

# DAILY TRUST



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'Guards Brigade Commander answers to President'



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## Rumpus in House over Akunyili

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE first attempt by some members of the House of Representatives to discuss ailing President Umaru Yar'adua's return to the country after spending three months in Saudi Arabia threw the House into a rowdy session yesterday and the attempt was shot down.

Confusion enveloped the House chamber soon after some members tried to bring a matter over the President's non-appearance in public since his return to the country.

The trouble started

“Eze requested the House to call Prof Akunyili to order

when Rep Mayor Eze (PDP, Enugu State) raised a Point of Order, drawing attention over Minister of Information and Communications Prof. Dora Akunyili's "unguarded statements", which he said were heating up the polity. But before he could finish his speech, Speaker Dimeji Bankole stopped him, saying he couldn't talk on the floor of the House without prior notice to the Speaker as enshrined in the House Rules.

Bankole asked Eze to meet and brief him, which Rep Eze did. When he came back to his seat, Eze requested the House to call Prof Akunyili to order for "her unguarded statements which heat up the polity and cause confu-

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# Govs stop move to oust Yar'adua

## • North retains president in 2011

By Abdulfatah Olajide, Mohammed Shehu & Muideen Olaniyi

MUCH anticipated moves at today's meeting of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) to initiate a process under Section 144 of the Constitution to oust ailing President Umaru Yar'adua were stopped in their tracks last night by the 36 state governors. They declared that the status quo in

the Presidency must be maintained. Also yesterday, the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) said it will retain its power rotation arrangement in next year's general elections and produce its presidential candidate from the North. Its national chairman Prince Vincent Ogbulafor said this in Abuja last night. He spoke soon after he emerged from a meeting that the members of the PDP National Work-

ing Committee held with state governors at the Kwara Lodge.

In a separate meeting held at the State House with PDP national officers, Acting President Goodluck Jonathan pledged to stop today's meeting of the Federal Executive Council from moving to invoke Section 144 of the Constitution to declare ailing President Umaru Yar'adua perma-

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PHOTO: ISA UMAR GUSAU



A suspected cable thief, Abba Musa, who was trapped on a PHCN high tension pole along Damboa road in Maiduguri yesterday. See story on page 6.

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# Guards Brigade Commander only answers to President—Ex-security chief

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

FORMER chief security officer to former President Ibrahim Babangida, Major Abubakar Adamu Mohammed, yesterday in Kaduna said the Brigade of Guards Commander is not answerable to the Chief of Army Staff, but to the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, adding that most of their information is given on the-need-to-know (confidential) basis.

According to Mohammed, the

Brigade of Guards is responsible for the protection of the president and the Presidency as well as the presidential villa.

"These functions extend to the presidential wing of the Abuja airport", he said.

Mohammed, who maintained that the Guards Commander could sometimes act independently in certain security situations without necessarily clearing with the president, justified the commander's purported refusal to brief Acting President Jonathan on the president's arrival.

Mohammed said there were always troops of the brigade at the presidential wing of the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport on a 24 hour basis. "So, it is wrong to say that troops were deployed to receive President Yaradua", he added.

He said the channel of communication between the Guards Commander and the president is always through the ADC, Chief Security Officer or State House Chief of Protocol.

The former security chief who was reacting to calls for the sack of

the Guards Brigade commander, the GOC of 3rd Armoured Division and the Chief of Army Staff, Lt Gen Abdulrahman Dambazau criticised the callers for displaying ignorance about the workings of the military. He alleged that the call for Dambazau's sack by some Christian elders had a religious undertone.

He pointed out that the Minister of Defence, Chief of Defence Staff and Inspector General of Police as well as Chiefs of Naval and Air staff including the Director General of SSS and heads of

para military organisations like the FRSC, Prisons and Immigration services were all Christians.

"Yet, neither the Jama'at Islam or any Islamic body has called for their sack," he added.

Retired Major Mohammed praised the military for dedicating itself to the sustenance of democracy, advising that it should keep to its constitutional role of defending the nation's sovereignty. He advised the military top hierarchy not to be intimidated by any group or individual and they should be loyal to the nation.

PIC: NAN



EMIR of Zazzau, Alhaji Shehu Idris (left) presenting Hajj documents to an intending pilgrim after launching this year's online payment for pilgrimage in his palace in Zaria, Kaduna State.

## Meningitis kills 13 in Jigawa

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

ABOUT 13 persons were killed by Cerebro Spinal Meningitis in Jigawa State between January and March 1 this year, just as shortage of vaccines has marred vaccination in affected areas.

Speaking with newsmen yesterday in Dutse, the state Commissioner for Health Dr. Ibrahim Muhammad Nashabaru said 17 local governments were affected including Dutse, the state-capital.

Dr. Nashabaru added that Gumel, Kafin-Hausa, Babura, Yankwashi and Dutse were the most affected. He pointed out that Gumel topped the list with six deaths.

The commissioner added that 89 cases were reported to hospitals from January till date, adding that the state Ministry of Health had forwarded a request for more vaccines to the Federal Ministry of Health. He noted that the state had only 7,300 doses when the outbreak began, saying the Federal Government assisted with 300,000 doses last week.

"Off course, we have faced shortage of vaccines. We have on ground only 10 per cent of our requirement. The state needs at least three million doses," he said. Dr. Nashabaru stated further that even though the situation was under control, the state was proposing a special preparation to face the disease.

## EFCC freezes Ijebu-East's accounts

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

THE Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) yesterday said the accounts of Ijebu-East Local Government Area of Ogun State had been frozen following the petition by the suspended chairman of the local government area, Tunde Oladunjoye. EFCC Spokesperson, Femi Babafemi, confirmed the action in a telephone interview with our correspondent, though he refused to give details. The accounts affected by the action include those with the Wema Bank, First Bank, and four Micro-finance banks in Ijebu-Ife, Ijebu Mushin, Mushin-Itele and Honey-Port, Owu-Ikija.

## Militants blow up Shell flow station in Delta

From Monday Osayande - Asaba

A militant group known as Peoples Patriotic Revolutionary Force yesterday blew up the Kokori Field Station operated by Shell at Erhoike community, Ethiope East Local Government Area of Delta State.

The militant group which is an arm of the Joint Revolutionary Council (JRC) Western Division, also threatened to attack any one

that crosses its way irrespective of political status.

A statement by the leader of the group, 'AKA General' Ogaga "Malcom X Odafe, called the attack "Operation Kokoma Odidimadi", saying it would not be the last from the group.

It said other impending attacks would be the final onslaught in the region and warned the people of the Niger Delta to get ready for it.

The statement directed Shell

and all multinationals oil companies in the region to commence evacuation of personnel from the region.

Although no reason was given for the attack, the group vowed to continue their move to evacuate the oil companies in the region unless a Sovereign National Conference (SNC) is convened.

"We demand for the immediate convocation of the Sovereign National Conference (SNC). It is

Sovereign National Conference now", it said.

Shell's Precious Okolobo could not be reached on his mobile at the time of filing this report but security agents said they were waiting for Shell's confirmation of the attack.

The Joint Task Force (JTF) spokesman, Lieutenant-Colonel Timothy Antigha, said they were waiting for Shell to give details on the incident.

## Seven die in Kogi gang violence

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

SEVEN persons were killed in a clash between two gangs Monday at Anyigba in Dekina Local Government Area of Kogi State.

Our correspondent gathered that the clash took place when one Rasab Abubakar and his girl-friend who lodged in an undisclosed hotel were killed by

unknown people.

According to witnesses, when the news of Abubakar and his girl-friend's killing spread, his group, popularly known in the area as Rambo group, set out with dangerous weapons, searching for the assailants and in the process tracked down and killed five boys whom they accused of killing their colleague and his

girl-friend.

The corpses of the deceased were said to have been deposited in the mortuary of an undisclosed hospital at Anyigba.

Efforts by our correspondent to speak to the Divisional Police Officer in the area were unsuccessful as he was said to be out of office.

When contacted, the Police

Public Relations Officer of the state command Mr Abubakar Nasir Mohammed said the command had not yet received any information on it.

He however said five bodies had been received by the command and sent to a mortuary in Lokoja while two were deposited in a hospital in Ayingba as investigations continued.



CHAIRMAN/CHIEF Executive Officer of Media Trust Limited Malam Kabir Yusuf (second right) presenting corporate gifts to Bauchi State Governor Isa Yuguda in his office in Bauchi during a courtesy visit to the governor. Right is Ibrahim Dandija.

## CBN to fund power projects with N500bn loan

By Idris Ahmed

THE Central Bank of Nigeria said yesterday it would provide N500 billion for investment in emergency power projects dedicated to industrial clusters in the country.

The funds is a debenture to be issued by the Bank of Industry (BOI) to banks at a maximum interest rate of 1 percent with a tenor of 10 to 15 years, CBN Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi said at a press briefing after the Monetary Policy Committee meetings in Abuja.

Banks are expected to invest the fund in 500MW in Lagos, 250MW in Kano, 200MW in Onitsha and Nnewi and 200MW in Port Harcourt and Aba.

Other areas to benefit from the emergency power funds are Fun-tua/Gusua/Malunfashi/Zaria with 200MW, Lokoja 200MW and Mai-

duguri/Gombe/Bauchi 200MW.

Power supply went down to its lowest level of 2200MW last week. It is currently put at 2600MW.

Sanusi said other power projects currently being financed by banks may also be refinanced from the N500 billion funds. He said banks will be required to secure the funds drawn from eligible securities.

"In addition, real sector projects certified bankable that emanate from the State Governors' engagement with the Bankers' Committee in line with the outcome of the Enugu Retreat will be accommodated under the facility", the CBN governor said.

He said the debentures would be issued in accordance with Section 31 of the CBN Act 2007, at a concessionary interest rate of not more than 7 percent.

He said the MPC also approved

in principle the extension of this facility to banks for refinancing and restructuring existing portfolios to manufacturers.

The final approval, he said, will come after the consideration of the report of a technical committee to be set up to work out the modalities for implementation within one month.

He said membership of the committee comprises the CBN, the Bankers' Committee Subcommittee on Economic Development, Bank of Industry, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria and National Association of Small and Medium Enterprises.

Sanusi also said yesterday that federal government should implement the proposed deregulation of the petroleum sector.

He said the policy should be implemented because "you do not announce deregulation and then

don't do it because what is happening now is that everybody is paying a black market price."

He said that everywhere, people buy petroleum products above the official price of N65. "If you buy N65 outside Lagos you have to stay in a queue for 24 hours," he said.

He said most of what people see in inflationary pressure reflect the fact that "people have already factored in the new price of the expected price of petroleum products and if you actually deregulate, you would find that the increase in pricing is not going to be anything significant given the fact that people are use to it."

Sanusi said Nigeria is in a situation in which "Nigerians are paying a black market price of petroleum products if they find it. Two, they are paying with inflationary cost of deregulation when it has not been done."

## EFCC re-arrests Abdullahi Adamu

By Misbahu Bashir

THE Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) yesterday re-arrested ex-Governor Abdullahi Adamu of Nassarawa State over alleged N15 billion contract scam.

Former commissioners for local government and chieftaincy affairs, works and finance who served under Adamu were also arrested along with the former governor.

Adamu is accused of fraudulent award of contracts mostly on capital projects during his eight year rule as Governor of Nassarawa State.

EFCC spokesman Femi Babafemi said the former governor and three of his commissioners were in EFCC custody and will be arraigned in a court over fraudulent award of contracts estimated at N15 billion during his tenure as governor.

The former governor and now Secretary of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party's Board of Trustees had declared his intention to join the race for the Senatorial seat of Nassarawa-West in the 2011 general election.

Some of the alleged contracts include that for the construction of engineering complex at Nasarawa Polytechnic, awarded to Faslan Venture Ltd in 2001 at the sum of N71.7m; a contract for the construction of Administrative block in Lafia

Polytechnic, awarded to Kalgama Construction Co. Ltd at the total sum of N34m in 2002. Both contracts were allegedly not executed and did not follow due process.

A contract worth N1.47 billion naira for various projects was also allegedly awarded to Niccus Industries Ltd in 2005 during his tenure as Governor. The contract did not follow due process but the governor was said to have ordered the payment.

## Tanko Yakasai asks court to stop Jonathan

By Atika Balal

A former aide to ex-President Shehu Shagari in the Second Republic Alhaji Tanko Yakasai and two others have gone to court seeking an order to stop Acting President Goodluck Jonathan from exercising the powers of the President.

In a suit filed before an Abuja Federal High Court, Yakasai, Sylvanus Ofoke and Prof. Sayeed Tunde Malik also want an injunction restraining Jonathan from discharging the functions

of the office of the President pending the hearing and determination of the suit.

The suit is also challenging the resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives which made Jonathan acting president pending the return of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua from his medical leave in Saudi Arabia.

The three, through their counsel Yahaya Mahmood, want the court to declare that the resolution passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on February 9, that the Vice Presi-

dent shall act as President with the title of Acting President without a written letter from the President is in violation of Section 145 of the 1999 constitution.

They also seek the court to declare that the interpretation of the word 'transmit' given by the Senate and House of Representatives respectively, are not only contradictory but also amounts to usurpation of the exclusive powers of the Judiciary/Courts and therefore ultra vires Section 6 of the 1999 constitution.

Yakasai and co. equally want a declaration that the powers vested in the Executive Council of the Federation by virtue of Section 144 of the 1999 constitution cannot be enforced by an order of a court.

Joined in the suit are the National Assembly, Senate President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Attorney General of the Federation and the Executive Council of the Federation.

Meanwhile the 4th and 5th defendants through their

Counsel Prince Adetokunbo Kayode (SAN) have challenged the jurisdiction of the court to entertain the matter.

In a notice of preliminary objection, they said the plaintiffs lack the locus standi to institute the action and that the suit does not disclose any reasonable cause of action.

Justice Adamu Bello adjourned the case till March 22 for further mention and ordered that fresh hearing notices be issued and served on the defendants.

# N2.4bn contract: Kpakol fails to convince Senate

By Abdula-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki Hassan

NATIONAL Co-ordinator of the National Poverty Alleviation Programme (NAPEP) Dr. Magnus Kpakol has failed to provide satisfactory answer to the Senate Committee on Public Accounts on irregularities in the purchase of N5000 units of tricycle popularly known as Keke-NAPEP

worth N2.4 billion naira.

Kpakol who had previously refused to appear before the lawmakers was yesterday quizzed for four hours by the Senator Ahmed Ibrahim Lawan-led committee after the committee threatened to order his arrest.

Investigation of alleged irregularities, abuse of procedures and misappropriation of funds by Dr. Kpakol began three weeks ago

when the agency was summoned to explain some queries raised by the Auditor General of the Federation for contracts between 2006 to 2009 especially the purchase of 5000 units of Keke-NAPEP amounting to N2.4 billion naira in violation of due process, financial regulations and other extent laws.

Senator Lawan said Kpakol was expected to restrict himself to the rules of the investigation

as dictated by the committee. He expressed the committee's annoyance at past attempts by Kpakol to respond to the audit queries through the media.

While some Senators wanted Kpakol to be given more time to go and reconcile his records and make more comprehensive submission to the committee at a later date, others including Senator Lawan insisted that what was

presented should be taken and accepted by the committee to mean that Kpakol had presented unsatisfactory response to the allegation.

The NAPEP coordinator could not prove that former President Olusegun Obasanjo gave him approval to disburse the N2.4bn up front to the contractor in violation of public procurement Act.



PIC: NAN

PRESIDENTIAL candidate of Togo's Action Committee for Renewal Yawovi Agboyibo (front), addressing his supporters during a campaign in Lome.

## Police officer dies in office

By Misbahu Bashir & John Chuks Azu

A senior police officer with the Federal Capital Territory Police Command, Chief Superintendent Bala Audu, was yesterday found dead in his office.

Audu, who was the Officer-in-Charge of the Command's Provost, had no accommodation and sleeps in his office at the headquarters of the Police Command in Garki 2 Abuja.

He was found dead by his subordinate who came to clean the office as routine exercise.

A police source said the officer who first met him assumed that he was sleeping and retreated for a while. After some time when other officers arrived, they all went into the office to greet him but he neither responded nor answered their greetings. Audu was found dead upon examination.

FCT Police Public Relations Officer Superintendent Moshood Jimoh confirmed the death of the officer and said "it was a sudden and unnatural death."

He said the deceased was not found with any injury on his body and did not complain of illness prior to his death. He also ruled out suicide. "But investigation will be conducted to determine the exact cause of his death."

Audu served as Divisional Police Officer in Karshi before his redeployment to the position of OC Provost.

The deceased hailed from Kaduna State and his family lives in Bida, Niger State.

## Senate to receive constitution review report next week

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

The Senate Committee on the Review of the Constitution is to present its report to the whole Senate next week, Daily Trust learnt yesterday.

It was gathered that members of the SCRC during a closed door meeting yesterday disagreed on the proposed amendments to Section 145 and 190 of the Constitution which is to compel the president and state governors to transmit power to their deputies while going on vacation.

Sources at the meeting said senators also disagreed on the number of days that will serve as timeline within which the president or gov-

ernors embarking on vacation must transmit a letter to the National Assembly or State Houses of Assembly.

A senator who spoke to *Daily Trust* on condition of anonymity "You know what we have now on the amendment is 7 days but many of us felt that it is too short. I believe that it would be better to be made 14 days."

As regards to Section 190 of the Constitution, I am very sure that governors will not allow it to scale through because no governor will want his deputy to assume full executive power if they travel out for just 7 days."

The committee chaired by Deputy Senate President Ike Ekweremadu is handling the amendment process separately as members

of the House of Representatives Committee on Constitution Amendment have refused to attend the harmonisation process that was to be conducted in Uyo last week.

When asked of the possibility of the assembly amending the constitution, the senator said "I believe that we are going to succeed this time because the House of Representatives are also compiling their own report. I heard that they may even present their report before us."

The National Assembly is proposing amendment to the Constitution in line with some of the Electoral Reform Bills sent to the legislature by President Umaru Musa Yar'adua seeking to improve electoral process in the country.

## Jimeta asks Nigerians to support Jonathan

By Atika Balal

RETIRED Inspector General of Police, Muhammadu Gambo Jimeta has called on all patriotic Nigerians to rally round Acting President Goodluck Jonathan and support him to govern well and restore stability to the political situation of the country.

In a statement signed by Jimeta, he urged Nigerians not to blame anyone but to support Jonathan to steady the ship of state until when the true condition of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua's health is confirmed.

He said since national problems cannot be solved when there is uncertainty over leadership, all Nigerians must regard the present crisis as an aberration

and support the Acting President in order to avoid further uncertainty.

Jimeta condemned the refusal of some members of the presidential entourage to allow other members of the government to see the President and debunked claims that there is a regional conspiracy to that effect.

"The plot to conceal the true state of the President's health suggests that they do not have the interests of the nation at heart and are doing so for their own reasons. This has nothing to do with the interests of the northern states and those who are claiming that the north supports this behavior are propagating falsehood".

## Family of murdered CAC officer denies accusing police of delay

By Misbahu Bashir

THE immediate family of Abubakar Umar Abba, an Assistant Director with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), who was shot dead and set ablaze has dissociated itself from a report blaming the police of delay the investigation into the matter. Family members told *Daily Trust* that they did not accuse the police of sluggishness, adding that they are in contact of

the police.

The source said the family is cooperating with the police in the investigation. The police said they have arrested few people in connection to the killing and are making effort to trace the assailants. The case which was earlier investigated by the Federal Capital Police Command was transferred to the Criminal Investigation Department of the Force Headquarters (FCID) in Abuja for thorough investigation.



FROM left: Governor Babatunde Fashola of Lagos State (left) with Chief Femi Okunnu (second right) at the first Lagos Traffic Management conference in Lagos yesterday. With them is the first military governor of the state, retired Brig-Gen Mobolaji Johnson (right).

## Chile quake may have shortened days on Earth

THE massive 8.8 earthquake that struck Chile may have changed the entire Earth's rotation and shortened the length of days on our planet, a NASA scientist said on Monday.

The quake, the seventh strongest earthquake in recorded history, hit Chile Saturday and should have shortened the length of an Earth day by 1.26 milliseconds, according to research scientist Richard Gross at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. "Perhaps more impressive is how much the quake shifted Earth's axis," NASA officials said in a Monday update.

The computer model used by Gross and his colleagues to determine the effects of the Chile earthquake effect also found that it should have moved Earth's figure axis by about 3 inches.

# North retains President in 2011

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nently incapacitated from holding his exalted office. Ogbulafor told reporters that the resolution to respect the zoning formula was the position of the party and the entire 28 PDP governors ahead of the governors' meeting with Acting President Goodluck Jonathan last night.

He said, "One of the issues we discussed with the governors has to do with the zoning of the presidency and I think the South has the presidency for 8 years and it is proper to allow the North to have the Presidency for 8 years and it was a consensus."

*Daily Trust* learnt that the decision to retain the party's presidential ticket in the North was one of three key decisions arrived at the meeting between governors and PDP leaders. Other decisions were that Dr. Goodluck Jonathan should consolidate his position as Acting President and continue to discharge his presidential powers in an unfettered manner. PDP

also decided to immediately commence preparations for next year's elections. The third decision was that the party and the Federal Government it controls would call to order those public officials who have heated up the polity through bellicose public statements with respect to ailing President Umaru Yar'adua's health situation.

A source at the meeting said it was decided that since Dr. Jonathan has all the presidential powers in his hands, he should proceed to exercise them, and that if there are any obstacles standing in his way, they would be removed. The meeting was silent on the fate of Yar'adua, but our sources said the clear implication of this decision was that the President should be allowed to continue his recuperation while Dr. Jonathan runs the country.

The PDP bosses also decided that in the light of on-going electoral efforts at the National Assembly and the possibility that the 2011 elections could be held earlier than expected,

the ruling party should not be caught off-guard. They therefore decided to soon roll out a program for the party's primary elections for all elective offices. In order to remove what they saw as the biggest issue in their way, sources said, the party bosses decided to retain the presidential ticket in the North.

*Daily Trust* also learnt that the meeting exhaustively discussed what it said was heating up the polity by some public officials, a thinly veiled reference to Information and Communications Minister Professor Dora Akunyili. The meeting condemned her bellicose utterances and was assured that Acting President Jonathan was also embarrassed by the numerous radio, television and press interviews she granted in the past week, assailing what she called "a cabal" around Yar'adua.

Earlier, the 36 state governors under the umbrella of the governors' forum met at the same venue. The outcome of that was not made public

but it was a prelude to their meeting with Jonathan.

When asked whether he has seen Yar'adua since his return from Saudi Arabia, Ogbulafor said, "No, he just came back about a week ago and I don't have to be in a hurry to see the President. Acting President is doing extremely very well, he is not an ambitious man and he realizes that the President has just come and he is giving him time to recuperate and get well and he will see him at the appropriate time."

While the meeting of the PDP Governors and NWC members was going on, some ministers were waiting in one of the guest rooms at the Kwara State Governor's Lodge, venue of the meeting. The ministers include Dr. Rilwanu Lukuman, Dr. Mansur Muktar, Minister of State for Power Nuhu Wya and Minister of State for Petroleum Odein Ajumugobia.

After the governors' meeting, journalists were expecting a briefing, but Oyo State Governor Ade-

bayo Alao Akala, who came out second after Governor of Borno State, shouted, "No communiqué, no communiqué." But the Chairman of the Governors Forum and Governor of Kwara State Dr. Bukola Saraki said the governors will brief reporters after a meeting with the Acting President at the Villa last night.

At the end of their meeting with Dr. Jonathan last night, the state governors announced that the status quo in the Presidency must be maintained. Governors Bukola Saraki, Timipre Sylva and Godswill Akpabio, who announced the decision, said, "Rather than putting pressure on Yar'adua, people should sympathise with him and pray for his quick recovery. Jonathan should continue in acting capacity. That nobody has seen Yar'adua does not matter." They also said people should mind their utterances. Governor Sylva specifically mentioned Information Minister Dora Akunyili as one who should watch her utterances.

## Rumpus in House over Akunyili

Continued from page 1

sion". He said, "When you read national dailies, you will discover that they are awash with Prof Akunyili's statements on President Yar'adua. And this does no good to the country. Rather it brings confusion".

Bankole asked Rep. Mohammed Ali Ndume (ANPP, Borno State) to make his contribution on the matter, to which Ndume said Prof Akunyili's statements were aimed at bringing confusion to the country. He said, "I want to associate myself with what Hon. Mayor Eze has said. The lady is just trying to bring confusion to the country. Therefore we need to caution her". The House was thrown into confusion for about ten minutes but Speaker Bankole brought it into order.

Not long afterwards, confu-

sion erupted when Rep. Patrick Obahiagbon (PDP, Edo State) raised a Point of Order, drawing the House's attention to the "illegal deployment of troops to the airport" on the night of Yar'adua's return to the country on Tuesday last week. Barely had he finished when Bankole asked him to meet and brief him on the matter. But after conferring with the Speaker, Rep. Obahiagbon decided to defer his matter. However, another member, Rep. Samuel Sejero (AC, Lagos State) also raised a Point of Order, saying there was the need to know whether President Yar'adua had truly returned to the country. He also urged the House to summon the President's wife, Hajiya Turai Yar'adua and others to explain his whereabouts. Sejero said, "We should invite Turai and all those who are detaining the president to come and brief

us on his whereabouts. This is against section 308 of the constitution". Sejero had barely finished his speech when the House was thrown into yet another round of, which prompted the Speaker to order for a closed door session at 11:41am. Emerging from the session at 1:50pm, Bankole directed leader of the House Rep. Tunde Akogun (PDP, Edo State) to read the House's resolution. Akogun said, "The House in an executive session resolved to urge Nigerians to concentrate only on those matters that would bring peace, unity and progress of Nigeria."

But some members who didn't want to be named told *Daily Trust* that the session was characterised by issues surrounding President Yar'adua's non-appearance in public since his return to the country. While some members insisted that the President be forced to address

the country in order to douse tension, others opined that it would be unnecessary to do so since the Acting President is in charge and all matters are being attended to without hitches.

They also cited the House's resolution which empowered Dr. Goodluck Jonathan to act as President, pointing out that unless the other group has a hidden motive, the President should be allowed to recuperate without any molestation. Speaking to our reporter after the session, Rep. Ali Ndume said the decision of the House was aimed at discouraging people from speaking on Yar'adua's health, which he said does no good to the country.

He said, "In the executive session, we told ourselves the plain truth and we all resolved that the simple resolution should be everything necessary to put the country

back on track. We advised every public officer and in fact every Nigerian to concentrate on those things that will promote the unity, prosperity and progress of this country, not to be issuing out statements because individuals want to play to the gallery, they want to make name or they want to create an opportunity thinking that if something collapses they will benefit out of it. That doesn't help the situation."

Rep. Farouk Lawan (PDP, Kano State) urged the Acting President to caution his ministers from unguarded statements that can jeopardise the country. He said, "I want to urge the Acting President to caution all his ministers, especially Dora Akunyili, to shut up."

We want him to concentrate on his work rather than heeding to people that could destabilise the country".

# Boko Haram: Police absent from court

From Yahaya Ibrahim & Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

THE Inspector General of Police Ogbonna Onovo was not represented yesterday at the Borno State High Court 3 to answer to a suit filed by Babakura Alhaji Fugu, son in-law to the late Boko Haram leader, Alhaji Baa Fugu,

who was allegedly killed by the police during last year's uprising by the sect in Maiduguri.

At the resumed hearing of the case yesterday, only counsel to Borno State Governor Ali Modu Sheriff and the Attorney General of the Federation were in the court. Anayo Adibe, counsel to the deceased's family, told

the court that the police had been served notice since February 15, 2010, but that they were yet to say anything on the matter. The presiding judge, Muhammed Mustapha, said he would not allow delay and warned the counsel to pass the message to their clients.

Arguments on the case by counsel to the applicant and the

respondents will begin today.

It would be recalled that Mohammed Yusuf, the late leader of Boko Haram Islamic sect's in-laws sued President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, Governor Ali Modu Sheriff and the Inspector General of Police Ogbonna Onovo over the alleged murder of 72 year Baa Fugu Moham-

med, owner of the property used as the enclave of the Boko Haram group during the July, 2009 crisis in Maiduguri. The family is asking for a declaration that the murder was illegal, unconstitutional and a gross violation of his constitutional right to life as enshrined in Section 33 of the constitution.

## Pastors in court over grave digging

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

TWO pastors in Ilorin, Kwara State, were yesterday arraigned before an Ilorin Magistrate's Court for allegedly trespassing into a burial ground where they were caught digging a grave.

The accused persons, both of the Ife-Oluwa Cherubin and Seraphine Church, Tanke-Bubu area, Ilorin, were arraigned before the court on a two-count charge of criminal trespass and attempt to commit the offence.

The accused were allegedly caught on February 19, 2010 in an uncompleted building at Tanke-Babu area, Tanke of Ilorin digging the grave of late Alhaji Yakubu.

According to the police First Information Report on the issue, investigations revealed that the accused persons claimed to have pursued a bush rat to the grave.

The FIR added that the accused dug the grave beyond to such a depth that a seal and white cloth were dug out.

Police prosecutor, Sergeant Abdulkadir Jimoh, told the court that the investigations into the matter were still in progress.

While refusing the accused bail, the police prosecutor asked the court to remand them at the Oke-Kura federal prison, Ilorin pending the outcome of investigations. But the defence counsel, Hamid Gambari, prayed the court to grant the accused bail since the 1999 constitution still presumed them innocent until proved guilty.

The trial judge, Mrs. Zainab Bio Ibrahim, agreed with the submission of the defence as she granted the accused bail in the of sum N50, 000 and two sureties in the same amount. The court adjourned the case till March 25, 2010 for further mention.



GOV. Bukola Saraki



MEMBERS of Oke-Egun community in Sagamu Local Government Area of Ogun State protesting over alleged illegal land acquisition by the Ogun State Housing Corporation.

## Yar'adua's return breached security – Bugaje

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

THE return of President Umaru Yar'adua at an odd hour is not only a sign of desperation of a power hungry cabal, but an insult to our collective intelligence and a security breach, the Coalition For Social Justice said yesterday.

In a statement signed by its chairman, Dr Usman Bugaje and deputy chairman, retired Col Hameed Ali, the coalition blamed former President Olusegun Obasanjo for the current constitutional crisis in the country.

"The man who failed to get a third term deliberately forced a

sick president down the throat of Nigerians, just to throw this country into confusion", he said.

According to the group, the former president and all those who campaigned for Yar'adua are enemies of Nigeria. The statement lamented that a nation of 150 million people had been held hostage

by a woman.

"The National Assembly which saved the day by empowering the Acting President has curiously stopped short of dismantling this aberration, even as its members have both the moral responsibility and constitutional powers to do so", the statement added.

## Man trapped on high tension pole

From Isa Umar Gusan, Maiduguri

A man, Abba Musa, was yesterday trapped on a high tension electricity pole in Alajiri, behind the NNPC depot along Damboa road in Maiduguri following the unexpected restoration of power by the Power Holding Company of Nigeria. The man was allegedly trying to steal some electrical equipment from the top of the pole.

Residents around the area said at 4:30 am, they heard someone screaming for help, shouting in Hausa language, "Jama'a ku zo ku tai maki barawo, ku zo zan mutu, dan Allah ku zo ku taimake ni, kar ku bar ni in mutu", mean-

ing, "People should come and help a thief, come, please, I am about to die. For the sake of God, come and help me, don't let me die". The scream alerted residents and they ran out of their houses, but no one could go up there even though, the PHCN had withdrawn the power.

Residents thereafter ran to the PHCN office in Damboa road to alert the workers so that power would not be restored to enable them save the man from being electrocuted. The Fire Service, the Nigeria Civil Defence Corps and PHCN officials worked together and brought the man down. He was also saved from being lynched by residents who blamed him for the re-current power outage in the area. The man told *Daily Trust* that he was living in Premier around the Shehu's

palace, about five kilometres from the point where he was trapped.

He said he was a pure water vendor and that he met a young man, an accomplice (also said to have been arrested around the pole) on Monday, adding that the man gave him some drugs to take and later asked him to follow him to Alajiri.

"Early this morning (Tuesday) at about 4:00 am, he woke me and said I should go with him to climb the pole. There was no light then. He gave me some tools and I climbed up without a ladder. While I was there, electricity was restored and my legs got burnt. I became confused and started shouting for help", he said. Civil Defence officials took the suspect away for treatment.

## Islamic group solicits support for Jonathan

FROM MUSTAFA ABUBAKAR, ILORIN

AN Islamic group, the Jama'at Darus-Salam of Nigeria, has said it was high time Nigerians supported Acting President Jonathan Goodluck by shunning any act that may hinder the existing peace and progress of the country in order to assist him complete the current tenure of the present administration without any hindrance.

The President-General of the group Sheikh Hassan Zaruq Pakata stated this in Ilorin yesterday.

Sheikh Zaruq Pakata said Nigerians should not allow the recent arrival of the President Umaru Musa Yar'adua to cause any disaffection in the political leadership of the country.

"The country belongs to everyone of us and all efforts should be put in place towards promoting peace and development to enhance the socio well being of the populace", he said.

He said people should know that Allah gives power to any person he wishes, hence, all Nigerians should come out to support Goodluck Jonathan to move the nation forward.

## Lukman, Barkindo others shun Reps probe

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

MINISTER of Petroleum Resources Rilwan Lukman, minister of state Odein Ajumogobia and the Group Managing Director of NNPC Mohammed Barkindo yesterday shunned the ongoing investigation by the House of Representatives over the fraudulent award of \$75m contract at the Kaduna Refinery.

But chairman of the committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream) Rep Clever Ikisikpo (PDP, Bayelsa State) vowed to raise a motion to compel the ministers and other government functionaries to appear before the House on the matter.

He said "Nigeria is too big for a group of persons to be deceiving us. The contract agreement signed was \$23 million but the turndown maintenance takes about \$75 million. This shows that there is a cabal in NNPC."

However, Elizabeth Emurem, Permanent Secretary of the Petroleum Ministry said the minister was in an urgent meeting and could not come and asked the representative of the NNPC to respond to the inquiry on the state of the refineries.

On his part, Austin Oniwon, Group Executive Director Refining and Petrochemicals in NNPC said the GMD is in Britain to attend a security meeting that has to do with the situation of petroleum in the country.

General Manager of Kaduna Refinery declined comment.

## Jonathan sends bill on money laundering to senate

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki Hassan

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday forwarded a draft bill for an Act to repeal the money laundering (prohibition) Act, 2004 to the Senate.

Jonathan also forwarded another draft bill seeking to domesticate the enforcement of the Seafarers identity document convention revised 2003.

In the letter forwarding the bills, Jonathan said he hope that the bill will receive the usual expeditious consideration and passage by distinguished members of Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The two draft bills brings to four the number of correspondences the Acting President has sent to the Senate since elevation to full presidential powers pending the return and resumption of office by President Yar'Adua.

Meanwhile, the Senate is expected today to debate a motion on the heinous robbery incident on Lagos-Benin express last week where about 50 people were crushed to death by a luxury bus on the orders of the robbers.

Coming under order 42 of the Senate rules Senator Simon Ayogu Eze (PDP, Enugu North) who is also the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Information and Media said the act was barbaric which needs to be condemned by all and sundry.

## U.S. agency to assist Nigerian cassava farmers

By Aisha Umar Agaie

OVER 1,000 Nigerian cassava farmers will be provided with secure markets, inputs, access to finance, and technical assistance to produce the first glucose from cassava in Nigeria.

The assistance is courtesy of an innovative public-private partnership between Ekha Agro and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

U.S. Ambassador Robin Renée Sanders visited with cassava farmers yesterday at a processing plant in Ogun State to highlight how U.S. development assistance is improving the lives of Nigeria's farmers. Small scale farmers will double their productivity and increase their net incomes by over 150 percent as well as get better yields and higher prices, as a result of the partnership which represents cassava farmers, suppliers, buyers and processors.

Ambassador Sanders told the participants that the partnership "shows the power that the private sector has to transform Nigerian agriculture, increase food security, and raise farmers' income."

Nigeria is the world's largest producer of cassava, the crop which is rarely used in higher-value commercial food processing.



CENTRAL Bank of Nigeria Governor, Dr. Sanusi Lamido Sanusi (right) with the bank's Deputy Governor in-charge of Operations, Mr. Tunde Lemo, during a briefing on the outcome of the Monetary Policy Committee meeting in Abuja yesterday.

## Justice Minister orders probe of Boko Haram killings

By Misbahu Bashir

THE Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice Prince Adetokunbo Kayode has directed the National Committee on Torture to probe the Aljazeera Television footage on extra-judicial killings in Maiduguri in the wake of the Boko Haram crisis.

The committee is also to probe the reports of local and international human rights organizations on the killings.

The AGF gave the order yesterday in Abuja at a meeting with the committee, saying about 600 people, including police officers, are being investigated in connection with the

killings.

He asked the Committee to examine the summary execution of the sect members and asked the Committee to within one week come up with a National Policy against Torture, to be presented to the Federal Executive Council for adoption.

He said that he would meet with key ministers, lawmakers and the Inspector-General of Police to discuss the extra-judicial killings allegedly perpetrated by some police officers.

He said Government unequivocally condemned all extra-judicial executions and other unlawful killings, emphasizing that Nigeria was duty-bound to make criminal, torture and extra-judicial killings, by the

1999 Constitution, and her ratification of the United Nations Convention against Torture and its optional protocol.

He called for reform of Nigeria's criminal justice system, adding that he would hold a meeting with stakeholders in legal reform to get a coordinated agenda on how to reverse the trend of such extra-judicial killings.

In his response, the Chairman of the Committee, Dr. S. S. Ameh, said that the Committee appreciated the concerns of the Attorney-General and those of Nigerians.

He said the Committee's work would be valuable but asked for the necessary backing and autonomy to facilitate its work.

## Izala group: Calling Gummi controversial is bad

From Isa Liman, Zaria

SHEIKH Ahmad Gummi cannot be described as controversial provided what he is preaching has the support of the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (upon whom be peace), Sheikh Abubakar Imam Ikara said yesterday.

Sheikh Ikara, who is the deputy national chairman of Jama'atu Izalatul Bida Wa'iqamatu Sunna (JIBWIS) famously known as Izala, said he was

disappointed with the way *Daily Trust* addressed Sheikh Gummi as controversial Islamic preacher.

"I don't know your (*Daily Trust*) basis for referring to Sheikh Gummi as controversial Islamic preacher, but to my own understanding of Islam you can't know whether somebody is controversial or not if you are not well sound in Islamic jurisprudence," Sheikh Ikara said. He said, "Of course, some people may tend to disagree with his views but that doesn't make him con-

troversial provided what he is preaching has the support of the Holy Qur'an and the Sunna of Prophet Muhammad (upon whom be peace). I think *Daily Trust*, as a respected newspaper, has to watch the way it addresses people. There should be demarcation between its writers' opinion and what they are reporting."

Sheikh Ikara also said the Izala group is still trying to establish why Sheikh Gummi was being held by the Saudi Arabian security personnel.

## Bafarawa denies jumping bail

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

FORMER Sokoto State governor Attahiru Bafarawa, who is standing trial over allegation of corruption, has denied jumping bail, saying he would never become a fugitive from the law.

Bafarawa was declared wanted on Monday by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) after a Sokoto High Court quashed the bail it earlier granted him for not appearing in court.

In a statement issued yesterday

from London where he had gone for medical check-up on Sunday, the former governor said that the court decision and the EFCC declaration that followed came to him as a surprise.

"I sent my lawyer (Ricky Tarfa) with my letter that I have medical appointment to keep with my doctor in London. The lawyer tendered the letter but unfortunately the presiding judge rejected it," Bafarawa said.

He said he was surprised that the EFCC claimed that jumped bail

and the court agreed. "How could I have jumped bail when my lawyer, who represented me in court, knew and still knows my movement and he presented a letter to that effect in court?"

The former governor said he is too honourable to run away from the law and from his country, adding that he would be back in the country ahead of the March 17 adjourned date given by the court. He also promised to make himself available in court any time he is required to do so.

# LG secretariat deserted after thug raid

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

THE Ejigbo Local Development Council secretariat in Oshodi Isolo Local Government Area of Lagos State was yesterday deserted by staff as thugs believed to be working for a political party chieftain attacked people in the council.

Our correspondent gathered that trouble started Friday when some politicians tried to outdo one another in the ongoing membership registration exercise of their party.

A political chieftain came with a lorry load of loyalists,

insisting on registering all of them before any other party member.

It was gathered that the matter came to a head when thugs attacked the secretary to the council, Mr. Olu Arologun, who called for peace.

Then, thugs loyal to different chieftains engaged in a free for all, attacking one another with dangerous weapons before chasing away staff of the council.

The Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the Lagos State Police Command, Mr. Frank Mba, said he was not aware of the incident and that he would call the Divisional Police

Officer in the Ejigbo Police station to confirm it. The police also denied arresting an official of the Lagos State Transportation Management Authority (LASTMA) who allegedly killed a motorist around Jakande Estate, Isolo, last Friday.

The LASTMA official, identified as Ganiyu, allegedly killed a motor part seller identified as BIG for driving against traffic. The incident according to a witness, occurred during a fight between the deceased and the LASTMA man.

According to the witness, the LASTMA man allegedly hit the deceased in his stomach and he later died at the Isolo General Hospital.

## CNPP chief flays secrecy over Yar'adua

From Ismail Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi

THE Chairman of Conference of Nigerian Political Parties (CNPP) in Kebbi State Alhaji Musa Abubakar Danmaliki has condemned the absence of President Umaru Yar' adua from public glare since he returned from Saudi Arabia, alleging that some people are fooling Nigerians about his health.

The CNPP chairman who said leadership cannot be treated with levity, posited that if truly the president returned to Nigeria and is in good health as his loyalists want Nigerians to believe, he ought to have addressed the nation.

"The PDP is just indulging in affairs of the Presidency and trying to cover up the real truth about Yar' adua's health situation. We know the cabal is at present benefiting from what is going on, Mr. President is just being held by this clique and it is not willing to let him go", he said.

He said it was sad that the situation over Yar' adua's health was made worse by people who have no interest of the country.

"How can a President that has been ill for over three months come back to Nigeria from Saudi Arabia as they claimed, yet nobody, not even the Acting President is allowed to see him. This is an indication that all is not well yet with the President and Nigerians deserve to be told the true situation of things", he added.

## Amaechi urges FG to implement NIPSS reports

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

GOVERNOR Chibuike Amaechi of Rivers State has urged the Federal Government to begin the implementation of reports of study tours undertaken by course participants of the National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) for national development purposes.

He made the call yesterday during a courtesy visit by the Association of Alumni of NIPSS, Kuru, near Jos, led by retired Lt. Gen. Jeremiah Useni at Government House, Port Harcourt.

The governor said the only way to justify the inputs of course participants that visit various states of the federation was to implement recommendations of such nationwide studies.

"There are different solutions that have been proffered to national problems by the institute, most of them get to the federal and state governments, but are hardly implemented", Amaechi stated, noting that some of the findings if implemented may address some issues of national interest.

The governor charged the institute to emphasize more on those things that unite the country as a people, and discourage religious and ethnic politics, which are capable of causing disaffection. Earlier, Lt. General Jeremiah Useni said they were in Port Harcourt as part of the nationwide interactive tour of the association.

He said the institute had trained 1,392 persons across the country in different fields, and called on state governments to tap from the professional competence of members.

## Niger in top 8 states — Aliyu

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

GOVERNOR of Niger State Dr Muazu Babangida Aliyu has said that his state has moved up from the top 18 to the top eight developed states within two years based on the Nigeria's domestic economic ranking.

Aliyu said this Monday at a North-Central Forum on the implementation plan of the Vision 20:2020 which included Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Plateau, Niger, Benue states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).



FROM right: Chairman, House Committee on Petroleum Downstream Clever Ikisikpo, the committee's clerk Joke Shitu and a member of the committee Deami Kunaiyi-Akpanah, during the committee's meeting with NNPC and Minister of Petroleum on the recent queues at filling stations in Abuja yesterday.

## Group seeks FG intervention over Edo Assembly crisis

THE League of Edo Professionals (LEP) has called for a state of emergency in Edo State, condemning the event leading to the impeachment of the Speaker and the acts displayed at the state House of Assembly.

National Coordinator of LEP, Dr. Mathew Arase, who spoke to newsmen yesterday over the crisis, said the group aligned itself with statements credited to elder statesman and former Edo State governor, Chief John Odigie-Oyegun, noting that the actions of the House of Assembly were shameful and disgraceful and accused Governor Adams Oshioh mole of fueling the crisis.

He said what transpired at the Assembly was illegal and unconstitutional because those who claimed they had impeached Speaker Garuba did not get the required two-third of the Assembly members to remove him, adding that while the AC had 13 members, the PDP members were 11.

"I must say in clear terms that the governor has deviated from his set goals of developing the state to marshalling state resources to fight perceived political enemies and we condemn his actions in unequivocal terms because we know he is the brain behind the political crisis", he said.

Dr Arase said a situation where members of the Assembly resorted to the rule of the jungles instead of the known healthy legislative duty, by engaging themselves in "exchange of blows" and free usage of axe, gavel, gun, canisters of teargas and other dangerous weapons, while the House was in session, was dangerous and weird and unbecoming of a democratic polity.

"As professionals we intend to turn our dear state into a haven for all kinds of business and imbibing a healthy political rivalry but our comrade Governor is already missing the mark", he said.

## NERFUND to empower active poor

THE National Economic Reconstruction Fund (NERFUND) has held a workshop to sensitise staff on current developments and increase their micro credit appraisal skills.

Other objectives of the training conducted by the Association of Nigerian Development Finance Institutions (ANDFI), an umbrella agency for the sub-sector, include ensuring accessibility to micro-credit,

credit management, reduction in credit risk, awareness on unique needs of micro-entrepreneurs and mitigating bad loans.

NERFUND Managing Director Baba Maina Gimba in a remark, told the staff that the training was aimed at acquainting them with latest techniques of micro-credit administration.

He said the wisdom behind the decision to expand the Fund's mandate derived

from government's resolve to empower the population of active poor in order to benefit from the obvious linkage effects such as tackling unemployment, poverty alleviation, finding use for local technological innovations and empowering the rural poor who are engaged in food processing under natural clusters.

A statement from NERFUND's Head, Corporate Affairs, Dahiru Ali yesterday

said under the new scheme, a project promoter could access up to N500,000 micro-credit. He said it was part of NERFUND's effort to provide window of opportunity for unemployed youths, women cooperatives and retirees in realisation of the 7-point agenda and Vision 20:2020

The Federal Government approved a N2bn micro-enterprises stimulation package for the fund in the 2009 supplementary appropriation.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE



## PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY [PDP] (PDP INTEGRITY FORUM (PIF))

C/o National Secretariat, Plot 1970 Wadata Plaza, Michael Okpara Street, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja

**Motto: Justice, Unity and Progress**

### Ogbulafor's Weak Leadership: The Bane of PDP (Serial II)

The teeming members of our great party, the PDP, may recall that on Sunday, February 21st, 2010, we had cause to take advertorials in three national dailies, namely, the *LEADERSHIP*, *The Nation* and the *Sunday Trust*, where we x-rayed signposts of the debilitating leadership weaknesses of our National Chairman, Prince Vincent Eze Ogbulafor, OFR.

As if the PDP has not had enough problems occasioned by a leadership lying prostrate, we received a petition written to the National Chairman by the six Zonal Chairmen of our great party where they complained about the Ogbulafor leadership's meddlesomeness in the affairs of the zones. To some leaders of the party, the largesse from the governors of PDP states is too much to attempt any resistance; hence the zonal structure, its duties and functions, as provided in the PDP Constitution, must be overturned. For an insatiable leader, not minding the collapse of a working harmony with the zonal structure, which is strategic for election exploits, funds meant for the zones must be trimmed drastically to nothing, while the rest would end up in private pockets.

The vision, mission and ambition of any great leader is to leave behind him his footprints on the sands of time. This is not so with the leadership style of Ogbulafor who intrinsically is sowing the seeds of confusion, anarchy, greed and complete disrespect for the constitution and manifesto of the party that has thrown him up to such a wonderful but ingloriously abused limelight. Then we ask: Has Ogbulafor a special mission to lead the PDP to a steady slide to decay and total decimation? Must the soul of our great party be terribly battered for personal aggrandizement? Should we sit back and allow greed to becloud the vision of our so-called party chairman to the detriment and disintegration of the PDP? Should the toil and labours of our past leaders be in vain?

While these posers were being asked, we had the greatest shock of our life when we read the publications in *The Punch* and *LEADERSHIP* newspapers of Wednesday, February 24, 2010, entitled "Criminal Investigation Against Prince Ogbulafor - National Chairman of PDP: What Kind of Leadership Is This?" According to the publication, the Court Order in Suit No. FHC/ABJ/M/451/09 "granted leave to bring an application for judicial review for an Order of Mandamus, to compel the respondent (ICPC) to investigate and prosecute Prince Vincent Ogbulafor as the present National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party for corrupt practices ranging from **obtaining gratification, embezzlement and corrupt enrichment** in line with the facts stated in support of the application". The case was adjourned to March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010.

We ask further: If the National Chairman of a ruling

party whose covenant with Nigerians is to fight corruption is being pervasively engulfed in answering questions arising from charges of corruption on a daily basis, what integrity is left to drive the party?

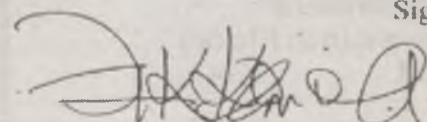
As if this is not enough, the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) came out strongly in *The Nation*, *LEADERSHIP* and *Daily Trust* newspapers of Monday, March 1st, 2010, where the ICPC admitted that their investigation of our dear National Chairman has reached a critical stage. This is like a funeral oration or a nunc-dimitis verdict.

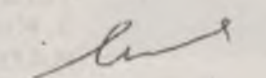
Prince Ogbulafor has lost direction and is therefore no longer fit for the plum office of the National Chairman of the PDP. If and when the PDP crumbles (God forbid), a serial decampee, which he is, will always have a way of crafting himself into a party of the moment anytime, any day. If that be, then, now is the time to confine Ogbulafor's tenure so far and all it represents to the dustbin of history before an irreparable damage is inflicted on our great party.

It is often said that no nation can rise above the standards of education in the country. Similarly, in politics, the fortunes and image of a political party is tied to the political background and public perception and rating of the leadership. Here is the Prince of Abia State who ran a governorship election in Abia State under the ANPP and failed. ANPP died with him in the State. This is a Prince who became the National Secretary of the PDP and it was alleged that the party's leadership had embezzled a whopping sum of money, which some people were allegedly shamefully forced to refund.

Ogbulafor got booted out of office midstream. Today, the PDP under the spurious leadership of Ogbulafor has become a shadow of itself. Public perception of the party under Ogbulafor has degenerated to such a low ebb that any election lost is seen and hailed as transparent while a victory by the PDP is declared and regarded outright as having been rigged. Do we take it that Ogbulafor, even with an unwholesome experience of being the former National Secretary of the same party, cannot comprehend the importance of image laundering to an organization as large as the PDP? Or is he really playing out a script of his yet undisclosed paymasters to run down the PDP? Silence and non-action in the face of negative perception of our party is unacceptable to us, and we view it as a serious collusion and collaboration of Ogbulafor with our adversaries. This is why we are compelled to say **ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!**

Signed:

  
Alhaji Mohammed T. Dikko  
(National President)

  
Orinolade Festus N.  
(National Secretary)

# Minister tasks NYSC board on reforms

By Romoke W. Ahmad

**YOUTH** Development Minister Senator Akinlabi Olasunkanmi has charged the Governing Board of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to immediately commence the implementation of reforms in the scheme.

The minister said the board should as soon as possible tackle frequent rejection of corps members by employers, revitalization of NYSC farm in other to feed the nation, and deployment of corps members to organizations where their service is most needed among other things.

Sen Olasunkanmi said this yesterday in Abuja while receiving the new members of the NYSC governing board, led by its chairman Chief Linus Okon, who visited him in his office.

The minister said the administrative aspect of the NYSC reform package which was approved by

Federal Executive Council (FEC) in 2009 should be implemented. He also said the computerization of the scheme in terms of e-registration of corps members should be improved to reduce transport risk for the corps members, upgrading of field officers and increment of state board mem-

bers.

He said although the NYSC headquarters has been linked to all the state secretariat of the NYSC, there is need to build a relationship with the National University Commission (NUC), National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), Ministry of Education and Corps pro-

ducing Institutions to reduce fake corps members.

While lamenting on the challenges facing the scheme, the minister said thirty billion naira is been spend on the scheme yearly but the fund is not enough adding that the ministry has proposed an alternative funding arrangement.

## Gov Aliyu told to withdraw statement on Yar'adua

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

A Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chieftain in Niger State Eng. Yabagi Sani yesterday asked Governor Mua'azu Babangida Aliyu to withdraw his statement that Umaru Musa Yar'adua is a president only in name.

Governor Aliyu was reported to have said that there could not be a president where there was an Acting President saying one must give way for the other.

Eng Sani said the comment credited to Gov Aliyu has exposed the entire North to ridicule in his capacity as chief executive of Niger State and Chairman Northern Governors' Forum (NGF).

"Is he telling us the position of the Northern governors' forum as their chairman?" Sani asked. He said the



GOVERNOR Mua'azu Babangida Aliyu

Governor Aliyu should have said something that will add value to the development of the country, and not fuel the ongoing controversy.

Sani said President

Yar'adua is still the president of this country because the mandate of the people is with him and Goodluck Jonathan is only acting on Yar'adua's behalf.

## CAN holds confab for Christian leaders

By Akor Ojoma

A three-day delegate conference for Christian leaders "who are committed to transforming Nigeria into a first-world nation shaped by God-centred moral values, would open today in Abuja.

The conference, organized by the Directorate of National Issues and Social Welfare of the Christian

Association of Nigeria (CAN), is taking place at the National Christian Centre Abuja.

A statement signed by the Director of the National Issues and Social Welfare Rev. Dr William Okoye identified lack of consistent God-centred, people-oriented, focused and purposeful leadership to be at the heart of Nigeria's problems.

Rev Okoye said Nigeria needs a new breed of courageous and visionary leaders who will be able to lead transformation in all spheres of the society.

He said the conference will equip Christian leaders with skills on how to engage in good governance, resolve conflict and encourage reconciliation as well as renew the church's role as salt and light in society.

## NEMA partners UN on food

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP) to strengthen efforts towards the provision of assistance during disaster situations. NEMA's Director General AVM Mohammed Audu-Bida disclosed this yesterday in Abuja while declaring open a workshop on "Emergency Preparedness and Response" organized for stakeholders in emergency management.

The MoU, he said, stipulates that the WFP will provide technical support and expertise for emergency response activities while NEMA will handle all local logistical issues.

The agreement also cover areas of rapid food security and assessment training, capacity building training in humanitarian logistics management in emergency situations and emergency preparedness and response workshop.

Represented by the agency's Director of Planning Research and Forecasting Dr Charles Agbo, the NEMA boss said the two parties will also work

together in the area of telecom assessment mission as well as emergency preparedness of the federal and states capacity assessment missions.

He said the recent earthquakes that hit Haiti and Chile have also necessitated "the need for our country to develop its contingency planning and human resource capabilities for effective disaster risk management."

Audu-Bida charged the participants to take advantage of the workshop to enrich their capacities in the discharge of their duties relating to humanitarian relief intervention in the country.

### NOTICE OF AUCTION

#### NO. 6, KANGIWA ROAD, G.R.A KATSINA

UNITY BANK PLC, as unpaid mortgagee and in pursuance of its right of sale under a Deed of Legal Mortgage made by ALHAJI LAWAL INUWA RAFINDADI, hereby gives notice that an auction of the whole property lying at No. 6, Kangiwa Road, G.R.A. Katsina covered by Katsina State Certificate of Occupancy No. KT. 9922 will be conducted on **Friday, 19th March 2010 at 11.00am.**

The action will be conducted at **No. 6, Kangiwa Road, G.R.A. Katsina**, and the property will be sold to the highest bidder. The sale of the property shall, however, be conditional upon the acceptance/approval of Unity Bank Plc, which also reserves the absolute right to postpone or cancel the sale of the property at any time.

The successful bidder shall, within 7 days from the date of the acceptance/approval of the bid by Unity Bank Plc, pay the full purchase price of the property to Unity Bank Plc.

For more information, please contact:

**MESSRS HALI CHAMBERS**  
licensed Auctioneers  
Turaki Ali House (5th Floor)  
3, Kanta Road  
KADUNA  
0802 301 4705, 0803 332 8028

## U.S.-based dance group to perform in Lagos

BY Aisha Umar Agaie

A United States-based dance group will visit Lagos from March 5-13 and put up two free public performances as part of its program of workshops.

The Dance Motion USA, Brooklyn, New York-based Evidence, A Dance Company, will perform on Wednesday, March 10 at 5p.m. at the National Arts Theatre and Friday, March 12 at 7p.m. at the MUSON Centre.

The dance company's visit to Lagos is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Pfizer, and

the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

A statement by the US embassy said the company's mission is to promote understanding of the human experience in the African Diaspora through dance and storytelling and to provide sensory connections to history and tradition through music, movement, and spoken word.

"Brown uses movement as a way to reinforce the importance of community in contemporary culture. Powerful, physical, and uplifting, Evidence, A Dance Company

was founded by choreographer Ronald K. Brown in 1985," the statement added.

Several of the group's choreographed works are based on the music of Nigerian artists such as Femi and Fela Kuti.

During its stay in Lagos, the group will partner with the University of Lagos, Terra Kulture, and the Society for the Performing Arts in Nigeria (SPAN), Spirit of David, the National Association of Nigerian Theatre Arts Practitioners (NANTAP), the MUSON Centre and the National Arts Theatre.

# Online Reactions

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



## Reps rule out debate on Yar'adua

I am not surprised, since that will not affect their salaries and allowances they will not discuss it.

They only moved the motion to empower the Acting President

because the Senate did.

**Franklin Desmond**  
*mezybusiness@yahoo.co.uk*

This is a very nice decision taken by the House. At least,

this will weaken those mischievous people who want to use this opportunity to cause trouble in the country.

I am in support of this motion. May Allah continue to protect

our democracy and Nigeria.

**Abubakar Chika Maru**  
*abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com*

History only remembers those who speak up when issues of

importance are being discussed. Let the members shy away from the issue, in due time, we shall know the heroes.

**Okwe Ogah**  
*igedeman@gmail.com*



IGP Ogbonna Onovo

## 8 cops held over Boko Haram

IT is very surprising that the Minister of Police Affairs does not believe the footage shown by Al-jazeera News. Allah will one day judge all those involved in the killings.

**Engr. baba Shehu**  
*bashuhu@yahoo.com*

Why couldn't Dr. Lame, the Minister of Police Affairs give the number of policemen arrested in connection with the extra-judicial killings when he was asked by the BBC Hausa Service? Now, he is questioning the authenticity of the Aljazeera video footage. Human rights groups should be vigilant, lest Lame kills the investigation.

**Mustash**  
*almustash@yahoo.com*

The killings were all done in public. The police did not take any measure to hide the carnage. Do not waste your time trying to find out if the pictures were doctored, they were not.

**Muhammad Yahya**  
*mysanda@hotmail.com*

Mr. Yakubu Lame, keep playing games with the lives of the people because they are probably not your relatives. How can you say the pictures were manipulated? Are you so insensitive? Let us all rise up and condemn these atrocities. It does not matter whether it is against northerners or southerners, we must say enough is enough to extra-judicial killings.

**Anyaeji**  
*anthonymaduekwe@yahoo.com*

Nigeria is a place where a police will kill and go scot-free. I hope justice will take its course in this matter.

**Murtala**  
*husnagems@gmail.com*

WHO told you this? Have you seen President Yar' adua? How can we believe that a man who has not been seen by his own mother has been allowed to see some of his aides.

**Dr. Lyons**  
*emma1@yahoo.com*

This is political maturity. Those who are agitating and insisting on seeing him are not doing so in good faith. But what they probably do not know is that, Allah will definitely accomplish what he wants to. Indeed Allah has set a measure for all things' (Q: CH65, V3)

**Al-Amine M. Abba**  
*elkanemi2@hotmail.com*

So doctors have barred adults from going close to the president. Does it mean his grandchildren, nephews etc cannot infect him? We want our president to get well and return fully to work.

**Mustash**  
*almustash@yahoo.com*

If he can see his grandchildren, he should be able to see Goodluck.

**David**  
*daviddaуда@ymail.com*

At this critical moment, the best thing will be for our leaders to abandon primordial sentiments and give mature leadership.

**Idee Amin Banki**  
*talbanbanki@yahoo.com*

To clarify matters and for the sake of probity, the Federal Government should set up an independent judicial commission to investigate Malam Sanusi's findings and apportion blame. Soludo is pretending that nothing happened. The EFCC should also be involved in the investigation.

**Chuks Ahunah**  
*ahunahchuks@yahoo.com*

Malam Sanusi, thank you for your efforts at the CBN. Bank fraud is the major reason why Nigeria is not going anywhere.

**Bruce uba**  
*bruceuba@yahoo.com*  
Do the Soludos of this country



PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua

ship. It is unfortunate that the health of the president has been politicised. It is mortal to be sick and loyalty should not be criminalised. Nigerians should trade cautiously. Goodluck should also be wary of the kind of advice he receives. May God grant the president a speedy recovery, amen.

**Dalung Solomon**  
*igbarman@gmail.com*

We wish him a speedy recovery. But let him speak to his vice

even if it is on phone to reduce tension in the country.

**Attahir**  
*ahkyauta@gmail.com*

It will be really unfair, if the president is truly strong and can speak, yet refused to see the Acting President.

**Padeware Andakuro**  
*padosandakuro@yahoo.com*

All we are saying is that, he should speak to Nigerians. May

Allah continue to guide and protect us.

**Abu Ali**  
*ab123alii@yahoo.co.uk*

It is heart warming to read that President Yar'adua is not in a critical state as is being speculated. We hope the president will go a step further by letting us (who gave me the mandate to be president) see him. If he cannot address us, we want to see a recent picture of him.

**Ibrahim T. Ibrahim**  
*elkutigi@yahoo.com*

Alhamdu-Lillah. I wish him a speedy recovery.

**Hassan Baba**  
*hassanbabbs16@yahoo.com*

If it is true that our president is in Aso Rock, why can't his mother see him?

**Ikafia**  
*ekpenyongoo2@yahoo.com*

Why would the lights go off whenever the president wants to move around? Has he turned into a nocturnal creature? He came back in the dark, airport lights were switched off, now even in his resident, lights are switched off when he wants to move about. Why can't the Acting President see him?

**Franklin Desmond**  
*mezybusiness@yahoo.co.uk*

## Banking consolidation a sham –Sanusi

YOU have spoken the truth, Mr. CBN Governor. The next step is for you to start prosecution.

**Idee Amin Banki**  
*talbanbanki@yahoo.com*

To clarify matters and for the sake of probity, the Federal Government should set up an independent judicial commission to investigate Malam Sanusi's findings and apportion blame. Soludo is pretending that nothing happened. The EFCC should also be involved in the investigation.

**Chuks Ahunah**  
*ahunahchuks@yahoo.com*

Malam Sanusi, thank you for your efforts at the CBN. Bank fraud is the major reason why Nigeria is not going anywhere.

**Bruce uba**  
*bruceuba@yahoo.com*  
Do the Soludos of this country

actually think they will get away with all these. Posterity will definitely judge them.

**Dr Said Amin**  
*saidmamin@gmail.com*

I applaud the good work being done by the CBN Governor, but we should not criticise our predecessors. Please Sanusi, focus your own policies.

**Onyewuchi R. Ugwuibe**  
*rostonb@yahoo.com*

Thank you for the revelation. I suspected all along that the so called consolidation was nothing but a scam. Come to think of it, the man who presided over that mess wanted to be a state governor before Peter Obi stopped it. My question is, why are our bank CEO's so greedy?

**Ini Johnson**  
*johnsonini65@yahoo.com*



CBN Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi



By Tunde Asaju

## Long live the Queen

Lucky me, unlike most Nigerians, I have seen the King. And not just once but several times this week alone. I wonder where other people are looking. On Monday, I visited a few supermarkets in town, and everywhere I go, there he was, a beautiful King, decked in a light blue *babanriga*, and starring down at me. Even though he was not smiling, he looked quite better than the manipulated pre-medical vacation pictures of him published by wicked and jealous editors. I respect my King for keeping royal tradition. Obama can smile to cameras; he can never reign like a true African King. There are good reasons to prefer hospital beds to hotels, you can sleep well, fart and even pooh without having nurses covering their noses. Nothing suits

Obama can smile to cameras; he can never reign like a true African King.

like having your family perform the lesser hajj, while you change your skin.

So, after I left the supermarkets, I also went to a few government offices. Again, there was my King, smiling at me. I am very convinced that it was His Imperial Majesty, King UMYA, because, all the pictures had his name written in gold as King and Commander in Chief of unbending forces. I rushed to my doctor who confirmed that my eyes are seeing pretty well and reading this is proof enough.

Blind politicians are seeking to lead Nigeria into the pit. If I had not travelled far and wide especially in the northern part of Nigeria, I would have believed some of the reports and reactions I am reading in the papers. The last time I went to the palace of His Eminence, the Sultan of Sokoto, I saw him enter the reception area, but as soon as he attempted to sit down, some *dogari* used their butterfly *babanriga* to shield the holy act of sitting. It felt great to see them hold His Eminence until they were ready to unveil him, no questions asked.

I did eventually see His Eminence in sitting position and if any of you doubt me, I will provide pictorial evidence. After that meeting, I also visited the palace of His Royal Highness, the Emir of Kano. The same procedure happened. We did not see the King take his seat, it is a hallowed act never unveiled to mortals. I am surprised that most Nigerians are so ignorant of this fact. They want to see the King of Nigeria as he returned from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I find it totally absurd. King-

ship is a matter of style. The other day, I was in another emir's palace, he cleared his throat and made to dislodge the phlegm, but a *dogari* rushed forward to take the blessing. The royal phlegm is benign to his subjects; it must not be wasted like those of commoners.

From that background, I doff my hat for those who organised the non-secular reception for the King. I also commend Her Queenly Majesty for successfully shielding her husband from curious but mischievous observers. I know, that those who are shouting - we want to see the King - are not altruistic. Indeed, I uncovered a plot to make sure that the King stumbled if he had allowed himself to be blinded by the battery of klieg lights that came to welcome him after days in the royal grotto. I also thank those who made sure that his feet did not touch unholy Nigerian soil.

Nigerians have been making pilgrimage to Mecca, but nobody has had royal blessing and been immunised with heavenly bliss for 92 days like our King. Before his return, we were told that just an access to some Nigerians, he had to return to intensive care unit. So the Saudi monarch gave an order that he should have no further contact with contagious Nigerians. I sincerely recommend that the King should not be contaminated by his subjects until they have purged themselves of their lethal dose of the disease called disloyalty, which sent Mammadu Tandja into solitary confinement. For now, the King is allergic to his subjects but thank heavens his subjects not yet allergic to him.

I heard of an attempt to crown one Lucky as King. Okay, when the cat's away, you can't stop the mouse playing, but has he added Yar'adua to his name? I mean, little Umaru Musa Yuguda has better chances of acting than this man; at least he is from the ruling house and a natural crown prince. Every ruling house would have its own turn at the appropriate time. Until 2011 if the reigning King decides to call for snap selections, there is simply no vacancy in the palace. I say this with certainty irrespective of what kingmaker Mark and Bankole thinks. This is why I doff my hat for the security men who guarded the Royal Seat against contamination last Wednesday. More power to their elbows. To those who do not know, after elections, governance is a monarchy. Nigeria is not a Tandjarine republic, so boy scouts should play no hanky-panky. I have nothing against people other ruling houses from practicing in preparation for their time, but they must wait for the King to be pronounced dead first. That's the natural order of things, but for royalists like me even if the King is dead, all am permitted to say is - the King is dead, long live the Queen!

(tundeasaju@yahoo.co.uk)



By Sylvester C. Udemezue

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

Prof Dora Akunyili's interview, published in some national dailies on 28 February, 2010 was remarkably explosive, exceedingly forthright, insightful, and informative. I do not possess appropriate adjectives to aptly capture the depth of wise revelation interlocked in this piercing outburst by a person who appears perfectly to understand that all is not well with Nigeria and its leadership. I think what Prof. Akunyili has done is to reiterate the fact that President Yar'adua is a very good man, who meant well for Nigeria, but that it appears some people around the President are exploiting the President's current helpless situation for their selfish and sectional interests, to the detriment of Nigeria, its peace, stability and the welfare of its citizens and residents. Prof Akunyili, I honestly believe, is of the view that something needs to be done urgently to wrestle a good-natured President Yar'adua from the hands of those who have seized him, and are cashing in on his current health status to feather their own nests. Prof Akunyili wants something done forthwith to save Nigeria, Nigerians, and Nigerian leadership from the avoidable jeopardy into which the current ugly situation may otherwise plunge them.

I commend Prof Akunyili's courage in coming out to speak out, notwithstanding the perceived risks. No

As William J. H. Boetcker once said, that you may retain your self-respect, it is better to displease some people by doing what you know is right

man or woman is worth his salt, who is not ready at all times to risk his body, to risk his well-being, to risk his life, in a great cause. Hear George Patton: "The courageous man is the man who forces himself, in spite of his fear, to carry on."

True courage represents perfect sensibility of the measure of danger, and a mental willingness to endure it. Secondly, I think Prof Akunyili has done what is right by refusing to accept to feed Nigeria and Nigerians with lies and falsehood rather than truth, and to stand firm in insisting that the right thing be done at the right time to save Nigeria's fledgling democracy from avoidable collapse. As William J. H. Boetcker once said, that you may retain your self-respect, it is better to displease some people by doing what you know is right, than to temporarily please them by doing what you know is wrong. This is because, "to know what is right and not to do it is the worst cowardice" (per Confucius). Truth is not only violated by

falsehood; it may be equally outraged by silence. Again, it is best to refuse to compromise what you know to be right for anyone or anything. As Seneca put it, it is not because things are difficult that we do not dare, it is because we do not dare that they are difficult. Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things

I think what Prof. Akunyili has done is to reiterate the fact that President Yar'adua is a very good man, who meant well for Nigeria

that matter. Be who you are and say what you feel. Those who mind do not matter, and those who matter do not mind. All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing. Dora Akunyili, being Nigeria's information Minister, has rightly taken a stand, refusing to continue to fold her arms while Nigeria goes adrift; declining especially to mismanage information or rather to manage false information, more so when facts surrounding Alhaji Yar'adua's health are already an open secret.

What is more? Our country is in great difficulty right now, and all hands need to be on deck to see the country and its leadership out of the present quagmire. Concerning the fear for their safety and lives by all who have stood out courageously to be counted at this time when Nigerian and its hard-earned democracy are on trial, I will like to draw my advice from an anonymous saying: "act boldly and unseen forces will come to your aid." Meanwhile, I, again, join millions of Nigerians in praying that God grants President Yar'adua a rapid recuperation.

May God help him, and also help Nigeria to see a peaceful resolution of the current crises. I finally commend the Nigerian military for the maturity, patience and professionalism with which it has handled the current situation. I urge the soldiers to still stand where they are; military intervention in Nigerian leadership will be totally unacceptable, as it would drag the country back to square one ---- the worst democracy is far better than the best military government. For all those who continue to feed Nigerians with lies and falsehood in place of the truth over Alhaji Umaru Yar'adua's state of health, Abraham Lincoln's wise words are sufficient advise: you can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time. God bless Nigeria!

Udemezue lectures at the Nigerian Law School, Lagos (udemeyl@aol.co.uk)



## Your Letters

### Re: Lawal's development efforts in Nasarawa

The attention of the Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development, Dr. Hassan Muhammad Lawal, has been drawn to an interview as headlined above, by one Alhaji Shamsudeen Abubakar, published in the *Daily Trust* Newspaper of Friday, February 26, 2010 at page 48.

The Minister was, to say the least, embarrassed by the content of the so called interview. In that interview, so much praise and encomium were showered on the person of the Honourable Minister

and his modest contribution in the area of infrastructure development in Nasarawa state and other parts of the country.

In the first place, the Minister believes that the entire interview was based on ignorance, overzealousness and outright mischief. Anybody reading that piece will clearly see that the Honourable Minister was deliberately pitched against the former Governor of Nasarawa State, Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu, and the present Governor, Alhaji Aliyu Akwe Doma, both of whom are his elders, political mentors and whom he holds in high esteem.

Secondly, the Minister is a Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and not a Minister of Nasarawa State, and throughout his public service he has had opportunities to make impact throughout the entire country, and

internationally, in all the areas he has served. It is therefore unfortunate for anyone to try to drag his name into Local Politics.

Furthermore, all the projects mentioned in the write-up were narrated out of context. The Akwanga-Lafia dangerous curves project, for example, was on the drawing board long before the Honourable Minister was deployed to the Federal Ministry of Works, Housing and Urban Development. Also, the Honourable Minister has said on several occasions that all the stakeholders in Nasarawa State and indeed, neighbouring Benue State, have contributed immensely to the realization of that project.

*Lawrence Ojabo, Chief Press Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development.*

## Text us on 08 131 8000 30

### How Yar'adua whiloe...

BY your story, I think it is now 100% confirmed Yaradua isn't in the country; otherwise how can our No.1 Citizen be perambulating at night only? Is he a ghost? 08038177493.

### Enough about Yaradu's

OTHER problems are crying to be tackled, instead of lamenting over issue that cannot put food on our table. Those making noise around should be tactful because this could happen to any of us. We should wish him quick recovery and pray this should never recur. 07036073794.

### Sour grapes

WHAT is Governor Aliyu of Niger talking about now? Is it because his name has been removed from the list of potential VP nominees? God gives power to whomsoever he wants.

He should learn from his experience as governor, in that Niger State has millions like him, but it was him God chose.

*EJO Wooh, 08035872332.*

### Take it easy, Madam re-branding

REMEMBER you are imperfect creature like any other human. Your utterances on the issues of yar'adua's health are worrisome. You can achieve a lot without making much noise. Remember you are not the first and am sure you will not be the last.

*A. Kuta, 08073155145.*

### Unbelievable

THOSE asking Akunyili to resign need a re-check. She is the first minister in a current government that is not being a 'Nigerian' politician. Nigerians need to know the truth.

*CHIAZOR Mac, Abuja, 07030836475.*

### Give an inch

CROSSWORDS now are back; kindly make them a little bit large as the writings and the square are too tiny.

*07030078190.*

### Wrong, wrong choice

NFF should be reminded that Austin Eguavoen and Daniel Amokachi are not the best of choices as assistants for the new Super Eagles Chief Coach Lagerback. Their exposure and performance at international level as coaches are nothing compared to Siasia and Sunday Oliseh. Check tie records. Eguavoen's loss of concentration as a defender caused Nigeria's loss to Italy 1994 World Cup. Amokachi is not disciplined and loyal, which always caused problem in the Eagles camp.

*A. Deji, Ikeja, Lagos, 08069084390.*



By Kabiru Danladi Lawanti

## Still on the president's health

The uncertainty surrounding the President's health, the lingering constitutional and political crises that followed, lack of focus from the over 50 political parties is daily placing a big question mark to the upcoming general elections. As the elections approach, the political actors, especially those of the ruling party, have failed to address the stalemate. On one side there are millions of Nigerians, who on daily basis sleep in the dark, with an empty stomach, hoping and praying that things will get better. On the other hand, are a handful of individuals, very close to corridors of power holding the whole nation to ransom?

Nigerians are tired of this power game. It is very clear that our ruling elite are not ready to uphold our democracy: Ten years after the return of civilian administration, they are yet to come to terms with the provision of our constitution. For the past three months, when the president was flown out of the country, the Presidency, the National Assembly on one hand and the courts and lawyers on the other hand, were involved in war of words. While the former is involved in lies, secrecy and taking Nigerians for granted, the former, especially through the NBA, kept emphasizing that the constitutional provision be upheld. In between these two are the media, which Nigerians relied upon to know what was happening were also speculating about the President's health.

The official silence, even after the President was flown back to the country last week is such that Nigerians are made to remain zombie-like, docile and ignorant about the true health of the person they gave [?] their mandate to in 2007. The question many Nigerians keep asking is, why is it that a handful of people feign to love Nigeria and the President more than the over 140 millions Nigerians whom fate has kept from the corridors of power?! Just last week, the PDP's National Publicity Secretary told reporters that the President needed to rest after long hours journey, therefore he could not see anybody, including the Acting President.

While the power game continues, ordinary Nigerians are made to suffer due to selfish and sycophantic nature of the powerful political elite. They are left confused as to the promises made to them ten years ago that democracy is the best form of government. Today, as we entered electioneering year, the ruling elites have plunged the country into political and constitutional crises. All promise made were not fulfilled. According to a DFID report in 2009 seventy million Nigerians live on less than a dollar a day, with more than seven million children out of school. Roughly one million children less than 5 years die every year, due in part to low immunization. With a worst maternal mortality in the world, 42,000 women die every year due pregnancy related problems. We need not to tell how worst the nation's health sector is, as we have to take our president overseas for major and minor illnesses.

The promise to give Nigerians 6000MW of electricity has come to nothing. It turned out to be another official lie and nobody is taking responsibility; no resignation, no official apology. What we heard from the ECOWAS was that, the capacity, as it is now, has even dropped to 2400MW.

As we wait for the appearance of Mr. President, there are issues yet to be addressed; however, few, if at all care to notice. No mention is made about the 2010 budget, when it will be passed or when the implementation will start? What happens to the electoral reform promised Nigerians after the 2007 elections, or the constitution review embarked upon by the National Assembly? We are all left in the dark as citizens and nobody is asking questions. We were all made to engage in a power game, in which the beneficiaries are those who have kept the President for three months and blocked the application of the provision of the constitution in a situation like this.

It is high time we shifted our attention to other things that can help us to deal with the current stalemate, since at least; the Vice President has been given the power to act as the President. Let us leave Umaru Musa and his family to attend to his health. Whenever he is fit enough to resume his duties let him do so. But for now Nigerians are tired and sick of all the power game, while some few individuals use the opportunity to enrich themselves. Nigerians are tired of all the garbage they are fed by greedy sycophants, each trying to outdo his opponents, to get the attention of the substantive President's wife or the Acting President.

*Lawanti wrote from Area 11 Garki, Abuja.*

# DAILY TRUST

## EDITORIAL

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

## Yar'adua's return and the way forward

President Umaru Musa Yar'adua returned to the country last Wednesday after 93 days in Saudi Arabia on medical treatment. He was conveyed from the airport to State House amidst tight security. A week after his return, the president is yet to make a public appearance. As Nigerians eagerly waited for a broadcast, what they got was a jumbled statement saying that the vice president would continue to act while he recuperates. The entire episode leaves much to be desired. What is the true state of the President's health is a question that has never been satisfactorily answered, from the day he left the country on November 23 until his return.

The government appears to be in disarray. The day after the president's apparent return, the scheduled weekly Federal Executive Council meeting could not take place. It would have been the appropriate time and venue for the president to show himself, and be welcomed back. That didn't happen. To date, there is so much anxiety over this state of affairs which has led to wild speculations.

The situation was exacerbated when the Information Minister, Professor Dora Akunyili, whether spontaneously or bidden, announced that neither the acting president nor herself had seen the president since his return, and that a briefing by the first lady was being arranged. The same minister has gone further to make comments that make her sound more like an opposition spokesperson than the government minister that she is.

The day has come to reach a conclusion to this long-running national tragicomedy. Keeping the nation in the dark and guessing about what is going on does not do justice to the electorate and to the tax payers who foot the bills. It is only fair and a natural demand of courtesy that the president opens up to his citizens and those who had kept faith with his mandate to show up.

His public appearance or coming clean of his true state of health can repair a lot of the damage that has already been done; defuse the tension which has palpably enveloped the political, social and economic landscape, and help return Nigeria to its pride of place in the comity of nations. As it stands, not only are Nigerians speculating as to what is, what ought to be and what could be, even foreign governments who may not wish Nigeria well have joined the fray. The entire world is watching the political developments surrounding the politicisation of the president's health, and how opportunists are capitalising on it to their own ends. We strongly suggest that the president should waste no further time in making a live television broadcast to his constituents, Nigerians, as soon as his health permits. Failing that, we recommend he should do the right thing, and resign on grounds of ill health, so that Nigeria can move forward. Failing that too would leave no more room to allow the matter to linger for much longer, but invoke the relevant portions of the law for an alternative way to achieve the same goal. The nation cannot continue to be held to ransom to satisfy the whims of a few. He took an oath to be guided by God in his capacity to do the right thing by the country. Now is the opportunity to keep faith with that oath.

Mr President must realise that there is only one Nigeria, and everything must be done to protect and preserve its corporate integrity.

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

e-mail: opinion@dailytrust.com

## President without kidney, acting president with no liver

It was text I received from my Producer Ahmed Usman at about 4 o'clock in the morning of February and it said tersely - "Yar'adua is back". Ahmed had used a number I was not familiar with, so in disbelief I texted back - "Who is this with 'Yar'adua is back?" Ahmed Usman - the text identified. I tuned to AIT and caught the end of their report. Still in disbelief, I tuned to *Alljazeera* and saw the detailed report. I was glad that President Yar'adua had returned and I thanked God for answering our prayers as a family and church.

Questions then began to play up in my mind. Why a night flight? I explained away the air ambulance as well as the presence of an ambulance in the fleet for the evacuation of President Yar'adua, from the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport to Aso Rock Villa. But why the secrecy? Why was Goodluck Jonathan not at the airport, accompanied by members of the cabinet? Through the rest of the day, I watched out for a national broadcast and none came. I thus opted to wait and watch the NTA Network News.

As soon as I saw the item of Segun Adeniyi's Press Statement on NTA Network News, I knew that my brother the Chief Spokesman to President Yar'adua had gotten his knickers in a twist. The statement was a faux pas for the simple reason that Goodluck Jonathan's powers to act as President did not derive from Yar'adua, even though Yar'adua named him Vice President. Jonathan's powers as Acting President derived from the higher authority of the National Assembly.

The true interpretation is that President Yar'adua is on "suspension" until he can prove that he is back to Nigeria from Saudi Arabia, alive and well, and above all, fit to continue in office as President. If the pronouncement of Goodluck Jonathan as Acting President was not made by Segun Adeniyi, the statement that Jonathan should continue to serve as Acting President could not be made by Adeniyi, and was in reality redundant. This probably explains the reference to Goodluck Jonathan as Vice President in the same statement. There was more in what the statement did not say

### Timawus Mathias

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than there was in what it said and different segments of society gave their interpretation forcing a clarification. Those of us who read Segun Adeniyi religiously are unable to swear that the statement was his language. The logic of illness being a vagary of life is not Segun's who has written brilliantly on topical national issues. You never miss the arrow head of Segun's writing and it is certainly not like Segun to dwell in self pity with logic as puerile as

why would Segun Adeniyi tell us he is? There was more in what the statement did not say and it seemed an afterthought in the absence of official notification that President Yar'adua was back in the country after 3 months of absence from office. As of now, more importantly, however Segun Adeniyi's statement is the only official notice that Yar'adua is back in Nigeria, and one hopes that Senate President David Mark takes earlier note of this transmission this time round, than he did of Yar'adua's BBC interview.

I am certain that the NTA was at pains to handle the development without earning the wrath of Yar'adua's minders. I notice that the newscaster almost choked on the inter-switch between

“But why the secrecy? Why was Goodluck Jonathan not at the airport, accompanied by members of the cabinet? Through the rest of the day, I watched out for a national broadcast and none came

illness being a natural vagary. When you treat your illness as a unique possession, it ceases to be one of life's vagaries. But as earlier stated in this column, if indeed the President has been incapacitated all this while, it is not in the national interest for a small cabal to hide the fact and run the country under his ghost. That would be a heinous crime.

Undoubtedly, Yar'adua's return did bring about confusion and a picture on the front page of *The Nation* captured the State of confusion in which the country was. It showed Ministers lazing in the Executive Council Lounge, confused about who would chair the Federal Executive Council Meeting. Goodluck Jonathan did not show enough liver to proceed with the Council Meeting and deal with the eventuality of Mr President bumping in. It was public knowledge that many meetings were cancelled. Segun Adeniyi's statement did help straighten matters up, but introduced the dimension I am discussing here. If no one said Jonathan is not Acting President,

President, Acting President and Vice President. It was a bad day because to cap the story, the highlight of the Acting President's itinerary being that he would see Turai was in the *Network News*. Bad judgement. It should not have been, and gave terribly wrong signals to the nation, if it did not portray Jonathan as an excluded and incapacitated insider.

It is obvious that Goodluck Jonathan and the Ministers were kept in the dark about the President's plans for home coming and it is utterly wrong. Who ordered the Airport Protocol, military and paramilitary security, route security and transport and in all this did not seek the discretion of the Acting President - who in the scheme of things, had the powers to give lateral directives to all the State House Presidential apparatus with no deference to the Acting President if in deed only one Presidency is being run as Segun claimed in the many interviews he has been granting.

Little wonder that each interview raises more issues and with every clarification, arises more complication.

The return of Yar'adua should have entailed the Acting President being on hand for a befitting airport reception.

It is safe to assume that all is well with President Umaru Yar'adua, hence his final discharge from the Saudi Arabian health facility. The Yar'adua cabal of "patriots" has treated this matter as if the fate of Yar'adua and that of the nation are tied to one umbilical cord.

“Goodluck Jonathan did not show enough liver to proceed with the Council Meeting and deal with the eventuality of Mr President bumping in. It was public knowledge that many meetings were cancelled



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# INTERNATIONAL

## Some 350 people missing in Uganda landslide

SOME 350 people were missing yesterday after a landslide sparked by torrential rains devastated villages in eastern Uganda, the head of the country's Red Cross said.

The overnight landslide buried homes in a mountainous region where rescuers and volunteers have pulled 55 bodies out of the mud, Uganda Red Cross Secretary General Michael Nataka told AFP.

Nataka said "350 people in three villages of Bududa district have been buried following an intense landslide resulting from the ongoing heavy downpour." Local markets were destroyed, schools forced to close and roads blocked as the heaps of earth slid from higher ground following days of heavy rain, Nataka explained. "The military has also been called in to help in the rescue operation," he added.

Widespread flooding also affected several other villages in the region near Mount Elgon, which straddles the Uganda-Kenya border, the Red Cross chief said. However, there were no immediate reports of casualties in these other areas stricken by the disaster, according to the Red Cross.

Earlier, State Minister for Disaster Musa Ecweru said that more than 40 bodies had been recovered from the mud, but many were still missing. "We have brought reinforcements and rescuers to the place," Ecweru said. "The whole area is covered in mud."



THE head of the junta in Niger, Major Salou Djibo, in his office in Niamey.

## Niger junta names transitional government

NIGER'S military junta has announced new transitional government nearly two weeks after seizing power in the West African nation.

State television says coup chief

Maj. Salou Djibou signed a decree appointing 20 ministers yesterday. Five of the posts went to women and five to officers. Renegade soldiers overthrew President Mamadou Tandja on Feb. 18 in a popular

coup after the aging leader refused to step down after his mandate expired in December.

On February 22, the junta announced it would form a transitional government giving Djibou

the power to appoint a premier and Cabinet. It also promised a new constitution would eventually be adopted by national referendum. Last week, Mahamadou Dandah was named prime minister.

## Rwandan ex-president's widow arrested in France

THE widow of Rwanda's former President Juvenal Habyarimana, who is suspected of having instigated the country's 1994 genocide, was arrested near Paris yesterday, a police source said.

An international arrest warrant for Agathe Habyarimana was issued late last year by Rwandan authorities, who have called on Paris to pursue genocide suspects living in France.

Her detention comes just a week after French President Nicolas Sarkozy visited Rwanda where he admitted that Paris had made serious errors of judgment over the genocide and said he wanted all those responsible for the killings to be punished. Rwandan authorities welcomed Habyar-

imana's arrest.

"At long last the long arm of the law is finally taking its course," said Rwanda's Justice Minister Tharcisse Karugarama, who declined to tie the detention to Sarkozy's visit.

"It could be a coincidence, but whatever it is, it's a good sign, it's good news," he told Reuters.

France and Rwanda broke off diplomatic relations in 2006 after a Paris judge accused Rwanda's current President Paul Kagame and nine aides of shooting down Habyarimana's plane in April 1994, a catalyst for the massacre in which 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed in less than 100 days at the hands of Hutu death squads.

Agathe left Rwanda three days after her husband died and moved to France, but Rwandan authorities are convinced she played a key role in plotting the slaughter. The head of Rwanda's genocide fugitive tracking unit said it had asked for Habyarimana's extradition.

"Our priority is to have her tried in Rwanda because this is where she committed crimes against the Rwandan people," said Jean Bosco Mutangana.

However, a French foreign ministry spokesman said there had been no formal extradition request from Rwanda and a French judicial source, who declined to be named, said it was unlikely that the French would send her back home to trial.

## Togo to pick new leader in key democracy test vote

VOTERS in the small west African country of Togo go to the polls tomorrow to pick a new president in a poll seen as a test of democratic progress in a nation notorious for electoral violence. Six opposition candidates are challenging the outgoing President Faure Gnassingbe, who came to power in 2005 after the death of his father, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, whose dictatorial rule lasted 38 years.

Gnassingbe, 43, who was initially thrust into office by the military without an election after his father died, has vowed that this poll will raise Togo to new heights, on the basis of "a state of law." "For me and others too, it (the election) will be a test of legitimacy. Wrongly or rightly, for years there was a problem of legitimacy," he told AFP in a recent interview.

Five years after his demise, Eyadema's portrait still hanging on the walls at the Lome airport is just one reminder of Togo's dark past.

But his son chooses to use only his first name on his campaign posters: "higher, farther, more Faure" - ubiquitous in the capital of 1.5 million people resembles a big village. In seeking re-election, Gnassingbe enjoys the backing of the ruling Togolese People's Rally (RPT), which has been in power for decades in the world's fourth largest producer of phosphates.

## International

# Iraq wants to improve relations with Syria

VISITING Syria, Iraq's vice president said yesterday his country wants to improve relations, months after Iraq charged Damascus with harbouring suspects from huge Baghdad bombings last summer that killed about 100 people.

Tariq al-Hashemi is the first senior Iraqi official to visit Damascus since massive truck bombs devastated the Iraqi foreign and finance ministries Aug. 19. Altogether, 101 people died in blasts that day, all but eight in or near the government buildings.

The attacks seriously damaged Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's efforts to assure Iraqis that the US-trained Iraqi security forces would be able to maintain stability in the country after a US troop pullout.

After Iraq blamed Syria, Damascus countered that the allegations were politically motivated, demanding proof. The two

countries recalled their ambassadors, and the dispute escalated into a serious setback to efforts at repairing relationships strained for decades during Saddam Hussein's rule in Iraq.

Al-Hashemi, who met with the Syrian President Bashar Assad, said his visit aimed to discuss ways of overcoming "disagreements among members of one family."

After meeting with his Syrian counterpart, Farouk al-Sharaa, he told reporters that he discussed Iraq's wish to normalize relations. "That (wish) was met by a good response" from the Syrian leadership, he said.

Al-Hashemi also discussed with Syrian officials upcoming parliamentary elections in Iraq and was scheduled to meet with Iraqis in Syria.

Hundreds of thousands of Iraqis took refuge in Syria after fleeing violence at home.



IRAN'S atomic chief Ali Akbar Salehi.

## Iran says new UN nuclear chief biased

IRAN'S atomic chief yesterday accused the new UN nuclear watchdog head, Yukiya Amano, of taking sides against Tehran's atomic programme but said he hoped the Japanese official would modify his stand.

Ali Akbar Salehi's criticism came as Moscow and Beijing -- two veto-wielding powers at the UN Security Council, were divided over imposing new sanctions on Tehran. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton also appeared to extend her timeline on fresh UN sanctions.

"We expected Mr Amano to examine and adopt a position about the nuclear issue in an unbiased way, but unfortunately and in contradiction with what he had said before, we did not see an unbiased position," Salehi told AFP, reacting to comments from the watchdog chief on Monday.

"We hope that he will change his approach," Salehi said on the sidelines of a Tehran meeting of industry ministers of eight developing nations.

He also confirmed Iran had started enriching uranium to higher levels, theoretically bringing it close to levels needed for an atomic bomb.

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## PLATEAU FULANI ARDOS ALLEGED GENOCIDE AGAINST THEIR PEOPLE BY BEROM TERRORISTS

Following the outbreak of the September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2001 Jos Crisis, the Beroms, Governor Jonah David Jang's tribal people, in Jos-South, Riyom and Barkin Ladi Local Government Areas formed terrorist youth groups. Secretly in these areas, attacked and killed, in cold blood, over 150 innocent herdsmen who included infants children, women and killed and or stole livestock among other properties worth N366,913,982.00 as contained in the Nikki Toby Commission of Enquiry of the crisis report under exhibit No. 81 which is further confirmed and published under serial number 19, on page 223 of the Governor Jonah Jang's White Paper released on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April, 2009.

In this Report and Government White Paper, the Fulani losses in terms of human lives and property have been well documented as submitted by the then Alhaji Sale Bayari chaired committee of 12 members which was set up by the National Secretariat of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders' Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) to look into the remote and immediate causes of the crisis and to determine the losses of the cattle rearers in human lives and property during the crisis. We had witnessed the open hostility that our presentation and our witness, Alh. Sale Bayari were subjected to by the Commission. What the Commission Report and the White Paper said about Alh. Sale Bayari as a witness is worth reading for a documentary on Plateau State kind of justice for our people!

As we continued to lick our wounds and struggle with our people to forgive and forget the tragic loss of human lives and property of the September 2001 Crisis, where both the Nikki Toby Commission and the Government White Paper refused to recommend any compensation to us, yet we woke up to the sad reality again that as soon as the terrorist Berom heard of the outbreak of crisis in Jos City, they immediately took up arms such as spears, machetes, petrol, guns among others and headed into Fulani cattle rearers' homes and huts where they killed defenceless children, infants, old men and women. These terrorists after killing our people and dumping their corpses into burning homes, deposited other corpses into wells, sewages and mining ponds. Some others were mutilated, dismembered and left for pigs and dogs to feed on!

As we write this traumatic commentary on the carnage we suffered, where we recorded the losses of 215 human lives, 12,000 herds of livestock which included 3,700 sheep and goats, 1,200 homes, apart from various household goods and machinery, our woes are not yet over as at early as the 19<sup>th</sup> of February, 2010 a gang of Berom terrorists numbering over 50 stormed the remaining homes of the Fulani near Dorowan Babuje, Barkin Ladi LGA at Sauke Village which is the home town of the Permanent Secretary, Security and Cabinet Matters, Mr. I.D Gyang and burnt 12 houses belonging to our people without any reason or provocation. Some of these rampaging youths about 20 and the Village Head called Davou were arrested by the soldiers but were mysteriously released without pressing any charges against them. As recent as the 26<sup>th</sup> of February, 2010 another group of Berom youth terrorists at Ropp District of Barkin Ladi LGA blocked the water source of the Fulani cattle and a scuffle took place. On getting home, these youths mobilized themselves and attacked the cows of Alh. Panya at Sho Village and killed 14 of them on the spot. These youths were also arrested by the soldiers and later released without any charges. These was no mention of any compensation to the Fulani man and the matter is buried.

We are most terrified after our investigations and findings which revealed that our people suffered their greatest losses in both human/livestock lives, and properties in the Local Government Area, District and Village of the Permanent Secretary, Security and Cabinet Matters Mr. I.D Gyang who is also a Berom by tribe. In this Local Government Area, and these villages, we lost 115 herdsmen who include infants, children, women. In his position as Permanent Secretary Security, Mr. I.D Gyang is charged with the official responsibility of providing security protection to every citizen of Plateau State. He has a responsibility for the loss of the life of any citizen through any means that suggest he did not carry out his duties diligently and efficiently. Have these mass killings in this officer's areas not exposed the Government of Jonah Jang's involvement in the genocide against the Fulani? Do we and other Nigerians need any further evidence or proof?

As Fulani traditional rulers (Ardos), what we found out that appears to suggest the role played by Berom traditional rulers and highly-placed Government officials in these terrorist attacks on our people, is what frightens and alarms us all. In all the major areas these unprovoked and heartless attacks took place, there are strong and influential Berom traditional rulers and Government officials whom our investigations showed did nothing to save our people, not even women and children. In all these areas, it was nothing but a crystal clear agenda of ethnic cleansing and genocide where every life was to be terminated or terminated. The savagery, wickedness, heartlessness and brutality were unparalleled.

For all human atrocities committed around the World there have had always reasons and or excuses for such actions. In our own case here in these LGAs, we have not been able to find any reason or excuse which our killers have for their actions. What we are asking the World is just to help us find out the reason or excuse the Berom have or had for the mass massacre they carried out against us, which did not spare even children that could have grown and, may be, become Christians. This is all we ask of the World, for now. We are not any people from another planet, we have lost count of our great grand parents who first settled where we are today. As a result of this co-habitation, we speak the language of the Beroms, in some cases, better than the Beroms.

The Beroms also speak the fulfulde, especially those that we and our parents taught them how to rear livestock (cows) as a result of which the Beroms, more than any tribe on the Plateau are proud owners of cattle. We and our parents have often taken Beroms youths to rear our cattle and rewarded them with young ones which mature and multiply. Some of these cattle (bulls) were mostly sold by their parents to pay for the school fees of those who are today big, rich government officials and traditional rulers who have become the supervisors of our extermination today. Why?

In the defence submission by the Berom before Justice Niki Tobi Commission in 2001 their "justification" in attacking the herdsmen was that the herdsmen had been destroying their crops over the years without paying them compensation. They alleged that the police and judges were taking sides in favour of the cattle rearers against them. Our people vehemently denied these allegations where they said it was the other way round as the police, judges and the farmers were exhorting huge sums of money from them in the name of farms destruction by cattle. To do justice due to the seriousness of these allegations and counter-allegations, Justice Tobi proffered a solution.

In his Report he had this to say: "Because of the paucity of evidence from the Fulani to counter the allegation that they, the Fulani, graze their cattle on farmlands of the Beroms and Irigwes, (Miango) thereby destroying their food crops, the Commission has no option but to accept that the allegation is indeed one of the remote causes of the September and December, 2001 Crisis".

The Chairman of the Commission said further we therefore recommend that Government in conjunction with communities should provide grazing area and permanent routes for cattle to enable Fulani feed their cattle without interference to farmlands thereby not causing damage to farm crops. This should not affect only Beroms and Irigwes in Jos South, Riyom, Barkin Ladi and Bassa but other Local Government Areas in the State where there could be potential of similar animosity building up and bursting out into physical hostility in the future. In the Government White Paper on page 88, section 3.137 the "Government Accepts" this recommendation, and Government acceptance, we have noted. We hope that the Nikki Toby Commission and Government White Paper would see the light of the day because of this recommendation which Government has already accepted.

We hope that the Government of Jonah Jang is not wiping the Fulani out of these Local Government Areas, in order not to have reason to implement this recommendation that will ensure a peaceful, permanent settlement for the cattle rearers, like is obtained in other states of the federation, in Plateau State. Otherwise, we wonder why was this genocide carried out against us.

It is very dangerous for the Beroms who have the Government of the state in their hands to force some people to live outside the rule of law by making the State lawless in order to achieve their tribal agenda. We have heard several times of Berom agenda which we were told meant the primitive, primordial goal and desire of the Berom to ethnically, economically, socially and religiously cleanse Berom areas in particular and Plateau State in general of the Hausa and the Fulani. We never agreed, it was possible at this level of our civilization and nationhood for any tribe to plan to wipe out another on the basis of tribe, religion or ethnicity, we now know better as the saying goes "he who feels it knows it".

We wish to observe with great disbelief that despite our glaring losses in this crisis where our refugees are scattered all over Plateau and neighbouring States especially Bauchi, yet the Plateau

State Government has not deemed it fit to give us any relief materials so far for these victims. Nothing whatsoever has been given to the Fulani community in these seriously affected LGAs. Are we to accept this as a continuation of our extermination through the strategy of deprivation, want and hunger which are all tools of war?

Finally, we cannot conclude this presentation without observing the total exclusion of the herdsmen from the Presidential Advisory Committee on the recent Jos Crisis. As number one victims of this unfortunate crisis, we wonder how on earth could we not be represented on this very important committee. It is our sincere belief and hope that it was just a natural oversight that should be looked into with a view to immediately rectifying the situation by giving us, at least, two members on this committee to give us a sense of belonging. As aggrieved people, justice cannot be done without our participation, contribution and presence at this committee to give our input on the way forward in Plateau State.

### SUMMARY OF OUR LOSSES

1. Human lives - 215	
2. Cattle - 12,000 valued @	- N1,020,000,000.00
3. Sheep & goats - 3,700 valued @	- N18,500,000.00
4. Houses 1200 (vandalized or burnt) valued @	- N3,000,000.00
5. Other properties (Household/Foodstuffs etc)	- N23,000,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>N1,091,500,000.00</b>

Attached here is the list of those who lost their lives in this program. May their souls rest in perfect peace, Ameen, summah Ameen. In conclusion, we hereby appeal to both the State and the Federal Governments to pay full and comprehensive compensation for both human lives and properties lost as tabulated above without any further delay. We also call on the International Criminal Court of Justice (ICC) to investigate and prosecute this matter as a typical case of Genocide.

1. Ardo Uthman Bello - Bachit District, Riyom LGA.
2. Ardo Abubakar Dabura - Ropp District, Barkin Ladi LGA
3. Ardo Ibrahim Suleiman - Du District, Jos South LGA

For and on behalf of Ardos Forum Plateau State

### LIST OF CATTLE REARERS (FULANIS) KILLED DURING THE JANUARY 17<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> 2010, JOS CRISIS.

S/N	NAME	AGE	SEX	DU DISTRICT		REMARKS
				ADDRESS	Jos South	
1	Salisu Yahaya	35	M	Du District	" "	Killed in their huts, grazing areas, bodies hidden, some thrown into wells, others burnt and dismembered beyond recognition.
2	Fumba Ibrahim	30	M	Dura - Du	" "	
3	Adamu Yusuf	19	M	" "	" "	
4	Idris Ibrahim	35	M	Shen Du	" "	
5	Ibrahim Gayya	20	M	" "	" "	
6	Sani Abdullahi	18	M	" "	" "	
7	Zayyanu Bako	18	M	" "	" "	
8	Hafsatu Chiroma	70	F	Kwata Du	" "	
9	Yadado Rufai	65	F	" "	" "	
10	Ibrahim Rufai	37	M	" "	" "	
11	Jibril Rufai	30	M	" "	" "	
12	Issiya Idris	28	M	Doi / Du	" "	
13	Abdu Ahmad	17	M	" "	" "	
14	Babangida Dauda	26	M	" "	" "	
15	Bala M. Ade	28	M	" "	" "	
16	Muhammad S. Bayero	25	M	" "	" "	
17	Musa Yakubu	41	M	" "	" "	It should be noted that as a result of the desperation and the cooperation (community) these killers have among themselves, they have up till now made these their areas no-go for the Fulanis and Security agents to recover bodies of the victims
18	Abubakar Bayero	30	M	" "	" "	
19	Muhammad Adamu	29	M	" "	" "	
20	Khadiya Abdulkarim	35	F	" "	" "	
21	Muhammad Abubakar	3	M	" "	" "	
22	Abdubasid Bayero	10	M	" "	" "	
23	Lawal Bayero	15	M	" "	" "	
24	Nuhu Bayero	13	M	" "	" "	
25	Salisu Yahaya	39	M	" "	" "	
26	Ori Abubakar	37	M	" "	" "	
27	Baba Abu Maigadi	73	M	Vwang District	" "	
28	Ja'o Abubakar	40	M	Chugwi	JOS SOUTH	
29	Usaini Abubakar	45	M	" "	" "	
30	Yusuf Jibrin	35	M	" "	" "	
31	Murtala Jibrin	30	M	" "	" "	
32	Yahya Jibrin	17	M	" "	" "	
33	Shuaibu Yahya	30	M	" "	" "	
34	Adam Yahya	20	M	" "	" "	
35	Mohammed Usman	20	M	" "	" "	
36	Anas Jibrin	20	M	" "	" "	
37	Sulei Hairu	12	M	" "	" "	
38	Musa Abdullahi	27	M	" "	" "	
39	Musa A. Abdullahi	10	M	" "	" "	
40	Kabiru Hassan	10	M	" "	" "	
41	Ahmad Hassan	20	M	" "	" "	

Continued on next page...

Page 1



# PUBLIC NOTICE NO. 1, 2010

## LAND USE ACT (CAP.202) 1990

### REVOCATION OF RIGHTS OF OCCUPANCY

In exercise of the powers conferred on the State Executive Governor by Section 28 of the Land Use Act (Cap. 202. Vol. XI Laws of the Federation of Nigeria) 1990 and all other laws enabling him in that respect, I, **Alh. Saidu Shehu Awak**, Honourable Commissioner for Lands & Survey on Behalf of the Executive governor of Gombe State, hereby make the following order:-

**1. CITATION**

This order may be cited as the Revocation of Rights of Occupancy.

**2. REVOCATION**

a. All statutory certificate or customary Rights of occupancy, leases, licences or power of attorney etc granted or deemed to have been granted to any body in respect of all or any portion of all the parcel of land marked in red ink along the following routes are determined, in respect of overriding public interest construction of Gombe Township roads phase IV.

- (i) From Ministry of Lands to Pantami Bridge.
- (ii) Houses Surrounding Pantami Stadium

b. All statutory or customary Rights in or upon or over or any other portion of the parcel of land marked in red ink along the underlisted routes are determined.

- (i) From the Ministry of Land & Survey Gombe to Pantami Bridge.
- (ii) Property Surrounding Pantami Stadium

**3. COMPENSATION**

The Government shall pay compensation in accordance with the existing policy on land compensation.

**4. POSSESSION**

Notice is hereby given that the Government intends to enter into possession of the said land with effect from 7 days of service of this notice.

**5. PENALTY**

Any person or persons who willfully hinder(s) or obstruct(s) the Government from taking possession of the said land or any part thereof shall be liable under section 37 of the Land Use Act (Cap 202) 1990.

Dated this 25th day of February, 2010.

**SIGNED**  
**HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER**  
Ministry for Land & Survey  
Gombe State of Nigeria



## AVOID ELECTROCUTION

- ❖ don't build, sell or load vehicles under power lines
- ❖ don't hoist flags / install TV antennae close to power lines
- ❖ don't install clothes-line near power lines
- ❖ don't plant trees under power lines
- ❖ observe the right of way when erecting structures...

### The required specifications are:

- For the 11/33KV lines a clearance of 5.5 meters (20 feet) must be given on both sides of the line while for 132KV line a clearance of 12.5 meters (30 feet) must be given on both sides.
- For the 330KV lines, a clearance of 50 meters must be observed before any construction (that is 25 meters or (60 feet) on each side.

### IN THE EVENT OF ELECTROCUTION:

- ✓ Use dry stick not metal to move victim away from power source
- ✓ Apply First Aid immediately after disengaging victim from source of power supply and rush him / her to the nearest hospital.
- ✓ Avoid stepping on live wires on the ground
- ✓ Call or contact the PHCN office nearest to you



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## Important Notice to Receiving Agents



**Oando** RC: 6474

### RIGHTS ISSUE

of

301,694,876

Ordinary Shares of 50 Kobo each at

**₦70.00 per share**

On the basis of one (1) new ordinary share for every three (3) ordinary shares of 50 Kobo each held as at the close of business on Friday, 18 December 2009 for those shareholders in Nigeria whose names appear on the Register of Members and transfer books of the Company and shareholders in South Africa whose names appear on the Register of Members and transfer books as at the close of business on the Friday<sup>1</sup> prior to the offer opening date<sup>2</sup>.

#### LEAD ISSUING HOUSE



**VETIVA**  
CAPITAL MANAGEMENT LIMITED

#### JOINT ISSUING HOUSES



RC 446561



**Stanbic IBTC Bank PLC**

A member of Standard Bank Group  
RC 125097

- The Acceptance List in connection with the above-referenced Rights Issue closed on Friday, 19 February 2010. Accordingly, all Receiving Agents are advised to submit their returns as well as a CD containing a schedule of the particulars of subscribers to the Registrar – **First Registrars Nigeria Limited, Plot 2 Abebe Village Road, Iganmu, Lagos** not later than **Friday, 05 March 2010**.
- Returns must include a bank draft for the total amount, drawn on any bank's Lagos office, payable to "**First City Monument Bank PLC**", "**Stanbic IBTC Bank PLC**" or "**Diamond Bank PLC**" and crossed "**Oando PLC Rights Issue**". Any payment for an amount exceeding N10million should be made to "**First City Monument Bank PLC**", "**Stanbic IBTC Bank PLC**" or "**Diamond Bank PLC**" through the e-payment mode. Evidence of such payment in form of a Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) Advice should be provided upon submission of returns.
- Receiving Agents are advised to ensure that Acceptance Forms included in their returns are correctly completed. Incorrect/incomplete returns will be rejected and returned to the Receiving Agent by post.
- Returns not received by the close of business on **Friday, 05 March 2010, WILL NOT be accepted**.

1. Friday, 29 December 2009.

2. Acceptance List Opened in South Africa on Monday, 01 February 2010 and Closed on Friday, 19 February 2010.

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# BUSINESS

0805 1000 536

## CBN asks banks to invest N600bn in real sector

• Leaves interest rate at 6%

By Idris Ahmed

THE Central Bank of Nigeria yesterday asked banks to invest their N600 billion excess liquidity with CBN in the real sector of the economy.

Governor of the bank Sanusi Lamido Sanusi said the move would stimulate the sector and grow the entire economy.

This was contained in a communique the governor read after the Monetary Policy Committee meeting in Abuja.

He said CBN would reduce deposit rate for banks from 2 percent to 1 percent to stimulate lending.

"We will reduce the level of interest the banks earn with us to encourage them to seek other areas, which means lending", he said.

The governor, who said that small and medium enterprises were being starved of credit because banks were reluctant to lend to the real economy said the MPC considered "the review of the setting of the standing facility corridor as imperative to encourage banks to lend to the productive sectors of the economy."

He said as part of efforts to bring lending rates down, provide alternative sources of long-term funds to finance development projects and deepen the capital markets in line with the CBN's developmental mandate, the MPC deliberated on the possibility of granting liquidity status to bonds issued by state governments.

He said granting the bonds issued by state government are subject to their meeting the specified eligibility criteria.

"Detail guidelines will be issued in due course, principally related to meeting strict standards of fiscal responsibility", the Governor said.

At the press briefing yesterday, Sanusi said that the MPC decided to leave unchanged the benchmarked interest rate (MPC) at 6 percent.

He said that the standing lending facility interest rate was also left unchanged at 8 percent, "while the standing deposit facility rate is lowered from 2 percent to 1 percent."



CBN Gov. Sanusi Lamido Sanusi

The governor said that the current inflationary rate is 12.3 percent and that the inflation outlook for the rest of the year remains uncertain.

He said the external reserves is now \$41.54 billion. This is \$51 million or 1.21 percent down from \$42.05 billion recorded

in the preceding month.

"Overall, the net outflow of foreign exchange which moderated significantly from \$931.93 million to \$138.37 million in the third and fourth quarters of 2009 turned to a net inflow of \$0.10 billion in January 2010", Sanusi said.

### BRIEF

#### 'Senate, NAPEP resolve rift'

By Sunday Williams

COORDINATOR of National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) Dr. Magnus Kpakol yesterday met with the Senate Committee on Public Accounts to explain the many issues raised in the Keke NAPEP contracts and other matters associated to the project, a statement from the agency claimed. The meeting, according to NAPEP, afforded Mr. Kpakol the opportunity to resolve the allegations levelled against them. NAPEP claimed the public was wrongly informed that its management was reluctant to appear before the Senate committee to answer the queries raised by the Auditor General.

On the audit queries that arose from the states in 2006, NAPEP said it had submitted the reports from the states to the committee showing clearly that there was no misappropriation of funds, neither was there any loss of revenue to government. The statement said: "In our previous press release, we had sought to dispel the misinformation that NAPEP has always been reluctant to appear before the Public Accounts Committee."

We had explained that NAPEP was, in fact the only agency out of the three that were invited at the first hearing by the Committee, which honoured the invitation. We had also requested for a short period of two weeks to collate the relevant information, which the committee needed. This was due to the fact that the information required had to do with 2006 reports from some state offices of NAPEP"

### Trust Index

Inflation	→ 12.3%
GDP	→ 6.90%
Budget	→ N3.1tr
External Reserves Acct	→ \$41bn
Excess Crude Acct	→ \$4.2bn
Poverty Ratio	→ 54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	→ 6%
Banks	→ 24
Oil Price	→ \$78 a barrel
Power Supply	→ 2, 200MW
Oil output per day	→ 2.5mbd
Broad Money Supply	→ N10,730,793.1m
Credit to Private Sector	→ N10,155,442.0m
Inter-Bank Rate	→ 2.2600%
Treasury Bills	→ 2.645%
Deposit Rate	→ 12.56%
Prime Lending Rate	→ 19.03%

CFA	CBN EXCHANGE RATES			BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES		
	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)	BUYING		
DANISH KRONER	26.8799	26.971	27.062	DOLLAR.....	N150	
EURO	200.1899	200.8681	201.5462	EURO.....	N206	
POUNDS STERLING	230.5512	231.3322	232.1132	POUNDS.....	N237	
RIYAL	39.36	39.4934	39.6267	SELLING		
SDR	226.2265	226.9929	227.7592	DOLLAR.....	N152	
SWISS FRANC	136.5655	137.0281	137.4907	EURO.....	N208	
US DOLLAR	147.6	148.1	148.6	POUNDS.....	N240	
WAUA	226.801	227.5693	228.3376	Source: S&I Bureau de Change, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja.		
YEN	1.6378	1.6434	1.6489			

Stock Market Index	
Date :	Tuesday, March 2, 2010
Index:	22,995.75
Deals:	7,349
Volume :	297,167,312
Value:	N 2,051,205,770.36
Cap.:	N 5,538,335,587,069.76

## Business/Energy

# 'N300m local content funds still in banks'

*\*Banks resume financing oil importation*

By Hamisu Muhammad

ABOUT N300 million meant for local content companies in the oil and gas industry is still in banks, Senior Vice President and Head of Energy, First City Monument Bank, Hakeem Adedeji has said.

Speaking to Daily Trust at the just concluded Nigeria Oil and Gas conference in Abuja, Mr. Adedeji said the oil companies can't access the funds because they have very weak structure.

He said most of the companies in the local content support services are having difficulties to access the

money because they failed to convince the banks on their ability to repay back the money.

He said the few companies that have organised structure are sourcing funds from international financiers.

He said the banks and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) are working out modalities to ease access for the money by the companies.

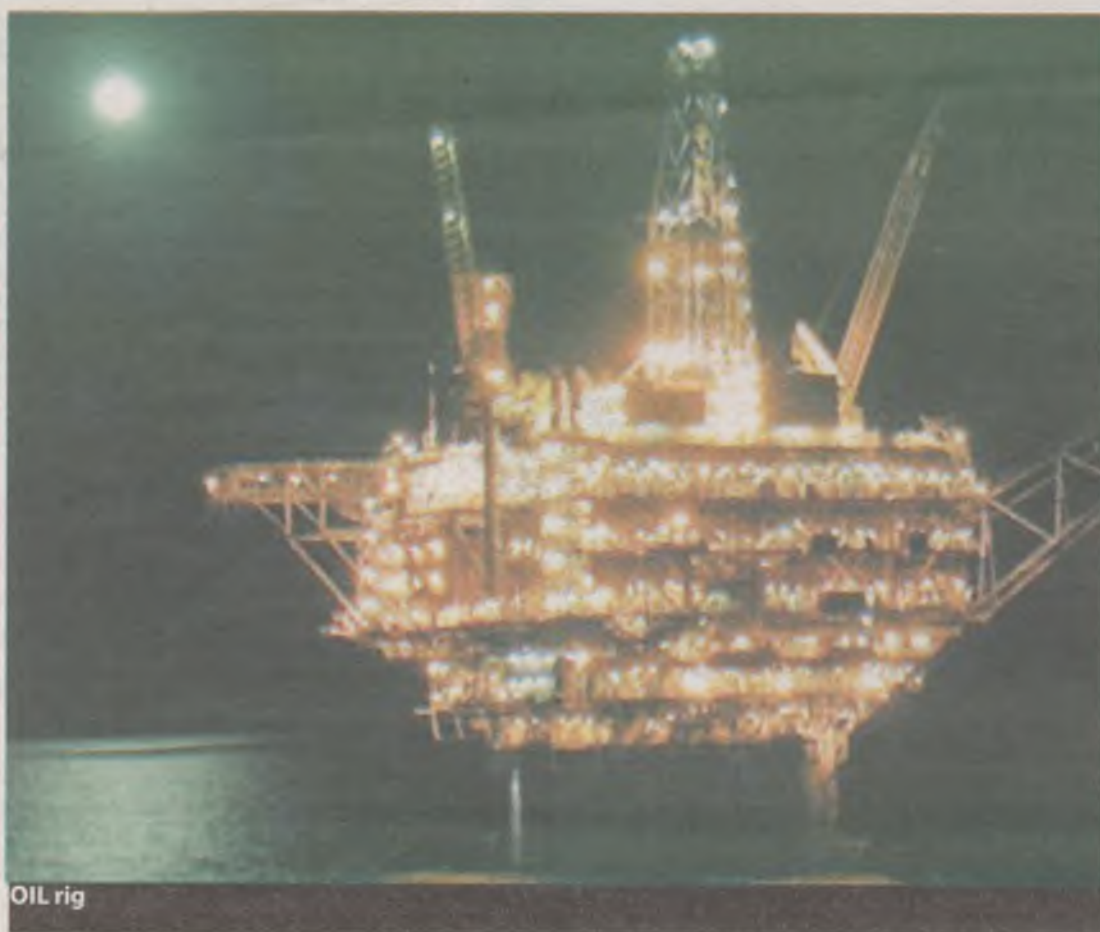
Meanwhile, respite will soon come to the downstream oil sector as the banks resumed financing oil importation. Mr. Adedeji said the banks have since resumed granting

loans to oil marketers in the country.

He said the downstream oil sector is one area which the banks cannot ignore, saying that what happened in the past has to do with crash in the international oil price that affected most oil companies.

"There was a problem when the prices crashed, a lot of companies incurred losses... We just have to be well-structured on the way we do things now," said Hakeem

He said now that the crisis is over; the banks will continue doing normal business with the interested marketers who are willing to import.



OIL rig

## Oil coys can stop gas flare in 15 months - Uduaghan

THE Delta government has restated its resolve to get major oil companies operating in the state to stop gas flaring in 15 months time.

The government's commitment was conveyed on Monday in Asaba by Gov. Emmanuel Uduaghan at a stakeholders' forum on the development of a low carbon economy and climate change. Uduaghan said that oil companies that still believed that they could not stop gas flaring would be passing a vote of no confidence on the National Gas Master plan. "It is possible to get a commitment from Chevron to stop gas flar-

ing within 15 months. It is possible to get a commitment from Shell.

"But if you (oil companies) say you cannot stop gas flaring, it amounts to a vote of no confidence on the national gas master plan in which you are stakeholders," he said.

Uduaghan also renewed the resolve to tackle the issue of climate change because of the benefits that would come with its resolution.

"Climate change is here with us. We have to tackle it. It has a lot of opportunities for us in the Niger Delta and in Delta State.

For years there have been argu-

ments and quarrels on other issues, but these had not solved the problem. The era we are now is to deal with these issues.

"Today, our farms, our rivers, our waters have been polluted. These are major causes of the Niger Delta crisis - environmental pollution - we want to deal with it now," he said.

The governor said his administration believed that states could complement what was being done by the Federal Government on issues of environment and climate change. (NAN).

## 'Non oil exports key to vision 2020'

By Sunday Williams

FOR Nigeria to belong to the league of 20 largest economies in the World by the year 2020, it must as a matter of urgency diversify its economic base by developing and promoting non-oil exports, the Executive Director/CEO of the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC), David I. Adulugba has said.

Speaking when he hosted the Director General of Niger State Commodities and Export Promotion Agency (NICEPA), Alhaji Mohammed Kontagora, in Abuja, Adulugba said that diversifying the economy will further guarantee future for our teaming youths as it will provide job opportunities and create wealth.

He said: "Exports is actually the engine room of the economy. Our over dependence on crude oil has derailed our mindset from the deserved development and promotion of non-oil exports".

He said although the NEPC is given the mandate to realize the objectives, other stakeholders in the sector particularly State Governments should to partner with the Council in developing new products to increase the basket of exportable products from Nigeria.

"There is need to diversify our economy. Our youths and indeed our graduates are all over the places searching for jobs. Government cannot shoulder the onerous responsibility alone. Now is the time to develop and promote other sectors of the economy for sustainable economic growth," he added.

Speaking, the Director General of NICEPA Mohammed Kontagora said that the creation of the organisation was necessitated by the need to generate alternative revenue and job creation.

While requesting for assistance in developing some products in the State, he noted that Niger State has gone far with the development and promotion of shea butter alone, which will generate and increase revenue earnings for the country, due largely to its huge export potentials.

He also disclosed that Niger State Government is making concerted effort to establish a shea butter village to take care of processing and production of the product in order to ensure quality.

He said that one of the key challenges confronting the state is its quest to establish an Export Conditioning Centre for some agricultural products like yam. He said when operational, the Centre will ensure that these products meet the requisite standards for the international market.

The DG appealed to the Council to assist his state in the establishment of a Common Facility Centre (CFC) for shea butter as well as a Human Resources Development Centre with a view to organizing an Export Skills Acquisition Programme for officials of the State.

## PIB will protect investors' interests - Ajumogobia

THE Minister of State for Petroleum, Mr Odein Ajumogobia, has said that the petroleum industry bill will protect interests of local and foreign investors.

Ajumogobia made the clarification in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) at the just concluded Nigeria Oil and Gas seminar in Abuja.

He said that the Federal Government had adopted two strategies to attract new investments and re-position the industry while also seeking to create the enabling environment for existing investments to thrive.

The minister said that it was only the bill that could address all the concerns of investors and those of the people of the Niger Delta.

He said that when passed, the bill would protect and restore confidence of investors to continue to partner with the Federal Government.

Ajumogobia said that concerns bordering on deep water, gas terms, domestic gas pricing and acreage management as well as incorporated joint ventures were being reviewed by the Federal Government.

He said that this was with a view to making changes in response to fears expressed by some international oil companies about tax implications of the new bill.

The minister said that an IMF report on the bill had supported and strengthened government's position of using the bill to enhance competitiveness and promoting investment in the sector.

Ajumogobia said that the bill now at the National Assembly would bring about more cordial relationship among stakeholders on policy formulation in the industry.

"We have crafted a law that we believe is in the best interest of the country. If passed, the plan is to continue to review it in line with developments in the oil and gas industry.

"What we did was to craft a law that can take care of the most urgent general problems we are having in the oil and gas industry now," he said.

He described the bill as a legislative instrument to drive the reform and urged the National Assembly to expedite action on it to facilitate the reform agenda.

"We will ensure best industry practices, we are determined to succeed.

"The Niger Delta has continued to enjoy peace due to the amnesty deal which has enabled us to re-take our place in oil production and restored confidence of investors to continue to partner with us," he said.

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# Central Bank of Nigeria Communique Committee Meeting

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) met on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2010 to review domestic economic conditions for the first two months of 2010 and the challenges faced by the Nigerian economy against the backdrop of developments in the international economic and financial environments in order to chart the course for monetary and financial sector policies for the remainder of the year.

On the international economic scene, the Committee noted that the rebound in global economic activity which started in the second half of 2009 has continued. The rebound was driven largely by the unprecedented amount of fiscal stimuli undertaken in both the developed and emerging market economies in the wake of the global financial crises. As a consequence, monetary policy had been largely accommodative with interest rates down to record lows in most advanced and emerging markets, coupled with the considerable expansion of central bank balance sheets. The key concerns, however, remain the strength and sustainability of the recovery process which is proceeding at varying speeds across the different regions.

In the advanced economies, the recovery is still expected to be weak by historical standards, with real output projected to remain below its pre-crisis level until late 2011. Given their stronger initial economic conditions and swift policy responses, growth in the emerging and developing economies is expected to recover faster.

The Committee also noted the continuing rebound in commodity prices, particularly crude oil prices, which is helping to support growth in commodity producing regions. However, the inflation risk of the rebound in energy prices appears to be mitigated by the subsisting low levels of capacity utilization, weak private demand and well-anchored inflation expectations.

The MPC also observed that although financial markets have recovered remarkably faster than expected, financing conditions, especially for businesses and firms, are likely to remain difficult in the near-term as financial institutions continue to maintain a cautious approach to credit extension. Bank lending is likely to remain sluggish given the need to rebuild capital, maintain liquidity and the possibility of further credit write-downs, mostly related to non-performing exposures to commercial real estates and stock markets. The Committee further noted that although the bond markets have rebounded, the households, small and medium-size enterprises that have only limited access to capital markets, are likely worldwide to continue to face credit constraints, except where public lending programmes and government guarantees are in place. As investors increasingly differentiate across countries with the resumption in capital flows, the risk of sovereign debt default has been heightened in some countries with large government deficits and debts.

On the domestic scene, the MPC underscored the need for co-operation in fast-tracking on-going reform efforts in the banking sector to ensure the flow of credit to the real sector of the economy, aimed at supporting growth in the medium term. It also underlined the need for energizing reforms in critical sectors of the economy such as power and other economic infrastructure, to attract the much-needed private sector/foreign investment and, thereby promote employment-generating growth.

## Key Domestic Macroeconomic and Financial Developments

**Output and Prices:** Provisional data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) indicates that real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will grow by 6.68 percent in the first quarter of 2010, down from 8.23 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2009, but up from the 4.50 per cent recorded in the first quarter of 2009. Overall GDP growth for 2010 was projected at 7.53 per cent which is higher than the 6.90 per cent recorded in 2009. The non-oil sector, especially, agriculture, wholesale and retail trade, and services would remain the major driver of growth although this is likely to be complemented by a modest increase in the growth of the oil sector GDP following the sustained peace in the Niger Delta region. While noting the optimistic growth projections for the year, the Committee observed that the robust growth projections was predicated on the assumption that the reforms that have been initiated in certain key sectors of the economy would be carried through. It, therefore, urged strong

commitment and political will on the part of the authorities to see these reforms through.

The headline inflation rate, as measured by the year-on-year increase in the all item consumer price index, was 12.3 per cent in January 2010, up from 12.0 per cent in December 2009, but lower than the 12.4 per cent recorded in November 2009 and the 14.0 per cent recorded in January 2009. Food inflation, which hovered between 13.5 and 13.6 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2009, rose to 14.0 per cent in the January 2010. Inflation outlook for 2010 remains uncertain, due to a combination of both domestic and international economic developments, namely, the planned full deregulation of petroleum product prices, the expansionary fiscal outlay for 2010, and the rising international commodity prices. The Committee, however, noted that against the backdrop of weak aggregate demand as mirrored in the contraction in monetary aggregates since the beginning of 2009, the inflation risk to growth appears mitigated. The Committee will continue to monitor price developments in the months ahead with a view to creating an enabling environment for sustainable growth and employment.

**Monetary, Credit and Financial Market Developments:** Over the preceding December level, broad money (M2) declined by 3.11 per cent in January 2010, which was significantly below the indicative benchmark of 29.26 per cent growth for 2010. Similarly, the annualized decline in aggregate domestic credit (net) as at January 2010 was 22.44 per cent, compared with the provisional benchmark growth rate of 82.8 per cent for 2010. As in most periods of 2009, reserve money continued to be below the indicative benchmark for the first quarter of 2010 in the first two months of 2010. The annualized growth rate of private sector credit was -16.20 per cent, significantly below the provisional benchmark of 31.54 per cent, indicating that the private sector particularly, small and medium enterprises, were being starved of the much-needed credit. Banks lost about 66 per cent of their capital between December 2008 and December 2009 which has constrained the ability of the banks to grow credit. This underscores the need for Asset Management Corporation (AMC) to deal with non-performing loans and fast-track recapitalization of the institutions to enable them continue to grow their loan books. The trends in money supply reflected a fall in all its components, including net foreign assets, credit to the private sector and credit to government. This development is a reflection of the slack in aggregate demand, underlining the need for the sustenance of the easing of monetary policy.

Notwithstanding the sub-optimal performance of monetary aggregates thus far, confidence in the money market has continued to improve following the inter-bank money market guarantee and other measures to strengthen the banking sector. This is reflected in the downward movement of the daily interbank call rates. Specifically, the average call rate for January 2010 was 2.31 per cent, down from 2.89 per cent at end-December 2009 and 5.25 per cent in November. The secured open buy-back (OBB) rate for January 2010 was 2.30 per cent down from 2.64 per cent at end-December 2009 and 4.53 per cent in November. As at February 25, 2010, the interbank call and OBB rates were 2.21 and 2.07 per cent, respectively. Thus, the rates appear to be converging, reflecting a restoration of confidence in the money market and favorable liquidity position in the banking system. However, this liquidity position of banks against the backdrop of declining private sector credit implies that the banks are reluctant to lend to the real economy. Thus, the focus of policy measures would be to ensure the flow of credit to the real economy by supporting targeted lending programmes.

In this regard, the Committee maintained its earlier position that despite falling interbank rates and growing banking system liquidity, the retail lending rates of deposit money banks (DMBs) were still very high. This is despite the marginal decline in the average maximum lending rate to 23.18 per cent in January 2010 from 23.45 and 23.1 per cent in December and November, 2009, respectively. The average prime lending rate also fell to 18.38 per cent in January 2010 from 19.03 and 18.93 per cent in December and November 2009, respectively. The Committee reaffirmed that the reduction of structural and institutional impediments, DMBs risk

## Resolution No. 68 of the 213<sup>th</sup> Monetary Policy Committee Meeting, March 1-2, 2010

perception of borrowers, as well as use of shared infrastructure by banks and the development of alternative funding sources for firms, could moderate the high lending rates. The Committee welcomed the efforts made thus far, on these issues, particularly the request to accord liquidity status to State Government bonds, the proposal for tax waivers on fixed income securities, the proposed national credit guarantee scheme for small and medium-scale enterprises, and on-lending programmes through the Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), such as the Bank of Industry. It urged their intensification for eventual actualization.

The Nigerian capital market is showing some signs of recovery compared to the last quarter of 2009. The All-Share Index (ASI), which was 20,827.17 at end-December 2009, rose by 10.36 per cent to 22,985.00 on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2010. Market Capitalization (MC) also rose by 11.4 per cent, from N4.98 trillion at end-December 2009 to N5.54 trillion on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2010. The NSE has attributed the improved performance of the stock market to share price increases in the Banking, Food and Beverages, and Oil and Gas sectors. However, the major stock markets around the world showed deteriorating performance over the period, following calls for increased regulation in the US and Europe, deteriorating government finances in Europe and poor unemployment reports in some advanced economies.

**External Sector Developments:** The foreign exchange market remained relatively stable in the first two months of 2010. In January 2010, the WDAS average exchange rate stood at N149.78 per US dollar, the same rate recorded in December 2009. As at 24<sup>th</sup> February 2010, the WDAS exchange rate had depreciated to N150.10. The inter-bank market rate averaged N150.33/US\$ in January, 2010. Thus, the spread between the WDAS and inter-bank market rates remains insignificant. The convergence reflected the continued confidence and clarity in expectation, engendered by the exchange rate stability. Policy will continue to focus on avoiding volatility in exchange rates and strengthening confidence in the market.

External reserves stood at US\$41.54 billion on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2010, down by US\$0.51 billion or 1.21 per cent from the level of US\$42.05 billion recorded in the preceding month. Overall, the net outflow of foreign exchange which moderated significantly from US\$931.93 million to US\$138.37 million in the third and fourth quarters of 2009 turned to a net inflow of US\$0.10 billion in January 2010. The Committee was satisfied with this development, noting that the level of reserves remained robust and buoyant enough to support the country's external transactions in the near-term. It, however, believed that if the rising price of crude oil in the international market in recent months is sustained, coupled with improvement in output with peace in the Niger Delta, there is likely to be an improvement in the level of foreign exchange reserves.

### The Committee's Considerations

The Committee noted the potential for inflationary pressure in the near-to-medium term, but observed that recent experience shows that inflation has been driven largely by structural factors particularly the bottleneck experienced in the supply of petroleum products in the wake of the announcement of the full deregulation of the downstream petroleum industry. It noted that growth in both monetary and credit aggregates has remained weak since the beginning of 2009, and therefore any attempt at this time to tighten monetary policy will exacerbate the problem and further constrain credit availability to the real economy.

The MPC further stressed the need to unlock the credit market. Members also observed that there is sufficient liquidity in the money market as suggested by the low interbank interest rates, but that the perception of credit risk on the part of the DMBs remained a major constraint to their ability to lend to the real sector of the economy. In this regard, the Committee felt that a broader macroeconomic policy framework will be needed to unlock the credit market.

In this context, the MPC recognised the need to encourage the DMBs to channel the excess funds deposited with the CBN under the standing deposit facility to the real sector. It therefore considered the review of the setting of the standing facility

corridor as imperative, to encourage banks to lend to the productive sectors of the economy.

As part of the efforts to bring lending rates down, provide alternative sources of long-term funds to finance development projects and deepen the capital market in line with the CBN's developmental mandate, the MPC, deliberated on the possibility of granting liquidity status to bonds issued by state governments that meet certain eligibility criteria, including the Investment and Securities Act 2007 (ISA) and DMO requirements.

### Decisions

In the light of the above, the Committee unanimously took the following decisions:

1. MPR remains unchanged at 6.0 per cent;
2. Standing Lending Facility interest rate remains unchanged at 8.00 per cent, while the Standing Deposit Facility rate is lowered from 2.0 per cent to 1.0 per cent;
3. Granted liquidity status to bonds issued by state governments, subject to their meeting the specified eligibility criteria. Detailed guidelines will be issued in due course, principally related to meeting strict standards of fiscal responsibility; and
4. To continue with the quantitative easing policy by providing N500 billion facility for investment in debentures issued by the Bank of Industry (BOI) in accordance with Section 31 of the CBN Act 2007, for investment in emergency power projects dedicated to industrial clusters. The funds are to be channeled through the Bank of Industry for on-lending to the DMBs at a maximum interest rate of 1.0 per cent for disbursement of loans with a tenor of 10 – 15 years at concessionary interest rate of not more than 7.0 per cent. The Committee also approved in principle the extension of this facility to DMBs for the purpose of refinancing/ restructuring existing portfolios to manufacturers. However, the final approval for this will come after the consideration of the report of a technical committee to be set up to work out the modalities, for implementation within one month. Membership of the committee comprises the CBN, the Bankers' Committee Sub-committee on Economic Development, Bank of Industry, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), and National Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME). The African Finance Corporation (AFC) will serve as technical adviser on the power project. In the case of the power projects, the following projects of the Federal Government will be covered under this facility subject to their being restructured into commercially viable projects on which banks are willing to take credit risks: Lagos (500 MW); Kano (250 MW); Onitsha/Nnewi (200 MW); Port Harcourt/Aba (200MW); Kaduna (225 MW); Funtua/Gusua/MFashi/Zaria (200 MW); Lokoja (200MW); and Maiduguri/Gombe/Bauchi (200 MW).

Other power projects currently being financed by banks may also be refinanced from the fund. However, banks will be required to secure the funds drawn with eligible securities. In addition, real sector projects certified bankable that emanate from the State Governors' engagement with the Bankers' Committee in line with the outcome of the Enugu Retreat will be accommodated under the facility.

Sanusi Lamido Sanusi  
Governor,  
Central Bank of Nigeria  
Abuja

March 2, 2010



### PARTNERSHIP (2)

The keystone of successful business is cooperation. Friction retards progress. Last edition, we looked at ways to create a winning business partnership. Business partnerships are an important part of entrepreneurship and startup success. The reasons are simple:

- Complementary skill sets
- Shared equipment or expenses
- And the idea that one person with "hard" money capital can create synergy with the intellectual capital of another person so both can profit from their venture.

In theory, a partnership is a great way to start in business. Sometimes though it may not serve the typical entrepreneur. Most partnerships are just like marriages, and we needn't say more on the statistics. Making a marriage work involves handling a volatile mix of partnership issues: ego, money, stress, monthly overhead and day-to-day expenses.

Throw in some employees you must manage, and you have a good idea of the work required to make a business partnership successful.

Here are some partnership don'ts. It should help to know what you really need:

#### 1. Sharing capital instead of expenses:

Whenever you share your own capital - be it money, resources, information or property - you automatically give away your enterprise ability.

In a perfect world, the person you are partnering with is upright, full of integrity, and not at all tempted to take this gift and run with it as his own. However, the world is not perfect. So be careful. Instead, work out an arrangement where expenses are shared in an "associative" arrangement. It also makes it easier to walk away if things go wrong.

#### 2. Partnering with someone because you can't afford to hire:

This is a partnership killer right from the start. The scene is always the same: John has a business idea and Bright has

The business idea and Bright has the Business Skills, but John can't afford to hire Bright as an employee, so they decide to share duties, expenses and profits. What happens is both John and Bright end up working against each other, and John finds himself liable for Bright's obligations (financial and otherwise) under the partnership agreement.

If you've got the idea and someone else has the skill but no real interest in your business, simply hire him or work out an independent contractor agreement. Don't give away what you don't have to.

#### 3. Lacking a written and signed partnership agreement:

Due to the nature of partnerships, every detail and obligation must be clearly defined and written out, and agreed upon by all parties. This is best done with a written legal agreement drafted by a well-qualified, mutually agreed-upon lawyer. Be sure the attorney is well-versed in business partnerships.

#### 4. Overlooking a limited partnership:

One of the main downfalls of a partnership agreement is the assumption of liability each partner makes for the other. A way around this is a limited partnership, where the limited partner is not liable for the actions or obligations of the general partner. A well-versed attorney will write this in the partnership agreement.

#### 5. Lacking an exit strategy:

Big-time marriages start with a pre-nuptial agreement. In business and contractual terms, a pre-nup is analogous to an exit agreement. In any partnership agreement, define the terms of an exit strategy that allows you or your partner to walk away from the partnership, or that provides options to buy out the other party.

This can be done very clearly and simply - and without imploding the operations of a successful business. Remember, the keystone of any successful business is cooperation.

Skye High is also on Radio presently:

RADIO STATIONS	TIME
• Ray Power Network	6:15am [Mon - Fri]
• Rhythm FM Lagos	9:00am [Mon - Fri]
• Rhythm FM Abuja	6:30am [Mon - Fri]
• Love FM Port Harcourt	8:25am [Mon] & 8:00am [Tue - Fri]
• Kiss FM 99.9 Abuja	6:30am [Mon - Fri]

RADIO STATIONS	TIME
• Radio Continental Lagos	6:35am [Mon - Fri]
• Inspiration FM Lagos	8:00am [Mon - Fri]
• Edo Broad Svc [EBS]	7:55am [Mon - Fri]
• Cosmo FM Enugu	6:20am [Mon - Fri]
• Pyramid FM Kano	6:55am [Mon - Fri]

E-mail: [skyehigh@skyebank.com](mailto:skyehigh@skyebank.com) or SMS 0703000255



## Business/Energy

# Nigeria loses N175bn to pipeline vandalism

By Hamisu Muhammad

PETROLEUM products and pipeline assets worth N175 billion were lost due to the activities of vandals between the year 2000 to 2009 in different parts of the country, the Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Mohammed Barkindo said.

In different presentations made to the Inspector General of Police Ogbonna Onovo and the Chief of Defence Staff, Air Chief Marshal Paul Dike yesterday in Abuja Barkindo said a total of 15,685 cases of vandalism were recorded within the period.

At the moment exports of over 300,000 barrels of crude oil and 140 million standard cubic feet of gas have to be deferred for reasons that has to do with attacks on the Crude oil export facilities at Farcados in Delta State, said Barkindo.

He explained that there are three categories of pipelines, which are Crude oil pipeline, Product pipeline and Gas pipeline in the country and all of them suffer series of attacks within the period.

He said the visits by the NNPC delegation to the defence headquarters and IGP's office are necessary to forge new strategy on protecting these important national assets.

He regretted that for more than two years, Warri Refinery and Petrochemicals Company and the Kaduna Refinery and Petrochemical Company were shut down due to attacks on the pipelines that supply crude to them.

He said at the moment



NNPC boss Moh'd Barkindo

WRPC and the KRPC are back on stream but within the short period after they resumed operations over 47 breaks were recorded along the pipelines that transport crude to Kaduna from Warri.

According to records, the System 2E/2EX which conveys products from the Port Harcourt refinery to Aba-Enugu-Makurdi depots onwards to Yola-Enugu-Auchi appear to be the haven for pipeline vandals in the country particularly the Port Harcourt-Aba/Isiala-Ngwa axis.

In all, 8,105 breaks were recorded along the system 2E within the period representing about 50.3 percent of the total number of petroleum products pipeline breaks in the country. The attacks left the NNPC with a cost of N78.15 billion.

The System 2A product pipeline route which con-

veys products from Warri-Benin-Suleja/Ore depots ranks second on the scale of pipeline break points with 3,259 cases representing about 20.2 percent of the total volume of products pipeline breaks in Nigeria. The figure also came with a loss of over N20.39 billion in products and pipeline repairs.

The System 2B which carries products from the Atlas Cove-Mosimi-Satellite-Ibadan-Ilorin depots recorded 2,440 breaks leading to a loss of over N73.6 billion in products and pipeline repairs.

On gas, Barkindo explained that the incessant attacks on the Trans Farcados Pipeline has rendered the TFP out of service since May 2009, thus making it impossible to evacuate crude oil/ condensate from some Shell operated facilities.

## Renewable energy achievable in Nigeria, says NEXIM bank boss

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

THE managing Director of Nigerian Export-Import Bank (NEXIM Bank), Mr. Roberts Orya, has reiterated the need for Nigeria to focus on the Green Economy and renewable energy in its bid to join global forces to save a world that is threatened by climate change and global warming.

Orya, who made this remark while fielding questions from Energy reporters in Abuja, expressed the hope that Nigeria may begin to achieve meaningful progress in the global renewable

energy project in the next ten years if the collective efforts of all stakeholders are given serious attention.

Describing NEXIM Bank as Nigeria's first "Green Bank", Mr. Orya said: "All prospective green economies of the world are reshaping and refocusing policies, investments and spending towards a range of sectors such as clean technologies, renewable energies, green transportation, green buildings, waste management and sustainable agriculture and forests; our partnership with other stakeholders in Africa today is to support the effort

to move Nigeria from its current status as a "black economy" to a "green economy".

The Managing Director said: "A 'black economy' is an economy that is still wholly dependent on fossil fuels, such as coal, petroleum and natural gas. But NEXIM Bank's present emphasis on the "green economy" model will focus on reconfiguring business and infrastructure to deliver better returns on natural, human and economic capital investments, which will ultimately reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create less waste and reduce social disparities."

## Business



FROM left: Alhaji Aliko Dangote, President/Chief Executive, Dangote Group; Mr. Waclaw Lukwicz, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Siemens Nigeria Limited and Mr. Walter von den Driesch, Consul-General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Nigeria yesterday.

# Power: Dangote signs N14bn contract with Siemens

Dangote Group signs a multi-million contract with Siemens for the production of three gas turbines to power Ibese Cement plant in Ogun State:

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

DANGOTE Industries Cement division yesterday signed a \$95 million, about N14.345 billion contract with Siemens International Turbomachinery for the production and supply of three gas turbines to power the Ibese Cement plant in Ogun state.

The three gas turbines are expected to generate 102 megawatts of electricity for the cement plant.

Construction of the plant, which began late 2009 is expected to be completed by January 2011. The plant is estimated to produce 5 million metric tonnes of cement annually.

The contract was signed by the President and Chief Executive of Dangote Group, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, representing Dangote Group and Managing Director/Chief Executive, Mr. Waclaw Lukwicz, representing Siemens Ltd.

Speaking at the occasion Alhaji Aliko Dangote said he was pleased to partner with Siemens, a globally recognized company in power plant construction, adding that the contract is a sign post to the company's desire and determination to meet its target of completing the Ibese plant in record time, and achieving the 20 million metric tonnes annual production target our cement division has set this year.

"We have made a pledge to ensure that the price of cement in Nigeria comes down, but that can only be possible if the product is available in the market through increased supply. We intend to keep this pledge.

"Our cement division is expanding in various countries within Africa, and we hope that Siemens will cherish this relationship and meet our expectation, so that our partnership would be strengthened".

Lukowicz said: "This contract is a significant milestone for Siemens Ltd., as it is the first large private non oil and gas power plant project in the history of Siemens in Nigeria. We are proud to be associated with the Dangote Group and we hope this partnership will grow. Africa is the emerging market, Nigeria is the power house and Dangote is not only an African player, but potentially a global key player.

"With our broad portfolio on gas turbines with outputs from 5 MW to 340 MW, Siemens has the capability to provide tailor-made solutions for all its customers to reach the desired level of energy. Siemens offers single and multi-shaft combined-cycle power plant solutions using world class steam turbines to boost output and enhance efficiency of the station.

"We have ideal equipments for the Nigerian market considering that all our industrial gas turbines are dual-fuel capable running either on gas or fuel. The SGT-500 [17 MW output] even runs on heavy fuel oil [HFO] and crude oil, offering a cost efficient way of generating power in areas with limited gas supply".

The Ibese plant is being constructed by Sinoma a leading cement construction company from China. Some of the facilities to be provided at the plant include gas pipeline, housing estate and mining equipment.

When completed, the plant will generate employment and be a major catalyst to the economic development of the state and the surrounding cities.

Dangote Group's foray into cement business began in 2005, and has since grown to become a market leader of cement manufacturing in Africa with plants either completed or being constructed in Zambia, Senegal, Ibese, Obajana and Gboko.

Also, present at the event were; Mr. Walter von den Driesch, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Nigeria, Mr. Kunle Alake, Chief Operating Officer of Dangote Group, Alhaji Abdu Dantata, Group Executive Director, Dangote Industries, Ms. Monica Musonda, Director Legal and Corporate Affairs, Dangote Cement, Mr. Bhairappa Kashinath, Deputy Director, Project Division and Mr. Wole Adeleke, Chief Financial Officer of Dangote Cement.

## Ogogoro now sold in water sachet in Benue

PRODUCERS and consumers of the local gin popularly called "Ogogoro" in Benue, have resorted to some criminal ingenuity to circumvent the law prohibiting the sale and consumption of the product. The aim is to avoid arrest and prosecution by the law enforcement agencies.

The law prohibiting possession, sale and consumption of the product came into force on July 17, 2009. It empowers the police, the Nigeria Civil Defence Corps, NDLEA, Vigilante and traditional rulers to enforce and ensure compliance with the law within their areas of jurisdiction. The News Agency of Nigeria reports that apart from renaming the product "pure water," they have gone a step further to package it in form of sachet water, to

facilitate its distribution to end users on the streets.

One of the consumers told NAN: "Now that the product is being packaged and dispensed as sachet water, we can readily say that there is a relative sense of relief, particularly from constant harassment by law enforcement agencies."

Mr Samuel Azige, the Commander, NDLEA Zone 12, Makurdi, told NAN that officials of the agency and other sister organisations had been doing their best to ensure compliance with law.

"The public has been sensitised to the need to avoid production, sale and consumption of the illicit gin. The basic problem is that we have been handicapped by the lack of logistics to effectively enforce the law," he added. (NAN).

## Warren Buffett's rules of making money

Warren Buffett, world's second richest person after Bill Gates, is arguably the world's greatest stock investor. He's also a bit of a philosopher. He pares down his investment ideas into simple, memorable sound bites. Do you know what his homespun sayings really mean? Does his philosophy hold up in today's difficult environment? Find out below.

**"RULE No. 1: Never lose money. Rule No. 2: Never forget rule No. 1."**

BUFFETT personally lost about \$23 billion in the financial crisis of 2008, and his company, Berkshire Hathaway, lost its revered AAA ratings. So how can he tell us to never lose money?

He's referring to the mindset of a sensible investor. Don't be frivolous. Don't gamble. Don't go into an investment with a cavalier attitude that it's OK to lose. Be informed. Do your homework. Buffett invests only in companies he thoroughly researches and understands. He doesn't go into an investment prepared to lose, and neither should you.

Buffett believes the most important quality for an investor is temperament, not intellect. A successful investor doesn't focus on being with or against the crowd.

The stock market will swing up and down. But in good times and bad, Buffett stays focused on his goals. So should we. (This esteemed investor rarely changes his long-term investing strategy no matter what the market does.

**"If the business does well, the stock eventually follows"**

The Intelligent Investor by Benjamin Graham convinced Buffett that investing in a stock equates to owning a piece of the business. So when he searches for a stock to invest in, Buffett seeks out businesses that exhibit favorable long-term prospects. Does the company have a consistent operating history? Does it have a dominant business franchise? Is the business generating high and sustainable profit margins? If the company's share price is trading below expectations for its future growth, then it's a stock Buffett may want to own.

Buffett never buys anything unless he can write down his reasons why he'll pay a specific price per share for a particular company. Do you do the same?

**"It's far better to buy a wonderful company at a fair price than a fair company at a wonderful price"**

Buffett is a value investor who likes to buy quality stocks at rock-bottom prices. His real goal is to build more and more operating power for Berkshire Hathaway by owning stocks that will generate solid profits and capital appreciation for years to come. When the markets reeled during the recent financial crisis, Buffett was stockpiling great long-term investments by investing billions in names like General Electric and Goldman Sachs.

To pick stocks well, investors must set down criteria for uncovering good businesses, and stick to their discipline. You might, for example, seek companies that offer a durable product or service and also have solid operating earnings and the germ for future profits. You might establish a minimum market capitalization you're willing to accept, and a maximum P/E ratio or debt level. Finding the right company at the right price - with a margin for safety against unknown market risk - is the ultimate goal.

Remember, the price you pay for a stock isn't the same as the value you get. Successful investors know the difference.

**"Our favorite holding period is forever"**

How long should you hold a stock? Buffett says if you don't feel comfortable owning a stock for 10 years, you shouldn't own it for 10 minutes. Even during the period he called the "Financial Pearl Harbor," Buffett loyally held on to the bulk of his portfolio.

Unless a company has suffered a sea change in prospects, such as impossible labor problems or product obsolescence, a long holding period will keep an investor from acting too human. That is, being too fearful or too greedy can cause investors to sell stocks at the bottom or buy at the peak - and destroy portfolio appreciation for the long run.

You may think the recent financial meltdown changed things, but don't be fooled: those unfussy sayings from the Oracle of Omaha still RULE. (Yahoo).



WARREN Buffett

## Business/International

### British Petrol to quit 5 African states

OIL major BP Plc said on Tuesday it would pull out of five countries in southern Africa following a strategy review, but would still invest to grow its market share in Mozambique and South Africa.

The company said it plans to sell its marketing businesses in Namibia, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Botswana, but said Mozambique and South Africa offered better synergies with its supply portfolio.

"I would like to stress that BP is and will stay committed to Africa," BP Africa's Chief Executive Siphon Maseko said.

"We have significant operations in Angola, Mozambique and South Africa and in Algeria, Egypt and Libya. We will continue to grow and invest in those markets, especially in the value chain infrastructure."

BP said it had informed the governments of the five countries it is exiting of its plans, but did not specify when the assets would be sold.

### Mauritius 2009 trade deficit shrinks 12%

MAURITIUS' trade deficit shrank 12 percent in 2009 as the value of imports fell by more than the decline in exports from the Indian Ocean Island, official data showed on Tuesday.

Total exports came to 61.784 billion rupees, a 9.1 percent decline from 2008, while imports were worth 118.303 billion rupees, or a 10.5 percent decline from a year earlier, the Central Statistical Office (CSO) said.

Economic growth slowed in 2009 to an estimated 2.8 percent from more than 5 percent on average in the three previous years as key export markets and tourism were hit by the global slowdown. Growth is expected to recover in 2010.

There was a 35.2 percent slide in the value of mineral fuels and lubricant imports, manufactured goods imports declined 14.3 percent, while food and live animals slipped 7.2 percent.

Exports of machinery and transport equipment slumped 65.4 percent in 2009 from a year earlier and this was mainly attributable to lower re-exports of mobile phones. Sugar exports fell 20.1 percent.

The CSO said 41.9 percent of exports in 2009 were clothes and clothing accessories, 11.7 percent were sugar and 16.1 percent were fish and fish preparations.

The Indian Ocean Island's main export market for 2009 remained Britain with a 27 percent share, followed by France on 16.6 percent, the United States on 8.3 percent and Madagascar at 6.4 percent.

The Central Statistics Office said that in 2009 India was the main source of imports with 18.7 percent, followed by China on 12.6 percent and France with 11.7 percent.

### Google buys photo-editing site Picnik

INTERNET search giant Google has bought online photo-editing site Picnik - its third deal in three weeks. The firm did not disclose the cost of buying Picnik - a five-year-old start-up based in Seattle.

The 20-strong team will start working on Picasa, Google's online photo sharing service. In an eventful period since September, Google has bought eight companies, introduced a social network named Buzz and threatened to pull out of China.

Last month, Google bought social search engine Aardvark and mobile e-mail service reMail. It also said it would become a network provider, offering super-fast broadband to thousands of US homes.

In October, Google chief executive Eric Schmidt said the company would resume its historic pace of acquiring one small company a month on average, with larger deals happening every year or two.

Google said on 12 January that hackers had tried to infiltrate its software coding and the e-mail accounts of Chinese human rights activists, in a "highly sophisticated" attack.

The California-based company, which launched in China in 2006, said it would quit the country unless the government relaxed censorship. *BBC.*



THE BP logo is seen at a petrol station in London

## Malawi, Zambia set for big US infrastructure aid

MALAWI and Zambia are set to win hundreds of millions of dollars in U.S. infrastructure grants in the next two years due to steady improvements in the way they are run, U.S. aid officials said on Tuesday.

Elsewhere, an anti-gay law being tabled in Uganda is likely to hamper the east African country's progress from 'threshold' partner with the U.S. government's Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) aid arm to fully-fledged grant-receiver.

Last month, U.S. President Barack Obama described the Ugandan bill, which could mean the death penalty for some homosexuals, as "odious", and MCC officials said they were watching its progress carefully.

"How a government deals with its human rights situation is definitely an indicator that we think is important," said Cassandra Butts, senior adviser to the MCC's chief executive.

"That will be something we will review and we will make a determination of our continued investment in Uganda," she told reporters at an investment conference in South Africa.

The MCC, which has committed \$5.1 billion to Africa over five years -- most of it in infrastructure investment -- has a \$10 million project to reduce corruption and help civil society in Uganda, which it regards as a 'threshold' country.

Formal 'compact' partners, seen as being better run, are eligible for much larger grants. Tanzania, for example, has signed a five-year deal worth \$698 million, Ghana for \$547 and Mozambique \$507 million.

Malawi and Zambia, both of which are democracies committed to opening their economies to trade and investment, were on track for promotion, allowing grants into the hundreds of millions of dollars, MCC officials said.

### Steinhoff profit dips, cautious on outlook

SOUTH African furniture supplier Steinhoff posted a modest decline in first-half profit partly due to unfavourable swings in currencies and lower consumer spending.

Steinhoff, which operates in Africa, Europe and the Pacific Rim, said on Tuesday headline earnings per share (EPS) fell to 115.1 cents in the six months to end-December.

The company said the decline in headline EPS -- South Africa's main profit measure that strips out certain one-off, non-trading and financial items -- was the result of translating euro profits to the rand.

Steinhoff said future profits could be affected by the stronger rand, which strengthened by about 30 percent last year.

"Rand strength will impact the group's full year rand reported earnings if the growth in euro profits does not outperform," Steinhoff said.

In its South African market, retailers have been struggling to keep profits rising as consumers who are fearing high levels of debt and unemployment have put off purchases of big-ticket items such as furniture.

Shares in the company were up 1.61 percent at 19.51 rand by 1312 GMT, slightly outpacing a 0.64 percent gain in the broader JSE's All-share index.

### Kenya's BAT 2009 pre-tax down 13%

KENYAN cigarette maker British American Tobacco on Tuesday posted a 13 percent drop in pretax profit for the year ended December 31 to 2.1 billion shillings.

"Profit before tax for 2009 amounted to 2.1 billion shillings compared to 2.4 billion shillings in 2008, primarily driven by costs incurred in restructuring the business during the year," it said in its audited accounts statement.

Gross turnover rose by 7 percent to 18.7 billion shillings, while earnings per share dropped to 14.78 shillings from 17.00 shillings a year before. It proposed a dividend payout of 1.5 billion shillings from 1.7 billion shillings in 2008.

"The general operating

environment in 2009 was greatly impacted by high inflation rates, heightened insecurity and prolonged famine, leading to considerable pressure on disposable incomes and increase in the cost of doing business," it said.



MWAI Kibaki

# Business/Finance



## Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
<b>2ND-TIER SECURITIES</b>				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	4	0.53	176,000	93,280.00
SECTOR Totals	4		176,000	93,280.00
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>				
FTN COCOA PROC. PLC	18	0.89	1,433,109	1,255,991.70
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	14	0.66	317,300	209,463.00
OKOMU OIL PALM COY PLC	1	21.62	1,500	30,810.00
PRESCO PLC	15	5.46	297,400	1,568,068.00
SECTOR Totals	48		2,049,309	3,064,332.70
<b>AIR SERVICES</b>				
AIRL/SERV. AND LOG. PLC	4	2.62	115,000	301,300.00
NIG. AV. HAND. COY PLC	93	8.48	1,056,134	9,043,819.74
SECTOR Totals	97		1,171,134	9,345,119.74
<b>AUTOMOBILE &amp; TYRE</b>				
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	6	0.50	48,853	24,426.50
R. T. BRISCOE (NIG.) PLC	49	4.92	867,084	4,300,840.94
SECTOR Totals	55		915,937	4,325,267.44
<b>BANKING</b>				
ACCESS BANK PLC	286	9.45	7,911,450	73,979,510.93
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	83	2.46	6,335,548	15,766,641.03
DIAMOND BANK PLC	122	8.91	3,621,137	32,332,715.09
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	151	6.00	4,339,981	25,962,979.92
FIRST CITY MON. BANK PLC	98	9.08	4,443,795	40,297,101.42
FIDELITY BANK PLC	153	2.60	5,390,440	13,866,491.12
FIRST BANK OF NIG. PLC	920	14.54	19,212,160	279,393,474.19
FINBANK PLC	69	0.68	6,827,584	4,429,655.56
GTBANK PLC	533	18.35	20,883,047	377,560,333.92
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	63	8.16	1,204,045	9,835,473.19
INTERCONT. BANK PLC.	103	2.00	3,384,689	6,748,184.52
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	165	2.08	5,763,839	11,400,121.09
BANK PHB PLC	82	1.90	3,843,542	7,096,486.24
SKYE BANK PLC.	159	6.90	3,802,143	26,715,913.37
SPRING BANK PLC	6	0.91	144,279	131,385.05
STERLING BANK PLC	39	1.75	1,574,711	2,745,867.50
UNT. BANK FOR AFRICA PLC.	288	13.39	6,381,161	84,043,073.04
UNION BANK OF NIG. PLC	156	5.92	2,571,241	15,360,599.15
UNITYBANK PLC	26	1.05	2,255,918	2,368,713.90
WEMA BANK PLC	56	1.20	2,486,911	2,847,113.29
ZENITH BANK PLC	332	15.98	17,079,231	280,193,391.52
SECTOR Totals	3,890		129,456,852	1,313,075,225.04
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	58	16.20	393,249	6,336,781.97
BENUE CEMENT COY PLC	32	50.01	130,235	6,520,017.45
CEMENT CO. OF N/NIG. PLC	29	16.20	789,936	12,790,296.70
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	33	35.00	270,259	9,411,013.25
SECTOR Totals	152		1,583,679	35,058,109.37
<b>CHEMICAL &amp; PAINTS</b>				
AFRICAN PAINTS (NIG.) PLC	3	3.49	1,000	3,320.00
BERGER PAINTS NIG. PLC	3	3.52	3,730	13,763.70
CHEM. & ALLIED PROD. PLC	12	29.74	34,451	977,871.34
DN MEYER PLC	6	2.81	79,241	222,667.21
P/LAND P. & PROD. NIG. PLC	1	5.67	1,000	5,390.00
SECTOR Totals	25		119,422	1,223,012.25
<b>COMMERCIAL/SERVICES</b>				
AFROMEDIA PLC	5	0.53	730,046	388,084.38
COURTVILLE INVEST. PLC	5	0.50	164,500	82,250.00
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	12	2.64	123,373	325,736.46
SECTOR Totals	22		1,017,919	796,070.84
<b>COMP. &amp; OFFICE EQUIP.</b>				
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	13	0.51	199,750	102,472.00
TRIPPLE GEE AND COY PLC	2	4.37	1,920	7,987.20
SECTOR Totals	15		201,670	110,459.20
<b>CONGLOMERATES</b>				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC	9	2.99	79,073	232,220.49
PZ CUSONS NIG. PLC	74	25.25	765,654	19,345,958.17
TRANSN. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	98	0.54	23,328,039	13,173,974.83
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	73	43.00	763,132	32,846,491.51
UNILEVER NIG. PLC	96	25.19	6,372,837	159,388,094.46
SECTOR Totals	350		31,308,735	224,986,739.46
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	43	5.18	825,514	4,251,898.36
JULIUS BERGER NIG. PLC	40	27.98	479,260	13,262,790.58
MULTIVERSE RES. PLC	3	0.50	300,000	150,000.00
SECTOR Totals	86		1,604,774	17,664,688.94
<b>ENGINEERING TECH.</b>				
CUTIX PLC	2	2.89	16,000	46,900.00
NIG. WIRE AND CABLE PLC.	4	0.86	200,760	172,653.60
SECTOR Totals	6		216,760	219,553.60
<b>FOOD/BEV. &amp; TOBACCO</b>				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	23	30.60	45,197	1,452,179.61
BIG TREAT PLC	17	0.74	2,832,534	2,117,142.36
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	64	15.75	437,134	6,825,010.20
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	297	12.92	5,299,902	68,426,303.74
DANGOTE SUGAR REFIN. PLC	109	16.55	1,211,791	19,825,342.04
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	89	45.00	1,092,943	49,297,291.28
HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	29	8.13	274,400	2,229,042.70
NAT. SALT COY NIGERIA PLC	37	6.19	1,032,526	6,414,837.98
NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC	17	27.00	38,551	990,166.65
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	52	270.00	108,607	29,582,389.04

### What is Arbitrage

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

Google

N/NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	9	23.00	27,859	611,594.15
TANTALIZERS PLC	15	0.91	511,000	465,010.00
UTC NIGERIA PLC	3	0.75	51,820	38,865.00
SECTOR Totals	761		12,964,264	188,275,174.75
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	10	1.05	155,090	159,851.80
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	16	2.28	409,290	937,205.00
GLAXOSM. CONS. NIG. PLC	28	27.30	187,009	5,090,281.70
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	15	5.04	199,022	1,003,925.28
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	5	1.47	44,000	62,860.00
UNION DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	62	0.61	3,266,630	1,941,755.40
SECTOR Totals	136		4,261,041	9,195,879.18
<b>HOTEL &amp; TOURISM</b>				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	3	3.02	60,857	182,488.14
SECTOR Totals	3		60,857	182,488.14
<b>IND./DOMESTIC PROD.</b>				
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	4	10.39	14,413	146,574.94
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC	5	0.50	515,200	262,000.00
VITAFI NIGERIA PLC	15	4.70	173,550	817,920.00
SECTOR Totals	24		703,163	1,226,494.94
<b>INF. &amp; COMM. TECHNOLOGY</b>				
CHAMS PLC	24	0.69	988,922	666,675.32
MASS TEL. INNOV. NIG. PLC	2	0.50	85,750	42,875.00
STARCOMMS PLC	25	2.00	4,628,035	9,248,837.36
SECTOR Totals	51		5,702,707	9,958,387.68
<b>INSURANCE</b>				
AICO INSURANCE PLC.	268	1.05	6,157,723	6,455,951.51
CONT. REINSURANCE PLC	29	1.00	23,680,000	23,378,102.60
C/STONE INSUR. CO. PLC.	28	0.52	3,923,385	1,992,156.36
CUST. AND ALLIED INS. PLC	34	2.90	2,599,491	7,519,238.39
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	8	0.50	642,100	321,050.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	22	0.55	1,926,056	1,059,330.80
GUAR. TRUST ASSURANCE PLC	25	2.13	1,153,551	2,518,372.71
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	5	0.50	247,400	123,700.00
CONS. HALLMARK INS. PLC	4	0.50	42,300	21,150.00
INT. ENERGY INS. COY PLC	42	0.56	5,144,042	2,849,939.38
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	60	0.51	5,929,574	2,973,343.54
LAW UNION & ROCK INS. PLC.	7	0.51	1,006,580	513,761.80
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	5,000	2,500.00
MUTUAL BEN. ASSUR. PLC	6	0.64	694,700	444,608.00
N.E.M. INS. CO. (NIG.) PLC.	30	0.51	2,014,468	1,039,626.60
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	16	0.71	242,823	174,510.33
OASIS INSURANCE PLC	1	1.17	100,000	117,000.00
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	3	3.61	37,604	128,981.72
SOV. TRUST INSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	98,680	49,340.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	8	0.76	497,821	378,343.96
STAND. ALLIANCE INS. PLC	40	0.52	5,909,900	3,107,612.00
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	6	0.80	447,272	357,017.60
UNITY KAP. ASSURANCE PLC	3	1.05	250,500	263,025.00
UNIV. INSURANCE COY PLC	4	0.50	132,800	66,400.00
INTERC. WAPI INSUR. PLC	12	0.97	1,354,359	1,271,297.07
SECTOR Totals	664		64,238,129	57,126,359.37
<b>MEDIA</b>				
DAAR COMMUNIC. PLC	34	0.64	346,512	222,422.01
SECTOR Totals	34		346,512	222,422.01
<b>MORTGAGE COMPANIES</b>				
ABBEY BUILD. SOCIETY PLC	1	1.61	30,000	45,900.00
ASO SAVINGS & LOAN PLC	13	0.64	196,440	121,877.60
RESORT SAV. & LOANS PLC	8	0.50	17,746,590	8,873,295.00
UNION H. SAV. & LOANS PLC	42	0.90	2,534,464	2,354,991.58
SECTOR Totals	64		20,507,494	11,396,064.18
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL INST.</b>				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC.	19	0.95	1,274,662	1,218,883.28
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	4	0.59	21,000	12,376.88
SECTOR Totals	23		1,295,662	1,231,260.16
<b>PETROLEUM(MARKETING)</b>				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	53	43.42	278,523	12,093,468.66
BECO PETROL. PROD. PLC	4	2.13	71,000	151,230.00
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	8	69.79	2,396	175,549.52
CONOIL PLC	27	37.66	151,465	5,704,171.90
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	49	5.71	842,072	4,903,915.66
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	21	97.51	11,780	1,091,412.96
OANDO PLC	8	93.99	3,613	339,585.87
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	10	142.50	5,395	775,887.50
SECTOR Totals	180		1,366,244	25,235,222.07
<b>PRINTING &amp; PUBLISHING</b>				
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	2	9.76	4,000	37,120.00
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	38	5.90	1,233,827	7,379,631.25
SECTOR Totals	40		1,237,827	7,416,751.25
<b>REAL ESTATE</b>				
UACN PROP. DEV. CO. PLC	13	21.00	69,654	1,451,569.50
SECTOR Totals	13		69,654	1,451,569.50
<b>ROAD TRANSPORTATION</b>				
ASSOCIATED BUS COY PLC	6	0.94	200,000	185,790.00
SECTOR Totals	6		200,000	185,790.00
<b>THE FOREIGN LISTINGS</b>				
ECOBANK TRANS. INCORP.	42	16.05	463,574	7,453,084.60
SECTOR Totals	42		463,574	7,453,084.60
OVERALL Totals	7,349		297,167,312	2,051,205,770.36

### GAINERS

CONOIL	1.79
DANGFLOUR	0.39
HONYFLOUR	0.36
CADBURY	0.32

### LOSERS

AP	2.28
UACN	0.94
CCNN	0.36
NASCON	0.29



### Invitation for bids (IFB)

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION POST-BASIC  
(STEP – B PROJECT)

NATIONAL MATHEMATICAL CENTRE, ABUJA, NIGERIA  
IDA CREDIT NO. 4304-UNI

ISSUANCE DATE 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH, 2010

Procurement and installation of Appropriate software for Teaching and Learning of Mathematics, and Infrastructure for the Electronic Classroom (IFB NO: NMC/GDS/NCB/1/10)

- This invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this project that appeared in Development Business, issue no. 591 of 2<sup>ND</sup> July, 2007.
- Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association towards the cost of Science and Technology Education Post Basic Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for the Procurement and Installation of Appropriate Software for the Teaching and Learning of Mathematics, and Infrastructure for the Electronic Classroom
- National Mathematical Centre (NMC)M, STEP\_B Abuja, FCT now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the procurement of the following:

Lot No.	Item Description	Quantity	Bid Security	Delivery period	Location
1.	Appropriate Software for Teaching and Learning of Mathematics	1	2.5%	90 days	The National Mathematical centre (NMC) Science and Technology Education Post basic Project (STEP-B) Sheda Kwali-Abuja Nigeria
2A	Automatic Controlled Electric Projection Screen	1	2.5%	90 days	The national Mathematic Centre (NMC), Science and Technology Education Post-Basic project, (STEP-B Sheda Kwali-Abuja
B	Magnetic Teaching Board	1			
c.	Multimedia Projector	1			
D.	Public Address System (Wireless)	2			
E.	Executive Chairs	30			
F	Executive tables	15			
G	Split A/C	4			
H	Executive Rug	1			
I	Mobile Internet				

Evaluation shall be conducted on a lot by lot bases and discount for one or more lots considered during evaluation.

- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB), a procedure specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from National Mathematical Centre (NMC), STEP-B Office Sheda-Kwali FCT at the address below and inspect the Bidding Documents from 8:00am to 4:00pm Monday to Friday, excluding weekends and public holidays.
- Qualifications requirements include:
  - Evidence of previous supply (sale) of similar software and infrastructure proposed for the last 5 years.
  - Audited Financial Statement for the last 3 years to demonstrate the financial capability of the Bidder in terms of profitability and adequate working capital.
- A margin of preference for eligible national contractors **shall not be applied**. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in **English** may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee of N10,000.00 (Ten thousand Naira) only. The method of payment will be Bank Draft in favour of National Mathematical Centre (NMC) STEP-B or by cash. The Bidding Documents will be collected by the representative of the Bidder or by courier services on request.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 12: noon on Friday, 2<sup>ND</sup> April, 2010. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of 2.5% of bid price in a freely convertible currency or bank draft from a reputable Nigeria commercial bank.
- The address referred to above is:

The Project Manager,  
National Mathematical Centre  
Science and Technology Education Post-basic project (STEP-B)  
Permanent Site, Sheda-Kwali  
Abuja-Lokoja Road, FCT  
Nigeria  
Telephone: DG-08036642237, P.O-08036900378

E-mail Address: nmcstepb0@yahoo.com



## NURSING & MIDWIFERY COUNCIL OF NIGERIA

(ESTABLISHED BY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY REGISTRATION, ETC.  
ACT CAP N143, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004)

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF C-BAND VSAT AT THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY COUNCIL OF NIGERIA OFFICES AT LAGOS AND ABUJA

### A. INTRODUCTION:

The Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria, a Parastatal of the Federal Ministry of Health, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Procurement Act, 2007, hereby invites experienced and reputable Suppliers/Vendors to Tender for the Supply and Installation of C-Band Vsat at its Lagos and Abuja offices

### B. SPECIFICATIONS:

- The system should be-
  - 256/256 kbs (Initially)
  - High contention Ratio
  - Compact reliable "One box" solution
  - Fast and flexible
  - Superior error corrections techniques to minimize weather related performance degradation.
- The system should support:-
  - IT Telephony
  - 802.11 wireless connection to PC's and PDA's
  - Video collaboration
  - Unified messaging
  - Broad band connectivity to corporate applications
  - Multi- Mega byte speeds on uplink and downlink
- Vendors/Suppliers must specify their:-
  - Competence and experience
  - Contention Ratio
  - Quality of service mechanism
  - Error correction mechanism etc

### C. TENDER REQUIREMENTS:

Interested contractors must submit the under listed verifiable documentation:

- Certificate of Incorporation/

Registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission

- Professional License to practice as issued by the relevant professional body
- Company profile and Evidence of similar projects executed over the last three years with copies of letters of award and job completion certificate.
- Evidence of Tax clearance Certificate and VAT for the last three Years
- Evidence of financial capability from bank

### D. SUBMISSION OF TENDER AND FINANCIAL BIDS:

All completed Tender and financial bid documents should be enveloped separately and submitted on or before 12 noon of 23<sup>RD</sup> March, 2010 in sealed envelopes clearly marked "SUPPLY OF VSAT" to:

The Secretary-General/Registrar,  
Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria,  
Plot 713, Cadastral Zone,  
Life Camp, Abuja.

All suppliers/vendors are invited to the bid opening which is scheduled as follows:

Date: Thursday 25th March, 2010  
Time: 12 noon prompt  
Venue: Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria,  
Plot 713, Cadastral Zone,  
Life Camp, Abuja.

Signed  
Head, Procurement  
For: Secretary-General/Registrar



## Arewa Suites, Abuja

Samuel Adesujo Ademulegun Street, Off Herbert Macaulay Way,  
Central Business District P.M.B. 416, Abuja



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- Presidential Suite
- 24 Hours Room Service
- Restaurant Service
- Business Centre
- Shop Arcade
- Travel Agents
- Conference/Banquet Hall
- Outdoor catering services
- Bar Service
- Car Hire Services
- Bukka Chop
- Spacious Car Park

Telephone: 08065657788, 08035927553, 08068435737

E-mail: arewasuites@arewahotelsltd.com

## DIGEST

# Chinese medicine has caused kidney failure and even cancer

FOR five years, Patricia Booth took a Chinese herbal remedy for a skin complaint. As a result, she has lost both kidneys and developed cancer of the urinary tract.

The senior civil servant from Essex has had to give up her job, as she spends three days a week in hospital undergoing dialysis. For the rest of the time, Patricia, 58, is housebound.

As the Old Bailey heard last month, the remedy she'd been sold contained aristolochia, a Chinese herb that should only have been given under prescription when she first bought it, and which was later banned.

It is a shocking story, but even more shocking is that it almost exactly parallels the experience of catering manager Sandra Stay.

Her kidneys were destroyed by a Chinese remedy containing the same contaminant. She, too, is on dialysis.

In both cases, the herbalists involved walked free from court proceedings, leaving their patients sentenced to lives of pain and misery.

What makes it even worse is that Sandra's story occurred ten years ago, highlighting the Government's shameful lack of action in the intervening years.

In 2001, the Department of Health declared it was moving to tackle the problem by putting Chinese herbalists under the control of a new regulatory professional body; yet nine years later, despite calls from experts - including

herbalists themselves - to regulate the practice, nothing has been done.

As a result, anyone can set up a Chinese herbal medicine shop - there are an estimated 6,000 in the UK without any professional regulation or oversight into what they are doing - with potentially terrifying consequences.

For instance, aristolochia, which destroyed Sandra's and Patricia's lives, is still being sold to unwitting British patients, despite being legally banned.

The Government's own drug safety agency, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), has said it is pursuing two new cases involving aristolochia. The agency warns that some practitioners may still be unaware that the ingredient is illegal and dangerous. It may also be hidden in cheap imported medicines of dubious origin.

It's not only aristolochia that is worrying experts. The MHRA has investigated other cases where patients have fallen ill or died after being sold Chinese herbal potions and pills that either contained, or were contaminated with, illegal substances, such as poisonous plants, asbestos, heavy metals such as mercury and even powerful Western medicines (to boost their potency).

A study of 11 herbal eczema creams by King's College, London, found eight contained powerful steroids not suitable for children.

Last year, MHRA researchers found that a Chinese 'herbal Viagra' sold in the UK contains dangerous levels of hidden



**UNREGULATED:** The Department of Health has failed to meet its pledge to regulate Chinese medicine

pharmaceuticals.

Tests on the product, Jia Yi Jian, revealed huge doses of two drugs prescribed by doctors for obesity and impotence. The lev-

els were high enough to cause serious side-effects, including heart and blood pressure problems. Researchers for the Arthritis Research Campaign

recently warned that a Chinese herbal medicine for rheumatism contains thunder god vine, which is extremely poisonous if not extracted properly.

## Who is a Jew? DNA can hold the key



**AN ultra-Orthodox Jew is silhouetted against a floodlit fountain as he performs the Tashlich ceremony - casting away of sin - at the shores of a lake**

STEVE Jones examines the complex issues of identity. Who is a Jew? As the recent passport row shows, that question can be murky, with elements of belief, values, descent and nationality mixed in.

It also has dark reminders of a terrible time in history when Jewish blood meant death; and science, or pseudo-science, claimed to be able to sniff it out.

Things have changed. A decade ago, I was passing through Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv carrying a box filled with small tubes. Alerted by the Syrian stamp in my passport, the security staff gave me a hard time. After emptying my case, she asked what was in the box. I replied, irritably: "Arab spit". "What?" she said. "I'm a geneticist, I explained, I have been sampling Palestinian DNA. At once, her face brightened - ah, DNA. Had I heard the then novel stuff on the shared male chromosomes of priestly Jewish families such as the Cohens? I had, and we parted on amicable terms. The conversation gave me pause for thought. Joseph Mengele himself wrote his

doctoral thesis on the relationship between jaw shape and racial identity. His ideas were pernicious rubbish and even 20 years later the thought of a genetic test for Jewish descent would have been treated with horror. Now, one has emerged and is not despised but hailed by many Jews themselves.

A scan of half a million variable sites across the genomes of several hundred Europeans and Americans, each aware from their family history of having had a recent Jewish or a non-Jewish ancestry, gave an absolute separation between Jews and others: even a single Jewish grandparent was enough to provide an unambiguous identity, written in DNA. A carefully chosen sample of just 300 of those sites does almost as well, and a test based on that would be cheap.

Judaism is inherited down the female line - as are mitochondria. Their DNA shows that today's Jews from the largest group, the eight million Ashkenazim - most of whom once found their home in central and eastern Europe, and who now represent the majority of American Jews - have few grandmothers. Around half descend from just four women who bear mitochondrial types found almost exclusively in that population. Two million trace their descent from just one of those ancient predecessors.

In 1650, there were only 100,000 Ashkenazim in Europe, a number then further reduced by pogroms. In 18th-century central Europe, though, came massive expansion of that population, largely because of their relatively good living conditions.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

Sign Language



... but not for spelling  
 Photo location: Malla, by Richard Bedells  
 Culled from telegraph.co.uk

EASY CROSSWORDS

2

**ACROSS**

- Painous Namath
- Contains
- Settle a debt
- "I'm so and!"
- Takes a spill
- Mountain den
- Only
- French -- soup
- Makes cold
- Movie awards
- More courageous
- Beneath
- Quite tiny
- Farm building
- Was in first
- Look happy
- Cowboy competitions
- Male turkey
- "Freeze!"
- Orange tuber
- Longed (for)
- Decoured
- Rocker Clapton
- "Who -- you?"
- Drawing pad
- Daisy's strike
- Feline friend
- Senate votes
- Drop behind
- Slim candle
- Aided
- Become an expert at
- Opera star
- Changes names
- Sal's canal
- Completed
- From Geneva
- Speed contest
- Five and five
- Badminton-court divider
- A scale time
- Running gait
- Stale as true
- "Count on it!"
- Safe from danger
- Former President Gerald
- Winter flakes
- Apple beverages
- Be a pest
- Segment of a 70-Across
- Withdraw, as troops
- Wild hags
- Confuse (to)
- Dress in (clothes)
- Milan's country
- Brief letters
- Hearty bread
- Baltic or Red
- Came together
- 50-Across, for one
- Circle section
- Citizens of Copenhagen
- Wine steersman
- Trade
- Atlas diagram
- Most docile
- Ring steaks
- Gridiron throw
- Bee dwelling
- Flat, level
- Elevator sign
- Notable ages
- Puerto --
- Small speck
- Compete (for)
- Snaky fish

Solution to Easy Crosswords

1

CENT	SWAT	TEAM	SOME
AVER	PAGE	ERIE	ABRI
MERE	ODOR	MART	POLK
PROMOTE	MAP	BEETS	
BUS	BIRTHDAYS		
ADULT	DATE	EASE	TNT
BORE	FILE	LAMP	HOE
LOG	SLED	PALEST	ANN
ERECTED	PORTS	RITES	
ORE	COUGH	JAR	
PASTA	CHORE	JACKSON	
AIL	WHEELS	CUBE	TOE
IDO	ALES	PADS	GAZE
NEW	OILS	ZERO	RAGED
FALSEHOOD	GUM		
ARMOR	EON	FUMBLE	D
LEER	ACRE	IDLE	LOVE
SANK	PAIL	EYES	EDEN
ODDS	FNDS	SEAN	REST

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.

98

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

Solution to Sudoku 97

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

## News Extra

# Eight-limbed Indian boy needs doctor to remove parasite

**T**he parents of an Indian boy born with the arms, legs and buttocks of a parasitic twin protruding from his chest are searching for a doctor who can rid their son of the growing parasite.

Some people see eight-limbed Deepak Paswaan as the reincarnation of the Hindu god Lakshmi, but to others he is the devil.

The worshippers bring offerings of money and flower garlands to the seven-year-old in his village of Bihar, in north-east India, but the more sinister throw stones at the little boy in a bid to remove the devil from his tiny body.

"Every day I wish for a good doctor who could cure Deepak so he can live a normal life," said his father Veeresh Paswaan.

The legs of the parasitic twin have grown at the same rate as Deepak, meaning the youngster is now carrying around a heavy weight.

Further up Deepak's torso are the withered arms of the parasitic twin.

**N**o X-rays or scans have been taken, so the internal effects of Deepak's condition are not yet known.

The boy's mother Indu, 28, and her husband earn less than £1 a day and cannot afford the



**NO X-rays or scans have been taken, so the internal effects of Deepak's condition are not yet known**

expensive medical care needed to remove the extra limbs.

This is not the first case of a

parasitic twin reported in Bihar.

In 2005 Lakshmi Tatma was born with a twin attached at her

hips. Just like Deepak, she was worshipped as an incarnation of the multi-limbed Hindu goddess

of wealth.

She shot to fame after Sharan Patil, an orthopaedic surgeon, performed a groundbreaking 27-hour operation to remove the twin. Lakshmi recovered, and is now walking and attending school.

Parasitic twins occur when



**FLASHBACK:EIGHT-MONTH-OLD Faith Mwampe of Lusaka, Zambia who suffered from having her undeveloped parasitic twin protruding from her buttocks was successfully operated upon by doctors last year.**

“The legs of the parasitic twin have grown at the same rate as Deepak”

the twin embryo does not fully separate in the womb. One twin becomes dominant at the expense of the other and the undeveloped twin becomes a parasite, completely dependent on the body functions of the living twin.

*Culled from telegraph.co.uk*

## News Extra



**FLATTENED:** The massive destruction caused by a tsunami in the Chilean city of Pulluhue, south of Santiago, three days after the huge 8.8 earthquake

# Town wiped off the map by tsunami

## ... After surviving massive Chile earthquake

- Three huge waves swept through port town smashing homes to pieces
- Earthquake death toll reaches 723 as troops bring order
- Bus-load of pensioners swept away by water surge
- Relief for families as missing Britons are found safe and well

**W**hen the shaking stopped, Marioli Gatica and her extended family huddled in a circle on the floor of their seaside wooden home in the gritty port town of Talcahuano.

They heard firefighters urging citizens to stay calm and stay inside.

They heard nothing of a tsunami - until it slammed into their house with an unearthly roar about an hour after Saturday's magnitude 8.8 quake.

Gatica's house exploded with water.

She and her family were swept below the surface, swirling amid loose ship containers and other massive debris that smashed buildings into oblivion all around them.

'We were sitting there one moment and the next I looked up into the water and saw cables and furniture floating,' Gatica said.

She clung to her 11-year-old daughter, Ninoska Elgueta, but the rush of water ripped the girl from her hands. Then the wave retreated as suddenly as it came.

Two of giant ship containers crushed Gatica's home. A third landed seaward of where she floated, preventing the retreating tsunami from dragging her and other relatives away.



**THE massive water surge after the earthquake left this boat marooned on a street in Talcahuano**

Soon Ninoska was back in her mother's arms - she had grabbed a tree branch to avoid being swept away and climbed down as soon as the sea receded.

Gatica's son, husband and 76-year-old father were OK as well, as were her sister and her family.

The only relative missing was her 76-year-old mother, Nery Val-

debenito, Gatica said as she waited in a hundreds-long line outside a school to report her losses.

'I think my mother is trapped beneath' the house, Gatica said.

**A**s she spoke, firefighters with search dogs were examining the ruins of her home blocks away.

Minutes later, the group leader

drew his finger across his neck: No one alive under the house.

Such horrors abound along the devastated beach communities of Chile's south-central coast, which suffered the double tragedy Saturday of the earthquake and the tsunami it caused.

Of the quake's 723 victims, most were in the wine-growing Maule region that includes Talca-

huano, now a mud-caked, ravaged town of 180,000 just north of Concepcion. Close to 80 per cent of Talcahuano's residents are homeless, with 10,000 homes uninhabitable and hundreds more destroyed, said Mayor Gaston Saavedra.

'The port is destroyed. The streets, collapsed. City buildings, destroyed,' Saavedra said.

In Concepcion, the biggest city near the epicenter, rescuers heard the knocking of victims trapped inside a toppled 70-unit apartment building Monday and were drilling through thick concrete to reach them, said fire Commander Juan Carlos Subercaseux.

By late last night, firefighters had pulled 25 survivors and nine bodies from the structure.

**C**hile's defence minister has said the navy made a mistake by not immediately activating a tsunami warning.

He said port captains who did call warnings in several coastal towns saved hundreds of lives.

The waves came too quickly for a group of 40 pensioners holidaying at a seaside campground in the village of Pulluhue.

They had piled into a bus that was swept out to sea, along with trucks and houses, when the tsunami surged 200 yards into the summer resort town.

As of Monday, firefighters said that five of the OAPs' bodies had been recovered. At least 30 remained missing.

## News Extra

## Residents stunned as hundreds of fish fall out of the sky

Residents of a small outback Australian town have been left speechless after fish began falling from the sky.

Hundreds of spangled perch bombarded the 650 residents of Lajamanu, shocking local Christine Balmer, who was walking home when the strange 'weather' started.

She said: "These fish fell in their hundreds and hundreds all over the place. The locals were running around everywhere picking them up."

"The fish were all alive when they hit the ground so they would have been alive when they were up there flying around the sky."

"When I told my family, who live in another part of Australia, about the fish falling from the sky, they thought I'd lost the plot."

But no, I haven't lost my marbles. All I can say is that I'm thankful that it didn't rain crocodiles!

Meteorologists say the incident was probably caused by a tornado. It is common for tornados to suck up water and fish from rivers and drop them hundreds of miles away.

Mark Kersemakers from the



LAJAMANU resident Christine Balmer took this picture of some of the spangled perch she collected in a bucket after they fell out of the sky

Australian Bureau of Meteorology said: "Once they get up into the weather system, they are pretty much frozen and, after some time, they are released."

Lajamanu is located halfway between Darwin and Alice Springs, on the edge of the Tan-

ami Desert.

This is not the first time residents of the small town have experienced fish falling out of the sky.

Resident Les Dillon, 48, said: "In the early 1980s I was at the Alice Springs Tavern Hotel and,

when I walked out the door, I saw all these little fish, fallen out of the sky.

"Yes, I had a couple of beers, so none of my friends believed me. I have rung heaps of people to let them know I wasn't drunk back then. It had really happened!"

## A history of amazing 'rainfall'

There is a long history of strange objects raining from the sky, with these strange occurrences among the most notable:

**1st Century:** Pliny The Elder wrote about storms of frogs and fish, foreshadowing many modern incidents.

**1794:** French soldiers stationed in Lalaun, near Lille, reported toads falling from the sky during heavy rain.

**1857:** Sugar crystals as big as quarter of an inch in diameter fell over the course of two days in Lake County, California.

**1876:** A woman in Kentucky reported meat flakes raining from the sky. Tests found the meat was venison.

**1902:** Dust whipped up in Illinois caused muddy rain to fall over many north-eastern U.S. states.

**1940:** A tornado in Russia brought a shower of coins from the 16th Century.

**1969:** Golf balls fell from the sky on Punta Gorda in Florida.

**1976:** In San Luis Obispo in California, blackbirds and pigeons rained from the sky for two days.



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# PROPERTY

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## Odom wants devt of rural FCT

By Nasir Imam

THE Minister of State of the Federal Capital Territory, Chief Chuka Odom, has advocated for about 50 percent of the annual budgetary allocation for the FCT to be channeled towards meeting the development needs of area councils in the territory.

This argument, he stressed, is premised on the fact that more than 75 percent of the population of the capital territory reside in the area council, otherwise known as satel-

lite towns.

Odom, who made the call during an interview on NTA's Weekend File, further called for the creation of a Satellite Towns Development agency, that would be fully autonomous, and given the right funding, that would create a platform to aggressively develop the satellite areas.

He said, "If you look the budgetary profile of the area councils, what they get every month, by the time they take care of all the overheads including payment of teachers'

salary and other things, they are left with less than 40 million for capital projects.

"I bet you, if you do that for the next thirty or forty years, you would not achieve anything; you will continue to replicate poverty-related programmes.

"There is no funding at all; if you are thinking of developing the area councils, you must come out with a clear-cut funding policy that would clearly define what you want to achieve in each of the area councils, especially those that are close to the Federal

capital city."

According to Odom, "The reason is that most of the people that work in the city centre live in those area councils. The rate of crime in the FCT can be traced to the state of development in the area councils.

"People talk about water supply, electricity, hospitals and the like, how much can N40 million a month do to provide such facilities. We really have to be realistic about these issues if we are serious about developing these area councils."

## Plateau: Army asks Bukuru traders to go to court over demolition

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE General Officer Commanding (GOC) 3rd Armored Division of the Nigerian Army Major, General Saleh Maina, has advised Plateau State Traders Association Jos South Local Government to go to court and seek redress over plans by the council to demolish the old Bukuru Market.

General Maina stated this in a letter 3Div/GI/300/74 he sent to the traders through their counsel Barrister Ahmed S Garba with title "Re-petition against the Planned Demolition of Market in Bukuru Jos South Local Government Area of Plateau State"

The letter, which was signed by Colonel NA Nimyel for the GOC, said "the Headquarters of the Army is of the opinion that your clients should please go to court to seek refute over the matter"

Early February, counsel to the traders, Ahmed Garba, sent a letter to the GOC which states that "following the 17 January 2010 crises that affected Jos North and Jos South Local Government areas, Bukuru traders lost properties worth billions of naira but the Jos South Local Government without sympathy suspended all economic activities in the market and they want to demolish the market without following due process and asked the GOC to intervene."



THE new 12 storey U.S. Embassy Thames, London located on the southern bank of the

## Kebbi govt earmarks N25m for land compensation

THE Kebbi State Government has earmarked N25 million for payment of compensation to owners of farmland taken over for the construction of 13 earth dams.

Alhaji Nasiru Masama, the Special Assistant to the Governor on Fulani Nomads, made this known on Tuesday in Birnin Kebbi in an interview.

He said a committee had been mandated

to commence payment to the affected land owners.

Masama said the money would enable the landowners to acquire alternative farmland for their subsistence farming.

He promised that the committee would take necessary measures to ensure equity and fairness in the disbursement of the fund to the beneficiaries.

Masama said government was determined to improve the condition of pastoralists, explaining that was why it decided to construct the 13 earth dams in Gwandu, Yauri, Argungu and Zuru emirates.

He said the disbursement of the fund would commence within one week, and advised all the beneficiaries to ensure that they were physically present at the venue. (NAN)

## Ekiti begins removal of illegal billboards

EKITI State is set to wear a cleaner look as the state government has commenced the removal of all unregistered signposts and billboards that litter the state.

Speaking while supervising the dismantling of unauthorized billboards in Ado Ekiti, the Director General of the State Signage and Advertisements Agency, Chief Femi Ajayi explained

that most of the billboards had become tattered due to neglect, adding that the unkempt position of the signposts has turned into a serious nuisance value in the state.

Chief Ajayi said the Oni led administration took the initiative to regulate the placement of adverts on billboards and signposts as part of efforts

at achieving an organized and civilized society while boosting the internally generated revenue of the state towards improving its infrastructure.

Otunba Olanrewaju explained that the decision to remove the unregistered posters and billboards was borne out of the drive to move the state to greater heights, stressing that there would be no

exemption to the rule irrespective of the political affiliation of the owner.

Also speaking on the removal of illegal billboards in the state, the Commissioner for Information and Civic Orientation, Rt. Hon. Taiwo Olatunbosun called on prospective owners of billboards or signposts to liaise with the Signage Agency for proper authorization.



# Lafia to get improved street lights

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

NASARAWA State government has signed a contract for the installation of another stretch of street lights which the contractors - Energy Power Tech called "better street lights" to bring aesthetics to Lafia, the state capital.

The existing street lights which were installed in 2007

along the Lafia-Akwanga Road in Lafia metropolis, have undergone not less than four replacements since then, but they still cannot shine more than candle light, residents have complained.

The representative of Energy Power Tech, Cannon Ephraim who signed the N219 million contract alongside the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Timothy

Anjide who represented Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma, said the contractors are going to supply and mount what he called "the latest technology of solar street lights."

"Nasarawa will get the best street lights in the world", Ephraim added, naming the latest technology as Ceramic Plasma and Solar Lights. They are to be provided for 4.9 kilometres, covering three

roads - namely Emir's Palace, Kilema and Doma roads.

Signing the contract, the SSG, Anjide said the provision is in continuation of the Urban Renewal Programme of the Doma administration which was launched in August 2007 with the commencement of the provision of the first stretch of street lights and the construction/rehabilitation of major roads in the metropolis

which project is, however, still at the foundation level, close to three years.

The SSG said the selection of the contractors was based on "cognate experience, integrity, competence and proven ability to deliver according to specification within given time frame". He said Governor Doma hoped the contractors would live up to expectation.



THE world's most expensive military cemetery

## World's most expensive cemetery

THE world's most expensive military cemetery, a £22.6 billion centre dubbed "The Boneyard", has been pictured in a spectacular series of new high-resolution Google Earth satellite images.

The 2,600 acre facility, officially known Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, is home to thousands of outdated aeroplanes and helicopters mothballed by the United States Air Force and other allied forces.

The 60 year-old facility, the size of 1,300 football pitches and sprawled across the desert in Tucson, Arizona, houses the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group (AMARG) and is America's only storehouse for out-of-service aircraft.

Now for the first time, a series of stunning high resolution satellite images of the four-square-mile facility, nicknamed "the Boneyard", have been produced by Google Earth.

Commonly used as a final resting place for thousands of decommissioned machines, the centre, originally designed in 1946, is also used as a spare parts resource for the United States military.

The 2,600 acre facility, officially known Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, is home to thousands of outdated aeroplanes and helicopters mothballed by the United States Air Force and other allied forces.

## Body urges FCTA to regulate activities at parks, gardens

CHIEF Tomi Akingbogun, the President, Hotel Owners Forum Abuja (HOFA), has urged the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) to regulate the activities at recreation parks and gardens in the city.

Akingbogun, who made the call in Abuja on Monday in an interview, said most of these places were now used to sell alcohol.

He said that this act had made regulating the sale of alcohol imperative as some of them were gradually turning into crimi-

nals den.

Akingbogun said: "Parks are supposed to be family friendly and a situation where parks are now being turned into restaurants, bar and night clubs is extremely dangerous and should not be allowed."

"You can remember the death of a journalist who was killed. He was killed around 11 p.m. by drunkards because alcohol was still being sold in an open space at 11 p.m."

"Parks are not supposed to be opened

that late. There are restaurants, there are bars, there are hotels and there are places that have security control.

"If parks are going to be opened, they should be opened within the hours of business," he suggested.

Akingbogun added that several people had been robbed while others have lost their lives in the dark hours of the day at parks and gardens in the city. (NAN)

## Korean investors to build low cost houses in Ekiti

A group of South Korean investors who are on an exploratory visit to Ekiti State has indicated interest in investing in the areas of solar technology and low cost housing in the State.

The team which is led by a renowned Professor of Engineering, Prof Sang Chaun Lee of the Kyaungnam University, South Korea during a business meeting with the state delegation led by Governor Segun Oni and Deputy Governor Sikiru Tae Lawal said it was ready to construct low cost housing

units, using monazite materials for building and complete solar lighting at the cost of \$10,000 per unit.

The Korean investors also expressed interest in the areas of New town Development, Construction and development of schools and hospitals as well as construction of industrial parks and small and medium scale factories.

Apart from Prof. Lee, other members of the contingent included Managing Director of SH Heavy Industries, Mr. Seong

Nam Hong, Geolin Company Ltd., CEO, Mr. Iman Byun and Mr. Heungsik Oh of Yungbo Chemical Company.

Responding, Governor Oni urged the South Korean investor to take advantage of the abundant human and material resources as well as the favourable business climate in the state by investing in the state.

He stressed the readiness of the State Government to collaborate with the investors in the areas of education for science and technology and human resources

development

Oni said particular efforts would be geared towards forging a working relationship between the newly established University of Science and Technology, Ifaki-Ekiti (USTI) and the Kyaungnam University of South Korea.

He said his administration intended to develop USTI into a compact and efficient institution with world-class infrastructure using local building materials available in the State such as clay, kaolin and granite.

## Property



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## EYE ON ABUJA

WITH Umar Shuaibu  
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## The ineffective FCT Land Use and Allocation committee (I)

MY Gbagyi brethren use to have a proverb that, "whenever one hears an incomprehensible sound in the bush, he should patiently wait along the bush path, whatever is making that sound shall eventually appear". It is an open secret that there exists a battle of supremacy between Senator Aliero and his successor, the incumbent Governor in his Kebbi State, Governor Saidu Dakingari, to the extent it was alleged that the FCT Minister allocated 5000 plots of land in the FCT in his bid to win the people's support to his side. This revelation was said to have been made from an interview conducted by the Daily Trust on Malam Abdullahi Zuru the Special Assistant to the FCT Minister on Media, as once alleged by Ambassador Yusuf Mamman. If that statement was true, what it implies was that by publicly divulging that information, Malam Zuru who obviously is on the side of Senator Aliero did not see anything bad about that Minister's selfish action of using Abuja plots meant for all Nigerians, and in that very large scale, for personal political settlement in his home state.

This allegation is on subject that concerns our column and we believe that there has never been any smoke without fire. However, it was not only because we wouldn't like to be seen as taking side with any of the parties in the then ensuring verbal confrontation between Ambassador Mamman and the FCT Minister resulting from the latter's interference with the board of the Aso Radio, but also we didn't believe the statement alleged to Mallam Zuru was made, for many reasons. Firstly in the said interview conducted by Malam Nasir Imam, those statements were none existent. Secondly, technically, it is not easy to create as much as 5,000 plots within the city

where for plots to be available there must be revocations. Thirdly and the most important is that there is now in place a Land Use and Allocation Committee vested with ensuring that there must be equitable distribution of plots to applicants in Abuja being a Federal Territory belonging to all Nigerians and not meant for the benefit of a single state.

It is important to also note that for a long time before, there was a deliberate suppression of this provision of the Land Use Act in the FCT. It is to the credit of Aliero's predecessor in compliance with the report of the Senate's Committee on FCT that the LUAC is now in place. The FCT LUAC membership is chaired by the FCT Permanent Secretary, the other members are: the Chief of Staff to the Minister, the FCT General Counsel, AGIS General Manager, FCDA Director of Urban and Regional Planning as well as Development Control Departments. Others are: Alhaji Saka Olajide, representing the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners, Ndagene Akwu, representing the Nigerian Union of Journalists, Dr. Felix Ogbera, representing the Nigerian

The obligation for the establishment of the LUAC

in each State is entrenched in section 2 of the LUA. Although the functions of the committee is advisory, but are meant to be respected by the Minister, hence it's tying with section 1 of the Act which vested land in the territory under the control and management of the FCT Minister. Should the Minister intends not to heed to the advice of the committee then its establishment in the FCT and by law is a deceit and of no effect. The importance of that committee in checking the abuse of the Ministerial powers is it that made el-Rufai to be thoroughly drilled during the hearing of the Senate committee on the FCT when he mentioned that he did not put in place the LUAC because his boss had allowed him to put aside the Land Use Act while administering the FCT.

Unfortunately, as important as this committee, the calibre of the people involved and the type of advisory function it is rendering for a rampant free development of the Capital City, it is now clear to us that either their activities are being undermined by the FCT Minister or there is the total absence of any procedure in the process of land allocation in the FCT. These revelations are coming from the title documents now flooding the Abuja property markets for sale.

Whatever had been earlier alleged or denied has true to the sayings of my Gbagyi brethren already landed on the streets. The incomprehensible sound that is being made in the bush has now appeared in the open. The type of information on these documents suggests that Senator Aliero, the FCT Minister could have abused his powers and violated due process in Abuja plots allocations for whatever reasons, the LUAC presence notwithstanding.

To be continued

## FG to establish artemisinin farm in Abuja

By Nasir Imam

THE Federal Government has concluded plans to establish artemisinin development farm and factory in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, the FCT Minister, Senator Muhammad Adamu Aliero has said.

The Minister, who dropped this hint on Tuesday in his office while receiving the Management Team of Artemisinin Development Company Limited, revealed that Artemisinin based

combination therapies are used for the treatment of malaria which are usually grown in China and Vietnam.

Aliero said the FCT Administration would partner with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources to import and localise it grown in FCT.

According to him, some states in the six geo-political zones of the country are already selected for the pilot scheme and they include Jigawa, Katsina, Gombe, Taraba, Plateau, Eungu,

Ogun and Cross Rivers.

The Minister directed the FCT Director of Land to allocate a suitable plot of land for their headquarters in Abuja.

Speaking earlier, the Chairman of Board of Directors of Artemisinin Development Company Limited, Chief Tunde Daramola said that from the research and experiment carried out, the plant is doing very well in all the six geo-political zones of the country and if well nurtured would drastically improve the treatment of malaria.



ONGOING construction work at the AYA junction, Abuja

## 2 on trial over Shanghai building collapse

TWO persons accused of corrupt practices over a building that collapsed and killed one worker in Shanghai in China in June 2009 were arraigned on Monday, local authorities said.

The accused Zhang Zhiqin, General Manager of the building's developer, the Meidu Real Estate Company and Que Jingde, the second largest shareholder in the company, were docked before a Shanghai Municipal No. 1 Intermediate People's Court.

Zhang and Que were appointed to take charge of

Meidu by the government in December 1995, said a court statement.

Zhang and Que were charged with embezzling more than 40 million yuan (5.9 million dollars), being the company funds, between September 2000 and April 2001, said the statement.

Zhang was charged with diverting 440 million yuan of the company funds to his family's businesses between March 2009 and June 2009, it said.

He was also charged with negligently causing a serious accident by using unqualified contractors

and ordering them to pile soil beside an incomplete building.

The almost completed 13-storey building in the "Lotus Riverside" development in Minhang District collapsed in the morning of June 27, 2009.

It killed a worker and caused direct losses of 19.46 million yuan.

Investigations showed that the developers, who were rushing to complete the project, dug the basement and piled soil beside the building, resulting in an imbalance which caused the building to collapse. (Xinhua/NAN)

# LEAGUE OF PATRIOTS

....Placing Nigeria First

## The Executive Council of the Federation: An Advice

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2010, members of the Executive Council of the Federation will hold their usual weekly meeting. Before President Umaru Yar'adua travelled to Saudi Arabia on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2009 for medical treatment, very few Nigerians ever bothered with the deliberations of the Council given the disconnect that exists between the rulers, and the led. Not so now. In the past few weeks, the Executive Council of the Federation has virtually abandoned its sacred responsibilities to the nation, and has, rather, been drawn into and is completely distracted by the current political situation in the country. It has become a theatre of a sort, manned by actors with well prepared lines, eager to justify the confidence of the political gladiators that trained them.

The Executive Council of the Federation is a body established by the constitution with the responsibility of assisting the President (who appointed them) in the discharge of his duties to the nation. The Council is expected to formulate policy, review policy, consider ministerial memos, set benchmarks, targets and timelines on programmes implementation and projects execution. The Council brings coherence to the art of governance, co-ordinates inter-locking governmental activities and ensures the operation of probity, accountability, and due process in the conduct of government business.

The Council is not a political club, a soap opera box nor a platform for canvassing political viewpoints. Even when prominent politicians are appointed ministers, they usually drop their political hats at the door of the Council chambers, knowing that their real mandate is not to please political paymasters or canvass narrow, self-saving political opinions, but to deliberate on the economy, on infrastructure, food security, energy and petroleum crisis, education, health, poverty reduction and the thousands of other matters relating to the social and economic well being of the people.

But all these are now changing. The Council has been the subject of a court order, and has been compelled to issue two resolutions regarding the health of President Yar'adua. The Council is still under the threat of all manners of reprisal actions by political groups if it fails to do their bidding, and is contending with an ultimatum to deliver certain political goods on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010 unless it wants mayhem visited on it. The sudden national prominence of the Council stems from its role in invoking the provisions of section 144 of the 1999 constitution regarding the capacity or otherwise of a sitting President to continue to exercise the functions of his office. While some people feel that Mr. President's health condition has been unduly politicized; that he is already back to the Country to continue his medical recuperation and rehabilitation; and that the elevation of the Vice-President to the position of an Acting President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation have

more than taken care of raging national concern about the stability and good governance of the nation, others are still baying for blood. They want President Yar'adua out of office, permanently, by all means and at all cost. Nothing less will satisfy them. They must have their way and have reached out to Council members to realize their ambition.

As the Council meets on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2010, let members be reminded that deep economic and other challenges still haunt the land. Nigerians will want to know from the Minister of Power how he intends to fix the darkness that the lack of electricity has plunged the Country into, and not whether President Yar'adua transmitted a vacation letter to the National Assembly. Nigerians will want to know from the Foreign Affairs Minister what efforts he is making to get Nigeria de-listed from the League of Nations under terror watch, and not whether he supports Obasanjo who wants Yar'adua out of office by all means. They will ask Madam Minister of Information and Communication about her re-branding project and not whether she has been radicalized by her close association with Obasanjo to the extent of heaping insults and pouring abuses on a daily basis on the man who appointed her a Minister in the first place. The list goes on and on.

The temptation for some of the Executive Council members to throw caution to the wind is quite high. They are not certain about the health status of Mr. President; have not even seen him. Yet, commonsense demands that human beings err on the side of caution. The bigger temptation is the raging stories about a new ministerial list, ostensibly drawn up by Former President Obasanjo whose composition will favour the procurement of a resolution that President Yar'adua is in capable of remaining in office as President. That is why President Obasanjo is prominent among those who are leading the charge that the only way Acting President Jonathan can become a substantive President is for him to dissolve his cabinet, and re-constitute it with the malleable and pliable list Obasanjo has prepared. With this, he can be rest assured of the safe delivery of section 144.

There are whispering stories that Dora Akunyili's name heads that list, and Ojo Maduekwe's name is in it to. This may well be all lies, but Nigerians are waiting. As great as the temptation is to humiliate a sitting President for the sole reason that he is unwell, there is surely dishonour in such treachery and betrayal. Our belief is that Yar'adua's health condition is like an un-aborted pregnancy. It must finally show. 100 days is not too long for a nation to keep faith with her leader, knowing that capable lieutenants are competently taking charge of things. If Council members succumb to intimidation, harassment and ultimatum and betray their President, let them know that they are doing it not for the good of the nation, but for the good of the political sharks who want to feed on all available political jobs.

**Dr. Abel Uwadiba**  
National Coordinator

## CITY NEWS



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# Man jailed for stealing US diplomat's phones

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

AN Abuja magistrate court yesterday sentenced a young man, Obum Ubochi, to a four weeks imprisonment for stealing four cell phones belonging to a diplomat of the United States Embassy and their guest.

The thief was apprehended at Transcorp Hilton, Abuja, on February 26, 2010 and handed over to the police.

Police prosecutor, Ahmed

Mohammed informed the court that on February 26, one Dr. Grace Jennings of Transcorp Hilton, Sarah Greenberg of the US Embassy and Hajiya Saudat of Area 3, jointly reported to the police that the thief stole their cell phones.

He said while the complainants were at a concert organised by the United State in the hotel, the thief criminally entered the venue and stole four cell phones belonging to them.

The prosecutor stated further that after stealing the phones, the accused went and hid in a toilet in order to escape but was eventually apprehended inside there.

"During police investigations, the thief confessed to the crime and thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 287 of the Penal Code Law," the prosecutor added.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and begged the court for leniency,

promising not steal again.

The thief told the magistrate that he actually picked the cell phones and was searching for the actual owners to return them before he was apprehended.

Based on the plea, the prosecutor asked the court to try the accused summarily under section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code and Magistrate Hadiza Shagari sentenced him to four weeks imprisonment or to pay N2,000 as fine.

## Man in police net over theft

By Usman A. Bello & Foluke Ojumo

A suspected burglar, names withheld is presently in police custody for allegedly stealing items from a shop that belongs to Ifeanyi Emeka at Karmo.

According to a police source, the suspect had been on the wanted list of the police for allegedly breaking into the homes of his victims.

The source said on February 12, the accused first broke into the shop of ifeanyi Okoro and successfully made away with goods worth about N250,000, adding that police organised surveillance in the area after the incident.

"On February 16, the accused again broke into Ifeanyi's shop at Ireke junction, and stole 86 pair of shoes but was caught by a team of surveillance police officers led by the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) as he was leaving the shop with the goods," the police source said.

He said the accused confessed to the police that he was the thief, who stole items from Okoro's shop and that he always dug holes under containers to gain access to shops.

The policeman disclosed that the suspect will be charged to court as soon as investigations are completed.

PIC: ABUBAKAR SADIQ ISAH



A building destroyed by windstorm at Abaji ...Saturday.

## Residents complain of traffic jam

By Olotu Samuel & Doris Afoma-West

RESIDENTS of Kado village yesterday complained of increasing traffic jams along Kado-Karimo road.

They said such hold-ups which starts early in the morning become quite disturbing in the evenings and damage cars that have radiator overheating problems.

Michael, a resident informed that with the establishment of a fish market in the area, the situation has grown worse.

Miss Amarachi, blamed the narrowness of the road and accused commercial bus drivers of being stubborn as well as not staying on their lane, adding that they maneuver their vehicles to move forward during such situations.

A bus driver blamed the fault on traffic wardens assigned to the place, who he accused of not taking their assignments seriously.

It would be recalled that Julius Berger Company was recently awarded a contract to construct flyover bridges and to expand main roads in the area.

In another development, residents of Jabi extension have complained of lack of markets, shopping complexes and power outage.

They also decried lack of medical centres in the area or pharmaceutical shops in cases of emergency.

## Four accused of stealing car at National Assembly

By Hussein Yahaya, Ibraheem A. Fatai & Romoke W. Ahmad

THE police yesterday arraigned a 20-year-old student and three others before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly stealing a car from the premises of the National Assembly.

The accused persons, Sali-

fulahi Bawale (student), Alhaji Mustapha Abdul (driver), Daniya Usman (businessman) and Danjuma Rabo (civil servant) were reported to have committed the offence in February 16, 2010.

Police prosecutor, Adoche Isenyo told the court that on February 16, the accused persons jointly stole a Toyota Corolla with

registration number CE 963 RSH from where it was parked at the premises of the National Assembly complex in Abuja and committed offences punishable under Sections 97 and 287 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charges were read to the accused persons, they denied the allegations and requested for

bail. Chief Magistrate Ademuyiwa Oyeyipo granted each of the accused persons bail in the sum of N100,000 with a reliable surety in like sum, who must show evidence of means of livelihood and reside within the jurisdiction of the court.

The case was adjourned to March 29 for hearing.

# Newly wedded man jailed over stolen items

By Lucas Istifanus & Bunmi Omolehin

A man who wedded recently was last Thursday sentenced to two months imprisonment for being in possession of stolen cloths that belong to Olachi Ihejeka

of kubwa, Abuja.

Aham Nwosu was convicted for contravening Section 319 (A) of the Penal Code Law.

Prosecutor Luca Ephraim said Olachi reported to the police on February 17, 2010 that his window's burglary proof was forced

out and his clothes stolen.

He stated further that three jeans trousers and shirt stolen from the complainant were recovered from the accused person's shop, where he sells clothes.

The prosecutor also reminded

the magistrate that the accused first denied the charge when the case was first mentioned.

In her comment before sentence was passed on the accused, Barrister Onyinye Nweke, the accused person's counsel, pleaded with the court for leni-

ency, saying that the accused is a first time offender and should be considered for fine option to enable him enjoy his honey moon as he just wedded recently.

Magistrate Chuks Ubani sentenced the accused to prison without fine option.



PIC: HUSSEIN YAHAYA

A cross section of students of Government Day Secondary School Dutsen-Alhaji's at a career lecture organised by the school yesterday.

## Dutsen-Alhaji school organises career talks for students

By Hussein Yahaya

THE management of Government Day Secondary School, Dutsen-Alhaji yesterday organised a 'Career Day' lecture for the school's students.

Principal of the school, Alhaji Yahaya Mohammed Kobo, advised students of the need for effective future academic planning.

He said the career lecture has been made compulsory for all government secondary schools in the Federal Capital Territory.

The principal disclosed that the school invited specialists in different field of endeavours to give the students an insight on various academic disciplines, general requirements for admission into various higher institutions of learning in different courses with their possible prospects and hazards.

Kobo said the secondary school has recorded academic successes since its inception in 2008.

He listed some of the problems confronting the school to include inadequate class rooms and class

teachers; lack of a well equipped laboratory; inadequate library; lack of basic infrastructure such as electricity, potable water and fencing of the school.

The principal informed that the school has just finished its annual inter-house sports competition and appealed to well meaning Nigerians to come to the aid of the school by providing sporting facilities, such as volley ball, basket ball and lawn tennis courts as well as to help construct other sporting facilities.

One of the instructors at the event, Mr. B.A Alabi, explained that the career lecture will not only prepare the students for the challenges they may likely meet in their chosen professions but avail them the opportunities to make appropriate choices.

Mr. Alabi, who is also the chairman of the school's Parents Teachers Association commended the academic standard of the school and urged the school's management and the students not to relent in this regard.

## Police nab two over battery theft

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

TWO men have been arrested by the police for allegedly stealing a battery from a Toyota Hiace van.

The suspects, names withheld, were accused of stealing from a van belonging to a customer of one Segun Awofeso of Jabi Motor Park, Abuja on February 25, 2010.

A police source told our reporter that on February 25, Mr Awofeso came to his workshop only to discover that the battery of the truck belonging to his customer had been stolen by the suspects.

He said after Awofeso made a complaint about the battery theft at Utako Police Division, the suspects were arrested and brought to the station for investigations.

City News gathered that the suspects will be charged to court on a two-count charge of joint act and theft, contrary to Sections 79 and 288 of the Penal Code Law.

## Banker denies criminal misappropriation

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A bank official with BFL Micro-finance Bank yesterday in court denied misappropriating N269,000 belonging to customers of the bank.

The banker, Falope Adesina of Federal Housing Authority, Lugbe, Abuja, was accused of committing the offence in Janu-

ary and was arrested by the police on February 22.

Prosecutor Alhassan Abdul had earlier told the court that on February 22, one Ahmed Toyin, a staff of BFL Micro Finance Bank reported to the police that the accused dishonestly withdrew some money from the accounts of the bank customers.

He said the accused dishon-

estly withdrew N269,000 from the accounts of some of the bank's customers, adding that in order to be able to commit the crime, the accused forged the signatures of the said customers.

"During police investigations, a Mercedes Benz with registration number BT07PHC, which the accused bought with the misappropriated money, was recovered from

his possession," the prosecutor said.

The prosecutor also argued that the offences committed by the accused are punishable under Sections 365 and 309 of the Penal Code Law.

When the two-count charge was read to the accused, he denied the allegations and requested for bail, which made the prosecutor ask for a hearing date.

In his ruling, Chief Magistrate Ademuyiwa Oyeyipo granted the accused bail in the sum of N150,000 with a responsible surety in like sum, who must produce evidence of means of livelihood and swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to March 24 for hearing.

# Police begin manhunt for runaway driver

By Usman A. Bello & Olotu Samuel

THE police in Abuja in collaboration with the Directorate of Road Traffic Services (DRTS) have begun a manhunt for the driver of a Toyota Corolla vehicle with registration number AG 858 SUL.

The driver of the Toyota Corolla car was involved in an accident with a Peugeot station wagon vehicle with registration number AT 660 YAB at the Kado estate under-bridge, Abuja yesterday.

Our reporter learnt that after accepting liability for the accident, the driver of the Toyota car entered into an agreement with the owner of the Peugeot car whereby he undertook to bear responsibility for its repairs expenses.

After having signed the agreement with his name as Jamiu Bello, the driver of the Toyota Corolla car who dropped photocopies of his vehicle's particulars as col-



THE dented car yesterday.

laterals, rather absconded when both cars were to be removed from the accident scene.

Meanwhile, the owner of the Peugeot vehicle, Mr. Raymond Uzochina who lives in Kado estate later

reported the case at the Life Camp Police Division and at the office of the DRTS, Mabushi, Abuja.

## Fire service tasked on improved service delivering

By Usman Bello & Lami Sadiq

THE Coordinator, Abuja Metropolitan Management Council, (AMMC), Professor Sani Mashi has charged the FCT fire service to improve on its service delivery to the residents of the city.

He gave this charge yesterday while decorating the Controller and other six most senior officers out of the 120 officers promoted to various ranks.

Mashi who was represented by the Director Urban Affairs, Dr Daniel James Abin urged the officers to see their promotion as a way of repositioning the service to enhance service delivering in disaster management in the city.

He said from all records, the FCT fire service is the best in the country and that it can be attested to by the response whenever they were called to attend to fire incidents, accidents as well as other disasters.

He urged them to show exemplary leadership by leading the service well and also linking up with other fire services in the country to exchange ideas to sharpen

their professional skills.

Representative of the Controller, Federal Fire Service, Engr. Anthony Jolaoso in his remarks, noted that fire safety delivering is at its lowest ebb in the country, saying the federal fire service is ready to collaborate with the state and FCT fire service to turn around fire safety and rescue delivering.

He said they the service will set up a platform where they will be meeting regularly to ensure that it gives direction for the country so that it will be adequately fire covered.

The Controller of the FCT fire service, Lima Ibrahim Alhaji said the promotion was a challenge to them to improve on service delivering, promising to manage disaster in the city effectively.

"This is additional responsibility on us and we are promising the FCT residents that our response time to disaster will be faster. He called on residents and motorists to cooperate with the service to serve them better. The remaining officers out of the promoted 120 officers will be decorated later, he said.

## Laptop thief jailed for 3 months

By Lami Sadiq

ONE Sadiq Lawal of no fixed address was on Thursday sentenced to three months imprisonment by an Abuja Upper Area Court for stealing a laptop belonging to one Bassey Okwong of Gudu market, Abuja.

Police prosecutor, Ambi Ayuba, told the court that on February 22, 2010, the accused trespassed into the complainant's shop at Gudu Market and stole the said laptop.

He said the accused was escaping with the laptop when he was sighted by the complainant, who raise an alarm and chased after him, adding that he was later arrested by one Michael Otene, a security guard attached to the mar-

ket and later taken to Garki Police Station.

The prosecution said during police investigations, the said laptop was recovered from the accused, who also admitted to have stolen it from the complainant's shop, saying that the offences are punishable under Sections 342 and 288 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charges were read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and begged for leniency.

Judge Umar Kagarko sentenced him to three months imprisonment with an option of N5,000 fine.

In another case, a 22-year-old man, Mansir Mohammed, was also sentenced to four months imprisonment for stealing an LG Plasma television.

Prosecutor Mohammed Garba had earlier told the court that the offence was committed on the February 18 2010 and that the television belongs to one Stephen Yakubu of Enugu Street, Garki village Abuja.

"During police investigations, the accused confessed to have trespassed into the complainant's house and made away with the television, offences contrary to Sections 342 and 288 of the Penal Code Law," he stressed.

When the charges were read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and begged for forgiveness.

Judge Umar Kagarko sentenced him to two months imprisonment on each count or pay N2,000 each for the counts in the alternative.

## Rotary Gwarinpa explains scholarship to school

By Abubakar Yakubu

THE Director of Community Service Development, Rotary Gwarinpa Club, Ambassador Princess Glory Okeke yesterday said the scholarship given to students of Junior Secondary School, Gwarinpa Estate was to cover their expenses for sundry needs

while in school, as public junior secondary schools in Abuja do collect school fees.

Ambassador Okeke said the club liaised with the school's management to work out the exact sums that will cover school charges before a cheque covering the amount was given to the school's Prin-

cipal, Mrs Esther Jatau on behalf of 105 students meant to benefit from the gesture.

The rotary director thanked the school authorities for their cooperation and said the club takes the affairs of the school seriously and will do anything within its powers to assist the school achieve its aim.



### GOMBE STATE UNIVERSITY

P.M.B 127 GOMBE  
GOMBE STATE

#### INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

The Gombe State University, Gombe plans to award Contact for the following under the year 2008 and 2009 Education Trust Fund (ETF) Library Development Intervention Fund.

- (i) Procurement of Various Books/Reference Materials
- (ii) Procurement of Various Journals

In view of the above, the University invites interested, reputable and competent Contractors to tender for pre-qualification.

#### PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- (a) Evidence of Registration/Incorporation of Company with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).
- (b) Company's Current Tax Clearance Certificate for the past three (3) years.
- (c) Company's Vat Registration Certificate and Evidence of Past Vat remittances.
- (d) Letter of attestation of good financial standing of the Company including the name and address of the Bank(s).
- (e) Evidence of previous similar Contracts stating Contract value and showing evidence of award and timely completion.
- (f) Evidence of Company's Registration with the University.

#### SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

All prospective Contractors/Suppliers should submit their documents (a - f) mentioned above in sealed envelopes addressed to **THE REGISTRAR GOMBE STATE UNIVERSITY P.M.B 127 GOMBE.**

Submission closes two weeks from the date of this advertisement by 12.00noon. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Names of pre-qualified Contractors as well as other matters related there to will be published on the Notice Board of the University.

**NOTE:** That this is not an invitation to tender and also note that the University is not bound to accept any particular applicant or any condition attached to any application.

Signed  
Aliyu Kamara  
Registrar



**THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF NIGERIA**  
(Established by Act of Parliament No. 15 of 1965)

### CEREMONY FOR THE AWARD OF ACCREDITATION CERTIFICATES

**VENUE:** ICAN Council Chamber,  
Plot 16, Idowu Taylor Street, Victoria Island, Lagos

**DATE:** March 12, 2010 **TIME:** 11.00 a.m.

**No. of Participants: 2 per Institution**

### LIST OF AWARDEES

#### INSTITUTIONS AND TUITION CENTRES

1. Abia State Polytechnic, Aba
2. Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo
3. Akwa-Ibom State Polytechnic, Ikot Osurua
4. Federal Polytechnic, Ede
5. Federal Polytechnic, Idah
6. Federal Polytechnic, Nasarawa
7. Federal Polytechnic, Nekede
8. Federal Polytechnic, Oko
9. Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso
10. Lagos City Polytechnic, Ikeja
11. Lagos State University, Ojo
12. Madonna University, Okija
13. Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife
14. Osun State Polytechnic, Iree
15. Rivers State University of Science & Tech., Portharcourt
16. University of Jos, Jos
17. University of Portharcourt, Rivers State
18. Yaba College of Technology, Yaba
19. First Solutions Professionals, Oshodi
20. Corporate Professional Teachers Limited, Ikeja
21. Upper Gate Tutors, Ojo, Lagos.
22. Professional Accountancy Training Centre, Aba

*For further information and enquiries, please contact:*

**Olutoyin A. Adepate, B. Sc., MBA, FCA**  
Registrar/Chief Executive.

Plot 16, Idowu Taylor Street, Victoria Island, Lagos. Tel: 08033741904  
Fax: 01-4627048 e-mail: studentsaffairs@ican.org.ng website: www.ican-ngr.org



## KADUNA POLYTECHNIC

P.M.B 2021 Kaduna, Nigeria

### INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONSULTANTS FOR EDUCATION TRUST FUND (E.T.F) SPECIAL INTERVENTION PROJECTS

In compliance with the requirements of the Public Procurement Act of the Federal Government of Nigeria, the Kaduna Polytechnic hereby invites interested and reputable consultants with relevant experience and good track record of consultancy services for execution of Education Trust Fund Special Intervention Projects as follows:

#### 1. CONSTRUCTIONS.

- ❖ Construction of Block of Classrooms and Staff Offices in Electrical and Computer Engineering Department.
- ❖ Construction of Chemical Engineering Department Classrooms and Staff Offices.
- ❖ Construction, Equipment and Commissioning of Lecture Theatres
- ❖ Construction, Equipping and Commissioning of interactive, teaching learning platforms/Laboratories.

#### 2. PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

Interested consultants are to forward their pre-qualification documents stating the project they intend to handle. Such documents should include:

- ❖ Evidence of registration with relevant professional body.
- ❖ Evidence of Incorporation /Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission.
- ❖ Evidence of Tax Clearance Certificate in the last three (3) years (2007-2009).
- ❖ Evidence of similar projects handled by the firm including cost.
- ❖ Company profile which should include names, qualification and years of experience of key personnel.
- ❖ List of support equipment available for such projects e.g. computer system, graphic plotter/printer software etc.
- ❖ Original documents should be available for sighting on demand during or after opening of pre-qualification documents.

#### 3. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS.

Applications for pre-qualification should be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked "APPLICATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AS CONSULTANT" to include the title of the chosen project and addressed to;

**The Registrar, Kaduna Polytechnic, P.M.B.2021, Kaduna,** on or before 12:00 noon on Monday, 15th March, 2010. The submitted Documents will be opened at 2:00 p.m. the same day in the Council Chambers at the Central Administration building, Kaduna Polytechnic, Polytechnic Road, Tudun Wada, Main Campus, Kaduna.

#### 4. NOTE:

The Institution shall not bear the cost of preparation and submission of application for pre-qualification. The Institution is neither committed nor obliged to undertake the work described in the advertisement.

Signed.

**Alhaji Mammon Abubakar**  
Registrar and Secretary to Council.

## Inside Politics

# Zamfara legislators decamp to PDP today

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

TWENTY two members of Zamfara State House of Assembly have concluded arrangement to dump the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) for the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) today. Their action is coming barely a year after the state governor Alhaji Mahmud Aliyu Shinkafi defected to the same party.

The state commissioner of information Alhaji Aliyu Adamu Tsafe who disclosed this to newsmen said the legislators have already appended their signatures to an agreement to join the party at a grand ceremony that will take place today at the Chambers of the state House of

Assembly in Gusau. He also said some members of the National Assembly representing the state have indicated similar desire to join the ANPP sooner than later.

Commenting on the legal implication of the action of the legislators, the commissioner said they must have taken their time before arriving at that decision and must have been aware of the consequences of their action.

Asked whether it was not an attempt to turn the state into a one party state, Tsafe said it was a challenge to other political parties to be as vibrant as the PDP, stressing that the exit of General Muhammadu Buhari from the

ANPP was an indication that the party is hitting the rocks.

The defection of the legislators in mass is viewed by political observers as a matter of political expediency to pitch tent with the state governor who may hold the ace in the 2011 general elections as some of the legislators may want to retain their seats or vie for other political posts.

Of recent, the ANPP in Zamfara State has been polarized among supporters of the two gubernatorial aspirants, Abdulaziz Yari, the anointed candidate of former Governor Ahmed Yarima and those of Bello Mutawalle who seemed to have parted ways with Yarima.



CHIEF Edwin Ume-Ezeoke

## 2011: Kaduna DPP maps out strategy

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

IN preparation of the 2011 general election, the Democratic Peoples Party (DPP) in Kaduna State has mapped out strategies to ensure a successful outing in all elective positions in the state.

In a communiqué at the end meeting of the state chapter of the party signed by its Public Relation Officer, Malam Ahmed Mohammed, the party said it will soon commence full implementation of the strategy.

The party has already dissolved all the caretaker committees in the state and elected a new executive committee to be chaired by Alhaji Abdulhamid Abdullahi Ikara while Mr. Chom Adamu Daddu serves as secretary. The new officers were directed to take over the affairs of the party immediately.

## INEC absolves self over lapses in voters' register

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has absolved itself of blame over the recurring inadequacies in the nation's register of voters.

INEC's Director of Public Affairs Emmanuel Umenger said on Monday in Abuja that the incessant complaints about voters register were "self inflicted."

"People refuse to do their own part only to cry

foul on Election Day that their names are either missing or that there are people whose names should not be on the list.

"Can you blame INEC when people often refuse to take advantage of regular verification exercises undertaken by the commission, to authenticate or contest names in voters' lists that are displayed?" he asked rhetorically.

He stressed that INEC

was not ready to conduct a nationwide voter registration but advised those who were now eligible to vote to go to the INEC area office nearest to them to register.

Criticisms have continued to trail INEC's announcement of the budget estimate for the revalidation of voters' register, scheduled for between April 19 and June 18. (NAN)

## Yar'adua: Students' body condemns anti-democratic forces

By Maureen Onochie

NATIONAL Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) yesterday accused those it called forces loyal to ailing President Umaru Yar'adua of plotting to sabotage the country's democracy, stressing that it would resist any attempt to destabilize.

NANS President Comrade Jude Imagwe told reporters in Abuja that Nigerian students are

keenly watching events as they unfold following the return of President Yar'adua to the country and would "vehemently resist the antics of the anti-democratic forces."

The student leader also said Nigerian students and Nigerians in general are eagerly awaiting the decision of the Federal Executive Council on today on the health status of President Yar'adua before it

declares its next line of action in its struggle for the sustenance of democracy in the country.

The association wished President Yar'adua a speedy recovery and urged Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to accelerate the electoral reform process by adopting or revising the Uwais Panel Report in order to have credible elections in the country in future.

## Why Edo people will vote out Oshiomhole – Imansuangbon

By David Ngobua

FORMER chieftain of the Action Congress in Edo State, Barrister Kenneth Imansuangbon has declared that following the inability of governor Adams Oshiomhole to deliver on his campaign promises to the people of Edo State, he and his political party would be voted

out of power to demonstrate that electorate in the state are no longer gullible.

Speaking to our reporter in Abuja at the weekend, the politician who decamped to the Peoples Democratic Party sometime last year said if he is eventually nominated by his party to contest for the 2012 gubernatorial election, he would have no problem defeating

Oshiomhole.

Imansuangbon said the PDP in Edo is not worried about the so called power of incumbency because it is convinced that the incumbent has not satisfied the electorate enough.

"Today, Edo people are more than determined to remove Oshiomhole using the power of their votes," he said.

## 'Yobe ANPP attracts supporters after S/Court victory'

THE ANPP in Yobe said that the party's recent victory at the Supreme Court over the 2007 gubernatorial election had attracted more members to the party.

It would be recalled that in the last three years, Senator Usman Albishir of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) had instituted a case against the party challenging his substitution with then late Senator Mamman Ali as the governorship candidate

in the April 2007 election. The Supreme Court finally threw out Albishir's petition on February 19.

Alhaji Sani Nguru, ANPP Chairman in Yobe, said in Damaturu on yesterday that the party had recorded massive influx of supporters from other parties. Sani assured the new members that the party would be fair to all.

"They will be given equal opportunity in the party in the state. In Yobe,

there is no better party than the ANPP. It is the winning party so it will be political suicide for anyone to contemplate leaving the party for any other party," he said.

Sani urged all members to remain loyal to the party and the state government.

The chairman was optimistic that the party would win the 2011 election with ease, because of the achievements recorded by the party. (NAN)

## Inside Politics

# Only God will choose my successor – Gov Idris

KOGI State Governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris, at a press conference at the weekend, spoke on some controversial issues in the state and his plan to retire to private life after his second and final tenure of office. Our correspondent was there. Excerpts:

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

**HOW far would you say you have gone in bringing the dividends of democracy to the people of Kogi State?**

You cannot expect anybody to rate himself low. Whatever the case may be, I'm satisfied that I have done very well and I'm still hoping to do better. But the rating goes to the public.

**There are allegations of poor performance against many of the local government chairmen under your administration. What have you done to put them on their toes?**

It is not possible for anybody to assume that all the 21 local government chairmen have done very well. Some of them have not done well for there are accusations of poor performance and misconduct against them and I have not taken it lightly with them.

**What action have you specifically taken against these erring council chairmen?**

Last week, I suspended a local government chairman for so many unpalatable things he was alleged to have done. Based on the accusations against him, I asked the stakeholders in the local government to see me and after all parties registered their grievances, we felt the chairman in question should not be left to stay while investigation goes on. So a committee has been set up to investigate some of the allegations levelled against him by the people from his community. However, we are still waiting to hear from the investigating panel. There are other local government areas that I need to revisit. Although I will not want to disclose the local government areas for obvious reasons, you will soon hear from me about the actions being

taken. I expected the council chairmen to help me in managing the local government areas. Anyone of them who is not ready to do that or help his local government should consider himself out. I will not tolerate that. Whoever is found wanting would be dealt with accordingly.

**People are worried that your administration is yet to commission the new international market constructed many months ago. What is actually delaying the commissioning?**

It is true that the market has been completed for quite some time now and I had already discussed with President Umaru Yar'adua to come and commission the market and the Specialist Hospital. These are two projects we had actually planned to have him commission, unfortunately he fell sick and we could not do it. Very shortly, we hope he would be okay to come and commission the projects. However, if he cannot make it, we will ask the Acting President to come and commission them. These are not projects I can commission myself, otherwise I could have done that. It is the order of the day that such gigantic projects should be commissioned by the president.

**Following the recent staff audit and screening exercise, how much has the state saved from ghost workers and how is the state civil service faring now?**

Now, we have computers and Internet facilities to prepare our monthly wage bill. If I want to know today the number of staff we have in Kogi State, I will just press my computer straight and it will show me how much I'm going to pay. Also, the computer will tell how many people would be retired in a particular month and their names will not

be included in the pay roll. I'm happy I have succeeded in doing that. So, we have laid down this for whoever is coming after us. I remember some time ago I could not tell you the number of staff and the amount I was going to pay at the end of each month. I paid whatever they brought to me and I discovered that the staff list was increasing every month. We cannot continue to govern like that. Before the Audit exercise, we had staff strength of about 35,000 according to them. Only God knows how many ghost workers were in there. In some cases, they used the names of retirees to recruit new staff indiscriminately.

This has finally stopped for the good of the state. Workers are now paid through the banks and nobody collects by hand anymore. It requires a strong will to do such a thing. It is not easy. What I have done is not for now, not even for those who will take over from me, but for posterity. It is going to be a continuous thing. This problem is not peculiar to Kogi State alone; it cuts across the country. Other states could not emulate Kogi because most of the governors are new comers and you cannot come in your first years and start doing all that. It was not as if I wanted to sack anybody. Why I should I do that? If you sack a civil servant, automatically you stop at least seven people from eating.

**But there were complaints of omission of names during the exercise. Will this be addressed?**

Of course, the consultant could not have absolutely done everything right. It was true that many names were omitted, but I have set up a committee to review such cases.

**In January, some local government treasurers and directors were suddenly**



GOVERNOR Ibrahim Idris

**relieved of their appointments, and tongues have continued to wax that those affected were being punished unjustly...**

We are restructuring the system. We discovered that some have been in those positions for 10 to 15 years and think they could not be removed. Their tenure of office is four years only. The problem is when you stay too long in a place, you become something else. So, their removal was done in good faith.

**Who do you expect to succeed you in the next political dispensation?**

I pray that God brings somebody who will do better than I have done. I want to be proud to see people coming up with different ideas and see something new coming to enhance the development of the state. I hope to finish all the contracts awarded by me and ensure that I don't owe anybody a dime.

**Is it true that you are eyeing the Senate in the next dispensation?**

I'm not at all interested in any political position any longer. Why should I bother myself to contest again when we have a lot of young people? We should give way for

the younger ones to come. I'm not the only qualified person. Having served for 8 years as governor in control of the three senatorial districts, how can I go back to contest election in only one senatorial district? I think it is greed. I will retire to Ibro Hotels or Ibro Farms and Ibro Constructions and be playing an advisory role, but certainly not as a godfather. I believe I have done my best. Let others continue from wherever I will stop. I'm very grateful to God that has given me the opportunity to serve. I'm so contented and remained contented. I'm very appreciative of that.

**With the recent occurrence of communal crises in Okene in the Central Senatorial District of the state, it seems the state has become helpless in bringing the situation under a permanent control...**

Don't forget that we set up committees to carry out investigation into those crises. The committees have done a thorough job, and the white paper recommendations have actually been given to me. We are now on the final move. I want to leave no one in doubt that we are going to implement all the recommendations to the later.

## Presidency: Nnamani group says no more deceit

By Muideen Olaniyi

SENATOR Ken Nnamani-led Good Governance Group (3G) yesterday said the game of deceit that surrounds the health condition and situation of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua should be brought to an end.

The Group's Organizing Secretary, Mallam Salihu Lukman, called on the Federal Executive Council to

quickly invoke Section 144 of the Constitution and declare the President incapacitated.

The 3G said: "There is no further evidence required to conclude that President Yar'adua has ceased to possess the capacity to act as President. If those who have control of his person refuse access to him, the EXCOF should declare him incapacitated for the office of the President.

"The country should not be destroyed by those who have refused to relinquish power. The credible men and women in the Executive Council should do their duty now. Delay is dangerous," the group said.

The group voiced dissatisfaction that Yar'adua's return which should have been a cause for celebration was rather turned to an opportunity for nefarious and opportunistic scheming.

# TRUST CLASSIFIED

## LOSS OF OAAAN CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

NOTICE is hereby given to the general public that the original Certificate of Registration of **OUTDOOR ADVERTISING ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA** No. 4218 dated 23rd December, 1988 issued by the Corporate Affairs Commission is missing and the Association has applied for a certified true copy of the Certificate.

Any objection to the issuance of the certified true copy should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

Signed: **D. Akinola Dosu**

Akinsec Nominees Limited

(Corporate Secretaries)

7, Funso Williams Avenue (2nd Floor)

Ojuelegba, Surulere, Lagos.

## SABON WUSE PETTY TRADERS ASSOCIATION, NIGER STATE

This is to notify the general public that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

### THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- |                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Comrade Victor Edeh        | Chairman       |
| 2. Mr. Linus Odoh             | Vice Chairman  |
| 3. Mr. Innocent Iroha         | Secretary      |
| 4. Mr. Innocent Anih          | Vice Secretary |
| 5. Comrade Tanko Sunday       | Treasurer      |
| 6. Chief Isaac Kanu           | Patron         |
| 7. Mrs. Victoria Dickson Gata | Women Leader   |

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- To work for the welfare of all traders in Sabon Wuse most especially members of the association.
  - To work with relevant government agencies and community leaders for the development of Sabon Wuse Community.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, PMB 198 Maitama Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

## INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATION

This is to notify the general public that the above named Organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

### Trustees are:

- |                                    |           |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Chikwudike Marshall             | President |
| 2. Dr. Nnanna Ewa                  | Secretary |
| 3. Eider Anielok Udoh Edeth        | Treasurer |
| 4. Bishop (Prof) David Eborochukwu | Member    |
| 5. Mr. Raymond Adah (DCP)          | Member    |
| 6. Mrs. Franca Edozua              | Member    |
| 7. Amb. Oleb Skoropad              | Member    |
| 8. Prof. Eneke Okpara              | Member    |

### Aims and Objectives:

- To promote the rights of inmates awaiting trials in Nigerian Prisons
- To carry out visitations in prisons towards aiding decongestion of prisons
- To assist in building conducive police cells and furthering the welfare of detainees and assisting trial inmates.
- To promote the rights of people whose rights are in justly infringed by security operatives

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, PMB 198 Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:  
Barr. Okwudili Abanum

## CALABAR MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF NIGERIA

This is to inform the general public that the above named Organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

### The trustees are:

- |                                  |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Elder Prof. Eyo Etim Nyong    | - Chairman  |
| 2. Bishop Enebono Edem Ephaem    |             |
| 3. Apostle Dr. Paul Simon Bassey |             |
| 4. Sir Dr. Essien Akabom Offiong |             |
| 5. Mrs. Oqua Edim                |             |
| 6. Elder Dr. Emmanuel Uko        | - Secretary |

### Aims and objectives:

- To preach the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and to create a forum for assisting the less privileged.
- To mobilize and motivate the Calabar Church and people for missions.
- To facilitate and become a nucleus for the proclamation of the missionary mandate for global evangelism.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:  
Barr. Sunday Uchenna Adan

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of Original certificate of occupancy No. BA/6711 issued by Bauchi State Government in 1983 belonging to Mr. Muslim Abubakar Sambo. All efforts to trace it proved abortive. If found please return to the nearest police station or the address below:  
No. 9 Negro Crescent, Maitam Abuja

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public that the Original **ALLOCATION LETTER** in respect of plot no. 1293 at Apo Resettlement Town bearing **YAKUBU USMAN** with Ref. No. **GK/05/2999** is missing. All effort made to trace the missing document proved abortive. If found please Return to the nearest police station.

## LIGHTWAY EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

This is to notify the general public that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

### THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. MR. BABA ADI      | 2. MRS. ORPAH ADI |
| 3. MRS. JOYCE AGBESE | 4. MR. YAMUSA ADI |

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- To promote the values of education
- To provide qualitative and fruitful education
- To provide sound moral and intellectual development of promising youth
- To provide educational services to students in the area of the school
- To inculcate in the minds of the children a very high sense of discipline and inspired them with love of excellence.
- To groom the young into mature, courageous and independent adults by providing them with sound and functional education through a comprehensive curriculum that integrates both national and international objectives.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, PMB 198 Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:  
**YUSUF IBRAHIM, ESQ**  
**BABA ADI & COMPANY**  
Solicitors & Advocates, Plot 58 Parakou Crescent, Off Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse 2, Abuja  
08033740214

## LIBERTY FRIENDS CLUB OF NIGERIA

The above named Union has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration in accordance with the provisions of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

### THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- Iheonu Damian Iheanacho
- Chief Charles Ndubuisi Nwoye
- Ogbuagu Onyekachukwu Ambrose
- Ojaku David Okey
- Emmanuel C. Madueke

### THE PRINCIPAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE:

- To promote friendly relationship and close associates between members, families and their friends.
  - To encourage the idea of selfless service and self help among members and also engage in philanthropic activities that will be beneficial to the members and the less privileged in the society.
- Any objection 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 (twenty-eight) of the date of publication.

Signed: **Barrister Paulinus Chidume Ojibe**  
For: Chidume Ojibe & Co.

## INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REFUGEE LAW JUDGES-NIGERIA CHAPTER

The general public is hereby notified that the above named association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under part "c" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

### THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- HON. JUSTICE MUHAMMADU LAWAL UWAIIS GCON
- HON. JUSTICE SALIHU MODIBBO AI FA BELGORE GCON
- HON. JUSTICE IDRIS LEGBO KUTIGI CON
- HON. JUSTICE KAYODE ESO CON
- HON. JUSTICE EMMANUEL OLAYINKA AYOOLA CON
- HON. JUSTICE UMARU ATU KALGO CON
- HON. JUSTICE ANTHONY IKECHUKWU IGUN CON
- HON. JUSTICE T. A. OYEYIPO OFR

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- To foster recognition that protection from persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion is an individual right established under international law, and that the determination of refugee status and its consequences should be determined in the public interest.
  - To foster judicial independence and facilitate the development within national legal systems of independent institutions applying judicial principles in refugee law issues.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420 Tigris Crescent off Aguiyi Ironsi Street Maitama, P.M.B 198 Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED:  
HAUWA MOHAMMED

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **MISS MERCY ALAMICE CHIDAWA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. MERCY ALAMICE AUTA**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public should be take note.

I, formerly **MISS MARVEL DESE MIANGA** now wish to be called **MRS MARVEL DESE JIME**. Documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly **MISS MAUREEN NGOZI IKEAKANAM** now wish to be known as **MRS MAUREEN NGOZI GEORGE OBOH** former documents remain valid. General public note.

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **MISS OTUE ROSEMARY NGOZI**, now wish to be known and called **MRS OKECHUKWU ROSEMARY NGOZI**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **MOHAMMED ADAMU** or **SHAIBU LAWAN KEMDY**, now wish to be called **IDRIS ADAMU LAWAN KEMDY**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I formerly **MISS OLORUNFEMI RACHEAL OLUWAKEMI** now wishes to be addressed as **MRS. PEMI RACHEAL OLUWAKEMI**. All relevant documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I, FORMALLY KNOWN AS **MISS PANMWA HARUNA DENSHIME** NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS **MRS PANMWA PETER YUNKWAP**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAINS VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TO TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY **UMAR SANDA UMAR** NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS **FARUK UMAR**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. AMINU KANO COLLEGE OF ISLAMIC LEGAL STUDIES AND GENERAL PUBLIC TO NOTE.

I **ALIYU ABDULLAHI IMAM** NOW WISH TO BE CALLED **ALIYU ABDULLAHI AHMAD**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. FEDERAL CHARACTER COMMISSION, AND GENERAL PUBLIC TO NOTE.

I FORMERLY **MARYAM NUHU ISMAIL** NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS **MARYAM SHUAIBU NUHU**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GTB BANK, GT REGISTRARS AND GENERAL PUBLIC TO NOTE.

I FORMERLY **SUZIE ULOMA OGUGUA** NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS **MRS SUZIE ULOMA AJAYI**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TO NOTE.

I formerly **MISS PRISCILLA IEMBER HUMBE** now wish to be called **MRS PRISCILLA IEMBER KYERNUM**. All former documents remain valid. Benue State University, Makurdi and General Public take note.

I formerly **ODERINDE OLUWASEYI MOSES** wish to be called **MOSES OLUWASEYI**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

FORME **RLYMISS HUSSAIN SAIDAT KOWOROLA** NOW WISH TO BE ADDRESSED AS **MRS NURUDEEN SAIDAT KOWOROLA**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENT REMAIN VALID. TASUED, NYSC AND GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I, formerly known as **FATIMA ABDULAZEEZ**, now wish to be known as **MRS. FATIMA IBRAHIM-HARUNA**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS ONYINYE VICTORIA ONYEAKA**, will now be known and addressed **MRS ONYI-UCHE AGBAGHARA**. General public please take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS AMINA IBRAHIM**, now wish to be called **MRS AMINA IBRAHIM TUKUR**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly called **DUBRE OMOTEJOWHO**, now wishes to be called **DUBRE MICHAEL CHUKA BUZUGBE**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **ABIODUN SALAMI**, now wish to be known as **MRS ABIODUN ADELOWO**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly known as **OZULUONYE ONYEKA CHUKWU CHIDOZIE**, now wish to be called **OZULUONYE CHIDOZIE KLIMENT**. All former documents remain valid. The general public takes note.

I, formerly known as **MISS ANEKWE FRANCISCA IFEOMA**, now wish to be known as **MRS FAWZIYA IFEOMA MUSA**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

## TRUST CLASSIFIED

### LOSS OF DOCUMENT

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ORIGINAL GRANT OF A RIGHT OF OCCUPANCY IN RESPECT OF PLOT NO 493 WITH NEW FILE NO. MISC 105376 MEASURING ABOUT 4184.49M2 LOCATED AT CADASTRAL ZONE B09 OF KADO BEARING ALEXIS MUTUAL PARTNERS LIMITED OF 287 UDI HILL STREET, MAITAMA, FCT, ABUJA IS DECLARED MISSING.

ALL EFFORTS MADE TO TRACE THE MISSING DOCUMENT PROVED ABORTIVE. IF FOUND, PLEASE CONTACT THE ABOVE ADDRESS, FCDA, AGIS OR THE NEAREST POLICE STATION.

### LOSS OF DOCUMENT

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ORIGINAL GRANT OF A RIGHT OF OCCUPANCY IN RESPECT OF PLOT NO 178 WITH NEW FILE NO. BN 60389 MEASURING ABOUT 2083.45M2 LOCATED AT CADASTRAL ZONE C04 OF DAPE, BEARING MOSES AYOM OF 35 POPE JOHN PAUL STREET, MAITAMA, ABUJA IS DECLARED MISSING.

ALL EFFORTS MADE TO TRACE THE MISSING DOCUMENT PROVED ABORTIVE. IF FOUND, PLEASE CONTACT THE ABOVE ADDRESS, FCDA, AGIS OR THE NEAREST POLICE STATION.

### LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of Original copy of acknowledgement paper in respect of Plot No. 384 located at central Area, Abuja. Measuring 85507, 7665 square meters own and granted to the embassy of Cameroon, file No. MISC 5369 and recertified with new file No. MISC. 55850. Is missing all efforts to trace the document proved abortive. If found please return to the owner or nearest police station. AGIS should please take note.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **IBRAHIM ABDULLAHI ALIYU BIU** or **IBRAHIM ALIYU BIU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **IBRAHIM ABDULLAHI ALIYU**. Federal Civil Service Commission/ Head of Civil Service Office should take note.

I, formerly **MISS AGRINYA HELEN OGEYI**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS IPUOLE HELEN OGEYI**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MARYLYDIA CHINWENDU EZE**, now wish to be called **MRS MARYLYDIA CHINWENDU OKOROAFOR**. All former documents remain valid. UNN and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS ORIAKU MERCY NGOZI**, now wish to be called **MRS IWUOHA MERCY NGOZI**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **OKELU CHIAMAKA MARIA GORETTI**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS ECHESIUGU CHIAMAKA MARIA GORETTI**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS SEKINAT ALABA ADEBO**, now wish to be known as **MRS. SEKINAT ADEBO-ABDULKAREEM**. Former documents remain valid. NYSC, CIBN, LASPOTECH and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS HAUWA MUSA**, now wished to be known and addressed as **MRS. HAUWA MUHAMMAD** as a result of marriage. All former documents remain valid. General public please note.

I, formerly known as **MISS DIAKPORRERE OGHENETEGA YUONNE**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS. OGHENETEGA YUONNE ENUJIOKE**. All former documents remain valid. Nigeria University Commission and general public take note.

### CHANGE OF NAME

**EGEZEKEZE**: I, formerly known and addressed as **MISS EGEZEKE UGOCHI JOY**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. UGOCHI JOY C. KABIRI**. All former documents remain valid. The general public take note.

I, formerly called **ANDIKA HAPPINESS KATE MBIDOM**, now wish to be called **OBUJI CHUKWUEMEKA ERASMUS KATE**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **MISS FATIMO ADENIKE OYEDIRAN**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS FAITH ADENIKE DAODU**. All former documents remain valid. ALPHA BETA CONSULTING LTD. and general public to take note.

I, formerly known as **OKENIYI FATIMA ADEOLA**, now wish to be addressed as **BALOGUN FATIMA ADEOLA**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly **MISS Ehinomen Regina Otukpaikhan**, now wish to be known as **MRS Ehinomen Regina Okagbare**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

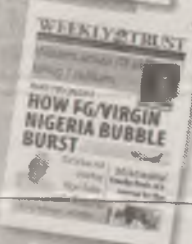
I, formerly known as **MISS AGNES ADAMU CHIDAWA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. AGNES MICHAEL DAUDA**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public should be take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS JOYCE GIDEON DOGO**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. JOYCE DANLADI ABDULRAHAMAN KURE**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public should be take note.

Always advertise with Daily Trust, Weekly Trust, Sunday Trust and Aminiya

To Our Esteemed Readers, Advertisers and Contributors

## POLICY ON PUBLICATION OF ADVERTORIALS, PETITIONS AND RELATED MATERIALS



**M**edia 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 unwarranted 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 Advertiser, 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



## SPORT

NFF staff  
recruitment  
under scrutiny

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# Ndanusa to Lagerback: Look beyond World Cup

By Orkula Shaagee & David Ngobua

MINISTER of Sports and Chairman National Sports Commission, Engineer Sani Ndanusa yesterday charged the new Super Eagles Technical Adviser Lars Lagerback to begin to work towards taking Nigeria to a successful outing at the 2014 World Cup.

He however said that would depend on the achievements of the coach at the South Africa 2010 World Cup, which is his immediate task.

He stressed that from his

**We want to pray that your coming will add value to the political mileage on sports in Nigeria and add value to the development of sports.**

past records as a developmental coach, he was sure Lagerback would succeed with Nigeria.

Ndanusa, who gave the charge when the new coach, led by NFF officials visited him in Abuja, also urged the coach to be ready to contribute positively to the development of football in Nigeria during his stay in the country.

On the other hand, Ndanusa assured that the Federal Government would provide enabling environment for the coach to succeed with Nigeria.

He urged the coach to consider his appointment to lead the Nigerian team as a great opportunity to make history in world football because of the great football potentials that abound in the country.

"No doubt, football is very important tool to Nigeria. We in the government recognize it because it has high political value. It is one of the things that unite us as a country.

"So, we want to pray that your coming will add value to the political mileage on sports in Nigeria and add value to the development of sports in Nigeria.

"Again, I want to say I know that your immediate target is the World Cup, but from the reports I have received, you have another added value of being a developmental coach.

"So, I want to see you look at Nigerian football beyond the World Cup, so that if by anything you get to the final of the World Cup in South Africa 2010, you will continue to the next World Cup which you will deliver the World Cup by the grace of God", Ndanusa stated.

Ndanusa, who appealed to the press not to put pressure on the coach, in order to allow him concentrate in the task ahead, urged the coach to double his efforts because a lot is expected from him to deliver at the South Africa 2010 World Cup.

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE



GETTING set for Congo... the Super Eagles Team B during a training session ahead of today's international friendly against Congo DR in Abuja.

## I won't play to Impress Lagerback – Chukwudi

By David Ngobua

SUPER Eagles Team B defender, Fortune Chukwudi has said if he is fielded today against the Democratic Republic of Congo, he will not attempt to impress the newly appointed Super Eagles Technical Adviser.

Speaking to Trustsports yesterday, the former Eaglets star defender said what he will do today if selected for the match

would be to give his best to the team but said he would not play to impress the Swede.

He said if in the end, the Technical Adviser falls in love with his style of play, he would still be grateful to God because that would open the door for more opportunities to come his way.

"I don't think I will be playing to impress anyone including the newly appointed Super Eagles Technical Adviser. I

learnt he will be around to watch us but that will not stop me being my usual self on the field. If in the end he is satisfied with my performance, I will be happy. I hope to do my best," he said.

The player said he can not thank God enough for the opportunity to play for the country at the senior level because it is not easy to win the confidence of those who invited him to camp.

"I will like to thank God almighty for making it possible for me to be among those who are in camp for this match. There are better players out there who have not been given this kind of opportunity. It is for this reason that I will forever remain grateful to him," Chukwudi, who captained the Golden Eaglets to the runners-up position at the last FIFA U-17 World Cup, added.

He assured his teeming fans that he will do his best to justify his inclusion in the national team.

"I will grab any opportunity given to me with two hands. We are many in camp but if I am handed one of the shirts, I will grab the opportunity with both hands. I will not allow this opportunity slip through my hands because it is the beginning of great things that are to come," he stated.



NIGERIA PREMIER LEAGUE



# Enyimba regain top spot

ENYIMBA of Aba are back at the top of the Nigeria Premier League after they won away at Lobi Stars and closest rivals Kano Pillars and Enugu Rangers both failed to win at the weekend.

Enyimba recorded a precious 1-0 win at the Aper Aku Stadium in Makurdi Sunday to now have 37 points from 21 matches, while erstwhile leaders Pillars were held to a goalless draw by hosts Shooting Stars of Ibadan.

Enyimba match winner was Magnus Iwuoha, who found target nine minutes from the end.

Pillars got off to a bright start and should have gone ahead through striker Victor Namo but was denied by agile 3SC goalkeeper Lukman Orire.

Skipper Tope Orellope freekick was then scrambled away for a corner by Pillars keeper Sani Haliru in the 32nd minute.

In the second half, Pillars had a goal scored by league hot shot Ahmed Musa disallowed before Haliru saved a point-blank shot in stoppage time to ensure the visitors split the points.

"Both teams played well but the pitch was bad and it did not help

either team," said Shooting Stars striker Timothy Idogbe.

Kwara United moved into second place in the standings courtesy of a 2-0 home win over bottom team Gateway FC with goals from Moroof Yusuf and Ukeyima Akombo, while Rangers are fourth on the table after they failed to beat visiting Sunshine Stars of Akure at the Nnamdi Azikiwe Stadium in Enugu on Sunday.

Defender Monday Osagie thought he had earned rangers full marks in stoppage time but the referee ruled that he had pushed the goalkeeper before he crashed his header home.

Sunshine are thus sixth on the table with 32 points, ahead of Niger Tornadoes and Heartland, who played out a 1-1 draw in Owerri.

John Owoeri gave Heartland the lead after half an hour only for Tornadoes to conjure a late equaliser



**BIG LEAGUE ROUNDUP**

ENYIMBA'S Josiah Maduabuchi...the Peoples Elephants leapfrogged over Kano Pillars at the top of the Premier League after beating Lobi Stars 1-0 in Markurdi.

## NPL suspends four Lobi players

By Orkula Shaagee

THE Nigeria Premier League (NPL) yesterday handed indefinite suspension to four players of Lobi Stars of Makurdi for alleged assault on Centre Referee KA Akinwale from the Oyo State Council during last weekend match involving the Makurdi side and Enyimba of Aba.

Also yesterday, the NPL announced a One Million Naira fine on Rangers International FC of Enugu over the unruly behaviour of the club's players in their week 21 match against Sunshine Stars of Akure at the Nnamdi Azikiwe Stadium.

The five suspended Lobi Stars players are Son Hingir who spotted jersey number 11 during the match, Zango Umar, John George and Okardi Blessing.

The league board in a statement signed by its Head of

Competition Department, Mr. Tunji Babalola said "the Makurdi incident was a clear case of gross indiscipline where the Center Referee KA Akinwale from Oyo Referee Council was attacked and assaulted by players of Lobi Stars FC.

The statement added that all the four players involved in the fracas will pay a fine of Two Hundred Thousand Naira (N200, 000.00) each to serve as a deterrent to others, and that Lobi Stars FC has been ordered to play its subsequent home matches behind closed doors.

"Rangers International FC is fined the sum of One Million Naira and shall be playing its subsequent home matches behind closed doors as a result of encroachment by a fan onto the pitch in an attempt to attack the Center Referee, Emmanuel Yua from Kano Referees Council", the statement said.

## Journalists kidnapped in Owerri

THREE journalists working for African pay tv sports channel SuperSport were abducted by gunmen on Monday near Owerri, in eastern Nigeria, although one escaped yesterday.

The journalists, two Nigerians and one South African, were heading to the airport on their way back after producing a live Nigeria Premier League game in Enugu on Sunday.

They were ambushed and attacked by a posse of around 28 gunmen just five minutes from the Owerri airport. The three, Bowie Atama, a commentator, Alex Effiong a cameraman, and Nick Greyling, a South African technical production staff, were taken.

Effiong, however, escaped from his abductors a few hours later. Another was shot and is receiv-

ing treatment, while unconfirmed reports say a bystander is said to have been shot and killed.

Felix Awogu, General Manager of SuperSport Nigeria, said contact had been established with the kidnapers.

"Everything is under control. Our staff are well and we are optimistic that everything will be okay."

Kidnappings for ransom started in the restive Niger Delta at the height of violent agitation for resource control.

Since the federal government's amnesty programme, kidnappings have dropped drastically in the Niger Delta, but the mantle has been taken over by criminal gangs in the largely Igbo eastern Nigeria who abduct politicians, women, children and anybody else who will fetch a handsome ransom.

**Everything is under control. Our staff are well.**

### RESULTS

Saturday, February 27

Gombe Uti 2, Ranch Bees 0

Kwara Uti 2, Gateway 0

Shooting Stars 0, Pillars 0

Sunday, February 28

Rangers 0, Sunshine Stars 0

Victoria Uti 1, Wikki 0

Lobi Stars 0, Enyimba 1

Heartland 1, Tornadoes 1

### Weekend Fixtures

Ranch Bees vs Rangers

3SC vs Lobi

Sharks vs Wikki

Pillars vs Kwara

Gombe vs Dolphins

Gateway vs Zamfara

# PTF accepts Lagerback's choice

By Ismaila Lere

THE Presidential Task Force on FIFA 2010 World Cup (PTF) has accepted the choice of Swede Lars Lagerback as the Super Eagles manager for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

The acceptance was contained in the communique of the PTF after a meeting at the Government House, Port Harcourt, on Monday.

The document was signed by PTF chairman, Gov. Chibuike Amaechi.

The PTF said it wanted Lagerback retained for the next five years, but the decision to accept Lagerback came after long hours of deliberations during which the decision of NFF to hire the Swede tactician for the sum of \$1.5 million came under scrutiny.

This is sequel to agitations raised by soccer buffs in the camp of former English manager, Glenn Hoddle, who believe their man should have got the nod since he only demanded for \$700,000 for the same five months period.

Impeccable source within the panel that interviewed the short-listed coaches revealed that Hoddle's representative, England-based FIFA licensed agent, John Ola Shittu has already made representation to PTF chairman, Rotimi Amaechi on the matter.

The Rivers State governor,

whose body is picking the bills for the newly appointed manager, is said to be sympathetic to Shittu's cause, especially with suspicions rising over the NFF's decision to sideline all suggestions from the PTF.

Shittu is aggrieved that Lagerback is receiving double of what his client asked for and has accused some NFF top guns of attempting to fleece the nation for signing what he considered an outrageous contract with Lagerback.

The source alleged that it was a prominent member of the NFF on the interview panel that unilaterally negotiated the sum of \$1.5 million with Lagerback.

Indeed, this issue formed the basis of discussion when the PTF met with members of the panel in Port Harcourt on Monday as the contract papers the NFF signed with Lagerback was thoroughly scrutinized by members of the PTF.

The meeting, however, resolved that the Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee that interviewed Lagerback be adopted in order not to delay Eagles' World Cup preparation which is far behind schedule.

The PTF also asked the NFF to explore "the possibility of retaining Lagerback for the next five years as the Super Eagles Manager to develop the game of football in Nigeria."



THE Presidential Task Force (PTF) has accepted the appointment of Lars Lagerback as Super Eagles new coach.

## Lagerback pledges 100 percent commitment

By David Ngobua & Orkula Shaagee

NEWLY appointed Technical Adviser of Super Eagles, Lars Lagerback has pledged one hundred percent commitment to his present assignment as he said he had been longing to land the challenging job.

Speaking yesterday in Abuja at his presentation to the Minister of Sports by the NFF President Alhaji Sani Lulu Abdullahi, the Swede said now that he has succeeded in picking the job, he would not waste time on trivialities but concentrate fully on the business of leading the Eagles to the 2010 World Cup.

He said he had the opportunity

of playing against the Eagles at the 2002 World Cup and since then, he has been following the team with keen interest.

"I am happy for this opportunity to work with the Super Eagles. I played against them once in 2002 at the World Cup and since then, I have been following their performances. Nigeria has good players and football is like a religion in this country. It will be interesting to work with the players.

"We have had talks already with the president of the federation and in two weeks I will be coming out with detail plans on what we want to do," he said.

The coach who acknowledged that coaching the Super Eagles is demanding reiterated that the team will receive maximum attention from him because he has prepared himself for the job.

"I have been looking forward to this job and now that I have it, I am going to pay one hundred percent attention to it. I want to make sure that Super Eagles do well in South Africa," he added.

Earlier in his speech, Sani Lulu, the NFF president said after 2010 Africa Cup of Nations in Angola, it became obvious that a foreign coach was needed to lead Eagles to the 2010 World Cup.

He added that the appointment of a foreign Technical Adviser was done in order to satisfy the yearnings of Nigerian football fans.

Lulu expressed happiness that the exercise which began two weeks ago finally produced Lars Lagerback as Super Eagles Technical Adviser.

"After the 2010 Nations Cup in Angola, it became obvious that we needed a foreign coach to lead the Eagles to the World Cup. We were also determined to satisfy the yearnings of Nigerians. We started the exercise two weeks ago and finally arrived at Lagerback. He has the experience to do the job. It was a transparent exercise," he said.

## World Cup teams warm up with friendlies

WITH the 2010 FIFA World Cup just 100 days away, a huge number of international friendlies are taking place in midweek as national teams around the world begin to dial up their preparations for football's global showpiece.

Hosts South Africa will celebrate the 100-day countdown and officially open the new Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban with a match against neighbours Namibia on Wednesday.

Bafana Bafana and the Brave Warriors have only met four times in the past and this will be the first

match between the two national teams on South African soil.

Africa's other five World Cup representatives have also lined-up some challenging games that will aid their preparations.

Cameroon's Indomitable Lions certainly have the toughest match, an away game in Monte Carlo against reigning world champions Italy that will test their skills to the limit.

Ghana's Black Stars have shown their promise by finishing as runners-up in the 2010 Africa Cup of Nations and their first outing

since the narrow loss to Egypt in the final will be against Bosnia-Herzegovina in Sarajevo.

Nigeria will take on fellow Africans Congo DR in Lagos, while Algeria and Cote d'Ivoire have games against World Cup qualifiers Serbia and Korea Republic respectively. The Elephants' game will take place in London.

Reigning African champions Egypt will head to the new Wembley for a high-profile match against Fabio Capello's England. The Pharaohs' solid defence - the foundation of their success at the

AFCON in Angola earlier this year - will be put to the test by the on-form Wayne Rooney.

There are several other eye-catching games, most notably France v Spain in Paris; Germany take on Argentina in Munich; Netherlands face the USA in Amsterdam; and Portugal will host the People's Republic of China in Coimbra.

The round of friendlies will kick-off on Tuesday evening with a game between the Republic of Ireland and Brazil at the Emirates Stadium in London.

### FIXTURES

- South Africa v Namibia
- France v Spain
- Netherlands v USA
- New Zealand v Mexico
- Cote d'Ivoire v Korea
- Italy v Cameroon
- Turkey v Honduras
- Tanzania v Uganda
- Nigeria v Congo
- Libya v Mali
- Greece v Senegal
- Bosnia v Ghana
- Wales v Sweden
- Algeria v Serbia
- England v Egypt
- Switzerland v Uruguay
- Poland v Bulgaria
- Germany v Argentina
- Slovenia v Qatar
- Portugal v China
- Belgium v Croatia

## THE WEDNESDAY COLUMN

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## The danger of propagandizing the crisis of Yar'adua's illness

It seems to me some people and a section of the country's media are determined to turn the crisis of President Umaru Yar'adua's ill-health into a North versus South affair in which the North, as usual, is painted as the villain of the piece.

The leader in this propaganda war against the North is the Nigerian *Tribune*, the self-appointed mouthpiece of the Yoruba, which, by virtue of its early contact with the Whiteman compared to other nationalities, considers itself the most sophisticated nationality in the country and therefore the rightful heir to the legacy of the long departed colonial master.

As a, if not the, mouthpiece of the Yoruba, the *Tribune*, has always regarded the North, more specifically, the region's dominant "Hausa-Fulani" (for which read Kanuri, Nupe and any tribe which is predominantly Muslim), as a usurper of this legacy and therefore a legitimate target for unrelenting attack.

For a newspaper that has always looked for any excuse to attack a region it apparently considers a mortal enemy, the Yar'adua health crisis must have been God-sent. Since the crisis climaxed in November with the sudden evacuation of the president to Jedda, Saudi Arabia, for treatment, hardly a day passes that the newspaper would not lampoon the North for allegedly wanting to hang on to power at the centre by hook AND crook.

In one of its most recent attacks the newspaper said in banner headlines in its edition of February 3, that the "North (is) behind Yar'adua's refusal to handover."

"Contrary to the media posturing of key northern leaders on the need to respect the constitution as a result of Yar'adua's prolonged absence from the country" the newspaper said in the story, "the Nigerian *Tribune* can reveal that leaders of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) are behind the power vacuum occasioned by the president's absence."

I read the story and found no evidence beyond a flip-pant conjecture about a decision by the ACF at the end of a meeting *Tribune* said it held on December 16, to "play politics of the North in a bid to ensure that power does not go back to the South."

*Tribune* is, of course, not alone in its bid to paint the North as the villain of the-crisis of Yar'adua's ill-health. Only last weekend Saturday Vanguard carried a front page headline which talked about "Why the North is against Jonathan." In the same edition, the newspaper carried a bold reverse line block headline on pages ten, 11 and 12 which claimed "The North takes on Jonathan as Yar'adua returns." Its evidence was no more than an interview with Alhaji Abubakar Rimi, a former governor of Kano State, who said in effect that the North was not opposed to Jonathan acting as president but the manner in which it was done by the National Assembly.

Another newspaper, *The Nation*, had a similar story about the North being the villain in its edition of the same day. "Northern governors' plot against Jonathan fails," it said in a front page banner headline in its weekend edition on Saturday. I read through the story and found absolutely no evidence of a plot, never mind one that failed. Instead the newspaper itself provided evidence to the contrary.

"It was learnt," the newspaper said somewhat lamely, "that a member of the kitchen cabinet of President Umaru Yar'adua who attended the session had tried to persuade the governors to resist what was carefully packaged as an anti-North policy but most of those in attendance called for caution." If the majority of the governors at the meeting rejected the stand of Yar'adua's alleged Man Friday, how logical was it then to have concluded that the governors

plotted against Acting President Goodluck Jonathan?

In spite of the exertions of *Tribune* et al, the fact is that there is no Northern plot to stop Jonathan from filling the vacuum created by the absence of an apparently infirm Yar'adua.

First, the ACF which the newspaper claimed has decided to "play the politics of the North", whatever that means, is not the only organization that says it speaks for the North. The Northern Union under Dr Sola Saraki, makes a similar claim. Then there is the Middle Belt Forum which claims to speak for a largely Christian part of the North. Et cetera, Et cetera.

Second, there have been as many prominent Northerners in support of Jonathan as there have been those opposed to him. If anything there have probably been more in support than in opposition. For example of the odd dozen members of the ad hoc Nigerian Elders Forum that urged adherence to the Constitution in resolving the Yar'adua predicament during a visit to the acting president the other day, only three were from the South.

Similarly, there have been as many Southerners opposed to Jonathan as there have been in support. Indeed perhaps the greatest opposition to the man has come from his own

South-South, at least initially. It is, for example, a well known fact that the governor of his own state, Bayelsa, probably out of disregard for Jonathan as his predecessor, has never attended the meetings of the National Economic Council which Jonathan chairs by virtue of his position as Vice-President.

It is also a well known fact that one of the greatest beneficiaries of the Yar'adua regime is Chief

James Ibori, Delta State's two-time governor and a big financier of Yar'adua's presidential campaign. It is an open secret that he's fought tooth and nail to sustain the status quo ante so as to retain his privilege without which he would probably have been languishing in jail by now over his alleged venality.

Last but by no means the least, the most acerbic press criticism of Jonathan has been made, not by any Northerner, but by a fellow Ijaw - the irrepressible professor of Virology, Tam David-West. "Jonathan," he said in an interview in *The Spectator* of January 13, "is Obasanjo's man. Yar'adua dismantled Obasanjo's structures. He wants to smuggle in Jonathan so that he can control us from Ota Farm."

As if this was not enough rejection of Jonathan as acting president, the man said categorically in *National Life* of February 27 that he had no faith in Jonathan as acting president, never mind as president.

Q: Do you have faith in the acting president?

A: No. I don't.

Q: Why?

A: He is weak. He can't perform. To be an Ijaw man is not enough. Jonathan is not elected by Nigerians.

In the course of the interview he even said the solution to the crisis at hand is that Jonathan should resign!

Of all the opposition to Jonathan as acting president I have read nothing has come close to David-West's. And he is, without doubt, as pre-eminent an Ijaw as any. Yet I have not heard any one saying the Ijaws have been plotting against Jonathan.

No, the battle for the presidency as a result of the president's ill-health is not a North versus South affair. There are rights and wrongs on both sides and we do no justice to the suffering masses of this country if we make it a regional issue. This is because by doing so we make it difficult, even impossible, to resolve on the basis of principles.

“Indeed perhaps the greatest opposition to the man has come from his own South-South, at least initially”

## SPORTS REPORT



NFF Logo

SANI Lulu

## NFF recruitment under scrutiny

Federal Character Commission may wade into alleged abuse of due process in employment of some staffers leveled against Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) president, Alhaji Sani Lulu Abdullahi by some members of the board.

In reaction, deputy director, public relations of the commission, Alhaji Usman Jimada told *brilafm.net* that there are guidelines for recruitment of staff in all government parastatal and said the FCC is empowered by the constitution to investigate any abuse of the process.

"If they violate the FCC guidelines on recruitment, they should be called to order. We have guidelines on recruitment.

"The guidelines say any vacancy must be advertised in at least two nationally acclaimed newspapers and we must give the applicants at least six weeks to respond.

"They must also ensure a short-list, after which interviews should follow. If the recruitment is done without reference to guidelines, and if a petition comes to the commission about things done without due regard, we have a duty to step in," he explained.



ZAKUMI... South Africa 2010 Mascot

## S/Africa marks 100 days to World Cup

South Africans proudly declared themselves nearly ready yesterday, 100 days before they host football's World Cup.

Tournament organizers have been repeatedly and sometimes sharply questioned about whether a country with high rates of poverty and crime was capable of hosting football's premier event.

At the 100-days ceremony in Durban, one of nine host cities, the mood was celebratory and determined. Elsewhere across the country, South Africans performed a dance based on football moves and sang the national anthem, stressing that hosting the tournament requires enthusiasm and national unity.