction size of up to \$1.5 billion (N225b) in tranches.

He named the four investors as Euromoney Medium-Term

Note (EMTN) programme, SINOMACH (China National Machinery Industry Corporation), Korea Land and Housing Corporation and Foras International Ltd.

"The strategy is to take advantage of international investors' preference for public sovereign investments and more liquid instruments, such as the Eurobond, under prevailing market conditions.

"The EMTN programme is a financing platform used regularly by international financial institutions to raise cheap funds

with short and long term maturities from the international debt market," he added.

Ahmed explained that the proceeds from EMTN programme would be given on commercial terms for the construction of housing units by federal and states governments' housing agencies as well as private developers.

"The debit tranche is estimated at \$500 million (N75b). To provide investors' confidence, the notes are to be secured by the guarantee of the Federal Government," he said. (NAN)

Katsina to deploy casual workers over shanty settlements

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

WORRIED by the increasing number of illegal structures that continuously littered the springing settlements in the state capital, Katsina state urban planning and development authority (KUPDA) has this week engaged the services of casual labourers to avert undue proliferation of shanty settlements in the city.

The managing director of the authority, Alhaji Lawal Yunusa Musawa who disclosed this to newsmen during a three day in house training for the engaged staffs describe it as a stop gap measure approved by their board as part of an essential services.

The director who attributed inadequate manpower for their inability to ensure adequate supervision said the agency is worried about the incessant complaints over people's attitude in flouting the outlined development control rules.

He said the agency has provided for allowances, GSM handsets and other motorcycles to all the casual workers to enable them patrol all nooks and crannies of the city and even bring down any structures that flout building regulations.

He said the recent construction of roads and other development infrastructures within the state capital calls for improved commitment to ensure urbanization of the state as a springing settlements that's past becoming more cosmopolitan.



MINISTER of Works Senator Sanusi Mohammed Daggash (left) receiving the handing-over notes from Dr. Tukur Bello Ingawa, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Abuja on Wednesday.

Daggash, Essien, Chris assume duty

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE newly appointed Minister of Works, Senator Sanusi Mohammed Daggash, the Minister of State for Works, Engr. Chris Ogiemwonyi, and the Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Honourable Nduese Essien, resumed duties on Wednesday at the former Ministry of Works, Housing and Urban Development, Mabushi, Abuja with calls on the staff of the ministries to cooperate with them to ensure speedy delivery of usable roads and more houses for Nigerians.

The Minister of Works, Senator Sanusi Mohammed Daggash, observed that roads were very important to all Nigerians, hence the

state of roads were a constant source of diverse perceptions and comments from members of the public. He assured the staff that the new ministers will approach their duties with open minds and the confidence that the technical staff were accomplished professionals in their various fields.

The Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Honourable Nduese Essien noted that land reforms and the provision of housing for all Nigerians were key items in the present administration's seven-point agenda, and called for more creative, strategic planning and programming to bring them to reality.

The Minister of State for Works, Engr. Chris Ogiemwonyi challenged the Highways

Engineers to quickly design plans and strategies for optimizing construction works during the well known cycles of dry and rainy seasons in the country. He emphasized that no contracts will be given out without prior design. He emphasized the need for greater communication between the field offices of the parastatals in the Ministry and the Headquarters.

Welcoming the Ministers earlier, the Permanent Secretary, Dr. Tukur Bello Ingawa, assured them that the Ministry has a pool of highly trained and experienced professionals in their various technical areas.

He pledged the cooperation, support and loyalty of the entire staff of the ministries and the parastatals to the new Ministers.

Experts want implementation of Mabogunje land reform report

EXPERTS in the real estate sector on Thursday urged the Federal Government to implement the report of Prof. Akin Mabogunje's committee on land reform.

The experts, who spoke in separate interviews, said the implementation of the report would enable government to realise its housing target for the citizenry.

They asserted that the lack of proper land administration policy was responsible for government's inability to achieve its dream in the housing sector.

Mr Bode Adediji, Vice-President, Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers (NIESV), said the land tenure system had discouraged the private sector from complementing government's efforts in housing delivery.

"In spite of the Land Use Act, access to land still remains difficult. This is one of the two major problems confronting housing development in Nigeria," he said.

Adediji urged government to critically examine the committee's recommendations to make

housing development easy.

Dr Timothy Nubi, Chairman, Real Estate Development Association of Nigeria (REDAN), South West Zone, said there were many land areas that could not be developed at corporate or individual levels.

"This is because of the policy in operation in the country. Many family lands are not documented in the land registry; as such, developing them into estates have become difficult," he added.

Nubi stressed that a review

of the Land Use Act, Land Reforms and Land Administration in the country had become imperative to facilitate effective housing delivery.

Mr Femi Olomola, former Chairman, Nigerian Institute of Town Planners (NITP), Lagos chapter, urged government to urgently act on the land administration document.

He said that although the recommendations might not be different from those of 2002 headed by the same Mabogunje, it was important that govern-

ment produced a blueprint on it.

Chief Charles Adebisi, former President, NIESV, said that unless land reform was approached religiously, development of the housing sector would still remain a mirage.

According to him, the nation still has housing deficit of more than six million units.

To bridge the gap, he submitted that a land reform that would make access to land for mass housing programmes must be evolved. (NAN)

Property



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Agency tasks FCT developers

THE Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) has urged developers in the FCT and residents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requirement to avoid untoward circumstances.

The Director, AEPB, Dr. Abubakar Yabo, whomade the call in an interview on Wednesday in Abuja, said compliance with the EIA requirement would help the authority plan utilities in the capital territory.

He said: "FCT residents and developers living in FCT are encouraged to seek AEPB consent in all their developmental projects to ensure compliance with existing rules and regulations guiding environmental protection

in the FCT. "Because contravention constitutes a bridge of terms and conditions enshrined in AEBP Act of 1997.

"In a situation whereby a plot of land has been designated for residential and somebody will want to change it to commercial, whatever facilities provided for that service may not be enough.

The director said the board was insisting on proper EIA to avoid shanties, hawking, overcrowding and the lack of parking spaces in the FCT.

"We are working hard to ensure that developers comply with laws so that FCT residents on the average can live peacefully, safely with-

out any problem.

"Lack of compliance is what is causing overstretching of facilities and I have been warning some hotels in Abuja to comply with EIA," he said. Yabo underscored the importance of parking space in hotels, saying that such facility was crucial for city development.

He said the board was reviewing the location of some hotels due to complaints from members of the public.

He further said that the board would partner with Directorate of Road Traffic Service popularly known as VIO to flush out rickety vehicles that lacked road worthiness certification.

Plateau community seeks Army help over cemetery

From Ahmed Mohammed and Mahmud Lalo, Jos

PLATEAU State communities of Dogon Karfe in Giring district Jos have appealed to the Chairman Special Task Force on Restoration for Peace on the Plateau, Major General Saleh Maina, alleging that some people want to stop them from burying their dead bodies in the cemetery.

In a letter addressed to the task force chairman, who is the General Officer Commanding 3rd Armored Division, Jos Major General Saleh Maina, signed by the ward head of the community, Ibrahim Lawal, said "a baby girl died in the area and the parents reported the matter to him after they sought for army permission they went to bury the corpse in company of three soldiers to the burial ground"

He said during the burial some youths that lived in the area asked the deceased family to stop the burial or they would deal with them but the soldiers averted what would have been the major clash.

Mallam Ibrahim said burial ground belongs to the residents of the area who bought it for the past 20 years and they had already buried over hundreds of their dead and relatives and the action of such youths are highly provocative and it will reach to the breach of peace and advised the GOC to intervene.

The Assistant Director Army Public Relations Lieutenant Colonel Galadima Shekari said they were not aware of the letter but advised our correspondent to contact the Police over the matter.

Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Mohammed Lerama, said security operatives are not aware about the allegations and advised the inhabitants to report the matter to the nearest police station with their facts so that police will investigate and bring the perpetrators to book.



THE front view of the Centenary Hall built by Old Boys Association of Methodist Boys' High School, Lagos and commissioned by Governor Babatunde Fashola on Monday

Abuja land racketeers asked to proceed on holidays

By Nasir Imam

THE new FCT Minister, Sen. Bala Muhammad, has advised land racketeers to proceed on holidays until after his administration as they would be decisively dealt with to serve as deterrents to those who may think of venturing into such fraudulent activities.

The minister stated this on Thursday during an extra-ordinary FCT Executive Committee meeting in Gwarinpa I District (Life-Camp), Abuja.

The Minister lamented that land administration has been under severe criticisms and

the yearning of Nigerians must be met in this regard.

Senator Muhammad stressed that he is not in the FCT Administration for social gathering but to serve the people of Nigeria which must be achieved.

On the fate of political appointees in the FCT Administration like the Secretaries of the mandate Secretariats, the Minister revealed that he is making consultations; noting that a decision would soon be taken on whether to retain or reconstitute them.

Welcoming the new Minister, mandate secretaries as well as the Directors of the FCT Opera-

tions Departments, the FCT Permanent Secretary, Dr. Goke Adegoroye said that the extra-ordinary FCT exco meeting was convened to allow members meet and digest the vision, mission and road map of the new administration.

Dr. Adegoroye re-affirmed that the duty of the bureaucrats is to provide the engine for the smooth running of the government and would remain loyal.

The meeting was attended by the FCDA Executive Secretary, Engineer Muhammad Sani Alhassan, secretaries of the seven mandate Secretariats as well as the Directors of the FCT Operational Departments.

Dearth of office accommodation worries Fed Poly Nasarawa

MANY lecturers at the Federal Polytechnic, Nasarawa, in Nasarawa State, now operate under trees due to lack of office accommodation, an official has alleged.

The Chairman of the polytechnic's branch of the Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP), Abubakar Abba, made the allega-

tion in an interview in Nasarawa on Wednesday.

He said lecturers only found solace when they were in classrooms, "but after that, they either stay under trees or crowd themselves in other people's offices or leave for their residences".

The situation,

according to him, is affecting the programmes of the academic staff and can also lead to absenteeism.

Abba called for the cancellation of the national health insurance and pension schemes, both of which he said were hastily established and had failed in achieving the

objectives for which they were conceived.

He held that since there were limitations to the number of patients and type of ailments to be treated, the deductions made under the healthcare insurance scheme were not fair for many people whose healthcare needs could not be covered. (NAN)

“He said lecturers only found solace when they were in classrooms, “but after that, they either stay under trees or crowd themselves in other people’s offices or leave for their residences”.

Property



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Sokoto UBE to construct classrooms

THE Sokoto State Universal Education Board (SUBEB) says it has earmarked N460 million for the construction of additional classrooms in the 23 local government areas of the state.

The SUBEB Chairman, Alhaji Umaru Nagwari, who disclosed this in Sokoto on Thursday, said that each of the local governments would get a one-storey block of six classrooms to be built at the

cost of N20 million.

He said the gesture was part of the state government's special intervention projects under the UBE scheme.

"This is aimed at providing more classrooms across the state as they are very crucial in ensuring effective teaching and learning," he explained.

He said that the board had also set aside N113 million for the purchase of assorted furniture for the

new classrooms.

"You cannot just build new structures without providing furniture for them," the board chairman said, adding that the new structures would be built with toilets for both teachers and pupils.

He called on parents, wealthy individuals, corporate organisations and other relevant stakeholders to complement the efforts of the government in this direction. (NAN)



THE Federal Ministry of Education, Annex, Central Area, Abuja

Archaeologists uncover land untouched for 6,000 yrs

A team of archaeologists from the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute, along with a team of Syrian colleagues, is uncovering new clues about a prehistoric society that formed the foundation of urban life in the Middle East prior to invention of the wheel.

The mound of Tell Zeidan in the Euphrates River Valley near Raqqa, Syria, which had not been built upon or excavated for 6,000 years, is revealing a society rich in trade, copper metallurgy and pottery production. Artifacts recently

found there are providing more support for the view that Tell Zeidan was among the first societies in the Middle East to develop social classes according to power and wealth.

Tell Zeidan dates from between 6000 and 4000 B.C., and immediately preceded the world's first urban civilizations in the ancient Middle East. It is one of the largest sites of the Ubaid culture in northern Mesopotamia.

Thus far, archaeologists have unearthed evidence of this society's trade in

obsidian and production and development of copper processing, as well as the existence of a social elite that used stone seals to mark ownership of goods and culturally significant items.

One of the most remarkable finds was a stone stamp seal depicting a deer, Stein said. The seal was about two inches by two-and-a-half inches and was carved from a red stone not native to the area. A similar seal design was found 185 miles to the east near Mosul in northern Iraq.



FCT UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD, ABUJA

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE 2010 UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD (UBEB) PROJECTS.

The FCT Universal Basic Education Board is inviting competent and interested companies to submit technical and financial bids for the under listed projects:

LOT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PROJECT LOCATION	LEA
1	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 8 CLASSROOMS UPSTAIRS	JSS KUBWA II	BWARI
2	CONSTRUCTION OF 1 BLOCK OF 8 CLASSROOMS UPSTAIRS	KADO ESTATE	AMAC
3	CONSTRUCTION OF 1 BLOCK OF 8 CLASSROOMS UPSTAIRS	KAYARDA	KUJE
4	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 8 CLASSROOMS UPSTAIRS	JSS ZONE 3	AMAC
5	CONSTRUCTION OF 16 CLASSROOMS (CLUSTER)	JSS BYAZHIN	BWARI
6	CONSTRUCTION OF 16 CLASSROOMS (CLUSTER)	JSS GWAGWALADA	GLADA
7	CONSTRUCTION OF 16 CLASSROOMS (CLUSTER)	JSS KWALI CENTRAL	KWALI
8	CONSTRUCTION OF 16 CLASSROOMS (CLUSTER)	JSS KWALI CENTRAL	KWALI
9	CONSTRUCTION OF 16 CLASSROOMS (CLUSTER)	JSS BAKO	KWALI
10	CONSTRUCTION OF 16 CLASSROOMS (CLUSTER)	JSS GALADIMA	BWARI
11	CONSTRUCTION OF 16 CLASSROOMS (CLUSTER)	JSS KABIN MANGORO	KUJE
12	CONSTRUCTION OF 16 CLASSROOMS (CLUSTER)	JSS LEDA	KWALI
13	CONSTRUCTION OF 16 CLASSROOMS (CLUSTER)	JSS RUBOCHI	KUJE
14	CONSTRUCTION OF 16 CLASSROOMS (CLUSTER)	JSS SHERE	BWARI
15	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 8 CLASSROOMS UPSTAIRS	JSS JIKWOYI	AMAC
16	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS GWAGWA	AMAC
17	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS GWAGWA	AMAC
18	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS KARMO SABO	AMAC
19	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS KARMO SABO	AMAC
20	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS KARMO SABO	AMAC
21	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS KARMO SABO	AMAC
22	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS KARSHI	AMAC
23	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS KARSHI	AMAC
24	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS KARSHI	AMAC
25	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS KARSHI	AMAC
26	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS KURUDU	AMAC
27	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS KURUDU	AMAC
28	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS KURUDU	AMAC
29	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS KURUDU	AMAC
30	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS NARAI	AMAC
31	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS NARAI	AMAC
32	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS GAWU	ABAJI
33	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS GAWU	ABAJI
34	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS GAWU	ABAJI
35	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS GAWU	ABAJI
36	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS ABAJI	ABAJI
37	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS ABAJI	ABAJI
38	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS NARAHATI	ABAJI
39	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS NARAHATI	ABAJI
40	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS NARAHATI	ABAJI
41	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS NARAHATI	ABAJI
42	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS NUKU	ABAJI
43	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS NUKU	ABAJI
44	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS PANDAGI	ABAJI
45	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS PANDAGI	ABAJI
46	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS PANDAGI	ABAJI
47	CONSTRUCTION A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS PANDAGI	ABAJI
48	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS GWARGWADA	KUJE
49	CONSTRUCTION OF 1 BLOCKS OF 8 CLASSROOMS UPSTAIRS	FHA LUGBE PRY SCH	AMAC
50	CONSTRUCTION OF 1 BLOCKS OF 8 CLASSROOMS UPSTAIRS	FHA LUGBE PRY SCH	AMAC
51	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF 8 CLASSROOMS WITH TOILET UPSTAIRS	JSS AREA 1	AMAC
52	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF 8 CLASSROOMS WITH TOILET UPSTAIRS	JSS AREA 1	AMAC
53	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF 8 CLASSROOMS UPSTAIRS	JSS ZONE 2	AMAC
54	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF 8 CLASSROOMS UPSTAIRS	JSS ZONE 2	AMAC
55	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS	JSS GWARGWADA	KUJE
56	CONSTRUCTION OF FENCE	PASALI	KUJE
57	REHABILITATION OF A BLOCK OF 8 CLASSROOMS WITH TOILETS	WUSE ZONE 3 PRY SCH	AMAC
58	REHABILITATION OF A BLOCK OF 8 CLASSROOMS WITH TOILETS	WUSE ZONE 3 PRY SCH	AMAC
59	REHABILITATION OF A BLOCK OF 8 CLASSROOMS WITH TOILETS	WUSE ZONE 2 PRY SCH	AMAC
60	REHABILITATION OF A BLOCK OF 8 CLASSROOMS WITH TOILETS	WUSE ZONE 2 PRY SCH	AMAC
61	REHABILITATION OF A BLOCK OF 8 CLASSROOMS WITH TOILETS	WUSE ZONE 2 PRY SCH	AMAC
62	COMPLETION OF 4NO. BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOM	LUGBE PRY SCH	AMAC
63	CONSTRUCTION OF FENCE	DAKIBIYU PRY SCH	AMAC
64	CONSTRUCTION OF FENCE	DURUMI PRY SCH	AMAC
65	CONSTRUCTION OF FENCE	UTAKO PRY SCH	AMAC
66	CONSTRUCTION OF FENCE	NEW KADO PRY SCH	AMAC
67	CONSTRUCTION OF FENCE	JSS GAUBE	KUJE
68	REHABILITATION OF BLOCK OF 8 CLASSROOMS WITH TOILETS	JSS WUSE ZONE 6	AMAC
69	REHABILITATION OF 5 BLOCKS OF 2 CLASSROOMS EACH	MODEL PRY SCH. ABAJI	ABAJI

2. **PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**
 - a. Evidence of Incorporation/Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC);
 - b. Photocopies of three (3) years Tax Clearance Certificate issued by the Federal Inland Revenue Services;
 - c. Photocopies of Value Added Tax (VAT) Certificate;
 - d. Company resume including details of key staff to be deployed for execution of the contract and GSM phone number(s)/e-mail addresses;
 - e. List of equipments to be used for the project and their locations. State whether the equipments are on lease, hire or owned by the company with evidence;
 - f. Evidence of execution and experience of similar work(s) done by the contractor, stating contract sum and showing evidence of award and timely completion;
 - g. Audited accounts for three (3) years from a Chartered Accounting Firm; and
 - h. Evidence of financial capability from the company's Bankers.
3. **COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS**
Interested companies should collect tender documents from the Board Area 2, Garki - Abuja, upon the presentation of evidence of payment of N20,000.00 (Twenty thousand naira) only non-refundable tender fee in FCTA Account no. 051503010000426 with Fidelity Bank Central Area - Garki.
4. **SUBMISSION**
The pre-qualification and tender documents should each be sealed and labeled (Technical and Financial Bids as appropriate) separately and the two envelopes be put in another envelop that should also be sealed and labeled (Tender for (Lot No.)" the tender documents (Financial Bid) should be submitted in three (3) copies (one original and two other copies) and all pages duly endorsed by the bidders.
Completed tender documents should be dropped in the Tenders box stationed in the Universal Basic Education Board, Area 2, Garki - Abuja within the official hours (9.00am to 4.00pm).
5. **CLOSING DATE**
All submission must be received at the address on or before 12:00noon on Friday 23rd April, 2010 (i.e. 2 weeks from the date of this publication). All bids will be publicly opened on the same day at 2:00pm in the presence of Bidders or their representatives.
6. **PLEASE NOTE**
 - i. Late submission will be rejected;
 - ii. This advertisement to tender shall not be construed to be a commitment on the part of Universal Basic Education Board nor shall it entitle the submitting tender to make any claims what-so-ever and or seek any indemnity from the Board by virtue of such tenders having responded to the advert;
 - iii. Bid should be very clear about the bidder's areas and proven competence and interest;
 - iv. Tenders' Register must be signed on the submission of Tender(s);
 - v. The Board, may at its own discretion, reject any bid which does not conform with the basic bidding rules;
 - vi. Jobs between N50,000,000.00 (N50m) and above must be accompanied by bid security of 2% of bid price;
 - vii. All bids that deviate less than 15% from the in-house estimate will not be accepted.

Signed
MANAGEMENT



The Honourable Minister
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AVIATION

In collaboration with

AU, AFCAC & ICAO

Welcomes you to the:

**REGIONAL MINISTERIAL AVIATION
SECURITY CONFERENCE**

Date: 11th -13th April, 2010

Venue: Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja

Time: 8:00am daily

All relevant stakeholders are cordially invited

ANNOUNCER: FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AVIATION

CITY NEWS



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RASAQ Bello in hospital bed.



HAKEEM Bello after the attack.

Motorist crushes man at Nikon junction

By Lucas Istifanus

A man, Alhaji Maiwada Usman, was on Wednesday morning crushed to death by the driver of a pickup van at Nikon junction, along Berger-Kubwa express way in Abuja.

Speaking at the accident scene, a relative of the deceased, Shehu Dabo, said he and the victim had completely crossed the road when a vehicle drove towards them and in the process, Usman was knocked down.

The driver of the van sustained serious injuries and was immediately taken to the Maitama General Hospital, while Federal Road Safety Commission officials evacuated the corpse to the mortuary.

Abaji PDP wants AC investigated

By Doris Afoma West & Ogechi Ohalee

THE Abaji chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party yesterday called on the FCT police command to investigate the latest allegations by the Action Congress on election rigging in the April 10 council election.

Alhassan Suleiman, the PDP secretary in Abaji, said the party has invited all PDP supporters that are indigenes and live outside to return home before the polls to cast their votes.

He said this is the only opportunity for the supporters to vote in their candidate so that he continues with the mantle of leadership of Abaji Area Council.

"Our campaign strategy is not only carried to the rural areas but to the elites, who are indigenes of Abaji Area Council, as we have campaigned to them to come home for the election," he stated.

He said Gawu village is divided into two with one part belonging to Niger State, while the other part falls under Abaji Area council, adding that only the eligible voters from the FCT will vote.

The PDP scribe called on security agencies to intensify their efforts in maintaining peace during the forthcoming election.

Two corps members attacked at Nyanya

By Abubakar Yakubu

TWO corps members, Rasaq Bello and Hakeem Bello were on Sunday night allegedly attacked with clubs by a family at Area D, Nyanya, Abuja.

Rasaq, who serves in Jigawa State and came to Abuja to spend his two weeks break had a broken skull and an injury on his neck, which affected his spinal cord, while Hakeem, his senior brother had a broken skull as well as injuries on his face.

Our reporter learnt that both victims were taken to Nyanya General Hospital, from where they were transferred to Asokoro General Hospital and later National Hospital Abuja.

Neighbours of the apartment told our reporter that the corps members, who are brothers, spread a mat at the front of their brother's apartment to receive fresh air at about 10 pm of the fateful day, when the incident occurred.

"Their immediate neighbour, one Samuel Ebenebe came out to tell them to move their mats away as they will prevent him from going to the toilet but the corps members responded that there was enough space in the compound for the man to pass to the toilet," a neighbour stated.

He said the corps members were deeply asleep when Mr Ebenebe and three other members of his household rushed

at them with clubs and started hitting them until they became unconscious.

Adewale Bello, the senior brother to the corps members said a neighbour told him that his brothers were sleeping outside, when Samuel kicked one of them, who retaliated with a slap.

"I learnt the man went into his apartment, came out with his children, who had clubs and attacked my brothers, who were already sleeping," Adewale said.

City News learnt that an immigration officer that lives in the compound rushed immediately to get some policemen, who arrested Samuel and his son, Ifesinachi.

Adewale said he contacted

the Jigawa Coordinator of the National Youths Service Corp (NYSC), who was sympathetic and contacted the FCT coordinator.

"The NYSC has tried for us and we need assistance because of the medical bills which is rising daily as both victims had to go through MRI machines that cost hundreds of thousands of naira," he lamented.

At the Nyanya Police Station a policeman confirmed the detention of Samuel and Ifesinachi Ebenebe.

"We also have the weapons they used that night and will charge them to court as soon as our investigations are concluded," the police officer said.

Students accused of having ATM card manufacturing machine

By Hussein Yahaya, Uman A. Bello & Ibraheem A. Fatai

TWO students were yesterday arraigned in court for allegedly being in possession of an ATM card manufacturing machine.

The accused persons, Chimezie Michael, 24, and Odunze Douglas, 24, both residents of Onitsha in Anambra State were arraigned on a four-count charge of criminal

conspiracy, counterfeiting ATM cards, attempting to commit fraud and being in possession of an ATM cloning machine.

The court learnt they were arrested last year beside an ATM machine, where they were withdrawing money from the accounts of some unsuspected accounts owners.

Prosecutor Joseph Onwum, who held brief for Augustine

Jimin, told the court that on January 27, one Alhaji Ali Kwara reported at the Force Headquarter, Abuja, that he arrested the two accused persons beside an ATM machine, illegally using fake ATM cards to withdraw money from people's accounts. He said after searching the accused persons, N136,000, one ATM cloning machine, one Fetona camera and one Acer computer were recovered

from the accused persons.

The prosecutor added further that the offences committed are punishable under Sections 97, 375, 95 and 319 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charges were read to the accused persons, they denied them and their counsel, Ogochukwu A, made an oral application for their bail, promising that they will not jump bail or interfere with prosecution. Chief Magistrate

Ademuyiwa Oyeyipo granted each of the accused persons bail in the sum of N150,000 with a reliable surety in like sum.

He also ruled that the sureties must produce evidence of payment of three years tax and must swear to affidavits to produce the accused persons in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to May 5 for hearing.

AC chairmanship candidate visits rural communities

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE Abaji Action Congress (AC) Chairmanship flag bearer for the council polls, Alhaji Abdulrahman Ajiya, Tuesday visited various communities in the council to interact with residents and intimate them of the party's programmes meant to elevate their living conditions.

The campaign team included AC officials, women/youths as well as people from various ethnic groups.

A large number of members from the Peoples Democratic Party decamped in some of the rural areas and the AC flag bearer said his decision to visit all the rural areas was for him to assess what the PDP led administration

of the council had put in place in the last three years, adding that government policies at all levels sometimes fail to give priority to rural dwellers.

He said his visit to Dogon-Ruwa, Mawogi, Gawu, Kutara, Gulida, Rafin-Daji, Alu-Mamagi, Rimba, Gasakpa and other communities in the council showed that people in such areas did not

feel the dividends of democracy.

"It was disheartening to note during my interaction with some villagers that they lack some basic amenities, like potable water, schools, good road network and functional health centres," he stated.

According to him, government at all levels must identify with people in the rural areas by pro-

viding basic amenities as the rural dwellers also contribute to the economic development of the country through the provision of food crops for public consumption.

The AC candidate assured the rural dwellers that if elected, rural development will be one of his top priorities, saying that soft loans, youth/women empowerment will also be given utmost attention.

Estate agent denies N1.7 million fraud

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

AN estate agent Wednesday in court denied collecting N1.7 million from one Mrs. Ogoru Roseline to secure an apartment.

The agent, Francis Dada Unuamuneh of Airport road, Abuja, was accused of conniving with two other men, now at large, to collected the money in October 2008.

Prosecutor Joseph Onwu, an assistant superintendent, told the court that in September 2009, one Mrs Ogoru Roseline petitioned the FCT Police Command alleging that the accused cheated her.

He stated further that the accused connived with one Ando Chuks Okonkwo and Collins Gadaumor, both now at large, to dishonestly collect N1.7 million from the complainant without giving her the apartment they promised her.

"She paid the sum of N1.7 million through an Intercontinental Bank account number 0115110342917 belonging to Francis Unuamuneh," the prosecutor said.

The prosecutor revealed further that the money was cashed and shared among the accused and his accomplices, thereby committing offences punishable under Sections 97, 312 and 322 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charges were read to the accused, he denied them and requested for bail, which was not objected by the prosecutor.

In her ruling, Magistrate Hadiza Dodo granted the accused bail in the sum of N500,000 with two reliable sureties in like sum, who must reside within the court.

She also ruled that one of the sureties must be a civil servant and that both of them must swear to affidavits to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to April 20 for further hearing.

Chief of Karu promises peaceful council poll

By Ben Atonko & Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

THE Chief of Karu in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), Chief Bawa Jetta has promised that tomorrow's area council election will be peaceful in his domain.

The chief made the promise Wednesday, when the National Orientation Agency (NOA) FCT office led by its director, Mr Richard Torhee visited the area to carry out a campaign on voters education for the council polls.

The traditional ruler said from arrangements made so far, all will be well tomorrow.

Speaking earlier, the NOA director charged the people of Karu to make all sacrifices they can to ensure that the election is crises free.

He advised the political parties that are fielding candidates to provide food for their agents so that there will be no room for confusion and controversies.

According to him, trouble starts when agents leave their posts to go get what to eat, stressing that tomorrow, no agent will leave his place until voting is completed and results are announced.

Torhee demonstrated how voting should be done by using a sample of a ballot paper, adding that wrong thumb printing renders the ballot invalid.

Our reporter learnt that NOA has taken similar message to all the area councils and have stressed on crises free polls.

In another development a Non-Governmental Organisation, Pals and Partners yesterday



MR. Richard Torhee (right) explains how thumb printing should be done on the ballot paper during an education campaign in Kwaita, Kwali Area Council on Monday

called on the 769,719 eligible voters in the FCT to come out in large number to vote during the April 10 area council elections.

The organisation's Chairman, Mr. Obiora Obeagu, who stated this in Abuja at a strategic workshop on FCT election, said since

the police have assured that they will provide adequate security, voters should come out to vote.

He expressed the confidence and commitment of all stakeholders to enlighten FCT electorates on voter's apathy in order to facilitate credible elections in

the area councils.

Our reporter learnt that the workshop organisers will collaborate with FCT Independent National Electoral Commission to mobilize as well as sensitize electorates so that they come out en-mass to cast their votes.

Man charged with criminal trespass

By Hussein Yahaya, Ibraheem A. Fatai & Usman A. Bello

THE police Wednesday arraigned a 20-year-old man before an Abuja magistrate court for alleged criminal trespass and being in possession of a car key suspected to have been stolen.

The accused, Mohammed

Bello of no fixed address, was said to have committed the offence at the premises of Transcorp Hilton on March 26.

Prosecutor Ahmed Mohammed told the court that on March 26, one Mr. David Ikape of Transcorp Hilton, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused trespassed into their premises.

"The accused was arrested with a Honda car key and when questioned, could not give any satisfactory accounts of himself, thereby committing offences punishable under Sections 248 and 319 of the Penal Code Law," the prosecutor said.

When the charges were read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail, which was

not objected to by the prosecutor.

Magistrate Aminu granted the accused bail in the sum of N100,000 with a reliable surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction and swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to May 5 for hearing.

Trust Islamic Forum

In the name of Allah the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful. All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. We testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, and that Muhammed (peace be upon him) is His prophet and messenger. May the benediction and blessings of Allah be on Prophet Muhammed who is the noblest of mankind, his household, his companions and those who follow their foot steps till the day of resurrection.

Do bad things happen in the world by Allah's will?

DOES everything that happens in this universe happen by the will of Allah? If that is the case then how can things that Allah does not like happen under Allah's sovereignty and by His will?

Praise be to Allah and blessings and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah and his family and companions. Some people have been misguided with regard to the issue of al-qadar (the divine will and decree), because they think that if Allah decrees that an action should happen, that means that He likes that thing, and this leads them to think that evil actions happen outside of the will of Allah. Thus they attribute weakness and incapability to Allah, when they say that nothing happens in His dominion that He does not want, and so He may will a thing and it does not happen – exalted be Allah far above what they say. In fact there is no connection between what Allah loves and wants in terms what is permissible and not permissible, and what He wills and decrees should happen in the universe.

In the Qur'aan and Sunnah, the will and decree of Allah is divided into two categories: His universal (kawni) will and decree. Nothing happens outside of this will. The kaafir and the Muslim are equal under this will. Acts of worship and acts of disobedience all happen by the will and decree of Allah. For example, Allah says (interpretation of the meaning): "But when Allah wills a people's punishment, there can be no turning back of it" [al-Rad 13:11] "And whomsoever Allah wills to guide, He opens his heart to Islam; and

whomsoever He wills to send astray, He makes his breast closed and constricted, as if he is climbing up to the sky" [al-An'aam 6:125]

His legislative (shar'i) will, which applies only to that which He loves and is pleased with. For example, Allah says (interpretation of the meaning): "Allah intends for you ease, and He does not want to make things difficult for you" [al-Baqarah 2:185] "Allah wishes to accept your repentance" [al-Nisa' 4:27] "Allah does not want to place you in difficulty, but He wants to purify you" [al-Maa'idah 5:6]

The difference between the two wills. There are differences between the universal will of Allah and His legislative will. The universal will has to do with that which Allah loves and is pleased with, and with that which He does not love and is not pleased with, whereas His legislative will has to do only with that which Allah loves and is pleased with.

By His universal will he may decree something not for its own sake, but to serve another purpose, such as the creation of Iblees, for example, and all evil things, because of which many things happen which Allah loves, such as repentance, striving and seeking forgiveness. His legislative will has to do with that which He prescribes for its own sake, for Allah wants us to obey Him and He loves that, so He prescribes it and is pleased with it for its own sake.

His universal will must inevitably come to pass, such as the birth or death of a person, etc. But

His legislative will – such as Allah wanting everyone to believe – does not necessarily come to pass. It may happen or it may not. If it were inevitable that it should come pass then all of mankind would become Muslims.

His universal will has to do with the Oneness of Allah's Lordship and the fact that He is the only Creator, whereas His legislative will has to do with His Divinity and Law.

His two wills come together in the case of one who obeys Him. The one who prays – for example – combines both, because prayer is beloved to Allah; He has enjoined it and He is pleased with it and loves it, so it is prescribed by His legislative will in that sense. But the fact that it happens indicates that Allah willed that it should happen, so it is decreed by His universal decree in that sense. Hence the two wills are combined in the case of one who obeys Allah.

His universal will is at work on its own in the case of the disbelief of the kaafir and the sin of the disobedient. The fact that these things happen indicates that Allah willed that they should happen, because nothing happens except by His will. But the fact that Allah does not love them and He is not pleased with them indicates that they happen by His universal will, not by His legislative will.

His legislative will is at work on its own in the case of a kaafir who starts to believe, or a sinner who starts to obey Allaah. These things are beloved to Allah so they come under His legislative will. The fact that they do not happen

– even though Allah has enjoined them and loves them – indicates that they come under His legislative will only.

These are some of the differences between the two wills. Whoever understands the difference between them will avoid many doubts that cause people to stumble and go astray. Whoever looks at people's actions with this double-faceted understanding will have clear insight, but whoever looks at it on the basis of the universal will only, without the legislative will, or vice-versa, it will be as if he is one-eyed.

Everything that Allah does is good, wise and just.

Allah does what He does for reasons that are known to Him; His slaves or some of them may know some of those reasons, or their limited minds may be unable to comprehend much of the divine wisdom behind things. General

decrees may be for general reasons and universal mercy, such as sending Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), as Allah says (interpretation of the meaning): "And We have sent you (O Muhammad) not but as a mercy for the 'Aalameen (mankind, jinn and all that exists)" [al-Anbiya' 21:107]

Ibn al-Qayyim (may Allah have mercy on him) said: Allah is Most Wise. He does not do anything in vain or for no purpose. This is indicated by His words and the words of His Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

And Allah knows best. See A'laam al-Sunnah al-Manshoo-rah, 147; al-Qada' wa'l-Qadar' fi Daw' al-Kitaab wa'l-Sunnah by Shaykh Dr. 'Abd al-Rahmaan al-Mahmoud; al-Eemaan bi'l-Qada' wa'l-Qadar by Shaykh Muhammad al-Hamd.

Everything that Allah does is good, wise and just. Allah does what He does for reasons that are known to Him; His slaves or some of them may know some of those reasons, or their limited minds may be unable to comprehend much of the divine wisdom behind things. General decrees may be for general reasons and universal mercy, such as sending Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), as Allah says (interpretation of the meaning): "And We have sent you (O Muhammad) not but as a mercy for the 'Aalameen (mankind, jinn and all that exists)" [al-Anbiya' 21:107]

Expedite action on Islamic bank

By Dr. Is-haq Akintola

SPEAKING recently on a popular Lagos-based television, the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Alhaji Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, assured Nigerians that licence would soon be given to an Islamic bank to start operating in the country. He however added that such a bank would only operate at a regional level.

Though we welcome the prospect of an Islamic bank operating in Nigeria and look forward to it with nostalgia, the Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC) is worried that the bank's jurisdiction would be regional rather than national.

MURIC wishes to remind Nigerian authorities that Western banking system with its obnoxious high interest rate based on laissez faire was responsible for the worldwide economic downturn which began in 2008. Licentiousness among the managerial cadre which is the hallmark of the conventional banking system added fuel to the financial conflagration which engulfed the whole West, including many Third world countries.

We affirm clearly and unequivocally that Islamic banking system is the way out of the present economic quagmire. Nigerian authorities have proved that they have very short memories. How can we continue to rely on Western banking system alone when we know the havoc wreaked on our economy by the international financial agencies through its

inhuman imposition of compound interest?

We borrowed \$5 billion up till 1985. By year 2000 we had paid \$16 billion which is three times above what we owed. Yet the International Monetary Fund (IMF) told us we still owed \$32 billion! It was for this reason that former president Olusegun Obasanjo called Western compound interest "the worst evil in the world". Starting an Islamic bank which is based on zero rate of interest will give us the chance to try an alternative to the 'worst evil'.

Millions of Nigerian Muslims who have been eager to put their money in halal (acceptable by Islamic standard) accounts will have the opportunity to do so. The present situation whereby there is no single Islamic bank constitutes a breach of the Allah-given and fundamental rights of Muslims in the country. It stands in contradistinction to the principle of freedom of religion as provided in Section 38 of the 1999 constitution, particularly the right to "manifest" and "practice" one's religion.

The rights of Nigerian Muslims have been trampled upon in this country for too long. At present, Muslims are forced to patronize financial institutions which operate riba (usury) and which compel Muslims to act against their faith. This is a clear indication of lack of religious freedom. We call on the authorities to redress this wrong without delay. We therefore demand immediate licence for the Islamic bank.

Dr. Akintola is the Director of MURIC.

Inside Politics



FROM left: Former governors Omololu Olunloyo and Kolapo Isola, Vice chairman of Oyo State PDP Elders' Forum Richard Akinjide, Oyo State Governor Adebayo Alao-Akala and his deputy Taofeek Arapaja, at an enlarged elders and stakeholders meeting of PDP in Ibadan yesterday.

Jang moves to stop PDP congress

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

PLATEAU State Governor Jonah Jang yesterday asked the caretaker leadership of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the state to stop the planned congress because holding it would threaten the fragile peace in the state.

The caretaker committee headed by Abu King Shuluwa plans to hold a congress to elect a new exco for the party following the dissolution of the two factions last year.

The congress, according to the caretaker committee, which met with PDP members of the state House of Assembly last week, will hold after consultations with party stakeholders at the local government levels had been concluded this week.

But Jang yesterday in a statement said the congress should be put on hold, because as leader of the party he has not authorised it and that holding the congress would scuttle peace efforts in the state.

The statement by the director of press in the Government House James Mannok said the governor "states unequivocally that he has not authorised any such congress and that any person planning such an exercise is therefore advised to desist to avoid any drastic sanction."

The governor said as the chief security officer in the state, political parties should not hold gatherings that will pose threat to the returning peace in the state and has directed security agencies not to allow such meetings.

The PDP caretaker committee chairman could not be reached for comments.

11 parties align for FCT poll

By Muideen Olaniyi

ELEVEN political parties yesterday announced an entering into an electoral alliance aimed at dislodging the Peoples Democratic Party in tomorrow's area council election in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

The alliance involves a resolution to vote for any of the 11 parties in councils and wards where they have stronger presence.

The 11 parties that formed

the alliance out of the 16 that are to participate in the election include Action Congress (AC), Congress for Progressive Change (CPC), All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA), National Conscience Party (NCP), Community Party of Nigeria (CPN), Better Nigeria Progressive Party (BNPP) and African Renaissance Party (ARP).

Others are Democratic People's Alliance (DPA), National Solidarity Democratic Party (NSDP),

Peoples Redemption Party (PRP) and Progressive Action Congress (PAC).

Addressing newsmen in company of other coalition members, the representative of CPC and National Publicity Secretary of the Conference of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP), Mr Osita Okechukwu, said the alliance was formed to stop the PDP considering what he called it's 'unholy alliance' with the Independent National Electoral Commission

(INEC).

Okechukwu, who appealed for a free and fair election, said "We have entered into an alliance. Where ever any of our parties is stronger we will vote for them. This is the only way we can stop the PDP"

Those who attended yesterday's meeting include AC FCT Chairman Sunny Moniedafe, NCP National Secretary Malam Yunusa Tanko and NCP FCT chairman Etodo Crescent.

INEC braces for FCT area council poll

Election into six area councils of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) will hold tomorrow. Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar examines the process.

SOON after February's governorship election in Anambra State, election chief for the Federal Capital Territory Dr. Stephen Many said the area council election in the territory would unveil a rebranded Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). He said the FCT poll would be far better than previous elections in the country.

The Resident Electoral Commissioner said alleged irregularities and voter register mix ups recorded in the Anambra election would not occur here, because of the strategies mapped out for a free and fair election in the six area councils, namely the Municipal Area Council, Gwagwalada, Abaji, Bwari, Kwali and Kuje.

Apart from the REC, other INEC officials have also been making similar pledges at different gatherings. The promises usually are about upgrading INEC's capacity through pre-election period to election period and to post-election activities.

But not everybody is convinced that the FCT poll would be any different. Civil society organisations and opposition politicians say that as long as the commission is guided and directed by the previous electoral laws, and the leadership of the commission is not overhauled, credible elections would continue to elude the country.

Many is still upbeat, notwithstanding the skepticism. He told FCT voters at stakeholders' meetings held in the area councils that Saturday's poll would

portray INEC in the best light ever, and Nigerians will be closer to having perfect elections thereafter.

Skeptics say there really is no change in INEC's behavior to elections. Many had said he would ensure that every eligible voter is given the opportunity to vote by displaying a comprehensive voter register weeks before the election. He also said he would ensure that voters who had not collected their original voter cards got theirs. But many of them are still complaining that they have not received the cards.

INEC also said sensitive and non-sensitive materials for the election would be distributed on time.

One of the hiccups in elections across the country is that voting begins late in remote locations. The FCT election chief assured that voting will start at all the 614 polling units by 8am tomorrow.

Another effort by INEC towards having hitch-free election is the provision of foods and drinks to election officials. This, the commission said, is to insulate the officials from possible influence by politicians who may provide refreshment to them.

Election observers have accused INEC of not announcing results at polling units, giving room for manipulation. This time, election officials have been instructed to count the votes and announce the results before forwarding same to collation centres. Yet, even if everything else goes right, there is one possible snag: voter apathy. To address this, the commission has been conducting mobilisation to ensure eligible voters exercise their franchise on the day of the election.

What remains to be seen is whether INEC would successfully redeem its pledges.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

MAIKANO GORI FOUNDATION

This is to notify the general public that the named Organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part C of the companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

TRUSTEES ARE:

1. ALHAJI BALAKAINJI LERE.
2. MALA IBRAHIM MUSA.
3. ABUBAKAR MAIKANO GORI.
4. ALHAJI ABDULLAH YAKUBU.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES;

1. To help the less privilege and orphans.
2. Providing assistance to sick and elderly people of the society.
3. protecting rights, health and dignity of the weak and vulnerable.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar general Corporate Affairs Commissions, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed
ABUBAKAR MAIKANO GORI

CHILD PROTECTION & PEER LEARNING INITIATIVE

This is to inform the general public that the above named association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c, of companies and allied matters act 1 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| 1. ASHRAF TUKUR | CHAIRMAN |
| 2. BARR. ALIYU AHMED BELEL | SECRETARY |
| 3. HASSAN NYAKO | MEMBER |
| 4. HAMZAYARO | MEMBER |
| 5. ASRIEL GEOGE | MEMBER |
| 6. KULCHUMI DIYA | MEMBER |
| 7. VIVIEN GRACE DAFE | MEMBER |

THE OBJECTIVES ARE:

1. To prevent and treat all forms of child abuse and exploitation and also to enlighten members of the society on how to prevent child abuse and exploitation.
2. To promote and protect the right of children and also establish linkages and foster relations/co-operations among faith base organizations (FBO's), community base organization (CBO's) and non-governmental organization (NGO's).
3. To support, give hope and create enabling environment for orphans and vulnerable children and women infected with HIV/AIDS.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the registrar general Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja within 28 days of this publication

Signed Barr. Aliyu Ahmed Belel

LIFEWORDS POWER CHURCH

This is to inform the general public that the above named Church has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Ajayi Lawrence Oladipo
2. Ajayi Adeola Kolade (Mrs)
3. Ajayi Ayoola Emmanuel
4. Falaye Alex Sunday
5. Aterwologun Bimbo Benjamin
6. Ilkuerowo Olusoji
7. Omodehin Adakunde Ebenezer

Aims and objectives:

1. To propagate the gospel of Jesus Christ
2. To empower people to exercise dominion in life based on the scripture
3. To create spiritual awakening in men and women
4. To banish hopelessness and restore joy in people through the teaching of God's word.

Any objectives to the registration should be forwarded to the registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Irons Street, P.M.B. 198, Maitama, Abuja within Twenty-Eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:
Barr. Kate Itumu

The Godwin-Ud'Eze-Ibrahim Health Development (GUHDE) Initiative

Motto: Guiding you to optimal health

This is to inform the general public that the above named organization has applied for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act CAP 58, Laws of the Federation 1990.

Board of Trustees

- Dr Laz Ude Eze - Chairman/Executive Director
- Dr Godwin Ogedengbe - Secretary
- Dr Ibrahim Muhammad - Director of Finance
- Dr Peter N. Anagor - member
- Mr Bright Odehinde - member
- Professor Olatayo Ladipo - member

The aims and objectives are:

1. To increase the awareness and knowledge of common communicable and non-communicable diseases of public health importance and their prevention.
2. To educate the general public on behavioural changes that promote health and discourage habits and cultural practices which are inimical to good health.
3. Engage young people especially students in a growing movement for health change through education and awareness activities.
4. To network and collaborate with national and international organizations with similar aims and objectives to share information and support government health policies aimed at improving the health of Nigerians.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja, within 28 days of this application.

Signed
Barrister Aja N. Aja (Solicitor)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as MISS MEBRIM LILIAN CHINEDUM, now wish to be addressed as MRS IGBO LILIAN CHINEDUM. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS SALIHU HAJARA ONYIOZA, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. LAWAL HAJARA ONYIOZA.

I, formerly MISS ERDOO TERNGU ATIM, now wish to be known as MRS ERDOO RUTH NOMHWANGE. Former documents remain valid. Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) and general public take note.

CHANGE OF FILLING STATION NAME

Formerly SORTS OIL LTD Filling Station, which is located at Km 5, Aba/Ikot Ekpena Road, Aba, Abia State, now bears MADONNA GLOBAL ENERGY LTD at same address. All former documents remain valid. General public, NNPC and DPR in particular, take note.

Signed.
Ugo Nnabufe (Director)

LIFEGATE ACADEMY ABUJA

ADMISSION! ADMISSION! ADMISSION!!!

Registration forms for admission into Lifegate Academy for 2010/2011 session is now on Sale. Interested parents are to register with the Admin. Officer Lifegate Academy Plot 125 Ngozi Okonjo Iweala Way behind Julius Berger Head Quarters, Utako, Abuja.

Classes available include: JSS 1 to 3, Primary Classes 1 to 6, Nursery, Reception Classes and Creche.

VACANCY

English and Fine Art Teacher needed for immediate employment. Interested candidates to contact the above School.

Qualification: B.ED or M.ED English.

Lifegate Academy- A platform for the fulfillment of destiny.

Details Contact: 08037221641

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of original copy of Kogi State approval for grant of right of occupancy No. KG 790 dated 29/8/94 belonging to Mr. Charles Ojo Okuta in respect of land situated in Lokoja. All efforts made to trace the document proved abortive, if found please contact the nearest police station or call 08036463747

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IGBO BUTCHERS ASSOCIATION ABUJA

This is to inform the general public that the above named Organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990

TRUSTEES

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1. CHUKWUMA OZO-OKORIE | CHAIRMAN |
| 2. NGWU SUNDAY | VICE CHAIRMAN |
| 3. DARLINGTON ANI | SECRETARY |
| 4. CHUKWUEMEKANWOYE | MEMBER |
| 5. AGBO NNAM | MEMBER |
| 6. CHUKWUMA OKEKE | MEMBER |
| 7. OKWUDILIUDEH | MEMBER |

AIM AND OBJECTIVE

1. To promote hygienic, good and edible meat consumption in Abuja.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Irons Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication

Signed
Berkshire Allianz Solicitors
08037089510

CHANGE OF NAME

I've formerly known as ALEMDERI BAPTIST CHURCH, now wish to be known as VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH ALEMDERI. All former documents remain valid, the Nigerian Baptist convention, Fellowship Baptist Conference, Borno Baptist Association and the general public to please note

Formerly known as MISS OKOLI ONYINYE AGATHA now wish to be called as MRS DIM ONYINYE AGATHA all former documents remain valid, N.Y.S.C and the general public should take note.

I formerly known and address as JUMMAI MUSA AGID, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS JUMMAI ABUBAKAR BOBBO All former documents remain valid, Borno State Ministry of Education, Teaching Service Board and general public should take note.

I formerly known as MISS FATI YAUKE now wish to be known as MRS GRACE THOMAS, all former documents remain valid, RAMAT POLYTECHNIC and general public to note.

I formerly known as STELLA O. IGWEGBE now wish to be known and addressed as STELLA O. MUOJAMA. All former documents remains valid NYSC the general public take note

I formerly HUSSAIN UMAR now wish to be known as KYARI APAGU. All former documents remain valid, Teaching Service Board, Maiduguri and the general public to please take note.

I formerly MALLA ABBA, Now wish to be called as MALLA ABBA MAIDALA. All former documents remain valid CGG TORO, and public to note

I formerly MISS MAGDALINE GADIEL, Now wish to be called as MRS MAGDALINE EMMANUEL KOAGE, All former documents remain valid THE NIGERIAN POLICE FORCE and general public should take note

I, formerly ATIKU JULI, now ATIKU JULI YABO, Former documents remain valid, NSCDC and general public to note.

I, formerly ABUBAKAR SHARU, now ABUBAKAR SHARU YABO, former documents remain valid, NSCDC and general public to note.

I formally called DIJA YAHAYA now wish to be called ZARA UMAR GEIDAM. All documents remained valid. Fire service Board Damaturu and the General Public to note

Formally called KALTUME MODU now wish to be called FANNA SHERIFF. All documents remained valid. Yobe State Science and Technical Schools Board and the General Public to take note.

I, FORMERLY MISS OJO THERESA ADEYOOLA NOW MRS OLADEJI THERESA ADEYOOLA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. VOIC OF NIGERIA AND GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

I, FORMERLY MISS EVELYN BAKO NOW MRS EVELYN NYAM. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. VOICE OF NIGERIA AND GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE

I formerly HADIZA MUSA UMAR now wish to be known and addressed as MRS HADIZA UMAR MUHAMMAD BAKO All former documents remain valid. DPR and general public take note.

Formerly HAFSAT SALIHU KUBAU now wish to be known as MRS HAFSAT TAHIR UMAR. Former documents remain valid. Nigeria Immigration Service and public take note.

Formerly FATIMA YAKUBU ALIYU now wish to be known as MRS FATIMA TAHIR UMAR. Former documents remain valid. Nigeria Immigration Service and public take note.

I formerly JAMILA MAIWADA now wish to be called MRS JAMILA MAIWADA-SHEHU. NYSC and general public to please note.

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS MISS MABEL UKAKAKA AJUONUMA NOW WISH TO BE CALLED MRS. MABEL UKAKAKA OHANEKE. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS OSUAGWU NICHOLAS CHIBUIKE NOW WISH TO BE CALLED RICHARD NICHOLAS CHIBUIKE. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

I formerly ADAMU IBRAHIM now wish to be called MOHAMMED AMINU. All former documents remain valid. BABURALEA and General public to note

I formerly Known as Miss HAJARA ABBA now wish to be called Mrs HAJARA GRACE MASHI. All former documents remain valid. ECOBANK MANAGEMENT and General public to note

I formerly Miss ISAH OZA now wish to be called ALI OZA MARYAM. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I formerly Known as OYAREBU MARIAM now wish to be addressed as MRS ABUBAKAR MARYAM. All former documents remain valid. General public take note

I formerly ADO YAKUBU now wish to be called MUHAMMAD ADO YAKUBU. All former documents remain valid. JIGAWA STATE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION and General public to note

TRUST CLASSIFIED

BIIRE AIDS AND MATERNAL HEALTH

This is to inform the general public that the above named Organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Yeni Kuti
2. Tundun Abiola-Attah
3. Oluwadamilare Ajayi
4. Helen Lawal
5. Wale Ajadi

Aims and objectives:

1. To help reduce transmission of diseases from mother to child at birth.
 2. To reduce child and mother mortality rate during pregnancy.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

Dapo Owosade
Dapo Owosade & Co.,
Zone 4, Abuja 08033468126

CHAPEL OF TESTIMONY INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY

This is to inform the general public that the above named Ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the companies and allied matters act no. 1 of 1990

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Rev. Sam-Power Inware | - General Overseer |
| 2. Mrs. Beauty Inware | - Member |
| 3. William Anomughanran | - Secretary |
| 4. Evang. David Ibrahim | - Member |
| 5. Mr. Teteye Odume Plama | - Member |
| 6. Mr. Obi Oluwaju Sunday | - Member |
| 7. Mr. Isaba Onos Collins | - Member |
| 8. Mrs. Aiso Ekande | - Member |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, teach, instruct and lead people on how to come to the knowledge and practice of Christian faith as preached and practiced by Christ Jesus.
2. To reach out, preach and teach the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to all nations.
3. To win and lead people of the world to the true vine of righteousness which is in Christ Jesus (Matthew 24: 14 and John 15: 1, 4, 5).

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

SIGNED:

Casimir C. Igwe Esq.
Pp Igwe & Igwe Attorneys
Legal Practitioners & Consultants.
08034536861, 07057995253

ANTHONY SUNDAY OKOH FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Mrs. Roseline Okoh
2. Mrs. Lilian Uwaemelulam
3. Dr. Alex Orewa
4. Donald Peterson
5. Didimma Okoro
6. Chukwudumebi Collins Okoh
7. Martins Chukwumeke Okoh

Aims and objectives:

1. To help orphans and women from abusive relationship.
4. To foster unity among members.
5. To develop the society and reduce poverty.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

Secretary

WORLD EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP, NIGERIA

This is to inform the general public that the above named Organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Prof. Lawrence Offie Ocho
2. Prof. Iyke Ifelunni
3. Dr. Lawrence Ogbo Uguwanyi

Aims and objectives:

1. To promote and enhance service delivery in primary and secondary schools.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

Secretary

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the original conveyance of provisional approval in respect of Plot 185 of about 1,1200m² at Lugbe belonging to **ABDULLAH BABA AHMED** bearing YAMA KAKADU of 24 Masalashi Juma'a street, Minna, Niger State. All efforts made to trace the document proved abortive, if found please contact the nearest police station.



In the Light of Truth The Grail Message

"You do not honour God by blindly believing in things that are not in accordance with the Primordial Laws of Creation!"

Abd-ru-shin

Grail Centre Madalla, Madalla Suleja Road 08054183304

HUMAN COUNSELLING AND REHABILITATION CENTRE

This is to inform the general public that the above named Organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Ned Nwoko
2. Barr. Abdulmalik Jibril
3. Major General Barnard Ewa Abang
4. Dr. Abdulrahman Bello Dambaza
5. Sobem Nwoko

Aims and objectives:

1. To provide counseling to persons with emotional, alcohol and substance use disorders.
2. To meet the unique needs of persons utilizing evidence and strength based approaches.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

Aishatu Alkali
08064734603

RAFAEL ADEWOYE FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABLE EARTH ENVIRONMENT DEVELOPMENT FOR WOMEN & YOUTH IN AFRICA

This is to inform the general public that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

The foundation has the following people as trustees:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Dr. (Mrs) Dorcas Akemeyi - Ex. Director | 2. Mrs Susan Ogar |
| 3. Mr. Ekundayo Adewoye | 4. Mrs Opeyemi Hopewell |
| 5. Mr. Solabomi Adewoye | 6. Mrs. Funmilola Oksola |
| 7. Dr. David Omotayo | 8. Prof. Charles Wemba |

Objectives of the Foundation are:

- To promote and support the empowerment of women and youth in Nigeria for environmental governance.
- To empower women and youth, the cornerstone of development, as change agents on climate change.
- To systematically pursue bio diversity through diverse strategies.
- To empower and support women and youth towards engaging e-waste.
- To network and collaborate with similar bodies, government and non-governmental, local and international to achieve the set objectives.

Any objection to this registration should be sent to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, P.M.B. 198 Area 11, Garki, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

Wale Balogun
For: D-Vine Partners Solicitors
Central Area, Abuja

AHMAD JARMIYA FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Isa Abdulhamid
2. Faruk Abdulhamid Ahmad
3. Yahaya Adamu
4. Yahaya Muhammad Kabera
5. Dr. Ahmad M. Falaki
6. Dahiru Abdulhamid
7. Ahmad Muhammad Ahmad
8. Nasir Adams
9. Mansur Adamu Kurawa
10. Muhammad Aliyu (Dallalun Kano)

Aims and objectives:

1. To promote and maintain unity and progress among members of the family
2. To render assistance to any member of the family when the need arises
3. To carryout projects that would bring development to the members of the foundation.

Any objections to the registration should be forwarded to the registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B. 198, Maitama, Abuja within Twenty-Eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

Mansur Adamu Kurawa
08037875785

THE GLORY OF LATTER TIME ASSEMBLY

This is to inform the general public that the above named Organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Pastor Benedict Ehijele
2. Pastor Sophia Ehijele
3. Sister Helen Stephen

Aims and objectives:

1. To propagate the gospel of Jesus Christ
2. To empower people to exercise dominion in life based on the scripture
3. To create spiritual awakening in men and women.
4. To banish hopelessness and restore joy in people through the teaching of God's word.

Any objectives to the registration should be forwarded to the registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B. 198, Maitama, Abuja within Twenty-Eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

Barr. Kate Itumu

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly **USAINI ISAH UMAR** now **HUSAINI M. DAHIR**. All former documents remain valid. GAGARAWA LOCAL GOVT and General public to note.

I, formerly known as **MISS BUSHIRA WADA KURA** now wish to be known as **MRS BUSHIRA ADO AHMED**. All former documents remain valid. NIHOTOUR and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS ZIPPORAH AMINA BILOHOT** now wish to be known as **MRS ZIPPORAH AMINA SANDA**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS VICTORIA OLUWAFUNMILAYOOTUNBA** now wish to be known as **MRS VICTORIA OLUWAFUNMILAYO OYENIRAN**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS EMMANUELA .U. EZEKWE** now wish to be known as **MRS EMMANUELA UCHE INYIEGBU**. All former documents remain valid. Unizik, NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS ESTHER TALATA MAIGARI** now wish to be known as **MRS ESTHER ALLISON CITTA**. All former documents remain valid. Continuing Education and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **BUKOLA AMINAT SANUSI** now wish to be known as **BUKOLA EZUTE THOMAS**. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS FLORA IHEOMA UDOMA** now wish to be addressed as **MRS FLORA IFEOMA AZUBUIKE**. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS EKUN ABEJIDE RACHAEL** now wish to be addressed as **MRS ACOB ABEJIDE RACHEAL**. All former document documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **ABDULLATEEF ADAMU** now wish to be called **ABDULLATEEF ADAMU**. All former documents remain valid. Daura Local Govt and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS IBRAHIM HAUWAWU LARABA** now wish to known as **MRS TIJANI HAUWA LARABA**. All former documents remain valid, general public please note.

I, formerly known as **MISS NAOMI CHUWAN SAMBO**, wish to be called **MRS NAOMI SIMI YUSTUS MATHAIS**. Former documents remain valid. NPF and general public note.

I, formerly known as **MISS MORRIKE ROSELINE FABUNMI** wish to be called **MRS UGWU MORRIKE**. Former documents remain valid, general public to note.

I, formerly **MISS EBERECHUKWU ONWUMERE**, henceforth wish to be called **MRS UGOCHUKWU PRECIOUS**. Former documents remain valid, general public to note.

I, formerly **AMINA IBRAHIM** now wish to be called **MRS AMINA IBRAHIM BUSARI**, former documents remain valid, general public to note.

I, formerly known as **MISS GRACE ZECHARIAH** wish to be called **MRS GRACE AJINGS M. ISHAYA**. Previous documents remain valid. NYSC take note.

I, formerly known as **RAHMATU SULIEMAN MOHAMMED** now wish to be known as **RAHMATU ABDULRAHMAN ABBAS**. All former documents remain valid. ABU Zaria, NYSC and general public to note.

I, formerly known as **MISS KOLADE ZAINAB OMOBUKOLA** now wish to be known as **MRS OMOPE ZAINAB OMOBUKOLA**, former documents remain valid, general public and NYSC to note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the original certificate of occupancy (customary) belonging to **Mr. Sunday Etukudo Essien** of No. 9, street A, Phase 1, Federal Low Cost Housing, G/LA, Abuja is missing issued by AMAC Land Dept. No. FVT/MZTP/AK /1384. All efforts to trace the documents proved abortive, if found please contact the nearest police station.

SPORT

*I will not
be minister
of football*

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PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE

Nigeria fail to make Junior Davis Cup

Tunisia are AJC champions



DAVID Kokou Boli of Togo in action during the just concluded African Junior Championship in Abuja.

By Orkula Shaagee

AFTER 12 days of hostilities at the 33rd African Junior Championship (AJC) in Abuja, the draws for the Junior Davis Cup were drawn without host Nigeria making the list of qualifiers for the event.

Tunisia who emerged champions of the African Junior Championship, also led four others to the Davis Cup which begins today at the Abuja National Stadium.

The other four countries that qualified for the Junior Davis Cup are Egypt which came second at the AJC, South Africa which placed third, as well as Morocco and Burundi.

Tunisia, Egypt and South Africa qualified in all the four events, while Morocco qualified in three events excluding boys 16 and under, while Burundi qualified in the boys 16 and under category.

In one of the final events

yesterday, Nigeria's duo of Emmanuel Idoko and Mohammed Mohammed lost to Ferchichi and Souayeh Mohamed of Tunisia 6-3, 1-6, 10-4 to finish second in the boys 14 and under doubles category, while Egypt's Abou Habaga Dona and Sherif Mayar defeated Bhiri Aziza and Laaguili Sarra of Tunisia 6-0, 6-2 in the girls 14 and under doubles category.

Albert Mina and Hossam Karim of Egypt defeated Montgomery Wayne and Ndayishimiye Hassan of Burundi 6-3, 6-2 boys 16 and doubles category, while the pair of Jaber Ons and Zhir Roumaila of Tunisia sent Berjane Fatiha and Rassif Intissar of Morocco packing 7-5, 6-0 to clinch the top prize in the girls 16 and under doubles event. In the boys main draw event, South Africa's duo of Moolman Renier and Pieters Hernus defeated Tunisia's Hamza Slim and Triki Ahmed 6-3, 6-4 to emerge champions in the event.

Odegbami's arguments fall flat –NFF

THE Nigeria Football Federation stated yesterday that the position canvassed by former Green Eagles' skipper and one-time NFF Board Member, Chief Olusegun Odegbami in newspaper articles last weekend were too flat and unrepresentable.

In a statement in Abuja, the NFF said: "Initially, we did not want to respond,

because in an election year, you see all sorts and gets all sorts. In the first place, it is amazing that Chief Odegbami would be wondering why the NFF needed FIFA's approval for amendments to its Statutes.

"Odegbami simply chopped and chaffed at the entire Statutes in canvassing his position, which included the very strange idea that 'Members of the NFF

are independent organizations with their own structures and workings that must not be tampered with by any external bodies including the NFF'.

"Equally stunning was the message by Chief Odegbami, such a wonderful player in his days and a former NFF Board Member, on Ray Nnaji's misadventure. It is incredible that Odegbami would bank on the

opposite side of association football norms, rules and regulations simply because of present personal agenda.

"In all his arguments, he failed to mention the NFF General Assembly, which took most of the decisions in the amended Statutes and the State FA elections. He even went as far as insulting the General Assembly by saying they did not under-

stand what was encapsulated in the amendments!

"Elections come and go, but it is important that people remain consistent no matter their present ambition. Our joy is that State Chief Executives, who are not even core football people, have been respecting the decisions of the NFF General Assembly in those regards."



HONORARY starter Jack Nicklaus hits his tee shot on the first hole during the first round of the 2010 Masters Tournament at Augusta National Golf Club yesterday in Augusta, Georgia, United States of America.

I will not be minister of football – Bio

By Orkula Shaagee

SPORTS Minister and Chairman National Sports Commission (NSC), Alhaji Ibrahim Isa Bio yesterday said he will depart from the traditional norm of paying more attention to football and relegating other sports to the back ground.

According to him, he would not be a minister of football, by giving all sports equal opportunities to thrive and bring glory to Nigeria at international compe-

titions.

Bio, who spoke at the opening session of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Confederation of African Tennis (CAT) in Abuja, revealed that he intends to grow those sports which are considered lesser sports in the country.

"I am glad to state that I intend to grow some of those sports which are generally described as lesser sports", Bio stated.

He stated that his position was based on the fact that Nigeria has talents in all sports that given the

right and management would excel and take Nigeria to the zenith of sports that Nigerian aspire to attain.

"This position is premised on the fact that we have the talents in all sports that with the right leadership and management will certainly bring out the rainbow skyline which we all yearn for in our country", he added.

While expressing gratitude to Confederation of African Tennis for the support given to Nigeria to develop tennis in teh country,

the minister also called on the continental tennis body to attract the attention and approval of the International Tennis Federation (ITF) to make Abuja a Regional Tennis Academy.

In his address, President of the International Tennis Federation Francisco Ricci Bitti said he was full of confidence that in no distance time Africa will become the hub of world tennis, adding that he was impressed with the quality of facilities in Nigeria, Senegal, Djibouti and Burundi.

F/Eagles draw with Ghana's Starlets

JOHN Obuh led Flying Eagles yesterday played a 1-1 draw with the Black Starlets of Ghana at the Newlands Stadium in Cape Town South Africa at the on going Cape Town Premier's Cup football tournament.

The four nation invitational tournament begins yesterday and will end on April 12 in South Africa.

Omoh Ojabu, one of the stars of Nigeria's silver medal run at the FIFA U-17 World Cup Nigeria 2009, levelled for the Flying Eagles 10 minutes to the end of the encounter at the Newlands Stadium in Cape Town.

Ghana went ahead mid-way into the first half and tried to dominate, but the Nigeria team, made up principally of the young men who dazzled the world at the last FIFA U-17 World Cup, held firm and even came close to winning it at the end, but a fierce shot struck the crossbar.

John Obuh's boys are already preparing for their next game against hosts South Africa, at the same venue, tomorrow evening.

Amike tasks AFN on regular competitions

FORMER 400m hurdles champion, Henry Amike, yesterday charged the Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN) to organise regular competitions in order to restore the lost glory of the sport.

Speaking at the finals of the "All Comers Athletic Meet" in Lagos, Amike said that the dearth of competitions had caused serious setback to athletics.

He contended that regular training and competitions would put athletes in proper shape to compete favourably at both local and international competitions.

"Athletics is not just about having one competition in a year; for any athlete to perform optimally, he must have undergone rigorous training and featured in competitions.

"Lack of competitions has edged Nigeria name out of the winners' chart in the world. The AFN should redress this if Nigeria is to be recognised," Amike said.

He cited Blessing Okagbare, a Nigerian-born U.S.-based athlete, saying she was able to excel due to her exposure and regular competitions.

"Part of the yardstick for measuring an athlete's performance are rigorous training and regular competitions," Amike said.

He also called for sponsorship of the sport by corporate organisations, saying that government alone could not do it.

"I was a beneficiary of corporate sponsorship during my active days in sports, and this gave me the necessary exposure which made me to carve a niche for myself," he said.

He lauded the Lagos State Government for its efforts at promoting sports at the grass roots through series of competitions.

Musa tops Amokachi squad

LEAGUE top scorer Ahmed Musa headlines a list of 18 players picked by Daniel Amokachi for the regional WAFU Cup competition which begins this week in Abeokuta.

Surprise exclusions from the squad are Enyimba's effervescent goal-scoring forward Osas Idehen, who is the league's second highest goal scorer so far behind Musa.

Also left out is Warri Wolves Fengor Ogude, who failed to join up with the rest of the team after Wolves CAF Confederation Cup

exertions in Zambia over the weekend.

The squad left Abuja for Abeokuta on Wednesday afternoon.

The Full squad:

Bassey Akpan, Austin Brown, Chibuzor Okonkwo, Terna Peter Suswan, Promise Onuh, Gabriel Reuben, Solomon Okpako, Ejike Uzoenyi, Ahmed Musa, Eugene Salami, Ganiyu Salami, Mutiu Adegoke, Taiwo Hassan, Chinedu Ezimorah, Bartholomew Ibenegbu, Uche Nwofor, Thank-God Ike.

WAFU Cup ignites Ijebu Ode

The West Africa Football Union (WAFU) Cup, kicking off today in Ogun, has ignited Ijebu-Ode about five months after the state's second biggest city hosted matches of the FIFA U-17 World Cup.

NAN reports that the Gateway International Stadium, Ijebu-Ode, will host Group B games involving Ghana, Togo, Liberia and Burkina Faso in the WAFU Cup tournament.

Matches of Group A consisting Nigeria, Benin Republic, Senegal and Guinea will take place in Abeokuta.

Felix Okupe, a member of the Organising Committee, confirmed in an interview with NAN on Thursday that the Ghanaians, Liberians, Togolese and Burkinabes have all arrived in Ijebu-Ode.

The teams have moved to the Gateway Hotel and Conference Hotel, both in Ijebu-Ode.

Ijebu-Ode was one of the centres which hosted matches of the FIFA U-17 World Cup held between October and November, 2009.

Real, Barca set for 'Game of the Millennium'

A win for Real Madrid or a draw for Barcelona in Saturday's 'Clasico' at the Bernabeu could be the deciding act in the La Liga title race this year.

Spain's two most powerful clubs have been locked together at the top of the table for a month, since Barca were held 2-2 in Almeria and relinquished first place to their arch-rivals on goal difference.

The champions travel to face the leaders tied on 77 points with eight matches left to play, a massive 21 points ahead of third-placed Valencia after steamrolling most of their opposition this year.

Real are on a 12-match winning streak in the league and have won all their home matches, while Barca have lost only once all season, which makes the second 'Clasico' all the more significant.

After Saturday, should they remain level on points, the head-to-head record between the clubs takes priority over goal difference in deciding the top spot.

Barca hold the upper hand in that contest after their 1-0 win at the Nou Camp back in November.

A better head-to-head record over Barca handed Real the league title under Fabio Capello back in 2007, and the nine-times European champions are desperate to keep alive their only hope for silverware this year.

There has been a constant stream of players and dignitaries playing down the significance of this encounter, warning of the seven remaining games each has to play after it.

But the message has failed to get through to Sports daily Marca, who have billed the match as the 'Game of the Millennium'.

"I don't think it will be decisive but it will be very important in resolving the outcome of the league," Xabi Alonso told the same paper.

There is a lot of injured pride at stake in Madrid as well since they were humiliated 6-2 in front of their own fans in the same fixture last year.

Lionel Messi's destruction of Arsenal in the Champions League on Tuesday would have made uncomfortable watching for the Real players but their midfielder Guti dismissed the idea that his side would have a special plan to stop the Argentine.

"We don't need an 'anti-



THE atmosphere is always electrifying whenever these two great teams clash.

Messi' plan. We need an 'anti-Barca' plan because they aren't only about Messi. To worry about one player would be ridiculous," he told reporters on Wednesday.

"Cristiano Ronaldo is as good if not better than Messi," he added.

"We are a different team to last year. In Barcelona (in November) there was very little between the sides. There has never been a 'Clasico' so evenly-balanced."

Brazilian playmaker Kaka (thigh) and midfielder Royston Drenthe (thigh) are unlikely to recover from their respective injuries in time to make Manuel Pellegrini's squad.

Barca proved they are firing on all cylinders when they progressed to the last four of the Champions League during the week, and are awaiting news on two important players.

Pep Guardiola has given his side Thursday off, and could have defender Gerard Pique (thigh) and striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic (calf) back from injury just in time for Saturday although left back Eric Abidal is out with a thigh injury.

Woods is Masters favourite despite rustiness

TIGER Woods will enter the unknown as he teed off in yesterday's opening round of the U.S. Masters for his first outing for nearly five months but he has been made the tournament favourite.

The world number one, who took a break from golf when his private life spectacularly unravelled at the end of last year amid allegations of extra-marital

affairs, has been installed as 6-1 favourite by British bookmakers Ladbrokes.

Fellow American Phil Mickelson is rated at 14-1 with South African Ernie Els third best at 16-1.

"Tiger going off as a 6-1 chance prior to his problems would have been unheard of but we're prepared to take a chance following his self-imposed exile," Ladbrokes

spokesman Nick Weinberg said in a news release on Wednesday.

Bookmakers also offered special odds for other Woods-related incidents.

The 14-times major winner, a four-times champion at Augusta National, is 100-1 to record an ace and 5-1 to launch his opening tee shot into the trees.

Woods is 5-4 to register at least five birdies in his first round.

Langer in early Masters lead

GERMAN veteran Bernhard Langer charged into an early share of the lead at the U.S. Masters on Thursday while Tiger Woods prepared to make his highly anticipated return to competition later in the day.

Langer, a twice champion at Augusta National, recorded three birdies in breezy sunshine to reach the turn in a flawless three-under-par 33, level with American Steve Marino who had completed six holes.



BERNHARD LANGER

THE FRIDAY COLUMN

Adamu Adamu
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Rimi: Tribute to *Limamin Canji* (1940 - 2010)

It always appeared as if it was his to add colour, class and drama to particular moments on the political scene—and so it was; but Alhaji Mohammed Abubakar Rimi did more than add mood to situations: he completely changed them. And because of him, they would never be the same, despite his death on Sunday, April 4, 2010.

He seized Kano as fashion would a Western city and remodeled the politics of defiance and principle in his image. He consecrated the political coming of age in Kano, already conditioned by decades of the heat of the baptism of the fire of NEPU, into a popular culture of exaggerated irreverence. With his sharp, acerbic and eloquent tongue and feisty wit, he shaped the contours of this new heresy, becoming its avant-garde and symbol; and the political man in Kano became that kid who could thumb his nose at power and spit in its face.

But if a small dose of irreverence was essential for effectiveness in Nigerian politics, too much of it could be absolutely fatal, as it in fact subsequently proved for Rimi. At its receiving end were the great Malam himself, the Emir of Kano; and the new popular culture thought it could ignore the dictates of public morality. The strictures of public morality often demanded conformity with a moral standard that even the enforcers would tear to pieces behind closed doors; but public appearances had to be kept. In this society, even charlatans by night carried and counted their rosary beads by day. But greatly daring, the new political elite in Kano adopted an 'open-door' policy on such sensitive matters. Unfortunately new lords always forgot that there was no virtue in advertising decadence.

In addition, disquiet had been expressed over the participation of PRP governors in the meeting of the PPP alliance. At one time Malam Aminu decreed an end to it and both Alhaji Abdulkadir Balarabe Musa and Rimi accepted to comply but requested their party to be discreet about it; and Malam accepted that. In a bid to embarrass them all, the late Alhaji Sabo Bakin Zuwo immediately called journalists and announced that the party had given orders to its governors to stop attending PPP meetings. This was to develop into a major political disagreement in which Malam and the PRP, and not Balarabe and Rimi, were clearly in the breach.

But Malam had become hostage to scheming, streetwise illiterates in the PRP who were to push him into an even tighter corner. But in this culture, age rules OK; and only a prodigal son will pick an open quarrel with his father or a protégé with his mentor or a Rimi with his Malam. Rimi might have been in the right, but his extreme irreverence came to overshadow everything else, including his victimhood; and to the larger public, he came across as a betraying ingrate, and therefore guilty as charged.

Towards the end of the Second Republic, Rimi was already a politically tragic figure: he had become a beleaguered colossus who had bitten more than he could possibly chew. Though this drama played out in Kano, its effect was to go far and wide, to reach all areas across the country where the Rimi appeal was fast catching on.

Rimi was the total and complete politician with whom there was a dull moment. Self-assured and self-confident and at home wherever he was, he was the veritable bridge-builder across ethnic, creedal, sectional and generational divides. He led and people followed. Even when angry Rimi picked no quarrels; for, though always loud and voluble, he played his politics without bitterness; and even when he jeered and taunted, he was just being himself—a consummate master of in-your-face political theatrics.

A charismatic and frank talker, Rimi was a patrician with an agenda for plebeian rights; and fate and the radicalism of youth brought him into Malam Aminu's political embrace in the First Republic. In the 1980's even the presidency seemed like the destination to which destiny was beckoning him. What stood between him and the presidency then was merely time and the forging of the correct political realignment at the right time. But within two decades a lot had changed such

that when in 2003 he did run for it, it was virtually an undertaking without the support of any constituency, very much a one-man affair. His nadir came during the last PDP election when he witnessed the trouncing of his political heritage by Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso, who, in comparison to Rimi in Kano politics, is a mere upstart, but is now set to become the new political supremo.

During his time, his focus was on people and it was for them that he laboured. He set up a government made up of effective officers, appointing an all-graduate cabinet; though, of course, it must be admitted that mere graduation from a university is no guarantee for effectiveness at work. In the university a person only learnt how to learn: the real thing is on the job. He also appointed tried and tested technocrats to man boards and managements of parastatals; and he delegated real power and authority to them, and gave them what freedom they needed to perform well. And perform well they did.

He was arguably the nation's highest-achieving and most fulfilled governor of all time. His transformation of Kano State stands unrivalled in its comprehensiveness—the scope of his development programmes, the genuineness and quality of his projects, especially in the formal and non-formal education sectors; in opening up the vast rural areas of the state and embarking on their all-round development, and in the planned and coordinated construction of road networks in the state.

Rimi was the self-proclaimed—and by people acclaimed—Imam of Change [*Limamin Canji*], but, in his haste, he forgot and left the congregation before the prayer ended. If he had managed matters with more maturity and greater tact and had eaten his fill of political humble pie during the PRP crisis, his constituency, which, in the early days of his government had gone beyond his party and the North, would have remained intact, and he would have been untouchable in national politics, let alone in Kano.

He was perhaps the most colourful political figure of the Second Republic and all subsequent republics. With his electrifying presence and abundance of courage that often tended towards foolhardiness, he chose to test the unaccountable power of the traditional institution. And thinking nothing of offending public morality, he went on live television and bared it all, damning the consequences. And he had sometimes been accused of abandoning principle and engaging in what-is-in-it-for-me politics. But people still loved him, despite everything. In the end, no one could have hated this man; because, if nothing else, his many enduring and wide-ranging achievements would always make up for, if not exactly excuse, his few, even if serious, flaws.

Today, Nigeria is one of the most violent-death-friendly nations on earth. The gaze of death stares at you from every dim corner; and wherever you go, it stalks you every inch of the way. At every turn someone is waiting to kill or maim you. It could be that extrajudicial killer with gun and ammunition bought with tax payers' money; an armed robber—on the road, on the highway, in the streets of the city, in the alleys of towns and villages, or even in the inner sanctum of your bedroom—looking for your money or your life; a ritualist desperate for human body parts to appease a pagan power structure, a religious fanatic at the service of some sanguinary deity; or a genocidal local landed gentry. It was as if the whole nation has decided to embark on a long retreat back to primitive, pre-modern barbarism.

No doubt, Rimi's painful and pathetic end—the latest in a series of the nation's shameful and preventable outrages—was brought about by the great distress of this harrowing experience. If this is a nation of freemen and not a collection of office-seekers and corruption-eaters, someone must be made to pay and feel sorry for the sorrow of it all. And there was no doubt that Rimi would have been a very good president of Nigeria—perhaps better than all those who had preceded him. His work spoke and still speaks for itself; and it is unfortunate that Rimi had to go this way. May his soul rest in peace.

SPORTS REPORT



USAIN Bolt

Bolt to run at Penn Relays

Triple world and Olympic champion Usain Bolt will run for Jamaica in the 4x100 metres relay at the Penn Relays next month, USA Track and Field said yesterday. Bolt, the 100 and 200

metres world record holder, will compete at the USA v The World event at Franklin Field in Philadelphia on April 24.

The USA v The World event has been part of the 115-year-old Penn Relays since 2000.



BLESSING Okagbare

Okagbare named Athlete of the week again

Nigeria's brightest medal hope this year, Blessing Okagbare has been named Conference USA Track and Field Athlete of the Week after picking up a pair of titles at the 83rd Annual Clyde Littlefield Texas relays.

Okagbare competed in the long jump and 100m dash where she posted the top marks in the world.

The University of Texas student recorded a personal best time of 11.10 in the 100m dash. In the long jump she had a leap of 6.65m, the result set the meet and stadium records for the long jump.

Okagbare also anchored the women's 4x100m relay. The 4x100m relay team finished third in the finals with a time of 44.54 - 13th best in the USA this year.

This is the second time this season Okagbare has been named C-USA Female Athlete of the Week.

