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Jonathan: Anambra votes must count and be counted



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PHOTO: FELIX ONIGBINDE



MINISTER of Information and Communications Professor Dora Akunyili emerging from the ministerial press conference organised by the Ministry of Power in Abuja, yesterday.

Battle lines drawn over Akunyili's memo

By Nasiru L. Abubakar

URGENT meetings were being held in Abuja last night by different caucuses of Federal ministers in preparation for next week's meeting of the Federal Executive Council, when Information and Communication Minister Professor Dora Akunyili's controversial memo comes up again for discussion.

The memo, which she introduced at the closing stages of Wednesday's FEC meeting, urged her colleagues to revisit their earlier stance and urge the ailing President Umaru Yar'adua to transmit a medical vacation letter to the National Assembly so that Vice President Goodluck Jonathan can become the acting President. When several ministers protested

that the memo should have been circulated earlier for discussion, Akunyili withdrew it. She has now submitted it to the Council Secretariat for circulation to members.

“The memo urged the ailing President to transmit a medical vacation letter to the N/Assembly

Daily Trust learnt last night that a meeting was being held by Education Minister Dr. Sam Egwu, Federal Capital Territory Minister Muhamed Adamu Aliero, Interior Minister Dr. Shettima Mustapha, Special

Duties Minister Senator Ibrahim Kazaure and Information Minister of State Ikra Aliyu Bilbis, among others, to plan a reaction to Akunyili's memo when it is represented next week.

Our reporter learnt that these ministers see themselves as bridge builders between a new anti-Yar'adua group in the council, led by Akunyili, and the ardent pro-Yar'adua ministers, namely Attorney General Mike Aondoaka, Agriculture Minister Dr. Abba Sayyadi Ruma and Economic Adviser to the President Malam Tanimu Yakubu, who are likely to take a very hostile position to Akunyili's memo.

Sources familiar with the ministers' plans said they would argue that Mrs Akunyili's memo, titled **Continued on page 5**

Abba-Aji: Yar'adua to transmit letter to Assembly

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

PRESIDENT Umaru Musa Yar'adua will transmit a letter to the National Assembly before the end of this week informing the

lawmakers that he is on sick leave, Senior Special Assistant to the President on National Assembly Matters Senator Mohammed Abba Aji said in Abuja yesterday.

Senator Aji told reporters this at the National Assembly Complex shortly after his appearance before the Senate over his alleged refusal to deliver President Yar'adua's letter in November last year.

He said, "Well, the Senate has resolved and the resolution has been transmitted and you all know the president to be a man that respects the rule of law, so I have no doubt **Continued on page 5**

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Minister orders NNPC to end fuel scarcity



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Northern govts back constitution on Presidency

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

RISING from an emergency meeting in Kaduna, the Northern Governors' Forum (NGF) yesterday said the constitution allows Vice President Goodluck Jonathan to act as president in the absence of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua whether it was communicated to him verbally or in writing.

Reading the communiqué

issued at the end of the meeting, the chairman of the NGF and governor of Niger State Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu said the forum was in total support of the court ruling on the issue.

The forum also called on all arms of government to continue to give full support to the Acting President until the president returns in the interest of the country. It also prayed for the quick recovery of President Yar'adua

"We appreciate the provisions of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999) in relation to the office of the President and Vice President, we associate ourselves with the judgement of the courts on same and agree that the position of Acting could be either verbal or written and the vice president has been appropriately acting admirably," the forum said.

Aside from the issue of the

presidency that was elaborately discussed in the meeting that lasted the whole day, the issue of the recent crisis in Jos, Plateau State was discussed.

Plateau Governor Mr. Jonah Jang was conspicuously absent and no representative of the state was mentioned in the meeting.

The northern governors noted with concern, the prevalent security challenges in the North, particularly the series

of sectarian crises in Jos.

While condemning it in strong terms, they governors established that the crisis was more political than religious.

It reiterated the need for sustained and deliberate campaign to abrogate the settler/indigene syndrome in the overall interest of peace in the country and called for the strict adherence to provisions of the constitution on citizenship.

PIC: OLADIPUPO ODUNEWU

NPAN insists on handing over to VP

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

THE Newspaper Proprietors Association of Nigerian (NPAN) yesterday restated its call to President Umaru Yar'adua to hand over to Vice President Goodluck Jonathan or resign.

NPAN at its 2009 Annual General Meeting in Lagos restated the position of media stakeholders on the constitutional log-jam on the appointment of an acting president for the country.

Media stakeholders had Tuesday given President Umaru Yar'adua a seven-day ultimatum within which to hand over power to the Vice President or resign. They also urged the National Assembly to commence an impeachment process against the president if he fails to take constitutional steps to stabilise the polity and keep democratic forces at bay, describing his absence since November 23 last year and refusal to transfer power to Jonathan as endangering the country.

NPAN at the end of the meeting also resolved that more than any other stakeholders in the Nigerian society, it desires that the Nigerian media should be credible and responsible to contribute positively to the development of the nation.

"That is why the association recently created the office of the Ombudsman to check abuse by media practitioners and to allow members of the public to lodge complaints of perceived infringements by the media", it said.



CHAIRMAN/CEO of Media Trust Limited and Vice President, Newspaper Proprietors Association of Nigeria (NPAN), Malam Kabiru Yusuf (left) with NPAN President, Chief Ajibola Ogunshola, at the 2009 annual General Meeting of the association in Lagos yesterday.

Boko Haram leader's in-laws sue Yar'adua, others

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

IN-LAWS of Mallam Mohammed Yusuf, late leader of the Boko Haram Islamic sect, have sued President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, Governor Ali Modu Sheriff and Inspector General of Police, Ogbonna Onovo, over the alleged murder of their 72 year old father, Alhaji Baa Fugu Moham-

med, who was Yusuf's father in-law and owner of the property used as the enclave of the Boko Haram group during the July, 2009 crisis in Maiduguri.

The Borno State High Court number 3 yesterday granted an application by counsel to Babakura Alhaji Fugu, a 40 year old teacher in Borno State, who is oldest son of the late Fugu and leader of the family, to

serve court summons on the President, IG and AG of the federation in Abuja (outside the jurisdiction of the court) in addition to serving court papers on the Borno governor and the Attorney General of the state within the court's jurisdiction.

The public officers are to be served as defendants in a motion on notice filed on the case.

The younger Fugu told the court that the their father was executed on 31st of July 2009 by the police in total disregard of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; despite reporting himself same day to the police (a day after the sect leader was killed) when he learnt from family members and associates that he was wanted by the police.

Minister orders NNPC to end fuel scarcity

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

MINISTER of Petroleum Resources, Dr. Rilwanu Lukman yesterday ordered the management of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to end the fuel supply and distribution challenges noticeable in some Nigerian cities or face the consequences.

Addressing members of the 'NNPC War Room' which was created with a mandate to end the fuel

crisis within seven days, Lukman charged the group and the NNPC management to come up with a viable plan to end the fuel queues permanently.

"Yes, there may exist some external factors which are hindering your success in this regard but that is the challenge for you because you are the national oil company.

There is no more room for excuses because we have been engaged by the government and

the Nigerian people to do this job despite the odds. And we must deliver," Lukman said.

He added that there would be no hiding place if the NNPC fails to deliver. "People are given jobs because of their ability to deliver and if you cannot do it we are going to get people who can do it. This fuel matter is not only a social and economic nuisance but has some negative implication for the national security," the minister stated.

But 'NNPC War Room' reeled out broad based action points designed to flood some Nigerian cities, particularly Abuja and Lagos, with petroleum products.

A statement from the NNPC yesterday explained that under the arrangement, products would be deployed from the national strategic stocks in Kano, Suleja and Minna for onward bridging to the Federal Capital in a massive trail of truck movement which would see Abuja receive extra 110

trucks daily for the next three days. To concretize the arrangement, NNPC Retail Limited has secured the commitment of over 350 truck owners in the Kano-Kaduna axis for the exercise.

Similarly the Pipelines and Products Marketing Company (PPMC) has equally secured similar commitment from depot owners and tanker drivers in Lagos to facilitate the accelerated evacuation of marine stocks to ease distribution challenges.

Buhari: Why I am joining CPC

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

TWO time-presidential candidate of All Nigerian Peoples Party (ANPP) General Muhammadu Buhari yesterday said he was joining the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC).

He said that he refused to join any of the older political parties in the country due to his sad experience in the ANPP, adding that he decided to join CPC in order to avoid a repeat of the past, where

greedy party leaders disregarded the party's constitution.

Speaking to Daily Trust yesterday, General Buhari said the ANPP is beset with abuse of its own constitution, citing its decision to withdraw its presidential election petition, joining of Government of National Unity by the party's leadership and the nomination of themselves and cronies to fill the party's slots in National Government.

Buhari said the ANPP left him

to slug it out in court with the PDP for about 20 months after the 2007 elections. "Between 2003 and December 2009, I was in court for 50 months," he added.

The former presidential candidate recalled that in February last year, he wrote all the state chapters of ANPP, his supporters and some groups to determine whether he should remain in the party, join another party or float a new one. He said a committee studied the feedback he received

and reduced them into an executive summary and made recommendations.

He said he delayed taking action on the recommendations due to certain development within the polity, particularly the formation of the Mega Summit Movement (MSM) and National Democratic Movement (NDM), "where we are trying to see whether we can have one party to face the PDP in the next election."

Buhari also informed that

there are proposals for the MSM and the NDM to coalesce into a political party, adding that the meeting of late last month considered the reports of the contact/mobilisation and strategy and programmes committees.

"In the third week of this month, we are going to discuss either to float a party or go into a party amongst the parties that our members belong to, or have a very strong alliance," he added.

Kumo: ANPP won't lobby him to return

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

THE National Secretary of All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), Senator Sa'idu Umar Kumo yesterday said the party will not lobby Gen. Muhammadu Buhari, the party's Presidential candidate in 2003 and 2007 elections, to return to the party.

Buhari had in a letter to the ANPP National Secretary dated Jan. 30, 2010 Buhari cited irreconcilable differences with the ANPP leadership as reason for

leaving the party.

Kumo however told the BBC Hausa Service yesterday, that the doors of the ANPP will remain wide open for the former party's flag bearer whenever he feels like returning to its fold.

"We never wanted Gen Muhammadu Buhari to leave the ANPP because he is a very influential figure of this party. However, we are not disturbed now that he has left because democracy is all about preference," he said.5r

Jonathan: Anambra votes must count and be counted

By AbdulFattah Olajide

VICE President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday said he expects the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to keep faith with its pledge of delivering to the people of Anambra and Nigeria "an election that will usher us into a new season of trust in our democracy."

He said in a statement issued in Abuja on the Anambra governorship election slated for Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010, that the Federal Government will not hesitate to bring the full weight of the law to bear on offenders during the Anambra election.

"Our peoples' right to

choose who governs them is inalienable. A better message to the world cannot come out of Anambra than the fact that the votes of our people must count and be counted. This is our covenant with the Nigerian people and there is no going back," he said.

Jonathan said the Anambra election "is one in a series of rungs in our ladder towards democratic consolidation. This is why we must take the election very seriously and insist that the votes and voices of the electorate remain the final arbiter of who governs this state of commerce, industry, diplomacy and scholarship."



OFFICIALS of Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENASSAN) during their picketing of Mobil Producing Nigeria at Onne yesterday.

Yar'adua: Reps alter section 145 of constitution

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE House of Representatives yesterday passed for second reading a bill which seeks to amend section 145 of the 1999 constitution with a view for the Vice President to automatically assume duty when the President is absent for 21 days.

This is coming against the backdrop of the controversy that trails President Umaru Yar'adua's prolonged absence from the country occasioned by his medical treatment in Saudi Arabia.

The bill, sponsored by Rep Abdulrahman Suleiman Kawu (ANPP, Kano

State), was unanimously adopted after a short debate, and was referred to the House ad-hoc committee on the review of the constitution.

The bill is titled, "a bill for an act to amend the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Cap 23 laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 to make provision for the Vice President and Deputy Governor to assume and discharge the functions of the President/Governor during their absence or temporary incapacity and for matters connected therewith 2010".

It said "where the president neglects to transmit to the President of the Sen-

ate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a written declaration of his absence under any circumstances for a continued period of not more than 21 days, or otherwise not be able to discharge the functions of his office for a continuous period of not more than 21 days for whatever reason called, the Vice President shall assume and discharge the functions of the President as Acting President."

He said Section 145 as it were, left the National Assembly with no option than to intervene or compel the President to transmit a written declaration when he is on vacation.

2009: MDAs remitted only 20% of their revenue-Minister

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE Minister of Finance Mansur Mukhtar yesterday accused Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of non-remittance of 80 per cent of their 2009 revenue.

The Minister told the House

of Representatives committee on Finance that some of the MDAs did not remit anything in the year, saying the Ministry would begin to impose sanctions on the erring MDAs.

He said: "It is very unfortunate that some of these agencies feel that the more money they make

the more they should spend. It doesn't look any impressive. At the moment what we are seeing is that so many institutions have not remitted anything"

He blamed the poor revenue base in the country partly on the attitude of some MDAs, saying they erroneously believe that the

more money they generated the less they should remit to the Federation Account (FA).

His submission came against the background of fact that some agencies of government, including the Customs and particularly the Nigerian Ports Authorities had rights through the law set-

ting it up to spend as much as 80 per cent of total revenues that it was able to generate internally.

Dr Mukhtar said it was possible to ensure that the expenditures of the affected agencies were prioritised to curb wastages and also increase the revenue profile of the country.

Nigeria proposes to host next AU Summit

By Aisha Umar

FOREIGN Affairs Minister, Chief Ojo Maduekwe has said Nigeria has offered to host the next AU Summit in Abuja to coincide with our 50th Independence anniversary.

Maduekwe made this known yesterday in Abuja during a press briefing. He said that the summit would focus on shared values.

He also announced an increase in the budgetary contribution by Nigeria and four other African countries which

include Libya, Algeria, South Africa and Egypt from \$14 million to \$16 million annually.

He said the initial proposal was for 55% (\$18 million) instead of 50% (\$14 million) contribution, which had been reduced to \$16million.

Maduekwe said the five countries contribute 75% contribution of AU budget, with other African countries contributing \$8 million, \$3 million, \$1.5 million, \$1 million and \$250 annually, depending on the capacity of each country.

He added that Nigeria donated \$5million to Haiti, spent \$3.5million on relief materials and \$1.5million in cash while 50 Nigerian volunteers, 25 doctors, 25 engineers and nurses would be travelling to Haiti soon.

NGO wants credible groups to monitor Anambra election

By Sunday Williams

A non governmental organization, ActionAid Nigeria has advised the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) not to exclude credible Nigerian Civil society groups from monitoring the Anambra governorship elections fixed for February 6.

The Country Director of ActionAid Nigeria, Dr. Hus-saini Abdu said the credibility of the election would be affected if such Civil Society groups are not allowed to monitor the election.

"Power is supposed to be exercised by the Chairman of INEC through structures and systems put in place to manage society in a way the dignity of the people can be preserved by defending the integrity of their votes. That is glaringly missing at the moment", he said

A statement from ActionAid Nigeria said it had in partnership with the Department for International Development (DFID) been conducting voter's education and engaging stakeholders in the state for violence-free poll.

Gbenro Olajuyigbe, Action-Aid Nigeria's Human Security in Conflict & Emergencies Advisor, who is currently coordinating ActionAid and DFID intervention in Anambra state said unless INEC retraces its familiar steps by opening its activities for credible organisations to monitor, it will create credibility problem.

He regretted the fact that Voters' list had not been displayed leading to apprehension by sections of the electorate and the political groups that this may work in favour of particular candidate(s)



STUDENTS of the Department of Industrial Design, ATB University, Bauchi, at the printing hall of Media Trust Limited recently.

BPE denies irregularities in SAHCOL sale

By Yunus Abdulhamid

THE Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), has denied any wrong doing in the privatization of government enterprises.

The Director General, Dr. Christopher Anyanwu told the House of Representatives Committee on Privatization and Commercialization probing the sale of government's equity in some privatized enterprises that the Bureau did not breach any rule in the privatization of Skypower

Aviation Handling Company (SAH-COL).

One of the bidders, Pan Express, had petitioned the committee, alleging that the sale was fraught with irregularities.

Defending the role of the BPE in the sale of SAHCOL, Anyanwu said as the first enterprise the agency had to superintend during his tenure, "I had to put in my best and in line with my guiding principle of transparency and accountability, ensured that the best practices were adopted

and followed."

It is absurd and unfortunate that someone could fault the entire process and cause a petition to the effect, a statement issued by the BPE spokesman Chigbo Anichebe, said.

Besides, he said apart from following due process and in accordance with the rules, "the entire process was under the watchful eyes of the Technical Committee (TC) of the National Council on Privatization (NCP) and NCP."

The DG stated that after the

mandatory period, the petitioner was given a grace period to pay the required 30 percent of the total sum but he failed, necessitating BPE to knock off the first and preferred bidder and adopted the willing buyer-willing-seller approach.

Chairman of the committee, Hon. Abbas Braimoh said the members would deliberate on their findings and table their recommendations before plenary for action to be taken in the best interest of the nation.

Court fixes Feb 23 to rule on Agbasso's application

By Atika Balal

A Federal High Court in Abuja has fixed February 23 to decide whether or not it will grant the 2007 All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA) Imo State governorship candidate leave of court to amend his statement accommodate all evidence he intends to tender.

Chief Martins Agbasso, who is challenging the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), yesterday sought a court order to tender the compiled results of the election in order to justify its conclusiveness.

In the fresh application filed by his counsel Patrick Ekweto (SAN), Agbasso said his decision to tender

a compiled result was to puncture claims by INEC that no result was compiled at the time the poll was cancelled.

He insisted that INEC lacked the power to cancel the polls the way it did and applied for an order of mandamus to compel the electoral body to publicly announce the election result.

Counsel to Governor Ikedi Ohakim, Chris Uche (SAN) however urged the court to refuse the application saying that it was an abuse of court process.

Counsel to INEC, Mrs. Olabisi Soyebó also urged the court to refuse the application arguing that the electoral body did not compile any result before cancelling the poll.

N59m claim: Court slates March 4 to decide NICON's application

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin

AN Abuja High Court will on March 4, 2010 decide whether to allow NICON Insurance Plc amend its statement of defence in a suit brought by Glory Dynamics Limited over alleged breach of N59 million contract.

The Plaintiff which is a leasing company dragged NICON Insurance to court over breach of contract agreement in the vehicles it supplied the insurance company running into millions of naira for which payments are still pending.

The trial court, Justice J. Y. Tukur who reserved the date for

ruling would also commence hearing of the defence of NICON Insurance.

Counsel to NICON Insurance, K. S. Olorunnishola had in a motion requested the court to make an order granting the insurance company leave to amend its statement of defence and an order deeming the amended claims as properly filed and served.

However the counsel to Glory Dynamics Limited, Joseph Eku-mankama implored the court to refuse the application on the ground that, "It is frivolous, misconceived and calculated to mislead the court".



PHOTO: NAN

DR Ben Obidigbo, Republican Party of Nigeria candidate for Anambra Governorship election at the Umunya rally ground yesterday.

Yar'adua to transmit letter to Assembly

Continued from page 1

in my mind that the president has never refused to comply with laws made by the legislature, not to my knowledge."

Although Senator Aji did not mention the exact date the president will send the letter to the lawmakers, he said he was confident that the letter will soon reach the National Assembly.

He said the letter that the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed referred to when he met with the lawmakers last month was written in January 2009, when the president went for a two week vacation.

"The SGF got his date wrong and the purposes of the letter wrong. The letter which remains the only one since Yar'adua became president was that of January 2009. And if you remember, the SGF was saying that the president transmitted a letter when he was going to Saudi Arabia. He did not."

The presidential aide argued that the said letter Yar'adua wrote in January last year was not delivered to the National Assembly because the president never went out of Abuja following the death of former Yobe State governor Senator Mamman Ali.

"We discussed the issue of the letter which has generated a lot of controversies as you all know, and you know that many people thought that the president gave a letter when he was leaving the country for Saudi Arabia and that I am still sitting on the letter. That was not true.

There was nothing like that. There has never been a time when the president was leaving the country and he transmitted a letter, but there was effort to transmit a letter and that was in January of 2009; if you remember the president went on leave.

And there was a letter that the president was in the process of transmitting, then Senator Mamman Ali the then governor of Yobe State died, just a day if you remember following the commencement of the leave.

The president started his leave on the 26 and the following day Senator Mamman Ali the governor of Yobe State died. So because of the death, the president shelved his holiday travel plans. So now that he has shelved his travel plans if you remember and aside from the fact that he attended Senator Mamman Ali's funeral in Yobe which was a day's trip, he did not leave Abuja even for one minute. So because of that, the letter was withdrawn."

Confirming Senator Aji's position, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Information and Media Senator Simon Ayogu Eze (PDP, Enugu North) confirmed that what Senator Aji said. He said the lawmakers are waiting to receive the president's letter.

Battle lines drawn over Akunyili's memo

Continued from page 1

'State of the Nation' was incompetent because traditionally, only the president or vice president could submit a memo to FEC on state of the nation. They would also ask Akunyili, sources said, whether she got her ministerial colleague in the Information Ministry, Bilbis, to acquiesce to the memo, as is the cabinet's tradition.

Even though tongues were wagging yesterday that Akunyili was leading a 'pro-Jonathan' cau-

cus, sources said the vice president himself gave the minister's memo, presented under Any Other Business at Wednesday's FEC meeting, the cold shoulder and told her to properly route it through the council secretariat.

Mrs Akunyili had begun the memo by reiterating her loyalty to the ailing President. She then said given the position taken on the matter by the Senate and the Eminent Statesmen, the council should urge the president to transmit the medical vacation letter and enable Jonathan to

fully act as president. She cited the crisis in Jos, which she said requires full presidential powers to deal with.

However, the memo was stood down when other ministers said it should have been circulated earlier.

They had however taken a similar memo on the alleged plane bomber Faruk Umar Abdul Mutallab, though it had not been circulated earlier.

Mrs Akunyili steadfastly refused to comment yesterday on her controversial memo. When

reporters accosted her at the Ministry of Power, where she was attending a function, she refused to speak, saying she was there for a different purpose.

Reporters who waited for her in her own office for several hours were similarly disappointed when she cancelled her scheduled engagements and disappeared into her office.

Her assistant Orji Ogbonnaya Orji, who announced the cancellations to newsmen, also refused to answer the question thrown at him on the issue.

News Analysis

The rebranding of Akunyili?

By Mahmud Jega

THE united front of blind loyalty to an ailing president that the Federal Executive Council had presented to Nigerians since Alhaji Umaru Yar'adua left the country to seek medical attention in Saudi Arabia last November cracked for the first time on Wednesday.

And, what a spectacular crack it was. Information and Communications Minister Professor Dora Akunyili presented a previously uncirculated memo to the Cabinet meeting, under Any Other Business, titled State of the Nation. In it, she urged the council to abandon its previous stance of blind loyalty and urge Yar'adua to transmit a letter of medical vacation to the National Assembly, so that Vice President Goodluck Jonathan could become the Acting President with full powers under the Constitution, pending the president's return.

Prior to last Wednesday's turn of events, the FEC had presented to Nigerians a united [many would say cowardly is more like it] front, unanimously insisting on several occasions that Yar'adua's long absence from the country did not constitute incapacity to discharge his duties warranting the invocation of Section 144 of the Constitution. On the less grave issue of transferring presidential powers to Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, the FEC hid behind a dubious court order obtained by Attorney General and Justice Minister Mike Aondoaka, saying Jonathan can exercise full presidential powers in Yar'adua's powers under Section 5 of the Constitution.

What made Mrs Akunyili to be the first minister to break ranks with FEC's solid but dishonourable front at this time? On the face of it, her memo simply capitulated to the national mood. Indeed, she referred to the positions already taken by the Senate and by the Eminent Persons group of General Yakubu Gowon, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, Chief Ernest Shonekan and Dr. Alex Ekwueme, which earlier called on Yar'adua to transmit the medical vacation letter to the National Assembly and ena-

ble Jonathan to act as president.

Yet, Professor Akunyili did not look like the minister who would make such a big political gamble on account of the national mood. While most Nigerians support the need for Yar'adua to temporarily hand over power, Yar'adua himself, supported by his closest friends and advisers, is clearly unwilling to do so. To boot, they are likely to see anyone who supports that demand as a foe, especially a minister, who holds office at Yar'adua's pleasure.

Since Mrs. Akunyili's surprise deployment to the Information and Communication ministry in the 2008 cabinet changes, she has pursued an official propaganda line of "Rebranding Nigeria" widely scoffed at by Nigerians. It has robbed her a lot of the tremendous public respect she garnered during her days as director general of NAFDAC.

The impression created in Nigerians' mind was that Akunyili very much wanted to be a minister, which she could not get during the Obasanjo years, hence her playing a very prominent role in the PDP's 2007 presidential campaign. Later that year, she was involved in a public spat with the late Ibadan strongman Alhaji Lamidi Adedibu, who said she tearfully begged for his intervention to get a minister's job. The fact that Yar'adua sent her to the Information Ministry and she still agreed to serve, kind of supported that impression.

So what game is she playing now? There are two possible explanations. One is that the Mother of the Rebranding Campaign has decided to rebrand herself and break ranks with her colleagues' position that has made all of them a laughing stock in the eyes of Nigerians.

However, many Nigerians are more likely to think that Professor Akunyili is repositioning herself for the post-Yar'adua era. The minister may have concluded that Yar'adua will not return to his presidential seat, in which case she wants to regain under a Jonathan presidency what she did not get under the ailing ruler, namely a more prominent Cabinet post. But matters are still unfolding.

Sheriff presents fresh bill on new emirates

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

GOVERNOR Ali Modu Sheriff yesterday presented a fresh bill to the Borno State House of Assembly on the amendment of the Local Government Law 2000. The lawmakers had Tuesday while the governor

was out of town, unanimously voted against an amendment of the same law which was seeking powers to be conferred on him to create new emirates in the state.

Sheriff Wednesday summoned the lawmakers for a closed door meeting that lasted for hours at the council chambers of the Government House, after which infor-

mation filtered that the lawmakers had allegedly "given in to the governor's request for the creation of at least one new emirate". On the evening of that day, the assembly made a television announcement asking all members to resume for sitting the following day yesterday.

During plenary yesterday, the Major-

ity Leader in the House Idrisa Jida representing Ngala state constituency (Sheriff's home town) mentioned the bill and the clerk of the House acknowledged the receipt as directed by the Speaker, Goni Ali Modu. The bill is set for deliberation today (Friday) after passing the first reading yesterday.

Throw it out again - Legislators told

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

MEMBERS of the Borno State House of Assembly should toe the path of honour by throwing out the executive bill which has been re-presented before them, seeking to give Governor Ali Modu Sheriff powers to create more emirates in the state, Dr Haruna Yerima, a former legislator has advised.

Yerima who represented Biu North federal constituency in the House of Representatives from 2003 to 2007 said there were infrastructure gaps in the state and Sheriff should concentrate on fixing them as creating emirates was not a priority. He said the people of Borno were not demanding additional emirates, but that the governor wanted to carve out Dikwa emirate so as to turban his father.

Yerima who spoke with our correspondent in Kaduna yesterday said Sheriff called the legislators and tongue-lashed them for throwing out the bill on Tuesday. He called on the law makers to finally kill the bill, saying the creation of new emirates should not be the priority of the governor because the existing emirates had problems which government had not attended to. According to him, the present emirate councils were not adequately funded and they were finding it difficult to pay salaries.



FUTURE Nigeria Group members in procession to the National Assembly, Abuja, yesterday.

Jos: Bauchi Assembly lobbies for state of emergency

From Isa Umar Gusau & Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

THE Bauchi State House of Assembly is seeking support from the 34 state Houses of Assembly (excluding that of Plateau) to compel the Federal Government to declare a state of emergency in Plateau State following the recent crisis in Jos.

The Speaker of the Borno State House of Assembly Goni Ali Modu yesterday at the plenary session of the House said the Assembly had received a request from its Bauchi coun-

terpart seeking Borno lawmakers to adopt the resolution reached by the Bauchi Assembly, calling for a state of emergency in Plateau. The Borno Speaker added that the Bauchi Assembly had also communicated to Assemblies across the country to adopt the motion. The Bauchi Assembly had at its January 27, 2010 sitting resolved that, "(a) A state of emergency be declared in Plateau State, (b) The perpetrators of the crisis be punished according to the laws of the land (c) Special prayers be conducted for the repose of the souls of the

deceased and (d) The 34 states of the federation be called upon to adopt the resolution"

About 22 of the 28 members of the Borno Assembly who attended yesterday's sitting condemned the crisis and called for the constitution of an independent technical judicial commission of inquiry to research into and mediate in the conflict.

The lawmakers said there may be no need for a declaration of state of emergency in Plateau since the recent crisis had been subdued by security agencies.

Plateau crises not religious – Onaiyekan

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

THE President of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Archbishop John Onaiyekan says from the accounts of conflicts in Plateau State, he has been able to establish that the cause of the crises in the state is not religious.

Onaiyekan said the crises were "multi dimensional" but given a religious connotation to

attract sympathy.

The CAN president who was at the Plateau State Catholic Secretariat in Jos yesterday said the crises had to do with issues like the indigene/settler question, the alleged arrogance of a group of people who want to dominate the political space and the recognition of ethnic groupings.

He said his view was confirmed by the submission of the Catholic Archbishop of Jos

Diocese Rev. Ignatius Kaigama who at the Tuesday meeting in the Aso Presidential Villa, Abuja concluded after hearing from all sides in the conflict that religion had been "discharged" but not acquitted as the major cause of the conflict. He said religion had not been acquitted because religious bodies still had the responsibility of finding ways of putting a stop to conflicts in the state by talking to their

members, adding that pastors and imams must be careful about what they preach in the churches and mosques not to add to the tension.

Onaiyekan said dialogue was a better way of resolving issues. He said even the post-crisis management had shown that people were more affiliated to their ethnic groupings than to religion. CAN Chairman of the North central zone Rever-

end Yakubu Pam said incessant crises in the state had affected both Muslims and Christians. He prayed God to provide a solution to the crises. Earlier, Plateau CAN Secretary Reverend Chuwang Davou who represented the Plateau State CAN Chairman, Arch. Bishop Ignatius Kaigama, thanked the national CAN for the N5 million donations to victims of the crisis and urged it to do more.

EU, US task Nigeria on Anambra governorship polls

By Aisha Umar

THE upcoming gubernatorial election in Anambra on Feb. 6 will be a milestone in Nigeria's journey towards electoral reform and signal the country's commitment to the principles of democracy, the European Union, United States of America, United Kingdom, and

France have said in a statement.

EU High Representative Catherine Ashton, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, British Foreign Secretary David Miliband and French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said this according to a statement issued by the EU commission Abuja,

They said Nigeria's stability,

as a member of the UN Security Council, a global oil producer, a leader in ECOWAS, a major peacekeeping contributing country, and a stabilizing force in West Africa, carries a great significance beyond its immediate borders.

"We therefore extend our support to the people of Nigeria during the current period of

uncertainty, caused by President Yar'Adua's illness. We extend our best wishes to the President and his family, and join the Nigerian people in wishing him a full recovery" the statement added.

While commending the Nigerian government for adhering to the constitutional processes over the president's ill-health, "We are

committed to continue working with Nigeria on the internal issues it faces while working together as partners on the global stage."

They urged the Federal Government to ensure that the perpetrators of acts of violence in Jos are brought to justice and to support inter-ethnic and inter-faith dialogue.



NIGERIAN Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) offices in Lagos sealed by the Lagos State Internal Revenue Services (LIRS) for indebtedness, yesterday.

PIC: NAN

Yar'adua: CNPP lauds Akunyili's 'brave memo'

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

CONFERENCE of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) yesterday lauded the Minister of Information and Communications Professor Dora Akunyili for pleading with the Federal Executive Council (FEC) to urge ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua to avail himself of Section 145 of the constitution by transmitting letter to the National Assembly which will empower Vice President Goodluck Jonathan to be acting president pending his full recovery. CNPP's National Publicity Sec-

retary Osita Okechukwu in statement pointed out that Akunyili position clearly bailed her from FEC's tepid position of abandoning their constitutional mandate which is not only dishonorable but embarrassing.

He said Akunyili's patriotic move gives impetus to the collective struggle of Eminent Elders Group, G53, Save Nigeria Group (SNG), 3G, Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), Ohaneze, Afenifere, Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), and other compatriots from international community.

Yar'adua: PDP has derailed, ex-NWC member says

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is not handling the issues surrounding the transfer of power in the Presidency with the needed decorum it required, a former member of the PDP National Working Committee (NWC) Bar. Emeka Uwakolam said yesterday in Abuja.

Uwakolam, the former PDP Deputy National Youth Leader and former Senior Special Assistant to ex-Speaker Aminu Bello Masari, asked President Umaru Musa Yar'adua to transmit vacation letter to the National Assembly within 48 hours.

Uwakolam, who was speaking on behalf of Vanguard for Greater Nigeria (VGN), said any failure by President Yar'adua to give a live broadcast to keep Nigerians abreast of his health status and transmit letter, would prompt his group to engage in massive mobilization of Nigerians to force his removal from office should the Senate fail to commence impeachment process within seven days.

"The interest of 150 million Nigerians are at stake. I think these are the people who collectively gave them the mandate to rule. This is an opportunity to pay them back by good leadership," he said.

Nupes take quest for Edu State to N/Assembly

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE Etsu Nupe Alhaji Yahaya Abubakar yesterday led his people to the National Assembly requesting for the creation of Edu State to comprise of all the Nupe speaking areas of the present Niger and Kwara states.

In his presentation, Chairman of the Central Working Committee for the creation of Edu State, Professor Jerry Gana told the Senate that the proposed state is the

most productive part of the country with rich mineral deposits and potential for massive agricultural production.

Professor Gana said, "Indeed, if the new state were to focus on rice production alone, for which there is a huge national demand, the estimated revenue that could flow into the new state will be over N140 billion annually."

He said the proposed Edu State covers Bida, Agaie and Lapai emirates in Niger State as well

as Pategi, Lafiagi, Shonga and Tsaragi emirates in Kwara State, with Bida as the proposed capital, adding that it has an estimated population of 1.8 million people with similar cultural heritage and history that dates hundreds of years.

Receiving the delegation, Senate President David Mark said the request by the Nupe people to have their own state is legitimate and in accordance with the Constitution of the country.

US assists Nigerian coy on solar power systems

By Aisha Umar

THE United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) has granted \$162,000 to the Nigerian Telecommunications infrastructure company, IHS Nigeria, to support the company's effort to use solar power systems for its

tower sites throughout Nigeria.

A statement by the U.S. embassy in Abuja said the grant will benefit IHS Nigeria by accessing alternative energy solutions aimed at reducing the use of diesel generators.

The grant will also support U.S. jobs by arranging a visit to the U.S.

for IHS Nigeria decision makers to meet with U.S. sources of supply.

The signing ceremony took place at the U.S. Consulate General in Lagos, Nigeria, with U.S. Ambassador Robin Sanders and IHS Nigeria's Managing Director William Saad in attendance.

Anambra needs tight security during election —NSCDC

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) said there is need to tighten the security in Anambra State during Saturday's governorship election.

Commandant General of the Corps Dr. Ade Abolurin said yesterday in Abuja that the civil defence is sending additional officers to Anambra State to checkmate the heightened political pressure now visible in the state.

Abolurin said he had directed

the deployment of another 10,000 civil defence personnel from neighbouring state commands "to cover all nooks and crannies of the state."

The civil defence, which earlier deployed 10,000 officers to the state, said the additional troop comprises personals from "units such as Counter-terrorism, Anti-fraud, Anti-corruption and Transparency Unit (ACTU), Intelligence and other specialized department of the Corps to contain the volatile situation.

Tax appeal tribunals to sit once a quarter

By Idris Ahmed

A Tax Appeal Tribunals inaugurated yesterday in Abuja by the Minister of Finance Mansur Muhtar will sit at least once in every quarter across eight different locations in the country.

Tax Appeal Tribunals are empowered to settle disputes arising from the operations and others spelt out in the fifth schedule to the Federal Inland Revenue Service Establishment Act.

The Tribunals would sit in Bauchi, Kaduna, Jos, Ibadan,

Enugu, Benin, Lagos and Abuja.

The Minister said that each sitting may last for a number of days depending on the magnitude of appeals before the Tribunal and the Tribunal would be held in public for interested members of the public to attend.

Justice Oseni Oyewo will chair the Tribunal in Abuja, Abraham Ndana Yisa, North Centra, Mr. Suleiman Audu, North East and Bashir Abdullahi Albasu, North West. For the South West, Joseph Ashibitete will chair the Tribunal, South East, Professor Chukwudi

Joseph Amasike, South South, Justice Abdul Salami Abiri and Lagos, Kayode Segun Sofola.

Minister of Finance urged the members of the Tribunals to employ the principle of fairness, independence, objectivity and integrity in handling any case before them.

Plateau health workers to continue strike

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

HEALTH workers in Plateau State say they would continue their current strike until the state government includes them in the consolidated tertiary institutions salary structure (CONTISS).

The workers under the aegis of National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives and Medical Health Workers Union of Nigeria said at a press conference yesterday in Jos that the claim by the state ALGON chairman that they were not supposed to benefit from CONTISS since they are not workers of tertiary institutions is ridiculous and bound to complicate health care delivery in the state.

Comrade Badung Dalyop on behalf of the health workers say the work-

ers who were currently under HATISS should be migrated to CONTISS as pronounced by the Federal Government for implementation by states, adding that if they were on HATISS, it was funny for anyone to suggest that they should not be included in CONTISS.

The workers said as far as they were concerned, it is not the ALGON chairman of a state that should interpret issues concerning wages and salaries but the office of the Head of Service in the state, hence the comment of the state ALGON chairman was uncalled for.

They said as long as the state government failed to implement CONTISS for them, the unions would have no option than to support its members to continue the strike they began since last year and called on its members to discountenance statements made by the state ALGON chairman.

Kogi judiciary has ghost workers — CJ

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE Chief Judge of Kogi State Justice Nasiru Ajanah has disclosed that ghost workers exist in the state judiciary.

He hinted that plans were underway to purge the state judiciary of its current staff of over 3,000 to a manageable number.

The Chief Judge explained that the planned reduction of staff strength was in view of a revelation that many of the judicial top officers used their positions to employ their relations through the back door, regretting that such practice had given rise to the already bloated staff strength and wage bill.

Some of the affected workers were said to have been issued sack letters while others are not yet certain of their fate. Our correspondent gathered that many of the ghost workers who were fished out during the staff screening exercise are still in secondary schools and tertiary institutions.

"Some of our senior staff employed their wives, relations, and even children and cleverly sent them to school without the knowledge of the authorities and they are on the payroll of the judiciary", Ajanah said.

Kogi pensioners seek speedy gratuities

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE Kogi State government has been urged to always speed up the process of the payment of pensioners' gratuities in the state.

The appeal was made Wednesday in Lokoja by pensioners who participated in the on-going screening exercise organised by the state pension board for pensioners on the state government's payroll. Mr Aliu Muhammed, a pensioner who came for the screening exercise said, "The state government has been doing well in the area of the payment of our pensions. We just want the government and other relevant authorities to look into the issue of our gratuities so that we would be paid without further delay".

The State Chairman of the Board Abdulrahman Badamasiyu said the screening exercise was part of the government's efforts towards alleviating the plight of pensioners.

He noted that the aim of the screening was to ascertain the number of pensioners either alive or dead, saying without such exercise, proper data would not be documented for payment.



PIC: OLADIPUPO ODUNEWU

PUBLISHER of *Business Day*, Mr. Frank Aigbogun, Managing Director, Media Trust Alhaji Isiaq Ajibola, Editor-in-Chief, Media Trust, Malam Mannir Dan Ali and the Editor-in-Chief, IT&T Telecom Digest, Mr. Mkke Abanga, at the 2009 Annual General Meeting of Newspaper Proprietors Association of Nigeria in Lagos, yesterday.

Gunmen abduct school principal in Edo

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

ACADEMIC activities at the Idia College, Benin City, the Edo State capital, were grounded early yesterday following the forceful abduction of the principal of the school, Mrs D. Igbinovia, by unknown gunmen.

Mrs. Igbinovia who was said to have driven into the school compound was trailed by her abductors in a motorcycle. They were said to have entered the school through the back gate.

According to one of the students of the school who witnessed the fierce manner Mrs. Igbinovia was abducted, the principal was just alighting from her car when the two suspected kidnappers pounced on her.

Mrs. Igbinovia, it was learnt, initially resisted the attack and shouted for help but efforts by some students to stop the abductors from taking their principal away was rebuffed as they pelted the students with stones.

One of the students, Omozee Oamen, an SSS 2 student of the college, said the principal was forced into the back seat of her own car by the suspected abductors and taken away.

The students, guided by some teachers in the all female college, marched several kilometres to the Government House to register their grievance. The students at the Government House caused a stampede as they blocked the main entrance, preventing any entry or exit and demanding the presence of Governor Adams Oshiomhole to assist in producing their principal.

The Deputy Chief of Staff to the Governor Mr. John Ejale later addressed the students, assuring that the state government had already set a security machinery in motion to rescue the principal alive.

He advised the students to be security conscious at all times, both at home and in the school premises. He also said they should be weary of okada riders and individuals in their respective neighbourhoods.

EFCC arraigns couple over N233m fraud

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, Lagos

THE Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) yesterday in Lagos took a couple, Bose and Kayode Phillips and their companies, Leap of Faith Agency and Gas Oil Nigeria Limited, before the Ikeja division of the Lagos High Court over an alleged N233 million fraud.

The couple were arraigned on a 100-count charge of stealing, conspiracy and fraudulent conversion before Justice Olubunmi Oyewole.

Kayode Phillips is the owner of Gas Oil Nigeria Ltd and his wife, Bose Phillips, is the owner of Leap of Faith Agency. They were alleged to have used their companies to fraudulently convert the money, belonging to Tower Universal Limited during a business transaction between May 5 and November 18, 2004. The EFCC alleged that they evaded arrest since 2006, when the commission initially sought to bring a formal charge against them in court.

The anti-graft commission accused them of stealing and conspiracy to steal, offences which according to the charge sheet is punishable under Sections 390 (8) (b) and 516 of the Criminal Code Cap C17, Vol.

II of the Laws of Lagos State, Nigeria 2003. They pleaded not guilty to all the charges and the EFCC counsel, Francis Usani asked for a trial date and a court order to remand them in prison. The counsel to the couple, Mrs Juliet Njoku, however said she was not opposed to a trial date but asked for an earlier date for hearing of the bail application which she is yet to file before the court soon.

Bose Phillips was alleged by the EFCC to have conspired with her husband using their companies as fronts to perpetrate the fraud when she was the Managing Director of the Tower Company, a subsidiary of the defunct NAL Merchant Bank that is now known as Spring Bank. Further hearing in the case has been adjourned till February 22, 2010 for bail hearing and March 17 and 18, 2010 for trial.

Amaechi signs Child Rights Bill into law

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

RIVERS State Governor Chibuike Amaechi yesterday signed the Child Rights Bill into law. The governor also endorsed the Rivers State Appropriation Bill 2010

and the State Customary Court Amendment Bill 2009.

Governor Amaechi said he was satisfied with the quality of debate by the House of Assembly on the Appropriation Bill, saying the debate showed that the state legislature was truly independent.

"We hope that the Assembly continues to hold such vibrant debates to keep government on its toes and strengthen democracy", he said, adding that the 2010 budget was that of consolidation. He appealed to the law makers to take their, over sight

functions seriously. He assured that the State Executive Council would do its best to implement the 2010 budget, particularly in the areas of focus like education, health and road construction.

The governor said his administration would be prudent in

the management of funds and expressed his determination to make the state the envy of others. It would recalled that Governor Amaechi presented the 2010 Appropriation Bill of N429 billion to the state Assembly in December 2009.



PIC: NAN

BULGARIAN Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Miroslav Kumarov, inspecting a guard of honour before presenting his letters of credence to Vice President Goodluck Jonathan in Abuja yesterday

Clash: Kogi to set up white paper c'ttee

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE Kogi State government says it will soon inaugurate a white paper committee to review the report of the Okene Civil Disturbance Investigation Committee.

Governor Ibrahim Idris said this yesterday at the Government House in Lokoja while receiving the report of the 7-man committee set up by the state government to investigate the recent crisis between two clans of Obehira/Okengwe community in Okene Local Government Area of the state.

While commending the committee for a thorough job, the governor assured that his administration would implement the report of the committee with a view to proferring a lasting solution to crises in Ebilaland.

Earlier, the Chairman of the committee, Mr Osmand Onojah said the committee received oral and written evidence from stakeholders in Ebilaland as well as those affected by the disturbance on how best to forestall further crises in the area.

The state Deputy Governor Mr Philips Salawu and members representing Okene I and II in the state House of Assembly were among top government officials at the meeting.

"The governor assured that his administration would implement the report"

MEND shuns Netherlands peace confab

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

THE Movement for Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) has dissociated itself from a conference on the Niger Delta proposed by one Mr Sunny Ofehe, a Nigerian resident in the Netherlands.

An email from MEND spokesperson Jomo Gbomo said,

"In response to an article on the Radio Netherlands website credited to one Mr Sunny Ofehe, MEND wishes to state that it at no time accepted to send delegates to the Niger Delta peace conference proposed by Mr Ofehe".

The Radio Netherlands bulletin had said, "MEND is not excluding itself from the planned peace conference".

According to the article,

Sunny Ofehe, the convener of the conference, said he received confirmation that MEND would send five delegates to the conference.

The article also quoted Gbomo as saying that President Umaru Yar'adua's prolonged absence from the country was having a negative impact on everything in the country, including the peace process.

Mr Ofehe on his part said the

amnesty programme had not been successful as youths had been left to fend for themselves and they were now impatient.

"There is a saying that an idle mind is the devil's workshop. So when MEND says it is ending the peace agreement, it is very dangerous because there are many people they can recruit and take back into the creeks", he said.

FG to boost irrigation farming in Jigawa

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

THE Federal Government is to develop a 10 kilometre land for irrigation in Jahun/Miga federal constituency in Jigawa State, the House of Representatives member representing the area, Alhaji Mustapha Habib, has said. Speaking at a rally in Miga Local Government Area, Alhaji Habi said

it was in line with the 7-Point Agenda of President Yar'adua.

Alhaji Mustapha said when completed, the project would apart from boosting irrigation, empower thousands of youths through the provision of job opportunities.

"Irrigation farmers will benefit immensely and the state and the local governments will equally

benefit. Poverty and redundancy among citizens will be tackled," he said.

In his remarks, the Chairman of the PDP in the state Alhaji Isah Ahmad Duniya Ba-Hutu urged political office holders to stick to the party's manifestos, saying the PDP would not hesitate to impeach any local government chairman that deviates.

Police yet to enforce Okada curfew in Borno

From Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

MORE than two weeks after the Borno State Police Command banned commercial motorcyclists (Okada) from operating beyond 10pm in Maiduguri metropolis, the law has not been enforced as motorcyclists still operate beyond the stipulated time.

A cross section of motorcyclists who spoke with our correspondent said they were not

aware of any law prohibiting them from operating after 10pm. Borno State Police Commissioner Ibrahim Abdu over two weeks ago placed a 10pm curfew on motorcyclists in the state capital, saying it was aimed at making the state crime-free.

Chairman of the Borno State Motorcycle Transport Union Abubakar Musa in an interview with our correspondent yesterday in Maiduguri said the union was not aware of any curfew.

NITEL

NIGERIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLC

**RE: NITEL/MTEL STAFF PENSION FUND
(IN LIQUIDATION)****RE: PAYMENT OF SALARY ARREARS TO NITEL WORKERS**

The attention of NITEL management has been drawn to an advertorial by Otunba Olusola Adekanola, the Liquidator, NITEL/M-Tel Staff Pension Fund (In Liquidation) which appeared in the Monday, February 1, 2010 edition of ThisDay and Punch Newspapers page 5.

The management of NITEL is constrained to react to the said publication in order to set the records right and to afford the public (the real stakeholders) of NITEL the true position of the matters.

- It is noteworthy that management of NITEL was not privy to the mandate given to Otunba Olusola Adekanola as the Liquidator for the NITEL/M-TEL Staff Pension Fund.
- Throughout the entire process of Liquidation, there was no time NITEL management has refused to cooperate with the Liquidator or disregard directives from appropriate quarters on the matters of the liquidation of NITEL/M-TEL Staff Pension Fund. Similarly, all the title documents on non-core assets have been forwarded to the Liquidator through the BPE.
- At no time has NITEL management engaged in any form of harassment, intimidation or unguarded statement against the Liquidator.

The advertorial under reference has made sweeping and general references "to the intransigence of Transcorp and NITEL managements who between them have confiscated the C of O and other titles of these properties" Otunba Olusola Adekanola should have graciously separated the chaff from the grains by being specific on "these properties" or is it to suggest a collaborative and joint conspiracy by Transcorp and NITEL managements.

It is noteworthy that NITEL management was not party to the arrangement between the Liquidator and NCP/BPE for the staggered payment of five (5) months salary to the staff. Whereas the Liquidator has alleged that "taking money out of Liquidation account is not just a simple matter of writing cheques", but admitted to have "released funds for one month salary"; and that further payments "would be delayed unless the title papers to the sold Liquidation assets are released by NITEL management". We note that the Liquidator is being evasive on the truth surrounding the NITEL/M-TEL Staff Pension Funds. The Liquidator has indeed not only paid one month salary to all staff but also three months to some others.

We note also that the Liquidator has acceded to the arrangement between him and NCP/BPE for the payment of staggered five (5) months salary "on the belief that the sums advanced... would be fully refunded to the Liquidation Fund once the sale of NITEL is concluded". Why the u-turn from the agreement?

The Management of NITEL wishes to disassociate itself with all the allegations and claims of the Liquidator and to advise the Liquidator to please address the issues appropriately.

**SIGNED:
MANAGEMENT**

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



Yar'adua: PDP pays homage to Jonathan

I pictured it in my mind, a bunch of political jobbers trooping in a long convoy to Jonathan's house to pay homage. Honestly, Nigeria has a problem.

Of what benefit was that trip and can anyone tell me how much that charade cost the Nigerian economy. This country needs divine intervention.

John Jones
jones77779@yahoo.com

Nigerians can now see that our problem is with the PDP, how come a vice president that was elected on the same ticket with the president can not act on behalf of the president until he comes back. These are really dark days for Nigeria.

Chimaobi Kanu
mematechld@hotmail.co.uk

Senate summons Abba Aji over Yar'adua's vacation letter

WE are heading for doom, if we can no longer follow the constitution. Remember that it might not end with Yar' adua, if it is not stopped now. It would certainly continue even when he leaves that seat. A stitch in time saves nine.

M.K
ukmk@gmail.com

...NFF shortlists four coaches

HONESTLY speaking, 90 percent of Nigerians are in support of a foreign coach, due to Amadu shuaibu's lack of technicality in the recent African Cup of Nations. The entire team also needs serious overhauling i.e. to say, the team should be mixed with young players and led by a foreign coach who has zero tolerance for corruption.

Muhammad Sani
muhammedsani38@yahoo.com

Bank robbery suspects Boko Haram members - Police

CANT people take decisions and stick to them? The group, according to them detested western education and cheating in the society generally. Is bank robbery not cheating? Can the group tell us their vision and mission in the Boko Haram.

F.K. Daboer
dafikark@yahoo.com

Buhari to ANPP: I quit - Moves to CPC



GENERAL Muhammadu Buhari

BUHARI'S decision is timely because those ANPP leaders are PDP members in disguise. Nigeria needs to have visionary leaders that are honest and well grounded, to address the problems of poor governance. Today, I am convinced that the judiciary cannot ensure the Rule of Law so, Nigerian's should start thinking of ways to ensure free and fair elections.

Muhammad Yusuf
yusudume@yahoo.com

We support your decision, Buhari. Where ever you go, we will be there for you and we are ready to support you forever. This is the end of the ANPP. Keep on trying, General.

Adam
yangoraster@yahoo.com

Buhari, Nigerians are with

you. We shall make it by 2011. We will bow to save our fatherland .

Hilal Tasiu
hiltoon200@yahoo.com

This is the best piece of news, I've heard this year. Ride on General, we your supporters are all behind you and by God's grace we will wrestle power from the PDP.

A.M Iliyasu, Tokyo-Ja
amiliyasuz@yahoo.com

It is disheartening that at last, this humble, honest, disciplined politician and statesman quit the ANPP because of uncertainties and injustice.

Muhammadun Fagge
muhammadunfagge@yahoo.com

My amiable General, we are with you, come rain, come shine and Insha Allahu you will

become president and clean up the mess in our society.

Yakubu
ayakubu71@yahoo.com

Since lack of consistent political ideology and focus made the ANPP uninhabitable for people like General Buhari, we pray that God Almighty would make him actualize his dreams. May God bless Nigeria.

Isa Mariri, BUK
isamariri@yahoo.com

I have been expecting this from Gen. Buhari. This is because the leadership of the ANPP is not sincere. What the leaders want is to use Buhari's popularity to get positions and then dump him.

General Buhari has taken the wisest decision so far and he has the support of the masses of this great country.

Usman Santuraki
usbaturaki@yahoo.com

This decision should have been taken a long time ago. Because a party that is championed by people such as Kumo is not a party that one can join to salvage this country. Buhari, remember God is with anyone that has the interest of the people at heart. We support you and pray for your success in this struggle.

Babayo El-Nafaty
babayoelnafaty@yahoo.com

General, I am in support of any party you go to and you have made a good decision. May Allah be with you.

Usman.S.Awak Gombe
awakusman@yahoo.com

Best wishes to Gen. Buhari, but he left the ANPP because he knew

he will not win the primaries.

Mohd S. Adam
naf_adamnet@yahoo.co.uk

Now, the die is cast, between the ANPP and Buhari, lets see who is more popular. I wish them success.

Attahir
ahkyauta@gmail.com

This is a wrong decision, taken at a wrong time. Now that you have left the ANPP, the number one opposition party, which other party is strong and coordinated enough for you to join and continue your struggle? It is too late.

Nasiru Abdulmalik
nasiruabdul75@yahoo.com

I will follow General Buhari to his new party and I would like people to join us for the progress of our great nation. May the Almighty Allah continue to shower his blessings on this country.

Lawan Adam
xx4lawal@yahoo.com

Everyone in Nigeria is supporting General Buhari. If you're not with him that means you're not good. The General is a good man, he wants the country to be like other developed countries of the world. We will vote the CPC and we will win in 2011.

Abdallah Gumel
abdallahgumel@yahoo.com

I do not think there is any personality still left in the ANPP, now that the man steering the party has left. I think the others should think wisely.

Yahaya Ibn Idris Abubakar
ibnidrees@gmail.com

Akingbola wants court to dismiss EFCC's application

AKINGBOLA should know that he is in for it and that's final. Why doesn't he come out if he knows EFCC's allegations are baseless? He knows he has a case to answer that's why he ran away. Don't be a

coward, stop the game and show up before you begin to challenge the EFCC on whether you have a case to answer or not.

Ayobola Ahmed
abahmed@gmail.com

FEC slashes Abuja land prices

SLASHING FCT land prices has nothing to do with the common man, it only concerns the elites. what we want is well equipped

and functional hospitals at local and remote areas and good roads.

Attahir
ahkyauta@gmail.com

Sheriff summons lawmakers over new emirates

SHERIFF, deregulate the traditional honour of the Shehu of Borno? He

is the second most important traditional ruler in Northern Nigeria after

the Sultan, so why the creation of new emirates? Focus on your people.

Bashir Ahmed
naalkali2001@yahoo.com

Dangote launches multivitamins spaghetti

I am yet to see it in the market, will be on the look out. The man is adding value to the country's economy. He is also creating employment and providing the basic needs of live.

Anuoluwapo Nubi
nubiseyi@uboot.com

Great. I hope the new product is receiving good market distribution. The noodles is not well distributed in my area. I stay in Ogun State, a place called Akute (Ifo Local Govt) I have not seen the noodles in the market there except when I come to major markets in town. Please, Dan-



ALIKO Dangote
gote group should work on its distribution channels.
Narudeen Nojeem
nojeenu@yahoo.co.uk



By Matthew Hassan Kukah

Southern Kaduna and crisis of development (II)

Cont'd from yesterday.

The sentiments behind the agitation for state creation are based on a simple logic. The victims often list stories of perceived historical injustices by the dominant groups/class and they come to believe that it is only the provision of their own space that can enable them redress the injustice. They therefore rationalize their position by saying that; *if new states will not solve our problems or make us better; they will definitely not make us worse.* A roll call of the perceived injustices of the people of Southern Kaduna, real or imagined arises from the following allegations.

- That the dominant ruling classes have imposed a higher premium on religion to the extent that being a Muslim is a major requirement for finding a place at the table of power
- That since the creation of the State in 1967 right up to 1998, not once did the ruling class consider ceding an Ambassadorial or any Federal Government position in the bureaucracy to the people of the Southern part of the state
- That the citing of industries by both Fed-

“The difficult part is to prove the correlations between these realities and the claims that are constantly being made

eral and State governments has been only in favour of the Northern parts of the State

- That the elite from this area have been denied access to strategic positions even within the state
- That the decision to further marginalize them politically has been demonstrated by the constant gerrymandering of Constituency areas.
- That their communities have always been victims of the manipulation of census figures over the years, which has placed them at a disadvantage.

It might be easy to argue that these sentiments are unfounded or baseless. But, until the Federal or State Governments can produce contrary evidence, these feelings, real or imagined are driving the agitation for a new State and they also account for the feelings and perceptions of oppression and marginalization among the people of the State. It is interesting to note that these same sentiments have been reproduced by various groups all over the country since the creation of the first set of States.

Until I had the privilege of serving at Oputa Panel, I had come to think that the Southern part of Kaduna state had the most impressive record of oppression around the country. However, it took my travelling around, listening to the stories of marginalization even in states and areas that are culturally homogenous for me to appreciate the complexity of this reality. I realized from listening to stories of oppression and marginalization, that the entire country was riddled with *black spots* where these

allegations of domination existed among communities. From Abuja, Bayelsa, Akwa Ibom, Abia State, to Kano, Sokoto or Oyo States, the stories are the same.

Whereas there are often allegations based on ethnic, regional, religious or even class differences, it is important to note that these differences in themselves do not explain the reality. If ethnic or religious differences were the issues behind the agitation, then the people of such culturally homogenous states like Katsina, Kebbi or Sokoto would all be content and not be agitating for any more adjustment of their boundaries. If ethnic homogeneity were the issues, why would the Yorubas or the Igbos in such states like Oyo or Ogun or Abia, Anambra and Imo be fighting for boundary adjustment and more political space? Why would the people of Aguleri and Umeleri in Anambra State or Ife and Modakeke in Oyo States, all the same lineage, language and Culture, kill one another and keep demanding that justice be served by divorcing them from their kith and kin? There are many examples, but they all point to the fact that we may have to look more critically at the issues that are playing out in the name of marginalization and whether the demands for political space is a symptom or a disease itself.

The fact that these agitations are many, sustained and no less violent is indicative of the fact that we must look elsewhere for the reasons and the meanings of these agitations. And here is where the problem really lies. Making the accusations is the easy part of the equations. The difficult part is to prove the correlations between these realities and the claims that are constantly being made. For now, it does seem that all that various communities are saying is; *We have not had a fair share of the resources of state. The reason why we feel deprived is because our own son or daughter is not in power, thus, the keys of the public treasury are not within our reach. We want our own chance to have access like Them.*

Logically, under the principle of the theory of relative deprivation, communities in plural societies often believe that any favour done to the other side, necessarily places them at a disadvantage especially as communities are often in competition with one another over issues of development. The sense of the *Other community* as our brethren is replaced with the concept of the *Other community as our enemy. Our brethren then become our enemy.* The logic goes like this: *The new road should have come through our village. The water project or, the rural electrification project which has not come to our community has placed us at a disadvantage. They now have advantage over us because they have people in power and they have connections.*

To be cont'd.

Rev. Monsignor Kukah, Vicar General of the Catholic Archdiocese of Kaduna, made these (excerpted) remarks on “Culture and Development: Southern Kaduna’s struggle for national integration” at Afan Day Festival of Kagoro Chieftdom of Kaduna, on New Year’s Day.



By Charles Onuba

Anambra State: Destiny beckons

Tomorrow, the long-maligned people of Anambra State will go to the polls to elect a new governor. It is very gratifying to see how far we have come, considering the crude and comical manner that kick-started the party primaries. As acrimonious as the process was in some parties, it was generally assumed that the theatre of the absurd that Anambra politics has been made to look like, was about to go on another run. On the contrary, Anambra state has so far witnessed peaceful, well attended political rallies without the attendant violence as obtainable in some parts of the country. It is to the credit of the different gladiators and their various camps that the “do or die” philosophy has not been allowed to define party politics in the state.

Anambra State will witness free and fair election this weekend. Attempts will be made by some dying forces to create the impression that the outcome of the election has already been decided and by so doing engineer voter apathy. They should be ignored. Their wishes will not be granted. Anambra will prove all the doomsday prophets wrong.

The political crises in the state have often been induced from the centre by leaders who deliberately want to foist on the state the toga of a lawless fief-

dom. With the election taking place at a time when the President of Nigeria is spending the third month in a Saudi hospital bed, the people in Abuja have so much to worry about that the Anambra election may not be as important as it would have been in normal times.

Democratic Party are the real contenders. There is no way the next governor of Anambra State will not emerge out of this trio. Mrs. Uche Ekwunife of the Progressive Peoples Alliance, one may ask? Without any doubt Mrs. Ekwunife has registered herself firmly in the firmament of Anambra politics. She has given the womenfolk a role model of note and will continue to be a force to reckon with. But she is not likely to make a strong showing in this election.

There is no doubt that the trio of Ngige, Obi and Soludo possess the intellect and the vision to deliver good governance in the state. That is if professional credentials are used as the only yardstick. But that won't be enough. Antecedents must also be called into question. Anambra voters must beware of flimflam artistes. We must look at the company the candidates keep and whose interest they tend to represent and have always represented.

If Soludo, the PDP candidate must continue to tout his achievements as the governor of Central Bank of Nigeria then he also must, as a matter of honour, accept responsibility for the cesspool of unbridled greed and corruption that the banking sector became. Every time any of the disgraced and discredited bank chiefs were shown accepting the numerous dubious awards they were receiving, Soludo was always in the picture handing out the awards. How can he now distance himself from the mess? What about the expired but regurgitated godfathers lining up behind him? Even people who have been fixed out of their local government and state are now relocating to Anambra state and rallying behind him. One cannot help but wonder whose interests he is going to serve.

The current governor, Peter Obi, has done his best. The history of Anambra state will not be complete without giving him an honourable mention in it. Peter Obi's politics is known to be divisive, colourless and uninspiring. His kind of politics breeds squabbles and that has been the hallmark of his administration; factions against factions, Anglicans against Catholics. His inability to manage APGA makes his deficiencies so glaring that he has to drag Ikemba Nnewi, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu around with him to make up for his colourless personality while also appealing to primordial sentiments long buried and forgotten.

Chris Nwabueze Ngige of the Action Congress has been there before. While embroiled in a war of attrition with the all-conquering Olusegun Obasanjo and his battalions of goons, he still managed to perform creditably. People were left to rue over what could have been without the treasonable distractions orchestrated from Abuja, with a bunch of Anambra never do wells as the arrow heads. There is no doubt Ngige has all it will take to govern Anambra state. He epitomizes everything that is the Anambra spirit; a proud and dogged people. Even without the kind of massive war chest that is available to his opponents he has continued to steal the show and remain the candidate to beat.

Onuba is an Abuja-based businessman.

“What about the expired but regurgitated godfathers lining up behind him?”



By Samuel Ebo Adikwu

Idoma youths should reflect on current condition

WE should be mindful of the fact that, how efficient a person could attain ones ambitions is dependent greatly on the level of cooperation, assistance, communication and encouragement being received from friends and relatives. It's on this premise that I call on all sons and daughters of Idoma land especially our elders and leaders to work together, lay down their arms (envy, jealousy, unforgiving attitude, revenge, pull-down syndrome) and embrace peace and dialogue, and forgive one another in order to bequeath to the younger generation a prosperous and egalitarian Idoma nation of our dream. I wish to discourage the newspaper war among our elders for this would always make us gullible to external interests that are always turning us against ourselves. No nation progresses well with an act of disunity especially among elders and leaders who supposed to pilot the affairs and give vision to their followers and younger ones. No matter how dirty our linens are, we should not wash them in the public. Let's have a platform where we can dialogue and reconcile our differences. Hatred, bitterness, anger and revenge are luxuries too expensive for us to afford.

Notwithstanding, though, I discourage the hurting expression on the pages of newspaper among our elders, but since for now there is no platform that I could use to express my view, I have to use this medium to address my opinion on the article authored by Dr. Lawrence Onoja in *Daily Trust* of 18th January 2010 and subsequent reaction of Stevin Adikwu in *Daily Trust* of 21st January 2010.

On this conception, I care to appreciate Onoja for his meticulous self appraisal and impeccable leadership decision by accepting his faults and pinpoint glaringly the areas of concern that needs to be objectively tackled in the Idoma project.

On the part of Adikwu's reaction which coincidentally is my peer name is a fruitless approach to cause more discord, rather engender accord, between the two prominent leaders. I thought he would be more passionate to address the issue raised concerning compendium of unemployed graduates, unachieved golden ministerial opportunity and Onoja's acceptance to unite with other leaders to achieve our dream of Apa State, instead he wanted to add salt to an already bleeding wound by comparing the leadership traits of both Mark and Onoja, forgetting that their unhealthy relationship has caused monumental crises in Idoma land.

However, it is important to point out that Onoja's political ambition is selfless and focused on development and emancipation of the Idoma nation. His target is to elevate the people from squalor irrespective of dynamic political strategy he engages himself in. Though he is yet to achieve his goal, but at the right time he will wear his crown, for the race is neither for the swift nor the battle for the strong.... Time and chances happen to them all.

That ANPP candidates won in his ward clearly exonerate his people from those who voted for party instead of the personality of the candidate. Has Steven Adikwu also forgotten that the same ANPP candidate Nelson Alapa also won in Mark's ward? Why has the case of Onoja where votes are done according to zoning become a crime? Remember that Onoja has only one vote.

On the part of David Mark, I was his fan during his trial with Alhaji Usman Abubakar (aka Young Alhaji). I wrote series of articles in support of him, calling all sons and daughters of Idoma to support and work for and with him, and beseeching to withdraw his suit for the sake of peace and progress of the Idoma nation. I thought Mark could do same by reconciling with his kinsmen and form a formidable team for the actualization of the Idoma Dream and by transforming Otukpo with edifices that befit the status of Ochi' Idoma and Senate President.

A great leader is known to be slow to anger, shows compassion to his wife, subordinate, less privileged, tolerant of the weak and strong and people who have nothing to offer him. Unfortunately, these are lacking.

As for my fellow Idoma Youths, the next election is around the corner, never allow yourself to be used as thugs. Fight and vote for the leader who has vision for you and development of Idoma nation. We can always engage in fruitful career that can earn us dignity and prestigious status. We must think deep so that we can honourably justify the reason for our votes this time. Our votes shouldn't be casted because of a mirage seemingly project within the time frame but on project if possible that meet both the immediate and future needs of our people.

Adikwu wrote from Abuja.

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

It is clear now

THE Nigeria Police must be reformed from head to tail, because their mobile unit obviously took sides in the recent Jos crisis.

ABDUL, Jos, 08037129882.

To reduce these frequent crises

THE media of our beloved country should be in the forefront in preaching peace to us. Nigerians are not stupid, show us the way forward please.

MAY manko@yahoo.com, 07034966076.

Loud silence

SENATOR Kabir Jibril representing Kaduna Central is just like a zero behind a decimal point in the Senate, because we have not heard from him since he went there.

ABDULJALAL Jumare, Rigachikun, Kaduna, 08032516473.

ANPP

IT'S surprising that those who called Isa Yuguda names when he left ANPP are now packing out of the party too.

ABDULHADI, Asokoro, Abuja, 08037121887.

Buhari

WHY wait so long to quit a party full of treacherous charlatans? Anyway it is better to be late than never. Buhari, in you we trust.

07086518611.

A wise move

GOOD thinking, Buhari; aluta continua.

08037459770.

A miscalculation

BUHARI has just made the greatest mistake by leaving ANPP. Changing political parties cannot make you president... Oh! General, you have lost focus. Remember what Atiku Abubakar said of you, that 'Buhari is a frustrated politician'; you just proved it.

KABIR Ibrahim Gusau, 07033060737.

Not enough

MY candid advice to Buhari is that he should quit, not just ANPP, but active politics alto-

gether, because Nigerians clearly are not ready to elect any military or ex military men into political offices any longer.

08065150950.

Misdirected invitation

IF there is any media organisation that should be invited by the police, it is the *Media Trust*, not the GM of PRTVC.

DAWAT, FCT. 08036081546.

Too little, too late

HABA Minister Aliero, Abuja does not belong to all Nigerians. We, the poor, have since left Abuja to the rich and retreated back to our disease infested slums.

ISA Mansur, Kano, 08099495893.

Reality check

HANDOVER or no handover, Nigeria will not change even if Jonathan is acting president. SNG, CNPP, 3G, Eminent Elders, media, all have their motives. The handover is not necessary; VP is doing fine, why heating up the polity? This is not the problem of Nigeria.

SANI, Kano, 08065418826.

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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

CBN's 10-year cap for bank chiefs' tenure

The Central Bank of Nigeria recently announced a limit of ten years to how long the chief executive officer of any bank in Nigeria can hold office. A bank's chief executive can hold office for five years in the first instance, and renewable only once for another five years, according to the new policy. By the new rules which were announced by the CBN's Director of Banking Supervision, Mr Samuel Oni, chief executive officers of banks who had been in the position for ten years and above must vacate their office no later than July 31, 2010.

Justifying the measure, the CBN explained that its new policy would enthrone good corporate governance in the nation's banking system.

"When a bank is a product of a merger, acquisition, takeover or any form of combination, the ten-year period shall include pre- and post-combination service years of the CEOs, provided that the bank in which he previously served as CEO was part of the new bank that emerged after the combination", Mr Oni explained. The new regulation also bars principal officers of the CBN, namely the governor and the deputy governors, and the managing director and executive directors of Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC), from taking appointments in banks or their subsidiaries that are within the supervisory purview of the CBN, until five years after vacating office.

The new rules are a welcome development, even if long overdue. That the CBN is introducing them now is indication that previous regulatory measures failed either because they were not faithfully applied, or left gaping loopholes that were exploited by unscrupulous bank officials. Before the latest measure, virtually all bank executives were sent packing by the CBN; since then, the rot that the banking system was going through had come to light. Banks were being run as personal fiefdoms or family businesses. It has become clear that the CBN must take these shortcomings into account and discourage the proxy ownership of banks.

The new regulatory regime is not a panacea, we admit; but it is a start. One way of strengthening it is for the CBN to take another look at its operational mechanisms, and determine whether the CBN itself is not ripe for a complete overhaul.

After the banks' consolidation to which Mr Oni alluded, the impression created thereafter was that the banks that emerged had been certified healthy, that their operators were conducting business according to the CBN rules and best practices, and that Nigerians should have confidence in the integrity of the banks and their operators. It was a facade that nearly collapsed the nation's banking system and shook confidence of depositors and Nigerians generally. The CBN must never allow a return to that recent past. We have observed that there is a budding pushback to the policy from some quarters that appear to suggest that the new policy infringed upon or even usurped the disciplinary powers of the boards of directors of the affected banks to fix the tenure of their chief executives. That may be true; and we would be the first to condemn the regulatory authorities for such recourse. But the question is, where were these boards when their banks were being mismanaged, depositors money frittered and used to acquire personal properties at home and abroad? Would they claim ignorance of what was going on right under their noses; or would accusation of complicity on their part in the criminal conduct of their erstwhile appointees not be appropriate to make now?

The financial sector cannot afford to be prey to the widespread and sustained graft that characterises other key sectors. The regulatory authorities must not allow that happen. That is why we applaud the new policy and recommend that it should be applied with firmness and fairness.

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Idris Kutigi is no Eminent Elder

By Adinoyi Ojo Onukaba

Few people will have any problem with the timely intervention last week of the Yakubu Gowon/Shehu Shagari-led Eminent Elders Group in the deepening political crisis over the refusal of incapacitated Umaru Musa Yar'adua to allow an orderly transfer of power to his deputy, Goodluck Jonathan.

The elders joined other Nigerians and the international community in calling on Yar'adua, who has been absent from duty for nearly three months, to respect the constitution and allow his deputy to take over legally as acting President. In an unbelievable show of utter disdain for the elders and the Nigerian people, the cabal around Yar'adua (read Turai, Tanimu, Ruma, Imam, Aondoakaa, etc.) has thus far stuck to its script that Jonathan cannot be acting President.

Michael Aondoakaa, the irascible and combative attorney-general and minister of justice, has procured two judgments from the pliable chief judge of the federal high court, Dan Abutu, a fellow Benue indigene, to back the claim by the cabal that Yar'adua need not hand over power to his deputy even while on life support. Thus, a country of 150 million people is being held to ransom by a group of boorish, self-serving power mongers out to protect their jobs and their loot. It is a familiar tale of greed, inordinate ambition and reckless abuse of power by a tiny clique of unelected, unaccountable people in the corridors of power whose ultimate goal is to bring down this potentially great country to their lowly level.

Worried that Nigeria may soon be plunged into chaos and unmitigated disaster by the latest in the long line of power-drunk presidential aides and relations, the Eminent Elders Group has publicly appealed for a constitutional solution to the current political crisis. Yar'adua, they have argued, should respect his rule of law mantra by temporarily ceding power to his deputy until he is certified fit to return to work by his Saudi medical team. It is not a concession that should be too much to ask from someone who has been in the intensive care unit of foreign hospital for almost one quarter of a year.

Anyway, this is not the concern of this article. The matter being interrogated is how Idris Legbo Kutigi came to qualify as an eminent elder. Of course there are many people on Shagari's delegation who should never have been

included if personal integrity is a qualification for membership. These are people who have served in every government since independence and have been quick to justify similar illegalities in such administrations. Now that they have left public office, the scales have fallen from their eyes. They can see more clearly now than in the past. They are no longer within the power loop. There is not much at stake. Hence the courage to speak out, the willingness to stand out and be counted, and the wisdom to realize that the national edifice stand the risk of collapsing on our heads if things were not done properly. At a time like this, the nation must look up to such group of eminent elders for direction. As the saying goes,

their judgment, Nigeria would have been given an opportunity for a fresh start and thus avoid the present paralysis and a dangerous political impasse. Had they gone with their more statesmanlike colleagues – George Oguntade, Walter Onnoghen and Aloma Muktar – they would have saved this country from being the butt of wicked jokes all over the world.

But the tragedy of Nigeria has always been the unwillingness of its leaders to do the right thing at critical moments in history because of pecuniary reasons or sheer lack of courage or inability to comprehend the long term implications of human action or omission. Nigerian leaders have serially betrayed their nation. When situations call for bold action, they retreat into woolly legalese or technicalities, such as

“It was this same fraudulent election result that the Kutigi court upheld as a true and fair representation of the will of the Nigerian people”

the words of the elders are words of wisdom. It is therefore important that such a group of people should command our respect; they should be role models, people whose commitment to the good of this country is not in doubt, and people whose record of service is unassailable.

Idris Kutigi, the immediate Chief Justice of Nigeria, ought not to have been included in the Eminent Elders' group because he remains morally culpable for the current mess in the country. The Supreme Court over which he presided until a month ago had a rare opportunity to reverse the fraudulent outcome of the 2007 presidential election but it chose to side with the powers that be. The Kutigi court overlooked the mass of evidence brought by petitioners, it ignored the graphic testimonies of witnesses to the most flagrant electoral heist in history, and it closed its mind to a compelling moral need to save the fragile soul of this unfortunate nation by voiding that sham election and thus rid the country of Obasanjo's booby traps. Kutigi, along with the present chief justice, Aloysius Katsina-Alu, as well as Niki Tobi decided to confer legitimacy on the deeply flawed process that brought Yar'adua to power. Had Kutigi and company not allowed other considerations to colour

the notion that petitioners have not sufficiently proved claims of electoral fraud. It is the sort of excuse often used to cover the lack of courage to do the right thing; it is the language of compromise, of doing things the Nigerian way.

The results of 23 states and the Federal Capital Territory were still to be collated in the April 2007 presidential election when Maurice Iwu, INEC Chairman, was ordered to abandon all pretences to following due process and declare Yar'adua winner. It was this same fraudulent election result that the Kutigi court upheld as a true and fair representation of the will of the Nigerian people.

Kutigi may be elderly but he is not an eminent person. His record of performance in office does not give him such privilege. It was always eager to please the powers that be, always careful not to rock the boat, and ever ready to assist an overbearing, meddlesome and mercantile attorney-general to get whatever he needs to save this administration. Besides the revolutionary Rotimi Amaechi and Peter Obi judgments, it is difficult to see what else can be counted as the giant strides of the Kutigi court.

Therefore, it is the considered opinion of this writer that in the matter of Yar'adua versus the Nigerian people, Idris Kutigi cannot quickly metamorphose from the chief justice who did so much to save the president's job to an honest peace broker who now wants to save the Nigerian people from the consequences of the president's embarrassing incompetence and dereliction of duty.

Onukaba, a journalist, can be reached at onukaba@hotmail.com

“Yar'adua, they have argued, should respect his rule of law mantra by temporarily ceding power to his deputy until he is certified fit to return to work by his Saudi medical team”

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INTERNATIONAL

S/African president confirms lovechild but protests scrutiny

SOUTH African President Jacob Zuma yesterday confirmed reports that he fathered a child with the daughter of a World Cup organiser, but protested the public scrutiny of his life.

"I confirm that I have a relationship and a baby with Ms Sonono Khoza," Zuma said in a statement. "The matter is now between the two of us, and culturally, between the Zuma and Khoza families."

Khoza's father, football magnate Irvin Khoza, is a close friend of Zuma's and a top organiser of the 2010 World Cup. The baby girl, born in October, is the 20th child to be fathered by Zuma, a polygamist with three current wives.

Opposition parties denounced Zuma's behaviour in the wake of the news, accusing the president of violating his own government's message on safe sex. "His personal behaviour has profound

public consequences," said opposition leader Helen Zille.

South Africa has been one of the countries hit hardest by the AIDS pandemic. Zuma's ruling African National Congress encourages faithfulness and condom use in preventing the spread of HIV.

But Zuma called it "mischievous" to link the incident to the government's AIDS policies and said the matter is private.

"It is unfortunate that the individuals concerned have been unfairly subjected to harsh media exposure merely because of the position that I occupy," he said.

Zuma's new baby is just the latest scandal to erupt around the president's sex life. In 2006 Zuma admitted to having sex without a condom, and then said he had showered to ward off the risk of HIV infection. He was the head of the National AIDS Council at the time.



SOUTH African President Jacob Zuma.

Amnesty urges probe into Madagascar killings

AMNESTY International yesterday urged Madagascar authorities to launch a probe into "the dozens of killings carried out by the security forces" during anti-government demonstrations.

The rights group said the authorities must investigate the killings urgently and that "those presumed responsible should be brought to justice".

The bloodiest incident, Amnesty said in a statement, was when the guards of then president Marc Ravalomanana fired live ammunition at unarmed opposition demonstrators heading for the presidential palace on February 7, 2009. That incident left 31 people dead and several others wounded.

"The Madagascar authorities

must immediately investigate all cases where they suspect the security forces are guilty of illegal killings and where the use of firearms caused deaths or serious injuries," said Erwin van der Borgh, Amnesty's Africa director.

Human rights abuses have been reported throughout the year of troubles that shook Madagascar from December 2008 after Ravalomanana closed a television station belonging to Andry Rajoelina, then mayor of Antananarivo, Amnesty said.

The watchdog organisation noted that abuses continued after Rajoelina seized power in a military-backed coup in March 2009, including the use of firearms to disperse protests.

Vaccine gives kids in Mali 'strong malaria protection'

A malaria vaccine tested by US and African researchers in Mali produced a robust immune response in young children, the group most vulnerable to the mosquito-borne disease, a report released yesterday showed.

The vaccine, based on a single strain of the falciparum malaria parasite -- the most common and deadliest form of the parasite found in Africa -- was tested on 100 children between the ages of one and six in a rural part of the West African country of Mali. The children were given one of three, progressively stronger doses of the vaccine or a control vaccine against rabies.

All three doses of the malaria vaccine were well tolerated by the children and produced "very

strong antibody responses that were sustained for at least a year," said the report which was published online yesterday in PLoS ONE, the journal of the Public Library of Science.

In fact, the report said, the antibody levels the vaccine produced in the children were as high or higher than antibody levels found in adults, who have developed immune responses to the parasite over lifelong exposure to malaria.

Although deaths from malaria have been halted in places like North America and Europe, the mosquito-borne disease still claims the lives of nearly one million people a year, mostly in Africa and most of them children under the age of five.

Mali arrests suspect in Saudi, US killings

SECURITY forces in Mali have arrested a suspect in the killing of four Saudi tourists and an American in neighbouring Niger, a security source told media yesterday.

"We arrested on Wednesday in Gao (Mali's northeast) a man considered a suspect in the deaths of the four Saudis, killed on Niger's territory" in December 2009, a security source in the north of the country told AFP by telephone.

"The same individual is suspected of killing, or having participated in the murder, of an American diplomat, also in Niger," more than nine years ago, the source said, adding that the suspect would be brought to Mali's capital Bamako "very quickly."

International

Egypt unveils renovations at oldest monastery

EGYPT'S antiquities chief yesterday unveiled the completion of an 8-year, \$14.5 million restoration of the world's oldest Christian monastery, touting it as a sign of Christian-Muslim coexistence.

The announcement at the 1,600-year-old St. Anthony's Monastery came a month after Egypt's worst incident of sectarian violence in over a decade,

when a shooting on a church on Orthodox Christmas Eve killed seven people.

The attack raised heavy criticism of the Egyptian government abroad and at home, by critics who say it has not done enough to address tensions between the country's Muslim majority and its Christian population, estimated at 10 percent of the 79 million

population.

The government insists the shooting was a purely criminal act with no sectarian motives, and officials persistently deny the existence of significant Muslim-Christian frictions.

Top archaeologist Zahi Hawass took the opportunity to reiterate that stance as he showed journalists the work at St. Antho-

ny's, an ancient compound at the foot of the desert mountains near Egypt's Red Sea coast.

"The announcement we are making today shows to the world how we are keen to restore the monuments of our past, whether Coptic, Jewish or Muslim," he said, referring to the dominant Orthodox Coptic Christian sect in Egypt.

"The incident in Upper Egypt can happen between two brothers," said Hawass when asked if there was any correction between the Dec. 6 shooting and the timing of his announcement at the monastery. "I want everyone to forget this incident." Hawass noted that the restoration work at the monastery was carried out by Muslims.

Lurid evidence in Malaysia opposition leader trial

THE court in the politically charged sodomy trial of Malaysia's opposition leader yesterday visited the apartment where a former aide says Anwar Ibrahim coerced him into sex — a charge the defendant says is part of a high-level conspiracy. Prosecutors also submitted security footage that they said showed the young man was in the building when he claims.

Malaysia's most prominent trial in a decade has the potential to reshape the country's politics, since it could send one of Asia's best-known politicians to prison for 20 years, the maximum pun-

ishment for sodomy in Malaysia. Anwar claims the charges have been trumped up by the ruling coalition, which has been in power since independence in 1957, to prevent his opposition movement from taking power.

This is the second sodomy trial against Anwar, a crime that also carries a social stigma in the Muslim-majority country.

Anwar's People's Alliance made huge gains in the March 2008 general elections at the expense of Najib's National Front coalition, which has been in power since independence in 1957.



MALAYSIAN opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim waves to his supporters as he leaves Desa Damansara Condominium, where he was alleged to have sodomized a former aide, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Israel warns Syria it would lose future war

ISRAEL'S foreign minister harshly warned Syria yesterday against drawing the Jewish state into another war, saying its troops would be trounced and its regime would collapse in a future conflict.

Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman also advised Syria to abandon its dreams of recovering the Israeli-held Golan Heights in a speech that ratcheted up simmering political tensions between the two foes.

The exceptionally harsh words followed Syrian President Bashar Assad's accusation on Wednesday that Israel was the one avoiding peace, and his foreign minister's earlier threat that Israel's cities would be attacked in a future conflict.

The Syrians "have crossed a red line that cannot be ignored," Lieberman said in a speech at a Tel Aviv-area university. "Our message must be clear to Assad: In the next war, not only will you lose but you and your family will lose power," he added.

Lieberman's bellicose language contrasted sharply with the statement Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu issued late Wednesday, saying the Jewish state seeks peace. It said Netanyahu "would be willing to go anywhere in the world, and doesn't

rule out any assistance by a fair third party, to promote the political process in order to begin peace talks with Syria without any preconditions."

Syria demands the return of the Golan Heights — the strategic plateau Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war — as the price of any deal. But Lieberman, echoing Netanyahu's position, said there would be no such thing.

"We must make Syria recognize that just as it relinquished its dream of a greater Syria that controls Lebanon ... it will have to relinquish its ultimate demand regarding the Golan Heights," Lieberman said. There was no immediate comment from Syrian officials to Lieberman's remarks.

Several rounds of indirect peace talks between Syria and Israel in 2008 ended without a breakthrough. Damascus has expressed interest in having Turkey resume its mediation role, but Israel and Turkey have clashed diplomatically since Israel's war in Gaza last winter, and Israeli officials have said they no longer consider Turkey to be an honest broker.

Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak warned earlier this week that absence of peacemaking with Syria could result in a regional war.

India offers to resume stalled talks with Pakistan

INDIA has offered to resume bilateral talks with Pakistan that were halted after the deadly Mumbai terrorist attacks nearly 15 months ago, an official said yesterday.

India proposed the resumption of discussions between the foreign secretaries on terrorism and other issues, said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity citing the sensitivity of the matter. Pakistan welcomed the offer.

India and Pakistan launched broad-based talks in 2004 aimed at resolving several disputes between the nuclear-armed neighbours, including over the divided region of Kashmir.

India put the peace process on hold soon after the terrorist attacks in Mumbai in November 2008 that left 166 people dead. India blamed the attack on the Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba.

The bilateral talks should start from where they had been put on hold by India following the Mumbai attacks, he said. Qureshi didn't confirm any dates for the resumption of talks, but said he had sought details from New Delhi about it.



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**SIGNED
MANAGEMENT**

International



AFGHAN President Hamid Karzai, with other western leaders at the international conference on Afghanistan.

NATO chief says no plan to 'bribe' Taliban

NATO does not intend to bribe Taliban guerrillas to defect to the Afghan government side as a way to end the war, alliance Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said yesterday, dismissing concerns over the latest plan to end the country's growing insurgency.

His comments came amid a renewed push to make peace with moderate Taliban insurgents and draw them into the political process.

The North Atlantic alliance has strongly backed an Afghan plan to bring the insurgents over to the

government's side.

Yesterday, Afghan President Hamid Karzai visited Saudi Arabia, hoping the kingdom would help persuade Taliban militants to take part in a negotiated settlement to the war. Saudi Arabia has a unique relationship with the Taliban since it was one of the few countries to recognize its regime in Afghanistan before it was ousted in 2001.

In a post on the alliance's Web site ahead of a two-day meeting of NATO defense ministers in Istanbul to open Thursday evening, Fogh Rasmussen said a new \$140 million trust

fund would offer insurgents an alternative to remaining with the Taliban.

"Much attention is on the new reconciliation and reintegration effort initiated by the Afghan government. Questions were raised if we are bribing the Taliban just to get peace," he said. "I understand why this is a sensitive issue for many."

He said many rank-and-file insurgents were not fighting against the government and international troops for religious and ideological reasons.

"They fight for the Taliban for small amounts of money to simply make a living or for other grievances," he said. "What is on offer to them is the chance of a new life."

Critics have noted that plans to persuade the Taliban to switch sides have existed for years, but these have generally been ineffective, attracting only the lowest-level fighters with no guarantees they wouldn't return to the insurgency.

US Baptists to appear before Haitian prosecutor

PARENTS in quake-wracked Haitian village unable to feed or clothe their children handed the youngsters over to a group of American missionaries who promised to give them a better life.

In a testament to the misery of a nation that was the western hemisphere's poorest even before a Jan. 12 earthquake, many Callebaut parents say they wouldn't know what to do if they had to take the children back.

"I am living in a tent with a friend," said Laurentius Lelly, a 27-year-old computer technician who gave up his two children, ages 4 and 6. "My main concern is that if the kids come back I'm not going to be able to feed them."

The Americans appeared yesterday before a prosecutor who will decide whether to file charges or release them, Communications Minister Marie-Laurence Jocelyn Lassegue

told the AP.

The stories the parents told The Associated Press on Wednesday in this village a half hour from the capital contradict claims by the Baptist group's leader that the children came from orphanages or were handed over by distant relatives.

The 10 Baptists, most from Idaho, were arrested last week trying to take 33 Haitian children across the border into the Dominican Republic without the required documents, according to Haitian authorities.

Standing amid piles of debris that used to be their homes and the makeshift shelters of tin and plastic sheeting that have replaced them, the people of Callebaut told how they came to surrender their children.

It all began last week when a local orphanage worker, fluent in English and acting on behalf of the Baptists, convened nearly the entire village of

500 people on a dirt soccer field to present the Americans' offer.

Isaac Adrien, 20, told his neighbours the missionaries would educate their children in the neighbouring Dominican Republic, the villagers said, adding that they were also assured they would be free to visit their children there.

Many parents jumped at the offer. "It's only because the bus was full that more children didn't go," said Melanie Augustin, a 58-year-old who gave her 10-year-old daughter, Jovin, to the Americans.

Adrien said he met the Baptists' leader, Laura Silsby of Meridian, Idaho, in Port-au-Prince on Jan. 26. She told him she was looking for homeless children, he said, and he knew exactly where to find them. He rushed home to Callebaut, where people scrape by growing carrots, peppers and onions. That very day, he had a list of 20 children.

NOTIFICATION OF ADVERT FOR THE AWARD OF CONTRACTS BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The general public is hereby notified that the National Assembly website will serve as the main medium through which requests for prequalification of Contractors and Financial bids will be disseminated for contracts to be executed under the 2010 fiscal year.

2. Accordingly, the general public is hereby advised to note and access the National Assembly website from time to time on all information relating to procurement on www.nassniq.org.

3. Any further details or clarification may be obtained at the office of the undersigned.

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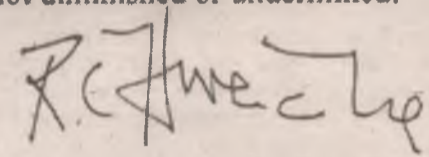
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THE POSITION OF *Ndigbo* ON THE STATE OF THE NATION

The Executive Committee of *Ohanaeze Ndigbo* in a special session held on Saturday, 30th January 2010 at her Head Office, No. 7 Park Avenue, G.R.A., Enugu, after deliberating on the continued absence of Mr. President and its impact on the state of the Nation, resolved on behalf of *Ndigbo* as follows:-

1. *Ndigbo* are unrelenting in our prayers for the good health of Mr. President, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua *GCFR*. We wish him quick recovery and early return to his duties.
2. *Ndigbo* are happy and satisfied with the deep sense of responsibility and patriotism with which His Excellency, Vice President Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan *GCON* has continued to keep Nigeria at peace in spite of the long absence of the President and the obvious turbulence the absence has continued to create. We commend Mr. Vice President for this maturity and his love for Nigeria.
3. *Ndigbo* are not satisfied and totally disagree with the current situation in which the President is seriously ill and receiving treatment abroad for over two (2) months, and the Vice President is not bestowed with the status of Acting President. *Ndigbo* consider it inappropriate and unhelpful on the side of the President for not transmitting his long absence to the National Assembly and making provision for the Vice President to assume full responsibility as Acting President. We urge Mr. President to immediately rectify this unacceptable situation. *Ndigbo* stand by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
4. We commend the action of the Senate in asking the President to transmit a medical vacation letter to the Senate and urge them to pursue this to its logical conclusion. We urge the Distinguished Senators of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Honourable Members of the House of Representatives to take-up their responsibility and set in motion the process for bestowing on the Vice President the status of Acting President without further delay pending the return of the President.
5. *Ndigbo* call on all Nigerians to realize that the way and manner the issue of the President's absence in relation to the status of the Vice President is currently being handled puts the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria into jeopardy. *Ndigbo* urge all Nigerians to note that whatever puts the Constitution in jeopardy puts the Nation in jeopardy. All steps must now be urgently taken to put an end to this machination at putting the Constitution and the integrity of the nation in jeopardy. We urge all Nigerians to step forward now and make sure that the position and prestige of the Vice President as provided in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is not diminished or undermined.



Amb. Raph Uwechue OFR
President-General
Ohanaeze Ndigbo



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The Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) wishes to inform all prospective candidates that the 2010 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME), the single examination for admission to;

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POLICY ON PUBLICATION OF ADVERTORIALS, PETITIONS AND RELATED MATERIALS

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



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

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

The new policy is depicted hereunder

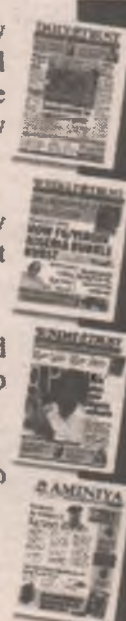
1. The writer(s) of such advertorials must not be anonymous but people who can stand by what they say, with their full names and address.
2. If there is any accusation against any person or organization, such writer(s) must substantiate the claims with evidence which can stand before a Court of Law. For example, if they claim that a contract was inflated, they must show Media Trust, relevant documents to back this up.
3. The placement must be fully paid for, before it is carried.
4. The author(s) should be prepared to accept corrections or alterations made by us but the corrected version would be shown to the author(s), before publishing.
5. The publishers have the right to reject any piece considered to be libelous, containing assertions without supporting facts and figures to prove the authenticity of such claims.
6. In the alternative, we are prepared to enter into an indemnity agreement with those who place such advertorial which will put the onus of proof squarely on them.
7. Media Trust employees that collect such materials have been instructed to contact the Advert Manager, who will also consult further with the relevant superior officers to analyze the piece before placement is made.
8. If the publishers of Daily Trust, Weekly Trust, Sunday Trust and Aminiya newspapers reject any material regarded as unprintable based on the above consideration, they will not enter into any correspondence with the author(s).

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

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

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

**Signed:
MANAGEMENT**





INFRASTRUCTURE CONCESSION REGULATORY COMMISSION (ICRC)

The Public Private Partnership (PPP) Project

REMODELLING & SUPERVISION OF ICRC NEW OFFICE COMPLEX

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

In responding to the huge demand for infrastructure improvements, the Federal Government of Nigeria assumed ownership over the establishment of a Public-Private Partnership Project. This PPP Project is designed to tackle binding constraints related to Nigeria's weak infrastructure system. The PPP Project will draw on private equity and commercial sources of credit to satisfy some of the infrastructure demands.

In order to achieve the above objectives, the Federal Government inaugurated the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC) under the existing ICRC Act (2005) to lead the PPP Project and ensure its successful implementation in the country.

The ICRC subsequently led a process culminating in the formulation of a PPP Policy Framework which was approved by the Executive Council of the Federation.

The ICRC is now in the process of establishing itself institutionally. This entails broad set of policies, programmes, organisational structures, human resources, operational and technical facilities, among others. This process is to address the significant day-to-day burden on existing strategic, administrative and coordination capacity in the ICRC.

To support the ICRC Management in the implementation of the proposed PPP Project, ICRC now the services of the following consultants to carry out remodelling and supervision works at the new office complex of the Commission located at Plot 1270, Area 11, Garki, Abuja.

- i. Architects
- ii. Quantity Surveyors
- iii. Structural Engineers
- iv. Mechanical/Electrical Engineers

The architectural solution should take into cognizance the functional, technological, economical, social and cultural context of the Commission and its social environment

The scope of work is in two phases to be executed by two separate contractors (firms/consortiums):

- (i). Remodelling/Supervision; and
- (ii) Civil Works which will cover the following:

- Preliminary Design
- Working Drawings
- Tender documents and
- Supervision of works

Or:

The scope will be as stipulated in the Nigerian Institute of Architects' conditions of engagement and the consultancy services agreement which covers the civil works listed above.

Submission of Expressions of Interest (EOIs)

Prospective consultants should submit an Expression of Interest detailing the following information as a basis for pre-qualification:

- Profile of firm/consortium including organisational structure and role of each corporate entity with full contact details of the firm or Lead member of the consortium.
- Copies of certificate of incorporation with CAC;
- Documentary evidence of experience in office design.
- Track records of past and ongoing projects by each firm/consortium
- Evidence of registration of key personnel with professional bodies.
- Audited accounts (unabridged financial reports) for the last 3yrs
- Current tax clearance certificate for the last three (3) years.
- Bank reference letter

The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Public Procurement Act 2007 and relevant guidelines issued by the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP).

Detailed Expressions of Interest along with relevant documents must be submitted in six (6) copies in a sealed envelope clearly marked **"EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR THE REMODELLING OF ICRC NEW OFFICE COMPLEX"** addressed and delivered, **not later than 5.00pm on 19 February 2010**, to:

The Director General
Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission
No. 13, Suleiman Barau Crescent
Aso Villa, Abuja.

An electronic copy of the EOI in a CD-ROM should also be included.

Interested applicants may obtain further information at the address above from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm, Monday through Friday (except public holidays). For telephone and email enquiries, please use the contact below:

Tel: +234-9-8750286; +234-9-8750287

E-mail: eoι.remodelling@icrc.gov.ng

Only short-listed Consultants will be contacted.

PLEASE NOTE: Expressions of interest through email or fax, as well as late submission will not be entertained.

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PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE



CHAIRMAN, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) Mrs. Ifeoluwa Omoigui-Okauru (right) with the representative of Minister of Finance Frederick Lucky Natorue at the FIRS first enlarged management meeting in Abuja yesterday.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE



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

Aero Contractors
 Lagos-Kad: 08.00am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Kad-Lagos: 09.40am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Lagos-Jos: 11.15am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Jos-Lagos: 13.15pm (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Lagos-Abj: 06.50; 13.30; 16.30; 19.45 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 12.30 (Sun) 16.45 (Sat). Abj-Lagos: 07.30; 13.30; 19.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30, 14.30; 19.30 (Sun) 18.30 (Sat); Lagos-Ben: 07:45; 11:00; 15:30; (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun) 12.30; (Sun); 15.30 (Sat).

FG to increase VAT

By Idris Ahmed

NIGERIANS should prepare to pay more for Value Added Tax (VAT) on goods and services they consume this year, Chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Services Ifeoluwa Omoigui-Okauru has said.

Five percent VAT is currently charged on goods and services, but the agency said that the proposed increase is in line with the ECOWAS Protocol on tariffs. It did not say by how much VAT would be increased. FIRS revenue target for 2010 is N2.2 trillion.

Omoigui-Okauru spoke yesterday at the agency's first enlargement meeting with the theme "Appraisal for 2009 Performance and Strategies for 2010". The federal government said last year that this year's budget of about N4.1 trillion would be substantially funded through taxation because of the dwindling oil revenue.

Omoigui-Okauru said in her speech that in the 2010 segment of the Medium-term Corporate Plan 2008-2011, there will be a gradual shift from "direct to indirect taxation." "This means that VAT will assume greater significance and that in line with the ECOWAS Protocol on tariffs, there may be an upward shift in VAT rates", she said.

She also said that FIRS surpassed its revenue targets of N1.9 trillion in 2009 to close at N2.2 trillion as the year ended in December. This was however below N3 trillion tax rev-

enue realised in 2008.

She said; "Unlike 2008 when we exceeded our targets for all tax types, we fell short of targets for VAT (and consolidated proceeds) in 2009.

"Secondly, while there was a percentage decrease of oil tax revenue to other revenue sources in 2009 relative to 2008, overall collection performance in 2009 decreased relative to 2008 levels."

She said that the total outstanding tax arrears as at November 30, 2009 was N191 billion.

FIRS also said that the recently pegged tenure of bank's chief executives to ten years by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) will pose challenges to tax revenue this year.

The agency's said that all measures taken recently by CBN in regulating the banking industry will pose a serious challenge to it.

Some of the reform measures introduced by CBN include a maximum limit of N10 million cheque that banks can pay and the limitation of the tenure of the Chief Executive Officers of banks to a maximum of ten years.

The Acting Coordinating Director, Tax Operations Group of FIRS Ajayi Julius Bamidele said in a paper titled "Appraisal of 2009 collection and areas of focus in 2010" that mass retrenchment in banks will also affect revenue targets. He said there are no new taxes anticipated to be introduced in

2010, but said that there are number of potential development in the external environment that pose a risk to the attainment of the group's 2010 targets.

These challenges include CBN's "directive that all banks should maintain December as their accounting year end date, high and numerous provisions for bad and doubtful debts by banks.

"Political tension as Nigeria moves towards another election year, petroleum industry bill uncertainties and global economic melt down."

He said the agency would embarked on aggressive monitoring with effect from March to ensure that at least 75 percent of established areas are collected by making better use of the courts, search and seizure powers and power to distraint.

The Minister of Finance Mansur Muhtar said that government is taking steps aimed at bringing further reforms in the country's tax system which will include improvement of non-oil revenue collection and strengthening of oil collection procedures.

He said a new National Tax Policy (NTP) proposed by the Federal Ministry of Finance, will be presented to the National Economic Council (NEC) next month.

Trust Index

Inflation	→ 12%
GDP	→ 6.90%
Budget	→ N3.1tr
External Reserves Acct	→ \$42.47bn
Excess Crude Acct	→ \$6.7bn
Poverty Ratio	→ 54.4%
Interest Ratio	→ 6%
Banks	→ 24
Oil Price	→ \$75 a barrel
Power Supply	→ 2,700MW
Oil output per day	→ 1.9mbd

CBN	CBN EXCHANGE RATES			BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES	
	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)	BUYING	
				DOLLAR.....	N151
				EURO.....	N210
				POUNDS.....	N248
				SELLING	
				DOLLAR.....	N153
				EURO.....	N213
				POUNDS.....	N250
				Source: S&P Bureau de Change, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja.	

Stock Market Index	
Date:	Thursday, February 4, 2010
Index:	23,846.03
Deal:	7,980
Volume:	463,230,098
Value:	N 3,625,280,386.86
Cap.:	N 5,742,901,470,604.45



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Business

'Lack of government support halts non oil export'

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

Lack of adequate support from the part of government has been identified as one of the major factors that halt export of non oil products, an export consultant of Koinonia Ventures Limited Mr Olufemi Boyede has said.

Boyede said this while pre-

senting a paper titled, "making the most of exhibition" at a workshop organized by the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) in Kano. The workshop was in preparation of the national conference scheduled to hold in Abuja from 27th-30th of April, 2010.

He said it is unfortunate that the government has not done

much to support non oil export. "It is sad that since 1986 when the government deliberated with NEPC on the need for a policy to diversify natural economy, nothing has been done in the area of non oil sector" said Boyede.

He further said it is equally unfortunate that the historic and successful industries such as the

textiles and foods industries which would have aided export of non oil products have packed off due to unfavorable government policies and high cost of production.

He cited an example of textile materials like towels and blankets and other food produce which have a readymade market are halted as a result of unstable gov-

ernment policies citing instability of fuel prices as an example saying, the issue of electricity has being accepted by the manufacturers. He also listed Custom policies as part of the obstacles.

Boyede cited Australia as example of a country where exporters enjoy optimum support from government.

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Star Feature

How safe is air travel?

As air travel is growing rapidly in Nigeria, concern over health and safety issues swells by the day, and an increasing number of passengers are seeking answers to these questions.

By Ahmad Salkida

OBVIOUSLY, air travel is a treat that is beyond the reach of millions of Nigerians. For some, travelling by air is a normal routine especially for those with jobs that require a great deal of business travel. Today, air travel is increasingly becoming popular in Nigeria with more companies adding fleets of planes to their carriers, to cater for the surge in passengers.

However, air travel has "become an increasing source of pain, discomfort and even illness among passengers and crew members in recent years," claimed several reports. Many travellers have reported that they suffered blood clots in their lungs, colds, headaches, nausea, and even pneumonia during and immediately after their flight. Dehydration is yet another problem on flights due to the humidity levels. The atmosphere on planes can be drier than the Sahara, said one account.

"My flight was peaceful and I felt nothing," said Anthony Yawe an air passenger at the Nnamdi Azikiwe airport Abuja. But there are those who are too frightened even to look out of the window. There are those with sweaty palms, some will grip the arm of their seats tightly and their stomachs are like play grounds.

One passenger, Zainab Mohammed, a student with the department of Linguistics, University of Maiduguri stated, "my trouble begins when the cabin crew starts to explain safety procedures, reminding me of a possible danger, by way of showing passengers the nearest exit doors." Life is more important than possessions, said Zainab.

According to Zainab, "on one occasion my eardrums were blocked and I began to shiver. My seat mate called the cabin crew and I was offered a chewing gum, but it was no relief at all" she said. Satumari Kudla, an aviation training instructor and a certified aviation medicine instructor, who works as a deputy cabin training manager with Arik airlines in Abuja, said Zainab's case is one out of several medical conditions affecting many passengers.

"The body physiology reacts to pressure depression on the aircraft. As we climb up the cabin pressure has effect on our physiology. Basically those who have cold, catarrh or blockage will experience pain in the ear" said Kudla, explaining the chewing gum given to the disturbed passenger this way: "Sometimes by chewing the gums, the movement of the jaw and muscles may relax and open the airway, and there will be equalisation of the air within and outside the body. But after the flight depending on the level of the blockage, it will subside within a short while" said Kudla.

Also, when you take water or pinch your nose and blow, not so hard, your ear may popup and the pressure may equalise, Kudla implied, adding that he has seen when someone had a ruptured membrane and the person became partially deaf as a result of such blockage. However it is always serious if the victim has some underlying medical conditions before flight which is often the case. "But there is nothing Nigerian about these medical challenges. Maybe in the past, some aircraft had there air conditioning or pressurization systems fail but even in a brand new aircraft it can fail. Aviation is universal and the NCAA maintains the minimum recommended standard internationally for Nigeria,"

"The only thing that is Nigerian about these problems is you see some women that are pregnant, but they never ask their doctors whether or not they are fit to fly, rushing to the airports. Majority of the challenge is the lack of information of the travelling public

who do not know the seriousness and the effects of travelling," they are having minor or major medical conditions like catarrh, other respiratory illnesses or in most cases, "many don't know to eat before or during a flight" said Kudla.



AIR travel has become an increasing source of pain.

Another source of worry that frightens passengers is the reports and follow-up stories, on plane crashes and bombings all over the world. And many pray never in their lifetime to experience such. However, when many were asked what the safest means of transportation. They said, air travel and walking before, agreed.

Worst still, scientists all over the world claim that airborne diseases

“One account stated that the problem with airplanes is that many people get on and off them all the time. Some of these people may be sick. Some may just be recovering, and some may be sick and not even realize it.



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and air travel simply go hand in hand, which many travellers agree. The scientists contend that germs are everywhere in an aircraft, and it doesn't matter how well the aircraft is cleaned, the germs can never be eliminated because they are in the air, and Nigeria is no exception to such medical challenges posed by air travel.

One account stated that the problem with airplanes is that many people get on and off them all the time. Some of these people may be sick. Some may just be recovering, and some may be sick and not even realize it. When people sneeze, cough, eat, laugh, or even talk, they emit germs from their bodies into the air and on the items around us. "Obviously, when you are talking about an aircraft you are talking about a small place where the air is just recycled over and over again, allowing the germs the perfect environment to meet up with bodies that are just waiting to get sick" said the account.

One extreme view stated that the best way to avoid these airborne illnesses on board an aircraft is just to stay away from them. This isn't really an option, as many have to travel for businesses or for personal reasons. A less extreme view contends that the best thing to do is avoid air travel when you are recovering from an illness, or any time you feel as though your immune system may not be at its best. "This isn't always an option, either" stated the same account.

According to Dr Martin Connor, NHS Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland UK, aircraft might be a high-risk environment for transmission of infectious diseases because of the confined space, limited ventilation, prolonged exposure times and recirculation of air, all common to air travel, are all demonstrated

risk factors for the transmission of infections in other settings and create the potential for the spread of pathogenic organisms.

"During flight, fresh air is supplied into the cabin from the engines where the air is heated, compressed, cooled, and passed into the cabin to be circulated by the ventilation system. Most modern commercial aircraft re-circulate 50% of the air, usually passing through high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters, before delivery into the passenger cabin."

"The cabin air is completely exchanged at least 20 times per hour, compared with 12 air exchanges per hour in a typical office building, and 5 exchanges per hour in most homes. Decreased relative air humidity helps virus survival rates, but is detrimental to most bacterial pathogens. Close proximity of passengers particularly during long haul flights, can expose passengers to pathogenic organisms."

"The recent flu outbreak can be attributed to air travel" said Yawe, who said he is contemplating suspending travelling by air for a while, for fear of catching the flu. But Kudla offers some consolation when he said "the travelling public should develop the habit of consulting their doctors before and after a flight."

Kudla also offers the following tips to travelers who are susceptible to motion sickness, to choose seats with the smoothest ride in regards to pitch such as the ones over the wings in an airplane. Sitting down facing forward, while focusing on distant objects rather than trying to read or look at something within the airplane. Sucking on a lemon to dry out the mouth, which may lessen nausea and avoid drinking carbonated beverage.

During flight, fresh air is supplied into the cabin from the engines where the air is heated, compressed, cooled, and passed into the cabin to be circulated by the ventilation system. Most modern commercial aircraft re-circulate 50% of the air, usually passing through high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters, before delivery into the passenger cabin."

Business

Fuel scarcity to end soon — Stakeholders

THE stakeholders in the oil industry on Wednesday in Abuja assured Nigerians that the persistent fuel scarcity in the country would soon end.

They announced that 24 vessels were expected to berth soon at the nation's ports.

The announcement was made at the presentation of the Petroleum Products Marketing Company (PPMC) and Major Oil Marketers Association of Nigeria (MOMAN) at the sitting of the House of Representatives Committee on Petroleum (Down stream) in Abuja.

The PPMC officials said nine vessels were waiting to berth, while MOMAN officials said 15 vessels were being expected in the next two weeks.

They insisted that only deregulation of the downstream sector of the country's oil sector and outright sale of the nation's four refineries would restore sanity to the importation and distribution of refined petroleum products.

Mr Stanley Reginald, Managing Director of PPMC, assured the committee of efforts by his organisation to bring fuel scarcity under control with the coming of nine vessels awaiting discharge at the port.

He noted with regret that Nigeria could not boast of a strategic reserve in case of emergency situations.

Mr Obafemi Olawore, President of MOMAN, said the consignment expected from the PPMC was about 3.2 million litres of PMS.

The expected 15 oil vessels from the marketers alone would go a long way in stopping the current fuel scarcity in the country.

He said, however, that the scarcity would not stop in the next 24 hours as there was a need for the House Committee to address the issue with the National Association of Road Transport Owners.

Olawore also disclosed that three committees had been charged with going round filling stations across the country to check consignments received by them and how they were being disposed off.

He said that the decision was part of the resolutions adopted at a meeting between the PPMC and MOMAN leadership last Tuesday.

Olawore blamed the ongoing fuel scarcity on the delay in granting approval for importation of fuel by the PPPRA for the first quarter of 2010.

"We are in the month of February, but as at today, no approval to import finished petroleum products has been issued," he said. (NAN.)

BPE canvasses prosecution of defaulting firms

THE Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) has canvassed the prosecution of companies which hinder the Federal Government's privatisation process.

Dr Christopher Anyanwu, the BPE Director-General, made the suggestion at an investigative hearing on the sale of the Aluminium Smelting Company of Nigeria, Skypower Aviation Handling Company Ltd, Jos Steel Rolling Mills and the dredging of the Imo River.

The hearing was at the instance of the House of Representatives' Committee on Privatisation and Commercialisation. Anyanwu said Nigerians had made the privatisation process "very difficult" for government by preventing the bureau from carrying out its post-acquisition function of assessing the privatised companies.

He promised to forward to the committee the list of some companies which had prevented the BPE from carrying out its legitimate function. Anyanwu blamed Dr Innocent Ezuma, the Managing Director of Zuma Steel Company, a co-buyer of the Jos Steel Rolling Mills, for investing N3.9 million in the company without the permission of the BPE.

Earlier, Ezuma, who acquired 25 per cent equity share in the rolling mills, had told the committee that he had invested N3.6 million in the company. Officials of Jardin Holding BV of Ukraine, holders of the remaining 75 per cent equity share in the rolling mills, had accused Ezuma of shutting them out of the business.

Ezuma, however, said Zuma Steel bought the assets of the mills and not the entire company in 2005. He said BPE officials brought some people, who claimed to be staff of the bureau, to inspect the steel company, but were denied entry by the company's security men. Mr Mike Okigbo, a representative of Jardin Holding BV, told the committee that Ezuma had not invested any money

as he claimed.

He requested the committee to ensure that Jardin took full charge of its 75 per cent equity share and the mills' housing estate in Jos. Okigbo said one of the Directors of the company, Alec Petrov, could not attend the hearing because of threats to his life by unknown callers. Mr Oleg Tsybalenko, the Chief Attorney of Jardin Holding BV, said his company was operating legally in the country and should be treated as such.

He called on the committee to ensure a peaceful resolution of the matter to allow the company resume operation. Mr Abubakar Garba, who represented the Registrar-General of Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) said that Jardin was incorporated in August 2004 with four million shares as capital.

He said that since its incorporation, Jardin had not filed annual returns, due since 2007, to the commission.

"As far as CAC is concerned, the company is dormant. We will take up the company for not filing returns since being incorporated by CAC," he said.

Garba said some 38,000 companies would be de-listed soon from the register of the commission for being dormant. Rep. Abbas Braimoh (PDP-Edo), the Chairman of the House Committee on Privatisation and Commercialisation, promised that the matter would be pursued to its logical conclusion.

"We should have the political will to expose any company not performing well. We don't want a situation where a public company will be bought and it will not be administered well," he said.

Braimoh directed Ezuma to write a letter of apology to the BPE for denying entry to its officials who were on an inspection visit to the mills. He reiterated the committee's readiness to ensure that the privatisation process was carried out effectively. (NAN.)



A group of contractors staging a protest over alleged non payment of their REA contracts during the ministerial briefing by the Power Ministry at the State House Auditorium, Abuja, yesterday.

Oil workers picket Mobil over mass sack

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association PENGASSAN Wednesday sealed the entrance into the Operational Offices of Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited in Lagos to protest anti-labour practices, mass sack of over 74 workers in the Company.

The oil workers claimed that Mobil is retrenching Nigerians

contract workers and flooding the company with more foreigners in the name of expatriates.

Speaking while addressing newsmen, the Chairman of Lagos Zone of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN) Sunday Folounsho Oginni said that the Company's anti-labour practices have betrayed the welfare and well-being of the Association's mem-

bers for the company's adamant to meaningful dialogue of Federal Ministry of Labour.

According to him, the company has retrenched over 74 workers in the last few weeks and is still retrenching the Nigerians contract workers and bringing in more foreigners in the name of expatriates because most of the jobs that these expatriates are doing were being done by Nigerians before they were

disengaged.

He said: "We are carrying out this picketing to express our discontent on the series of unfair labour practices, especially the un-procedural releases and intimidation of our members as well as other casualization antics," he said.

He said that all efforts by the Association to resolve the issues amicably have been frustrated by the Company's Management.

"Our efforts to bring the Management to the dialogue table and resolve the matter amicably have not yielded any positive results.

"For all the records, we aligned with the positions of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity and these were the reasons for which we made representations to the Management of Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited for further windows of consultation," he added.

DEMOCRACY DIVIDENDS AT A GLANCE

WAMAKKO'S STYLE OF LEADERSHIP



The renovated PDP State Head Quarter Sokoto in preparation for the 2011/2012 Presidential and State Elections. Pix by Triple Cee Media



ALH. ALIYU MAGATAKARDA WAMAKO
Executive Governor, Sokoto State



The renovated Turaki House at the old Nagarta College Sokoto, establish in 1905 by the colonial Masters



Two Bedrooms MANA Housing Project which is part of the 2,500 Mass Housing Programme by the Aliyu Magatakarda Administration.



The completed two bedrooms MANA housing estate under the 2,500 mass housing policy



Sokoto Kano road roundabout under going maintenance under the beautification policy of the Sokoto State Government.



Local Government Mass Housing Project at Bodinga Town in Sokoto State.



The NYSC permanent orientation camp at Wamakko town under construction



The first ever Sokoto fly-over which is costing the State Government Billions of naira is an effort worthy of commendation.



The interlocking works on Sokoto- Kano road almost completed under the Sokoto State Government beautification project.



The Sokoto township beautification works along Mai Adua welcome to sokoto gate.



Un-going Government Lodges under construction by the State Government, nearing completion.



Dualisation of a 3km Garba Duba township road also in completion stage.



The old Nagarta College Sokoto established in 1905 by the then colonial masters under going serious renovation.



The newly constructed Primary Health Care Centre (PHC) at Wamakko town in Sokoto State all an efforts of providing Health Care Services to the Rural Areas.



Pix shows the newly constructed Local Government housing units at one of the local government headquarters.



Development of Corn Shukura Hotel by the Sokoto State Government. The former Shukura Hotel is undergoing a renovation by an International Hotel developers, the Coral Group of Makka.



The Bado Housing Project Under the Wamakko 2,500 Mass Housing Policy in Sokoto.

Business/Finance



Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Thursday, February 4, 2009

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	4	0.50	545,900	272,950.00
SECTOR Totals	4		545,900	272,950.00
AGRICULTURE				
AFPRINT NIGERIA PLC	1	0.86	6,800	5,848.00
FTN COCOA PROC. PLC	43	0.85	3,178,615	2,701,822.75
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	17	0.77	922,940	706,712.80
OKOMU OIL PALM COY PLC	1	22.75	500	10,810.00
PRESKO PLC	21	4.36	198,145	905,522.61
SECTOR Totals	83		4,307,000	4,330,716.20
AIR SERVICES				
AIRL/SERV. AND LOG. PLC	13	3.00	993,864	2,843,034.40
NIG. AVIAT. HAND. COY PLC	237	8.99	1,638,426	14,692,648.54
SECTOR Totals	250		2,632,290	17,535,682.94
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DNTYRE & RUBBER PLC	13	0.50	443,905	221,952.50
R. T. BRISCOE (NIG.) PLC	26	5.93	1,507,526	9,048,241.45
SECTOR Totals	39		1,951,431	9,270,194.95
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	263	9.60	23,174,573	224,352,150.69
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	135	3.00	4,702,991	14,361,046.25
DIAMOND BANK PLC	157	9.75	17,046,656	165,017,283.55
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	290	7.07	7,970,047	56,415,203.06
FIRST CITY MON. BANK PLC	72	9.45	3,939,118	36,800,462.52
FIDELITY BANK PLC	332	2.80	27,254,486	78,253,538.80
FIRST BANK OF NIG. PLC	888	15.96	32,174,203	517,119,230.14
FINBANK PLC	176	0.84	42,223,401	35,113,473.18
GTBANK PLC	532	18.50	19,664,850	387,367,389.33
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	68	9.43	2,583,014	24,249,685.28
INTERCONT. BANK PLC.	116	2.22	4,452,772	10,094,170.34
OCEANIC BANK INTERN. PLC	190	2.29	8,940,008	20,666,564.69
BANK PHB PLC	88	2.20	3,055,779	6,998,074.44
SKYE BANK PLC.	175	8.09	15,422,043	124,764,327.87
SPRING BANK PLC	8	1.34	142,746	191,279.64
STERLING BANK PLC	99	1.63	15,696,370	25,611,563.83
UNT. BANK FOR AFRICA PLC.	266	14.40	28,500,434	412,948,926.11
UNION BANK OF NIG. PLC	213	6.35	11,047,108	69,105,179.11
UNITYBANK PLC	43	1.04	3,727,579	3,858,365.58
WEMA BANK PLC	76	1.22	4,670,723	6,124,961.86
ZENITH BANK PLC	336	16.25	24,234,622	398,578,049.61
SECTOR Totals	4,523		300,623,523	2,617,990,925.92
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	108	15.01	2,160,2163	3,487,203.65
BENUCE CEMENT COY PLC	39	50.00	1,220,580	61,042,496.32
CEMENT CO. OF N/NIG. PLC	67	16.70	1,182,025	19,324,450.79
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	80	36.08	1,805,033	64,262,094.85
SECTOR Totals	294		6,367,854	178,116,245.61
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS NIG. PLC	1	3.36	433	1,524.16
DN MEYER PLC	6	4.88	3,816	17,706.24
NIG-GERMAN CHEM. PLC	7	15.04	551	7,873.28
SECTOR Totals	14		4,800	27,104.19
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC	13	3.09	261,600	805,238.51
JOHN HOLT PLC	2	9.28	1,037	9,146.34
PZ CHISSONS NIGERIA PLC	49	26.00	586,025	15,229,350.84
SCOA NIGERIA PLC	1	8.71	34	281.52
TRANSN. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	23	0.50	2,319,378	1,159,689.00
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	54	44.10	711,741	31,324,201.03
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	91	25.00	1,790,892	44,785,594.34
SECTOR Totals	233		5,670,707	93,313,601.60
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	118	5.91	2,964,687	17,515,276.68
G. CAPPA PLC	1	14.46	11	151.14
JUL/BERGER NIGERIA PLC	19	28.50	143,673	4,036,468.64
MULTIVERSE RESOURCES PLC	10	0.50	431,500	215,750.00
ROADS NIGERIA PLC	1	3.88	29	105.22
SECTOR Totals	149		3,539,900	21,767,751.73
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY				
CUTIX PLC	4	3.28	52,000	162,760.00
NIG. WIRE AND CABLE PLC.	3	0.94	166,265	156,289.10
SECTOR Totals	7		218,265	319,049.10
FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOB.				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	9	30.60	17,233	546,096.29
BIG TREAT PLC	27	0.81	2,946,700	2,389,113.00
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	86	15.10	930,699	14,008,461.31
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	170	13.02	2,591,375	33,864,512.32
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	106	16.80	2,846,780	47,968,128.71
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	88	40.00	1,524,895	62,923,886.21
HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	9	7.03	121,100	851,333.00
NAT. SALT COY NIG. PLC	83	7.00	2,250,122	15,698,991.74
NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC	17	28.50	144,580	4,162,274.79
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	34	270.00	126,185	35,150,857.85
N/NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC	5	21.80	38,075	871,536.75
TANTALIZERS PLC	28	0.92	2,474,760	2,260,491.60
UTC NIGERIA PLC	4	0.86	14,190	11,635.80
SECTOR Totals	666		16,026,694	220,697,319.37
FOOTWEAR				
LENNARDS NIGERIA PLC.	1	3.85	78	285.48

SECTOR Totals	1	78	285.48	
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	6	1.11	42,392	49,174.72
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	29	2.29	636,750	1,444,135.10
GLAXOSM. CONS. NIG. PLC	11	26.00	42,177	1,113,547.70
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	16	5.23	69,600	374,349.00
MORISON INDUSTRIES PLC.	1	12.28	500	5,835.00
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	13	1.64	131,556	211,276.74
UN/DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	12	0.66	1,115,800	735,150.00
SECTOR Totals	88		2,037,975	3,933,468.26
HOTEL & TOURISM				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	5	2.38	600,000	1,428,000.00
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	9	1.08	177,951	192,187.08
SECTOR Totals	14		777,951	1,620,187.08
INDUST/DOMESTIC PROD.				
ALUMACO PLC	1	19.38	82	1,510.44
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	1	13.48	6,938	88,875.78
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC	14	0.50	398,000	199,000.00
VITAFIAM NIGERIA PLC	22	5.00	433,234	2,174,783.83
SECTOR Totals	38		838,254	2,464,170.05
INF. & COMMUNIC. TECH.				
CHAMS PLC	27	0.78	2,203,318	1,712,320.88
E-TRANZACT INTERN. PLC	1	5.23	100	497.00
IHS NIGERIA PLC	4	4.03	38,800	148,604.00
MASS TEL. INNOV. NIG. PLC	1	0.50	2,000,000	1,000,000.00
STARCOMMS PLC	19	2.22	1,282,990	2,848,237.80
SECTOR Totals	52		5,525,208	5,709,659.68
INSURANCE				
AFRICAN ALLIANCE INS. PLC	2	0.70	2,000	1,340.00
AICO INSURANCE PLC.	151	1.08	3,168,373	3,405,635.57
CONTINENTAL REINSUR. PLC	22	1.01	2,495,000	2,489,960.35
C/STONE INSUR. CO. PLC.	25	0.55	2,375,453	1,326,032.11
CUST. & ALLIED INSUR. PLC	90	3.07	17,517,165	53,235,861.13
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	33	0.58	3,985,743	2,302,285.94
GUAR. TRUST ASSUR. PLC	40	2.31	6,266,950	14,314,592.50
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	2	0.50	119,000	59,500.00
CONS. HALLMARK INS. PLC	2	0.50	83,000	41,500.00
INT. ENERGY INS. COY PLC	55	0.61	6,803,445	4,186,958.26
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	39	0.52	3,793,791	2,068,255.46
LAW UNION & ROCK INS. PLC.	38	0.59	7,118,000	3,950,748.84
MUTUAL BEN. ASSUR. PLC	3	0.64	116,000	74,240.00
N.E.M. INS. CO. (NIG.) PLC.	26	0.55	4,699,902	2,584,946.10
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC	10	0.82	278,750	230,490.00
OASIS INSURANCE PLC	2	1.42	500,000	710,000.00
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	3	3.61	30,000	102,900.00
REG. ALLIANCE INS. COY PLC	2	0.50	142,500	71,250.00
SOV. TRUST INSURANCE PLC	3	0.50	61,000	30,500.00
STAND. ALLIANCE INS. PLC	29	0.66	3,035,869	1,986,743.89
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	16	0.80	1,205,762	995,265.08
UNITY CAPITAL ASSUR. PLC	4	1.47	801,100	1,177,617.00
UNIVERSAL INSUR. COY PLC	3	0.50	45,500	22,750.00
INTERC. WAPIC INSUR. PLC	15	0.95	511,930	490,693.50
SECTOR Totals	615		65,156,233	95,840,065.73
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ASO SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	31	0.70	6,783,222	4,742,980.10
RESORT SAV. & LOANS PLC	4	0.50	20,208,800	10,104,400.00
UN/HOMES SAV. & LOANS PLC	48	1.07	1,977,070	2,121,252.82
SECTOR Totals	83		28,969,092	16,968,632.92
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC.	10	1.07	1,107,243	1,187,647.61
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	28	0.54	879,591	487,550.28
SECTOR Totals	38		1,986,834	1,675,197.89
PACKAGING				
NIG. BAG MANUFAC. COY PLC	110	2.08	2,984,298	6,078,611.86
NAMPAK NIGERIA PLC	1	6.99	116	771.40
POLY PRODUCTS (NIG.) PLC	1	4.23	66	265.32
SECTOR Totals	112		2,984,480	6,079,648.58
PETROLEUM (MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	70	37.50	694,314	25,971,093.34
BECO PETROL. PROD. PLC	8	2.07	185,889	360,330.21
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	5	69.79	2,551	186,584.77
CONOIL PLC	26	31.00	157,112	4,866,528.83
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	23	6.20	932,207	5,404,323.40
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	23	97.51	186,120	18,149,945.49
OANDO PLC	6	93.99	11,331	1,065,000.69
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	15	150.00	19,863	2,983,453.60
SECTOR Totals	176		2,189,387	58,987,260.33
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROP. DEVE. CO. PLC	5	21.00	10,800	226,800.00
SECTOR Totals	5		10,800	226,800.00
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST				
SKYE SHELTER FUND	1	100.00	25,000	2,500,000.00
SECTOR Totals	1		25,000	2,500,000.00
ROAD TRANSPORTATION				
ASSOC. BUS COMPANY PLC	1	1.10	20,000	21,000.00
SECTOR Totals	1		20,000	21,000.00
THE FOREIGN LISTINGS				
ECOBANK TRANSN. INCORP	22	15.76	2,006,200	31,501,862.00
SECTOR Totals	22		2,006,200	31,501,862.00
OVERALL Totals	7,980		463,230,098	3,625,290,385.95

What is Convertible Security

A security of an issuer (for example - bonds, debentures, or preferred shares) that may be converted into other securities of that issuer, in accordance with the terms of the conversion feature. The conversion usually occurs at the option of the holder of the securities, but it may occur at the option of the issuer.

Google

GAINERS

AP	1.10
UACN	1.10
WAPCO	1.05
NB	1.00

LOSERS

GUINNESS	4.19
FLOURMILL	1.55
CONOIL	0.90
ASHAKACEM	0.79

THE HOME FRONT

In Today's Edition

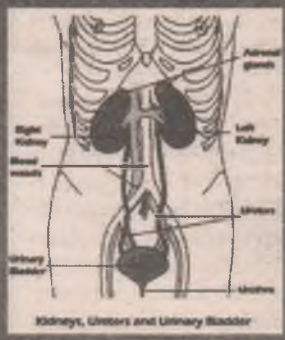
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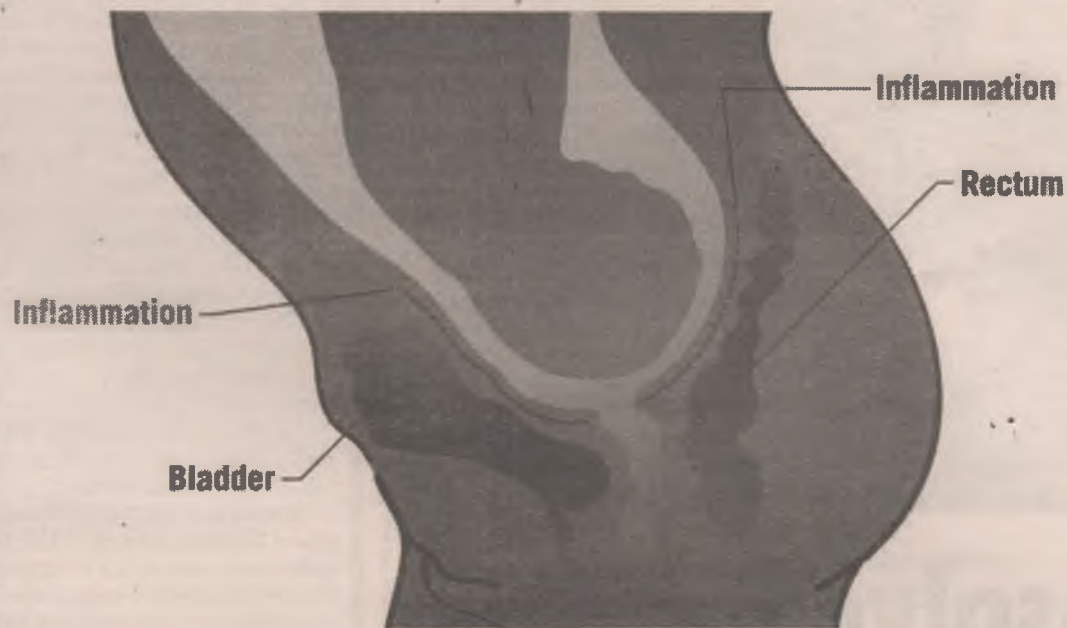
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FASHION

Rihanna: The latest trend in hairstyles

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Facts about obstetric fistula

By Akor Ojoma and Romoke Ahmad

OBSTETRIC fistula is the most devastating of all pregnancy-related disabilities. It is often described as the most dramatic aftermath of neglected childbirth. The World Health Organization estimates that approximately 2 million women have untreated fistula and that approximately 100,000 women develop fistula each year.

According to Dr Ola Okike a consultant gynaecologist at the Nyanya General Hospital, Abuja, obstetric fistula is the most predominant type of fistula in developing countries. The doctor said reports from special centres point that there are 20,000 women awaiting repair in Northern Nigeria alone where it is estimated that 1-2 women develop fistula among every 10,000 deliveries.

A fistula is a hole. An obstetric fistula of the kind that occurs in many developing countries is a hole between a woman's birth passage and one or more of her internal organs. This hole develops over many days of obstructed labour, when the pressure of the baby's head against the mother's pelvis cuts off blood supply to delicate tissues in the region. The dead tissue falls away and the woman is left with a hole between her vagina and her bladder called vesicovaginal fistula or VVF and sometimes between her vagina and rectum called rectovaginal fistula, RVF. This hole results in permanent incontinence of urine and/or faeces. Majority of

women who develop fistulas are abandoned by their husbands and ostracized by their communities because of their inability to have children and their foul smell.

Causes

The fistula usually develops when a prolonged labour presses the unborn child so tightly in the birth canal that blood flow is cut off to the surrounding tissues, which necrotise and eventually rots away. More rarely, the injury can be caused by female genital cutting, poorly performed abortions, or pelvic fractures. Other potential direct causes for the development of obstetric fistula are sexual abuse and rape, especially within conflict/post-conflict areas, surgical trauma, gynaecological cancers or other related radiotherapy treatment and, perhaps the most important, limited or no access to obstetrical care or emergency services.

Distal causes that can lead to the development of obstetric fistula concern issues of poverty, lack of education, early marriage and childbirth, the role and status of women in developing countries, and harmful traditional practices and sexual violence. Poverty, early marriage, and lack of education place women in positions of severe disadvantage and do not enable them to be advocates for their own health and wellbeing.

Access to obstetric emergency care is one of the major challenges in preventing the development of obstetric fistula. The availability and access to medical facilities that have a trained staff

and specialized surgical equipment needed for caesarean births is very limited in certain parts of the world. Factors that may heavily influence an individual's ability or decision to access this emergency care can involve everything from general fear and mistrust of hospitals and healthcare workers, a lack of equipped facilities and trained staff, economic constraints, religious beliefs and practices, cultural norms, and previous birth experiences.

In many developing countries, giving birth at home with the assistance of an elder woman or traditional birth attendant is considered the preferred and respected way to give birth. Seeking out the option of surgery versus a vaginal birth, in certain places, is also thought to be less womanly and unnatural. This negative perception of surgery can greatly influence a woman's decision to not seek out emergency obstetrical treatment.

Other factors surrounding a woman's ability and choice to access obstetrical care can be rooted in the nature of her relationship with her male partner or male decision makers within her family. This can affect the kind of care and assistance women receive during child labour. In many instances, receiving treatment from a male physician is not pursued or considered a real option due to the religious or cultural violations connected with a male treating a woman who is not his wife or intimate partner.

Yet another causal factor is

that of logistical access to health care clinics. Many women who suffer from this condition are living in very rural areas and, therefore, access to emergency services often requires some form of travel. The availability of transportation, cost of transportation and road construction can all play a crucial role in the ability of pregnant women to access emergency obstetrical services.

According to Dr Okike, all these causes lead to what is known as the 3 delay models which prevent women from presenting early to hospital when in labour and to prolong obstructed labour leading to obstetric fistula. "The 1st delay model delay is in seeking medical attention for instance, at home family and community do not recognize prolonged labour especially in a young child having a baby. 2nd delay model is delay in reaching a medical facility. Here risk is recognized but decision to move is delayed like no money or the husband must give consent. 3rd delay model delay is in receiving medical care once arriving at a health care facility."

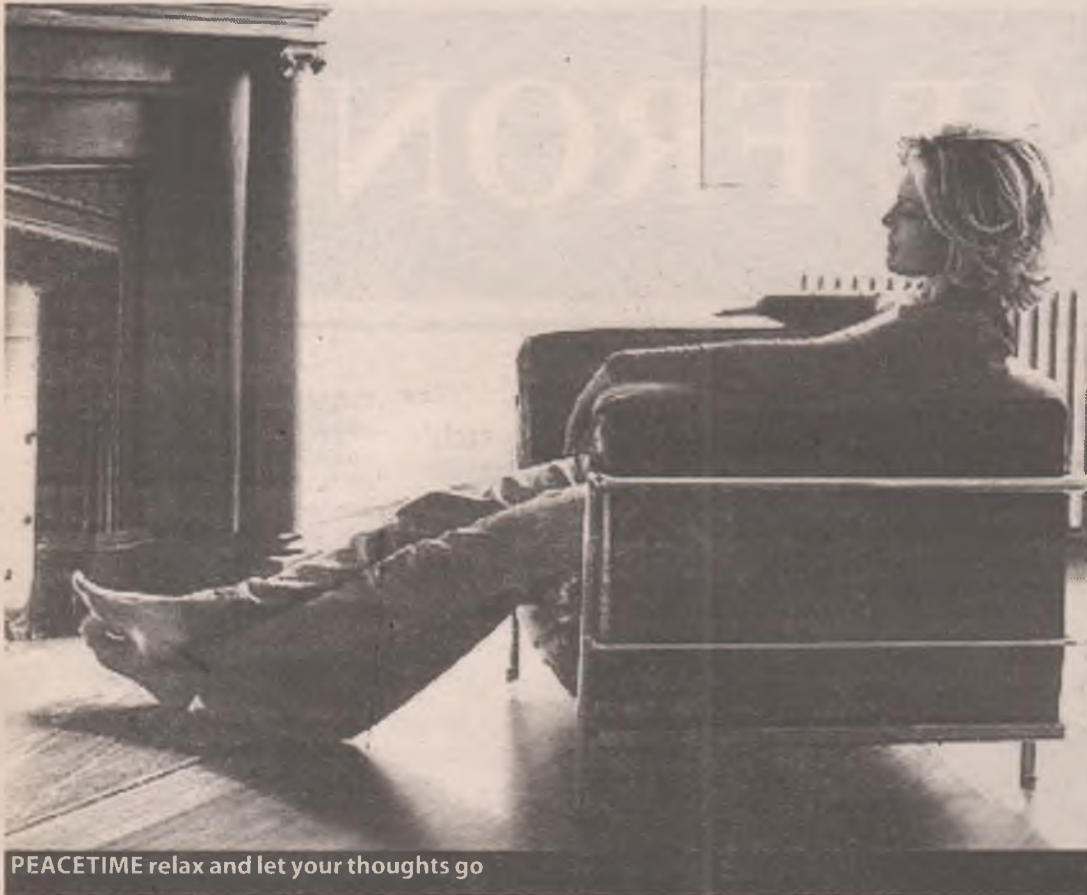
Prevention

Prevention comes in the form of access to obstetrical care, support from trained health care professionals throughout pregnancy, providing access to family planning, promoting the practice of spacing between births, and supporting women in education and postponing early marriage. Fistula prevention also involves many strategies to educate local communities about the cultural, social, and physiological factors that condition and contribute to the risk for fistula. It is also important to ensure access to timely and safe delivery during childbirth.

Treatment

Treatment is available through reconstructive surgery. This surgery for uncomplicated cases has a 90% success rate, and success rates for more complicated cases are estimated to be 60% successful. The largest challenge that stands between women and fistula treatment is information. Most women have no idea that treatment is available. Because this is a condition of shame and embarrassment, most women hide themselves and their condition and suffer in silence with no relief.

Successful surgery enables women to live normal lives and have more children, but it is recommended to have a caesarean section to prevent the fistula from recurring. Post operative care is vitally important to prevent infection. Some women are not candidates for this surgery, but can seek out alternative treatment called a urostomy and a bag for the collection of urine is worn on a daily basis.



PEACETIME relax and let your thoughts go

Added resolve for your New Year's resolutions

PEACE is the key to keeping your promises to yourself.

If your New Year's resolutions tend to come crashing down before January is out then life coach Ali Campbell is the man for you. Author of a new book, *Just Get On With It*, he is determined that we can all do better. We just need "a caring, compassionate kick up the a---".

Campbell has worked with royalty and rock stars including singer Mica Paris. She claims that she called time on years of yo-yo dieting thanks to the life coach's life-fixing techniques. Campbell's other clients include business people and property magnates struggling in hard times. One Middle Eastern diplomat even flies him out to Dubai twice a month for coaching sessions.

A likeable Glaswegian who hops between clinics in his home town and Harley Street, Campbell says our resolutions fail because "we don't work out what we really want in the first place".

"People get this image of what perfection looks like," he says. "They decide it's a stone thinner, or it's someone who spends more time with the kids. Then they write themselves a list of

'shoulds'. They can't possibly see them all through because this list does not represent what they actually want."

To find motivation in 2010, we have to tap into something far deeper. But how?

"Your inner wisdom is like a soft flute playing behind a Salvation Army bandstand," he says. "Most people live with a constant, noisy negative soundtrack.

"I teach clients that thoughts are just thoughts. They only have the power we give them. We have to break the habit of reacting. What we're left with is a happy, calm, positive state."

But surely it is hard to disengage from your thoughts? On the contrary, Campbell says all you have to do is sit quietly for 15 minutes each day and allow any thoughts that pop into your mind to simply pass by.

This thought-distancing technique sounds a lot like "mindfulness", a psychological technique rooted in Buddhism where you learn to live in the "now" (an approach increasingly used by psychologists to treat stress and depression).

Campbell says he came up with the idea while feeling depressed

on the 10th anniversary of his father's death.

"I don't meditate," he says firmly. "This is just about sitting quietly for a little while and putting yourself back in control."

Procrastination, he says, comes from "the stories you're constantly telling yourself: 'I'll never succeed', 'I'm bound to fail'."

Once you stop letting these thoughts affect your behaviour, you discover what really "floats your boat". You then do not need willpower to stick to your New Year's resolutions "because you'll already be highly motivated".

When I try it about 500 largely unhelpful thoughts pop into my head in the first few minutes. Letting these float by is harder than it sounds. Over the next few days, I notice my thoughts more. And when stressed, it is certainly comforting to think, "this is just an unfortunate thought". But that is surely just a thought, too? This could get very confusing.

As yet, I have not experienced an inner wisdom epiphany. But Campbell says one day it will just "pop" for me.

FIVE COMPASSIONATE KICKS FOR 2010

Sit quietly for 10 to 15 minutes daily. Recognise each thought – and let it pass.

Aim to discover what you want to do, not what you think you should do.

Stop saying yes when you really mean, "I don't want to, but I probably should".

When starting, ask yourself, "What could I complete today?"

Make this the year you start trusting your deeper instincts.

Culled from the telegraph.co.uk

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FRAGMENTS

By Safiya I. Dantiye
safiyadantiye@yahoo.com

Fathers, beware!

A Father is the head of the family and as such whatever concerns every member of his household both within the home and outside is his responsibility. But sadly these days many fathers don't really care about what their children do or how they are treated by others at home, school and other places in order find out about their welfare and take appropriate actions where necessary.

This nonchalant attitude is causing a lot of problems for children, their parents and the society as a whole. For example, a fourteen year old boy, Abubakar Buhari last weekend killed his father in a village in Katsina State by poisoning his food. According to the story reported in Daily Trust February 1, 2010, Abubakar said he did it because his father, Malam Buhari had been maltreating him since he divorced his mother. There was also another story recently in Kano Chronicle where a nine year old boy was found wandering in the city. He said he came from his village because his step mother made his father to drive him away, and of course the boy's mother was divorced from the father.

In spite of these maltreatments by parents, it should never be a reason for their children to kill them, were it so, many parents of today would have killed either their fathers or their step mothers. However, the case of young Abubakar points out the negligence and maltreatments by some fathers and step mothers and the earlier the fathers put their acts together, the better.

Many men are not extra vigilant when some of their children's mothers are no longer in their houses. A man's wife (wives) may treat the children with so much love in the presence of their father, but abuse and beat them when he is not around. Some children may not be given enough food and because their fathers are very harsh, they are afraid and cannot tell them their problems. And in cases where some daring ones report any maltreatment, the father may beat them and accuse their mother for inciting them to cause trouble in his house. This may even earn them expulsion from the house without trying to find out if the wife is at fault.

Even though some children can be terrible and give their step mothers tough time, the problem is mostly the other way round with the wife maltreating her husband's children, and because he doesn't care, he takes sides with her thus making the children strangers or squatters in their father's house.

In one such case, the wife pretends she loves the children whenever their father was around, but gave them little food in his absence and the children dared not ask for more. She would heap her son's plate with food and give him fruit juice along with it. A carton of juice meant for all the children was given only to her son and the father was not aware, and they were afraid to tell him. The eldest children are two teenage girls in secondary school, I fear that they can be easily enticed by men giving them small amount of money to buy snacks, because they are always hungry.

If such a father would look at what the children are eating when he is around and even give them the fruit juice himself, it may help, and eventually he would discover the truth.

There are some fathers though who take extra care of their children when their mother are no longer living with them, they don't leave everything at the hands of their other wife or wives. They know what they eat, in fact they ask them, whether the food is enough for them, they buy delicacies and make sure the children eat them, check their school books, their home work and make sure they go to Islamiyya School. They know their children's friends and make sure they don't go far from home. They call the children and chat with them from time to time to find out about their life, show that they really care about them and assure them that even if their mothers are not around they are not going to be neglected.

Any woman who wants to maltreat her husband's children will be wary of that with such a caring father, and she can hardly succeed in her schemes to blame the children and make their father abuse, beat or drive them away. There was a case of a woman who was always abusing her husband's teenage daughter and made it a point of duty to pour invectives on her mother who was no longer living in the house. One day, the girl retaliated by telling the step mother to stop abusing her mother. The woman reported to her husband and insisted that he either drives the girl way or she would go away. The man said he would never drive his daughter away, and if the wife wanted to go away, then she was free to do so.

Children need love and care and not the harassment given them by some fathers who only blame, abuse and beat them especially in cases where the children's mothers are divorced, and therefore no longer living in the house. The children may hate them and become estranged from them, which may be difficult to repair when they need the children most, in old age or in ailment.

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 herpes infection?

My doctor told me that I am suffering from herpes infection, but didn't mention what the problem is. Please can you elaborate on it?

U Bala

On visitation to your doctor, my understanding is that, he/she would take a history of your complains and examine the affected area in your body. He/she would make an impression of your problem from the history taken and examination. However, laboratory investigations will confirm his/her assessment as to what causes your problem and the direction of treatment.

Briefly, Herpes Infection is of viral origin. There are 8 different viruses causing infections in humans, among them are

Herpes Simplex Type 1; it can cause

1. Labialis - cold sores on the lips
2. Keratoconjunctivitis (inflammation of the eye)
3. Finger Infection - Whitlows
4. Encephalitis (inflammation of the brain)
5. Genital Infections

Herpes Simplex Type 2; it can cause

1. Genital Infection
2. Neonatal Infections during vaginal delivery

Cytomegalovirus; it can cause

Pneumonitis ; inflammation of the membrane that covers the lungs

Epstein Barr Virus; it can cause

Burkitt's Lymphoma (Abnormal Swellings in some areas such as neck and face , mainly affecting children)

Varicella Zoster Virus; can cause

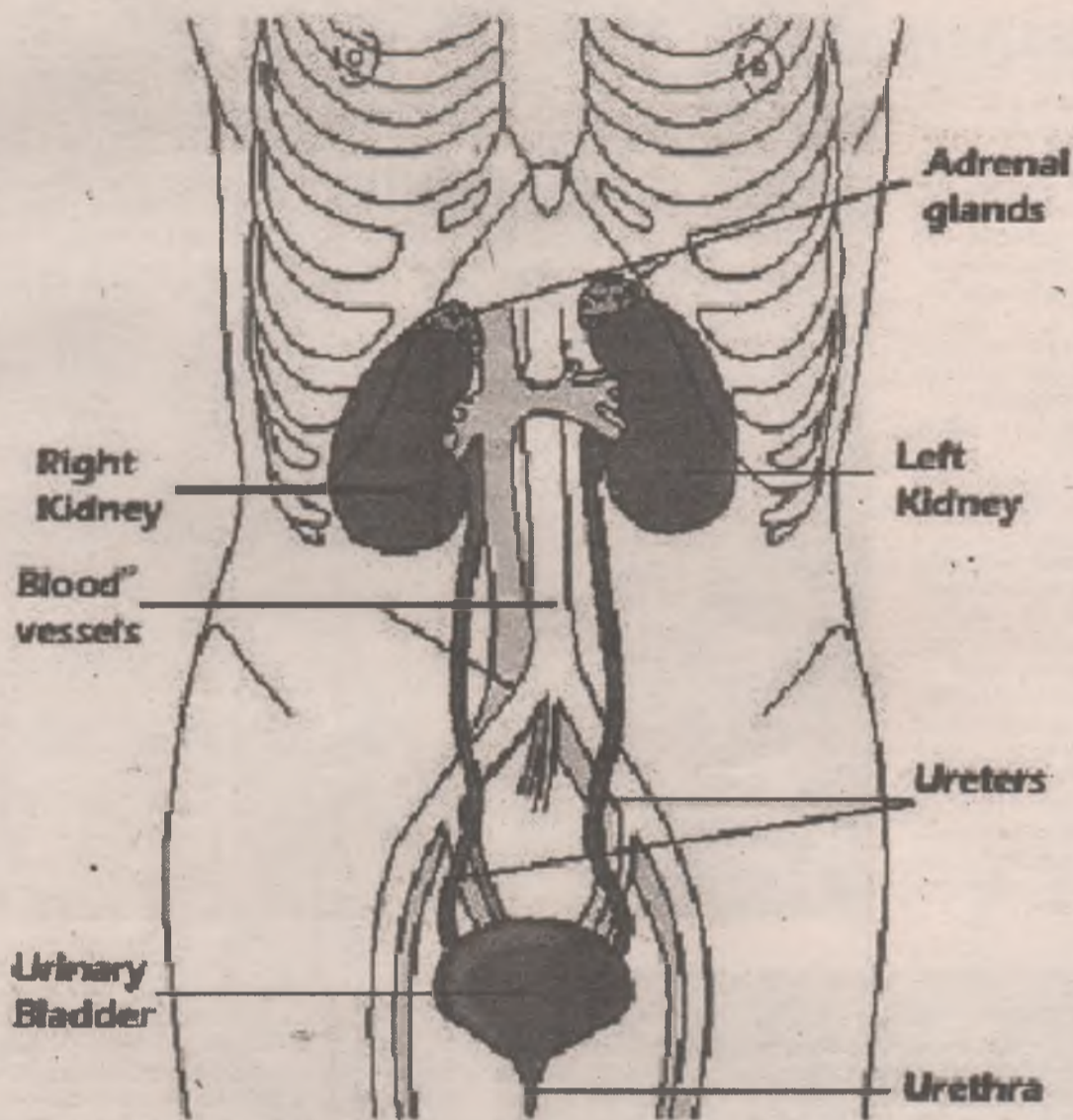
1. Chicken Pox
2. Shingles (Herpes Zoster)

My uncle abused me

I have been living with this problem for 2 years now. I am 18 years old and was severally abused by my uncle in the past. At the moment, I am scared of any relationship with a man as well as Sexually Transmitted Infections. Please advise me.

Worried young lady

I am glad that you are able to break the silence to talk about your problem. Matters related to sexual abuse everywhere in the world are underreported due to



Kidneys, Ureters and Urinary Bladder

many reasons. Those abused live in fear of stigma if they reveal the situation and it is difficult to prove the assault.

There is a possibility of getting Infections as a result of sexual abuse as well as psychological trauma.

The first step for you is to have a thorough one on one discussion with a sexuality counsellor to ascertain the extent of the abuse, then base on the discussion, necessary tests could be done to rule out infections and other physical damages. Send an email to our address below with the information of the State you are in Nigeria to enable me match you with a counsellor. Good luck.

What is a Pyelonephritis?

My mum was recently confirmed to be suffering from Pyelonephritis. Please what causes it, as well as symptoms and treatment options.

Rejoice H

Pyelonephritis is a kidney infection, usually from bacteria that have spread from the blad-

der. Possible causes of infection include the following:

1. Infections in the Urinary bladder
2. Use of a catheter to drain urine from the bladder
3. Use of a cystoscope (instrument that visualises the bladder) to examine the bladder and urethra
4. Surgery on the urinary tract
5. Conditions such as prostate enlargement and Kidney stones that prevent the efficient flow of urine from the bladder

Symptoms and signs include:

1. Back, side
2. Groin pain
3. Urgent, frequent urination
4. Pain or burning during urination
5. Fever
6. Nausea and vomiting
7. Pus
8. Blood in the urine

Diagnosis is made with a urine test to identify bacteria and formations of white blood cells, called casts, shaped like tubes in the kidneys. If an infection cannot be easily cured, x rays might be done to look for abnormalities in the kidneys, ureters, and bladder.

A kidney infection is treated with an appropriate antibiotic, and abnormalities may need to be surgically treated. An untreated or recurrent kidney infection can lead to chronic pyelonephritis, scarring of the kidneys, and permanent kidney damage.

My semen lacks sperm cells

I have been unable to impregnate any woman for a very long time. A lab scientist based on test, told me, my semen lacks sperm cells. Please what is my problem?

Joseph

Depending on how the sample of semen is taken from you. It could pose a challenge. If you transport your semen within a condom to a lab and depending on the interval of collection and providing it to the lab worker, chances are; you might have had sperm cells within the semen but died in the process. Also, it is not every ejaculatory semen that contains sperm cells. So, your test is not conclusive, need to be repeated at least 3 consecutive times.

Another dimension is that

“ In order to transport sperm outside of the body, it mixes with ejaculate (semen) at certain places throughout the male reproductive system

absence of sperm cells in the semen is called Azoospermia. Azoospermia is one of the most severe forms of male factor infertility. It is a condition in which a man has no sperm in his ejaculate. In order to transport sperm outside of the body, it mixes with ejaculate (semen) at certain places throughout the male reproductive system. Sometimes, due to blockages or sperm production problems, sperm does not mix with ejaculate, and therefore cannot leave the body via the penis. That is why so many men with Azoospermia find it difficult to have children.

There are two types of Azoospermia:

1. Obstructive Azoospermia: Obstructive azoospermia accounts for about 40% of all cases of azoospermia. It occurs when a blockage in your duct system prevents your sperm from mixing with your semen. These obstruction may be present in your vas deferens or epididymis. (pathway of the sperm cells from testes to the Urethra)

2. Non-Obstructive Azoospermia: Non-obstructive azoospermia accounts for about 60% of all cases of azoospermia. It occurs when there is a problem with the actual production of sperm within your body. It is often the result of hormonal imbalances. (example Testosterone deficiency)

You need proper investigation to know the cause of your condition. Please visit a Teaching Hospital close to you.

Rihanna: The latest trend in hairstyles

By Akor Ojoma

WOMEN love spotting new hair styles and try to keep in touch with whichever is trendy at every particular time. Lately, most ladies stick to the Rihanna hairstyle. Everywhere you go these days; it is the hairstyle that meets your gaze.

Rihanna, a Barbados born musician who has not only taken the world by storm as a singing sensation but also as a fashion trend-setter, has brought to the world of fashion a series of beautiful hairstyles. Her hairstyles are often being talked about.

Many women choose their looks and hair-do in conformity with which ever she churns out. Even ladies with long hair have grown so addicted to her styles that they have had their hair cut to follow every hair style she has on.

Rihanna's latest hairstyles include cute short pixie cut, angled and rounded bobs, short fringed bob, and inverted bob, among others.

These hairstyles have made women all over the world to go rushing to their hairdressers to re-enact the Rihanna look. The pixie look in particular has done the fashion rounds many times over the years but this time has come back with a vengeance!

The pixie style became the toast of most fashion conscious Nigerian ladies last year and rather than wane it is gaining more ground as women of all classes and ages want to be seen with this hairstyle.

It is the most conspicuous and hottest hairstyle in banks, on campuses, offices, social gatherings and even the entertainment industry. It particularly suits women with narrow faces, pretty neck and smooth skin.



What wives find difficult to tell their husbands

By Tosin Omoniyi & Bunmi Omolehin

WHEN marriage is solemnized it is assumed that minds and bodies including spirits become one seamless whole that cannot be easily broken by trials. A spouse automatically becomes one's confidante and soul mate. Issues that one finds difficult to discuss with another person are naturally gravitated towards one's partner for succor and comfort. Solutions to life's crisis become the sole preserve of one's partner. Ironically, for most marriages today trust and confidence appears lacking. Willingness to reveal their innermost needs and desires to their spouses is a daunting task for many. Some spouses find it very difficult to confide in their partners for diverse reasons, some obscure, others comical while some are out rightly bizarre.

For 40 year old Mrs Aderemi Tinuola, a trader at the Mpape market, her marriage of 17 years has seen its own fair share of challenges, some not too savory. Blessed with three children with in tertiary institutions, she said at a time the marriage actually hit the rocks and it took the intervention of friends and family members for her and her husband to

Ironically, for most marriages today trust and confidence appears lacking. Willingness to reveal their innermost needs and desires to their spouses is a daunting task for many

reconcile.

She said: 'Many years after our marriage, I still see my husband as the most unromantic person ever known. I am a romantic person by nature and little things matter to me very much especially when it is coming from the one I love. Right from my school days I have always prayed for a person that can satiate this romantic need in me.'

What does she mean by 'romantic needs'?

She answered "Little things like chocolate, ice cream, un-announced dates, stolen kisses, unsolicited minute gifts, these and many more have a way of cementing relationships especially marriages. All these are lacking even after several years of marriage.' Has she ever tried telling her spouse about these needs? 'My husband is a typical African man who does not believe in romance.

Telling him is a waste of time. He could even take it to mean that I am being amoral and this is capable of causing crisis in the marriage. Sometimes I try to practicalise what I mean by taking the lead.

Like offering to take him out on a date. At times I simply go to an eatery and buy ice cream for him on my way from work. The incredulous look he gives me when I do this dissuades me from doing it again. He just does not have the romantic streak in him,' she enthuses.

Another respondent, 31 year old Rosemary Anyadike has been married for three years. Not yet blessed with the fruit of the womb, she finds it difficult to comprehend why her husband has more time for his spare parts business than spending quality time with her at home. She said whenever they are together their conversation is more focused on the challenges he faces at work rather than her own needs.

'When we were dating he practically spends his time with me at the place, where I was doing my industrial attachment. That made my naughty friends to

nick name him Mr Super Glue. This was probably because there was hardly a time when we were ever apart. He used to tell me then that I was like the air that he breathes and he would spend the rest of his life just gazing into the depths of my eyes.

Maybe it was this that actually turned me on and made me take the giant step of marrying him. Few years afterwards we hardly spend time together through no fault of mine. I am a person who loves affection and company especially that of a loved one. I do not cherish gifts like most women do. I would rather a man spends quality time with me that give me the best of gifts in the whole world.'

She adds that she finds it hard to talk to him about her needs due to his anger which she described as legendary. 'I have seen flashes of his anger

once or twice so I know better than to court trouble by telling him all these. I just wish the good times will come back soon.' She prays.

A cross section of other women said several years down the line of their marriages they still find it difficult to confide their innermost desires to them. For many they have resigned to their fate while praying that a divine intervention would open the eyes of such hubbies.

Banke Adeniyi(not real name) is married to a medical doctor. The marriage is blessed with children who are doing well. She said her 3 year old marriage is tottering due to the night crawling habit of her husband. Added to this is his stubborn disposition. 'He does anything he makes up his mind on to do without thinking twice, and will not tolerate any opposition.

Even when I tell him that this is a wrong step and I give him clear proofs of why I think the step is not in order, he simply tells me that the buck stops at his table as the head of the household. He actually does not deprive me or the kids of our entitlements. He makes sure that our needs are well taken care of but that is not what I need from him. A marriage is meant to thrive on mutual trust, respect and ability to confide in one another. To me nobody is an island of knowledge. We all need someone to tell and correct us when we are taking the wrong step. That particularly is what makes a marriage survive.'

Martha Dominics agreed with the previous respondent as she said her first marriage suffered the similar crisis of lack of trust and mutual confidence in each other's ability to offer advice. According to her 'Men are a rare breed. They have this weakness of believing in their own infallibility and thus they see us women as unable to give quality advice to them on issues pertaining the welfare of the family. Only few of them actually allow their wives to take part in the core decision making process of the family. And you will agree with me that the time that women were used to playing the second fiddle in the home has gone in many societies. Now women actually take over the running of the affairs of the home especially when the husband is indisposed or is unable to discharge his responsibilities.'

A psychologist and Guidance counselor at the Zuba College of Education, Mrs Abolurin said that couples need to develop a closer knitted relationship so that cracks in such marriages would not lead to friction and ultimately divorce. She adds that the major reason for most failed marriages today is lack of communication. "When couples fail to talk to each other they leave room open for mis-interpretation and negative factors to creep in. Such negative factors include but are not limited to reduced affection, lack of self confidence, doubt and repression of emotion. These should not be allowed to gain a foothold."

She also said women are the principal home builders who are capable of sustaining a home or breaking it depending on what actions or inactions they decide to take.



DIGEST

'Internet addiction' linked to depression, says study

SURFING the internet can expose a 'dark side' of the soul, with online addicts more likely to be depressed, claim psychologists.

They found the longer people spent on websites, the more unhappy they were.

Those worst affected are both depressed and addicted, possibly because they are substituting the net for normal social activities.

Research leader Dr Catriona Morrison, from the University of Leeds, said: 'The internet plays a huge part in modern life, but its benefits are accompanied by a darker side.'

Researchers questioned 1,319 people aged from 16 to 51 to assess levels of internet dependency and depression.

In general, the longer people spent online the more depressed they tended to be, reported the journal *Psychopathology*.

Dr Morrison said: 'There was a high correspondence between the amount of time spent on the internet and levels of depression.'

'If you look at how dependent people feel they are on the internet, that is likely to correspond with how happy or sad they feel.'

The research team identified 18 hard-core internet users who spent many hours online each day and were classed as 'internet addicted'.



DEPENDENT? Researchers found that the longer people spent on websites, the more unhappy they were

Their average depression score was more than five times higher than that of non-addicted users, and they were more likely to be moderately or

severely depressed.

The addicts spent more time browsing pornography sites, gaming sites and online communities. They also tended to be

young, having an average age of 21.

Dr Morrison added: 'Our research indicates that excessive internet use is associated with

depression, but what we don't know is which comes first - are depressed people drawn to the internet or does the internet cause depression?'

The GM tomato that stays fresh for an extra six weeks



TOMATOES could stay fresh for an extra month thanks to a genetic breakthrough

TOMATOES genetically modified to stay fresh for 30 days longer have been developed by scientists.

The breakthrough could apply to other fruit - including bananas - after the chemicals that make it go soft were identified.

By suppressing the two enzymes, known as A-Man and B-Hex, which accumulate at critical stages during ripening the researchers were able to extend shelf-life by a month.

The phenomenon could be a big boost for farmers everywhere who can lose almost half their harvest because of excessive softening which makes their fruit shrivel up and go rotten before they can get it to the shops.

Dr Asis Datta and colleagues used genetic engineering to 'silence' the enzymes in tomatoes and showed those

lacking A-Man were about two-and-a-half times firmer than conventional counterparts. Ones without B-Hex were twice as hard.

Both types of transgenic tomatoes retained their texture and firmness for up to forty-five days compared with conventional ones which started shrinking and softening after fifteen days.

The researchers whose findings are published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* said the GM plants grew normally and produced typical amounts of vegetation and fruit which matured at the usual rate.

Dr Datta, of the National Institute of Plant Genome Research in New Delhi, said: 'Overall the results demonstrate a substantial improvement in fruit shelf-life.'

Previous efforts have been made to combat the problem by blocking proteins

that damage fruit cells but these have met with 'very limited success.'

Dr Datta said: 'Manipulating the enzymes that alter the speed and duration of ripening may help enhance the shelf-life of tomatoes and, potentially, other fruit.'

'In a globalised economy the control of fruit ripening is of strategic importance because excessive softening limits shelf-life.'

'Our strategy allows the achievement of desired texture/firmness and enhancement of fruit shelf-life by judicious manipulation without any ill effects.'

'The high levels of A-Man and B-Hex activities in the fruits such as papaya, banana, and mango also suggest their potential involvement in the softening of other fruits. 'In conclusion the engineering of plants provides a strategy for crop improvement that can be extended to other important fruit crops.'

Sign Language

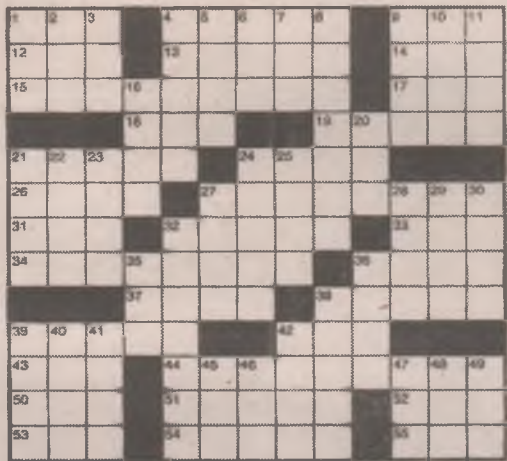


This is a train not your sitting room.
Photo location: Tokyo train, by Laurel Fujisawa
Culled from the telegraph.co.uk

EASY CROSSWORDS

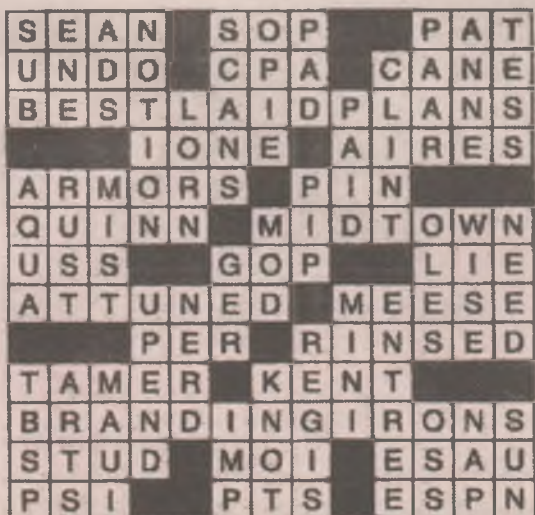
- ACROSS**
- Retirement acct.
 - Shade of gray
 - Hirt and Capone
 - Part of L.A.
 - "Sound of Music" role
 - Major engineering school (abbr.)
 - Statesman Henry _____
 - Shoe width
 - Vex
 - Increased (2 wds.)
 - Imbibe
 - Gulp
 - Umps' kin
 - Hovels
 - Harris and Flanders
 - Imitating
 - Before (prefix)
 - Orchestra member
 - Sign up
 - Earns after taxes
 - Helped out
 - Wanted poster name
 - ____-American
 - Cul-de-____
 - Certain oil source (2 wds.)
 - Biblical vessel
 - Fabricator
 - Ted Turner's channel, for short
- DOWN**
- Type
 - King, in Paris
 - Donkey
 - Smug look
 - Tall and lean
 - Chile's neighbor (abbr.)
 - Even score
 - Pirate's ornament
 - Prayer closing
 - Stead
 - Staircase part
 - Confessors' confes-
 - Salary
 - Put forth effort
 - Vital statistic
- slons**
- FBI worker (abbr.)
 - Carey or Barrymore
 - Make again
 - That being the case (2 wds.)
 - Leg bones
 - Hocus-pocus prop
 - Roasting stick
 - MP3 player from Apple
 - Pennsylvania port
 - Broadcast
 - Fabulous, to a teen
 - Heredity initials
 - Break the
- engage-ment**
- Caution
 - Boss's impatient abbr.
 - Zhivago's love
 - Repulsive, informally
 - State emphatically
 - Not stringent
 - Mamie's hubby
 - Panasonic rival
 - Liverpool's locale (abbr.)
 - Wind dir.

68



Solution to Easy Crosswords

67



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.

80

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

Solution to Sudoku 79

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

News Extra

This is the shocking image of a desperate Vietnamese girl wedged into a tiny space behind a car dashboard stopped in Dover.

The terrified girl, believed to be aged around 16, was found by immigration officers hiding in the miniscule space as she arrived in Britain last year.

Curled up with on a little white bunny for comfort and wearing jeans and a pink t-shirt the girl is surrounded by electrical wiring in sweltering conditions.

A police source said: 'This poor girl was terrified. She was curled up in this tiny space behind a car dashboard with just a cuddly toy for comfort.'

'It's heartbreaking what people will do to get into this country, but some will stop at nothing - even putting their lives literally on the line.'

Detective Sergeant Paul Bratton, of Kent Police, said that illegal immigrants and people smugglers were constantly coming up with bizarre new ways to try and sneak into the country. These include 27 Chinese immigrants who were stowed underneath bus seats and a man who had managed to squeeze into a petrol tank.

He said: 'Once we had a coach where all the seats had been taken out and the floor raised so 27 Chinese people would be stuffed into the bottom.'

'Then the seats were put back and people were sat on top of them.'

'Officials noticed that passengers' heads were rubbing against the parcel shelf.'



THE Vietnamese girl, believed to be 16, had been crammed into a tiny space behind the dashboard of a car stopped at Dover

Teenage Vietnamese immigrant is found hiding behind car dashboard at Dover

'Once we had a car that had been converted so a man could hide in the engine bay beneath the bonnet. And on another occasion a man had managed to squeeze into a petrol tank.'

The officer, who is based at

Dover's Eastern Docks, said that along with the UK Border Agency and port security staff, his team had helped convict 108 people.

Twenty seven of those convicted were guilty of people trafficking and were jailed for a total

of 50 years. DS Bratton said: 'Most of the cases were have to deal with involve economic migrants who want to come here for a better life.'

'We've had lots of cases where in a lorry containing 10 or 11 men, one will have already made

it to the UK and will have come back to help others join him - for a price.'

'Everyone likes to think they're intelligent enough to beat the system, but very rarely is that the case.'

Rickshaw driver chains two-year-old son to a post while he's at work



TWO-YEAR-OLD Chen Chuanliu is regularly padlocked to a tree while his rickshaw driver father touts for customers in Beijing

At first sight it seems the ultimate in child cruelty - a two-year-old boy chained to a lamp post to stop him getting away. Yet his parents say this is the only way they can guarantee not to lose him.

His father Chen Chuanliu works as an unlicensed rickshaw cyclist in Beijing, taking fares all over the city, while the boy's disabled mother collects rubbish at the roadside.

They say they secured their son, Lao Lu, with a padlock around his ankle because his four-year-old sister Ling was 'stolen' from them last month.

Child snatching is rife in China, where strict laws govern the size of families.

Concerned passers-by spotted the shackled toddler outside Huan Shopping Mall in Liangxiang.

They reported his father to the authorities, who yesterday ordered him to remove the chain although it was not clear what arrangements he would make in future.

There is no nursery place for Lao Lu because his 42-year-old father is a migrant worker from another province, Szechuan, and therefore does not qualify for state help. The family live in one room, 9ft by 8ft.

Chen said he could not afford to pay for childcare on his earnings of £4.50 a day and had refused offers of 'a lot of money' to give his son up for adoption.

'My wife cannot take care of him and I have to work to support my family. So I chain him to a pole when I have a fare.'

'I don't even have a picture of my daughter to use for a missing-person poster. I cannot lose my son as well.'

News Extra

Is Zuma's sex life any of our business?



JACOB Zuma and his three wives

South Africans have largely accepted President Jacob Zuma's polygamy - but revelations that he fathered a child out of wedlock have highlighted a gaping cultural divide.

In battling South Africa's HIV/AIDS epidemic, the government advocates regular condom use and faithfulness to one partner.

Mr Zuma has three wives. And now a four-month-old daughter with another woman - 39-year-old Sonono Khoza whose father is a senior football official.

Opposition parties and newspapers, AIDS activists and women's rights groups are up in arms - they accuse Mr Zuma of setting a bad example.

But the government has denied suggestions that his actions contradict his government's policies on AIDS.

And the spotlight on Mr Zuma's sex life has once again opened the debate about his polygamy.

Some have questioned whether it should still be allowed in a country where more than five million people live with HIV.

'Mischievous'

Political commentator Adam Habib is among those who called for Mr Zuma to clarify his position. "If Mr Zuma is convinced that there is no contradiction between his extramarital relationship and government's message on safe sex then he should explain this," Mr Habib says.

But Mr Zuma has responded by saying he has acted responsibly by acknowledging the paternity of



PRESIDENT Jacob Zuma and Thobeka Madiba-Zuma during their traditional marriage January 2010

the child and paying damages known as *inhlawulo* to the family of the baby's mother.

"It is mischievous to argue that I have changed or undermined government's stance on the HIV and AIDS campaign," he said in a statement.

Mr Habib says while a "significant group of citizens" do not have a problem with Mr Zuma's polygamy because he has been "transparent" about it, the gap between those "for it" and those "against it" seems to be widening.

Zulus and Xhosas are among the groups where polygamy is practised, but it has largely become a rural phenomenon.

Traditionalists in rural areas embrace polygamy as an important part of culture.

Moses Twala, of the the Kara Heritage Institute, does not believe there should even be a debate about Mr Zuma's wives, or alleged mistress.

"It is un-African to discuss private matters publicly. It makes me question what purpose this serves except to



MR Zuma recently defended having "many wives" in Davos

degrade someone," he says.

"It is normal for a man in our culture to be married but have children outside of his marriage, that has often been how other marriages have formed."

'Cultural intolerance'

But many South Africans believe polygamy perpetuates inequality between men and women.

The debate is raging even among friends and colleagues on Johannesburg's streets.

Security guard Golden Mushwana says the practice is outdated - asking why a man would ever need three wives.

"Just because polygamy is part of some cultures doesn't mean it is good for society," he says.

But his colleague Tebogo Motshabi disagrees.

"We don't practise polygamy in [my] culture but if we were allowed to I would marry more than one wife, I don't think there

is anything wrong with it if that's what you want," he says.

Mr Zuma's supporters have always rebuffed criticism of his polygamy - and they have been less receptive to critics linking his sexual habits to AIDS policies. To them, such criticism shows "cultural intolerance" or an attitude of "cultural superiority" against black people.

During white minority rule, black cultural practices had no place in society - the government of the time viewed them as inferior.

But black South Africans have for years defined themselves by their cultural values, beliefs and customs and it is important to many black people to retain that.

Cultural and ethnic leaders have been careful not to criticise Mr Zuma's lifestyle in public, lest they be accused of cultural intolerance.

South Africa's constitution recognises the practice under customary law.

And Mr Zuma has always been open about his embracing of Zulu cultural beliefs.

He recently defended having "many wives" at the World Economic Summit in Davos, calling for people to be more accepting of his culture.

"That's my culture. It does not take anything from me, from my political beliefs, including the belief in the equality of women," AFP news agency quoted the president as saying.

Some argue that this kind of openness is vital to the appeal he holds for many rural South Africans and traditionalists.

Culled from bbc.co.uk

News Extra

Mobile phones spark rise in exam cheats

Rising numbers of pupils are being caught cheating in GCSEs and A-levels, it emerged Wednesday.

But while previous generations might have scribbled answers on their cuffs or hands, today's hi-tech cheats are smuggling in mobiles and using them to go on the internet.

Others are storing information on hidden MP3 players and using tiny earpieces.

Figures, published today by exam watchdog Ofqual, show that almost 4,500 pupils were penalised for attempting to cheat last summer - a 6 per cent rise on the year before. The most common offence was bringing banned items into exam rooms - including mobiles, MP3s, BlackBerrys and calculators.

As cheating becomes more sophisticated, schools are fighting back with technology of their own - using detection equipment to identify any pupil attempting to text, email or surf the internet on their phones.

There has also been a rise in the number of pupils using 'sob



ALMOST 4,500 pupils were caught trying to cheat last summer (posed by models)

stories' such as 'stress and anxiety' or pets dying at exam time in attempts to gain extra marks.

Growing numbers of youngsters are also being awarded extra time to sit their papers, to take supervised 'rest breaks', or receive help from prompters - adult helpers whose job is to ensure the candidate's attention remains focused on the paper.

Exam boards insisted yesterday that cheating was still rare.

They said that extra time and

other assistance was designed to put all candidates on a 'level playing field' and compensate for all learning difficulties.

According to Ofqual, 4,415 penalties were handed out to GCSE and A-level students in England, Wales and Northern Ireland last summer, compared with 4,156 in 2008.

Almost half of cases related to 'unauthorised material' being taken into the exam room.

A further 1,000 candidates

HOW THEY DO IT

- Concealed earpieces are used to listen to information pre-recorded on to an iPod or MP3
- The internet is accessed by mobile phone
- Material is viewed on an MP4, which stores video clips as well as sounds
- A contact outside the exam hall is texted or emailed by mobile phone
- An impersonator is sent to sit the exam instead

number of school staff - often teachers - caught giving pupils too much help during exams.

Boards identified 88 cases, up from 68 the year before, which resulted in 27 written warnings and 17 staff being suspended from involvement in exams.

Some 70 schools or colleges were penalised after cheating was found to be the result of serious management failure - up from 52 in 2008.

Another report from Ofqual showed that around 370,000 requests were made for marks to be adjusted due to disadvantage suffered by the candidate during or shortly before the exam.

Special consideration can be granted where pupils are bereaved, but it is also awarded for headaches, stress or hayfever.

Pupils gain a maximum 5 per cent upgrade if they lost a member of their immediate family or were terminally ill.

They can earn a 1 or 2 per cent upgrade for minor ailments, 'extreme distress on day of examination' and 'anxiety for which medication has been prescribed'.



VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC

RC 3094

AUDITED GROUP FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2009

The Directors have pleasure in announcing the audited group financial results for the year ended 30th September, 2009 with comparative figures for the previous year.

	2009 N'000	2008 N'000
Turnover	9,758,542	8,172,005
Profit before taxation and non-controlling interest	780,915	1,013,719
Taxation	(270,139)	(315,423)
Profit after taxation but before non-controlling interest	510,776	698,296
Non-controlling interest	1,756	-
Profit retained for the year	512,532	698,296

DIVIDEND

The Directors recommend to members, a final dividend of N204,750,000 representing 25 kobo per 50 kobo ordinary share in respect of the year ended 30th September, 2009 for declaration at the next Annual General Meeting. Upon approval of the dividend by the shareholders, the warrants will be despatched by 19th March, 2010, to the holders of shares whose names are registered in the Register of Members at the close of business on Friday, 12th February, 2010.

CLOSURE OF REGISTER AND TRANSFER BOOKS

The Members Register and the Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from the commencement of business on Monday, 15th February, 2010 for the preparation of the dividend payment.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held at Sheraton Lagos Hotel and Towers, Mobolaji Bank Anthony Way, Ikeja, Lagos State, on Thursday, 4th March, 2010 at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

Dated this 14th January, 2010

Registered Office:
Oba Akran Avenue
Ikeja, Lagos

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Oluwole Adisa
Company Secretary

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the next Annual General Meeting of the members of VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC will be held at the Lagos Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Mobolaji Bank Anthony Way, Ikeja, Lagos State on Thursday 4th March, 2010 at 10 o'clock in the forenoon for the following purposes:

AGENDA

Ordinary Business

- 1) To present the Report of the Directors, the Balance Sheet as at 30th September, 2009 together with the Profit and Loss Accounts for the year ended on that date and the Reports of the Auditors and the Audit Committee thereon.
- 2) To declare a Dividend.
- 3) To elect Directors.
- 4) To authorise the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors.
- 5) To elect Members of the Audit Committee.

Special Business

- 6) To approve the remuneration of the Directors.
- 7) To consider and if thought fit, pass the following resolution as ordinary resolution:
That the authorized share capital of the company be and is hereby increase from N600,000,000 to N1,200,000,000 by the creation of additional 1,200,000,000 ordinary shares of 50kobo each, ranking pari passu in all respects with the existing ordinary shares of the company.
- 8) To consider and if thought fit, pass the following resolution as special resolution
That the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company be and is hereby amended by deleting clause 5 of the Memorandum and Article 3 of the Articles Association, and substituting for each of the said clause and article, the following:
"The share capital of the Company is N1,200,000,000 divided into 2,400,000,000 ordinary shares of 50kobo each."

PROXY

A Member of the Company entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of him. A proxy need not be a Member. A form of proxy is enclosed and if it is to be valid for the purposes of the Meeting, it must be completed and deposited at the Registered Office of the Company not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the Meeting.

DIVIDEND WARRANT

If the payment of the dividend recommended is approved, the warrants will be despatched by Friday 19th March, 2010, to the holders of shares whose names are registered in the Register of Members at the close of business on Friday, 12th February, 2010.

CLOSURE OF REGISTER AND TRANSFER BOOKS

The Register of Members and the Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from the commencement of business on Monday 15th February, 2010, for the preparation of the dividend payment.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

In accordance with section 359(5) of the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap. C20 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, any shareholder may nominate a shareholder for appointment to the Audit Committee. All nominations in writing should reach the Company Secretary at least 21 days before the time for holding the Annual General Meeting

Dated this 14th January, 2010

Registered Office:
Oba Akran Avenue

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Oluwole Adisa
Company Secretary

CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513

email: citynews@dailytrust.com

News about your capital city

Civil servant wants court to reverse ex-minister's order

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin

A staff of the Ministry of Transport, Abuja, Mrs. Theresa O. Ijeih has asked an Abuja High Court to declare null and void the offer letter issued to one Stanley Ugbo Victor in respect of a two bedroom boys quarters by the former minister of the Federal Capital territory (FCT), Dr. Aliyu Modibbo Umar.

She also wants the court to declare that the purported sale of the two bedroom apartment by the former minister to Stanley

Ugbo Victor, a business man is illegal, null and void and also a declaration that the continued occupation of the apartment is an unlawful trespass.

Mrs. Ijeih in a statement of claim said she genuinely bought the said two-bedroom boys quarters together with a four-bedroom duplex located at block 1 NMA/ Ministry of Transport Staff Quarters, Karu site in the FCT for N6, 468, 000 vide a letter of offer dated October 30, 2005 by the former FCT minister.

The woman, who joined the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) and Stanley Ugbo Victor as defendants in the suit, urged the court to grant an order granting her the possession of the said two bedroom apartment which had always been part of the four bedroom duplex which she purchased following due process of the law.

The plaintiff urged the court to order the FCT minister, FCDA and Stanley Ugbo Victor to pay her N20 million as exemplary

damages for trespass and another N1.7 million being rent for the period the defendants held over the property.

She also sought for a perpetual injunction restraining the defendants or their agents from further trespassing into the said apartment.

When the matter came for hearing Wednesday, the trial Judge, Justice Sunday Aladetoyinbo slated February 22, 2010 to rule on an application for interlocutory injunction.

The judge held that the police has nothing to do in the case and on the property in dispute as the matter is before the court and ordered that the said premises should be locked-up, adding that by the next adjournment, the registrar of the court will have the place sealed up pending the determination of the matter.

"The court has not said the property belongs to anybody. We will sort everything out when the matter comes up at the next adjourned date," the Judge stated.



PIC: ABUBAKAR YAKUBU

ITEMS produced by rural women in the FCT on display at Abuja city centre recently.



PG 43 Students and staff of Nurul-Bayan International Academy with children of Abuja Children's Home recently.

Mechanic denies raping girl

By Foluke Ojumu & Abdullahi Abubakar

A 26-year-old mechanic, Ezeugwu Oliver was on Tuesday arraigned before an Abuja Area Court for alleged house breaking, theft and rape, which is punishable under sections 283, 288 and 346 of the Penal Code Law.

Police Prosecutor Haruna Danlami informed the court that on January 30, 2010, the accused person conspired with two other persons and broke into the room of one Mary Job of Tunga-Mage.

He said the accused persons stole recharge cards of different networks valued at N17, 000, a handset of N69, 200 and raped the younger sister of the victim.

When the charges were read to the accused person, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail.

The prosecutor after the plea asked the court for a hearing date and asked the court to use its discretion to grant bail to the accused or not.

Judge Babangida Hassan granted the accused bail in the sum of N20,000 with a surety in like sum.

He ruled that the surety must be a civil servant, who must own a landed property in the FCT.

The case was adjourned to March 16, 2010 for hearing.

In another case, one Mrs Dupe Benjamin asked a customary court to help retrieve her late sister's property from her husband.

Mrs Benjamin told the court that her late sister, Mrs Toyin Oweye married Mr Kehinde Oweye according to Kabba native laws and customs.

Judges Umaymah Abdullahi, Rakiya Habu and Samson Chogudo adjourned the case to February 9, 2010.

FCT to partner with northern states over beggars

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

THE FCT Administration will soon contact northern state governments to assist in stopping the influx of beggars into the territory.

Secretary, Public Welfare Unit of the FCT Administration, Hajiya Habiba Sani Kalgo said the administration has also written letters

informing state commissioners of social welfare to come for a discussion on that issue.

The secretary made this known while responding to questions from the BBC and VOA Hausa Services yesterday. She said the states will be advised to establish well furnished beggar's centres to accommodate evacuated street

beggars from the FCT in order to learn vocational skills that will give them opportunities to take care of themselves.

According to her, FCTA does not want to evacuate beggars and dump them in their state as it is done by the Lagos state government, saying they prefer that state governments come to take their

indigenes. Hajiya Kalgo added that the FCT minister has secured a piece of land where arrested beggars would be accommodated and served foods and drinks, before being taken to their respective states.

She said the FCTA will provide boxes for alms at public places, such as mosques, churches,

schools, filling stations and mall centres, adding that it will be used to deposit charity donations for street beggars.

She stated that the donations, will be distributed to the needy in collaboration with the leaders of Jama'atu Nasarul Islam (JNI) and the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN).

Dobi denies summoning PDP ward chairmen

By Lami Sadiq & Usman A. Bello

MEMBER representing Abuja South Federal Constituency, Isah Egah Dobi, Wednesday denied ever inviting Peoples Democratic Party's ward chairmen under his constituency for a meeting at Gwagwalada.

It will be recalled that after the meeting on Monday, four ward chairmen and two members of the party lost their lives on their way back to Abaji.

The House of Representatives member, who stated this while sympathising with the families of the deceased persons, said he was innocent of the allegation that he invited the ward chairmen for a meeting.

He wondered why Senator Sidi Ali will use his name as cover up for the meeting, adding that it is unacceptable for a highly respected personality like the Senator to use his name to summon a meeting even among his own very people.

The legislator prayed to Allah to grant the souls of the departed Al-Janna Fir dausi and also give their families the fortitude to bear the losses.

He described death as a necessary end that will come and advised all party members in Abuja south federal constituency to remain focused and never allow acts that are inimical to the peace and cordial relationship of the party creep in.

Five charged over forgery

By Usman A. Bello

THE police yesterday arraigned five persons before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly forging military discharge certificates.

The accused persons, Doom Ajaver, Samuel Leva, James Ayongu, Emmanuel Aver, David Zeve and Tajudeen Oyejola were accused of conspiring to forge military certificates.

Prosecutor Adamu Abdullahi told the court that, Doom Ajaver conspired with four other accused persons and forged military discharge certificates, adding that they have been using it to collect monthly allowances from the Military Pensions Board.


He said one Ayodele attached to the board reported to the police and they were caught on January 28 after defrauding the board of huge sums of money yet to be estimated.

The accused persons pleaded not guilty when the charges were read to them, while their counsel requested for bail.

Chief Magistrate O. O. Oyewumi granted them bail in the sums of N150,000 each with sureties in like sums.

The magistrate ordered that the sureties must be civil servants of not below grade level 07 and must reside within the court's jurisdiction with fixed addresses.

The case was adjourned to February 12 for hearing.



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 **aerial view**

Bapuma residents lament over blackout

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

RESIDENTS of some parts of Dutsen-Bapuma, a community in Bwari Area Council, have continued to lament over power outage since the first week of January.

Some of the residents who spoke to City News yesterday said the last time Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) gave them electricity was one month ago.

Mr. Francis, an artisan, said business is low and life has turned very difficult for him and his family as they depend on electricity for their daily bread.

"The last time I used electricity to work was on January 8, 2010," he lamented.

Another resident, Johnson, said he has not been able to power any of his electronics for up to one month, adding that he is tired of buying petrol to power his generating set.

Others residents spoken to, said the problem has been reported to the PHCN and no action taken.

An electrician, who resides in the community, said the problem has to do with cables that need replacement, disclosing that the community is working with the PHCN to put an end to the outage.

"Each building in the community is to contribute N4,000 to enable PHCN purchase new cables and electric poles," he disclosed.

He said some cables and poles have been bought with some of the poles mounted. "All things being equal, electricity will be restored anytime from now," he promised.

When contacted, a PHCN staff confirmed the move being made to restore electricity; saying once all the materials required are made available, residents will start to enjoy electricity again.

FCT residents praise reduction in land premium

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

THE decision of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) to review land premium in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to the old rates, yesterday received commendation from residents of the territory.

The FCT Minister, Senator Adamu Aliero, had last year announced the upward review of land premium in the territory, saying the resources available to the FCT Administration is grossly inadequate to meet the infrastructural challenges of the territory, hence the need to find ways of generating more revenues.

The decision had not only

received sharp criticisms from members of the public but the National Assembly, which passed a resolution calling on the minister to immediately revert to the old land rates to enable many Nigerians have access to land in the territory.

Many residents who spoke with our reporter yesterday on the new development, described the step taken by the council as a responsible one and urged the FCT minister to start the implementation of the resolution without further delay.

An environmentalist, Toyin Ajayi, observed that the decision will make land easily accessible

to many residents but urged the federal government not to abandon its housing policy in order to enable junior workers and those in the informal sector have access to affordable and habitable apartments.

Mr. Tajudeen Yahaya, a business man, urged the FCTA to continue to monitor the activities of land swindlers, saying their activities have further compounded the land problems in the Abuja.

"We must commend the FEC for this decision but my fear is that if the activities of land racketeers are not closely monitored, the FEC decision might not yield the desired result," he said.

PIC: USMAN A. BELLO



CHURCHILL House receiving a trophy for winning Capital Science Academy's inter-house sports event at Kujeta recently.

Woman remanded in prison custody

By Lami Sadiq & Maureen Onochie

A 37-year-old woman, Selima Mohammed, has been remanded in prison custody by an Abuja Area Court for allegedly attempting to commit an offence.

The accused was said to have trespassed into one Aisha Oparieko's residence at number 10, Ngwa Close, Garki with the intention to steal.

Earlier, the police prosecutor told the court that on January 14, 2010, the accused trespassed into the said house and tried to deceive the complainant's house girl by sending her to buy her recharge card, adding that when she refused, the accused picked a shovel and threatened to kill the girl.

"When the complainant got to the scene, the accused started stoning her with other residents, while one Hassan Mohammed was waiting for her inside a Keke Napep outside the premises," the prosecutor said.

He said the three count charges against the suspect are punishable under Sections 96, 342 and 95 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charges were read to the accused, she pleaded not guilty and requested for bail, which was objected by the prosecutor on the grounds that investigations into the case are ongoing.

Based on her plea, the presiding Judge, Umar Kagarko, ordered that the accused be remanded in prison custody till March 31 when the case will come up for hearing.

NURTW executives in court over arrest of motorists

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

FIVE executive members of the Jabu Motor Park chapter of National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) were on Wednesday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for alleged joint act, extortion and mischief.

Aruwanga Sunday, 58, Samuel Akinyemi, 54, Dominic Njoku, 25, Vincent Okafor, 52 and Abu

Ademo, 52, all executive members of the NURTW, were accused of committing the offences on February 2, 2010 after arresting six motorists.

Police prosecutor, Abdul Alhassan, told the court that on February 2, 2010, one George Lucky and five others reported to the police that the accused persons and 12 others, now at large, jointly arrested them without

committing any offence.

"The accused persons jointly and unlawfully arrested the complainants who are law abiding citizens and seized their car keys as well as extorted money from them, thereby committing offences punishable under Sections 79, 292 and 327 of the Penal Code Law," the prosecutor added.

He further stated that the accused persons also impounded

the vehicles of the complainants, deflated their tyres and broke their windcreens and side mirrors.

When the charges were read to the accused persons, they pleaded not guilty, saying they knew nothing about all the allegations levelled against them by the police.

Chief Magistrate David Ochimana granted each of the accused persons bail in the sum

of N200,000 with a reliable surety who must have a landed property within the jurisdiction of the court.

He also ruled that the sureties must reside within the court's jurisdiction and swear to affidavits to produce the accused persons in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to March 4 for hearing.

COMMITTEE OF PROVOSTS, COLLEGES OF EDUCATION IN NIGERIA (COP)

COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE END OF THE MAIDEN NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE OF PROVOSTS, COLLEGES OF EDUCATION IN NIGERIA HELD BETWEEN 27th – 28th JANUARY, 2010 AT NCCE, ABUJA.

Theme: The Emerging Challenges of Teacher Education in Nigeria

The maiden National Conference of the Committee of Provosts of Colleges of Education in Nigeria was held at the National Commission for Colleges of Education [NCCE], Abuja between 27th – 28th January, 2010 with the following resolutions:

- The Committee of Provosts of Colleges of Education in Nigeria has noted with appreciation the effort of the government at addressing Teacher Education issues in the country and urges for continuity.
- That Government [Federal and State] and Private owners of Colleges of Education should implement the designed NCE and UBE curricular by providing adequate and commensurate funds to ensure resounding success.
- That there should be constant in-service training for Teachers and Teachers Training.
- That regulatory agencies overseeing educational activities should intensify their efforts in ensuring quality of delivery education.
- That ETF be commended for its worthy interventionist strides in Tertiary Education.
- That instructional delivery in our educational institutions [Colleges of Education] should be ICT driven.
- That Bursary award be introduced to those who are in Colleges of Education and those in the Faculties of Education in Nigeria Universities in order to attract best brains teaching.
- That Colleges of Education and Universities should engage in collaborative research on ways to improve classroom instructions.
- That the Education Roadmap which is in tandem with vision 20:2020 be pursued with diligence to ensure NCE as the minimum teaching qualification.
- That money spent on institutions such as National Agency for Reorientation be ploughed into Education because Education can re-orientate the citizenry better.
- That government should intensify efforts in making Colleges of Education award Bachelor of Education Degree.
- That government should give necessary assistance to the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria [TRCN] in its efforts at Professionalizing Teaching.
- That JAMB be commended for the introduction of Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination [UMTE]. However, it should be conscious of the fact that only the best is good for Teacher Education.

Signed

Dr. Shettima Abdulkadir Saidu.
(Chairman COP)

OBAFEMI AWOLowo UNIVERSITY ILE-IFE
QUANTITY SURVEYING LECTURERS WORKSHOP & TRAINING SESSION**INVITATION TO A 2- DAY WORKSHOP AND TRAINING SESSION**

The Department of Quantity Surveying, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife in conjunction with the Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors, Oyo State Chapter, is organizing a 2-day Workshop and Training for all Quantity Surveying Lecturers in Nigerian Higher Institutions. Details are as follows:

- Theme:** BESMM 3 and SMRS 1:
ADDING VALUE TO QUANTITY SURVEYING TRAINING
- Date:** Wednesday, 10 and Thursday, 11 February, 2010
- Venue:** Faculty of EDM Conference Hall, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife
- Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily
- Registration Fee:** FREE for QS Lecturers only
- Workshop Facilitators:** E. C. OFOREH FNIQS, PPNIQS
F. O. ADETOLA FNIQS, PPNIQS

The following persons can be contacted for further details:

- Mr. J. O. Dada 08035729341
e mail: debbyioe2002@yahoo.com, debbyioe@oauife.edu.ng
- Mrs. G. K. Ojo 08035059790
e mail: graceojo@oauife.edu.ng

Certificate of participation

Certificate of participation will be issued to all participants at the end of the Workshop. The Workshop attracts 6 units of Continuous Professional Development

Workshop Sponsors

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Signed

Dr. (Mrs.) Bola Babalola
Acting Head of Department

FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL)
P.M.B. 60, GOMBE, GOMBE STATE
(OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR)**SALE OF 2009/2010 DATA FORM**
FOR ADMISSION INTO DEGREE PROGRAMME

This to inform interested candidates that the Federal College of Education (Technical), Gombe has been granted approval to offer degree programmes in affiliation with the University of Maiduguri. Therefore, interested candidates can pay for the Data forms for admission at Zenith Bank at a non refundable fee of three thousand Naira

(N3,000.00) only, and collect the form at the Academic Office of the College as from Tuesday, 2nd February, 2010.

2. Closing date for the sale and submission of the Data forms is Friday, 19th February, 2010.

The following are the degree programmes to be offered:-

- B. Sc. Ed. Agriculture
- B. Sc. Ed. Business Education
- B. Sc. Ed. Biology
- B. Sc. Ed. Chemistry
- B. Sc. Ed. Computer Science
- B. Sc. Ed. Integrated Science
- B. Sc. Ed. Mathematics
- B. Sc. Ed. Physics
- B. Tech. Automobile Technology Education
- B. Tech. Building Technology Education
- B. Tech. Electrical/Electronics Technology Education

2009/2010 ADMISSION INTO DEGREE PROGRAMMES

Admission Requirements:-

- Five (5) 'O' Level credits in GCE, SSCE, NECO, NTC/NBC or its equivalent in relevant subjects which must include Mathematics and English at not more than two sittings.
- NCE with a minimum of Merit or Credit passes in two major subjects.
- At least two GCE 'A' level passes in any relevant subjects.
- National Diploma (ND) at lower credit level in any of the relevant courses.
- Any other approved equivalent qualification.

Signed:
Registrar**UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA UNIVERSITY**
P.M.B. 2218, DUTSIN-MA ROAD, KATSINA**ADVERTISEMENT OF STAFF VACANCY**
1st February, 2009 (Safar 18, 1430)

The Umaru Musa Yar'adua University, Katsina invites applications from suitably qualified candidates to fill in vacant post of **DIRECTOR, PHYSICAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (CONTISS 15)**:

The Directorate of Physical Planning and Development is, among other duties, responsible for maintenance of physical facilities of the University, supervision of construction of buildings and other infrastructure and liaising with Consultants on the implementation of Master Plan.

1. QUALIFICATIONS:

By appointment only. To be eligible for appointment as Director, a candidate shall:

- Possess B. Eng. (Civil) degree not below second class;
- Be registered with COREN;
- Be an active member of Nigerian Society of Engineers;
- Have eighteen (18) years relevant working experience, half of which should have been in a University or similar institution;
- Show evidence of leadership in Physical Planning and Development of a University or similar institution;
- Possess experience in rehabilitation and care of University estate
- Have ability to design and implement physical development plans;
- Demonstrate computer knowledge and application in engineering works; and
- Be of good character.

2. SALARY:

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3. CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

As obtainable in the Nigerian University System.

4. METHOD OF APPLICATION

Interested Applicants are to submit 10 copies of application with their Curriculum Vitae and photocopies of all credentials and certificates to reach the Registrar, Umaru Musa Yar'adua University, P. M. B. 2218, Katsina not later than two weeks from the date of this advertisement.

4.1 Applicants are advised to request three referees to send their confidential reports directly to the Office of the Registrar within the same period.

4.2 Late submission of application will not be allowed.

Abdu Halliru Abdullah!
Registrar

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Army commissions Abuja operations camp

By Benjamin Auta

THE desire by the Nigerian Army to be able to move its troops and equipment into peacekeeping or peace support operations recently received a massive boost with the commissioning of the Forward Operating Base (FOB) camp in Abuja.

With the nation ranked fourth among troop contributing countries in the world the need for embarkation and disembarkation points for most of the units which have been trained for deployment into battle zones to keep or enforce peace there is a need for a point to assemble.

According to the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lt. Gen. Abdulrahman Dambazau, during the commissioning of the base in Abuja, the FOB will serve as a rest area for inducted troops prior to their flight to designated mission areas as well as de-inducting them prior to the departure to their unit after their mission.

He added that the FOB will serve as area for security checking to ensure that no illegal substance or prohibited items are either taken out or brought into the country from mission areas as well as making it a staging area for the conduct of post mission medical screening of de-inducted troops.

ESVRBON inducts 125 estate surveyors

ONE hundred and twenty-five people were registered as estate surveyors and valuers on Saturday in Abuja, bringing the total legally recognised and registered estate surveyors and valuers in the country to 2,384.

However, the Chairman, Estate Surveyors and Valuers Registration Board of Nigeria, Mr. Jonathan Idudu, said that the figure was still a far cry when compared to the national population of over 140 million people.

He said that the present management of the board was determined to get as many qualified persons registered as estate surveyors and valuers as quickly as possible.

This, according to him, is to substantially reduce the nefarious activities of quacks in the country by registering many more qualified estate surveyors and valuers.

Idudu said, "In this regard, the board has put requisite machinery in place, in collaboration with the relevant law enforcement agencies, to check the spread of pseudo practice and bring to book culprits found guilty of the offence."

"It is worthy to stress here that the board has instituted actions in courts against quacks who would not heed its warning."

While addressing the newly registered valuers, the ESVRBON Chairman said, "Let me advise those who are being registered as members today to know that the stamps, seals and certificates to be awarded are properties of the Board and it reserves the right to withdraw these items at any time if abused."

It is worthy to stress here that the board has instituted actions in courts against quacks who would not heed its warning



FCT Minister of State, Chief Chuka Odom (middle), flanked by the Chairman of Kuje area council, Mr. Danladi Etsu Zhin (right), Chief of Staff to the FCT Minister, Alhaji Sadeeq Yelwa (2nd left), and the FCT Secretary for Social Development, Hajia Habiba Sani Kalgo (left) during the commissioning of the new arts gallery in Abuja recently

Lagos City Hall comes alive again

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

ON July 20th, 1968 the Lagos City Hall was declared opened by the then Military Governor of Lagos State, Brig-Gen. Mobolaji Johnson.

But 30 years after it was commissioned for public use, the Lagos City Hall was gutted by a mysterious fire and it was renovated and handed back to the Lagos Island Local Government authority this Tuesday amidst pomp and pageantry among indigenes of Lagos.

Speaking at the ceremony which drew the crème de la crème of the society like former Governor, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu

under whose administration the rehabilitation work started, Oba of Lagos, Oba Rilwan Akiolu I, National Chairman of the Action Congress, Chief Bisi Akande, first military Governor, Rtd General Mobolaji Johnson, first civilian Governor of Lagos State, Alhaji Lateef Jakande, former Governor of Ogun State, Chief Segun Osoba and others, Governor Babatunde Fashola said the new City Hall would become the newest address for entertainment and tourism.

The governor added that the hall would also serve as a reference point for social engagements and business and would be managed on behalf of the State and Local Govern-

ment by a team of Nigerian consultants. He added that the team would receive bookings and ensure maintenance of security around the building.

Also speaking during the event, former Governor, Bola Ahmed Tinubu under whom the reconstruction commenced in 2007 said it is a thing of great joy that the Action Congress has succeeded in restoring the dignity of the City Hall as it promised then.

He thanked all Lagosians for believing in him even when many cynics thought it was impossible to bring back the City Hall by supporting with their votes and making it possible for the contractors to work without inhibitions.

NSE wants council on construction industry

By Nasir Imam

THE President of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), Engr. Olumuyiwa Alade Ajibola has called for the establishment of a National Council on Construction Industry charged with the duties of regulating the Nigerian construction industry and also making and implementing regulations under the bill.

Speaking during a presentation at the Public hearing on the bill at the National Assembly, Engr. Ajibola also observed that there was no provision for enforcement and punishment for violations in the draft bill stating that the greatest problems with the implementation of laws and policies in Nigeria was the enforcement. He therefore

Earlier, the Chairman of the House Committee on Public Procurement, Hon. Yusuf Tuggar said the bill seeks to make it

obligatory for the government of Nigeria and all its Agencies to award construction contracts of up to N5 billion to Nigerian Indigenous Construction Company and to motivate and protect indigenous contractors engaged in construction in Nigeria.

"Our indigenous contractors have not been able to compete favourably with their foreign counterparts in the construction sector mainly due to their financial disadvantage. This bill when passed will go a long way in remedying the anomaly" he said.

Mr Tuggar said the oil and gas sector was at the local content initiative and wondered why it cannot also be applied in the construction industry. The public hearing was attended by Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA), representatives of major construction companies in the country and unions in the industry.

Property



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Niger votes N16bn for three arms zone

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

NIGER State Government has set aside N16 billion for the construction of a three arms zone along Maitunbi area of Minna, the commissioner of works and infrastructure, Alhaji Umar Nasko said in Minna.

According to the commissioner, the move is part of effort to give the state capital a befitting look and to also centralize the executive, legislative and judiciary arm of government in a fixed location.

"The Niger state government has concluded plans to construct a three arms zone which is expected to gulp a

total of N16 million", he said.

Alhaji Umar Mohammed Nasko who disclosed this in an interview yesterday in Minna explained that work has commenced with the construction of road networks to landscape the area at a total cost of N900 million from last year N6 billion bonds.

He said that the three arms zone is to have components of complexes which include a new government house and governor lodge, the house of assembly complex and residential area for legislatives members.

Other structures to be on the three arms zone includes Judiciary complex, a complex for the office of the Secretary

to State Government, commissioners quarters, places of worship, school, commercial areas, parks and zoological garden.

He however said that the project is not captured in the 2010 budget as he added that the state government has already started to exploit all avenues towards setting aside funds to execute the work.

He said with the road network running through the massive peace of land, work has already commenced in the place as he maintained that financial inputs will be thrown into the project intermittently pending when it would be properly captured in a budget

Group honours house builder in Abuja

By Ben Atonko

FOUNDER of Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI, as well as the Fuller Centre for Housing, the late Millard Fuller, was last Tuesday remembered in Abuja by a group called the Fuller Centre Nigeria.

The Fuller Centre Nigeria displayed pictures of the deceased humanitarian covering his days as a child to when he became a missionary working across the continents of the world.

The late Fuller, who while on earth worked towards helping the poor get decent accommodation for themselves, died 3rd February 2009. He was aged 74.

Speaking at the two-day exhibition, chairman of the board of the Fuller Centre Nigeria, Archbishop Josiah Idowu Fearon, said the late Fuller rose from a humble beginning in Alaba, the US and through a ministry in housing, he built many modest houses and gave them out on no-profit basis, thereby making homes affordable to families with low incomes.

He said homeowner families were made to invest their labour into construction of their homes so money for building went into a revolving fund, enabling the

building of even more homes.

The archbishop explained that the late Fuller came to Africa in 1973 to test his housing model.

Having succeeded in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo), Fearon said, "Fuller became convinced the model could be expanded and applied all over the world."

According to him, the project has found its foot in Nigeria with the construction of 50 housing units in Masaka, Nasarawa State.

He said a unit is sold for N480,000. All one needs do to own Fuller's house in Masaka is to pick a form, fill it and pay initial deposit of N80,000. The rest is spread over five years.

Sam Odia who is National Director of the Fuller Centre Nigeria stated that 50 houses have been completed and given out so far.

He however lamented that bottlenecks and high cost of land in the urban areas stand as barrier to the efforts to provide many affordable houses for the poor.

He pleaded with authorities to donate land to the centre like it is done in other countries so more homes could be built.

Sam Odia who is National Director of the Fuller Centre Nigeria stated that 50 houses have been completed and given out so far.

UNILAG planning dept scrutinises emerging African cities

EGGHEADS at the Department of Urban & Regional Planning, University of Lagos, will next week at a forum explore how African cities are facing up to the current global challenges.

At the Department's First National Conference organized to celebrate its 10th year anniversary, academicians, urban planners, architects, estate valuers and other built environment industry practitioners will seek to unravel how cities across the world are responding to emerging socio-economic and ideological circumstances. The conference has "Emerging global cities: The African challenge" as its theme.

"Among the prominent factors influencing city identity and position are their economic strength, level of social and technical infrastructure, technology adoption, religious and ethnic inclina-

tions and colonial influences," said Prof. S. O. Fadare, the Conference Committee chairman.

He added that African cities are on the most part unable to parade acceptable identities that could qualify them for favourable global ranking as they are grossly deficient especially in key development indicator areas.

Fadare listed major challenges facing African countries to include addressing geo-political, cultural and economic conflicts; as well as improving their urban façade without losing indigenous character and identity.

Head of Department, Dr. Leke Oduwaye, underlined the need for solutions to bring Africa out of the dilemma, saying, "Hence the timeliness and essence of the conference."

THE MOST UNUSUAL HOMES



FLOATING Home in Ukraine. This house literally defies gravity

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Job Announcement Country Program Coordinator – Nigeria

The African Development Foundation (ADF), an agency of the United States Government, is seeking applications from qualified Nigerian citizens for a Personal Services Contract (PSC) to assist in the coordination of its country program in Nigeria. The contractor will be responsible for helping ADF fulfill its administrative oversight and program management responsibilities in the implementation of grant agreements. This includes assisting in the identification of new projects (including screening applications and visiting potential grantees); monitoring the performance of ADF's in-country program partner; assisting with the analysis of grantee financial records and other activities associated with closing out completed grants, ensuring the smooth operation of the CPC office; and coordinating travel and other logistics for ADF personnel traveling to Nigeria from Washington, DC. The contractor will be responsible for submitting accurate and timely reports in English to headquarters staff in Washington.

Key skills and knowledge of the contractor include:

1. Bachelor's degree from an accredited university in business administration, management, public administration, finance, accounting, community development, economics, and/or related field.
2. Three years of professional experience in business development, finance, banking, auditing, monitoring and evaluation, or management of international development programs. Experience in Nigeria preferred.
3. Experience with auditing or monitoring/evaluating international development programs
4. Availability to travel extensively throughout Nigeria – up to one week per month.

Applicants will be evaluated according to:

1. Relevance of professional experience
2. Educational background
3. Experience working with marginalized and/or community-based groups
4. Interview – **only top candidates will be invited to interview**

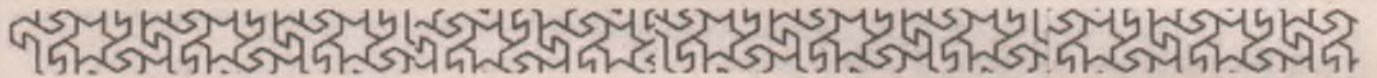
Only Nigerian citizens are eligible for consideration.

A solicitation that includes the complete position description and list of required qualifications will be available at <http://www.usadf.gov/contracting.html> on or about February 3, 2010.

Applications will be accepted only via email. See the solicitation for details.

Applications submitted after February 20, 2010, 11:59pm (Washington, DC time) will not be considered.

Trust Islamic



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.

ASK YOUR IMAM

Can a wife call her husband by his name?

There is nothing wrong with a woman calling her husband by his name, because there is no evidence to indicate that that is not allowed. But people's customs and traditions should be taken into account in this matter. If the custom in some land is that a woman should call her husband by his kunya (Abu so and so) for example, and they think that calling him by his name is ill-mannered, or if the husband does not like to be called by his name, then the women should pay attention to that, because she is required to treat her husband well and it is not good treatment to call him in a manner that he dislikes or that is regarded by people as not good.

Each spouse should address the other by the name that he or she likes best, because that brings about love and affection. And Allaah knows best.

How should an ex-wife relate with her ex-husband?

Is it permissible for me to go out with my ex-husband in the company of our children on occasions, so that they can be together with both parents like other children. That is done in public places. Also, he does not pray - is the money that he spends on them haram?

If a man has issued the last of three talaqs (divorces), or he has divorced her once or twice and her 'iddah has ended, then she becomes a stranger (non-mahram) to him, and it is not permissible for her to be alone with him or to touch her or to look at her.

The relationship of an ex-husband with his ex-wife is like his relationship with any other non-mahram woman. The fact that they have children does not justify his looking at her, being alone with her or travelling with her. He can go out with his children without her being there, or she can be present with one of her mahrams, without doing any of the haram things that we have mentioned.

Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyah (may Allaah have mercy on him) said: A thrice-divorced woman is a stranger (non-mahram) to the man like any other non-mahram woman, so the man does not have the right to be alone with her, just as he does not have the right to be alone with any non-mahram woman. And he cannot see of her what he cannot see of any non-mahram woman, and there are no special rulings concerning the relationship between them (other than the rulings governing all interactions between non-mahrams). Al-Fataawa al-Kubra, 3/349.

With regard to accepting what the divorced husband spends on his children, there is no reason not to do so, even if he does not pray. She should remind her children of the importance of advising their father to pray, and may Allaah guide him through this advice.

If the mother fears that her children may be adversely affected by their kaafir father or that he may lead them to do something that Allah has forbidden, it is not permissible for her to allow them to go out with him, because their going out with him is causing them harm. And Allaah knows best.

Should he take relocation allowance without going on transfer?

I work in a government department, and I was going to be transferred but then the transfer did not take place. Despite that I was still paid the relocation costs. Should I take this money and spend it on things that are just for work? Please note that I am a secretary for a department head and sometimes I need money for things that are required for work. Or should I leave it, knowing that it has been allocated in the budget in my name, and all I have to do is go and collect it? Please advise me, may Allah reward you with good.

It is not permissible for you to take the relocation costs when you are not going to relocate. What you have to do is to leave that money alone and not collect it. You also have to tell the people in charge that you are not entitled to this money. Perhaps by doing that you will set a good example to your colleagues.

Strive to ensure your food is good [from halaal sources], for Allah has enjoined upon the believers that which He has enjoined upon the Messengers, which is to eat of good [halaal] things and to do righteous deeds. Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

“O (you) Messengers! Eat of the Tayyibaat [all kinds of Halaal (lawful) foods which Allah has made lawful (meat of slaughtered eatable animals, milk products, fats, vegetables, fruits)] and do righteous deeds. Verily, I am Well-Acquainted with what you do” [al-Mumin'oon 23:51]

“O you who believe (in the Oneness of Allaah — Islamic Monotheism)! Eat of the lawful things that We have provided you with, and be grateful to Allaah, if it is indeed He Whom you worship” [al-Baqarah 2:172]

And the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “Everybody that is nourished from haram sources, the Fire is more suited to it.” Narrated by al-Tabaraani and classed as saheeh by al-Albaani in Saheeh al-Jaami'.

And Shaykh Ibn Baaz (may Allah have mercy on him) was asked: I am an employee working in a government department, and sometimes we are paid overtime by the administration, without us been asked to do any overtime and without us coming to work. They regard it as an occasional bonus for the employees, and the boss knows about that and approves of it. Is it permissible to take this money? If it is not permissible, then what should I do about the money that I have taken previously, noting that I have spent it?

He replied: If the situation is as you describe, that is a reprehensible action which is not permitted. Rather it is a kind of betrayal. You have to return the money that you have taken in this manner to the state treasury. If you cannot do that, then you have to give it in charity to the poor Muslims or to charitable projects, as well as repenting to Allaah, and you must resolve sincerely not to do that again, because it is not permissible for a Muslim to take something from the Bayt al-Maal (treasury) of the Muslims except in ways that are permitted in sharee'ah, and that are known to and approved of by the state. Fataawa Islamiyyah, 4/312.



BABA Adinni Of Egbaland, Dr. Abdullateef Adegbite

Nigerian Muslims not at loggerheads with Christians — NSCIA

BY Muideen Olaniyi

NIGERIAN Muslims are not at logger-heads with their Christian counterparts, the Secretary-General of Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) and Seriki and Baba Adinni of Egbaland, Dr. Abdullateef Adegbite said yesterday.

Dr. Adegbite who was speaking against the backdrop of recent media reports that an al-Qaeda group in North Africa has offered to train and equip Nigerian Muslims against non-Muslims in any face-off, reiterated that “the recent unfortunate bloody Jos disturbances like others before were not caused by religious differences but were rooted in ethnic and political rivalry.”

The NSCIA scribe said Islam is against violence, adding that Nigerian Muslims “are irrevocably committed to the unity, peace and stability of Nigeria.”

He said: “Our attention has

been drawn to Media reports that an al-Qaeda group in North Africa offered to train and equip Nigerians ostensibly in support of Nigerian Muslims against non-Muslims in any sectarian face-off.

“Neither al-Qaeda nor the Taliban have foothold in Nigeria. Nor would Nigerian Muslims welcome any attempts by them to establish their cells here.

The Nigerian Muslim leadership is enlightening their followers, especially the youths, on the need to be alert and avoid evil persons who may want to indoctrinate and recruit them into groups likely to indulge in un-Islamic activities.

“It is worth repeating that Islam is a religion of peace and is decisively against violence. We have been warning Muslims all over the country to watch out for and report suspicious movements and groups who may be harbouring violent ideas and tendencies,” Dr. Adegbite further stated.

Cleric tasks journalists on truthfulness in reporting

BY Muideen Olaniyi

AN Islamic cleric, Uztadh Luqman Ahmad, has challenged journalists on the need to be truthful at all times in the discharge of their social responsibilities.

Delivering a lecture on “The Importance of Truth and the Condemnability of Lying”, Ahmad advised media practitioners to always engage in thorough investigations before writing any potentially slanderous report.

The cleric, who was the Guest Lecturer at the monthly meeting of Muslim Media Practitioners of Nigeria (MMPN), urged journalists to avoid the temptation of mixing lies with the truth, saying lie is the compendium of all evils.

He said: “The need for painstaking investigation applies more to people in the media community. Anything that you want to give to the whole world, you need to carry out investigation to ensure that only truthful information is given to the whole world.

Inside Politics

Solution to Jos crisis lies in prosecution of leaders – Shehu Sani

MALAM Shehu Sani is the President of Civil Rights Congress, a human rights organization. In this interview with Daily Trust, he says the solution to the protracted Plateau crisis lies in prosecuting political and religious leaders. Excerpts:

From Isa Liman, Zaria

HOW would you view the recent violence in Plateau State from the human right perspective?

In this kind of violence, people lose their lives in a number of ways including raid or ambush, field combat between warring groups; police shoot at sight strategy or stray bullets. In all, arson, murder or genocide is the result. If you take a look at the historical of past crisis in other states including that of Jos, you will discover a recurring pattern of docility, recklessness and negligence on the side of the authorities. You also discover failure of intelligence on the side of the Police and other security agencies, belated intervention and scapegoatism.

But it is the failure of effective intelligence in Nigeria that leads to the escalation of crises. Most often, security intervenes after much harm has been done.

The persons arrested are not usually those who perpetrated the dastardly acts. People are only arrested because arrest has to be made and because arrest symbolizes the notion of being seen or seen to be doing something.

If we want to bring a permanent end to the crisis in Jos, we have to stop prosecuting street hoodlums, petty thieves and pick pockets and go up the ladder to

prosecute political and religious elites for genocide.

The redeployed Plateau State Commissioner of Police had, during a press briefing, said the latest Jos crisis was caused by some Muslims youths who 'without any provocation' attacked some Christian worshippers. So with this comment and reports that security personnel have taken side in the conflict, can we say that the police in Jos were out to complete a hidden agenda?

When I was writing my book; Killing fields: Religious violence in Northern Nigeria, I visited all the states in the North and beyond gathering data of religious violence right from 1979. It is fascinating but absurd that in almost all the clips I laid my hands on, it is Muslims that are always blamed. To blame the Muslims have become the order, the stigma and the pattern. And because it is a stigma, it has afforded people of other faiths the cover to start up violence, escalate it and assume the role of victims. But this analysis is only relevant if you prefer to tag killers, arsonists, rapist and vandals as either Christians or Muslims.

Muslims are statistically a minority in Plateau, it is logically impossible to think a minority could risk inviting the wrath of a majority.

The crisis is said to have been ignited by an attempt to renovate a house destroyed in the previous crisis...

That is the widely held belief but beyond renovation in my research, I found out that religious violence in Northern Nigeria is caused by a number of factors which include poverty, failure of leadership at all levels; impunity for perpetrators of past violence, disconnect between people and government, pervasive corruption that broadens the gap between the rich and the poor; failure of intelligence, ill equipped police force, lack of legislation on religious violence, proliferation of arms and ammunitions, refusal to implement past panel reports, absence of institutional mechanism to promote peace and integrity, indigen-settler syndromes, diversion of security votes, manipulation of religion, proliferation of religious leaders and preachers, marginalization, social injustice, lack of national consciousness, absence of a genuine national conference to debate this and other issues and then to intelligently, systematically, and institutionally address them once and for all.

All said and done, the redeployed Commissioner of Police is not the problem, but he is a problem. The problem is the political



MALAM Shehu Sani

and religious elite in Plateau; they hold the ace for peace or war even if they can't dictate its outcome.

Do you favour declaration of state of emergency in Plateau State as a solution to the recurrent crisis?

Declaration of state of emergency cannot bring about permanent peace in the Plateau. It had been tried before and here we are again. Declaration of emergency is a palliative, it's like anti-retroviral drug. It can contain but can't cure. The peculiarity of the case in Plateau is that of a history of hate and a sustain culture of xenophobia, jingoism and ethnic cleansing

in the guise of faith. The violence in Jos has similarity with the one in Kafanchan (1987) and Zangon Kataf (1992) all in Kaduna state. People of Plateau have shed enough blood, check this out. YMAN 1980, Hausa-Benin 1987; Jos North 1994; Mwaghavuls versus Rons (1995), Jos North (2001), Yelwa Shendan conflict in 2002; Sabon gada (2004) and so on, up to this recent one.

Violence begins from the heart and it is in the heart that peace lies. The earlier Christian and Muslim masses realized that the rich and powerful among Muslims and Christians don't kill each other, but only take tea and shake hands, the better for them.

How do you think the federal government can better handle this problem?

FOR over 30 years, each time we have a violence of this kind, after condemnation, the next thing the government does is to set up a commission of enquiry and we had a number of them like the Suleiman Gurin Committee 1985, John Shagaya's 1986, Federal Government Judicial Panel on Kafanchan, 1987, Justice Babalakin 1991 up to Justice Ajibola that is still sitting.

You need not to go further than that because none of these reports had ever been implemented to the latter.

Anambra: INEC absolves self over delay in movement of materials

From Johnkennedy Uzoma, Beatrice Onuchukwu, Awka

THE Resident Electoral Commissioner for Anambra State Mr. Josiah Chukwudi Uwazuruony has exonerated the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for the delay in movement of sensitive election materials to respective Local Government headquarters for tomorrow's election.

Speaking at INEC headquarters in Awka yesterday, Uwazuruony blamed

party representatives for causing unnecessary delay in moving the election materials to the local governments. He described the allegations as false.

The REC said party's agents, in company of some INEC officials including some security agents, had inspected the electoral materials at the airport in Enugu and followed them down to Awka but turned round to blame INEC for alleged irregularities. He said all parties had taken full records of all the materials brought to Awka in readiness for the conduct of

the election.

An All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA) chieftain Mr. Mike Areh had complained that 16 consignments were received from the airport in Enugu but only 13 were presented in Awka with 3 missing. He said INEC must produce them.

Representative of Action Congress (AC) Hon. Bona Orakwe corroborated the claim of APGA, adding that they discovered that form EC8E were removed at the office of the resident commissioner.

...A/Ibom police command mobilises 1000 men

THE Akwa Ibom Police Command has mobilised 1,000 conventional policemen and a unit of Mobile Police Force for tomorrow's gubernatorial election in Anambra State.

The Police Commissioner, Mr Walter Rugbere, made this known in Uyo on yesterday.

Rugbere, who expressed the hope for successful polls in Anambra, said that the police were well equipped to maintain law and order before, during and after the election.

He said that as at 3.15 p. m. on Wednesday, more than 15 vehicles including police trucks and luxuri-

ous buses conveying the personnel left Uyo for Anambra.

The police commissioner said that the contingent from Akwa Ibom would be part of the total pool of security operatives expected in Anambra State for the election. (NAN)

Stop selling nomination forms, PDP tells state officials

By Muideen Olaniji

THE ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) yesterday asked state officials of the party to halt the sale of forms to aspirants eyeing any office in the 2011 elections.

Osun State chapter of the party had commenced the sale of nomination forms but the party had earlier cautioned its members against falling into the hands of fraudsters.

But PDP National Publicity Secretary, Prof. Rufai Ahmed Alkali who was speaking on the outcome of the National Working Committee (NWC) meeting, directed state officials who had sold nomination forms to refund such monies forthwith and await guidelines to be released by the National Secretariat.

Alkali advised members of the PDP, especially aspirants for offices in the 2011 elections to await the publication of guidelines at the appropriate time by the National Secretariat of the party in order not to fall victim of any unauthorized procedures.

On the current membership registration, Alkali said the exercise was essentially for new entrants into the party, either as decampers from other parties or those who have attained the age of 18 years from the last election.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

NOTICE OF DEATH

This is to inform the General Public that Suleiman Bukar, a staff of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) is dead. He died on 20th February, 2009 in Damaturu, Yobe State.
Sulaiman Bukar left behind three wives and many children and was buried according to Islamic injunctions.
His family have applied to the High Court of Justice Damaturu for grant of "Letters of Administration" which was granted and signed by M. Lawu Lawan Esq, the Probate Registrar.
The name of the deceased has also appeared in the Yobe State Gazette No 21 Vol. 19 of 21st May, 2009.
Signed
All Baba Gana
For the family

Association of Muslim Patients Welfare (AMPW)

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 the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.
The Trustees are:
1. Dr Garba Musa Fika (Chairman)
2. Professor Musa Alabe
3. Halliru A Mohammed
4. Alhaji Muhammad Kawi
5. Adamu M Balahiba
Aims and Objectives
1 To help the needy patients and establish a voluntary body towards assisting destitute (patients)
2 To enlighten the general public and the community on the importance of helping needy patients.
Any objection to the registration of the above named organization should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.
Signed: Dr Garba Fika, Chairman

KWANNAWA YOUTH VANGUARD (KYV)

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 Allied Matters Act of the 1990.
TRUSTEES NAME
1. Alh. Garba Nabbada
2. Mohammed Nura Ibrahim
3. Dr. Sheikh Danjuma Abubakar
4. Haj. Halima Abdullahi
5. Mal Muh'd Galadi
Aims and objectives
1. To encourage youth empowerment through skill acquisition.
2. To enhance the family life of individuals.
3. To increase parental involvement to support and reinforce health issues.
Any objection (s) to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission plot 420 Tigris crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama Abuja within 28 days from the date of this publication.
Signed:
Garba Saliu Abubakar

GOD FOUNDATION MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 1990.
The Trustees are:-
1. Rev (Dr.) Hannah Eyo President/General Overseer
2. Evangelist (Engr) Naikan Eyo. 3. Evangelist Eka Edward Ekpo
4. Deaconess Queen Sunday Eyo
5. Rev. (Dr) Anisio Jonah Etuk
6. Deaconess Esther Sunday Eyo
7. Deacon Samuel Sunday Eyo
Aims objectives are:-
1. To propagate the gate of Jesus Christ in Nigeria and other parts of the world.
2. To conduct evangelistic campaigns, Missionary work, conferences, seminars and fellowship
3. To embark on charitable and welfare services to the sick, widows, orphans and the poor.
Any objection there to should be addressed to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama, P.M.B 195, Abuja within 28 days of this notice.
Signed: Rev. (Dr) Hannah Eyo



In the Light of Truth The Grail Message

"Nothing is more clear in its weaving than just Creation, which is the work of God!"
Abd-ru-shin
Grail Centre Madalla, Madalla Suleja Road
08054183304

PHASE 4 (D.C) MARKET KUBWA

This is to invite all shop owners in the demolished Phase 4 (D.C) Market Kubwa, to the final and last meeting, on the 6th Feb. 2010, time 10am at the usual venue. All those that attended last Saturday meeting should also come, as failure would be at personal risk. **Attention:** Mrs Marsh Mope and Olafenwa Olufunmi Lola, should see Pastor George Ogbeide. For details contact these numbers **08033494455, 08033374016.**

AHMAD JARMIYA FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby notified 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, 1990.
The Trustees are:
1. Isa Abdulhamid. 2. Farouk Abdulhamid
3. Yahaya Adamu. 4. Yahaya Sani Kabara
5. Dr. Ahmad Falaki. 6. Ahmad Muhammad Sani
7. Mansur Adamu Kurawa. 8. Muhammad Aliyu Wudil
9. Abba B. Abdulhamid. 10. Nasiru Isa Abdulhamid
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.
Any objection to the above registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.
Signed: Mansur Adamu Kurawa
08037875785.

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

The general public is hereby notified 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, 1990.
NAMES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES
1. Barr. Daniel D. Adeck. 2. Mr. Roland Barde
3. Mr. James E. Anzaku. 4. Miss Ruth A. Zephaniah
5. Mrs. Safiya Ibrahim Yahyuza. 6. Mr. Sunday Agzaku. 7. Mr. Daniel Bature
THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
1. To promote community based and people oriented development approach through participatory training, counseling and development management.
2. To strengthen youth efforts on health, agriculture, education, water and sanitation, environmental management and communication
3. To harness, utilize and sustain resources available in all sectors of the youth through advocacy and support.
4. To discourage gender disparities in all sectors of the youth
5. To facilitate sustainable youth development programmes that will reduce poverty through participatory approach.
6. To encourage cooperative savings and to establish multi-purpose training centres for sustainable youth development
7. To network with other organizations, NGOs and Government agencies that has similar objectives with YUNET.
8. To enlighten rural dwellers on the dangers of HIV/AIDS, STDs, Polio and other diseases that are endemic in nature. To encourage the need for peaceful coexistence.
Any objection to the above registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.
Signed: Daniel Bature, Secretary

BISHOP McCALLA FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby notified 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, 1990.
The Trustees are:
1. Bishop Theophilus Augustus McCalla President
2. Bishop Enis James Kolawole Vice President
3. Rev. Joseph Ojo. Dada Secretary
4. Rev. Uti Chris Treasurer
5. Pastor Mathews Iseolorunkanmi Member
Aims and Objectives
1. To provide support to the poor and needy in our society
2. Any other charitable work
Any objection to the above registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.
Sylvester Imhanobe Esq
Solicitor (08036046242)

AGBARA-OLORUNSE-TEMI ASSEMBLY

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Ministry, **AGBARA-OLORUNSE-TEMI ASSEMBLY** has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja, for registration under Part "C" of the Company and Allied Matters Act of 1990.
THE TRUSTEES ARE:
1. ELIZABETH OLUWASOLA OLUSEGUN
2. DEACONESS YINKAAKINBULI
3. CHIEF THOMPSON OLU FESOBI
4. MR. OYEWOLE OLUWAYEMI
5. AMOS BAYO OLUSEGUN
THE AIMS & OBJECTIVES ARE:
1. To win souls for Christ
2. To propagate the kingdom of God and all its righteousness
3. To set free those in sinful captives
4. To empower those that are in need, oppressed, the widows and orphans to the glory of God
Any objection to the above registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.
Signed: Tola FESOBI Esq.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **OTUYA DONATUS**, now wish to be known as **OTUYA DON CHUKWUKA**. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

I, formerly **MISS UKAMAKA NWADIOGO CHIDOLUE** now wish to be known as **MRS UKAMAKA NWADIOGO OBIKEZE**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly known as **AGNES EGBUNU**, hereby wish to be known and addressed as **AGNES ADEUYA**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **OJO FEMI** now to be addressed as **ADEFEMI MICHEAL AYESA**. All former documents remain valid and general public to take note.

I, formerly known as **BARR. (Miss) ANGELA EDUBHAGBA ERIOFOLH** now wish to be known and addressed as **BARR. (MRS) ANGELA EDUBHAGBA BIMBO-AGBOGUN**. All former documents remain valid. Nigerian Bar Association and general public take note.

I, formerly known **OGUNBANWO DAVID BABATUNDE** now wish to be called **BANWO DAVID BABATUNDE**. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS JOYCE LAMIGU** now wish to be addressed as **MRS JOYCE PATRICK BUZABEYE**. All former documents remain valid. Agency for Mass Education and general public take note.

I, formerly **MISS ESTHER ABEJE** now **MRS ESTHER ABEL OTASHU**. All former documents remain valid. L.E.A Wuse Zone 11 concerned to note and general public to note.

I, formerly **MISS ALADI JOHN** now **MRS ALADI DOMINIC AMUCHE**. All former documents remain valid. Nig. Prisons and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS FUNKE ADEBAYO** now wish to be called **MRS ONATUNDE FUNKE .A**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS BLESSING CHIDINMA CHIMEZIE** now wish to be addressed as **MRS BLESSING CHIDINMA JOHN PETERS**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and University of Abuja take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS RUWAN EDAH**, (now wish to be called **MRS RILWAN ABDULLAH**. General public and A.B.U Zaria Management take note.

I, formerly called **NWACHUKWU HOPEFUL IHEANACHO**, now wish to be called **APOSTLE HOPE GODWINS-DIVINE**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public to note.

I, formerly **MISS KOLAWOLE RASHIDAT**, now wish to knowr as **MRS KOLAWOLE RASHIDAT MUSTAPHA**. All former documents remain valid. ABU Zaria, NYSC and general public note.

I, formerly known as **MRS ZAINAB .Y. MOHAMMED**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS ZAINAB MOHAMMED MUSTAPHA GWARZO**. All former documents remain valid. Nigeria Ports Authority and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MRS ALICE CHRISTIAN ODUNZE**, now wish to be called **MISS IBANGA ALICE**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.



DR Ben Obidigbo, Republican Party of Nigeria candidate for Anambra Governorship election at the Umunya rally ground yesterday.

Yar'adua to transmit letter to Assembly

Continued from page 1

in my mind that the president has never refused to comply with laws made by the legislature, not to my knowledge."

Although Senator Aji did not mention the exact date the president will send the letter to the lawmakers, he said he was confident that the letter will soon reach the National Assembly.

He said the letter that the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed referred to when he met with the lawmakers last month was written in January 2009, when the president went for a two week vacation.

"The SGF got his date wrong and the purposes of the letter wrong. The letter which remains the only one since Yar'adua became president was that of January 2009. And if you remember, the SGF was saying that the president transmitted a letter when he was going to Saudi Arabia. He did not."

The presidential aide argued that the said letter Yar'adua wrote in January last year was not delivered to the National Assembly because the president never went out of Abuja following the death of former Yobe State governor Senator Mamman Ali.

"We discussed the issue of the letter which has generated a lot of controversies as you all know, and you know that many people thought that the president gave a letter when he was leaving the country for Saudi Arabia and that I am still sitting on the letter. That was not true.

There was nothing like that. There has never been a time when the president was leaving the country and he transmitted a letter, but there was effort to transmit a letter and that was in January of 2009; if you remember the president went on leave.

And there was a letter that the president was in the process of transmitting, then Senator Mamman Ali the then governor of Yobe State died, just a day if you remember following the commencement of the leave.

The president started his leave on the 26 and the following day Senator Mamman Ali the governor of Yobe State died. So because of the death, the president shelved his holiday travel plans. So now that he has shelved his travel plans if you remember and aside from the fact that he attended Senator Mamman Ali's funeral in Yobe which was a day's trip, he did not leave Abuja even for one minute. So because of that, the letter was withdrawn."

Confirming Senator Aji's position, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Information and Media Senator Simon Ayogu Eze (PDP, Enugu North) confirmed that what Senator Aji said. He said the lawmakers are waiting to receive the president's letter.

Battle lines drawn over Akunyili's memo

Continued from page 1

'State of the Nation' was incompetent because traditionally, only the president or vice president could submit a memo to FEC on state of the nation. They would also ask Akunyili, sources said, whether she got her ministerial colleague in the Information Ministry, Bilbis, to acquiesce to the memo, as is the cabinet's tradition.

Even though tongues were wagging yesterday that Akunyili was leading a 'pro-Jonathan' cau-

cus, sources said the vice president himself gave the minister's memo, presented under Any Other Business at Wednesday's FEC meeting, the cold shoulder and told her to properly route it through the council secretariat.

Mrs Akunyili had begun the memo by reiterating her loyalty to the ailing President. She then said given the position taken on the matter by the Senate and the Eminent Statesmen, the council should urge the president to transmit the medical vacation letter and enable Jonathan to

fully act as president. She cited the crisis in Jos, which she said requires full presidential powers to deal with.

However, the memo was stood down when other ministers said it should have been circulated earlier.

They had however taken a similar memo on the alleged plane bomber Faruk Umar Abdul Mutallab, though it had not been circulated earlier.

Mrs Akunyili steadfastly refused to comment yesterday on her controversial memo. When

reporters accosted her at the Ministry of Power, where she was attending a function, she refused to speak, saying she was there for a different purpose.

Reporters who waited for her in her own office for several hours were similarly disappointed when she cancelled her scheduled engagements and disappeared into her office.

Her assistant Orji Ogbonnaya Orji, who announced the cancellations to newsmen, also refused to answer the question thrown at him on the issue.

News Analysis

The rebranding of Akunyili?

By Mahmud Jega

THE united front of blind loyalty to an ailing president that the Federal Executive Council had presented to Nigerians since Alhaji Umaru Yar'adua left the country to seek medical attention in Saudi Arabia last November cracked for the first time on Wednesday.

And, what a spectacular crack it was. Information and Communications Minister Professor Dora Akunyili presented a previously uncirculated memo to the Cabinet meeting, under Any Other Business, titled State of the Nation. In it, she urged the council to abandon its previous stance of blind loyalty and urge Yar'adua to transmit a letter of medical vacation to the National Assembly, so that Vice President Goodluck Jonathan could become the Acting President with full powers under the Constitution, pending the president's return.

Prior to last Wednesday's turn of events, the FEC had presented to Nigerians a united [many would say cowardly is more like it] front, unanimously insisting on several occasions that Yar'adua's long absence from the country did not constitute incapacity to discharge his duties warranting the invocation of Section 144 of the Constitution. On the less grave issue of transferring presidential powers to Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, the FEC hid behind a dubious court order obtained by Attorney General and Justice Minister Mike Aondoaka, saying Jonathan can exercise full presidential powers in Yar'adua's powers under Section 5 of the Constitution.

What made Mrs Akunyili to be the first minister to break ranks with FEC's solid but dishonourable front at this time? On the face of it, her memo simply capitulated to the national mood. Indeed, she referred to the positions already taken by the Senate and by the Eminent Persons group of General Yakubu Gowon, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, Chief Ernest Shonekan and Dr. Alex Ekwueme, which earlier called on Yar'adua to transmit the medical vacation letter to the National Assembly and ena-

ble Jonathan to act as president.

Yet, Professor Akunyili did not look like the minister who would make such a big political gamble on account of the national mood. While most Nigerians support the need for Yar'adua to temporarily hand over power, Yar'adua himself, supported by his closest friends and advisers, is clearly unwilling to do so. To boot, they are likely to see anyone who supports that demand as a foe, especially a minister, who holds office at Yar'adua's pleasure.

Since Mrs. Akunyili's surprise deployment to the Information and Communication ministry in the 2008 cabinet changes, she has pursued an official propaganda line of "Rebranding Nigeria" widely scoffed at by Nigerians. It has robbed her a lot of the tremendous public respect she garnered during her days as director general of NAFDAC.

The impression created in Nigerians' mind was that Akunyili very much wanted to be a minister, which she could not get during the Obasanjo years, hence her playing a very prominent role in the PDP's 2007 presidential campaign. Later that year, she was involved in a public spat with the late Ibadan strongman Alhaji Lamidi Adedibu, who said she tearfully begged for his intervention to get a minister's job. The fact that Yar'adua sent her to the Information Ministry and she still agreed to serve, kind of supported that impression.

So what game is she playing now? There are two possible explanations. One is that the Mother of the Rebranding Campaign has decided to rebrand herself and break ranks with her colleagues' position that has made all of them a laughing stock in the eyes of Nigerians.

However, many Nigerians are more likely to think that Professor Akunyili is repositioning herself for the post-Yar'adua era. The minister may have concluded that Yar'adua will not return to his presidential seat, in which case she wants to regain under a Jonathan presidency what she did not get under the ailing ruler, namely a more prominent Cabinet post. But matters are still unfolding.

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Don't appoint foreign coach in a hurry, Bassesey warns

By Ibraheem A. Fatai

AGAINST the backdrop of popular demand by the Nigerian football fans for the NFF to immediately replace Coach Amodu Shaibu-led technical crew with a foreign coach, CAF Media Coordinator, Paul Bassesey, has advised the NFF to handle the issue with caution.

Speaking to Trustsports moment after returning from Angola, Bassesey said it will be counter-productive for the NFF to appoint a foreign coach who would turn out to be somebody who has no value to add to the Nigerian football.

"This is the road that we have taken before, but in most cases there was nothing tangible to show for it. We appointed Berti Vogt to take us to the Nations Cup hosted by Ghana in 2008, but the German's tenure was a disaster. We can also recall that in 1998, we went to France 1998 World Cup with Bora, but the Yugoslavian failed to do anything spectacular.

"So, if we are going to appoint a foreign coach, it should not be just any coach that has no track record of success. Some people are talking about the coach that took Mozambique to the just concluded Angola, while some are suggesting the Zambian coach, but do all these coaches have anything to offer our football in terms of tactics and techniques?"

"This is why the NFF must consult very wide before they appoint any coach to take the Super Eagles to South Africa. There are many foreign coaches all over the place,

but some of our local coaches are even better than some of them. If you go to Benin Republic and bring somebody, he can still be referred to as a foreign coach. But can he bring back the lost glory of our Super Eagles?" he queried.

On the not-too-impressive outing of the Super Eagles in Angola, the football analyst said Nigerians should be very happy that their team came back with a bronze medal, saying the team we knew before it went to Angola was not looking like the one which could even make it to the quarter finals, let alone coming home with a bronze medal.

"Who among Nigerian fans would have predicted that the team would make it to the semi finals, giving the lacklustre performances of the Eagles during the World Cup/Nations Cup qualifier? We should stop deceiving ourselves; the team we took to Angola was not good in any department. The defence was porous, the midfield was not creative and the striking force was very far from sharp.

"If I were the coach, I would not take Yobo, Ayegbeni, Martins and some other injured and out of form players to a tournament of the magnitude of African Nations Cup. To those of us who follow football very well, we knew that the players selected for the assignment would struggle to make a mark. So, coming home with a bronze is even a surprise to us. Nigerians should thank God for the medal.

"Can we say that our team is better than Cameroun, Ivory



SUPER Eagles warm up during a training session in Benguela, Angola at the just concluded Africa Cup of Nations. The NFL may sack Eagles coach Shaibu Amodu after today's Board meeting.

Coast or Mali? But none of them was lucky enough to make it to the

semi finals, even Mali with seven goals could not scale through

the group stage hurdle," he concluded.

No problems with guidelines for NPL elections - Yakmut

GUIDELINES for elections into the Nigeria Premier League (NPL) board were carefully drawn up to accommodate all stakeholders' interests, Malam Alhassan Yakmut, NPL's Executive Secretary, said yesterday in Abuja.

Yakmut, who is Secretary of the seven-man Electoral Committee, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that the guidelines were a product of all relevant sections of the laws

guiding the running of football league.

"The guidelines were a product of an assemblage of the FIFA electoral Code as well as the statutes of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) and the Nigeria Premier League (NPL)," he said.

The FIFA Electoral Code is the sole legal instrument approved by the sport's world governing body for all electoral matters, while the statutes determine the operations of both the NFF and the NPL.

Yakmut said the NPL Electoral Guidelines could not be a subject of debate or contention by any interested party as they were adopted by the league clubs' congress last month in Abuja.

"It cannot be a subject of another debate, as being speculated in some quarters of recent, and if that is even possible, it is only through the Electoral Committee for now.

"This is because we looked critically at all aspects of the three

instruments (FIFA Electoral Code and the NFF and NPL Statutes) before we arrived at the guidelines for our 2010 elections.

"But as it is now, there is no possibility of that, as the Electoral Committee does not see any conflict as being argued by some. The guidelines were carefully drawn up and approved by the NPL Congress," the secretary added.

On the issue of eligibility of candidates for elections into the board, Yakmut said the provi-

sions of the guidelines were very clear on that.

"It is the league clubs in the states of the prospective candidates, and not the zones, that can endorse them. This is because the clubs are based in states, not zones," he pointed out.

The NPL elections, which will usher in a board for the period 2010 to 2014, is scheduled for March 3 and March 4, 2010 in Abuja.

Chelsea transfer ban lifted by CAS

THE transfer ban imposed by FIFA on Chelsea over the transfer of the promising teenager Gaël Kakuta from Lens was yesterday overturned on appeal. The Court of Arbitration for Sport said FIFA's ban on Chelsea signing any new players until 2011 would be annulled after Kakuta, Lens and Chelsea all agreed that the players' contract with the French club was not valid.

"The CAS has noted that, in the agreement, the two clubs and the player have recognised that the contract between the two clubs and the player was not valid," CAS said. "Accordingly, the player could not have terminated it prematurely and without just cause."

"We are pleased to have come to an amicable resolution of the matter and that it has been ratified by FIFA and recognised by Fifa," Bruce Buck, the Chelsea chairman, said. "It was always our intention to work together with Lens to reach this end, and both clubs have strengthened their relationship as a result of resolving this case to everyone's satisfaction."

"In an act of good faith and with a view to the possibility of future collaboration with Lens, and without recognising any liability, Chelsea has agreed to pay compensation costs for the training given to the player while at Lens, as mandated by FIFA in its original ruling." It is believed that the fee is consistent with the €910,000 (£790,000) that Chelsea and Kakuta were fined over the affair.

Chelsea's chief executive, Ron Gourlay, said: "Naturally, we are pleased Chelsea has been cleared of any wrongdoing and that the matter is now closed."

Last September, FIFA shocked Chelsea and sparked a wide-ranging debate on the global market in young talent by finding that Chelsea had illegally induced Kakuta to join the club in 2007. The promising attacking midfielder was banned for four months and Chelsea were forbidden from signing any players for two transfer windows, with Kakuta and the club fined a total of €910,000.

The sanctions were suspended while Chelsea appealed to CAS, meaning they would have been eligible to sign players in the January window. In the event, however, Carlo Ancelotti claimed he was happy with his squad and made no signings of note.

Siasia picks holes in Amodu's tactical formation

FORMER Flying Eagles coach, Samson Siasia has revealed that a lot needs to be done if Nigeria must do well at the 2010 FIFA World Cup scheduled to hold in South Africa in June.

The ex-Super Eagles star who took a critical look at the senior national team's performance at the just concluded 2010 Africa Cup of Nations in Angola said the team failed to take risks that would have given them better results in the championship.

"When you look at our performances in Angola, you will discover that the team failed to take some risks which could be the decision of the coach," begins the soccer tactician who led Nigeria's U-20 team to the last junior World Cup in Egypt.

"The Super Eagles played more defensive games which gave the opponents the chance to attack them and scored against them. The team was not offensive in their approach which is one of the technical options coaches in Europe and the rest of developed countries always adopt to win matches."

"When you are offensive, the chances of scoring goals and win matches are more open than being on the defensive, trying to guide against opponents from scoring against you." "Modern day football is played more from the midfield to the attack and that is why you see big teams abroad spending so much money and time to get the best midfielders and attackers to make their clubs strong, we also need to learn from this and make quick changes in our approach to every game."

Siasia also revealed some of the things that should be done for Nigeria to make an appreciable impact at the FIFA World Cup, insisting that younger play-

ers need to be injected into the team.

"The World Cup is still far and it is not far at the same time because the countries that are serious about the tournament are already preparing, so we need to start preparation now. And part of what we should be doing is to draw up a realistic programme that will accommodate new and younger players and getting these new set of players should not take more than three weeks so that they can start blending with the programme."

"After that, the players should be put together with the old guys and make them to play lots of friendly matches which could be with some clubs or countries in Africa or even in Europe, so by the time we do this for three months or there about, there will be some level of continuity which we can build on before the World Cup."

"There is also a need for whoever is going to handle this team to know the strength and weaknesses of these players so that there will be various options put in place to ensure that the team take the right shape."

Siasia who is presently in Abuja further spoke on the importance of a physical trainer to a team, saying it is one aspect that cannot be ignored in a team.

"Definitely, there is a need for a physical trainer for the Super Eagles because that will put the players in their very best level of fitness against any team. When you look at the Zambian and Ghanaian teams, you will see that those boys were very fit and it was so easy for them to launch attack against the Super Eagles. There are lots of coaches who are being attached to teams as managers but a physical trainer will get half of the job done for the coach."



SUPER Eagles forward Osaze Odemwingie, right, celebrates with Dickson Etuhu during the 2010 Africa Cup of Nations in Angola.

"A physical trainer is very important and if any coach says there is no need for it, it means he does not know what he's doing."

"So, we need a very competent physical trainer for the Super Eagles to do well at the World Cup. I have always emphasized on this in all my teams and it has really worked for me. We need it and the NFF should get a competent one for the team."

The dark complexioned soccer tactician who refused to comment on the call to sack coach Shuaibu Amodu was of the opinion that sacking him may not be the final solution, saying NFF have the final decision to take.

"I have nothing to say about that but sacking a coach may not be the final solution to a team's problem. But then, the NFF has the final say," he concluded.

Can Amodu survive the storm?

By Orkula Shaagee

DARK clouds are hovering over the head of Super Eagles under-fire coach Shuaibu Amodu as the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) Executive Committee meets today in Abuja to decide whether to retain or sack him.

Since leading his charges to a bronze medal finish at the just concluded African Cup of Nations tournament in Angola, the ex-BCC Lions of Gboko and Orlando Pirates of South Africa coach has come under heavy criticisms for lack of technical depth to lead the team.

Consequently, Nigerians from all walks of life, including his employers the Nigeria Football Federation have called for his sack and immediate employment of a sound techni-

cal expatriate to lead the Eagles to the South Africa 2010 World Cup in June.

Going by recent comments, everything is working against the Edo State-born soccer tactician and it is evident that today will mark the end of his third stint on the Eagles job.

The Federation early this week announced in clear terms that it would today decide whether to keep the services of Coach Shuaibu Amodu or let him go in favour of a foreign technical adviser.

Reports have it that the NFF is looking to get an experienced foreign coach on a short term contract for the World Cup in June. The NFF is then expected to contract a lesser profile developmental coach to build up the country's football afterwards.

Amodu, 51, was given the mandate of at least a semi-final finish at the African Cup of Nations which he achieved, even winning bronze after beating Algeria 1-0 in the losers' final, but is now likely to lose his place on the Nigeria bench going to the World Cup.

This is the second time Amodu would have qualified Nigeria for the World Cup after his first stint in 2002. He was fired after the African Cup of Nations in Mali 2002 when the Super Eagles also picked up a bronze medal.

The NFF had earlier vowed to support the coach through thick and thin but many Nigerians have called for him to be sacked and replaced with a foreign trainer with wide knowledge of African football.

Some of the names that have

been tipped to succeed the coach include Egypt's cup-winning gaffer Hassan Shehata, Zambia's coach Herve Renard and former Mozambique coach Martin Nooji.

The football governing body stated on Thursday last week that overhauling of the playing body and technical crew of the national football team is inevitable for better performance of the team in future international assignments.

At the end of the meeting, NFF management staff were set to work to review Amodu's contract with a view to ensuring that the terms of termination are properly followed.

To this effect, the NFF had started looking into the cost of hiring a new coach, and sourcing for the much-needed funds.

Football Notes....

Man U, Arsenal, Barca after Zidane - Father

MOHAMED Zidane's father, Abdullah Zidane, has claimed that Manchester United, Arsenal and Barcelona have all contacted his son over a possible move in the summer. "Arsenal, Manchester United and Barcelona have talked to Mohamed's agent," he told Dream TV. Zidane scored once and created a number of goals for his team-mates in the Africa Cup of Nations as Egypt won their third straight title and their seventh in the tournament's history. Abdullah also revealed that Zidane has a clause in his contract which enables him to complete a move to any of these clubs at the end of the season.

Renard eyes Tanzania job

ZAMBIA head coach Herve Renard has expressed interest in replacing Tanzania's Taifa Stars coach Marcio Maximo, whose contract expires in July. In a report posted in the Daily News the Tanzania Football Federation general secretary, Fredrick Mwakalebela, confirmed yesterday that Renard was among a number of high profile coaches who sent their applications.



RENARD

I never had party before Inter match - Ronaldinho

RONALDINHO has said he did not have a party before Milan's match against Inter, claiming the allegations are an invention. Reports alleged Milan lost the game 2-0 because he had thrown a party for his friends just days before kick off - a story that has been met with opposition. "I was a guest at a hotel, but it's not true that I organised a party, even less true are the details that were reported," he told his official website. "I have worked very hard in these few months and I think it's not right that these old images are used to explain a negative result or invent a story on me."

Real will offer Kaka to Juve for Chiellini, Diego



KAKA

KAKA could be used as bait by Real Madrid so they can land Diego and Giorgio Chiellini in return for the Brazilian ace, according to Sportmediaset. A return to Italy is the idea being floated around in Spain. Kaka joined Real from Milan last year in a €65 million deal. But new reports claiming he suffers from a recurring hernia injury that needs treatment every day will see him go. As part of that move Kaka will be offered to Juventus, with both Chiellini and Diego heading to Madrid in a straight swap deal.

Togo lodge legal complaint against CAF



TOGO goalkeeper Kodjovi Obilale was injured in the attack that killed two members of Togo-lesse national team. Togo has lodged a legal complaint against the Confederation of Africa Football (CAF) and a rebel group behind their team's attack in Cabinda, Angola.

TOGO has filed a legal complaint against the African Football Confederation (CAF) for failing to protect its team from a deadly attack as it travelled to last month's Africa Cup of Nations, legal sources said yesterday.

Togo's national football team was forced to quit the tournament on January 10 after two members of their delegation were shot and killed during an ambush as their bus arrived in Angola's restive enclave of Cabinda.

As Togo grieved the deaths and amid unheeded calls for CAF to cancel the whole event, Togo government officials ordered the team back to the country.

That decision not to participate, however, ultimately led CAF president Issa Hayatou to ban Togo from the 2012 and 2014 editions of the tournament because of "governmental interference".

The CAF's decision was met with widespread astonishment in Luanda and elsewhere.

The state of Togo and relatives of the two victims are now plaintiffs in a suit in a French court targeting the CAF and one of the two rebel groups which claimed responsibility for the attack, whose leader is based in Paris.

Relatives of the two victims hold the CAF responsible for

"failing to assure the safety of the team from injury or death," a legal source said, although the French court must still determine whether it has the legal right to act upon the complaint.

The state of Togo also holds the FLEC-PM (Forces for the Lib-

"This is going to continue, because the nation is at war," Mingas said. "Weapons will continue to talk. This is our home, and it's time Angola understood that."

The attack occurred as the Togo convoy drove into Cabinda from Congo-Brazzaville, leaving players cowering under their seats during a 20-minute gun-battle with security forces.

A Togo assistant coach and a team spokesman were killed and goalkeeper, Kodjovi Obilale, was among the injured.

Although the incident cast a pall over the tournament, CAF declared the show must go on.

Togo were favoured to reach the latter stages of the competition, and the decision to ban the team from the next two editions has apparently compounded their feelings of frustration.

Togo captain Emmanuel Adebayor, who plays club football for Manchester City, called it an "outrageous decision" and called for Hayatou, a Cameroonian, to step down.

"Mr Hayatou has served Africa extensively, but now he must leave," said Adebayor. "They do not care about the voice of the world... We were obliged to return, and there was nothing we could do."

Relatives of the two victims hold the CAF responsible for "failing to assure the safety of the team from injury or death"

eration of the State of Cabinda-Military Position) responsible for "acts of terrorism", "assassination and attempts to assassinate".

In January French prosecutors said they may charge Angolan separatist Rodrigues Mingas, a French citizen who claims to be the head of the FLEC-PM, with "praising acts of terror".

THE FRIDAY COLUMN

Adamu Adamu
adamuadamu@dailytrust.com

Jos, Jang and Genocide (II)

Everyone has become frozen in a sea of fear. If you are Muslim, you fear what Christians will say; and if you are Christian, you fear what Muslims will say. And even worse, both fear that their coreligionists will think they have let them and their faith down. But if we really want solve our problems, we should be mature and objective enough to apportion blame where it properly belongs without fear of anything. When news of the Jos crisis filtered out, one could have said what John Pilger said of Palestine during the recent Israeli offensive: "A genocide is engulfing the people of Gaza while a silence engulfs its bystanders." In private, all leaders complain bitterly; but in public they try to outdo each other in being politically correct.

And those who choose to speak out say only the wrong things. We deplore statements by politicians who are more interested in posturing and playing to the gallery to capture votes and look like champions of a triumphal majority than in representing the legitimate interests of all of their constituents. Even if the statements credited to Senator Gyang Dalyp Datong were no so self-serving and insensitive, the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria should be worried that it counts among its supposedly distinguished membership politicians of such narrow-minded tunnel vision. It goes without saying that this or any other democracy has no chance or right of survival if, in its attempts to ensure the wishes of the majority prevail, it forgets to ensure that the legitimate rights of the minority are represented well and protected by law and in fact.

The call by the Bauchi State House of Assembly for the expulsion of indigenes of Plateau State from their state must be condemned. In its implications, it is almost as irresponsible as the call for the actualization of Biafra by MASSOB. Though their contexts are dissimilar and the frustration of Bauchi assemblymen understandable in the circumstance, that resolution ought never to be condoned. By falling to his level, every Bauchi assemblyman has become a little Jang, an ethnic cleanser without a gun—only a little bit more civilized than the Plateau State governor. If it is not all media posturing.

The media may itself have been guilty of trivializing the issue of the crisis and deflecting blame by harping on the issue of dead National Youths Service Corpers. And with their accounts of and comments on the Jos crisis, some writers, including the so-called distinguished columnists, may only have disgraced themselves and the profession of journalism, at least in the eyes of the survivors of this pogrom and all others who are aware of what has been going on in Jos.

First, the lives of NYSC guys are no more valuable than others that are being lost. Second, their death is mourned; but it is all presented in a way that suggests that their service is indispensable, and may not therefore next be available to a North that stands in greater need of it than the other sections of the country. Third, it is all depicted as though it is the Hausa-Fulani who are killing them; which, if true, that it is indeed the Hausa-Fulani who are killing Yoruba corpers, then the fight couldn't have been over land ownership, as the Berom have been saying.

And it should indeed be more for crimes such as genocide and not just for the thievery of public funds alone that we must hasten to remove the constitutional immunity that has put perpetrators of crime beyond the reach of the law. Those guilty of genocide must be tried and punished with immediacy and with exemplary dispatch.

Unless this is done quickly, it is to be feared that we will witness the unraveling of the Nigerian Knot, the great untying of all the national ties that bind—exposing the meaninglessness of the very issue of nationhood, demonstrating the uselessness of land tenure system and ownership, and striking at the very heart of democracy—one indigene, one vote; one settler, no vote—all of them sacrificed at the altar and hallowed ground of ethnic cleansers on which representativeness has been made to fall helpless and prostrate before the issue of indigeneship. Therefore, right after genocide is punished, the nation should boldly tackle the obnoxious issue of indigene-settler syndrome throughout the country, and especially in Jos where Jang is unlikely to do anything

about it.

Wherever he was, Jang had always proved unable to separate his position as governor from his extreme bigotry as an anti-Islamic Christian; or, is it really only and merely an anti-Hausa-Fulani Berom? Unable to stand the name of Muhammad, for instance, he was reported to have changed the name of General Murtala Mohammed College to Ramat College, Yola; not knowing that Ramat, the new name he chose happened to have been derived from one of the foremost attributes of Allah.

He also once stopped the annual conference of the National Association of Teachers of Arabic and Islamic Studies, NATAIS, from taking place in Yola. Obviously, Jang is unaware that in the forefront for the promotion and propagation of Arabic language have been many prominent Christian Arab intellectuals; and its literature, especially its poetry, has been one of the most studied in the world, and the most translated by Christian Oriental scholar-missionaries. At the time he disallowed permission for the NATAIS conference, Islamic Studies was a subject taught in all the secondary schools of Gongola State.

Nobody spoke to him then; and nobody is speaking to him now. But does the current silence from Plateau elders suggest that what Jang is doing or not doing enjoys their support? While the Sultan, for instance, has taken great pains to make himself available for the resolution of some of this region's social crises; and some, in fact, believe he may have been over-exposing himself, the same cannot be said of other traditional rulers. There are many who do not consider His Highness Chief Buba Gyang, Gbong Gwom Jos, entirely blameless in the November 2008 crisis and, by extension, the current one.

Why this deathly silence? Is it the silence of disbelief or the silence of consent? Plateau State is home to more than 50 retired generals, who, by definition, should know genocide when they see one. And where are the other elders? Who really silenced Dalo Da D.B. Zang such that even before his death his abiding goodwill was no longer available for reconciliation on the Plateau? Though today we are left with no alternative, we still find it difficult to accept that the people of Da Zang have nothing better, nothing more civilized and nothing more honourable to do than sitting down to plan how to kill their neighbours—men, women, children and infants—with impunity and in cold blood.

The final evidence that this is genocide is the fact that up to this moment Jang has not shown the slightest remorse. Not only has he not shown remorse, he is reported to have been quite elated behind closed-doors. If the reported bask-slapping reception he has accorded some of the leaders of the killings is anything to go by, the nation has not seen the last of the Jos crisis. Something worse is said to be in the pipeline.

Because of the difficulty and time consumption of one-by-one elimination, and the possibility of more than equal reprisals by Muslims, especially in Jos Township and the probability that Plateau State may not get another malleable and ready-to-become-complicit commissioner of police, according to what that Dadinkowa community leader told me of what he himself had heard of Jang's next plans from those who he said had met him as the crisis was coming to an end, the next one will make the current one a dress rehearsal. For maximum casualties, Jang's hordes are said to be contemplating bombing Friday congregational prayers in session—and they have been assured of support at the highest quarters.

Besides the danger of this igniting a most uncontrollable country-wide pandemonium, bombing Friday prayers will most assuredly lead to the birth of Nigeria's first crop of suicide bombers and perhaps something even worse, which will set the country onto the path of unwinnable and unstoppable Christian-Muslim conflict. This is a development that must be stopped at all costs; and for those who could prevail on Jang, this is the right time to do so, before he engulfs the nation in an inferno in which the Berom will almost certainly become history. This is not something we would like to see happen; but it is something that we will most probably see happening whether we like it or not—unless the right thing is done fast.



FALILAT Ogunkoya

Ogunkoya-Omotayo offers to help AFN

As the countdown continues towards the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi, India, Africa's former 400 meters fastest woman, Falilat Ogunkoya-Omotayo says she is not perturbed that the Athletic Federation of Nigeria has not contacted her to help prepare the nation's athletes.

Fali said that she derives joy from running her foundation, but said she would not

hesitate to contribute her quota to development of track and field in the country.

"They have not contacted me. Athletics is what I know and I am doing through Falilat Ogunkoya Sports Foundation. My own is surely to develop Nigerian sports, especially those who want to do it early. They should go ahead and do it. I want to give back to the sport that made me and I am happy about that," she said.



EMMANUEL Ekpo

I can save Eagles midfield - Ekpo

Columbus Crew of America midfielder, Emmanuel Ekpo reflected on the performance of the Super Eagles at the Nations Cup in Angola, and reasoned that the team needs the presence of some younger players.

The Beijing 2008 Olympic Games silver medalist stated further in a live telephone interview on Brila FM that he could offer some assistance to shore up the Eagles attacking-midfield position in the build-up towards the World Cup in South Africa.

"From my own point of view, some fresh legs, some new guys need to be injected into the team, both in the defence and the attacking midfield position.

"There wasn't room for us to prove ourselves. We needed some of the younger players to try out and put in our best for the team."