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TRUST IS A BURDEN

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Northern group asks PDP to respect zoning formula



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Yar'adua is back

By Theophilus Abbah & Nasir L. Abubakar

PRESIDENT Umaru Musa Yar'adua's long medical sojourn in Saudi Arabia ended early this morning when two planes landed at the Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport, Abuja. While the first plane, an air ambulance, landed at 1.47am, a second one, the presidential aircraft, landed at 1.54am. As soon as the first plane landed, the small convoy of cars already waiting at the Presidential

Lounge drove to the tarmac and came to a stop near it. There were about five cars, one of which was a Ford ambulance recently acquired by the State House.

Soon after the two planes landed, *Daily Trust* learnt that a large group of security agents and Foreign Ministry protocol officials who moved towards them were chased away by presidential bodyguards. Only a handful of bodyguards and the planes' crew members were allowed near the planes as

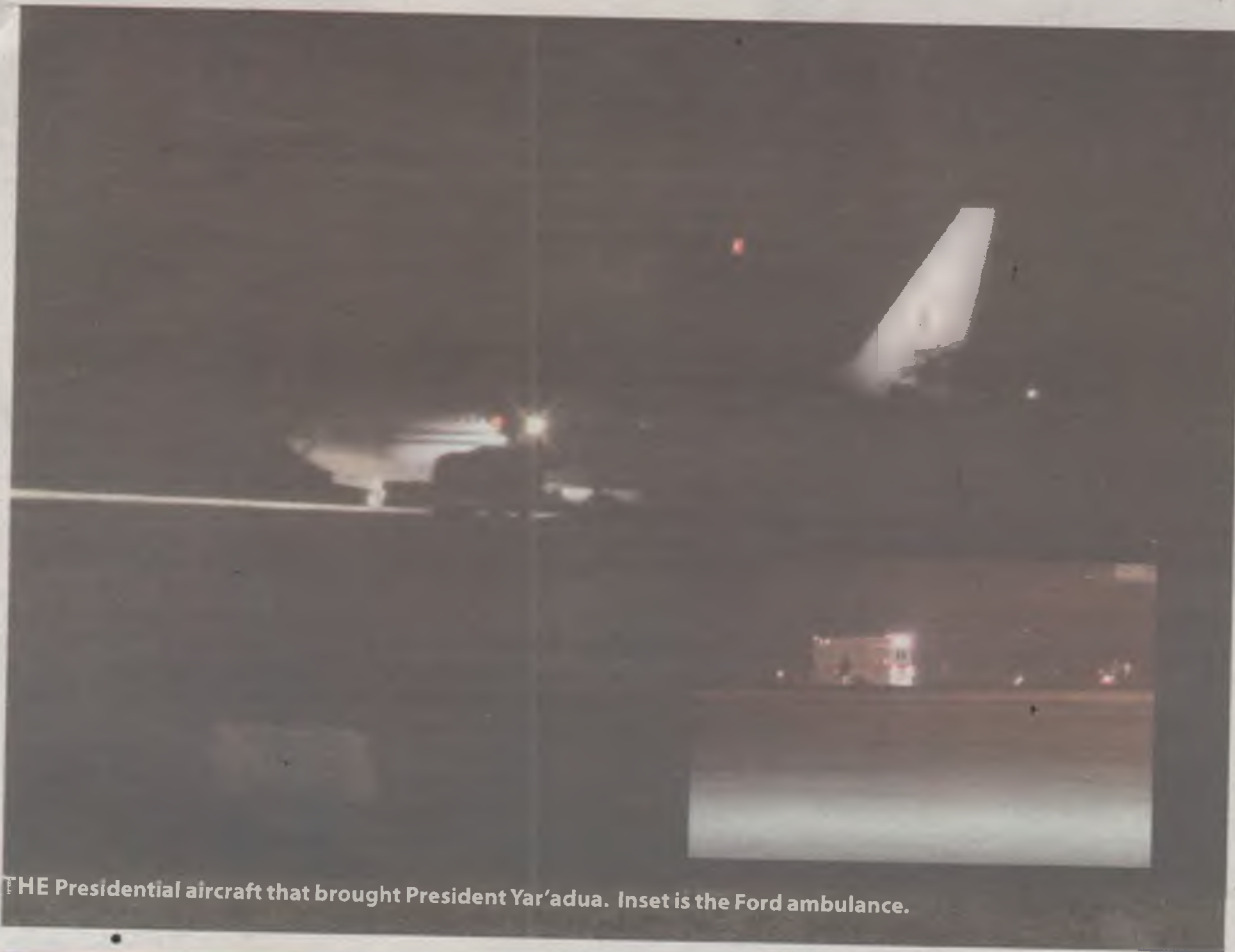
the president alighted, so it was not clear whether he walked into the waiting cars or was helped into them. The scene was also dark, but the ambulance was seen moving towards the parked planes.

Yar'adua had been away from the country for 90 days. He had earlier departed Jeddah, Saudi Arabia at 9pm Nigerian time [11pm local Saudi time] last night in a convoy of three different aircraft.

Indications that Yar'adua was about

to depart the Saudi Kingdom first became manifest yesterday when a long convoy of royal cars and police escort vehicles were seen at the Royal Guest House in Jeddah, where he had been recuperating for several weeks since he left the King Faisal Hospital in December. At around 7pm Nigerian time yesterday, the convoy drove out to the airport, and two hours later the president's plane departed for Nigeria.

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THE Presidential aircraft that brought President Yar'adua. Inset is the Ford ambulance.

FG stops Niger River dredging

By Mohammed S. Shehu

THE Federal Government yesterday halted the dredging of the lower River Niger pending the total protection of shorelines through land reclamation of areas in the Niger Delta.

This was the outcome of a meeting that Acting President Goodluck Jonathan had with the Steering Council of the Niger Delta Amnesty Programme at the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

Consequently, Jonathan has directed the Ministry of Finance to transfer N19 billion intervention funds for

the dredging of that part of the lower River Niger to the Ministry of the Niger Delta for shoreline protection and land reclamation. He also directed that the contract should be executed in four weeks' time.

Special Assistant, Media to the acting President Mr. Ima Niboro, who briefed reporters on the outcome of the meeting, said the change was part of the amnesty programme of the Federal Government.

The meeting, which was also attended by governors from the Niger Delta

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Carrington, Nnamani urge overhaul of INEC

From Leye Adewumi, Akure

FORMER United States Ambassador to Nigeria Mr. Walter Carrington and former Senate President Ken Nnamani yesterday in Akure, Ondo State, called for the re-constitution of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

They made the call at a lecture titled, "Electoral Reform, Good Governance and Democracy" to mark the first anniversary of Governor Olusegun Mimiko in office.

Carrington described the 2007 election as the worst ever conducted in Nigeria, saying steps must be taken to avoid a repeat in

2011. He noted that 2011 would be critical to the history of Nigeria, advocating for sustainable efforts to ensure the stability of the country after the elections.

"The 2011 elections may be the most important in Nigeria's history. The disaster of 2007 must not be repeated. Substantial reforms must urgently be enacted", he said.

According to him, INEC should be reorganised in such a way that it would gain the confidence of the people. While comparing the United States Election Commission with INEC, Carrington said the former had none of the powers INEC had. He said the electoral body in Nigeria was too powerful.

"Sadly, most Nigerians do not trust their electoral system. And they are not likely to, without substantial changes. For democracy to flourish, there must be confidence in the electorate that their votes once cast will be fairly recorded, that they will not be nullified", he added.

"When an election is stolen, more than just a mandate is lost. The very core of the democratic system is eroded. We have seen it happen routinely in countries around the world like Asia and South America as well as Africa. Power once gained is not easily relinquished.

"This mode of behaviour we

have seen play out in the last two national and state elections. As flawed as the one in 2003 was, 2007 was far worse. 2011 is only a year away. Let us pray the stormy past is not prologue to an election that could plunge the nation into chaos".

Nnamani who was the chairman of the occasion called for a total overhaul of INEC, saying that would ensure a credible election in the country.

Corroborating the former US envoy, Nnamani said Nigerians should not expect any miracle form the INEC as presently constituted.

"Unless there is a substantial

change in INEC, we have no reason to expect any change in the outcome of the 2011 elections, he said.

Mimiko in his remarks, said one of the major components of a credible electoral reform should be the inauguration of winners after the completion of litigations over such election. According to him, the only agenda that could bring development to the nation is that which would focus on free and fair election. The governor however noted that the country would start to progress when leaders were allowed to emerge from the people without anybody forcing himself over the electorate.

PIC: NAN



GOV Ibrahim Gaidam of Yobe State (right) delivering his speech during a Grand Rally in Damaturu organised to celebrate his victory at the Supreme Court, yesterday

Shagari harps on effective security mgt

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

FORMER President Alhaji Shehu Shagari yesterday said effective security management would remain illusive as long as the Nigerian security environment is characterised by low level of security awareness.

Shagari said this at a security awareness seminar for top government officials in Sokoto State organised by the Department of State Services, Sokoto state Command. He noted that security awareness had become one of the variable tools in the effective management of threats to nation and

personal security, adding that top hierarchies of the public service need to attain a reasonable level of security awareness.

Shagari also said good understanding of the workings of the security system by the legislative arm of government would assist in the collective resolve to improve

security.

The former president commended the Department of State Services for organising the seminar "at this crucial time when threats to national security, particularly in areas of kidnapping and hostage taking are gaining more grounds in all part of our country".

Police seal Edo House of Assembly

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

THE Edo State Police Command has taken over the premises of the state House of Assembly following Monday's inter-party clash which left at least three members injured.

As early as six o'clock yes-

terday, over 50 heavily armed mobile policemen had taken over the legislative premises while workers who were reporting for duty were turned back.

It would be recalled that at a press briefing in Benin on Monday, the Action Congress members and their Acting Speaker,

Peter Aliu, had vowed that the House would resume sitting yesterday even as the Speaker, Zakawanu Garba, insisted that the House had adjourned.

Police Public Relations Officer ASP Peter Ogboi who confirmed the development, explained that the police would

remain in the Assembly until normalcy was restored. He said it was the duty of the police to maintain law and order. Meanwhile, supporters of both the PDP and AC staged a peaceful demonstration yesterday to press home their positions on the crisis.

Confusion in Sokoto over appeal court ruling

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

THERE is confusion in Sokoto State over whether the appeal court will today deliver judgment on the case between Governor Aliyu Wamakko and opposition DPP candidate Muhammadu Maigari Dmgtyadi.

A notice served to the appellants and the respondents by the court registrar in Sokoto had said the judgment would be delivered today. But the Chief Justice of Nigeria Aloysius Katsina-Alu earlier in the week asked for a stay because of a dispute over another pending case at the court of appeal in Abuja.

Katsina-Alu's instruction followed a petition by Wamakko's lawyers to the National Judicial Council, asking that the Sokoto appeal court should hold on until the appeal court in Abuja delivers ruling in another case instituted by the DPP over the same rerun governorship election.

People in the state are confused on whether the court will sit today in Sokoto.

An aide to Wamakko, Malam Ayuba Ahmed, said yesterday that security reports indicated that the appeal court in Sokoto may have decided to ignore the directive by the chief justice.

Also, counsel to the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) said, "Right now, we don't know what will happen until tomorrow. There is a motion and a judgment."

A counsel to DPP's candidate, Barrister Suleiman Usman, said there was no confusion in the matter as judgment would be delivered today.

He explained that by section 246 (3) of the constitution, the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal arising from governorship and legislative tribunals was final.

"As far as the present case is concerned, a court of appeal is a super court and its decision is not appealable to Supreme Court by whatever guise. The issue of petition to the National Judicial Council is an entirely different thing, it is an administrative thing."

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE



MEDIA Trust managers at a retreat organized by the company in Lagos over the weekend.

Nigeria power among the lowest in Africa-Minister

By Aisha Umar Agae

MINISTER of State for Petroleum Resources Odein Ajumogobia yesterday said Nigeria's current electricity power production is some 2000-4000 MW per day, which is a fraction of what South Africa and Egypt are producing.

He made the statement at the signing of Memorandum of Understanding Between the government of United States of America and Independent Power Providers Association of Nigeria (IPPAN).

He said "by the end of the year, about 70% of the country's power generation capacity will be from gas-fired power plants and as we approach 2015 we expect this proportion to be above 80% with the generation of some 12GW of power from gas-fired plants".

He said the gas master plan will help address some of the issues associated with developing holistic plans to get gas to the power plants as well as the commercial framework that will encourage supply.

In her speech, US ambassador to Nigeria Robin Renee Sanders said the US government is able to collaborate with the government of Nigeria and with the IPPAN to increase electricity generation to 10,000 megawatts by 2011.

"We are honoured to help Nigeria find a way to generate the electricity demand by the Nigerian people, through the private sector," she said.

In his speech the minister of state for power, Arc Nuhu Somo WYA said the country is facing imbalance between electricity supply and demand.

President of IPPAN Professor Bart Nnaji said the institutional support will no doubt galvanize active private sector led solutions to the country's endemic epileptic power supply situation.

Jonathan: Total to invest \$20bn in oil, gas

By Mohammed S. Shehu

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan has welcomed the proposed investment of \$20bn in the Nigerian oil and gas sector by the Total Exploration and Production (E&P) of France.

Receiving the Group President of Total E&P France, Mr. Yves Louis Darricarrere, in the State House yesterday, Jonathan said the proposed investment is an affirmation of positive business environment in the Niger Delta brought about by the amnesty programme.

He acknowledged the efforts of the company so far on the Brass LNG project, but raised concern on the non-availability of gas for power generation.

Earlier, Darricarrere commended the Federal Government for the amnesty programme noting that his Group will take the advantage of the relative peace in the region to increase its investments in the oil and Gas sector.

2011: Northern group asks PDP not to field Jonathan

By Muideen Olaniyi

NORTHERN Elders Assembly yesterday urged the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to guard against anything that would truncate its zoning arrangement in view of the ongoing political development in the country.

The Northern elders including Alhaji Inuwa Wada; the Assembly's Chairman and Magajin Garin Kano, Alhaji Abubakar Rimi, Senator Joseph Waku, Alhaji Basir Dalhatu and Alhaji Tanko Yakassai in a communiqué reminded the PDP that the zoning arrangement suited Nigeria's pluralistic structure.

The communiqué signed by the Assembly's Secretary, Arc

Aminu Kani, "The Assembly notes that Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'adua remains the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria constitutionally. The Assembly appeals to all Nigerians to remain vigilant, prayerful and cautious at this trying moment and should avoid explosive and inciting statements in the interest of peace, stability and unity of the country.

"The Assembly observes that the North has always cherished and shown leadership in ethnic and religious tolerance and accommodation and therefore it condemns any act of violence, or destruction in whatever form and in any part of the country," it stated.

Describing the over-politicisation of Yar'adua's absence as

unfortunate and unnecessary, the Assembly which said the unity of the North and the oneness of the country are mutually reinforcing, prayed to the Almighty Allah to enable the President recover fully and return to his office.

While wishing the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan success, the group condemned the furore the issue of acting President generated, adding that it was logical that the Vice President, who was elected on a joint ticket with President to naturally fulfil that role.

Earlier, the Assembly's Chairman and the first republic Defence Minister, Alhaji Inuwa, warned that the use of any unconstitutional actions to resolve the

current leadership challenges facing Nigeria would put the country at risk.

The elder statesman said, "President Umaru Musa Yar'adua is and remains the substantive President of Nigeria. The constitution is specific as to who bears the burden of determining the fitness or otherwise of a person to continue in office as the President, thus we must exercise the utmost caution when we offer our thoughts.

Before journalists were asked to leave the meeting, Senator Waku, who spoke against the resolution that empowered Jonathan as Acting President, appealed to all Northerners to speak with one voice.

Ribadu urges US to prosecute corrupt Nigerians

By Suleiman M. Bisalla

FORMER chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Malam Nuhu Ribadu said the emergence of Goodluck Jonathan as Acting President has afforded the United States a second chance to purposefully reinvigorate the fight against corruption in Nigeria.

He said the EFCC under his

leadership had left thousands of pages of detailed evidence and intelligence on corrupt officials, who are sitting waiting to be prosecuted.

He urged the US Department of Justice and the FBI to continue the prosecution of corrupt Nigerian officials as the United Kingdom is doing.

Making the request yesterday in a presentation before a US Sen-

ate Committee, Ribadu said, "I am overjoyed to hear that in the United Kingdom, the Metropolitan Police is continuing with its case against former Governor James Ibori. It will give most Nigerians cause to cheer that the U.S. also does the same and continue their cases."

He also urged the lawmakers to expand on the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, saying that the FCPA allowed for the prosecution

of a number of corrupt businesses and sent a wave of panic among those who were previously able to get away with their corruption.

Ribadu spoke on the need for electoral reforms in Nigeria saying the successful election in Anambra was possible because 'President Umaru Yar'adua and his cronies were distracted and unable to meddle in the democratic processes'.

Oshiomhole denies role in speaker's ouster

By Mohammed S. Shehu

GOVERNOR Adams Oshiomhole said he has no hands in the impeachment of the Speaker of the Edo State House of Assembly Zakwanu Garba who was

impeached on Monday.

Speaking to State House correspondents yesterday, Oshiomhole said, "I do not have powers to appoint speakers. The constitution did not give me any role in it and of course I do not have any

role in what happened on Monday."

On allegation by the opposition party that he was behind the crisis in the House, he said such allegations were baseless because he was not even in the state when

the crisis started and ended.

"In Edo State PDP to PDP they changed speakers several times. Egbadon was replaced by Itula, both of them from Esan from the same LGA. This is PDP replacing PDP," he said.

US official calls for Iwu's sack

By Abbas Jimoh with agency report

THE Obama administration's top official on Africa yesterday urged the Federal Government to prioritise electoral reform and called for new leadership for the country's electoral body.

Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Johnnie Carson told the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Nigeria's

Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has performed poorly over the past decade and has not served the interest of Nigeria well.

Carson testified yesterday following his five-day visit to Nigeria.

"I stressed that Nigeria's next presidential and National Assembly elections, scheduled for April 2011, must be credible. They must be free, fair and transpar-

ent and they must be a significant improvement over the country's 2007 presidential elections, which were deeply embarrassing and deeply flawed."

Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Johnnie Carson appeared before the

However, INEC's Director of Public Affairs Emmanuel Umenger told Daily Trust yesterday that "Iwu is not the problem

of our electoral democracy, the problem of our electoral democracy is collective. It is the problem of attitudinal change; it is not Prof. Iwu that snatches ballot boxes and stuff them, it is not Prof. Iwu that wrongfully substitute candidates of political parties, it is not Prof. Iwu who unleashes violence during elections, it is not Prof. Iwu who denied internal democracies within the political parties."

A fortnight ago, Carson in company of US Ambassador in Nigeria Ms Robin Sanders with other US officials, held a close-door meeting with Iwu and other INEC officials.

Vice-President Goodluck Jonathan has been named acting president in the absence of President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua who has been in a Saudi Arabian hospital since November and hasn't been seen in months.

PIC: MUHAMMED ABUBAKAR



FUNERAL prayers for the late Bauchi State Commissioner of Housing and Environment, Alhaji Muhammed Lele Raga, in Bauchi

Woman activist decries poor leadership in Nigeria

From Ibrahim Chonoko, London

A UK-based Nigerian activist, Ms Alice Ukoko has described Nigeria as a "dead state" where leaders devote their time and energy in pursuit of things that destroy rather than develop the country.

In an interview with the Daily Trust on Tuesday in London, Ms Ukoko lamented that the collective actions of the leadership of the Nigerian state was inimical to the continued existence of the country and the development of its upcoming generations.

Ukoko, the head of Women of Africa (WOA) organization based in London further lamented that the country's politics was tied to the looting of resources, hence the do-or-die struggle that characterize elections into leadership positions.

The government is not geared towards development, she said, adding that "Nigeria's political engineering is geared towards manipulating situations to kill the Nigerian project".

She stated that the extra-judicial killings of members of the Boko Haram sect and the military invasion of the Niger-delta were symptoms of a failed state.

"You don't kill people just because they are militants. The extra-judicial killings in some parts of the north are unacceptable in the modern society. A country that destroys its generation of today has no future".

Ms Ukoko pointed out that the unwarranted killings and repressions in the country, as well as the failed suicide bombing incident have combined to make Nigeria a possible threat to world peace.

She said "people of integrity" must do something to save the country from its dangerous slide to chaos and disintegration.

“You don't kill people just because they are militants. The extra-judicial killings in some parts of the north are unacceptable in the modern society. A country that destroys its generation of today has no future

N233m contract scam: Edo LG chairman arrested

By Misbahu Bashir

OPERATIVES of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) have arrested the Chairman of Etsako Central local government area in Edo State, Joseph Ayegbeni Ugheoke, and three other officials over N233 million contract scam.

A petition which alleged a case of conspiracy, forgery, abuse of office, embezzlement and diversion of

public funds and money laundering against the Council Chairman, members of his family and close associates was sent to the Commission.

The Chairman allegedly awarded various contracts worth over N130 million to one Messrs Omadimhe Odior Enterprises belonging to his Special Assistant on Security for the repair of roads, knowing full well that the said com-

pany does not have the capacity to carry out such contracts.

He was also accused of awarding other contracts worth over N8m to Profile Integrated Systems Technology, a company which belongs to one Mr. Moses Ugheoke, his younger brother.

The Chairman also allegedly embezzled the sum of N62.4m through fictitious payment vouchers using direct labour machinery

as well as another N32.1m through sanitation contracts.

Head Media and Publicity of EFCC Femi Babafemi said the initial investigations by the EFCC led to the arrest of the council Chairman and three other officials of the council.

They include: Mr. Itimbien E. Imohosen, the Council Treasurer, Mr. Omokaro Godwin Brodrick, Head of Service and Engr. Bernard Itsekhai Ogbhemhe, the Director of Works.

N620bn bailout: Court strikes suit against Sanusi

A Federal High Court in Lagos has struck out a suit challenging the decision by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to disburse about N620 billion to some ailing banks as bailout funds.

The suit filed last year by a member of the House of Representatives Femi Gbajabamila had the CBN and its governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi as defendants.

Although the judge, Justice Binta Nyako, held that the plaintiff has the

locus standi to file the case, she identified some defects in it, which formed the basis of her decision.

As against the defendants' argument that the plaintiff lacked the right to sue having failed to show that he suffered any special injury different from that suffered by other members of the public, the judge held that he could sue in view of his status.

Justice Nyako held that as a member of the National Assembly who

swore to protect the Constitution, he had the right to sue in challenge of the defendants' action where it is felt that such action constituted a breach of the Constitution.

The judge struck out a substantial portion of the affidavit supporting the originating summons on the ground that the information contained therein offended certain provisions of the Evidence Act.

In striking out the suit, Justice

Nyako held that having struck out a substantial part of the affidavit supporting the originating summons, there was nothing left for her to determine in the substantive suit.

The plaintiff had urged the court to determine whether the CBN Act and the Banks and Financial Institutions Act (BOFIA) authorised the defendants to raise money and disburse same without the consent of the National Assembly.

Abdullahi Adamu to report to EFCC today

By Misbahu Bashir

FORMER Governor of Nassarawa State and Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Abdullahi Adamu is to report today at the Abuja headquarters of the anticorruption agency.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) arrested Adamu over N15 billion contract scam on Monday.

Adamu was however given administrative bail and asked to return to the Headquarters of the Commission in Abuja for more ques-

tioning. EFCC's spokesman Femi Babafemi said the former Governor was released on administrative bail to enable him provide evidence against the allegations.

He said Adamu has been cooperating with his interrogators and has provided documents on some

of the alleged cases.

Administrative bail involved the seizure of travel and other vital documents from suspect and giving the suspect periods to report to their investigators. Babafemi said all conditions on the bail have been complied with by the former Governor.

FG stops Niger River dredging

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also resolved that the most urgent requirements are land reclamation and shoreline protection, instead of dredging of the lower River Niger.

"There was a proposal to dredge the lower Niger and because of some issues about the areas, the Acting President decided to get the governors to take a look at these proposals and see the area of critical needs of their own states so that we can take a bottom up approach in the area of infrastructural development of the Niger Delta.

Basically, the issue was between the dredging of the lower Niger and shoreline protection/land reclamation and all the governors are of the consensus that the most urgent requirement is land reclamation and shore protection.

"So today, the Acting President directed that the N19 billion intervention fund should be passed to the Ministry of Niger Delta from the Ministry of Finance for this shoreline protection initiative.

"The special intervention fund was supposed to be for the dredging of that part. So instead of using it to dredge now which will cause greater challenges, you know when dredged, the water channels become deeper, flows become faster and it will actually impact more on the shores of the communities. So it is that fund that is to be redeployed to protect the shorelines according to the request of the communities.

"Subsequently, when these areas have been well protected and land adequately reclaimed, then we can now go into the area of dredging of the lower Niger area," Niboro said.

He said the reversal became necessary in order to protect communities in the Niger Delta and the decision has no any political undertone. "In fact there have been several instances of communities that have lost much of their shorelines to the ocean. Bayelsa State has lost almost one kilometre if not more of its shoreline to the ocean because of its root that surrounds erosion and all that. Many communities have lost most of their land to water, anybody from the area can attest to that," he said.

Speaking on the project, Governor Timipre Sylva of Bayelsa State said shoreline protection was the immediate priority of the communities in the Niger Delta because of the effect of the ocean on their lands.

"Right now, the thing that will touch our people more importantly is shoreline reclamation and protection because the people will see it immediately and know that the Federal Government is doing something about their situation," he said.



LAGOS State Governor Babatunde Fashola (right) serving free meals to public servants during the launching of 'free meal for public servants' during the Lent period at the Secretariat, Alausa, Ikeja, on Monday.

Jubilation in Katsina over Yar'adua's return

By Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

WILD street jubilation broke out in President Umaru Yar'adua's home town of Katsina last night as the news spread that he was on his way back to the country.

Our correspondent who monitored the situation in Katsina last night said hundreds of youth took over major streets in the state capital chanting 'Sai Matawalle!' Yar'adua holds the traditional title of Matawallen Katsina.

At the President's family house in Yar'adua quarters, hundreds of youths danced and cheered, while many family members of the President also joined in the dance. Commercial motorcyclists

and many motorists also raced through the city's major streets in celebration.

Many family members and neighbours were seen trooping into the Yar'adua family compound to celebrate with the President's mother Hajiya Dada, who was said to be busy receiving visitors up until late last night.

Supporters of the Peoples Democratic Party were also seen holding Yar'adua's posters and planning in groups for an even bigger festival to celebrate his return.

Mallam Suleiman Wafa told our reporter that nobody will sleep in Katsina last because of the celebration they intended to

mount. He described Yar'adua's return as a will of God and said it will serve as a lesson to the North and the entire country.

Alhaji Ammani, who sells bread adjacent to the Yar'adua family house, said last night was one of joy for Yar'adua supporters and a night of sadness for his enemies. He condemned acting President Goodluck Jonathan for suspending the ongoing dredging of river Niger and also condemned members of the federal executive council who he said were waiting to declare him incapacitated.

Daily Trust also learnt that state governor Ibrahim Shema directed his convoy to prepare for a trip to Abuja early this morning.

Senate receives first letter from Jonathan

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki Hassan

THE Senate yesterday received a letter from Acting President Goodluck Jonathan containing the 2010 draft statutory budget of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Jonathan also sent a letter to the lawmakers nominating Mr. Sam Saba as chairman of the Code of Conduct Bureau (CDB) along with seven other members.

Meanwhile, a sharp division emerged among Senators yesterday as they continued the debate on the bill seeking to alter the provisions of section 145 of the 1999 constitution to allow the Vice President or Deputy Governor to act in the absence of the President and the Governor, respectively.

Yar'adua is back

Continued from page 1

Signs of his return however became more visible as the night wore on, and our reporters saw columns of soldiers with armoured personnel carriers taking positions at Wuse, at the intersection between the Airport Road and Olusegun Obasanjo Way. Our reporters also saw a small convoy of cars sweeping into the airport's presidential wing at about 11pm. It included a Ford ambulance.

Yar'adua's return plans were a tightly-kept secret, as several government officials said last night that they were unaware of the president's impending return. However, there were indications that Acting President Goodluck Jonathan's office got wind of them, because some items on his itinerary for today were hastily cancelled. Jonathan's office had

earlier invited media chiefs from all over the country to dine with him in Abuja tonight, but late in the afternoon yesterday, officials called and cancelled the dinner without advancing any reasons. Earlier yesterday, Jonathan held a long meeting with Niger Delta community leaders and state governors, following which he suspended the on-going Niger River dredging project.

Daily Trust also learnt that the 6-man delegation of Federal Ministers that arrived in Jeddah early in the morning yesterday delivered the Nigerian government's letter of thanks to the Saudi Foreign Minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal. The letter, addressed to Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz, thanked him for his generous hospitality to Yar'adua while the treatment lasted.

However, the ministers' plans

to fly on to Jeddah to see Yar'adua were aborted when they heard that the ailing president was already on his way to the airport, on his way home. The ministers then quickly changed their plans and are expected to return to the country this morning, in time for today's meeting of the Federal Executive Council, likely to be chaired by Yar'adua himself.

The ministerial delegation, led by Foreign Affairs Minister Chief Ojo Maduekwe, comprised Secretary to the Government of the Federation Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, Health Minister Professor Babatunde Osotimehin, Petroleum Minister Dr. Rilwanu Lukman, Agriculture Minister Dr. Abba Sayyadi Ruma as well as Attorney General and Minister of Justice Adetokunbo Kayode, SAN. Their trip was at the behest of the FEC, which directed

them on Wednesday last week to undertake the trip, officially billed to thank the Saudi King and to see Yar'adua. Many observers however saw it as the first step in invoking Section 144 of the Constitution to declare Yar'adua permanently incapacitated from holding his office.

Yar'adua had been out of the country since November 23, last year when he left for Jeddah to treat an ailment later described as pericarditis, or inflammation of the heart's linings. The president also has a long history of kidney disease. Two weeks ago, when Yar'adua failed to transmit a letter of medical vacation, the National Assembly unanimously passed a resolution recognising Vice President Goodluck Jonathan as Acting President. He is expected to relinquish the role today with Yar'adua's return.

Maritime security: FG buys 36 boats, set up coast guards

By Shehu Abubakar

THE Federal Government has procured 36 patrol boats and established a Coast Guard to check sea piracy, oil bunkering, armed robbery and other criminal activities on the sea and Nigerian waters.

The guard will be responsible for the patrol of the Nigerian waters across Lagos, Port-Har-

court, Calabar and the Escravous and is to be headed by a yet-to-be named retired Admiral of the Nigerian Navy.

Minister of Transport Alhaji Ibrahim Bio told correspondents yesterday in his office that the Coast Guards will not bear arms but will be backed on patrol by armed naval men.

He said, "There is a collaborative understanding between us

and the Nigerian Navy. As you are aware, NIMASA is responsible for the protection of lives and property, safety and security of marine environment, however, they do not have the enforcement capacity because NIMASA inspectors do not carry arms. So, how can a person that does not carry arms, enforce, or curtail or stop armed robbery? So, there is this agreement with the Navy that also has

the same statutory responsibility for the safety of lives and property within our coastal waters."

He said the ministry will provide some equipment like the boards while the navy will be on board with arms and ammunitions to curtail the excesses of criminals and escort vessels within Nigeria's territorial waters.

The minister said the country is installing intelligence sur-

veillance equipment within its waters to monitor happenings on the waters at least 5 to 20 nautical miles. With that we can be able to monitor all vessels within our territorial waters and see whatever they are doing. So that those of them that are engaged in bunkering, piracy and armed robbery can be monitored and tackled," he said.

PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

Police ordered to find killers of ex-EFCC agent

By Misbahu Bashir

THE police in Abuja have been directed to fish out the killers of a former Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) investigator, Superintendent of Police Danjuma Mohammed.

Mohammed was shot dead in his house in Gwarimpa Abuja on Sunday by unknown gunmen.

The police spokesman in Abuja SP Moshood Jimoh said police have started enquiry into the case and will be determining the people responsible for the assassination of their colleague, Mohammed.

He said the FCT police have agreed to find the killers wherever they are. "We must find the killers. That is the position of the Command," he said.

But the PPRO did not mention the authority that ordered the FCT police to trace the killers and prosecute those found responsible for the reprehensible act.

Mohammed, who until his murder was attached to the Federal Inland Revenue Service, had complained to his associates of suspected assassins trailing him.

Mohammed had investigated top government functionaries and politicians while serving with the EFCC.

S/Court to rule on A/Ibom Senate seat May 21

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin

THE Supreme Court will on May 21, determine whether Senator Effiong Bob is the lawful representative of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for the Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District in the Nigerian Senate.

The two-term senator has been engaged in a legal battle with a chieftain of the party Ime Albert Akpan who wants to unseat him on the ground that he was the lawfully nominated candidate for the disputed seat.

The matter which began at the federal high court in Abuja before the April 21, 2007 elections is one of the few left in the series of pre-election cases still pending before the courts.



ALHAJI Ali Ahmad Geidam, Deputy Manager, Production, Media Trust (right) taking students of Ar-rahman International School round the printing press, during their excursion to company's Corporate Head Office, Abuja, yesterday.

Reps to debate motion on N64bn contract at airport

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE House of Representatives will today debate a motion seeking to probe the alleged N64 bn contract for the construction of the second runway at the Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport, Abuja.

The House resolved to debate the motion yesterday after listening to their colleague's request to do so with the view to checkmate

the Aviation Ministry.

Rep Dino Melaye (PDP, Kogi State) alleged that the contract awarded by the Aviation Ministry was over bloated. He said investigations carried out on the contract sum revealed that it was enough to build two new airports.

He said N64bn was too much for the construction of an additional runway in an already existing airport when compared to new

airports built in other parts of the country recently.

Rep Melaye said as representatives of the people, the lawmakers must not allow money to be diverted into the pockets of few individuals.

He said: "It is for this reason, Mr. Speaker that I decided to raise this matter before this House so that the issue could further be investigated and necessary actions

be taken to ensure that such huge amount should not be spent on a project that can take a lesser amount to execute. So I pray that this matter be taken on the next legislative day"

When Speaker Dimeji Bankole put the question on whether the motion be taken, the MPs resolved that the call for probe was in order and that it should be taken at today's plenary session.

Reps want structures removed from under power lines

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE House of Representatives has called on the Federal Government and the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) to commence the removal of both public and private structures situated directly under high tension power transmission lines across the country.

The MPs in a motion sponsored by Rep Ike Chinwo (PDP, Rivers

State) urged PHCN to adopt the laying of underground cables for power transmission and develop a plan that would ensure the regular maintenance of its facilities.

The House commiserated with the families of those electrocuted following a heavy rainstorm which snapped a 33KVA high tension power line at Oginigba, along the Trans-Amadi Road in Rivers State on February 13, 2010.

Rep Chinwo said the high tension transmission line had been installed 40 years ago without any form of repairs or replacement, adding that several victims of the incident were still lying critically ill in hospitals.

The lawmakers called on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send relief materials to the affected victims and the families of the deceased.

Chinwo expressed regrets that in spite of the Rivers State government's directive that all structures under such transmission lines be removed, no action was taken until the unfortunate incident.

Rep Mohammed Ali Ndume (ANPP, Borno State) said that it was not enough to send relief materials to the victims, but that PHCN should be made to pay adequate compensation.

Jos crisis: NEMA registers 1,300 newly displaced

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

THE North-east zonal office of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in Maiduguri said Monday that the agency has registered 1,300 newly displaced persons from parts of Plateau State, adding that eight camps have been created to cater for them.

The Public Relations Officer of the zonal office, Ibrahim Farin-

loye, said in a statement that the agency was worried by the fresh exodus of people and feared that their number was likely to exceed the 1,300 registered so far because families flee out of Plateau daily.

"The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has observed a new wave of movement of people into Bauchi and assured the new batches of internally displaced persons that government-

would continue to attend to their welfare and early integration into with larger society. The North East Zonal Coordinator of NEMA, Aliyu B. Sambo made the assurance while on assessment of the new camps that are emerging in eight different locations of Toro, Dass, Bauchi and Alkaleri Local Government Areas in Bauchi State," the statement said.

The agency also said it had

reached out to the Federal Neuro Psychiatric Hospital, Maiduguri, for collaboration for counseling and medication for victims and relations who may be going through psychological trauma and stress. The hospital's Medical Director, Dr Isa Rabbebe pledged readiness for the partnership when the agency's zonal coordinator visited him, the statement added.

Our correspondent learnt that

the victims who are seen as 'settlers' in Plateau State started fleeing since last week Monday. Security sources said some of the villagers claimed they were asked to leave their houses and properties or risk their safety while others left for fear of repeated violence. The villagers were from Pankshin, Barikin ladi, Mangu, Form district, Ampang West and Bokkos, our correspondent gathered.

Man, 27, bags 7 years for killing brother

From Yahaya Ibrahim and Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

A 27-year-old farmer, Musa Muhammed of Tikish village in Kala Balge Local Government Area of Borno State has been sentenced to seven years in prison for killing his brother over a bag of guinea corn.

According to the police report, Muhammed on the 27 February 2007 stabbed his elder brother, Yeli Muhammed, on the neck during a fight. The accused who has two children, in his confessional statement to the police, said trouble started when his brother prevented him from taking a bag of guinea corn to the market for sale.

"During the last harvest season, I got 11 bags of guinea corn and sold 10. As I took the last one, and was about leaving with it, my older brother came and told me that I should not sell it. I pleaded with him, saying that it was my own, but he refused," he said.

He added that he intended selling his last bag of guinea corn to settle his debts but Yeli refused for no reason despite pleas from their mother and this led to a fight between them. "We started dragging the bag of guinea corn and he caught my throat and was pressing it. I removed the knife that I always tie on my waist and stabbed him on the neck because of the pain which I was feeling on my throat and he died on the spot. What I did was not pre-planned. It was a result of the pains, I did not mean to kill him," he added.

Rivers govt gives monarch jeep for birthday

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

THE Rivers State government has presented a birthday gift of a brand new Toyota Land Cruiser Prado jeep to the Amanyanabo of Kalabari kingdom Chief T.J.T. Princewill who is also the father of the former governorship candidate of the Action Congress (AC).

Accepting the gift in his palace when he celebrated his 80th birthday, Chief Princewill expressed gratitude to the Rivers State governor and all those who graced the occasion, saying his life though remarkable, had not been without challenges. Former Minister of Aviation Alabo Tonye Graham-Douglas reminded the king that the biggest legacy he could bequeath to his people as their Amanyanabo was to focus on the age-long unity of the Kalabari kingdom and congratulated him on his birthday.



A man with his containers in search of water at Arakanga Water Works area in Abeokuta yesterday.

Court to hear case against coy over contract breach

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, Lagos

MULTI-NATIONAL General Electronics (GE) International Operations (Nig.) Ltd may have to pay N187 million in a suit filed against it by an indigenous company, Fleet Derivatives (FD) Ltd for allegedly breaching a vehicle leasing contract.

Although General Electronics (GE) International Operations (Nig.) Ltd was served the court summons and given 42 days within which to respond, it did not file any defence. On the strength of this, the plaintiff has filed a motion for judgment in default against the GE which is to be heard next week by the Lagos High Court. FD approached the Lagos High Court praying for an order that the defendant pay N187,536,000 being the loss of income/profit suffered as a result of GE's alleged breach.

GE International had leased from FD Ltd, about 25 vehicles including Prado Jeeps, Toyota Avensis, Corolla, Honda CRVs, Range Rovers and Toyota Hilux. The contract tenor was between 18 and 36 months.

In a 22-paragraph statement of claim, FD stated that prior to the change of name to GE International Operations (Nig.) Ltd, the defendant carried on their business under several entities, including but not limited to Pressure Control System Nig. Ltd, Vectogray and GE Nuovo Pignone Nigeria Limited. The claimant said to enable it effectively discharge the obligation of supplying vehicle on lease to the defendant on request, it approached its bankers to finance the supply of vehicles.

NULGE sacks four officials over misconduct

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

FOUR officials of the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE) have been relieved of their appointments on grounds of gross misconduct and insubordination, the National President of the union, Prince Kingsly Ogba has said.

Ogba in a statement issued to newsmen in Kaduna gave the names of the sacked officials to include, Comrade Joshua Irapakob, Comrade Maria Lebeke, Comrade Taiwo G. Adebayo and Comrade Usman Mahmud, all of national secretariat of the union. He said their dismissal had been unanimously ratified by the National Executive Council of the union during their meeting in Kaduna last weekend. The National President said the union had no national caretaker committee members, saying their current officials were duly elected at the national delegates conference held last year in line with provisions of the union's constitution. "Anyone who parades himself or herself as a national caretaker committee member is an impostor and should be reported to the nearest police station," he said.

NEC of the union, according to the president, has also approved the immediate appointment of Comrade Bamidele O. Oyeniyen as the substantive Deputy General Secretary of NULGE. This decision was also ratified at the National Executive Council (NEC) meeting of the union held in Kaduna.

Traders deny smuggling allegation

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, Lagos

THE Trans Border Traders Association of Nigeria (TBTAN), an umbrella body of importers and traders at Seme border, has debunked allegations that smuggling was being carried out openly at Seme and Idiroko border stations.

Alhaji Mikky Olalere Oku-

nola, the National Coordinator of TBTAN in a chat with our correspondent said the report was unfounded, false and does not reflect the true position of business activities within the Seme and Idiroko borders. The body noted that it is genuinely registered association with the responsibility of carrying out business as allowed under the Customs

and Excise Management Act (CEMA).

"We are also involved in the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS) and its activities as regulated by the customs law," he said.

"The association wishes to state that its members involved in the business of imports/exports through Seme and Idiroko bor-

ders have documentary evidence to support their trading activities within the mentioned land borders," he said.

He said the members had contributed immensely to the economic growth of the country by generating revenue for the Federal Government, hence the association is in no way connected with smuggling.

FG donates drugs to victims of Jos crisis

By Ruby Rabi

THE Federal Ministry of Health has donated essential drugs and medical supplies worth million of naira to the Jos University Teaching Hospital and three other private hospitals in the city for the treatment of victims of the recent sectarian crisis in the Plateau State capital.

The permanent Secretary in the ministry, Mr. Iinusu Awute, represented by the Assistant Director, Health Emergency Response, Mr. John A. Kehinde handed over the drugs to the Chief Medical Director of JUTH, Dr. Ishaya Pam.

He said the donation of the drugs was borne out of the ministry's desire and commitment to respond to emergency situations.

He reassured the people of the state of the Federal Government's commitment to health care services as encapsulated in the 7-point agenda of the present administration, noting that the drugs donated would help to assuage the pains of the victims.

Responding, the Chief Medical Director of JUTH, Dr. Ishaya Pam, who received the drugs on behalf of OLA Hospital, Bingham University Teaching Hospital and Plateau Specialist Hospital, thanked the Minister of Health and the Permanent Secretary responding to their distress calls.

He said the hospitals treated the victims free of charge, stressing that many of the victims were still undergoing treatment because they require long time care. He said: "We are very touched by this gesture and we know that we are not alone and we pray this will never happen again in our state."



CHAIRMAN, Presidential Advisory Council on Inter Relation (PAC), and leader of delegation, Chief Emeka Anyaoku (left) with Acting President Goodluck Jonathan (middle) and Ambassador Hamzat Ahmadu after a meeting in Abuja yesterday.

NERC fraud: Court to hear jurisdiction objection March 19

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin

AN Abuja High Court yesterday adjourned till March 19, 2010 the hearing of the application challenging its jurisdiction to entertain the charges brought against former Chairman of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), Mr. Ransome Owan and six other top officials of the commission by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

Owan and the six others are standing trial for allegedly diverting to personal use N5 billion from the coffers of the establishment.

Dr. Tunji Abayomi, counsel representing Engr. Abimbola Odubiyi and Dr. Mrs Grace Eyoma who are the 6th and 7th accused persons in the suit, approached the court yesterday with a preliminary objection bordering on the jurisdiction of the court to entertain the EFCC charges against them.

The trial Judge, Justice Salisu Garba had earlier rejected Abayomi's request to amend his motion on preliminary objection orally and adjourned till March 19, 2010 to hear his preliminary objection.

Justice Garba also ordered all the parties involved in the matter to file written addresses either in support or against the preliminary objection brought before the court by the 6th and 7th accused persons and added that the bail of all the accused persons stands.

The accused persons were to be re-arraigned following the leave of the Court secured by the anti-graft agency to amend the criminal count charges preferred against them from 197 to 231. EFCC's Counsel, Chief Godwin Obla told the court that the new charges emerged as a result of further investigation conducted into the matter which he said unraveled more incriminating evidence against all the accused persons that would necessitate them taking a fresh plea.

Strike paralyses work at NIPRD

By Ruby Rabi

A five-day warning strike action embarked upon by the Joint Research and Allied Institutions Sector Union to press home its demand for the review of salaries and allowances of its members has paralyzed a research works at the National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research and Development (NIPRD).

The Joint Research and allied institution sector unions is demanding for urgent constitution of a negotiation committee to review the salaries and allowance for Research Institute, College of Agriculture and Allied Institutions.

According to Ms Rose Anya, the president of senior staff association NIPRD branch, the Union is angry that the Federal Government

excluded the research sector from the agreement it signed recently with the senior staff of tertiary institutions and the health sector.

She further stated that the Federal Government failed to take the research institutions' staff into consideration even though the staff of the sector have always earned the same salaries and allowance as their counterparts in the universities.

Civil defence decries crime rate

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) has described as alarming the high rate of criminal activities in the country.

Commandant General of the corps Dr. Ade Abolurum made the statement in Abuja while presenting certificates to the 161 civil defence corps officers that were trained on crime prevention and control management.

'Represented by Deputy Commandant General (Operations), Ewurum Evans, Abolurin called for tight security to prevent any attempt by groups or individuals to cause harm in the country.

"We know there are a lot of criminal activities going on all over the place and what we observed it is not what it was before, [as] the president is not very well definitely there should be security alert. We have to make sure that peo-

ple don't catch with the absence of the president to cause harm in this country, because confusion is there," he said.

He added "We have the whole lot of mandates, some of them are hazardous some of them require equipments that will make us do the job very well. For instance monitoring vandals, definitely you have to do some sophisticated equipments, there some place if you use ordinary equipments they will embarrass you."

Nigeria hosts meeting of 30 African ministers of transport

By Shehu Abubakar

ABOUT 30 ministers of transport from various African countries will be meeting in Abuja tomorrow to discuss the regional cooperation and commitment to the eradication of substandard shipping and protection of the maritime environment.

Briefing newsmen yesterday in his office, Minister of Transport, Alhaji Ibrahim Isa Biko said the MOU that was signed in 1999 which form the basis of tomorrow's meeting by transport ministers; provide a blueprint for securing the African waterways and Maritime environment.

Alhaji Biko said Nigeria is at the forefront of fighting piracy, pollution

and related vices in ensuring that the global eco-system is kept free and safe.

"The member countries of the Abuja MoU, are committed to the protection of life and property at sea and to the preservation of the maritime environment from ship-sourced pollution in the region. It is also noteworthy to state that Port Service Control (PSC) inspections are conducted to ensure that foreign ships visiting our ports are seaworthy, do not pose a pollution risk, provide a healthy and safe environment and comply with relevant international regulations and within the scope of the member authorities' national law and regulations.

"As parts of efforts of the United

Nation and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to further improve the harmonization and coordination of Ports States Control activities Worldwide, several MoUs were encouraged. One of such efforts originally conceptualized as a backup system to support the effort of Flag States is Abuja MoU which came into force in Abuja, Nigeria on 22nd of October, 1999. It was established to ensure a system of harmonised inspection procedures designed to target and eradicate the operation of sub-standard vessels, improve the working and living conditions of the crew on board and protect the maritime environment in the West and Central African region," the Minister said.

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

The general public is hereby notified that the under-listed original documents are missing.

1. International Passport
2. Saudi Arabia Government Re-Entry Visa
3. Egypt Airline return ticket to Dammam in Saudi Arabia
4. Zenith Bank Cheque Booklet A/C No. 6023804489
5. Zenith Bank Activity Report

All the said documents belong to Alhaji Ibrahim Mohammed Inuwa of Jubail Industrial College, Jubail City, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. All efforts made to trace the missing documents proved abortive. If found, please contact nearest Police Station, The Saudi Arabian Embassy, Maitama, Abuja or The Owner at the above mentioned address.

Ogun govt suspends LG officials

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

OGUN State Governor Gbenga Daniel yesterday suspended the Chairman of Ijebu-East Local Government Area Tunde Oladunjoye and the councillors, replacing them with a seven-man caretaker committee.

However, an Abuja High Court presided over by Justice Mohammed G. Umar had on December 22, 2009 ordered that the judicial

commission of inquiry headed by Justice Olukayode Somolu set up by the state government to investigate the Ijebu Ife clash be suspended and restrained the state government from dissolving the council.

Daniel said the decision to suspend the leadership of the council was done after due consultation and in accordance with the powers conferred on him under Section 39 of the Local Government

Law. He said the Justice Olukayode Somolu-led commission of inquiry had since concluded its assignment and submitted its report and that the state government, having deliberated upon it, had issued a white paper.

The governor added that one of the recommendations of the commission is that the leadership of the local government council headed by Mr. Tunde Oladunjoye had through its previous

conducts and subsequent abdication of duties become unworthy of the public trust reposed in it. The governor said instead of Oladunjoye appearing before the commission, "It deliberately proceeded to Abuja, outside the jurisdiction of the state, to procure a court order aimed at frustrating the work of the commission and preventing the truth from being told."

"It also refused the summons,

rather, it chose to involve itself in an orchestrated attempt through press interviews and releases to malign and criminally libel not only the governor, but also the chairman of the commission," he said.

Oladunjoye who spoke with our correspondent from Abuja on phone said he had gone there to witness the court proceeding, adding that the governor was in a hurry on the matter.

Lamido reiterates commitment to education

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

JIGAWA State Governor Sule Lamido yesterday reiterated his administration's commitment to education reform in the state.

Lamido who spoke while receiving a delegation from the University of Abuja said, "Before I assumed office as governor, I did not know that education in the state had deteriorated so badly. When I visited my former school, I was terribly ashamed to discover that there were about 260 students in the classroom I used. If we cannot improve on the sector before we leave office, then we would have failed."

He told the Vice Chan-

cellor of the University of Abuja that his request would be given utmost consideration.

Speaking earlier, the Vice Chancellor Professor James Sunday Adelabu told the governor that they were in Jigawa to seek his permission to establish a Distance Learning Centre in the state.

Professor Adelabu said when established, the centre would give indigenes of the state an opportunity to acquire degrees in various fields.

The vice chancellor also urged the governor to assist the university through the provision of lecture halls and hostels.



MEMBERS of the Lagos State Rapid Response Squad, battle ready in their new armoured vehicles shortly after the vehicles were commissioned.

Murder: Nollywood actress fined for lateness

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, Lagos

NOLLYWOOD actress, Ibinabo Fioresima, was Monday fined N20,300 by the Lagos Division of the Court of Appeal for filing her brief of argument out of time. Justice Deborah Oluwayemi had on February 20, 2009 sentenced Ibinabo to five years in prison without an option of a fine, having been found guilty of murder through reckless and dangerous driving, resulting in the death of one Dr. Suraj Giwa.

The actress through her counsel, Nnaemeka Amachina, had in a Motion on Notice asked the appellate court for more time to enable her properly file her brief of argument.

Ruling on the motion, Justice Clara Bata Ogunbiyi held that Ibinabo's brief

was late with about 163 days and must pay a fine to the court.

Ibinabo in her application is asking the court for stay of execution on the judgment of a Lagos High Court.

The application which is pursuant to Section 18 of the Court of Appeal Act, Laws of the Federation 2004, is among others asking the court for an order admitting her to bail pending the determination of her appeal.

The judgment was sequel to an appeal by the Lagos State government against the verdict of an Igbosere Magistrate's Court.

Justice Oluwayemi held that the N100, 000 fine imposed by the lower court on Fioresima was tantamount to judicial recklessness.

The lower court held that it was

unreasonable for a magistrate to give an option of N100, 000 fine to someone who had taken the life of another person through dangerous driving.

Justice Oluwayemi held that Section 28 of the Road Traffic Law, Cap R10 Laws of Lagos State on which the convict was found guilty did not give an option of fine.

She added that the magistrate misdirected himself and might have been confused by the allocution (plea for leniency) by the lawyer that the ex-beauty queen was a working mother.

The Commissioner of Police in Lagos State in 2005 charged Fioresima to the Igbosere Magistrate's Court on a two-count charge of dangerous and reckless driving on the Epe Expressway, leading to Giwa's death.

Lagos councils donate armoured carriers to police

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

LOCAL government areas and local council development areas in Lagos State have donated 10 Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) to the state's Rapid Response Squad (RRS) security outfit.

The vehicles were handed over to the RRS Commander CSP Hakeem Odumosu yesterday in Lagos.

Governor Fashola at the presentation said each of the eight divisional headquarters of the police in

the state would receive one while the remaining two would be kept by the RRS as back up.

Fashola called on the police to see the arms in their possession as instruments for protecting law abiding citizens and not to brutalize them.

The Executive Secretary of the Lagos State Security Trust Fund Mr. Fola Arthur-Worrey said the vehicles were tactical machines painted with non-reflective colours to make them invisible at night.

Gombe Airport safe for int'l flights – Minister

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Gombe

THE Gombe State Airport is now safe for international flights following the installation of standard air safety facilities, the Minister of Aviation Mr. Babatunde Omotoba has said.

The minister spoke yesterday

in Gombe while inspecting facilities at the airport. He said that with the quality of work and facilities, the airport could accommodate all types of aircraft.

He added that the airport could be ranked among the best in the country, saying the report he received from the team of technical

experts corroborated what he saw.

Fielding questions from newsmen, the minister said the airport would only require additional equipment when the flow of air traffic increased, commending the effort of the state government for the huge investment in the airport. He said the 3.5 kilometer runway,

fire fighting equipment and landing facilities were all first class. Mr. Omotoba said the Federal Government was able to contain air disasters by providing sufficient funds for the installation of air safety equipment in all airports in the country.

"Installation of weather fore-

casting, thunder detector and communication equipment were significantly improved upon and that helped in no small measure to minimize air disasters," he said. He maintained that the intervention was not only limited to the installation of facilities, but also in the area of training of technical staff.



FROM left: Mr. Frank Tamuno-Koko, Chairman, Board of Fellows, Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), Dr. Dennis Ekemezle, Vice President, NPR and Mr. Chuks Ugwoke, Enugu State Commissioner for Information, at the inauguration of new executives of Enugu State Chapter of NIPR in Enugu yesterday.

Niger Assembly approves 2010 budget

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE Niger State House of Assembly yesterday in Minna approved the 2010 budget with an increase of N4.01 billion to the proposed N111.5 billion earlier submitted by Governor Muazu Babangida Aliyu early this year.

The Chairman, House Committee on Finance and Appropriation Saidu Idris disclosed this yesterday.

"The marginal increase this committee is recommending has slightly increased the size of the budget by the sum of N4,019,272,549, making the total approved sum of N115,935,531,763 from its proposed sum from its initial N111.5 billion.

He added, "The sum comprises of N38,474,644,369 is for recurrent expenditure and N77,460,887,394 for capital expenditure as the year 2010 budget."

The chairman said the increase was part of the mandate of the committee, adding that the addition was necessary to fill up some grey areas in the proposal by the governor

DPP urges security intervention in Sokoto

From Abdulfatai Abdulsalami, Sokoto

THE Democratic Peoples Party (DPP) in Sokoto State has condemned the recent political happenings in the state ahead of the appeal court ruling on the state's gubernatorial election slated for today.

Alhaji Attahiru Mohammed, the state's Publicity Secretary of the party in a press conference in Sokoto said the tribunal fixed today Wednesday 24th February, 2010 as the date for judgment in respect of an appeal before it by their gubernatorial candidate, Alhaji Muhammad Maigari.

He urged their leaders, supporters and sympathizers would remain calm and pray for a hitch-free judgment, alleging that the rival party was engaging in media war and campaign of calumny to create fear and chaos in the state for the judgment to be halted.

The Publicity Secretary said last Thursday, the leadership and selected supporters of the DPP met with the Sokoto State Commissioner of police and intimated him on a plan to create chaos and attack their people.

Bauchi commissioner dies

From Mohammed Abubakar, Bauchi

THE Bauchi State Commissioner for Housing and Environment Alhaji Mohammed Lele Raga died Monday at the Bauchi Specialist Hospital in Bauchi. He died at the age of 65. A family source told newsmen that the former commissioner rushed to the hospital where he died. The source added that the commissioner had on the day he died, accompanied the state governor to Azare on a condolence visit and went round his farm after returning from Azare.

Lele Raga was two time a commissioner, a member of the state House of Assembly and director of the state governor's campaign organization in 2007. His funeral prayers were said at the palace of the emir of Bauchi yesterday morning. The deceased left behind two wives and 16 children. Meanwhile the state governor, Malam Isa Yuguda, has declared Tuesday, 23rd February, 2010 as a work-free day and a three-day mourning period from Tuesday 23rd to Thursday 25th of February 2011 in his honour.

A statement issued yesterday signed on behalf of the governor to the State Government Ibrahim Dn dija said the governor made the declaration in view of the immense contributions of the late Alhaji Mohammed Lele Raga to the development of the state. The state government requested people of the state to offer prayers during the mourning period for the soul of the deceased to rest in peace.

Borno monarch reconciles indigenes in Lagos

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

THE Shehu of Borno Alhaji Abubakar Garba Ibn El-Kanemi has visited warring factions of Borno indigenes in Lagos State and successfully resolved the leadership tussle that has led to court cases among them.

He has also turbaned Alhaji Mustafa Mohammed as the new Maikanuribe of Lagos and enjoined Borno residents in Lagos to be law abiding.

At the end, the monarch also urged all Borno indigenes to be of good ambassadors, urging them to see the recent Jos crisis as a lesson.

NYSC to avoid crisis-prone states

From Yemi Bamidele, Ibadan

THE National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) scheme says it would stop posting members to crisis-prone states in the country.

It added that it would re-deploy corps members posted to such states while members will no longer be posted to states where the NYSC cannot guarantee their security.

Speaking in Ibadan yesterday, NYSC Director General Brigadier-General Marahazu Ismaila Tsiga maintained that the major problem currently facing the NYSC scheme was that of security and welfare.

He spoke during a courtesy visit to the Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Samuel Odulana Odugade I, at his Monatan palace shortly before the commencement of the corps pre-orientation workshop currently holding in the Oyo State capital.

Brigadier-General Tsiga admitted that the scheme had been experiencing lapses in some states. Such states, according to him, include Ebonyi, Delta and lately Plateau, from where serving corps members have been re-deployed to ensure their safety.

He solicited the continued support of traditional rulers all over the country for the NYSC scheme, urging them to have security committees in every local government area.

"Security is a collective responsibility for national development, national integration and national unity," he said.

While commending the Olubadan of Ibadanland and his high chiefs for living up to their statutory responsibilities and being NYSC-friendly, he remarked that the scheme had never recorded any casualty in Oyo State.

The Director General efforts were on to tailor the NYSC scheme towards making the corps members

employers of labour rather than applicants, hence the on-going arrangement to give them vocational trainings and provide beneficiaries N250,000 at the end of the programme to start businesses. The scheme, he explained, is being packaged in collaboration with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), National Directorate of Employment (NDE) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), among others. "If we keep our corps members busy, we are going to have peace in the country," he said as he disclosed that most members were now signifying interest in self employment.

Responding, the Olubadan lamented the high rate of graduate unemployment in the country and stressed the urgent need for the nation's policy makers at the National Assembly and other tiers of government to rise up to the challenge to save the society the social menace.

132,000 infected with HIV/AIDS in Niger

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE Commissioner for Health in Niger State Alhaji Sani Adamu yesterday in Minna disclosed that the state has 132,000 people living with HIV/AIDS out of its 4.2 million population.

The commissioner was speaking at the flag-off of the National Women Co-

alition against AIDS (NAWOCA) and the de-worming of children organized by the state government in Minna.

He added that as part of the state government's efforts to check the trend, 61,600 pregnant women had been counseled while the government had also established 11 comprehensive HIV/AIDS centers and 32 feeder sites. Niger State Governor

Babangida Aliyu at the occasion described HIV/AIDS as a disease that could be managed, adding that it was no longer a sure death for whoever has it.

He urged people of the state, especially those living in the rural areas, to eschew dependence on super-natural beliefs, saying the ailment was no longer life threatening due to the availability of drugs to manage it.

NDA exams not postponed -Registrar

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

IN spite of the Id el Maulud public holiday which has been declared by the Federal Government and the environmental sanitation exercise which will hold on Saturday in Lagos, the entrance examination into the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA) will hold on February 27 as scheduled, Brigadier General Ahmed Jibrin, the Academy's Registrar said yesterday.

The registrar, who made the clarification at a press conference, was reacting to rumours that the examination into the 62nd Regular Course had been postponed due to the public holiday and the Lagos state environmental sanitation exercise coming on the 26 and

27 February 2010 respectively.

Brigadier Jibrin assured the candidates that the academy had made adequate arrangements with the relevant authorities in the state capitals to ensure a hitch-free exercise. He reminded them that the examination would commence at 11:00 am in all the centres except Lagos where it would start by 12.30pm. However, candidates in other states should report at the centres at 7:00am because screening and accreditation will hold from 7.30am to 10am. In Lagos, the exercise will commence between 10.30am to 12.30 pm, he added. "Due to the large number of candidates who chose Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna as their examination centre, sub-centres have been created to

take care of the situation," the registrar said. According to him, the list of these Kaduna sub centres will be placed at the NDA old and permanent sites and candidates are advised to check their names as from tomorrow (Thursday).

"The list of candidates and their examination numbers will be on display at the various examination centres across the country latest by Friday 26 February 2010", Jibrin added. He advised candidates to come along with the PIN number slip obtained from a bank, an acknowledgment letter which they have down loaded from the internet and two postcards size photographs where the candidate's name, state of origin, course of study, examination centre and signature will be written behind.

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



Saudi clears FEC team to Yar'adua

NIGERIANS deserve to know the health condition of President Yar'adua, because he belongs to all of us. After all, the money spent on his health is tax payers' money. This government should not take the about 150 million people of this country for granted.

Moses Sunday Ajehson
moskolo5590@yahoo.com

Woman gives birth to conjoined twins

WE thank the Almighty God for the safe delivery of the children. We also pray that God protects the twins.

Thidus Moses
pastorthidus@yahoo.com

Former EFCC cop shot dead

THIS kind of thing happens in developing countries, not only Nigeria. Government and security agencies should rise up to the occasion and ensure that the culprits are brought to book.

Abdallah Gumel
abdallahgumel@yahoo.com

May his soul rest in peace.
Teejay
teejayspb@yahoo.co.uk

EFCC arrests Abdullahi Adamu – Over alleged N15bn fraud

I wish to commend the EFCC for their boldness. There should be no sacred cow in this war against corruption. I hope others before him are also made to face the law very soon.

Ibrahim T. Omeiza
ibratom69@yahoo.com

I don't see anything wrong in picking up Abdullahi Adamu. My problem with Nigerians is that they are too quick to say there is political undertone in such issues.

Moses Sunday Ajehson
moskolo5590@yahoo.com

People should stop using the term, "Politically motivated" whenever someone is arrested for corruption. People should celebrate the EFCC for initiating the



FORMER Nasarawa State Governor Abdullahi Adamu

investigation. This country has suffered a lot because of corruption. Election is at hand, we need sincere people in government.

Aji Isuwa Suleiman
suleimanaji@yahoo.com

Even if the former governor returns the money, Nassarawa people won get anything. So, let him contest, maybe they will get something during his campaigns.

Umar adamu garba
balajo25@yahoo.com

Now that Abdullahi Adamu has been arrested, I know there is EFCC. Please don't let him off the hook.

Ishaku
idingba2002@yahoo.com

Why did it take the EFCC so long to arrest this man, if they knew he was not a saint? Could this be because of his declaration for the Senate?

N.S Fakai

nsfakai2005@yahoo.com

Adamu will be remembered for his support for Obasanjo's third term project. His support for that project was the reason the EFCC under Ribadu overlooked the massive corruption in Nasarawa State. Anyway, payday is here at last.

Pita
justpita@yahoo.co.uk

I am baffled by the Barrister's comments, how can you with all sense of humility tell us that Abdullahi Adamu is the most outstanding politician in this country? I think it is time for him to pay the price.

Ibrahim Abdullah
ibrahimpizzo@yahoo.com

Reps to stop states from expelling 'non-indigenes'

I believe this is a good development and it will stop some states from segregating.

Bashir Jimba
tundejimba60@hotmail.com

Good. But is Northern Nigeria

ready for this? Can an Igbo or Yoruba man seek to become the Emir of Bauchi, Kano or Katsina? Is the likes of Samaila Mohammed prepared to sensitize the north on this?

Ningi

zfreespit8@yahoo.coj

What about other patriotic Nigerians serving in states other than their own? If they cannot be indigenes, then what about their children? One should be consid-

ered an indigene of a place if he/she was born in that place. People born outside their states of origin should be allowed to choose where they want to belong.

Jaafar Othman
jaf.othman@yahoo.com

NUHU BAMALLI POLYTECHNIC, ZARIA

(Office of the Registrar)

EDUCATION TRUST FUND (ETF) SPECIAL INTERVENTION 2009

TENDER NOTICE

The Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic, Zaria hereby invites tenders from interested contractors, companies/firms, for the execution of ETF special intervention projects for NIPOGA 2010

- Lot1: Construction of 1No. Handball Court
- Lot2: Construction of 1No. Lawn Tennis Court
- Lot3: Construction of 1No. Squash Court
- Lot4: Construction of 1No. Basketball Court
- Lot5: Procurement of Sports Equipment for Hockey, Table tennis, High jump, Scrabble, Chess, Javelin, Discuss, Shot put, Badminton, Squash and Pole Vault.

2. PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Evidence of registration as contractor with Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic or Kaduna State Government
- Certificate of Incorporation with the Corporate Affairs Commission
- List of similar jobs executed previously
- A letter of credibility from the bank as a customer that maintain an account in the bank.

3. TENDER DOCUMENTS

- Only Contractors, Companies/Firms who have satisfied pre-qualified condition on above, may be allowed to tender, on payment of a non-refundable fee of N20,000.00
- Tender documents are obtainable at the office of the Director, Physical Planning Department, on presentation of evidence of payment.

4. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT

- All completed tender documents must be sealed and marked "CONFIDENTIAL E.T.F 2009 SPECIAL INTEVENTION TENDER" and returned to the office of the Director, Physical Planning Department, within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

SIGNED:
Alhaji Adamu Aliyu Shika
Registrar
Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic, Zaria.



WORLD BANK

VEHICLE AND FURNITURE SALE

This World Bank Nigeria Country Office in Nigeria will conduct an auction sale of used vehicles (2004 Model Landover Discovery Jeep and Peugeot 607 Sedan), used furniture, and other household items as follows:

Auction:
Venue: Plot 102 Yakubu Gowon Crescent, Asokoro, Abuja
Date: Saturday, February 27, 2010
Time: From 9.00a.m to 4.00p.m

The lots for auction will be available for inspection on Friday, February 26, 2010 at same venue as above, between 9:00a.m and 2:00p.m

General Payment Terms:

Payments can be made in any of the following ways: Cash or Debit Card from UBA or from any Bank on inter-switch Network.

A) Appliances and Furniture:

1. Full payment shall be made immediately after winning the bid or the item will be re-bid.

B) Vehicle:

1. 40% non-refundable deposit shall be made within 30 minutes for the winning bid or item will be re-bid.
2. 60% balance payment shall be made within three working days for the winning bid or the vehicle and the 40% down payment are forfeited.

Note to Bidders:

- *All lots are sold 'AS IS' with no declaration made of serviceability
- **THERE WILL BE "NO RETURNS AND NO REFUNDS" MADE. Nigeria customs Authority will collect duty for each lot entitled to. Buyers shall bear full responsibility for payment of customs duty.
- **** All items won by successful bidders must be taken out of World Bank premises on or before 6.p.m on same day.
- *****Interested bidders will be required to NGN 200 in order to be allowed to get into the Auction venue.



By Musa Garba

Issues in Kebbi LG elections

Theoretically, there are three tiers of governments in Nigeria; but this assumption flies in the face of reality. The federal, state and local governments, going by the spirit of the constitution, are supposed to be distinct and autonomous but the letters of the *Grund Norm* tie area councils to the apron strings of state governments. Specifically, section 7 of the constitution empowers state assemblies to determine the size, composition and funding of local governments. Similarly, the creation of area councils, going by section 7, is within the purview of state governments but the process is incomplete without the National Assembly's endorsement. In 2002, Lagos state contested this provision in court but the Supreme Court, in a legalistic rigmarole, failed to unravel the puzzle.

In addition, the joint state and local government account is another sore point in local government administration. More often than not, rapacious state governments plunder this account to the detriment of local governments, using the top-bottom approach to rural development. Usu-

Significantly, Dakingari neither initiates projects nor appoints contractors for local governments or tampers with their funds

ally, the state identifies a project, chooses the contractor and pays him upfront and thus mobilised, such contractors seldom mobilise to site. Consequently, the councils are short changed; their funds are frittered away, the projects are abandoned and under-development persists. This scenario, as scary as it is, shows how most states under develop local governments in Nigeria. Significantly, the contradiction between the spirit and letters of the constitution is the bane of local government administration in Nigeria because states treat councils as anything but autonomous tiers of governments, in spite of the framers' intentment.

However, in the current dispensation, Kebbi state government is an exception to the plundering, pilfering and buccaneering of councils' resources. In fact, the Saïdu Usman Nasamu Dakingari-led administration, for all intents and purposes, provides a guide to ideal local government administration. Dakingari, like most governors, inherited high debt profile and in particular, local governments were indebted to banks running into billions of naira. However, in the last two and half years, the governor has not only liquidated the debts but has built a reserve of about N6 billion in the joint account. Significantly, each area council in Kebbi, from the smallest to the biggest local government,

can comfortably pay three months salaries without looking up to Abuja. After building this reserve, the governor plugged loop holes, blocked leakages and put institutional checks to curb corruption. Specifically, the state's due process office, unlike in the past, is really living up to its name as proposals are duly scrutinised before they are approved.

Significantly, Dakingari neither initiates projects nor appoints contractors for local governments or tampers with their funds. In Kebbi state, area councils initiate their own projects, submit bills of quantity to the due process office and after passing the hurdle, they apply for funds and commence their projects after obtaining approval. In addition, on two occasions, the state government has disbursed N100 million to all the 21 local governments last year, to execute projects of their own choice. Similarly, the state government disbursed N109 million to the councils, directing them to build a primary health centre each. Interestingly, these PHCs have not only been completed, but are built and equipped like general hospitals, with two blocks of three bedroom flats for staff and an ambulance each. Consequently, the PHCs, the enhanced salaries and welfare of health workers, have enhanced health care, improved maternity complications and reduced infant mortality rate in the state.

Similarly, all local governments in Kebbi state have been mandated to build a 20 km of asphalt road, costing between N500 million and N900 million. Also, to strengthen security, the 21 local governments have bought two Toyota Hilux vans each for their respective police divisions. The same number of the same brand of vans were also procured for all local government chairmen and their secretaries, in addition to the Nissan Urban buses that were bought for the area councils.

In spite of all these, the state government has come with ward initiative projects, in line with the International Food for Agricultural Development (IFAD) programme. In this case, communities initiate projects on their own and are given matching funds to execute them. Every quarter, N1 million is given to every ward for this project but committees have been set up to manage the funds.

More importantly, neither Dakingari's friends nor family members are involved in the politics and governance of Kebbi state unlike what obtained in the recent past. In addition, local government funds are sequestered from the itchy fingers of state government officials, fraudulent council chairmen and their councillors, as well as unscrupulous contractors. This leadership by example, especially in local government administration, has set both Kebbi state and the Dakingari administration apart as the standard bearers of local government administration in the country. Other states will do well to copy the Kebbi example.

Garba wrote from Ribah in Kebbi state.



By Tunde Asaju

Bad lessons from Ghana

I may crave every photo opportunity with Jerry Rawlings, but am not sure I really like the man. Years back, he told his soldiers that anyone who wants to be a pepper soup general should join the Nigerian army. When he met IBB, he denied it. This time around, he is mocking ex-Nigerian rulers. And in case nobody is protesting, I am. A little bird just whispered to me that the first rains swept away Jerry Rawlings only home. He didn't tell me if it was made of spittle. But it was true that Rawlings appealed to incumbent John Attah Mills to grant him a free guest house to temporarily shelter his family, which if you remember, comprises of JJ and Nana Konadu.

Just as he was moving into the borrowed house, his successor John Kuffour made a similar curious request. He too wants Attah Mills to help him repair his leaking roof. Now tell me, are these stories meant to make Generals Obasanjo, Abubakar; Babangida and of course modest Governor Modu Sheriff and his deputy feel bad? These people are mocking Nigerian rulers. Two retired heads of state, filing destitution claims after leading a whole country. Nigerian councillors know better. I mean, Ghana has been a land of gold before Ibn Batuta suckled his mother's... And for God's sake under Kuffour, petrol was discovered. Who

What are they trying to teach our rulers? To serve and die with all their sense?

stopped these people from taking el-Rufai's position by granting a few hectares of land to their wife, children, brothers and sisters if for good conscience they will not give their girlfriends? Is it because they believe their pastors' claim that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God? God bless the kingdom of man!

See how these people are mocking Nigerian rulers. In modern-day Africa, where Mobutu Sese Seko died richer than the DRC and Houphouet Boigny was the benefactor of la Cote d'Ivoire? Have they not read how the Land Use Act helped an orphaned general to become one of the richest farmers in black Africa even though you cannot find his products in Sahad Superstores? Or that Baba Na Dutse's Minna palace is contesting with Mai Deribe's chateau? Did Rawlings go to the same military institutions as Abdulsalami Abubakar? Or was he playing with Nana while they were teaching "Surviving Post Leadership Years".

Did Rawlings not learn a thing or two from David Mark, whose escrow accounts are said to be sufficient to

take care of the proceeds of his virility within or outside Nigeria? And if those generals, peppersoup products as they are, are too much for him, where was John Kuffour when Nigerian politicians were flocking into his country for retreats? Did he not learn about the daughter of an army general ex-ruler whose prosecution for using oversight money to go Ghana almost cost her shame! Did John Kuffour think that the laws that cost Adenike Grange and Gabriel Adukwu could be applied to him if he annexed a couple of those

The Ghanaians have nothing good to teach other than stupidity. I rest my case

hotels between Accra and Elmina Castle? It beats my imagination how a man who served Ghana two terms as its leader and discovered oil failed to reserve any block for his unborn great grandson. Is that modesty or stupidity?

In fact, I am truly angry with these two and with the Nigerian media for even managing to tuck such stories in the inside pages of their papers. What are they trying to teach our rulers? To serve and die with all their sense? How can Rawlings fail to build one chateau in Scotland in honour of his late father? How can he fail to open some fat bank accounts and save us the precious tears we are now shedding for his stupidity?

For crying out loud, if Kuffour had consulted to Bola Tinubu, he would have received a free lesson or two about introducing tax companies and getting a generous pension. And if only he was not so stupid pretending that Ghana is not rich and flying economy British Airways class to ECOWAS meetings even as chairman, he could have had a few planes registered in his name instead of becoming a fine beggar. I swear, people like Rawlings and Kuffour make leadership totally unattractive? Couldn't they have borrowed a leaf from Ali Modu Sheriff on how to settle parliaments for a generous retirement package?

What do all the political science tutors in Legon teach? I hereby decree, sorry, I mean, suggest that Dimeji Bankole should please withdraw his wife from that Ghanaian school where she is studying medicine. On graduating, (she may out of Ghanaian modesty) watch him chuckle on his own saliva while attending to a homeless beggar from Itoko. Any Nigerian with a child in any Ghanaian school should please withdraw them before they graduate as *mumu*. The Ghanaians have nothing good to teach other than stupidity. I rest my case.

(tundeasaju@yahoo.co.uk)



Your Letters

Akunyili has gone too far

Professor Dora Akunyili when she was at the NAFDAC was regarded as a fearless tigress. She was a no-nonsense government official who, it was believed, brought sanity to our pharmaceutical and food industries.

She later was pushed into party politics, became Minister in a 'grey' area - Information and Communications. This was greeted with so much bad comments but she carried on and thereafter stability thought of a pet project called "Rebranding" that again got much knocks than kudos because of suspicion that it was not borne out of sincer-

ity. She rebranded her daughter by giving her out in marriage to a foreigner in a costly and well publicized wedding show live on AIT television. She had earlier picked up quarrel with the hardworking Ernest Ndukwe, the NCC Vice-Chairman. Thereafter she was engulfed in an N8.2billion NTA equipment refurbishing saga which she informed the nation that it was for the coverage of the Under-17 world cup being hosted by Nigeria. NTA not only failed to get the broadcast right but also did not feature any of the played matches. The equipments still have not arrived Nigeria.

The Yar'adua ill-health problem arrived and she tried to defend the President and when she noticed that as a hard knot, she exploded; that the Yar'adua must allow the country to move forward. This brought her great

relief and applause. She got insulted by Michael Aondoakaa who later apologized publicly.

But probably carried away by what could be referred to as a morbid or excessive self-admiration, she tried calling Anambra PDP stakeholders to a meeting in Abuja. It was a flop, as it was greeted with apathy that left her ignored by the expected attendees. She was not qualified to call such meeting, she was told. She is also fond of hobnobbing with praise of 'rebranding' a governor who the public know full well is only pretending to be working very hard. She is now being described as an opportunist. One hopes she smarts out of these and thereafter plays cool and right.

Dike Ohia, PhD, Road 8, Festac Town, Lagos State ikeohia@yahoo.com

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

The other foot

IT is really sad that we in Nigeria value property more than human life. How can anyone explain the killing of tractor driver for allegedly violating traffic rules in Jigawa State? My question is: what has it got to do with churches that people went to the streets to burn? If it was to be in one of the Middle Belt states that a mosque was touched, it would have found a very comfortable front page headline with my favourite but biased Daily Trust newspapers.

TURTI Yelwa, Gwarimpa, Abuja, 08033176118.

Spot the difference

IN a civilized country a policeman would help a frog to cross the road. In Nigeria, a policeman is counting the souls of innocent people he killed in so-called accident discharge in a week.

ALI EL-Gad, Jnr, 08095103339.

Take a closer look

SO Niger State has sacked another Islamic sect. What about Chris-

tian sects, Catholic, Deeper Life, Jehovah's Witnesses, etc? Why did the government not send them away too?

ABDUL lawal, 07034890175.

Edo's show of shame

IF our lawmakers would resort to free-for-all, using knives, machetes, chairs and other dangerous weapons on the floor of the house, then, I wonder what kind of law they are making for the people. What a shame.

NUHU, Kaduna, 08037867636.

The plain truth

THE FEC has delegated some of its members to visit Yar'adua in his sick bed (wherever that may be). We all know the verdict even before their journey started- "We saw the president; he will soon return to Nigeria".

H. Umar, ABU, Zaria, 08132105980.

Wrong messengers

WE don't war criminals like George Bush and Tony Blair

to preach free elections to us. Imagine! People that committed atrocities like illegally invading Iraq for spurious reasons, campaigns that have killed perhaps a million Afghans, Palestinians, having the in-your-face temerity telling Nigerians how to go about the 2011 elections. Who doesn't know that Bush rigged his election? His administration is on track to be the worst ever in American history. Man, go back to your Texas ranch; we have no trouble here in Nigeria.

They're weird

BUSH, Blair and Condoleezza Rice! It is bad omen when the champions and harbingers of destruction come calling; worse still, together. Jonathan should be mindful of this Gang of Three; they can destroy your country and, make no mistake about it, they'll love better.

YAKUBU, Abuja, 07062271005.



By Abdullah Musa

My tax, my vote, my right!

Humans have anger as character trait. We are naturally stoked to anger either in defense of self, values, and dear ones; or even in defense of vanity or prejudice. Anger however creates a momentary blindness of the senses. The acts stemming out of anger can be catastrophic, to the victim as well as the victor.

We are angrier with respects to the idea of the self: my tribe, my religion, my area; and even my girl friend! (a property of some sort in certain cultures). I was cajoled into anger by the conduct of certain private school operators: they sent back my child on the first day of resumption of school: their reason being that I did not pay the new term's school fees while the child was on vacation.

Following the line of my reasoning above, I got angry because my sense of dignity was shattered when my child was humiliated with a sack from school because his father did not pay school fees 'when they were not due!' I know, from the operators' point of view, it was pay before service.

It is not of interest to the reader what course of action I took: whether the case is now at Supreme Court awaiting judgment or not. Of interest is the fact that the primary anger against private school operators metamorphosed into secondary anger against the government that collects and eats our taxes.

Black men and women cannot claim any credit for the installation of Western-type state and its governance system in their areas. The system was imposed as a result of the colonial and resource exploitation relationships. That system introduced public schooling in order to produce those literate enough to run the bureaucracy necessary for modern governance. I am able to communicate with the reader in English language due to the influence of such publicly-funded education.

The public treasury was funded from taxes: both on citizens and on the cash crops that were sold in international markets. Later, crude oil achieved the dominance it has now over the funding of all the activities of Nigeria's three-tiers of governments.

However, I, like numerous other citizens, have lost the benefits of being a good citizen, like our fathers enjoyed. My education, up to university level, was not a burden on my father. In real fact, while in the university, my then state government was paying me allowances for three meals a day; plus a hefty chunk to finance my clothing and other needs.

Today, if you cannot pay for your child, the colossal university registration fee, then he or she must simply accept that university education is beyond their reach. Going from Kano to Kaduna, enroute to Minna recently, I saw the level of the dilapidation of the road network. As usual, as a citizen, you cannot ask why you are left to your own designs on things over which you have no control.

Many Nigerians have lost their lives either due to accidents on pothole-ridden roads, or were slain by hired assassins, or killed by armed robbers; or are simply victims of elite politics- as is the case with the recurring religious and tribal conflicts. In all the aforementioned, neither the payment of tax, nor the casting of vote, will ensure for me a fairly equitable wellbeing.

Nigerians believe that politicians can and do come to power whether they are voted into office or not. Political parties do not easily lose elections; what it means is that they are Lords unto the society they govern, because the security apparatus is rigged against the citizens: they should quell any disturbance no matter the source of its provocation; and in many cases, Courts are simply mazes, into which election petitions lose their steam and zeal; and ultimately fizzle out!

Tax payers should really have a say as to the use of their taxes. If they do not, then the tax collector is simply a robber. Even where the State relies on oil, like Nigeria, and many other oil-producing countries, the resource ought to be a collective commonwealth, rather than the exclusive preserve of the few in power.

It is not idealism to hold elected officials accountable for the use of resources. If they are not accountable, then they definitely are thieves. Nigerians are however so much divided by ethnicity and religion, such that the marauding political, and sometimes military class, succeed in getting them to fight each other, while the society of robbers eat their loot unmolested. My quandary: my vote does not guarantee me good governance; my tax does not ensure for me public services, in the form of public education, infrastructure, and security. So brothers and sisters, what should I do?

Musa wrote from Ahmad Nuhu Road, Sharada, Kano.

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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Utako District, Abuja
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Preserving the mother tongue initiative

Four hundred languages have become endangered all over the world in recent years; some mother tongue languages, including a few in Africa have, gone into extinction. It is in the spirit of preserving mother tongues worldwide that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) earmarked February 21st every year as World Mother Tongue Day. This year's event was marked last Sunday.

Code switching has become a serious phenomenon endemic today especially among the educated in Nigeria. Rarely would they speak in their mother tongue without the use of words and expressions from non-mother tongue languages. English more than any other language appears to have affected most Nigerian elite in this way. These days, it is fashionable among many parents in urban settlements to speak with their children in languages other than their native tongues. Children of such homes gradually feel alienated from their mother tongue.

Mother tongue in human society has great utility. For instance, it is a means by which speakers express their feelings, emotions and thoughts. It also transmits knowledge and culture from one person to another and from one generation to another. Mother tongue performs political functions too. Through it, people are taught civic responsibilities. It is equally used for political campaigns and for grassroots mobilization. Mother tongue likewise plays important roles in child rearing through folktales, songs, proverbs, witticism, adages, etc. Moral lessons are imparted in the process.

Mother tongue in the same way facilitates imaginative process through which concepts are formed. Research from the pioneering work of Professor Babatunde Fafunwa, a former minister of education, suggests that pupils taught in the mother tongue of Yoruba learnt better and faster than others who are taught in English. This became the basis upon which Professor Fafunwa built his premise that "pupils in the early years of primary education learn mathematics and sciences better in their mother tongues". The same theory was employed by Japan when in 1868 the Meiji Revolution, in a strategic reform programme, adopted the teaching of sciences in Japanese mother tongues. Other language communities that use mother tongue as medium of instruction in schools include China and India. As we know, these societies have grown to be the world powers that they are today.

In the effort to promote the use of mother tongue and the development of indigenous languages in Nigeria, the current National Policy on Education provides that the medium of instruction in the primary school should be the language of the environment for the first three years, with English being taught as a subject during the period. Unfortunately, there is no indication that this rule is being enforced. There are no enough teachers to teach mother tongues in our schools. There is also the challenge of lack of facilities, including language laboratories and materials like textbooks and dictionaries for the teaching and learning of mother tongues in schools.

Nigerians, especially in their formative years, should be encouraged to speak their mother tongues with their family members, especially in their homes. Parents can sustain the practice, where they live outside their mother tongue milieu, by finding time to travel to their respective language communities so that their children would have the opportunity to explore the potentials of their mother tongues. The National Assembly can also be a powerful incentive by allowing mother tongues to be part of the official languages in proceedings and other official debates. Indeed, section 55 of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria provides that "the business of the National Assembly shall be conducted in English, and in Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba...". Action should be taken to implement this.

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Jonathan needs more than good luck (II)

Timawus Mathias

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It was not much of an easy week for Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, it would seem. Scales fell of the eyes in the few days that followed the change of nomenclature for the Vice President, and our politicians readily saw grounds for more politicking in the dichotomy between President Yar'adua and lucky Goodluck. The Yar'adua team in the cabinet refused to go down without a fight, and particularly would not stomach Minister of State Orubebe's paranoia, when he relied on internet reports to run his mouth that Northern origin ministers were holding nocturnal meetings in plots against Jonathan. I had said way back that I expected this great divide in the Federal Executive Council because I reasoned that we may have found a way forward with the granting of full presidential powers to Goodluck Jonathan, but issues on the ground which precipitated the impasse were bound to dominate last week's executive council meeting. As concluded last week, Nigeria's Acting President is considered "dead on arrival" if he attempts to rule Nigeria under the prevailing ambience and mindset of compatriots. Time should not be wasted in nudging to fit. Given Presidential powers need exercising, for starters, there should be no hesitation in adjusting the cabinet if there is conviction that there exists the need. Tactfully though, because a clean sweep of the cabinet will send us to the legislature for weeks of hearings and you can not deny them a pound of flesh. However majority of Nigerians want drastic cabinet changes. Acting President Jonathan should compel the over qualified senior citizens in the administration to leave executive office and return home to part time government engagement. I do not subscribe to ignominious sacking. It should be a lay off with dignity.

One of Obasanjo's strong merits was finding the likes of Obiageli Ezekwesili, Okonjo-Iweala, Mansur Mukhtar, Magnus Kpakol, Amina Al Zubair, Charles Soludo, Nuhu Ribadu, Nasir El Rufai and a few more. These technocrats were non political "politicians", brought in to ensure success of the PDP mandate and they did prove themselves and account for the success areas of the Obasanjo tenure. Compare this to the role played by the old war horses like Ojo Maduekwe, Tony Anenih, Amadu Ali, Bola Ige, and it would be clear, this group while having performed poorly in their first line duties as Ministers et al, account for those bizarre political machinations that pitched Obasanjo against his Vice President Atiku Abubakar, gave birth to the third term bid and corrupted the polity by rubberstamping Obasanjo's theory of choosing his successor. The failure of Obasanjo to attain the fullness of the potential of his regime was due mainly to the distraction that prevailed in the political schemes designed by the old guard for relevance and survival. It was here

that we saw Ghana must go bags in attempts to co-opt the National Assembly into the many retrogressive schemes witnessed in the era. The impeccable banners of El Rufai and Nuhu Ribadu got stained when they became willing tools in the undermining of Obasanjo's opponents, more so, Nuhu Ribadu in the bid to incriminate Vice President Atiku Abubakar. This spectre refused to die and obviously gave Yar'adua some embarrassing hiccups since Turks in his administration went on to make enemies of the duo of Ribadu and El Rufai. It is the reason some vested interests refused to

is a success story beyond our imagination and dreams. It should be Jonathan's story.

In Acting President Jonathan's marshal plan for the first 100 days much may not be attained because of the depth of the decay, but steps should taken to make it clear that a course has been charted. As a step towards the take off of electoral reforms Professor Maurice Iwu and his INEC crew should be rested. Such a step would indicate to Nigerians that in deed reforms shall come.

Fundamentally, a vision and a plan of realizable programmes capable of giving the nation the needed lift-off and momentum are necessary. Name them all: Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, Jerry Rawlings of Ghana, and Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore and leaders of emerging successes. Their vision and a plan preceded their achievements,

The impeccable banners of El Rufai and Nuhu Ribadu got stained when they became willing tools in the undermining of Obasanjo's opponents, more so, Nuhu Ribadu in the bid to incriminate Vice President Atiku Abubakar

steer sick Yar'adua in the direction of signing off his tenure to his vice when it became clearly necessary to do so, and instead, produced the phenomenon of Michael Aon-dokaa, Justice Minister and Attorney General and the collapse of their plan to rule by proxy.

Acting President Goodluck Jonathan will face his own challenge of "patriot games". "Patriot games" is when a few functionaries arrogate to themselves a pride of position in the cabinet as the "kitchen cabinet" and define their self seeking schemes as the defensible objectives of government, and their enemies (usually critics of their schemes) as the enemies of Government. Under the illusion that they are more patriotic than all others, and that they love Nigeria and their Leader more than anyone else can, they take liberties with the President's powers and loot the treasury in the name of project execution. In a democracy this is inevitable. Mr Acting President must be wise not to accept the enemies they make in their patriotic "zealousness". There was more of such politics in the demonizing of Ribadu and El Rufai. Goodluck Jonathan must avoid such enemies. As a matter of fact, the duo should be encouraged to return and clear themselves of all the allegations (yes they can), and the world must see that they do not suffer extrajudicial victimization.

The challenge to move Nigeria forward requires well qualified and new breed of Nigerians, capable of functioning in a dividends delivery regime, without the shortcomings of well-known Nigerian inhibitions, and such new breed can be found within and outside Nigeria. This is the reason Fashola

and indeed determined their legacy and the stability and sustainability of their democracies to this day. These two, vision and plan.

Jonathan would be wise from the onset, to put the legislature before him, and PDP behind him. The old hawks own the party, but have limitations in checkmating the Acting President with it. This leaves the legislature as the only check on Presidential powers. Fortunately, the Legislature is progressive, and would see matters within the context of changing Nigeria for the better. With Jonathan courageously being his own man, and synergizing with the National Assembly, the era of the political godfather could on the way to extinction.

Reported indicators for January show that due to fuel scarcity and electric power failures, inflation went up by double digits specifically 12.3%.

In many countries this would create problems for the government, especially as in our case, mostly affected were staple foods and bare necessities, again underlining two areas where in addition to good luck, Acting President Jonathan needs to work real magic. It should be clear that accounts have not been properly rendered for the advances made to deliver 6000MW. It is not enough to explain things away the way it has been done. The country has no choice than to conclude deregulation and real divestment from Power Holding Company. In deed, once power supply and fuel scarcity are addressed, Nigerians, hard working and believing in themselves as ever, would from their pursuits help turn things around for the country's better.

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I, Engineer Baba Goni Machina Mni, FNSE Secretary to the state government feel humbled to congratulate Your Excellency, the Executive Governor of Yobe State, Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam FNCA, CPA over your landmark victory at the Supreme Court on Friday, 19th February, 2010.

The judgement was a victory not only for Your Excellency alone but the entire people of Yobe State, Nigeria and democracy as a whole. This is a clear testimony that it is only Allah who gives power to whom He wishes and as when he wishes.

We the entire people of Yobe State are appreciative of your unassailable achievements in all sectors of the economy including health care delivery services, educational transformation, housing projects, road construction, human development etc.

Be rest assured of our continues support and loyalty as you continue to transform Yobe State to greater heights. It is our prayers that Allah in His infinite mercy will continue to give you wisdom, courage and strength to lead Yobe State beyond 2011, Amen.

We appreciate and strongly support your open door and reconciliation policy. All Yobeans of goodwill who have Yobe State at heart are welcome to join you and your team for the betterment of Yobe State.

His Excellency, **ALHAJI IBRAHIM GAIDAM**
Executive Governor, Yobe State

Signed:

Engr. Baba Goni Machina
SSG Yobe State



INTERNATIONAL

Kenya president to parliament: Unify the country

KENYA'S president told the country's parliament yesterday to act to unify all Kenyans in what seemed to be indirect comments about his rift with the prime minister that had raised fears of renewed violence if the leaders' differences went unresolved.

President Mwai Kibaki made the remarks at the opening of a new session of parliament. Hours before the opening he briefly met with Prime Minister Raila Odinga for the first time since their public dispute over the suspension of ministers linked to corruption scandals.

Kibaki's office said the two discussed the coalition government and the government's legislative agenda for the year.

In his speech, Kibaki said that agenda includes proposals to amend the Witness Protection Act seen as important to helping investigations into Kenya's 2007-2008 postelection violence. Already more than 20 witnesses are in hiding or exile for fear of their lives.

The International Criminal Court is considering opening an investigation into that violence. "All Kenyans are looking upon us to champion a unifying agenda.

They are looking upon us to leading them as a united and patriotic people of this country," Kibaki told lawmakers during the first sitting of the National Assembly this year.

"Kenyans should trust the leadership of the country and abandon the temptation to look externally for solutions that can



KENYAN President Mwai Kibaki inspects the guard of honour during the opening of Parliament, yesterday in Nairobi.

easily be found locally," Kibaki said, in apparent reference to calls last week by the prime minister's party for former UN chief Kofi Annan to mediate the dispute.

The remarks were Kibaki's

first public statements about his disagreement with Odinga, which flared on Feb. 14 when he reversed the prime minister's attempt to suspend the agriculture and education ministers because of multimillion dollar

corruption scandals.

The president and Odinga are running a fractious coalition formed after the two signed a power-sharing deal which Annan brokered in February 2008 to end a deadly dispute over the Decem-

ber 2007 presidential poll during which more than 1,000 people were killed. Until last week's spat, Kibaki and Odinga have had a cordial working relationship and have been seen as the glue holding the coalition together.



SALOU Djibo, leader of the coup that overthrew Niger's president Mamadou Tandja, leaves a meeting at a military compound in Niamey.

Niger junta leader in charge till elections

THE leader of last week's coup in Niger began exercising his powers as interim president yesterday amid promises he will oversee the organisation of new elections in the west African nation.

Major Salou Djibo who leads the Supreme Council for Restoration of Democracy (CSR) junta, was named the uranium exporter's new head of state and government in a decree read out on state radio late Monday.

The junta has given no timeframe for a handover to civilian rule but has pledged to hold consultations with the country's political parties during the unspecified transition period.

Niger's main labour body yesterday it was important for the junta leader to respect the transition period that would lead to elections.

Khartoum, Darfur rebels to sign ceasefire accord

SUDAN and Darfur's main rebel group were to sign a ceasefire and power-sharing agreement yesterday although a final peace deal still needs backing from other armed factions. Justice and Equality Movement leader Khalil Ibrahim and Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir were in Doha for the signing ceremony, along with the leaders of Qatar and Chad, who facilitated talks between the two sides. On Saturday, representatives of the Khartoum government and the JEM inked a framework agreement in Chad proclaiming a "ceasefire" in the seven-year-old Darfur conflict. Khartoum has long accused Chad of aiding the rebels, while Ndjamena accused Sudan of backing its own rebel groups, but the two presidents were reconciled in Khartoum this month, setting the stage for the Darfur accord.

The 12-point deal offers the JEM, long-seen as Darfur's most heavily armed rebel group, a power-sharing role in Sudan, where the first presidential and legislative polls in 24 years are to be held in April.

Article three states that the Sudanese government and the JEM agreed on "the participation of the JEM at all levels of powers (executive, legislative...)", according to a copy of the accord seen by AFP. The two sides also agreed that the JEM would become "a political party as soon as the final agreement is signed between the two parties" by March 15, the fourth article of the document says. The first signing of the agreement in Chad at the weekend has been seen as a key step towards ending seven years of war and devastation in the Darfur region of western Sudan.

The conflict has claimed about 300,000 lives and displaced 2.7 million people, according to UN figures, since it broke out in February 2003. Sudan puts the death toll at 10,000. But it has also seen a splintering of rebel groups, fighting against the marginalisation of their region, into small factions, making efforts to seal a lasting peace in the troubled region a massive task. Sudan president optimistic over peace agreement

International

Hamas PM calls for W/Bank to 'rise up' over holy sites

HAMAS prime minister Ismail Haniya yesterday called on Palestinians in the West Bank to "rise up" against Israel over a plan to restore two contested holy sites in the territory.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sparked outrage on Sunday when he said he hoped to include Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem and the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron in a national heritage plan.

"The decision requires a real response in the West Bank and for the people to rise up in the face of the Israeli occupation and to break every shackle in confronting it," Haniya told reporters.

"(The project) aims to erase our identity, alter our Islamic monuments and steal our history," he added.

The final list of the sites to be included in the 100-million-dollar restoration project is still under discussion, but Netanyahu's remarks drew protests from the Palestinians, the United Nations, Jordan and Egypt.



A masked Palestinian youth stands next to a burning tire as others look on, during clashes with Israeli soldiers.

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International

NATO commander makes televised apology to Afghans

THE commander of US and NATO forces in Afghanistan went on national television yesterday to apologize for a deadly airstrike, an extraordinary attempt to regain Afghans' trust while a mass offensive continues against the Taliban in the south.

In a video translated into the Afghan languages of Dari and Pashto and broadcast on Afghan television, a stern Gen. Stanley McChrystal apologized for the strike in central Uruzgan province that Afghan officials say killed at

least 21 people. The video was also posted on a NATO Web site.

"I pledge to strengthen our efforts to regain your trust to build a brighter future for all Afghans," McChrystal said in the video. "I have instituted a thorough investigation to prevent this from happening again."

Sunday's attack by NATO jets on a convoy of cars was the deadliest attack on civilians in six months and prompted a sharp rebuke from the Afghan government. McChrystal apologized

directly to President Hamid Karzai shortly after the incident.

The video is another sign of the military coalition's intense campaign to win public backing for the Marjah offensive with a strategy that involves taking all precautions possible to protect civilians. NATO said McChrystal made a similar apology via video this past fall when US pilots bombed two hijacked fuel tankers near the northern town of Kunduz. Afghan leaders estimated that 30 to 40 civilians were killed.

The civilian deaths occurred as 15,000 NATO, US and Afghan soldiers were in their 10th day of fighting insurgents in the town in Helmand province. A Romanian soldier was killed Tuesday and another was wounded in a bombing in southern Afghanistan unrelated to the offensive, Romanian officials said.

At least 919 US service members have died in Afghanistan since the war began in 2001, according to an Associated Press count. The figure does not include

Americans based in other countries in support of the Afghan mission who did not die as a result of combat.

Although the airstrike was not related to the Marjah offensive, civilian casualties undermine NATO's goal of turning back the Taliban and restoring the Afghan people's confidence in their own government — one of the main objectives of the southern operation that hopes to rout the Taliban, set up a local government and rush in aid.

Maoist rebel offers cease-fire, talks with India

INDIA responded cautiously yesterday to an offer by a top Maoist guerrilla leader for a cease-fire and talks with the government, with the home minister saying he would wait for a formal proposal before considering the offer.

Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram said he wanted a short, simple statement from the rebels without preconditions before responding to the offer by Kishenji, a senior Maoist leader in eastern India. On Monday, Kishenji told television channel NDTV in the eastern state of Orissa that "Our revolutionary violence will stay on hold for as long as state terror is put on hold."

If the government puts "violence on hold, not for 72 hours but for 72 days, then we will immediately stop our revolutionary violence," Kishenji said. That would require the government to halt its Operation Green Hunt offensive aimed at flushing the militants out of their forest hide-outs, from tomorrow until May 7.

Kishenji also called for "liberal intellectuals and human rights groups" to mediate talks between the rebels and the government. But the government ruled out any preconditions for talks with the rebels. "I would like no 'ifs,' no 'buts' and no conditions. Once I receive the statement, I shall consult the prime minister and other colleagues and respond promptly," Chidambaram said in a statement.

Inspired by Chinese revolutionary leader Mao Zedong, the rebels have fought for more than four decades demanding land and jobs for farmers and the poor.



ALLEGED militant Muhammad Jibriell Abdul Rahman, center, raises his fist as he shouts 'Allahu Akbar' (God is great) after his trial at a district court in Jakarta, Indonesia, yesterday.

Indonesian stands trial over hotel bombings

A former student of an alleged al-Qaida commander flew to Saudi Arabia to raise money for suicide attacks on two Jakarta hotels that he hoped would be the biggest terrorism act since September 11, 2001, a prosecutor said yesterday.

Chief Prosecutor Firman Syah made the allegation in opening his case in the South Jakarta District Court against Muhammad Jibriell Abdul Rahman, a flamboy-

ant 25-year-old who once called himself the "Prince of Jihad" on his radical Islamic Web site.

Police arrested Rahman more than a month after the July 17, 2009, attacks on the J.W. Marriott and Ritz Carlton hotels that killed seven and injured more than 50. He faces a maximum 15 years in prison if convicted of helping facilitate a terrorist act by concealing information.

Rahman, who came to court wearing a black shirt and jeans and flanked by more than a dozen men wearing black jackets emblazoned with "mujahedeen," said he was innocent. "I think this case is fabricated. I didn't do anything wrong," Rahman said shortly before his trial began.

Defense lawyer Achmad Michdan said the case was weak and he will apply to a panel of

three judges to dismiss it when the trial resumes next week.

Syah alleged that Rahman studied at an Islamic boarding school in Malaysia in 1998 when he first met Malaysian-born Noordin Top, an alleged terrorist mastermind blamed for a string of deadly bombings before he was shot dead in a police raid in September last year. In 1998, Noordin was a teacher at Rahman's school.

China promises better benefits for rural migrants

CHINA will grant young migrant workers more social service benefits and help them rent or buy homes in smaller cities, a government adviser said yesterday.

For decades, China has restrained migration by linking

access to low-cost public services like health care and education to a person's registered place of residence.

The system means rural migrants in Shanghai, Beijing and other big cities are deprived many

essential benefits and services.

Han Jun, a senior research fellow at the Development Research Center, a think tank that advises China's Cabinet, said a policy paper released last month made it clear that the government is

"striving for substantial reform of the household registration system" to allow migrants, especially younger ones, to register in cities.

However, the reform plan aims to get migrants registered in cities and townships close to their home

villages — not expensive places like Beijing or Shanghai where migrants flock for construction and service sector jobs. "A farmer would have to live several lifetimes before he could afford an apartment in Beijing," Han said.

International

Ukraine's vote: The unmaking of coloured revolution

By Charles Onunaiju

THE victory of opposition leader Viktor Yanukovich in the presidential election in Ukraine marked a crushing defeat for the United States-masterminded "orange revolution" designed to weaken and isolate Russia.

In the first round of the election, held on January 17, voters threw out the anti-Russian President Viktor Yushchenko, who was propelled to power by the orange revolution in 2004. Yushchenko polled a dismal 5 per cent of the votes and dropped out of the race.

In the run-off on February 7, Yushchenko's orange-ally-turned-foe, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, lost to Yanukovich by a margin of 3.5 per cent of the votes.

For Yanukovich, the victory was sweet revenge for a humiliating debacle in the previous election. For the US, his triumph marked the collapse of its most ambitious geopolitical project in post-Cold War Eastern Europe.

The American project got off to a dazzling start five years ago when the pro-Russian presidential candidate, then Prime Minister Yanukovich, was stripped of victory in the run-off against Yushchenko over alleged rigging of the election result.

Riding the high wave of popular rejection of the corrupt oligarchic regime in post-Soviet Ukraine, Yushchenko and his firebrand ally, Yulia Tymoshenko, led tens of thousands of supporters on to the streets of the capital, Kiev, in what came to be known as the orange revolution, which was orchestrated and financed by Western governments and foundations.

A rerun of the vote, ordered by the court under pressure from street protests and in violation of the Ukrainian Constitution, brought victory to Yushchenko.

Ukraine's was the second "coloured revolution" in the former Soviet Union after the "rose revolution" in Georgia a year earlier. Washington's plans to trigger a domino effect in the Russia-friendly regimes in the former Soviet states faltered in Kyrgyzstan. The "tulip revolution" staged in that Central Asian state in March 2005 helped topple the government but failed to change Kyrgyzstan's pro-Moscow orientation.

Georgia and Ukraine became linchpins in the US strategy of encircling Russia with pro-Western "new democracies". Washington vigorously lobbied to grant North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) membership to both countries and used them to infuse new life into GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova), the loose pro-Western grouping of the former Soviet states. GUAM was to play

the double role of acting as a cordon sanitaire between Europe and Russia and as a new energy corridor to transport Caspian oil and gas to Europe by bypassing Russia.

While Georgia provided a strategic bridgehead for the US in the Caucasus and a gateway to Central Asia, Ukraine was used as a battering ram to disrupt Moscow-led reintegration of post-Soviet economies and undercut Russia's resurgence.

Yushchenko effectively turned Ukraine into a US client state and a pawn in Washington's Russia strategy as formulated by former US National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski in 1997 in his book *The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and Its Geostategic Imperatives*. "Without Ukraine, Russia ceases to be an empire in Eurasia," Brzezinski had suggested.

Yushchenko made NATO membership an absolute priority of his presidency, notwithstanding the fact that a mere 20 per cent of Ukrainians embraced the idea. He sought to evict the Russian Black Sea fleet from its Soviet-era main naval base in Sevastopol in Ukraine's Crimea even though the lease agreement was to expire in 2017, and to turn the Black Sea into a NATO lake.

He invited the US to deploy a missile shield targeting Russia on Ukrainian territory. He personally ordered massive supplies of heavy armaments to Georgia as it prepared for war against Russia and sent Ukrainian military specialists to take part in combat operations when Georgia attacked Russian peacekeeping forces in South Ossetia in August 2008.

Yushchenko blocked Russia's participation in modernising Ukraine's rundown gas pipelines and provoked endless "gas wars" with Russia, disrupting the transit of Russian gas across Ukraine to Western Europe and spoiling Russia's relations with Europeans.

Curiously, Yushchenko's departure was met with relief, not only in Moscow but also in Brussels and Washington. His presidency was a total disaster on the domestic front. Ukraine's democracy has degenerated into a power struggle between rival oligarchic clans masquerading as political parties.

When he assumed power, he promised to root out corruption, which plagued Ukrainian business and politics. But five years hence, bribery and cronyism have only increased several fold.

His bitter infighting with the "orange" princess, Yulia Tymoshenko, paralysed decision-making as Ukraine struggled to cope with an economic crisis owing to falling living standards and soaring prices.

Ukraine's commodity-dominated economy has been shattered by the global crisis. Last year, Ukraine was the worst performing big economy in Europe. Its gross domestic product shrank by 14 per cent, even as inflation soared to 15 per cent. Ukraine is practically bankrupt.

The International Monetary Fund has suspended a \$16-billion lifeline it granted Ukraine last October. The country's sovereign debt stands at \$100 billion and the state coffers are empty. Yushchenko's presidency fossilised Ukraine's split into pro-Russian east and south and pro-European west.

The outcome of the 2010 presidential election showed that the country remains as deeply divided as it was five years ago: Yanukovich got 80 to 90 per cent of the votes in the eastern and southern provinces and Yulia Tymoshenko won just as heavily in the western province. Yushchenko's policy of shutting down Russian schools and Russian television, squeezing out the Russian language, and glorifying Second World War Nazi collaborators was applauded in the country's west but was rejected by ethnic Russians living in the eastern and southern regions.

The US' orange project for Ukraine failed because its patently anti-Russian thrust had no chance to succeed in a country where half the population speaks Russian and which shares close economic, linguistic and religious ties with Russia. One could not hope to overcome the east-west divide in Ukraine by antagonising its Russian speakers in the east and playing up to anti-Russian nationalists in the west. As Ukraine drifted away from Russia, it gained little from the US and Europe.

Expectations that the West would remunerate Yushchenko's anti-Russian course proved illusory. NATO membership for Ukraine was firmly blocked by France and Germany, who feared a revival of Cold War divisions in Europe. The European Union, likewise, shut its doors on Ukraine as the nation with a population of 48-million is too large and too poor to be integrated into the E.U.

The West eventually turned away from Yushchenko, dismayed by his inept leadership, lack of reforms and vicious feud-

ing with Yulia Tymoshenko. The US' growing focus on securing Russian support in Afghanistan and Iran further discouraged the West from meddling in Ukraine's election.

For its part, Russia crafted a smart win-win strategy in the presidential election. In contrast to the previous poll, when its heavy-handed support for Yanukovich backfired, this time Moscow wisely hedged its bets between the two front runners, engaging both and refusing to be too closely identified with either of them. The Kremlin's soft-power approach was designed to ensure that whoever won the presidency would be a friend of Russia. This policy paid off. Both Yanukovich and Yulia Tymoshenko ran on a platform of resetting good relations with Russia.

There are no illusions in Moscow that under Yanukovich Ukraine will abandon its long-term goal of integration with Europe, but there is an expectation that pragmatic interest will make it steer a more balanced course with regard to the East and the West. After all, Russian oil and gas meets 80 per cent of Ukraine's energy needs and brings billions of dollars in transit fees.

Russia accounts for a quarter of Ukraine's foreign trade, although the share has come down since the orange revolution. Moscow is Kiev's best hope for bailing out the crisis-hit Ukrainian economy. The *Wall Street Journal* described the Ukrainian election as a "geopolitical shift" that is "being magnified by Ukraine's imminent national bankruptcy - casting Russia in the role of Abu Dhabi to Ukraine's Dubai".



MR. Viktor Yanukovich

International

Latin American summit backs Argentina on Falklands

LATIN American and Caribbean nations backed Argentina's claim of sovereignty to the Falkland Islands on Monday in a growing dispute with Britain over plans to drill for oil off the islands in the Atlantic.

At the Rio Group summit of 32 countries hosted by Mexico, Argentina presented a statement quoting Mexican President Felipe Calderon as saying that "the heads of state represented here reaffirm their support for the legitimate rights of the republic of Argentina in the sovereignty dispute with Great Britain."

Calderon did not speak directly about the matter. Britain and Argentina have long disputed sovereignty of the Falkland Islands — known as Las Malvinas in Latin America — and fought a war over them in 1982.

The issue had been relatively calm until a British oil exploration company recently announced drilling plans there. Desire Petroleum PLC said Monday that it has started drilling for oil about 60 miles (100 kilometers) north of the disputed Falkland Islands, despite strong opposition from Argentina. The country claims the south Atlantic islands as its own and calls them Las Malvinas.

"The well is being drilled to an estimated target depth of circa 3,500 meters (11,500 feet)," the company said in a statement. "Drilling operations are expected to take approximately 30 days."

The dispute over the Falklands dates back to the 19th century, when the islands were seized by the British. Argentina has sought their return ever since, invading in April 1982 and holding them until June, when British forces retook the territory.



VENEZUELA'S President Hugo Chavez gestures during the opening ceremony of the Rio Group Summit on the outskirts of Playa del Carmen, 68 kms (42 miles) south of Cancun, Mexico.

6 US-bound orphans held by Haiti

HAITI'S prime minister met with the US ambassador yesterday to try to resolve the case of six orphans seized by Haitian police as they were about to board a plane for the United States.

The children, ages 1 to 5, remained in a government-run orphanage three days after police took them from their escorts, who had been confronted by an angry crowd that accosted

the group at the airport of earthquake-ravaged Port-au-Prince.

The seizure of the orphans, despite apparently complete legal paperwork, and the brief detention of their escorts Saturday comes at a moment when many Haitians fear that foreigners are exploiting post-earthquake chaos to illegally take children from the country.

The perception was

fueled by an ongoing case involving 10 US Baptist missionaries who were stopped while trying to take 33 children across the border without permission of Haitian officials.

The six children halted on Saturday came from the Children of The Promise orphanage in the northern city of Cap-Haitien and were bound for Miami, where adoptive parents were waiting for them.



FRANCISCO Madariaga Quintela, left, look at his father Abel Pedro Madariaga during a press conference in Buenos Aires.

Son stolen at birth 32 years ago meets father

THE search is finally over for a man whose pregnant wife was kidnapped by Argentine security forces 32 years ago. Abel Pedro Madariaga says he never gave up trying to learn what happened to his wife and child, who was

born in a clandestine torture center. The son also had doubts about his true identity. Taken from his mother before she was killed, the boy was raised in a military family where he says his adoptive father abused him.

The boy finally came to the Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo rights group this month and took a DNA test. It showed that his blood father is none other than Madariaga, the group's secretary.

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**4. MINISTRY OF LANDS & SURVEYS, KADUNA
 STATE**
 PENDING BEFORE THE HIGH COURT OF KADUNA
 STATE

FOR ALL ENQUIRIES CONTACT:
1. GODSWILL IYOHA IYOKE 2. HABEEB I.O.
PLAINTIFF'S SOLICITORS
0802-3505023; 0807-330006 and 0803-3208339
C/O IYOHA IYOKE & CO
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No.6, AHMADU BELLO WAY
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International



A police forensics officer inspects the wreckage of car that exploded outside the courthouse in Newry, Northern Ireland.

N/Ireland car bomb 'will not derail peace'

POLITICAL leaders insisted Northern Ireland's peace process would not be derailed yesterday following a huge car bombing, just weeks after they clinched a deal on devolving sensitive policing powers.

Police said it was a "sheer miracle" that no one was killed or hurt by the bomb near a courthouse in Newry, south of Belfast.

The blast, which was heard up to 17 miles away, happened around 10:30 pm on Monday as officers were evacuating the area after two coded warnings received just a quarter of an hour beforehand.

"It is only by sheer miracle that nobody was killed or injured," said the Police Service of Northern Ireland's area commander Sam Cordiner.

Officers say the bomb suggests dissidents are escalating their attacks, three weeks after Northern Ireland's leaders sealed a hard-fought accord to transfer sensitive policing and justice powers from London to Belfast.

But Prime Minister Gordon Brown insisted the latest incident will not derail what is the final big step in the process of devolution.

"Such action is, we believe, entirely unrepresentative of the views of the vast majority of people in Northern Ireland," his official spokesman said.

"Northern Ireland's politicians have been working incredibly hard to deliver a successful conclusion to the peace process

and they will not allow a tiny minority to turn the clock back."

Irish Foreign Minister Micheal Martin added that political leaders would not be distracted from making progress "by a small criminal minority who seek to drag Northern Ireland into the mire of hatred and violence."

Policing and justice powers are due to transfer from London to Belfast on April 12 and the Northern Ireland Assembly will vote on the deal on March 9.

The negotiations between coalition government partners the pro-British Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and Sinn Fein, which wants a united Ireland, on the issue were painful and drawn out.

The situation was complicated when First Minister Peter Robinson of the DUP temporarily stepped aside to fight allegations of financial impropriety linked to his wife's affair with a 19 year old.

Robinson was cleared and is now back in office.

He condemned the blast, saying the perpetrators wanted "to return Northern Ireland to its darkest past".

"They will not succeed, for I am equally determined that we will continue to move forward and to protect and defend the very same institutions they seek to destroy," he said.

Official: Turkish miners trapped in mine collapse

A methane gas explosion yesterday caused the collapse of an underground chamber of a Turkish coal mine in northwestern Turkey, trapping several workers, an official said yesterday.

The blast occurred at a mine near the town of Dursunbey in Balikesir province, said Ibrahim Kucuk, the local governor.

"We can't give any information on the casualties right now," Kucuk said. "There are several people under the debris."

Rescue workers were on their way to the mine, 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the center of Dursunbey, Kucuk said.

In December, a similar accident killed 19 miners in Bursa province, also in northwestern Turkey. Safety violations and outdated equipment have been factors in past mine accidents in the country.

In Turkey's worst mining disaster, a gas explosion killed 270 workers near the Black Sea port of Zonguldak in 1992.



CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA

SPONSORED JUNIOR OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT

SPECIAL INVITATION

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in collaboration with the International Tennis Academy (ITA) cordially invites the general public, particularly all players and tennis fans to the final matches of the 4th edition of the CBN Sponsored Junior Open Tennis Tournament, schedule to hold as follows:

Date: Sunday, February 28, 2010

Venue: Lagos Tennis Club, Onikan, Lagos

Time: 10.00am

RSVP

**Head, Corporate Affairs
Central Bank of Nigeria**



KMS CONSULTANTS LIMITED

CHALLENGING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Our client, a reputable and dynamic government sponsored financial enterprise with headquarters in Abuja and branches all over the federation is seeking for highly motivated, dynamic and career minded individuals with requisite technical knowledge of Mortgage operations and/or rudimentary skills in Banking to fill the under listed positions:

1.0 POLICY AND STRATEGY

1.1 PRINCIPAL MANAGER/ SENIOR MANAGER; (Ref: PS.001)

Qualification/ Experience: a good first degree in Economics, Finance/ Statistics or Accounting, with minimum of 2nd Class Lower Division. Candidates for this position must possess a relevant Masters degree with a minimum of 12 years post graduation experience. Professional qualifications will be an added advantage.

1.2 MANAGER I (Ref: PS.002)

Qualification/ Experience: same as in PS.001, except that candidates for this post should possess a minimum of eight years post graduation experience.

1.3 MANAGER II (Ref: PS.003)

Qualification/ Experience: same as in PS.002

1.4 ASSISTANT MANAGER (Ref: PS.004)

Qualification/ Experience: same as in PS.003, except that candidates for this post should possess a minimum of five years post graduation experience

2.0 SECURITIES ISSUANCE & MARKET DEVELOPMENT

2.1 SENIOR MANAGER; (Ref. SMD. 001)

Qualification/ Experience: a good first degree in Economics, Banking and Finance, or Accounting with a minimum of 2nd Class Lower Division and eight years relevant post graduation experience. Possession of ACCA, ICAN or ACIS will be an added advantage.

2.2 MANAGER I; (Ref. SMD. 002)

Qualification/ Experience: same as in SMD.001

3.0 ORGANISATIONAL RESOURCING

3.1 MANAGER I; (Ref. OR.001)

Qualification/ Experience: a good first degree in Accountancy/ Finance, management Sciences, Economics, Sociology or Political science with a minimum of 2nd Class Lower Division and a minimum of eight years post graduation experience. Relevant professional qualifications will be an added advantage.

3.2 MANAGER II; (Ref. OR. 002)

Qualification/ Experience: same as in OR. 001

3.3 ASSISTANT MANAGER; (Ref. OR. 003)

Qualification/ Experience: same as in OR. 001, except that candidates for this post must have a minimum of five years post graduation experience.

4.0 LOANS PRODUCTION

4.1 ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER; (Ref. LP. 001)

Qualification/ Experience: candidates for this position must have a Masters degree in Social Sciences with a minimum of 2nd Class Lower Division first degree in Accounting, Economics, Banking and Finance, Engineering, Quantity Surveying or Estate Management and a minimum of 12 years post graduation experience. Higher degrees or professional qualifications will be added advantage.

4.2 SENIOR MANAGER; (Ref. LP. 002)

Qualification/ Experience: a good first degree in Accounting, Economics, Banking and Finance, Engineering, Quantity Surveying, Estate Management with a minimum of 2nd Class Lower Division and eight years post graduation experience. Higher degrees or professional qualifications will be added advantage.

4.3 MANAGER; (Ref. LP. 003)

Qualification/ Experience: same as in LP. 002

4.4 ASSISTANT MANAGER; (Ref. LP. 004)

Qualification/ Experience: same as in LP. 002, except that candidates for this post must have a minimum of five years post graduation experience.

5.0 LOANS SET UP & PAY OFF

5.1 LEGAL OFFICER; (Ref. LSP.001)

Qualification/ Experience: LL. B Hons and BL from a recognised University with a minimum of 2nd Class Lower Division and two years relevant working experience.

5.2 ASSISTANT MANAGER; (Ref. LSP. 002)

Qualification/ Experience: a good first degree (B. Sc) in accounting/ Finance with a minimum of second Class Lower Division and a minimum of two years post graduation relevant working experience.

5.3 QUANTITY SURVEYOR/ ESTATE MANAGER; (Ref. LSP. 003)

Qualification / Experience: a good first degree in Quantity Surveying, Estate Management with a minimum of Second Class Lower Division and two years post graduation relevant experience. Higher degree and/or relevant professional qualification will be added advantage.

6.0 OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR/ CHIEF EXECUTIVE

6.1 ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER; (Ref. OMD. 001)

Qualifications/ Experience: LL.B and B.L with at least 10 years relevant experience. Relevant Masters Degree is mandatory. Higher degrees and/or professional qualifications will be added advantage.

6.2 SENIOR MANAGER; (Ref. OMD. 002)

Qualifications/ Experience: LLB and B.L with a minimum of 7 years relevant experience. A relevant Masters degree is compulsory. Higher degrees and/or professional qualifications will be added advantage.

6.3 MANAGER I; (Ref. OMD. 003)

Qualifications/ Experience: same as in OMD. 002

6.4 MANAGER II; (Ref. OMD. 004)

Qualifications/ Experience: same as in OMD. 002

6.5 SENIOR MANAGER; (Ref. OMD. 005)

Qualifications/ Experience: a good first degree in Accounting/ Economics/ Banking or Finance/ Engineering/ Quantity Surveying/ Estate Management, with a minimum of 2nd Class Lower Division and seven years post graduation experience. A Masters degree is mandatory. Higher degrees and/or professional qualifications will be added advantage.

6.6 MANAGER I (Ref. OMD. 006)

Qualifications/ Experience: same as in OMD. 005

6.7 MANAGER II (Ref. OMD. 007)

Qualifications/ Experience: same as in OMD. 005

6.8 SENIOR MANAGER (Ref. OMD. 008)

Qualifications/ Experience: a good first degree in Accounting, Economics/ Banking and Finance with a minimum of 2nd Class Upper Division and professional ACCA, ACIS or ICAN qualifications. A relevant Masters degree is mandatory with a minimum of seven years post graduation experience. Higher degree and/or professional qualifications will be added advantage.

6.9 MANAGER I (Ref. OMD.009)

Qualifications/ Experience: same as in OMD. 008

6.10 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECTION

6.11 PRINCIPAL MANAGER (Ref. OMD. 010),

6.12 SENIOR MANAGER (Ref. OMD. 011),

6.13 MANAGER I (Ref. OMD. 012),

6.14 MANAGER II (Ref. OMD. 013)

6.15 ASSISTANT MANAGER (Ref. OMD. 014)

Qualifications/ Experience: candidates for these positions should possess a good first degree with a minimum of 2nd Class Lower Division in Computer Engineering, Computer Technology, Computer Science and Electrical Electronics, with relevant experience in Computer Programming, Hardware, Software, Networking and Security. Higher degree and/or relevant professional qualifications will be added advantage.

For OMD 010, candidates must possess a minimum of 12 years post graduation experience

For OMD 011, OMD 012, OMD 013, candidates must possess a minimum of eight years post graduation experience

For OMD 014, candidates must in addition possess a minimum of five years post graduation experience

7.0 GENERAL

7.1 SUPERVISORS AND ASSISTANT MANAGERS (Ref. GEN. 001)

Qualifications/ Experience: A good first degree in Economics, Finance, Accounting, IT, Law, Business Administration, Quantity Surveying, Estate Management and Engineering. Working experience of not less than three years is required, even though fresh graduates without experience could also be considered. Higher degrees and/or professional qualifications will be added advantage.

METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Interested qualified applicants should apply online stating why they are qualified for the position applied for. The Ref Number of the post applied for must be boldly typed on top of the application letter. The application letter, which must be accompanied with comprehensive Curriculum Vitae of the applicant and names of two referees, should be e-mailed to: kmsconsultants@yahoo.co.uk AND careers@kmsconsultantsltd.co.uk no later than two weeks from the date of this publication. ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED.



Job Vacancies

NIGER INSURANCE PLC.

Niger Insurance Plc.

Yorkshire Insurance of U.K came to Nigeria in 1953 through an Agent. It had the record of the 1st Company to grant cover on the lives of Nigerians on the same terms as the Europeans. It opened a full-fledged office in Lagos in 1962. Yorkshire was acquired by the Federal Government of Nigeria in 1974 and renamed Niger Insurance. Today, Niger is a leading Composite Underwriter in Nigeria. It became quoted on the Nigeria Stock Exchange in 1990. The Federal Government divested her shares in 2002 through the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE). The Nigerian public across the six geo-political zones of the country joined the shareholding structure as from 1990.

The Need for You.

Niger Insurance Plc in pursuit of Engineered Growth Objectives came up with a new Enterprise Transformation Model that necessitates injection of new ideas and bright heads from the Fields of Insurance, Finance, Marketing and Risk Management into her Corporate structure. The model also meets the company's revenue, fiscal and job creation targets under the NAICOM's MDRI Initiatives, the FSS 2020 goal of 15th largest insurance Market in the world by 2020 and Vision 20, 2020 goal of making Nigeria one of the 20 largest economies in the world by 2020.

THE POSITION	THE PERSON	THE RESPONSIBILITY
DIRECTORATE		
1. Executive Director Operations Location - Lagos	a) First degree and Professional Qualification in Accounting. b) Post graduate degree in Business or Finance. c) Wide exposure to most of the Financial Services Operations d) At least 20 years post 1st degree experience.	- Managing the overall Finance, HR and Admin jobs of the company on day to day basis. - Overseeing the investment portfolio of the company and its subsidiaries. - Ensuring adherence to good Corporate Governance rules. - Experience in insurance business will be an advantage.
FINANCE		
2. Deputy General Manager Investment & Subsidiaries Location - Lagos	a) As in a and b of 1 above b) Wide exposure to Investment Banking, Asset Mgt, Real Estate Investment, Bond Market, Securities and Commodity Exchange Futures, Options and Derivatives Market. c) At least 15 years post first degree experience	- Overseeing the investment portfolio of the company on day to day basis - Initiating and Implementing the investment strategies of the company - Handling portfolio modelling and Investment Risk Management. - Taking responsibility for the subsidiaries of Niger
3. Manager-four (4) in number a) Budget Control b) Gen. Accounts & Treasury c) Credit Control d) Investment Management Location - Lagos	a) 1st Degree in Accounting b) Professional qualification in Accounting c) Post graduate degree in Business or Finance d) ICT Application in Insurance e) Min. of 10 yrs experience in Insurance or professional Audit Firm	a) Budget formulation and expense code management. Budget performance and Variance Analysis Report b) Preparation of Statutory Returns Preparation of Financial Records Tax and Petty Cash Management c) Agency Records & Reconciliation Credit Management & Debt Recovery d) To assist No. 2 above
MANAGEMENT SERVICES		
4. Assistant General Manager PR & Communication Location - Lagos	a) First Degree in Mass Communications or any of the Humanities b) Professional qualification and / or membership of APCON c) Post graduate degree in Finance or Business. d) Wide experience in Brand Building, Corporate Promotion and Media Relations. e) Minimum of 15 years experience	- Corporate image laundering - Corporate Information dissemination - Protocol and foreign relations activities - Corporate and product brand building - Experience in Insurance Business will be an advantage
5. Principal Manager HR & Manpower Development Location - Lagos	a) 1st Degree in any of the Humanities b) Professional Qualification of CIPI of Nigeria c) Post graduate degree in Finance or Business. d) Degree in Law will be an advantage e) Minimum of 15 years experience	- Employees' Performance Management. - Employees' Job Analysis and Evaluation. - Employees' Compensation and Benefits Management. - Employees' Selection, Recruitment and Man-power Development - Experience in Insurance will be an advantage
6. Senior Manager Admin & Purchases Location - Lagos	a) 1st Degree in Finance, Business or the Humanities b) Professional qualification in Purchasing and Supplies c) Post graduate degree in Business or Finance d) Min. of 12 yrs experience. Max. of 2 yrs experience in Ins.	- Store keeping and Inventory Management - Internal Facilities and Records Management - HR Policies, Strategies and Processes Administration - Negotiation handling and Cash flow Management
7. P.A. to the Managing Director/CEO Operations Location - Lagos	a) 1st Degree in Insurance, Accounting, IT, or the Social Sciences b) A post graduate degree in Business or Finance c) Wide ICT Application Experience d) Min. of 10 yrs post qualification experience	- Management of Managing Director's professional, social and business relations - Secretary at Managing Director's meetings and generation of action points - Attending to Finance, Admin, HR and IT jobs of the Managing Director - Managing and updating the Managing Director's business contacts - Supervising the staff of the MD's Office
MARKETING		
8. General Manager Network Management Location - Lagos	a) 1st Degree in Insurance or Marketing b) Professional qualification in Insurance or Financial Planning c) Post-graduate degree in Business or Finance d) Min. of 20 years experience in Marketing with at least 10 in major classes of Insurance	- Creating and Managing the Joint Venture Distribution Channels (JVDC) of the company - Managing the Strategic Alliances of the company at the Local and Sub-Regional levels - Developing niche products and markets to meet the growth objectives of the company - Deploying the appropriate Competitive Strategies for Corporate Growth - Generating premium on target basis - Creating performance innovation in service delivery
9. Principal Manager Strategic Market (North) Location - Kano	a) 1st Degree or Diploma in Insurance or Marketing b) Professional qualification in Insurance or Marketing or a post-graduate degree in business or finance c) Deep familiarity with all the states of the Northern Nigeria d) At least 12 years experience in Ins. Marketing or underwriting	- Provision of leads and creation of new outlets - Meeting production and service targets as set by the company - Insurance Marketing to the various tiers of government and project - Building the appropriate business relations and managing same in the geo-political zone
10. Regional Manager - North West - Sokoto - North West 2 - Kano - North East - Yola	a) 1st Degree in any discipline. b) Professional qualification in Insurance, Marketing or a post graduate degree in business or finance c) Residence in the location of choice and familiarity with the geo-political zone of choice d) Minimum of 12 years experience	- Developing Branch Managers and Unit Heads for higher responsibilities. - Directing the available resources in the region to attain set revenue targets - Coordinating the Marketing, Technical, Finance and HR activities of the branches in the region - Taking responsibility for business conservation, revenue collection and customer retention
INTERNAL CONTROL		
11. Principal Manager Risk Management and Regulatory Compliance Location Lagos	a) 1st Degree in Accounting, Insurance, Statistics or Actuarial Sc. b) Professional qualification in Insurance or Actuarial Science c) Wide experience in Insurance or Banking Supervision and Enterprise Risk Management. d) At least 15 years post qualification experience	- Ensuring compliance with all the relevant regulations, laws and guidelines relating to the company - Providing support for the regulators on Audit and Inspection. - Establishing Risk-based management and solvency rules in the company - Managing the Internal Risk exposures of the company
TECHNICAL		
12. General Manager Technical Location Lagos	a) 1st Degree in Insurance. b) Professional qualification in Insurance c) Post-graduate degree in Business or Finance d) Min. of 20 years experience in underwriting of major classes of Insurance including claims and Reinsurance	- Managing the technical responsibilities of the company on day to day basis - Articulating the company's strategic direction on Technical issues - Developing and implementing the Technical guidelines, procedures and policies of the company - Monitoring and ensuring the efficiency of the company's claims settlement system - Ensuring adherence to delivery targets on claims, commission and documentation
13. Principal Manager Research & Corporate Planning Location Lagos	a) 1st Degree in Accounting, Statistics or the Social Sciences. b) Professional qualification in Accounting or Insurance c) Post-graduate degree in Business or Finance d) Min. of 15 yrs experience in Policy crafting, Data mining & Insurance	- Implementing the critical success factors to achieve the corporate goals, mission and vision - Identifying harmony, gaps and conflicts towards aligning stakeholders interests - Developing and reviewing corporate products, processes and procedures - Providing the appropriate reports and operating ratios with actionable solutions - Directing the growth objectives of the company
14. Senior Manager Technical North Location - Kano	a) 1st Degree or Diploma in Insurance. b) Post-graduate degree in Business or Finance c) Deep familiarity with all the states of the Northern Nigeria d) Professional qualification in Insurance. e) Min. of 10 yrs experience in underwriting and claims	- Underwriting of all classes of insurance - Coordinating the claims and Reinsurance activities of the region - Preparing Technical Operations Reports for the Regional Coordinator - Meeting the service target of the company
15. Manager Technical (Strategic) - North Location - Kano	a) As in 14 a) b) c) above b) Progress in the professional qualification in Insurance c) Min. of 8 yrs experience in underwriting and claims	- Underwriting of all classes of Insurance - Product packaging and enrichment - Providing superlative after-sales service and relationship management.

The Package

Generous pay, Car plus Driver, Pool Car, Generator and other benefits as they apply to each position.

Application to be forwarded to:
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Or
stanleyind582@gmail.com

Application closes on Friday 12th March, 2010

Mode of Application

- Application and CV indicating -
- Age, sex, marital status
- Qualification with date and institution
- Position and location applied for
- Detailed statement of job experience for
- 24 hrs telephone contact number (s)

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536

Reps order SEC chairman Udo Udoma to resign

By Idris Ahmed

CHAIRMAN, House of Representatives Committee on Capital Market Malam Ahmed Wadada has written a letter to the Chairman, Board of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Senator Udoma Udo Udoma, directing him to resign from the Board.

The directive was based on the controversy surrounding Udoma's chairmanship and vice chairmanship of UAC of Nigeria and Linkage Assurance Plc, respectively.

Section 13 of the Investment and Securities Act (ISA) 2007 stipulates that the office of the director-general, chairman, the commissioners and staff of SEC be free from any relationship that would tie them to any of the companies SEC regulates.

Wadada's letter sighted by our reporter yesterday was titled: "The Imperative Necessity of Senator Udo Udoma's Resignation from his Chairmanship of the SEC".

The letter was copied to the Minister of State for Finance, Director General of SEC and Director General of Nigerian Stock Exchange.

It reads: "While the issue of Senator Udo Udoma and his chairmanship of SEC as well as his position in other public quoted companies still lingers on, I wish to hereby convey the stand of this Honourable Committee.

"It is instructive to note that this Committee's position on the issue strongly concurs with that of the Senate Committee on Capital Market conveyed to you through the Senate Committee's letter of 4th February, 2010.

"As a matter of fact, this Committee after looking at the matter very critically and with a great sense of duty to rise and act to save the Nigerian capital market in general and safeguard investors' interest in particular, strongly believes that, after all that has been said and done, the resignation of Senator Udo Udoma from the Board of SEC as chairman, is based on expediency; in the overall good interest of the nation."

He said the Committee is awaiting the Minister of State for Finance Remi Babalola's expedited understanding on the issue.

On February 4, Chairman, Sen-



Chairman, Board of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Senator Udoma Udo Udoma

ate Committee on Capital Market Senator Ganiyu Solomon wrote the Minister of State for Finance to explain the perceived conflict of interest arising from the appointment of the Udo Udoma by UAC of Nigeria and Linkage Assurance Plc.

In his reply to the Senate Committee chairman dated February 9, 2010, Babalola promised to review the situation and revert

promptly to the Committee.

The Minister called for the review of the existing Investment and Securities Act (ISA) 2007 to safeguard the integrity of SEC as a regulatory institution.

When contacted, Senator Udo Udoma did not say if he will resign or not. "I have already stated my position in a publication to the Senate", he said.

BRIEF

Africa to launch new agric initiative in Abuja

AFRICAN Heads of State and Government are expected to consider and endorse a new initiative, the African Agri-Business and Agro-Industries Initiative (3ADI) when they converge in Abuja in early March.

The 3ADI will be formally launched during the High Level Conference on the Development of Agri-Business and Agro-Industries in Africa (HCLD-3A) holding from March 8 to March 10. Apart from the Heads of state and government, the three-day HCLD-3A, will also bring together ministers of agriculture, commerce and industry, senior policymakers as well as representatives of financial institutions.

The conference will feature plenary and parallel sessions to fine tune modalities for the implementation of the 3ADI, exhibition of agro-industrial equipment and machinery, as well as discussion forums on post-harvest losses among others.

The 3ADI is envisioned to "spur the development of competitive, sustainable and inclusive agro-industries and agri-businesses in Africa as a pathway to increased economic growth and food security in the continent," a document on the conference stated. It stated that a programme framework and an associated financial facility to support agri-business and agro-industrial development in Africa had already been designed through a series of consultations with African experts and organisations.

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	→	1.9mbd
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%

Stock Market Index

Date	Tuesday, February 23, 2010
Index	23,048.78
Deals	7,377
Volume	299,066,217
Value	N 2,166,303,814.19
Cap.	N 5,551,106,808,366.00

CBN EXCHANGE RATES				BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES	
	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)		
CFA	0.2897	0.2997	0.3097	BUYING	
DANISH KRONER	26.8799	26.971	27.062	DOLLARN151
EURO	200.1899	200.8681	201.5462	EURON207
POUNDS STERLING	230.5512	231.3322	232.1132	POUNDSN240
RIYAL	39.36	39.4934	39.6267	SELLING	
SDR	226.2265	226.9929	227.7592	DOLLARN152
SWISS FRANC	136.5655	137.0281	137.4907	EURON209
US DOLLAR	147.6	148.1	148.6	POUNDSN242
WAUA	226.801	227.5693	228.3376	Source: S&I Bureau de Change, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja.	
YEN	1.6378	1.6434	1.6489		

Business

KADUNA 31ST TRADE FAIR

Lack of planning, bane of development – ICRC boss

By Abubakar Momoh

GOVERNMENTS at all levels have been advised to embrace proper planning in formulating policies to avoid failures.

Director General of Infrastructure Concession and Regulatory Commission (ICRC) Engr. Ahmed Mansur gave the advice during a seminar Tuesday in Kaduna at the ongoing 31st Kaduna International Trade Fair.

Speaking on the theme: Propelling the agro-industrial and manufacturing concerns for the growth and development of the Nigerian economy, Ahmed said lack of planning is responsible for failure of most government policies.

He said Nigeria had no short-

age of ideas, and that what was lacking was implementation.

He established a relationship between proper planning and successful implementation, stressing that those who fail to plan are doomed to fail.

The ICRC boss also lamented lack of collaboration among the northern states in integrated planning framework, noting that such effort would quicken the pace of development in the region.

He said collaborative planning would be useful whether it is for agriculture or manufacturing.

According to him, there is commonality of resources across the states and collaboration would provide the synergy for the needed development.

Ahmed said proper planning

will eliminate most of the problems that usually arise during implementation of such policies, sometime resulting in their abandonment.

Giving the example of the Federal government N200billion commercial agricultural loan, he said from the inception, policy planners ought to have taken into consideration issues like channel of disbursement and mechanism for recovering the loans from beneficiaries.

Ahmed also advocated the adoption of public private partnership (PPP) for speedy infrastructural development in the country, adding that the private sector has the capacity to pool resources needed to carry out such projects.



GROUP Managing Director/CEO of Oceanic Bank International Plc Mr. John Abon (L), with the Executive General Manager, Gas Business and Commercial of Total E&P Nigeria Limited, Mr. Bunmi Obembe, at the Nigeria Oil and Gas Conference 2010, yesterday.

'Why we're supporting SMEs'

By Abubakar Momoh

THE Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises project says it is supporting the development of the small and medium enterprises in Nigeria to fast track development of national economy.

In an interview with Daily Trust at the Kaduna International Trade Fair, MSME's Business Development Services Specialist, Mike Basse said all over the world the SMEs are catalyst for industrial development and also provider of employment.

The MSME is supported by \$32 million World Bank loan in 2004 to intervene in the micro, small and medium enterprises sector of the economy with a pilot project Abia, Kaduna and Lagos which is being implemented by Nigerian Investment Promotion commission, NIPC.

PAN to produce tractors – MD

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

IN a bid to contribute towards the development of the agriculture sector of the country, the Peugeot Automobile Nigeria (PAN) has commenced plans for the production of tractors, the Managing Director of the firm, Alhaji Mohammed Haroun Aliyu has said.

Speaking yesterday at the ongoing Kaduna International Trade Fair, he said the company resolved to produce tractors to assist in harnessing the agricultural potentials of the country. He also announced the intention of the company to float a leasing company to ease the problems of transportation among Nigerians.

"We have not been static since we acquired the company three years ago. We have been working hard to diversify and sustain the company. We will continue to provide a platform that will make Nigeria a moving country," he said. He identified the bane of Nigeria based manufacturing companies to unfavorable government policies and lack of patronage. "The deliberate lack of respect for law is the major factor militating against the growth of local companies. There is nowhere in the world that government doesn't patronize local factories," he added.

He appealed to the government to provide an enabling environment for the manufacturing sector to thrive well. He also said the banks in the country should be directed to give credit facility to the real sector of the country.

"Our product can compete favorably with their counterpart anywhere in the world. In the 70s and 80s our products were household name because the production environment then was favorable enough," he said.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE



Arik Air
PH-Abuja: 08.45, 12.12.50, 17.00 (Mon-Fri), 08.45, 17.30 (Sat), 14.40, 17.30 (Sun); Abuja-PH: 07.15, 11.20, 15.30 (Mon-Fri), 07.15, 16.00 (Sat) 14.40, 17.30 (Sun); Lagos-Kano: 12.20pm (Mon-Fri/Sun)
Kano-Lagos: 02.35pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Abuja-Kano: 03.35pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Kano-Abuja: 05.20pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Abuja-Gombe: 11.10am (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun); Gombe-Abuja: 12.30pm (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun);
Yola-Lagos: Lag-Abj 04:50pm, via Abj-Yola 06:45pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Yola-Lagos: Yola-Abj 08:40am, Abj-Lagos 10:20am (Mon-Fri/Sat); Lagos-Maid: Lag-Abj 03:50pm, via Abj-Maid 06:00pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Maid-Lagos: Maid-Abj 07:30am, via Abj-Lag 09:15am (Mon-Fri/Sat); Abuja-Sokoto: 11:10am (Mon-Fri); Sokoto-Abuja: 12:50pm (Mon-Fri)
Abuja-Akure 02:10pm (Mon, Wed and Fri); Akure-Abuja: 08:50am (Mon, Wed and Fri); Lagos-Kwara: 07:30am, (Mon-Fri) 07.30, 03:50pm Sat 08:00am, 11:45am Sun; Kwara-Lagos: 4:10pm (Mon-Fri), 01:10pm, 05:30pm Sat 09:45am, 05:00pm Sun
Abuja-Kwara: 03:25pm (Mon-Fri); Kwara-Abuja 01.30pm (Mon-Fri); Lagos-Jos: 09:05am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); Jos-Lagos: 11.00am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)

ABV-QOW 02:30pm (Mon-Fri), 11:30am Sat 03:20pm Sun; Lagos-Kaduna: 10:20am, 04:10pm (Mon-Fri), 10.20 (Sat/Sun); Kaduna-Lagos: 12:10pm, 06:00pm (Mon-Fri), 12.10 (Sat/Sun); Lagos-Warr: 07:30am (Mon-Fri) 07:30am, 03:50pm (Sat), 08:00am, and 11:45am (Sun)

Aero Contractors
Lagos-Kad: 08.00am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Kad-Lagos: 09.40am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Lagos-Jos: 11.15am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Jos-Lagos: 13.15pm (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Lagos-Abj: 06.50; 13.30; 16.30; 19.45 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 12.30 (Sun) 16.45 (Sat). Abj-Lagos: 07.30; 13.30; 19.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30, 14.30; 19.30 (Sun) 18.30 (Sat); Lagos-Ben: 07:45; 11:00; 15:30; (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun) 12:30; (Sun); 15:30 (Sat).
Ben-Lagos: 09.15; 12.30; 17.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 17.00 (Sat); 14.00 (Sun); Lagos-Cala: 13.15; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 08.30; 19.00 (Sun); Cala-Lagos: 14.45; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30 (Sun); Lagos-Enu: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 15.00 (Sun); Enu-Lagos: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat) 16.45 (Sun)

Chanchangi Airlines
Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 10.00, 13.10, 15.30, 17.30
Abj-Lagos: 08.00, 11.45, 13.40, 15.30, 17.00
Lagos-Kad: 10.45, (on Fri), 17.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Kad-Lagos: 07.30 (Mon-Fri), 08.00 (Sat/Sun)
Nigerian Eagles Airlines (Virgin Nigeria)
Abj-Kano: 18.40 (Mon-Fri)/Sun
Kano-Abj: 08.35 (Mon-Fri) /Sat
Abj-Soko: 09.35, (Mon), 10.10 (Fri), 11.20 (Wed/Sun)
Soko-Abj: 11.35 (Mon), 12.00 (Fri), 13.20 (Wed/Sun)
Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 11.40, 14.00, 16.30, 17.00, 17.20; 18.30 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun), 8.00; 12.40; 13.10; 20:00 (Fri)
Abj-Lagos: 07.00, 09.30, 10.30, 11.15, 16.15; 19.15, 19.25, 19:35 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 14:55; 15:15; 20:45 (Fri); 19:45 (Sun); 11:25, 13:35, 16:25 (Mon)
Lagos-PHC: 07.40, 09.30, 10.00, 12.20, 13.30, 14.00, 16.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); PHC-Lagos: 10.50, 11.20, 12.45, 15.30, 16.15, 17.15 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); Lagos-Owr: 12:15; (Tue-Fri/Sun); 12:40 (Mon/Sat)
Owr-Lagos: 14:25 (Tue-Fri/Sun) 14:50 (Mon/Sat)
Lagos-Cal: 08:00 (Fri), 09:10 (Wed-Thu), 12:40 (Tue/Sat/Sun), 13:10 (Mon)
Cal-Lagos: 10.05 (Fri); 11.15 (Wed/Thu); 14.55 (Tue/Sat/Sun), 15.15 (Mon)

IRS Airlines
Lagos-Abj: 09.45, 11.45, 12.45, (Mon-Fri) 09.30, 12.45 (Sat&Sun)
Lagos-Kano: 06.15 (Mon-Fri), 16.30 (Sat/Sun)
Kano-Lagos: 07.30 (Mon-Fri), 10.30 (Sat/Sun)
Abuja-Kano: 10.30am (Mon-Fri/Sun)
Kano-Abuja: 11.45, 5.00 Fri, 12.15 Sun

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

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

Business

Senate orders Kpakol's arrest over N2.4bn Keke NAPEP contract

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

THE Senate Committee on Public Accounts has issued a warrant of arrest on the Coordinator of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) Dr. Magnus Kpakol over his refusal to explain flaws in the N2.4 billion Keke NAPEP project.

Chairman of the Committee, Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan (ANPP, Yobe North) said Kpakol left the panel with no choice than for Senate to exercise its full constitutional powers of compulsion as he has consistently failed to appear before it to explain queries raised by the Auditor General of the Federation on the contract.

Ahmad said: "We invited NAPEP to respond to the queries raised by the Auditor General in his 2007 report that raised issues about NAPEP expenditures, but NAPEP through its National Coordinator has consistently found the courage to fail to appear before this committee."

"Consequently therefore, this committee in exercise of its powers is

applying to the Senate President for a warrant for the arrest of the National Coordinator of NAPEP. This is in line with provision of Legislative Houses and Privileges Act."

In the Audit report which covers NAPEP's spending for 2007, the Auditor General said the poverty eradication agency spent the N2.4 billion meant for purchase of Keke NAPEP as poverty alleviation strategy of government without recourse to due process.

The report said: "Method and manner in which the contractor was selected to supply the Keke was shrouded in secrecy as there was no evidence of competitive bidding. As at August 2008, only 500 units of Keke were delivered to NAPEP, leaving a balance of 4,500 units yet to be supplied."

The Auditor General office also said instead of selling the tricycles bought at the rate of N450,000 each at a 50 percent discount to poor Nigerians, "NAPEP after taking delivery of the KEKE sold them in bulk to another Abuja-based company at 50 percent discount



DR. Magnus Kpakol

i.e. at the reduced price of N225,000 each. This reduction constitutes huge loss of revenue to government."

The report also revealed that Kpakol refused to obey Presidential directive asking him to distribute the tricycles to all states of the federation, adding that "Mandatory 5 percent Value Added Tax (VAT) and 5 percent With Holding Tax (WHT) deductions amounting to N240 million was not made, thus resulting to loss of revenue to government."

Ahmad said NAPEP also spent N150 million as payment for spare parts that were never supplied, adding that Kpakol commenced the project without obtaining approval of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) at that time.

NSE to accommodate private placement of shares

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

THE Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) may soon accommodate unlisted securities sold to investors by companies through private placements under its newly introduced emerging market platform.

The unlisted securities, if finally approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), are expected to be listed on the Alternative Investment Market/Private Placement Exchange (AIM/PRIPLEX) window.

Daily Trust learnt last night that a lot of investors have been apprehensive over failure of listing of their shares on the floor of the market after promises have been made to them by companies that the securities, mostly ordinary shares that were issued would be listed immediately allotments were made.

Unfortunately, several months after and in some instances two or three years the capital was raised, some issuers however failed to keep to the promise made to investors to list.

The director general of

NSE, Ndi Okereke Onyiuke had earlier this year disclosed the Council's intention to bring the private placements' securities to be listed on the floor of the market in a bid to restore investors' confidence as well as repositioning the market for timely recovery.

This class of the investors, it was further learnt are currently holding securities in form of share certificates which can neither be transferred, sold or traded in any form. Such investment experts said could be considered as both illiquid and frozen.

In order to enable the affected investors to be accommodated in the market, it was further gathered that NSE's management had written the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) requesting to allow it to list the investors' shares on the market.

It was also gathered that in order to encourage all outstanding unlisted securities sold through the various private placements, NSE is considering offering some waivers.

The waivers are expected to cover the appli-

cation or entry fee while the Central Securities Clearing System (CSCS) Limited will offer a 50 per cent discount on its eligibility fee. Currently 0.0125 per cent of the Issuer's capitalization is paid.

Other juicy proposal includes acceptability of audited accounts older than nine months but that the Issuer will provide all interim management accounts. Where the Issuer already have a full year unaudited accounts, such Issuer is expected to provide an undertaking to the exchange that the outstanding account will be audited and submitted within 90 days

Also there will be no restriction on the percentage of securities in the hand of the public as well as on the number of shareholders.

"The special window will be opened for 180 days after which it will be closed. The Council will use its best endeavour to process and give approval for any qualify application within 20 working days of receipt of such an application," a source said.

Inspirational moments with
Akinsola Akinfemiwa
 GMD/CEO, Skye Bank
 ON
Skye High
 Inspirational Moments

PARTNERSHIP (1)

Small business owners often choose a sole proprietor business structure when starting up. The road to entrepreneurship can be lonely. Not many know or acknowledge that greater rewards may result from forming a business partnership.

What is partnership?

Partnership is a voluntary collaborative agreement between two or more parties in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and share risks, responsibilities, resources, competencies and benefits.

Partnerships offer more freedom for business owners with shared business tasks and the potential to earn greater profits.

Yet, according to BizStats.com, over 72% of all small businesses are sole proprietors as opposed to 6% in the form of partnerships.

Maybe there's a reason for this alarming lack of belief. A partnership business can be a relationship disaster or a positive experience.

To create a winning business partnership, these tips are important:

1. Have the Same Vision

For a partnership to be successful, all parties involved must agree on the same strategic direction of the company. If one partner wants to build a national chain of retail outlets and the other would just like to earn a decent living, the business may fail in no time. It is important to set a clear agreed course for the business that meets the needs of both partners.

2. Define Business Roles

A winning business partnership capitalizes on the strengths and skills of each partner. Divide business roles according to each individual's strengths. For example, one partner may be strong in marketing, operations and finance, the other sales, human resources and leadership.

3. Avoid the 50-50 Split

It may seem logical and fair to split the share of ownership into an equal 50%. However, this ownership structure can impair decision making in the future. Instead of having decisions stalemated, consider a 49% to 51% split. If this is not possible, an outside board for bigger issue disagreements can help your company from being deadlocked on decisions.

4. Hold a Monthly Partner Meeting

A strong business partnership is built on an open communicating relationship. Meet on a monthly basis to share grievances, review roles and provide constructive criticism.

5. Create a Partnership Agreement

It is simple to set up a partnership because no legal documents are needed. Partnerships are often an oral agreement between two or more parties. Potential problems can be avoided by drawing up a legal partnership agreement.

You would need a lawyer to draw up an effective legal partnership agreement. Some of the things a good business partnership agreement should state include, but are not limited to:

- The amount of equity invested by each partner.
- The type or nature of the business.
- How profits and loss will be shared.
- Partners' pay and compensation.
- Distribution of assets on dissolution.
- Dispute settlement clause.
- Settlement in case of death or incapacitation.

Building a small business can be more rewarding and profitable in a partnership environment. Consider a business partnership structure when you have someone to compliment your skills set and add value to your company. Partnerships can work when the right foundation is laid in the beginning. Next, I will share with you seven ways to avoid partnership killers.

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 or SMS 07030000255





NATIONAL PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

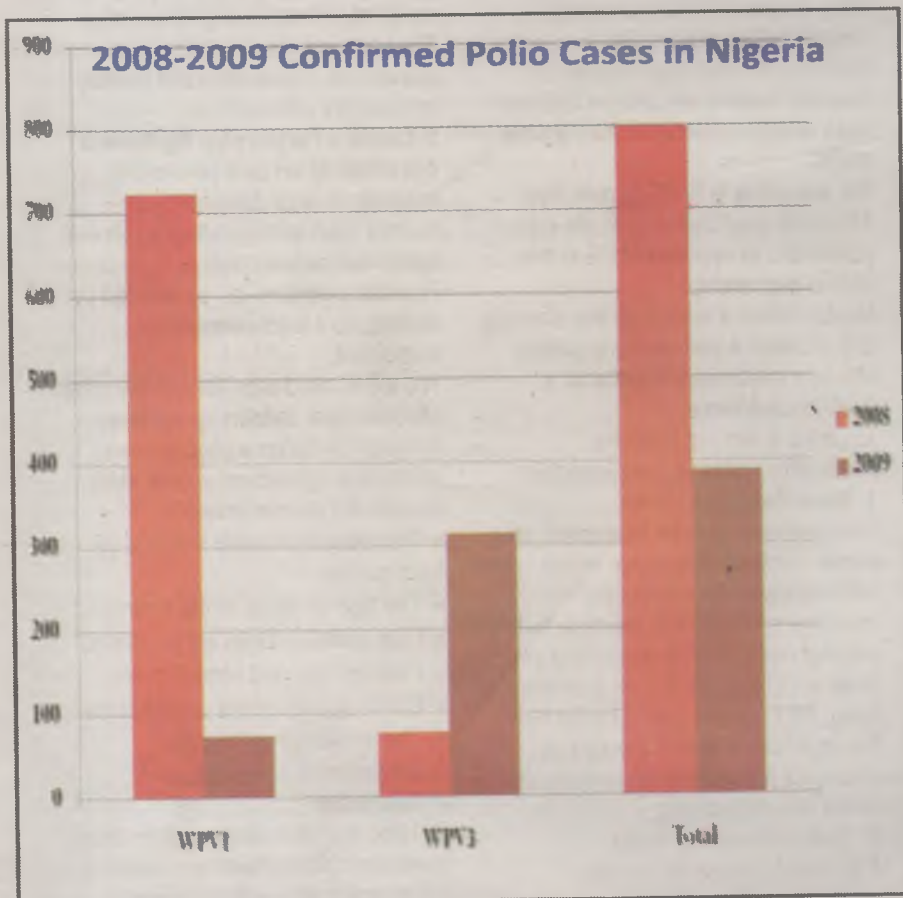
Plot 681/682 Port Harcourt Crescent, Off Gimbiya Road, Lagos

Website: www.nphc.gov.ng

GOVERNORS LEAD THE MARCH TO ERADICATE POLIO

Our dear country Nigeria is one of the remaining four polio-endemic countries in the world today. Poliomyelitis, otherwise known as polio, is an incurable disease that paralyzes children especially those aged between zero and five years. The Federal Government, in its determination to rid the country of the scourge of polio, engaged all stakeholders including the traditional leaders and the State Governors in the crusade.

The 36 State Governors, under the auspices of the Nigerian Governors' Forum formally joined the crusade on 2nd February 2009, with determination to interrupt the spread of the virus and improve primary health care service delivery. They made a declaration of commitment at a special session on health convened by His Excellency, President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua. The communiqué was signed by the Honourable Minister of Health, Prof. Babatunde Osotimehin and the Chairman of the Nigerian Governors' Forum



and Executive Governor of Kwara State, Dr. Bukola Saraki. They adopted five action plan to interrupt the transmission of the polio virus in the States and in the Country. These include:

1. **Providing active leadership of Polio eradication activities (including routine immunization) and primary health care, in general, in the State and directing LGA Chairmen to ensure that all children under 5 years are reached and vaccinated during any polio eradication activity in the State;**
2. **Improving the operational quality at the LGA level in our States by Chairing quarterly meetings with all the LGA Chairmen to loosely review the planning, & implementation, and results of polio eradication activities, routine immunization/primary health care and identify remedies for poor-performing LGAs;**
3. **Allocating additional financial and human resources to strengthen Primary Health Care so that it can sustain routine immunization services and improve implementation of campaigns (Immunization Plus Days) in the State;**
4. **Reporting back to His Excellency, the President through NEC on a quarterly basis on the status of polio eradication efforts, including routine**

immunization, in the State.

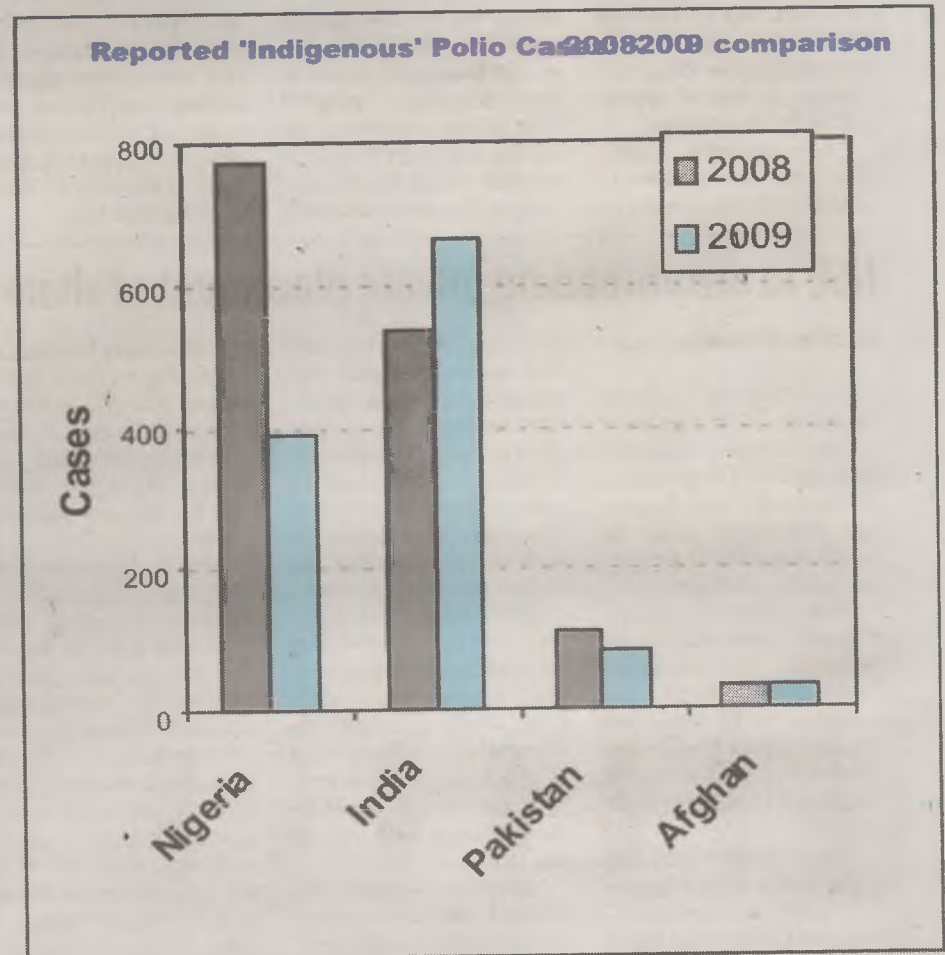
5. **Improving Primary Health Care as a more holistic plan to addressing the issue of immunization through community health insurance schemes.**

One year after, it is obvious that the Governors' interventions have contributed immensely to the success story recorded in the polio eradication efforts in 2009. A dramatic 90% reduction in cases of the paralytic disease was recorded last year. An unprecedented feat was the fact that in the last six months of 2009, only 31 cases of polio were recorded. Also, on the global scene, Nigeria achieved the greatest success compared with other polio endemic countries of Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

Our traditional leaders have also played immeasurable role in this crusade to rid the country of polio. In particular, since the direct intervention of the Northern traditional leaders under the leadership of His Eminence the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Abubakar Sa'ad III, most of the challenges in the Polio Eradication efforts are being surmounted.

Consequently, the whole world in unison has agreed that Nigeria is on the verge of eradicating Polio. All that is required now is for all hands to be on deck.

On behalf of Nigerian children, we wish to congratulate the Governors, the Honourable Ministers of Health, our Royal Fathers and Religious leaders for a



job well done.

However, experts have advised that Nigeria needs to tighten up all loose ends to avoid backsliding. Hence we want to appeal that we all need to do more work to achieve our collective goal of interrupting the transmission of the polio virus this year.

We also appeal to our fathers and mothers that we are getting to the end of the race. So they should give the health workers all the needed cooperation to protect our dear children from polio and other child killer diseases now!

Together, we can eradicate Polio from our communities, our LGAs; our States and indeed, our country, NIGERIA!!!

CARE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Street, Area 11, Garki Abuja. P.M.B. 368, Garki
nphcda.gov.ng



Governors' Abuja Commitment: The Journey So Far

Implementation Status Scores

At the end of 2009, the implementation status of the Governors' February 2009 Abuja Commitments were assessed using the following criteria: 1. Personal involvement of HE Governor in public event in support of Polio e.g. meeting with key stakeholders, flag off ceremonies 2. At least one meeting between Governor (or his representative) with LGA chairmen to discuss priority actions to improve polio eradication/routine immunization each quarter 3. At least one meeting between Governor (or his representative) with traditional leaders to review their involvement in Polio Eradication/Routine Immunization each quarter 4. At least one meeting of State Task Force or similar high-level oversight committee established by Governor to oversee polio eradication/routine immunization activities each quarter.

The performance of each State was scored thus:

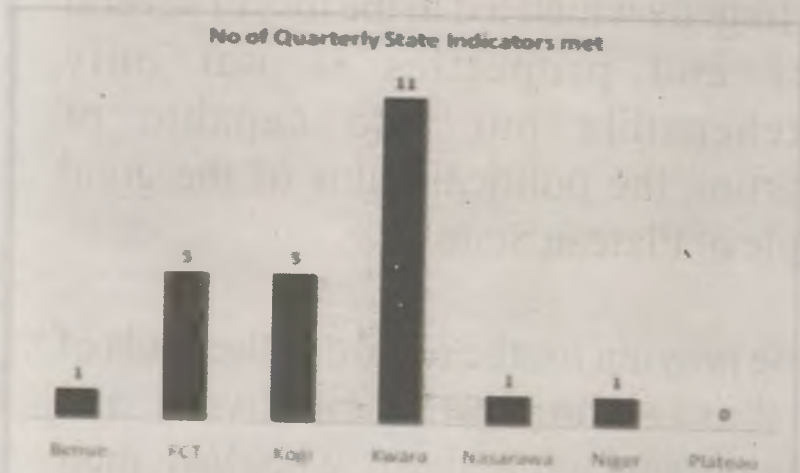
1. If an indicator is achieved in each of the last three quarters of 2009 i.e. Q2 (Apr-Jun), Q3 (Jul-Sept) and Q4 (Oct-Dec), a score of 3 is awarded [Example, Governor or his representative meets with LGA chairmen at

least once in each quarter).

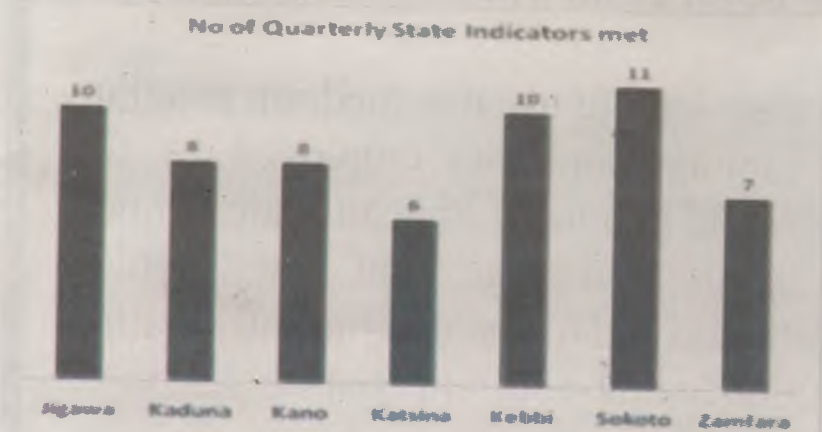
2. If an indicator is achieved in only two of the last 3 quarters of 2009 i.e. Q2 (Apr-Jun), Q3 (Jul-Sept) and Q4 (Oct-Dec), a score of 2 is awarded.
3. If an indicator is achieved in only one of the last three quarters of 2009 i.e. Q2 (Apr-Jun), Q3 (Jul-Sept) and Q4 (Oct-Dec), a score of 1 is awarded
4. If an indicator is not achieved in any of the last 3 quarters of 2009 i.e. Q2 (Apr-Jun), Q3 (Jul-Sept) and Q4 (Oct-Dec), a total of 0 is awarded.

Note: The Highest possible Score is 12, while the lowest possible Score is 0 for each State.

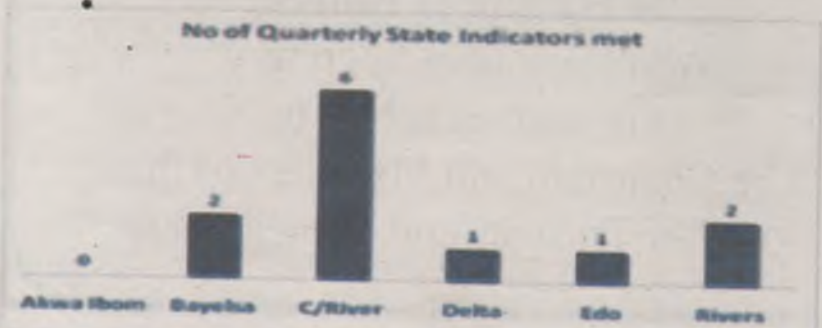
North Central Zone



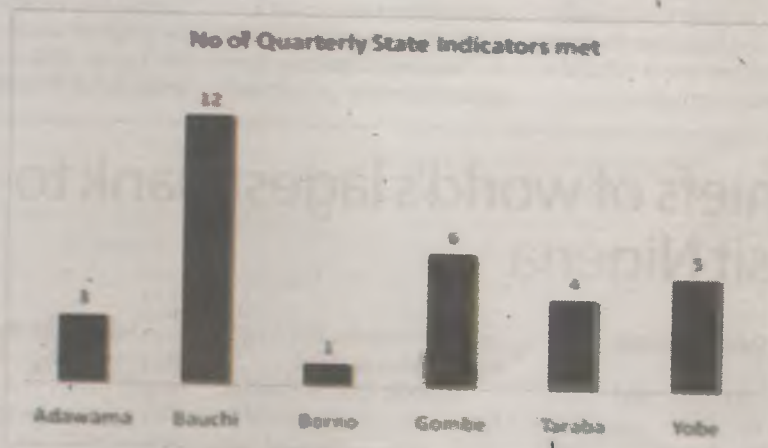
North West Zone



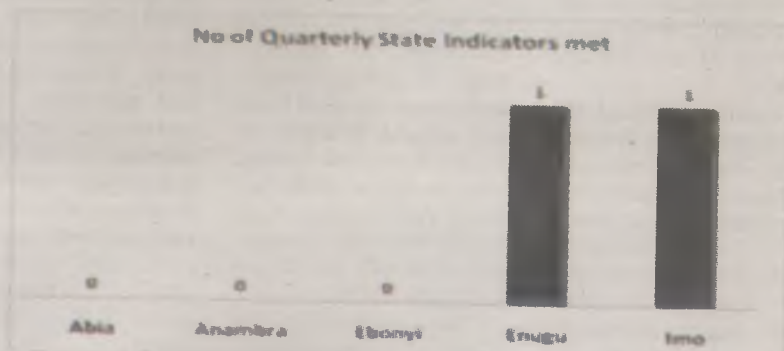
South South Zone



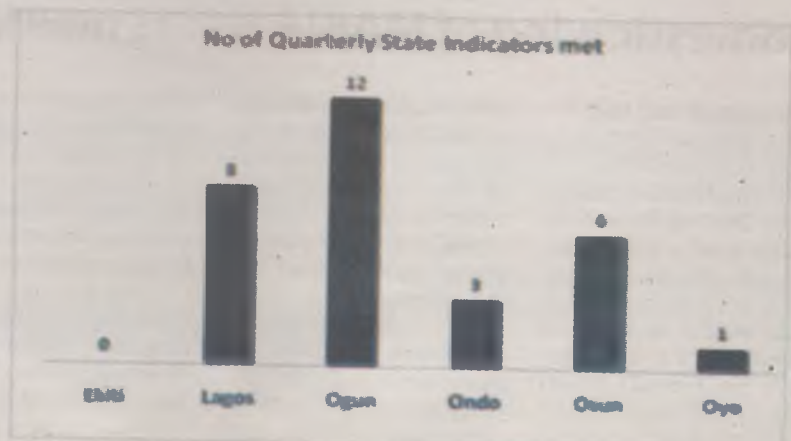
North East Zone



South East Zone



South West Zone



Signed:
 Dr. Muhammad Ali Pate
 Executive Director/CEO

Business

Foreign companies reject oil reforms

By Hamisu Muhammad

THE International Oil Companies (IOCs) have again openly expressed their opposition to the ongoing reforms in the Nigeria's oil sector, saying Nigeria risks losing huge investment.

Nigeria is planning a comprehensive reform of its oil sector through the Petroleum Industry Bill that is still with the country's lawmakers. The bill, if finally becomes law, will among others merge the 16 different law books in the oil sector.

Ann Pickard, Regional Executive Vice President, AngloDutch multinational oil company Shell Exploration and Production Africa said yesterday at the Nigerian Oil and Gas Conference in Abuja that the huge investments are at risk if the bill scales through.

She said there are lots of unresolved issues.

"Nigeria is too rich to be poor, Delta is too rich to be poor", she said.

She added that Shell Nigeria is committed to partnering in every aspect with government in order to move the industry forward.

According to her, she expected Nigerian offshore oil production to increase to about 1.5 million barrels per day by 2015, but that by 2020, Angola's offshore oil production would more than double that of Nigeria.

Also speaking, the Managing Director of Chevron Nigeria Company, Andrew Fawthrop said the Petroleum Industry Bill currently before the National Assembly will cause a draw back to the nation's deepwater growth.

"Current legislation being discussed will drastically slow down deepwater growth and

dialogue is needed to ensure that the government's well-thought out aspirations are achieved by the Petroleum Industry Bill and not inadvertently derailed", he said.

On his part, the Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Mohammed S. Barkindo said the Petroleum Industry Bill is a thorough document aimed at addressing the challenges in the industry.

The Minister of State for Petroleum Resources Odein Ajumogobia said: "In spite of this need to increase supply, however, we feel we stand the risk that supply could drop even further, as the federal government moves to implement its flare out policy."

He said oil production in Nigeria has declined, from the peak of about 2.5 million bpd in 2005, to approximately 1.5 million bpd today.

Chiefs of world's largest bank to visit Nigeria

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

INDUSTRIAL and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), the world's largest bank is billed to arrive in Nigeria on March 4, in connection with an international conference on cash management which is being organized by ICBC and Standard Bank.

Stanbic IBTC Bank Plc, a member of the Standard Bank Group, has concluded arrangements to receive senior executives of that bank.

ICBC in 2008 acquired a 20 percent stake in Standard Bank, hence becoming the single largest shareholder of Africa's largest bank. The Standard Bank Group, on the other hand, has a controlling

interest in Stanbic IBTC with over 50 percent stake.

Bimbola Ashiru, Head of Corporate Affairs at Stanbic IBTC, who confirmed the development, stated that the delegation will be in Nigeria for the three-day conference, which, among others, will help mutually enhance knowledge on management of global accounts, deployment of cash at home and abroad to meet the demands of cross-border, inter-bank and multi-currency cash management. Similar fora will be organized in South Africa and Kenya, he added.

The conference, he stated, also aims at showcasing ICBC/Standard Bank cash management

capabilities as the strategic partnership of the two largest banks in Africa and China generates significant new capacity for growth in emerging markets.

ICBC had on November 24 2009 officially launched its global cash management business, which includes accounts management, centralized receipts and payments, domestic and foreign currency pools, investment, financing and risk management. Standard Bank also offers a range of cash management solutions customized to meet clients' specific requirements in account management, payments, collections and liquidity management, in Africa and across the world.

Domestic wing of MAKIA wears new look

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

THE rehabilitation project of the domestic wing of the Malam Aminu Kano International Airport in Kano has reached advanced stage as the wing is ready for full operation, the Zonal Manager of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FANN) Mohammed Inuwa has said. Inuwa said this while taking the Governor of Kano State Malam Ibrahim Shekarau round the airport yesterday.

He said the rehabilita-

tion of structure and installation of modern equipment to facilitate activities in the airport has since commenced.

He said the pending project at the airport was the control tower which has also reached 80 percent completion. He said the control tower is hoped to be completed in two months to come. The inspection team also inspected the trancom at the airport where all aircrafts in the air are being monitored from.

He commended the state

government over the support it gave to the Federal Ministry of Aviation and FANN in reviving the airport and further pleaded for the government's continuous support to the international airport.

Speaking during the inspection, the Kano State Governor Malam Ibrahim Shekarau expressed satisfaction with the project at the domestic wing saying, the state will collaborate with the Federal Ministry of Aviation in the best way to expedite immediate use of the domestic wing of the airport.



HADEJIA JAMA'ARE – KAMADUGU YOBE BASIN TRUST

PRESS RELEASE

The Chairman and Members of the Board of Trustees of the Hadejia Jama'are Komadugu Yobe Basin Trust Fund, and the Management wishes to commiserate with the Government and People of Plateau State over the recent crisis which engulfed parts of Jos metropolis and its environs.

The tragedy which led to the loss of several lives and properties is not only reprehensible but also capable of thwarting the political gains of the good people of Plateau State.

While praying for the repose of the souls of all those who lost their lives, and sympathizing with those who lost their properties, it is our fervent prayer that we shall never again witness such a calamity.

We also want to use this medium to salute the courage and tact employed by the elders and people of Plateau State to quell the crisis and urge that they remain committed and focused in finding a lasting solution to this recurrent crisis.

Signed

Dr Hassan H Bdliya,
Administrative Secretary
For and on behalf of
The Chairman and Members of the
Board of Trustees and Management.

Business/Finance

'How Credit Bureaus will revive Nigeria's economy'

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

WITH credit bureau now in the country, what are the expected impacts on the economy?

The Central Bank of Nigeria has licensed three credit bureaus in Nigeria: CRC credit bureau, which is our own, XDS credit bureau and Credit Registers. For us we are probably the only one that is owned by a consortium of financial institutions, 12 banks in all in association with international global information credit rating agency, Dun & Bradstreet. The company has been in operation since 1841 with over 170 years of experience and in about 200 countries and in 95 languages in the world.

Generally, credit bureau is a financial infrastructure that provides information among lenders in money economy. What the bureau does is to collect information among various sources from the lending institutions, public sources and bring all the information together, collate in a way that it provides what is called credit history of the entity that operates in Nigeria be it an individual or corporate organization as the case may be. At the end of the day, we want to assist lenders in taking informed lending decisions. The credit bureau makes sure lending in the dark becomes a thing of the past whenever it is introduced because now you will have information about borrowers through the collation of facts by credit bureau that made them available to various lenders.

When we are talking about lenders, we are not talking about commercial banks we are equally talking about commercial banks, microfinance banks, primary mortgage institutions, shipping retailers, auto dealers, landlords anybody that has products or services for which in requires collection of money, credit bureau will give that opportunity to know and have information about the potential borrowers that can assist you in taking credible decisions about them. It is also good for employers of labour who want to tap the financial state of their prospective employees in addition to this is the landlords segment who wants to be sure of whom they want to give their property to, his or her credit situation whether he or she could afford it and in settling their financial obligation as the case may be.

But much more, what are the contributions or advantage of a credit bureau to an economy. Contributions are in three major areas. There are contributions to the economy, to the lenders and the borrowers. To the economy, credit bureau helps to increase

Credit Bureau is a new financial infrastructure in Nigeria. In this interview, Tunde Popoola, the chief executive officer of CRC Credit Bureau identified the benefits of the new initiative and concluded that the nation's economy will benefit greatly with federal government's support.



TUNDE Popoola

access to credit especially for consumers and small businesses. These are segments of people that are denied access to credit simply because lenders don't have information about them, lack knowledge about them and that they are high risk borrowers. Once you have a credit bureau, it is easy to know who among these segments have good repayment method. This increases access to consumer goal and once this is achieved, it increases productivity in the economy.

How would it impact on the economy?
This however, translates to job opportunity, wealth creation, opening up the economy. All over the world, the economies that are said to be developed are those economies that have high level of credit penetration and so these are economies that have enjoyed credit bureau activities over centuries. So there is no economy today based on the business model and economy model we are running today that don't have access to fund and there is no economy that have had high level of credit penetration without having credit bureau infrastructure in place. It is next the logical thing for any economy after you have had banking system in place.

Apart from all these, you also find a situation where it leads to

buoyancy in the economy because once a bureau comes, what you are going to see is that there will be upward improvement in the quantum of credit to, especially people who have been disenfranchised, credit wise, who have had no opportunity to credit facility before. You will see a lot of people having access to buy consumer products either from super market or from banks like auto, generator loans and you have a lot of small businesses, quite a lot of them will also have access to credit.

That astronomically translates to increase in the volume of depth of expansion of credit in the economy. On the part of the lenders, it affords them the opportunity to share information about borrowers among themselves and this reduces the transaction cost and the length of the transaction. Secondly, you can now lend because you have facts about the potential borrowers, so you are no longer lending in the dark.

Lenders also benefit from bureau's information asymmetry. Information asymmetry when you are rely on information provided to you only by the borrowers, it is a one sided information but once a credit bureau comes in it wipes out that symmetry so more often than not when a bureau is in existence, it gives opportunity to lenders, to do away with lending in the

dark, they are now lending with the facts, with full information without necessarily recourse to the borrowers but taken those information with full disclosure from a third party called credit bureau. It also assists lenders in what we called risk based pricing. What we found out in Nigeria today is that a lot of financial institutions lend at uniform rates most especially the lower level of borrowers perceived to be risky, but there are good people who among them are conducting their businesses and financial transactions in a very transparent way and in line with the terms and conditions agreed with the lenders.

Such people should have access to transactions and pricing that is a bit lower than the people that are perceived as risky and so a bureau gives that opportunity to the lenders to do differential pricing based on perception of risk of the borrowers. Bureau activities is also assist in bringing down the cost of doing business especially the cost of loans to the lenders because when you have the information, it reduces the time of processing the transaction as well as bringing down the number of people that are also going to work on that particular loan and also the waiting time.

How does the bureau come to the rescue of the banks?

Before now, the banks relied on information provided by the customers about his financial transactions to grant loans. What you saw at that time were customers securing loans without full disclosure of their financial transactions, no correct information. What the banks have done in the process was to begin to lend to only high network individual or big organizations considered "A" rated companies and the results of that were that huge loans concentration amounted to trillion of Naira were granted to just few individuals and companies in Nigeria.

However, now that credit bureau has come, it will provide you with facts about people that are responsible borrowers in the economy and that gives you the opportunity to lend to those borrowers based on their credit history, repayment culture. With a credit bureau, banks now have a third party infrastructure that gives them the advantage of knowing their borrowers.

In Ecuador, only 50,000 have access to credit within five years after the introduction of credit bureau, the number of SME that had access to fund increased to about 700,000. That is the kind of thing that will happen in Nigeria. Credit facility will be democratized and more people will have access to loan instead of concentration in the hands of a few.

How do the banks get information on customers?

For now bureau operates on collecting information from lenders.

Is it not the same information that banks get that you have?

No, is much more than that. You have to define lenders beyond the banks. A bureau collects information from both private and public sources and from sources beyond all those institutions that give cash in form of loan, in a large data base. Look at somebody who is consistent in the payment of its water and electricity rate, such person will have opportunity to secure loan under the current dispensation because they can prove that they can meet there loans obligations. If you are using electricity and you are piling up bills, it is good evidence for a bank to know your repayment ability if you cannot pay ordinary electricity bills or water rate

Is Nigeria ripe for credit bureau?

Nigeria is over ripped for credit bureau. We just have to know that in an economy, there are certain things that you have to fight for. Nigeria has said that it wants to emerge as one of the world best economies by year 2020 and we have discovered that there is no economy in the world that strives without a high level of credit penetration. The world credit penetration is about 132 per cent, for Africa is about 57 per cent. Nigeria's is about 7 per cent that means Nigeria relies heavily on cash transactions and there is no economy that can develop under such situation. If we are serious to achieve our goal as a nation, one of the key infrastructures that we must do is access to credit.

But you can't have access to credit if you don't have the supportive infrastructures and a major component of that is the credit bureau. South Africa has been enjoying credit bureau services for decades and that is why credit penetration in that country is very high. After the reconsolidation and with the introduction of mortgage and micro finance banks and all that we have now, the next logical thing for us is to have credit bureau.

Look, since the introduction of ATM, payment system has changed. Before now banking system always filled to its brim but today you can now withdraw your money through electronic withdrawal services. That is a financial structure for payment solution. In the same manner we have financial infrastructure to aid access to credit which credit bureau is all about. There is no way you can achieve that without a functional credit bureau industry.

Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	19	0.57	572,000	327,590.00
SECTOR TOTALS	20		574,000	331,970.00
AGRICULTURE				
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	17	0.85	658,466	564,289.40
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	16	0.72	1,072,500	773,745.00
PRESKO PLC	5	5.21	27,000	134,190.00
SECTOR TOTALS	38		1,757,966	1,472,224.40
AIR SERVICES				
AIRLINE SERVI.& LOGISTICS PLC	2	2.89	15,306	42,091.50
NIG. AVIATION HANDLING COY. PLC	82	8.71	534,630	4,674,035.97
SECTOR TOTALS	84		549,936	4,716,127.47
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DNTYRE & RUBBER PLC	8	0.50	106,827	53,413.50
R.T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	13	5.00	251,963	1,276,065.75
SECTOR TOTALS	21		358,790	1,329,479.25
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	219	9.40	8,056,333	75,479,832.13
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	87	2.60	2,247,022	6,000,658.26
DIAMOND BANK PLC	139	9.50	7,057,629	66,086,476.77
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	60	5.44	1,655,121	9,003,858.24
F/CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	93	9.40	5,619,435	52,222,185.45
FIDELITY BANK PLC	135	2.60	2,747,175	7,251,511.75
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	967	14.40	27,160,301	393,930,291.82
FINBANK PLC	108	0.71	24,733,489	17,666,077.56
GTBANK PLC	457	18.07	8,101,286	146,389,143.83
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	43	8.35	1,175,100	9,885,066.08
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC	114	2.03	2,599,550	5,259,752.15
OCEANIC BANK INTER PLC	126	2.10	4,668,204	9,957,112.92
BANK PHB PLC	94	2.01	6,441,120	12,783,735.80
SKYE BANK PLC	246	7.64	7,976,788	60,514,910.91
SPRING BANK PLC	20	1.08	602,893	675,076.95
STERLING BANK PLC	54	1.82	4,390,168	8,045,286.64
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	361	13.30	23,888,624	320,468,183.05
UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	154	5.93	1,942,900	11,547,735.75
UNITY BANK PLC	39	1.10	3,339,521	3,669,421.12
WEMA BANK PLC	44	1.27	1,657,839	2,093,970.70
ZENITH BANK PLC	311	15.88	15,691,303	252,154,396.78
SECTOR TOTALS	3,871		161,751,801	1,471,084,654.66
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	71	16.20	338,875	5,542,214.29
BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC	38	50.01	359,843	17,996,461.97
CEMENT CO. OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	44	15.90	945,951	15,116,328.55
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	30	35.70	167,640	5,906,910.00
SECTOR TOTALS	183		1,812,309	44,561,914.81
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC	8	3.52	127,886	471,899.34
CHEMICAL & ALLIED PRODUCTS PLC	10	26.99	73,429	1,962,031.74
DN MEYER PLC	17	3.43	274,454	941,377.22
SECTOR TOTALS	35		475,769	3,375,308.30
COMMERCIAL/SERVICES				
AFROMEDIA PLC	13	0.51	1,042,513	534,806.63
COURTVILLE INVESTMENTS PLC	2	0.50	20,500	10,250.00
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	26	2.56	1,265,500	3,121,480.42
SECTOR TOTALS	41		2,328,513	3,666,537.05
COMP. & OFFICE EQUIPMENT				
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	6	0.56	3,129,750	1,842,712.50
TRIPPLE GEE AND COY. PLC	4	4.37	26,534	110,381.44
SECTOR TOTALS	10		3,156,284	1,953,093.94
CONGLOMERATES				
A.G. LEVENTIS (NIGERIA) PLC	7	2.85	70,812	194,795.64
PCO SAVINGS NIGERIA PLC	45	26.00	719,971	18,742,458.08
SCOA NIGERIA PLC	1	8.71	828	6,855.84
TRANSNATIONAL CORP. OF NIG. PLC	35	0.50	4,094,828	2,047,414.00
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	115	43.00	1,810,460	77,421,317.99
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	131	25.00	1,630,444	40,692,122.81
SECTOR TOTALS	334		8,327,343	139,104,964.36
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	48	5.20	669,426	3,571,423.00
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC	23	28.49	303,390	8,255,158.85
MULTIVERSE RESOURCES PLC	4	0.50	10,100,500	5,050,250.00
SECTOR TOTALS	75		11,073,316	16,876,831.85
F/BEVERAGES & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	6	30.60	6,078	193,312.78
BIG TREAT PLC	21	0.81	3,728,259	3,026,296.38
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	79	15.61	1,756,273	28,563,471.82
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	177	12.67	1,681,751	21,221,771.99
DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	76	15.99	1,125,190	17,738,544.57
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	82	46.70	444,185	20,681,824.31
HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	19	7.05	179,100	1,325,190.00
NATIONAL SALT COY. NIG. PLC	35	6.30	798,826	5,021,635.08
NIGERIAN BOTTLING COY. PLC	28	27.10	50,067	1,350,724.38
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	42	270.00	88,282	23,912,237.22
NORTHERN NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	2	23.00	50,500	1,161,000.00
TANTALIZERS PLC	13	0.95	1,345,150	1,277,892.50
UTC NIGERIA PLC	9	0.75	38,152	29,688.18
SECTOR TOTALS	589		11,291,813	125,503,589.21
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC	5	1.07	50,349	52,006.98
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	48	2.54	4,242,611	10,721,821.72

GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONS. NIG. PLC	17	26.00	139,336	3,531,465.10
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	13	5.04	42,651	206,996.30
MORISON INDUSTRIES PLC	1	11.67	500,000	5,835,000.00
NEIMETH INTER. PHARM. PLC	8	1.47	75,120	111,998.40
U/DIAGNOSTIC & CLINICAL SERV. PLC	23	0.64	2,223,972	1,423,342.08
SECTOR TOTALS	115		7,274,039	21,882,630.58
HOTEL & TOURISM				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	1	2.50	50,000	125,000.00
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	9	1.54	674,800	1,071,278.00
SECTOR TOTALS	10		724,800	1,196,278.00
IND./DOMESTIC PRODUCTS				
ALUMACO PLC	1	15.80	50,001	790,015.80
B.O.C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	6	10.93	142,174	1,555,536.04
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC	5	0.50	48,280	24,715.60
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	28	4.79	326,033	1,553,371.80
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	4	0.63	9,110	5,739.30
SECTOR TOTALS	44		575,598	3,929,378.54
INFO. & COMM. TECHNOLOGY				
CHAMS PLC	13	0.73	1,235,000	890,150.00
E-TRANZACT INTER. PLC	2	5.23	300	1,491.00
IHS NIGERIA PLC	2	4.03	300	1,149.00
MASSTELECOM INNOVATION NIG. PLC	1	0.50	200	100.00
STARCOMMS PLC	25	2.11	986,752	2,064,762.44
SECTOR TOTALS	43		2,222,552	2,957,652.44
INSURANCE				
AFRICAN ALLIANCE INSU. PLC	4	0.50	6,260,500	3,130,250.00
AIICO INSURANCE PLC	187	1.13	7,255,883	8,275,367.20
CONTINENTAL REINSUR. PLC	5	0.97	341,000	329,450.00
CORNSTONE INSUR. CO. PLC	16	0.51	1,172,476	597,346.00
CUSTODIAN & ALLIED INSUR PLC	37	2.85	2,920,193	8,459,152.60
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	100,000	50,000.00
GOLDLINK ASSURANCE PLC	20	0.54	1,464,814	793,910.00
GUARANTY TRUST ASSUR. PLC	38	2.18	2,259,945	5,035,415.41
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	205,000	102,500.00
CONSOLIDATED HALLMARK INSUR. PLC	1	0.50	80,000	40,000.00
INTERNATIONAL ENERGY INSUR. COY. PLC	37	0.57	4,062,604	2,263,725.78
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC	46	0.52	2,722,835	1,393,531.86
LAW UNION & ROCK INSUR. PLC	10	0.57	1,227,500	699,647.00
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	20,000	10,000.00
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSUR. PLC	6	0.64	343,400	219,776.00
N.E.M. INSUR. CO. (NIG.) PLC	28	0.54	2,123,100	1,104,289.69
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC	11	0.74	633,526	450,394.22
REGENCY ALLIANCE INSUR COY. PLC	1	0.50	4,950	2,475.00
SOVEREIGN TRUST INSUR. PLC	1	0.50	10,000	5,000.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	3	0.83	11,200	8,848.00
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSUR. PLC	64	0.50	11,333,500	5,676,165.00
UNIC INSURANCE PLC	9	0.84	1,315,015	1,104,212.15
UNITY CAPITAL ASSUR. PLC	7	1.15	806,000	926,900.00
UNIVERSAL INSUR. COY. PLC	2	0.50	98,144	49,072.00
INTERCONTINENTAL WAPCO INSUR. PLC	19	1.00	604,700	617,016.40
SECTOR TOTALS	557		47,376,285	41,344,444.31
LEASING				
C&I LEASING PLC	25	2.60	327,800	852,360.20
SECTOR TOTALS	25		327,800	852,360.20
MARITIME				
JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERV. PLC	176	1.26	8,375,551	10,241,718.91
SECTOR TOTALS	176		8,375,551	10,241,718.91
MEDIA				
DAAR COMMUNICATIONS PLC	43	0.73	420,173	299,467.83
SECTOR TOTALS	43		420,173	299,467.83
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ASO SAVINGS AND LOAN PLC	18	0.65	2,531,390	1,672,785.24
RESORT SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	6	0.50	10,154,100	5,077,050.00
UNION HOMES SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	39	0.94	2,750,058	2,591,338.29
SECTOR TOTALS	63		15,435,548	9,341,173.53
OTHER FINANCIAL INST.				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC	22	0.97	2,152,178	2,208,997.66
NIGERIAN ENERGY SECTOR FUND	1	552.20	50	26,229.50
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	16	0.59	238,839	140,638.95
SECTOR TOTALS	39		2,391,067	2,375,866.11
PACKAGING				
NIG. BAG MANUFACTURING COY. PLC	351	2.37	2,745,438	6,137,549.89
SECTOR TOTALS	351		2,745,438	6,137,549.89
PETROLEUM (MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC	133	43.05	1,336,352	57,303,906.80
BECO PETROLEUM PRODUCT PLC	11	2.35	61,220	139,071.00
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	15	69.79	12,342	880,579.48
CONOIL PLC	32	32.55	127,321	4,140,349.35
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC	24	6.00	561,472	3,372,887.95
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC	14	97.51	29,982	2,777,532.48
OANDO PLC	5	93.99	7,038	661,501.62
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	18	142.50	14,825	2,155,019.00
SECTOR TOTALS	252		2,150,552	71,430,847.68
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	1	9.76	200	1,856.00
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	4	5.45	8,772	46,048.80
SECTOR TOTALS	5		8,972	47,904.80
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROPERTY DEV. CO. PLC	17	20.00	347,702	6,968,413.64
SECTOR TOTALS	17		347,702	6,968,413.64
OVERALL TOTALS	7,377		299,066,217	2,166,303,814.19

Blue Chip Stocks of leading and nationally known companies that offer a record of continuous dividend payments and other strong investment qualities.

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GAINERS

AP	2.05
CONOIL	1.55
CAP	1.21
UAC-PROP	0.65

LOSERS



KANO STATE SPORTS COUNCIL

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TENDER

Kano State Sports Council hereby invites reputable and competent Companies/Firms/Contractors for the rehabilitation of 400 metres tartan track at Sani Abacha Stadium, Kofar Mata.

This includes:

1. Supply of materials for renovation works of synthetic surface of running track.
2. Installation of the materials on the 8 lanes running track, two segments. Long/triple jump area with approximate 7,130 sqm and associated works.

Interested firms are required to submit the following pre-qualification documents:

- a. Certificate of incorporation.
- b. Registration certificate with State's Works Registration Board where applicable
- c. Company's audited account for the past three years.
- d. Evidence of payments of company income tax doe 3 years and tax clearance for 3 years.
- e. VAT registration certificate and evidence of past VAT remittances for the past three years.
- f. Evidence of settlement of PAYEE and other withholding taxes due to the State
- g. Evidence of financial capability.
Bank Reference letter Bank Statement or evidence for financial backing from the bank.
- h. Records of previous similar projects executed and evidence of knowledge in the industry as well as name, current addresses, phone numbers of the supervising consultant together with evidence of completion.
- i. Equipments, plants and technology capacity.
- j. Annual turnovers.
- k. Qualification and experience of key personnel.
- l. Local resource utilization and;
- m. Community & Social responsibilities support.

All prequalification and tender documents should be submitted each in Ten (10) copies in separate sealed envelopes marked at the top right hand corner "PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TENDER FOR" together with a non refundable fee of Three Hundred Thousand Naira (N300,000.00) in bank draft payable to Kano State Sports Council, before 12:00 noon not later than two weeks from the date of this publication to:

**The tender Secretary,
Kano State Sports Council,
No 2 Club Road, Bompai,
Kano State.**

Signed:
Tender Secretary



THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF NIGERIA

(Established by Act of Parliament No. 15 of 1965)

Presents

PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS SYLLABUS AWARENESS PROGRAMME

KANO CENTRE

Horizon Hotel, 5, Court House Close,
Off Miller Road, Born Pai, Kano.

Date: March 2, 2010 | Time: 10.00a.m.

PORT HARCOURT CENTRE

L.A. Kings Complex,
Plot 267 Stadium Road
Rumuomasi
Port-Harcourt

Date: March 9, 2010 | Time: 10.00a.m.

BENIN CITY CENTRE

Bishop Kelley Centre
St. Paul's Catholic Church,
Off Airport Road
Benin City

Date: March 10, 2010 | Time: 10.00a.m.

ABUJA CENTRE

Ultimate Sharon Hotel
Tafawa Balewa Way
Area 3 Garki
Abuja

Date: March 11, 2010 | Time: 10.00a.m.

IBADAN CENTRE

Premier Hotel
Mokola Hill
Ibadan

Date: March 19, 2010 | Time: 10.00a.m.

Guest Speakers and Topics

Mr. Adepate, Olutoyin, A. FCA
Registrar / Chief Executive Officer
Institute of Chartered Accountants
of Nigeria
Lagos

INSIGHT INTO THE NEW SYLLABUS

Mr. Muyiwa Odejayi, FCA
Chairman
Professional Examination committee
ICAN

ICAN EXAMINATION
RULES AND REGULATIONS

Mr. Ademola Omolehinwa, FCA
Chief Executive Officer
Pye Associate Ltd
Fadayi
Lagos

HOW TO PREPARE AND
PASS ICAN EXAMINATIONS

For further enquiries, please contact:

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PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Motto: Justice, Unity and Progress

National Secretariat: Plot 1970 Wadata Plaza, Michael Okpara Street, Wuse Zone 5 Abuja. Tel: 09-5234442, 5232569, 5233429. Fax: 09-5233880

Press Statement

POSTURINGS OF THE FACELESS "INTERGRITY FORUM"

Our attention has been drawn to paid media publications by a faceless group using the name of our great Party. This group which calls itself the "PDP Integrity Forum", had in newspaper publications of Saturday 19th of February 2010, made spurious allegations against the leadership of the Peoples Democratic Party.

2. Since the current National Working Committee led by Prince Vincent Ogbulafor assumed office in March 2008, we have restrained ourselves and refrained from engaging in needless altercations with ghost organizations where mischief makers hide under to vent their frustrations and anger for their failures and misfortunes in Nigerian politics.

3. We have consistently focused our attention on issues that will strengthen internal democracy, the rule of law and good governance in Nigeria. We shall therefore not be drawn into any debate with an amorphous group that does not even have an office or fixed address but criminally lays claim to our National Secretariat as its own address.

4. We are however aware that as electioneering activities in the buildup to the 2011 elections draw near, many shadowy groups will begin to emerge to draw attention to themselves in order to gain undue advantage over the loyal members of the Party.

5. The Peoples Democratic Party is well aware that every means, both fair and foul will be devised to blackmail, intimidate, harass and cast aspersions on the leadership of the Party because of our principled stand and determination to create a new platform for the advancement of popular democracy where each and every member is treated as an equal partner.

6. In order to clear all doubts in the minds of our teeming members and supporters and indeed all Nigerians, we wish to restate that despite the fruitless efforts of a few to foist an imaginary division within the Presidency, the National Assembly and even within our great Party, We shall remain resolute in our decision that there is only one Presidency in Nigeria.

7. We also wish to state unequivocally that we as members of the National Working Committee are proud of our role in the steps taking by the National Assembly, the Governors Forum, eminent Elders and all well meaning Nigerians in diffusing the political tension that existed in our country recently.

8. The resolution by the National Assembly empowering Dr. Goodluck Jonathan to function as the Acting President is consistent and in line with the position of the Party that the Presidency is one. In any case, all the decisions taken on this issue were carried out in full consultation with the leadership of the Party using the existing communication channels. While we continue in our prayer for the speedy recovery of President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, we wish to express our maximum support for the Acting President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan.

9. For avoidance of all doubt, the current leadership of the PDP has piloted the affairs of the Party based on the rule of law and transparency. This has promoted internal democracy in all Party matters. We wish to put on record that the leadership has faithfully implemented the report of Dr. Alex Ekwueme Reconciliation Committee and is making enormous progress with the subsequent Sen. Ike Nwachukwu led Reconciliation Committee. These have once more opened the gate of the Party to former estranged members and new members who are now rejoining and joining the Party in their droves.

10. The organs of the party at all tiers have been strengthened and are functioning at full capacity as evident in the electoral victories the Party has recorded in almost all the re-run elections. May we emphasize therefore that the PDP under the leadership of Prince Vincent Ogbulafor is a strong, democratic, law abiding, issue-driven and people oriented political Party in line with the vision of its founding fathers.

11. May we also add that the activities of this faceless group will be thoroughly investigated with a view to unmasking those behind it. They shall be subjected to the Party's disciplinary procedure if they are found to be members of the PDP.

Signed:

Alh. Abubakar Kawu Baraje
National Secretary

Prof. Rufai Ahmed Alkali
National Publicity Secretary



CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA

In furtherance of the transparency and full disclosure stance of the Central bank of Nigeria, the Monetary Policy Committee has decided that henceforth the lending rates obtainable in all Deposit Money Banks (DMBs) be made public to guide business decisions. Consequently, find below the applicable rates for each of the DMBs as at 19/02/2010. The rates will be published every Wednesday in some selected national Newspapers. The rates will also be available on the website of the Central Bank of Nigeria

S/N	NAME OF BANK	Deposit			Lending Rate									
		Demand Deposit	Savings Deposit	Time Deposit	Agriculture		Mining & Quarrying		Oil & Gas		Manufacturing		Real Estate & Const	
		Ave.Int Rate	Ave.Int Rate	Ave.Int Rate	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.
1	Access Bank	0-2	3-5	8-11	17.00	24.00	17.50	24.00	17.50	24.00	17.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
2	Afribank Nigeria	0.67	3.00	13.00	18.00	23.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
3	Diamond Bank	0.65	2.90	12.50	14.00	19.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00
4	Ecobank Nigeria	0.01	3.00	12.50	-	-	18.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	14.00	20.00	18.00	21.50
5	Equitorial Trust Bank	2.00	6.00	14.58	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00
6	Fidelity Bank	2.00	4.00	12.50	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00
7	First Bank of Nigeria	-	3.00	10.51	8.00	22.00	22.00	24.25	22.00	24.25	22.00	24.25	22.00	23.00
8	FCMB	0.15	2.16	12.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	23.50	17.00	23.50	17.00	22.50	17.00	23.25
9	FINBANK	0.25	3.00	12.25	14.00	24.75	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	23.00
10	Guaranty Trust Bank	-	3.50	11.58	16.00	17.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00
11	Stanbic IBTC Bank	1.04	2.19	12.19	18.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	20.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00
12	Intercontinental Bank	0	0.50	12.28	22.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	-	-	22.00	22.00
13	Citi Bank Nigeria	0.75	1.50	7.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	17.00	22.00
14	Oceanic Bank	0.25	3.00	3-16	21.00	27.00	21.00	27.00	21.00	27.00	16.50	27.00	18.00	27.00
15	Bank PHB	0.60	1.50	10.20	5.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
16	Skye Bank	2.00	3.00	13.36	14.00	14.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00
17	Spring Bank	0	3.00	10.80	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00
18	Standard Chartered Bank	1.5	3.00	8.25	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00
19	Sterling Bank	0.50	4.50	13.50	19.00	22.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00
20	Union Bank	-	2.00	12.00	17.00	19.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00
21	United Bank for Africa	0.81	2.32	13.19	8.00	22.00	21.00	22.00	15.50	22.00	15.50	22.00	15.50	22.00
22	Unity Bank	1.00	4-5	3-15.75	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00
23	Wema Bank	-	2.00	3.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00
24	Zenith Bank	0-9	0-9	13.50	18.75	22.00	15.00	22.00	15.00	22.00	16.00	22.00	13.00	22.00

S/N	NAME OF BANK	Deposit			Lending Rate									
		Demand Deposit	Savings Deposit	Time Deposit	General Comm.		Mortgage		Transp. & Comm.		Fin. & Ins.		Govt.	
		Ave.Int Rate	Ave.Int Rate	Ave.Int Rate	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.
1	Access Bank	0-2	3-5	8-11	18.00	24.00	14.00	24.00	18.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
2	Afribank Nigeria	0.67	3.00	13.00	19.00	25.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	25.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
3	Diamond Bank	0.65	2.90	12.50	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00
4	Ecobank Nigeria	0.01	3.00	12.50	18.00	25.00	16.00	22.00	18.00	25.00	16.00	22.00	18.00	20.00
5	Equitorial Trust Bank	2.00	6.00	14.58	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00
6	Fidelity Bank	2.00	4.00	12.50	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00
7	First Bank of Nigeria	-	3.00	10.51	22.00	24.25	22.00	24.25	22.00	24.25	22.00	24.25	19.00	23.00
8	FCMB	0.15	2.16	12.00	17.00	26.50	17.00	22.50	17.00	22.00	17.00	23.00	17.00	23.25
9	FINBANK	0.25	3.00	12.25	21.00	26.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	18.00	25.00	21.00	23.00
10	Guaranty Trust Bank	-	3.50	11.58	20.00	22.00	20.00	22.00	20.00	22.00	18.00	25.00	21.00	25.00
11	Stanbic IBTC Bank	1.04	2.19	12.19	17.00	22.00	17.00	24.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	-	22.00
12	Intercontinental Bank	0	0.50	12.28	22.00	28.00	9.50	9.50	18.00	25.00	22.00	28.00	22.00	25.00
13	Citi Bank Nigeria	0.75	1.50	7.00	18.00	22.00	-	-	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	17.00	20.00
14	Oceanic Bank	0.25	3.00	3-16	19.00	27.00	17.00	25.00	21.00	27.00	21.00	27.00	21.00	27.00
15	Bank PHB	0.60	1.50	10.20	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
16	Skye Bank	2.00	3.00	13.36	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00
17	Spring Bank	0	3.00	10.80	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00
18	Standard Chartered Bank	1.5	3.00	8.25	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00
19	Sterling Bank	0.50	4.50	13.50	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	22.00
20	Union Bank	-	2.00	12.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00
21	United Bank for Africa	0.81	2.32	13.19	21.00	22.00	15.50	22.00	15.50	22.00	15.50	22.00	15.50	22.00
22	Unity Bank	1.00	4-5	3-15.75	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00
23	Wema Bank	-	2.00	3.00	18.00	23.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	23.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00
24	Zenith Bank	0-9	0-9	13.50	19.00	22.00	17.50	22.00	17.00	22.00	12.00	20.00	19.00	22.00

These are the interest rates banks charge the public on loans and advances. It reflects the cost of borrowings and also includes all charges and commissions levied by banks.

(Signed)
Management

N
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E

NIGERIA UNION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT:

NULGE HOUSE, Plot 463, Ajose Adeogun Street, Utako District, Abuja



APPOINTMENT

The National Executive Council (NEC) of the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE) at its meeting of December 3, 2009, has unanimously approved the immediate appointment of **Alhaji Adamu Mohammed Goewam**, whose photograph appeared on the right, as the new Acting General Secretary of NULGE in line with the provision of Rule 13 sub-section IV of NULGE Constitution which states that; "The post of the General Secretary on becoming vacant, shall be filled by advertisement, or as the National Executive Council may deem fit." In the same vein, NEC has approved the immediate appointment of **Comrade Bamidele O. Oyeniyen** as the substantive Deputy General Secretary of NULGE.



ALHAJI Adamu Mohammed Goewam

DISENGAGEMENT

Also, the National Executive Council has unanimously approved the disengagement of **Comrade Joshua Irapakob**, **Comrade Maria Lebeke**, **Comrade Taiwo G. Adebayo** and **Comrade Usman Mahmud**, whose photographs appeared on the left.



COMRADE Joshua Irapakob



COMRADE Maria Lebeke



COMRADE Taiwo G. Adebayo



COMRADE Usman Mahmud

Consequently, the National Secretariat has effectively relieved them of their duties because their services are no longer required. Members and employees of NULGE, government and Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) officials, security agencies and members of the general public are hereby advised to take note of this development. Anybody who transacts business with the disengaged persons on behalf of NULGE does so at his or her own risk.

SIGNED

- | | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | A. O. K. Eboigbodin | (Deputy National President) | 21. | Comrade Patrick Sihnbbele | (NULGE President, Bayelsa State) |
| 2. | Apostle Godwin Tumini Diri | (National Vice President South-South) | 22. | Comrade Benjamin Abobi | (NULGE President, Cross River State) |
| 3. | Obidah J. Bitrus | (National Vice President North-East) | 23. | Comrade Olumami O. Oyibo | (NULGE President, Delta State) |
| 4. | Yusuf Alhassan Kanoma | (National Vice President North-West) | 24. | Comrade Lonard I. Nkah | (NULGE President, Ebonyi State) |
| 5. | Kayoed Elegbede | (National Vice President South-West) | 25. | Comrade Mrs. Lotachukwu Aneke | (NULGE President, Enugu State) |
| 6. | Nura Nakazalle | (National Treasurer) | 26. | Comrade Patrick Okenyanleu | (NULGE President, Edo State) |
| 7. | Shehu S. Pawa | (National Trustee) | 27. | Comrade Linus Nwajere | (Acting NULGE President, Imo State) |
| 8. | Kenneth Tinibu | (National Trustee) | 28. | Comrade Thomas Abutu | (NULGE President, Kogi State) |
| 9. | Jamilu Ado | (National Trustee) | 29. | Alhaji Bashir Isyaku Karare | (NULGE President, Katsina State) |
| 10. | Steve Ibe | (National Auditor) | 30. | Comrade Shehu Abubakar | (NULGE President, Kaduna State) |
| 11. | Abimbola C. O. Kehinde | (National Auditor) | 31. | Alhaji Mohammed Lawal Na-Allah | (NULGE President, Kebbi State) |
| 12. | Umaru Dikko Jimeta | (National Auditor) | 32. | Comrade Lasisi Ayinde Akinsanya | (NULGE President, Lagos State) |
| 13. | Offiong Efiang Edeminam | (National Welfare Secretary) | 33. | Alhaji Salihu Adamu Eladoga | (NULGE President, Nasarawa State) |
| 14. | Achj Agbo | (National Welfare Secretary) | 34. | Alhaji Saidu Aliyu Kalla | (NULGE President, Niger State) |
| 15. | Alhaji Gambo Dan-Abdullahi | (National Publicity Secretary) | 35. | Comrade Olusesi Tajudeen | (NULGE President, Ogun State) |
| 16. | Comrade Eze Idima | (NULGE President, Abia State) | 36. | Alhaji Mohammed Adamu Goewam | (NULGE President, Plateau State) |
| 17. | Comrade Emmanuel Fashe | (NULGE President, Adamawa State) | 37. | Comrade Godwin Tumini Diri | (NULGE President, Rivers State) |
| 18. | Comrade Felix Udo | (NULGE President, Akwa Ibom State) | 38. | Alhaji Haliru Dange | (NULGE President, Sokoto State) |
| 19. | Comrade Sir Godwin C. Ibekwe | (NULGE President, Anambra State) | 39. | Comrade Naphtali Kerfas | (NULGE President, Taraba State) |
| 20. | Comrade Richard Gbande | (NULGE President, Benue State) | 40. | Alhaji Kabiru Mohammed | (NULGE President, Zamfara State) |
| | | | 41. | Comrade Adam Mohammed Mudi | (NULGE President, Bauchi State) |

PRINCE KINGSLEY OGBA JP
(NATIONAL PRESIDENT)

DIGEST

What losing an hour's sleep really does to your children



SOME scientists claim lack of sleep can dramatically affect the brain in the future

HOW many hours' sleep does your child get a night? However much it is, it's likely to be less than you had as a child.

While many parents - thanks to baby gurus - obsess about babies' sleep, this tails off after the nursery years.

The result is that modern children, from primary school age right up to secondary, get on average an hour less sleep each night than they did 30 years ago.

Research suggests that half of all pre-teens get less than seven hours' sleep on weekday nights, and only slightly more than six hours when they reach secondary school.

Why is this happening? The common 21st-century afflictions: over-scheduling of activities, burdensome homework, lax bedtimes and TVs and mobile phones in the

bedroom.

Plus parental guilt: home from work late, wanting time with the children, reluctant to play the tyrant by ordering them to bed.

Until now, we could ignore the lost hour - if we were even aware it existed - because we did not know its true cost to children. But using newly developed technological and statistical tools, sleep scientists have been able to isolate and measure its impact.

Because children's brains are a work in progress until the age of 21, and much of that work is done while asleep, this lost hour appears to have an impact on children it simply doesn't have on adults.

The surprise is not merely that sleep matters - but how much it matters. Not just to academic performance and emotional sta-

bility, but to seemingly unrelated phenomena, such as the obesity epidemic and the rise of attention deficit disorder. Some scientists claim sleep problems during formative years can cause permanent changes in brain structure. It's even possible that many of the hallmark characteristics of being a teenager - moodiness, depression and binge drinking - are symptoms of chronic sleep deprivation.

A few years ago, Dr Avi Sadeh at Tel Aviv University sent 77 third and fifth year pupils home with instructions to go to bed earlier or stay up later for three nights.

Each child was given an actigraph - a wristwatch-like device that allowed researchers to see how much sleep they were getting.

The team found that the first group managed to get 30 minutes

more sleep a night. The other group got 31 minutes less.

After the third night, a researcher tested the children using a computerised version of an IQ test. Dr Sadeh discovered that a slightly sleepy fifth former performed in class like a third-former - the loss of just one hour's sleep is equivalent to the loss of two years of cognitive maturation and development.

Dr Sadeh's findings are consistent with other researchers' work - which point to the academic consequences of small sleep differences. With the benefit of MRI scans, researchers are starting to understand exactly how sleep loss impairs a child's brain. Tired children can't remember what they just learned, for instance, because their brain cells lose their 'plastic-

ity', becoming incapable of forming new connections necessary to encode a memory.

A different mechanism causes children to be inattentive in class. Sleep loss debilitates the body's ability to extract glucose from the bloodstream.

Without this, one part of the brain suffers more than the rest - the prefrontal cortex, which is responsible for what's known as Executive Function - orchestrating your thoughts to fulfil a goal and perceiving the consequences of your actions.

A tired brain gets stuck on a wrong answer and can't come up with a more creative solution, repeatedly returning to the answer it already knows is wrong.

Both these mechanisms weaken a child's capacity to learn during the day. But the most exciting science concerns what the brain is up to when a child is asleep. Dr Matthew Walker, an academic from California, explains that during sleep the brain shifts what it learned that day to more efficient storage regions of the brain. Each stage of sleep plays its own unique role in capturing memories.

For example, studying a foreign language requires learning vocabulary, remembering new sounds and motor skills to enunciate the new word. The vocabulary is processed by one area of the brain early in the night during slow-wave sleep, a deep slumber without dreams.

Meanwhile, memories that are emotionally laden get processed during REM, or dreaming sleep.

Children's sleep is different in terms of its quality from adult sleep because they spend more than 40 per cent of it in slowwave stage (adults spend just). This is why a good night's sleep is so important to children for long-term learning.

But perhaps most fascinating is the way emotions associated with a memory affect where it gets processed.

We are happiest at 74, says new report

SEVENTY-FOUR year-olds are the most contented people in the population, according to new research. Fewer responsibilities, financial worries and more time to yourself leads to contentment previously unknown in earlier life.

According to the report from the teenage years until 40 happiness declines. It levels off until 46 and then starts to increase until peaking at 74.

Scientists from Germany and America regularly questioned 21,000 men and women how happy they were with their lives providing a scale from one to seven - seven indicated complete contentment.

Teenagers in their late teens marked themselves at around 5.5 which fell to around 5 by age 40.

At 74 happiness averaged at 5.9.

The report, published in the journal *Social Indicators Research*, said this could be due to older people being more appreciative.

It concluded: "Compared to younger individuals, older people tend to place a greater emphasis on emotional aspects of social interactions and are likely to remember the emotional content of their experiences."

Bringing up a family, buying a house and creating a career added to the stresses experience by those in their

twenties and thirties.

The change in happiness was apparently most pronounced amongst British respondents. German men and women reported relatively stable levels of satisfaction throughout their lives.

Dr Carlo Strenger, from Tel Aviv University, said: "If you make fruitful use of what you have discovered about yourself in the first half of your life, the second half can be the most fulfilling."

"Most people can anticipate a second life, if not a second career."

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

Sign Language



Also available, fines and prison sentences

Photo location: Palo Alto, by Daniel Wolfe

Culled from www.signspotting.com



You don't have to put it that way

Photo location: Sri Lanka tea plantation, by Mara de Groot

Culled from www.signspotting.com

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.

93

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

Solution to Sudoku 92

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

News Extra

Latin American leaders back Argentina's claim over the Falkland Islands



GROUP shot: Latin American leaders attending the Rio Group Summit pose for the official photo on the outskirts of Playa del Carmen, south of Cancun, Monday

Latin American and Caribbean nations backed Argentina's claim of sovereignty to the Falkland Islands on Monday in a growing dispute with Britain over plans to drill for oil off the islands in the Atlantic.

At the Rio Group summit of 32 countries hosted by Mexico, Argentina presented a statement quoting Mexican President Felipe Calderon as saying that 'the heads of state represented here reaffirm their support for the legitimate rights of the republic of Argentina in the sovereignty dispute with Great Britain.'

Calderon did not speak directly about the matter.

Argentina has long disputed sovereignty of the Falkland Islands - known as Las Malvinas in Latin America - having fought and lost a war over them in 1982.

The issue had been relatively calm until a British oil exploration company recently announced drilling plans there.

Desire Petroleum PLC said Monday that it has started drilling for oil about 60 miles north of the disputed Falkland Islands, despite strong opposition from Argentina.

'The well is being drilled to an estimated target depth of circa 11,500 feet,' the company said in a statement.

'Drilling operations are expected to take approximately 30 days.'

The dispute over the Falklands dates back to the 19th century, when the islands were seized by the British.



OIL exploration company Desire Petroleum PLC began drilling at a spot north of the disputed Falkland Islands yesterday using this semi-submersible

Argentina has sought their return ever since, invading in April 1982 and holding them until June, when British forces retook the territory.

Full diplomatic relations were restored in 1990 and both sides have since largely agreed to disagree on the issue of sovereignty.

But anger over the issue still lingers and has been exacerbated by the prospect that Argentina could lose out on mineral wealth discovered offshore.

Argentine President Cristina Fernandez ruled out any plans to try to keep the British boats or rigs out.

'We do not believe in methods

Argentina has long disputed sovereignty of the Falkland Islands - known as Las Malvinas in Latin America - having fought and lost a war over them in 1982



ARGENTINA'S President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, left, smiles next to Mexico's President Felipe Calderon during the opening ceremony of the Rio Group summit

like blockades,' she told reporters.

One of the primary goals of the two-day summit being held in the Caribbean beach resort of Playa del Carmen is the formation of a new regional group that would include all nations in the Americas - except the United States and Canada.

A working summit document, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, suggests diplomats are still working on a name for the organization, with the 'Latin American and Caribbean Community' being one possibility. The group is expected to be established by 2011.

The summit meeting was

marked by a strong exchange of words between leftist Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Colombia's conservative Alvaro Uribe, said a diplomat with firsthand knowledge of the situation.

The discussion centered on political differences that have led Venezuela to suspend many of Colombia's exports, and reached such a heated level that Chavez reportedly got up to leave the meeting before other leaders stepped in to calm the two, said the diplomat, who was not authorised to be quoted by name or country.

News Extra

Measuring 7ft 3ins nose-to-tail, Giant George is declared the world's tallest dog



OWNER Christine Nasser and George, a great dane from Tucson, Arizona, who has been declared the world's tallest dog

This huge hound officially entered the record books Monday as the world's tallest dog - standing more than seven foot on its hind legs.

'Giant' George claimed the prestigious title after Guinness Records officials measured him up at 43 inches from paw to shoulder, or 7ft 3ins when 'standing' on his back legs.

The four-year-old great dane weighs a staggering 17.5 stone and consumes 110lb of food each week.

He even sleeps in his own queen-size bed.

His owner David Nasser, of Tucson, Arizona, is thrilled George has topped previous holder Titan, a four-year-old great dane from San Diego, who is 0.75 of an inch shorter than George.

Before Titan, the record was held by another Great Dane, Gibson, of Grass Valley, California, who stood at 42.2 inches tall.

Craig Glenday, editor-in-chief of Guinness World Records, said that the adjudicator was sent after controversy over conflicting media accounts of the tallest dog.

He said: 'We can indeed say now that George is the top dog.'

A few days after he was declared a record-breaker, Giant George appeared on the Oprah Winfrey show.

Here, Mr Nasser recounts the whole experience.

He said: 'Oprah's staff learned about Giant George thorough FaceBook and YouTube and were very insistent on having him as a feature on this show; regardless of the Guinness World Record.

'As fate would have it, the timing with Guinness World Records and the Oprah Show came together flawlessly.

'On Monday, February 15, the Guinness representative came to Tucson and conducted the official measurement.

'Triumphantly, Giant George earned the Guinness World Records for "Tallest Dog Ever," and "Tallest Living Dog."

'We then began coordinating the logistics of transporting a 43ins and 17.3 stone dog to Chicago.

After much deliberation and discussion, American Airlines offered to fly Giant George to Chicago.

'He would not fit in a first-class row, so he got three of his own seats at the bulk-head...This meant that Giant George would be in the fuselage, like a regular passenger.

'Needless to say, this was cause for much commotion on the flight.

'Throughout, many of the other passengers came up to take photos and pet him...he was a total Rock Star!.

'There were so many people coming to the front of the plane, the pilot ended up illuminating the "fasten seat-belt" sign to get everyone to sit down.

'When we arrived in Chicago, we were shocked by the number of people who were waiting for us in the arrival area at the airport.

'With flashing cameras and video rolling, more than one-hundred people saw Giant George strike a pose as though he was on a red carpet. Needless to say, they ate it up.'

Trunk call: How elephants communicate using a 'secret language'

Elephants are known for their loud trumpeting calls, but new research has revealed they also communicate using a secret language which humans cannot hear.

Researchers at San Diego Zoo have been monitoring the conversations between a herd of African elephants at the wild animal park.

They discovered that when they make a low rumbling growl, most of the call is inaudible because it is too low for us to detect. The team, led by Dr Matt Anderson, decided to analyse these calls in an attempt to unravel what the animals were saying to each other.

Eight of the gentle giants were given a special £1,500 leather collar with a chin microphone, GPS tracking system and recording device.

They recorded the elephant's vocalisations for a 24-hour period each week for 10 weeks. This was then combined with

observations of the elephants and GPS data to put the sounds in context.

The data revealed the female elephants were communicating using a 'secret language.'

Pregnant elephants were using this low frequency communication to tell the rest of the herd when they were about to give birth. This would warn the other elephants to look out for predators that could harm the newborn calf in the days leading up to the birth.

Dr Anderson, who is the director of behavioural biology at the park, said: 'We thought elephants had a certain vocabulary, but we are finding it is much larger than anyone realised.'

He added that the information could help researchers create a more stress-free environment for elephants being bred in captivity. The team plan to build up a catalogue of elephant sounds as part of the research.



SEVERAL calf births have increased the San Diego elephant herd's size to 13. Researchers found the animals communicate on a low frequency immediately before a birth

News Extra

A pilot was forced to land his plane on a U.S. highway during rush hour Monday after he ran out of fuel and his engine cut out.

Joe Durosseau was returning from a humanitarian mission in Mexico with three passengers when he ran into trouble over Interstate 80 near Reno, Nevada.

Mr Durosseau, who works as a fire chief in the city, said: 'I went to switch fuel tanks and it said there was 7.5 gallons left.

'Then the engine wouldn't start and we had to land on the freeway. Traffic was light, and I picked a spot between traffic.'

Durosseau, 60 and a veteran pilot, flew his Cessna 172 four-seat aircraft beneath the Vista Boulevard bridge, hovered above the freeway and found an opening between westbound vehicles.

The Cessna 172 rolled about 100 feet and stopped near the Sparks Boulevard overpass.

The landing caused no injuries or accidents, Nevada Highway Patrol Trooper Chuck Allen said.

Durosseau said he was trying to switch from one fuel tank to another when the engine went out and would not restart.

He was upset only because his tail wheel broke and a wing tip and rudder were damaged.

Durosseau had flown the group from Dyer in Southern Nevada but was prevented from landing in Reno by fog.

He headed for a nearby airport at Fernley but was called back to Reno-Tahoe International Airport as the weather cleared.

Officials estimated he had enough fuel to support 40 minutes of flying from the tank he was using, when he tried to switch to the reserve supply.

Durosseau was calm when interviewed by police and news



JOSEPH DuRousseau flew the aircraft beneath the Vista Boulevard bridge and on to the highway

Pilot's miracle landing on a busy U.S. highway

media, as passengers Joan and Aimee Abittan and Tamara Anderson, recovered their luggage.

'It was totally fine,' Anderson said. 'It was just an emergency landing that happened like it should have.'

'It was unusual for sure. I've

never done that before.'

The aircraft remained beside the Sparks Boulevard overpass for several hours, with one westbound lane open.

A crew was scheduled to move the plane on a trailer to Stead Airport, Allen said.

Officials for the National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Aviation Administration were at the scene.

The FAA registry shows Durosseau owns the airplane built in 1957.

'I just saw an opening in the traffic and slowed down,' Dur-

ousseau told KRNVT-TV in Reno.

He said the cars behind him slowed and those ahead sped up. 81 is one of the busiest roads in Nevada, just outside the bustling city of Reno.

'It created a nice spot to come in,' he said. 'Everyone did a nice job.'

Durosseau said his passengers had been at a dental clinic as part of the volunteer Flying Doctors programme, a California-based non-profit organisation that provides health care and education in rural villages throughout Mexico and Central America.

The group uses volunteer pilots to transport teams of medical professionals and volunteers on monthly trips to rural medical, dental and optometry clinics.

A pilot for 30 years, Durosseau has flown for the agency for four years and said his passengers were returning from a dental clinic. Anderson is a trip coordinator for the organisation's Truckee chapter.

In 2006, Durosseau led the fire department's Urban Search and Rescue Team when it went through the Mizpah Hotel after a Halloween night arson that killed 12. He also headed water entry and trench rescue teams for the department and is a volunteer with the sheriff's office's Search and Rescue team, officials said.



MIRACLE landing reported on local television



VETERAN pilot Joe DuRousseau

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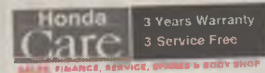
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On behalf of the entire members of Katsina Chamber of commerce, industry, mines and Agriculture (KATCCIMA). The chairman Board of trustees, Dr Sani Abubakar Lugga (Wazirin Katsina) and Chairman, Katsina state investment and property development company (KIPDECO), Alhaji Lamis Shehu Dikko (Ajyan Katsina) cordially invites the General Public, to the Formal Inauguration and Fund Rising Dinner of the Newly Elected Executive Council Members of the Chapter which is Scheduled to take place as follows: -



His Excellency, Governor of Katsina state
Alh. Ibrahim Shehu Shema
Special Guest of Honour

Date: Saturday 27th February, 2010
Venue: Katsina State Secretariat Conference Hall
Time: 8:00am prompt



Alh. Dahiru Bara'u Mangal
Chairman / CEO
AFDIA Group of Companies
(Chief Launcher)



Dr. Sani Abubakar Lugga
(Wazirin Katsina)
Chairman, Board of Trustees KATCCIMA
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Chairman, Board of Directors KIPDECO
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Wamba communities get 17 boreholes

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

RELIEF has come the way of the people of Wamba, a constituency in Nasarawa State, as the period of perennial water scarcity has passed with the provision of 17 boreholes by their representative in the Nasarawa State House of Assembly, Barrister Innocent Lagi.

"We suffered untold hardship with perennial water scarcity. But that is all history now because the people of Wamba now turn their taps and fetch without having to resort to streams and other exposed sources of water," a prominent member of Wamba, Adamu Tanko told Daily Trust yesterday.

Tanko who is the chairman of Change Group, a pressure group based in Wamba said the boreholes, most of which are motorized are the provision of the lawmaker whose had planned 51 of them for the people within his four year tenure.

Daily Trust spoke to Barrister Lagi who confirmed the provision, saying "my target is 51 boreholes including motorized ones which I will provide before the termination of my tenure."

"I can assure you that I am working seriously on this project. It is a project close to my heart considering the fact that the government we have in Nasarawa State has no vision to provide for the people. I am committed to completing the provision before my tenure ends," Lagi added.

Lagi who is a leading opposition member of the house and a governorship aspirant said he purchased boreholes drilling equipment for the purpose of the project so as to avoid unnecessary cost that comes with contracts.

The chairman of Change Group had commended the lawmaker for the vision to give the people potable water, describing him as a true leader of the people. "He has ended our sufferings, and we commend him for this as we pray for his continued elevation so he will continue to put smiles on our faces," he said.

FMBN denies misuse of N10bn housing fund

By Nasir Imam

THE Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN) has denied the misappropriation by some top government functionaries of N10 billion 2009 supplementary budgetary allocation for the provision of housing finance to civil servants.

The Association of Senior Civil Servants of Nigeria had last Friday alleged that FMBN and a commercial bank are conniving with government officials to misappropriate the

said amount.

FMBN's Ag. Managing Director, Otunba Wemmy Osude, who addressed a press conference in Abuja yesterday, described the allegation as baseless, false and intended to mislead NHF contributors and discredit FMBN.

Otunba Osude said that whereas the report alleges that the money has been deposited in a private bank account, the fact is that the CBN, at the time of disbursement in December and not March, 2009, requested FMBN to furnish it with an account for the

funds, and one of the operational accounts maintained by FMBN in the normal course of business was provided.

The Ag. MD said though FMBN has uptill March 31 in which to disburse the funds, it is currently holding meetings with the Budget Office of the Federation, the Federal Civil Servants Housing Loans Board and representatives of the organized labour on the appropriate guidelines for the disbursement of the funds to both federal and state civil servants.

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE



A view of the skyline on the Marina, Lagos.

Assembly tasks contractor on Lokoja water project

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE Kogi State House of Assembly has urged the contractor handling the New Lokoja Greater Water Project to do a quality job.

The Vice Chairman of the House Committee on Water Resource, Alhaji Yakubu Yunusa, gave the warning when he led the committee members on an inspection of the project.

Yunusa warned that the committee would not tolerate shoddy job, warning the contractors to avoid the use of poor quality materials.

He maintained that the committee would ensure that the project is properly executed in accordance to the contractor's specifications and schedule, saying that "the project is a very welcome development for our state. The contractor has not disappointed us at least going by what we have seen. So far we are happy with the level of the job done."

The Commissioner for Water Resources and Rural Development, Dr Idris Shehu, who conducted the members round the site, said the ministry was committed to ensuring that

the project was completed within its stipulated period, thanking the governor for providing the enabling environment for the execution of the project.

"The ministry is working round the clock to ensure that this project is successfully completed so that the perennial problem of water supply in Lokoja will be a thing of the past. It will solve the water problem being experienced at the state capital and its environs. The project is being supervised by experts to meet the expected standards," the commissioner said.

Korean investors to introduce solar energy for housing

By Mustapha Suleiman

PROFESSOR Samsung Lee, Head of Korean International Junior Science Olympiad, yesterday led a delegation of Korean investors on a courtesy call to the Minister of State for Works, Housing and Urban Development, Mrs. Grace Ekpwhire.

Professor Lee said that it has a business

plan of introducing solar energy system to be fixed into housing development in the country.

According to him, the solar system when incorporated as they proposed will generate electricity for household within the vicinity where it is mounted, adding that it will reduce the problem of inadequate power distribution in the country.

He sought the partnership of the Works Ministry in introducing the solar system in the area of housing, adding that Nigeria and Indonesia have been identified as countries that can benefit immensely from the solar technology. While addressing the Korean team, Mrs. Ekpwhire assured them of ready market in the country as the country has vast population coupled with huge housing

deficit where they can invest.

She added that the solar energy idea brought by the Koreans will in no doubt complement mass housing scheme in the country, saying lack of infrastructures in mass housing delivery in satellite towns could be augmented by the technology as electricity can be easily generated by the residents using solar.



EYE ON ABUJA

WITH Umar Shuaibu
umarshuaibu1@yahoo.com



Going through rugged terrain

AS Nigeria's capital city what it invariably implies is that Abuja is the capital city of the most populous country in Africa, the capital city of the most populous black nation in the world as well as the capital city of the Africa's largest oil producing country. For such a city to be planned and developed within a very short span of 30 years, even without empirical evidence one would expect a very high tempo of construction activities, such that it would not be wrong to assert that Abuja as a city is the biggest construction industry in the whole of Africa.

These are the many factors that combine to make the development of the city successful; unlike our sister African countries that desired, but could not make the achievement. We recount on the fact that Cote D'voire and Tanzania proposed new capitals in Yamoussokro and Dodoma respectively before the decision to transfer the Nigerian capital from Lagos to Abuja. But Abuja's dreams were realized faster and much earlier.

For such a city where stake holders of all kinds have been multiplying over the years, land is certainly a great natural resource to be managed for the overall cultural and socio-economic benefits of the entire nation. This exactly is the advantage taken by the UAE and in albeit arid environment to transform Dubai into a global commercial and tourist hub. With leadership to equal the sincerity of the ones in those types of countries, achieving that feat is not out of our reach. However, that could only be obtained from the city's founding fathers that developed Abuja without minding to ever allocate a single plot of land to themselves, while placing all things where they belong in the city plan, and utilizing the available meager resources for ultimate benefit, hence the initial success that is now being abused by the contemporary leaders that accumulate as many as are

not possible for themselves and cronies. It is a known fact that when the head is rotten the whole body also becomes affected. With our ministers' tendencies to the misappropriation of lands, when shall we have the good heads?

With respect to section 18 of the FCT Act it is within the jurisdiction of the President to delegate his powers to the Minister appointed for the Federal Capital Territory, any person could be so appointed in our type of democratic practice.

As the custodian of all the landed properties in the whole territory, the Minister has such powers of allocation similar to those exercised by state governors. Just as the powers are enormous so also are the challenges in the spheres of development activities. Among others, these range from overseeing the highly technical activities of providing infrastructure to the various districts and organs in the city systems; supervision of all building activities in the territory to international standard, prevention and removal of all illegal developments and curbing the incidences of building collapse.

The complexity of the task for occupying the position requires the combination of honesty, dedication, seasoned professionalism and track record. What type of track record should one have to merit this appointment? While assessing the types of administrators we have always been saddled with in the FCT, can we honestly and devoid of any sycophancy assert that our national leaders are making the right choices? Elsewhere, like those whom we desire to emulate, it is the market forces that determines the real values of land, here it is speculation aided by dishonest leadership.

We wish to recall what we said while welcoming the present minister Senator Aliero in this column when he was first appointed, that Abuja deserves the best of the

managers out of the cream of personalities any government has to parade as its ministers. If the government of Alhaji Musa Yar'adua with its constitutional powers and credibility to safeguard feels it has given the nation the best so it is, it could only be proved later.

On the part of Senator Aliero himself we threw the caution that, depending on his disposition, if he needs candid advice there are plenty veterans in Abuja's development to offer. On the other hand, if he intends to pursue the policy of business as usual there are also plenty to misguide him amass as plenty as he wants. But he must be fore-warned that as many as he cornered, the human insatiable nature will never make him be contented, rather in Abuja where all eyes are transfixed on whatever he does the business as usual option shall obviously leads to his doom. Posterity shall judge him just like his immediate predecessor then awaiting his verdict; will he be a credible ex-minister of the FCT or follow the path of the one that has been declared wanted? Nothing shall stop him from being deposited in the dungeon of history when the time comes; to also be declared wanted if the need for such arises.

On our part, we said we shall endeavour to offer useful advice according to our knowledge of how the system works. Where he is right we shall commend him adequately and where we feel he has gone astray we have a duty to tell him with the view for him to make amends.

We believe that his success in this endeavour shall affect our lives positively, just as his failure, negatively. A lot of water has already gone down the drain, and it seems the terrain taken by the administration is too rugged for endurance. Is it not necessary for us now to start taking stock?

eyeonabuja@dailytrust.com

Lawmaker builds schools, hospitals

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

A member of the House of Representatives representing Mangu and Bokkos Federal Constituency, Mr James Ayuba, has built schools and hospitals in his constituency.

Ayuba stated this yesterday when he distributed 25 sacks of rice, 100 sacks of maize and N200, 000 to the victims of Jos crises affected in Bokkos and Mangu Local Government

areas of Plateau State.

He said "I build schools and furnished them; I also renovated some hospitals and assisted them with medical facilities in all the two local governments.

The lawmaker said "the aim of donating the relief materials is to assist the victims to feed themselves and their families in other to reduce the hardships they experienced by those affected since after the crises and appealed to

well meaning Nigerians to come to the aid of the victims so that they will be able to repair their burnt and damaged houses"

Responding on behalf of the communities that benefited, a traditional ruler, Mishkaham Mwachavul Jos, Mr Timothy Yawus, thanked the legislature for the gesture and pledged their continued support to his laudable programmes that touched the lives of their communities.



WORKS, Housing and Urban Development Minister, Dr. Hassan Muhammad Lawal, inspecting on-going rehabilitation works on the Enugu - Port Harcourt dual carriageway last Thursday

'Abuja requires five million houses'

By Nasir Imam

NIGERIA requires about 15 million houses from now to the year 2020 and close to five million of such houses is needed in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

The FCT Minister, Senator Muhammad Adamu Aliero made this revelation while hosting a delegation of Turkish businessmen to a lunch in his official residence, in Gwarinpa I District, Abuja.

The Minister reiterated that Abuja has beau-

tiful landscape and natural environment that can accommodate World class architectural buildings with a ready market.

He disclosed that just recently the Federal Executive Council approved a new guideline for Mass Housing Programme in the FCT with the aim of delivering more qualitative houses at affordable prices to all strata of the society resident in Abuja.

Speaking earlier, the leader of the delegation, Mr. Mehmet Ozhoseki, who is

also the Governor of Kayeri, Turkey expressed appreciation for the warm reception accorded his team in Abuja.

He disclosed that the team comprise of expertise in engineering and telecoms; remarking that they were in Abuja to do a foundation stone laying of a hospital.

Mr. Ozhoseki expressed the desire of some Turkish investors to go into the provision of infrastructural and engineering services in some selected districts of the Federal Capital City.

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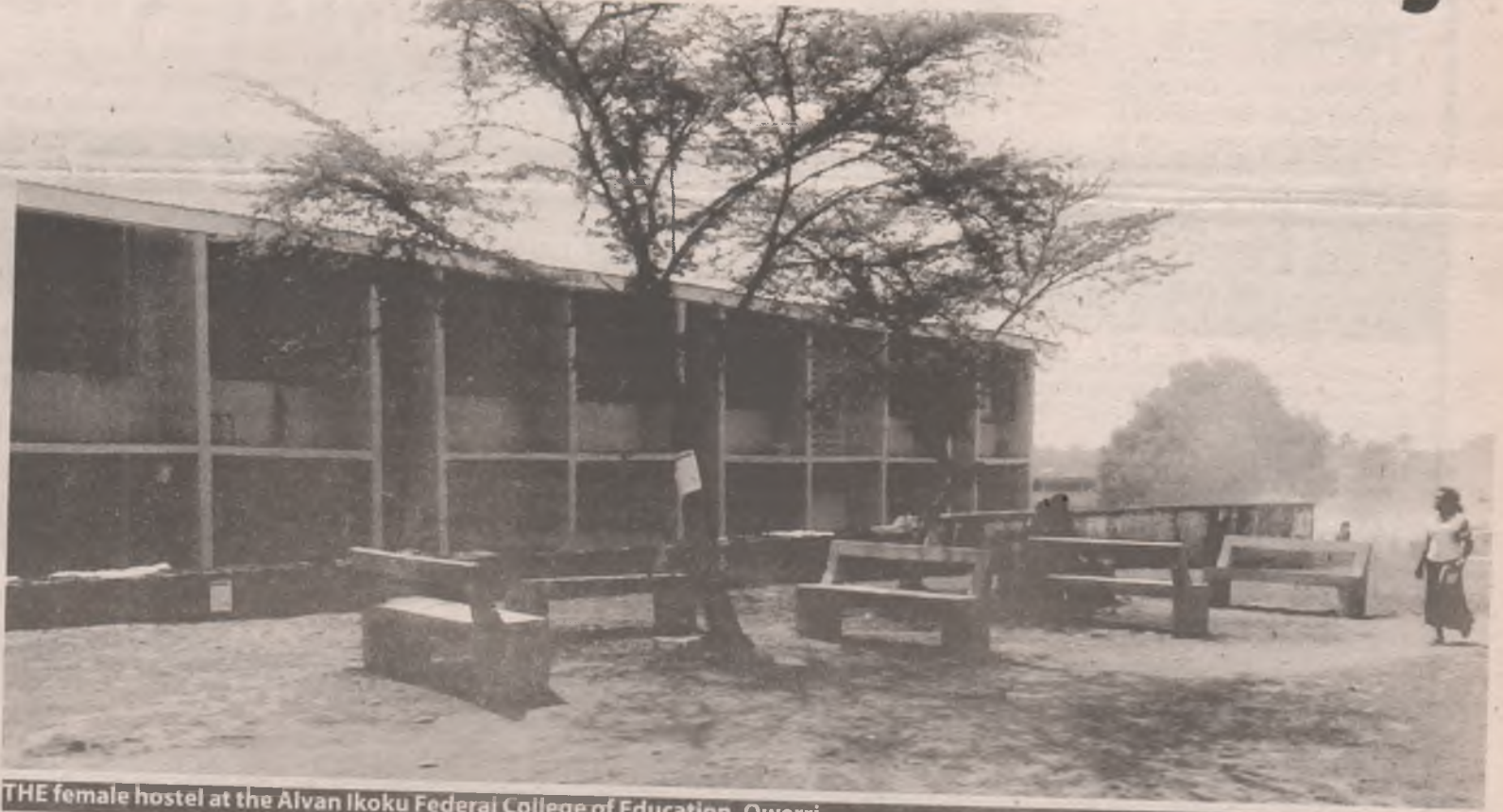
Renovation work improves at Alvan Ikoku college

From John Kennedy Uzoma, Owerri

OLD staff and students of former Alvan Ikoku College of Education, Imo State now Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, would definitely let go a shout of surprise at the ongoing massive renovation and beautification exercises on campus.

Martin Okpara, the President, Students' Union Government, while speaking with *Daily Trust* said that they are very impressed with the renovation exercise and other vital repairs that are going on campus with the beautification of the environment too. He revealed that the situation of things were so disgraceful especially the hostels and the facilities which exposed students to health problems and insecurity. There were no toilets, no windows to the rooms and everywhere were in total State of rot.

When *Daily Trust* called the office of Comrade B.B.C. Onwunwaabuoke, the chairman, colleges of education academic Staff Union, Alvan



THE female hostel at the Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, Owerri

ikoku federal college of education chapter and the Chairman of Joint Action Trade Union, to comment

on the development, he said that the pedestal achievements

The re-roofing, the

sewage systems are working perfectly; we have alternative water supply source as our provost sank two bore

holes with enough tanks for reservoir; the campus is glittering with the renovation and coating of the both

the academic buildings and hostels; the landscaping, interlocking paving system and general beautification.

Group opposes demolition of Lugbe

By Nasir Imam

GRAVELY concerned about the security implication of having too many idle persons of productive age in the nation's capital as well as other major cities in the country, the Human Rights Writers' Association of Nigeria, HURIWA, has tasked the Federal Government to stop the proposed demolition of Lugbe, a suburb of Abuja, by the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA).

The democracy inclined and development focused non-governmental organ-

ization, in a statement issued and jointly signed by its National Coordinator Comrade Emmanuel Onwubiko and Senior Programme manager Barrister Lynette Kifordu, wants the demolition halted until adequate alternative places of resettlement are made for these sets of vulnerable Nigerians who due to no fault of theirs could not pay the extremely expensive house rents in the city centre following the failure of Government to provide affordable low cost houses for these category of citizens.

The group stated that the planned demolition if actualized will lead to untold hardship on hundreds of thousands of Nigerians who ought to be provide with their economic and social rights enshrines in chapter two and four of the 1999 constitution.

The group said it has finalized plan to petition the United Nations Human Rights Council and the African Human and Peoples Rights Panel in the Gambia over the proposed demolition of Lugbe village by the Government of Nigeria.

LG awards N191m contract for school construction

THE Magumeri Local Government Council in Borno has awarded a N191 million contract for the construction of a boarding primary school in the area.

Alhaji Madu Aisami, the Council's Chairman, disclosed this when he received Gov. Ali Modu Sheriff who was on a visit to the area.

He said that the council had already released about 30 per cent of the contract sum to the contractor as the mobilization fees. "The council has awarded contract for the construction of a boarding primary school

in Magumeri at about N191 million.

"The pupils of the school are currently at a temporary site and the council is spending about N686,000 monthly on their feeding," he said.

Aisami said that the council was also spending about N600,000 every month on bursary for students from the area who were studying in various tertiary institutions.

"The council spent N19 million on the logistics of the National Programme on Immunisation (NPI).

"The council also spent

N12 million on procuring drugs for our clinics and dispensaries, while renovating the maternities and clinics in Magumeri, Furrum, Hoyo and Ardoram villages," he said.

Aisami said that the council also drilled three boreholes each at Hoyo, Mallam Kador, Gularam and Ngiriya Villages at a cost of N28 million.

Responding, the governor commended the chairman for the development programmes and urged him to sustain the tempo. (NAN)

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22nd February 2010

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Three Arms Zone
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Abuja.

Through

The Secretary
National Judicial Council.



PETITION AGAINST HONOURABLE JUSTICE ALOYSIUS IYOGER KATSINA-ALU (CHIEF JUSTICE OF NIGERIA) FOR PERVERTING AND SUBVERTING THE SPIRIT OF THE CONSTITUTION, MISCONDUCT AND CONTRAVENTION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT BY ORDERING FOR THE STAY AND OR ARREST OF JUDGEMENT IN SOKOTO STATE GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION APPEAL.

The practice of perverting the spirit of the constitution of this country to serve the selfish interest of a clique or cabal has to stop as it can only lead to the destruction of the Constitution and our dear country.

This practice was manifest in the recent saga involving the President's absence from office on grounds of ill health when the implementation of a simple and clear constitutional provision became a source of politicking controversy, ridicule and international odium and a stalemate which effectively brought the government of the country to a halt for about three months.

The present instance where the CJN in complete negation and violation of his powers under the constitution has written to the President of the Court of Appeal ordering him to stop the delivery of Judgment of Sokoto State Governorship Election Appeal already slated for 24th February 2010 is another blatant incident of selfish individual or sectional interests being used to subvert the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, *the fons et origo* of our legal system.

Section 285(2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 confers on Election Tribunals exclusive original jurisdiction to hear and determine election petitions with respect to whether any person has been validly elected to the office of Governor or Deputy Governor of a State.

The power to appoint the Chairman and other members of the Tribunal is vested in the President of the Court of Appeal in consultation with the Chief Judge of the State, the Grand Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the State or the President of the Customary Court of Appeal of the State, as the case may be and not the Chief Justice of Nigeria.

The Provision of section 240 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 gives the Court of Appeal exclusive jurisdiction to hear and determine Appeals from Tribunals.

Section 246(3) of the Constitution provides:

"The decisions of the Court of Appeal in respect of appeals arising from election petitions shall be final".

Section 153 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 provides for the establishment of the National Judicial Council the composition and powers of which as provided for in Part 1 of the Third Schedule to the Constitution are as follows:

- (a) recommend to the President from among the list of persons submitted to it by
- the Federal Judicial Service Commission, persons for appointment to the offices of the Chief Justice of Nigeria, the Justices of the Supreme Court, the President and Justices of the Court of Appeal, the Chief Judge and Judges of the Federal High Court, and
 - The Judicial Service Committee of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, persons for appointment to the offices of the Chief Judge and Judges of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, the Grand Kadi and Kadis of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and the President and Judges of the Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja;
 - Recommend to the President the removal from office of the judicial officers specified in sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph and to exercise disciplinary control over such officers;
 - recommend to the Governors from among the list of persons submitted to it by the State Judicial Service Commissions persons for appointments to the offices of the Chief Judges of the States and Judges of the High Courts of the States, the Grand Kadis and Kadis of the Sharia Courts of Appeal of the States and the Presidents and Judges of the Customary Courts of Appeal of the States;
 - Recommend to the Governors the removal from the

office of the judicial officers in sub-paragraph (c) of this paragraph, and to exercise disciplinary control over such officers.

(e) collect, control and disburse all moneys, capital and recurrent. The National Judicial Council shall have power to

(a) recommend to the President from among the list of persons submitted to it by

(i) the Federal Judicial Service Commission, persons for appointment to the offices of the Chief Justice of Nigeria, the Justices of the Supreme Court, the President and Justices of the Court of Appeal, the Chief Judge and Judges of the Federal High Court, and

(ii) the Judicial Service Committee of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, persons for appointment to the offices of the Chief Judge and Judges of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, the Grand Kadi and Kadis of the Sharia Court of Appeal of The Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and the President and Judges of the Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja;

(b) recommend to the President the removal from office of the judicial officers specified in sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph and to exercise disciplinary control over such officers;

(c) recommend to the Governors from among the list of persons submitted to it by the State Judicial Service Commissions persons for appointments to the offices of the Chief Judges of the States and Judges of the High Courts of the States, the Grand Kadis and Kadis of the Sharia Courts of Appeal of the States and the Presidents and Judges of the Customary Courts of Appeal of the States;

(d) recommend to the Governors the removal from the office of the judicial officers in sub-paragraph (c) of this paragraph, and to exercise disciplinary control over such officers.

(e) collect, control and disburse all moneys, capital and recurrent,

for the judiciary;

(f) advise the President and Governors or any matter pertaining to the judiciary as may be referred to the Council by the President or the Governors;

(g) appoint, dismiss and exercise disciplinary control over members and staff of the Council;

(h) control and disburse all monies, capital and recurrent, for the services of the Council; and

(i) deal with all other matters relating to broad issues of policy and Administration".

It is pertinent to note that, the council's disciplinary power does not extend to stopping the reading of the judgment in a matter that has already been heard on the merits and reserved. Nobody in Nigeria has such a power. Even the Court's themselves which are constitutionally empowered to have complete control over any matters over which they have jurisdiction cannot suspend or arrest a judgment pending before their court or any other Court.

The Court of Appeal is the final court with respect to Governorship petition appeals. The Supreme Court has no jurisdiction whatsoever over such. Neither the Supreme Court nor the National Judicial Council can sit on appeal over, review or reverse the proceedings or judgment of the Court of Appeal in a Governorship petition appeal.

The powers of the Court of Appeal in Governorship election petition appeals cannot be undermined or circumvented by anyone or body, not even the Chief Justice of the Federation in this office or as Chairman of the National Judicial Council because the effect of such would be an unconstitutional interference with the powers and function of the Court of Appeal particularly that of its President.

We urge the Distinguished and Honourable Members of the National Judicial Council (NJC) to investigate the Chairman of this August body.

The Administrative action of setting up the Election Appeal Panel was unduly delayed for about a year on the strength of a mere Letter written by the Counsel to the respondents the Peoples Democratic Party and its candidate the incumbent Governor of Sokoto State.

The present President of the Court of Appeal did the proper thing by constituting the panel to hear the long overdue appeal, after all, election petitions and appeals there from enjoy priority over other matters in hearing. The failure of the respondents' efforts to infiltrate the panel is what has resulted in the unprecedented steps they have subsequently taken as follow;

1. They have filed a motion at the Court of Appeal urging the court to inter alia refer some unfathomable constitutional issues allegedly raised in the appeal to the Supreme Court for resolution. This in a matter already slated for judgment!

2. They have filed a motion for departure from the rules at the Supreme Court in which some of the ancillary reliefs they seek include a stay of the hearing of the appeal before the Court of Appeal Sokoto already slated for judgment. They have gone further to serve the said motions on, the Court of Appeal whilst claiming that the appeal has been entered by virtue of their pending motion for departure and ignoring the fact that the said appeal in which they are respondents has been withdrawn by virtue of a proper notice to that effect.

3. They have also written a petition to the Supreme Court alleging all sorts of improbable against the court of appeal on the strength of which the CJN has purported to stay the pending judgment of the Court of Appeal.

It is certainly not a coincidence that all the above stated actions of the respondents were geared towards the same end to delay the delivery of the judgment and somehow usurp the constitutionally stipulated jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal in this matter. This is because the respondents have concluded that the failure of their efforts to infiltrate and corrupt the panel can bode nothing but ill for them and as a result want to ensure by all means that course of justice is perverted even if they taint the judiciary and pervert our constitution in the process.

We say with all conviction that the action of the CJN has no basis in the circumstances and urge that he disqualify himself from presiding over the spurious petition written by the PDP as his actions in the matter Sh9W a deeper involvement than is befitting of his exalted office.

We state in conclusion that nothing should be allowed to delay the delivery of the outstanding judgment any further. Justice must be allowed to prevail.

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!!

Yours Faithfully

Dr Ademola

For:

Lt Gen. J.T Useni (RTD)
Sardaunan Plateau and Nasarawa
National Chairman
Democratic Peoples Party

CCPY TO;

All Members of the National Judicial Council, for your information and necessary actions please.

Dr Ademola

For:

Lt Gen. J. T Useni (RTD)
Sardaunan Plateau and Nasarawa
National Chairman
Democratic Peoples Party

CITY NEWS



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Suspected fake journalists get bail with conditions

By Usman A Bello, Olotu Samuel & Doris Afoma West

NINE suspected fake journalists standing trial before an Abuja magistrate court were yesterday granted bail with slightly strict conditions.

Chief Magistrate O.O. Oyewumi granted the nine accused persons bail in the sum of N250,000 each with two sureties each in like sums, who must live within the court's jurisdiction with fixed addresses.

The magistrate also emphasized that one of the sureties must be a federal civil servant of not below level 8, while the other surety must be a registered member of the Nigeria Union of Journalists.

When the bail applications were not heard on Monday, some of the suspects were heard crying but after the bail was granted yesterday all the suspects wore pensive looks.

Those in court were Theophanous Akor, Noel Joseph, Emmanuel Ogazie, Agada Adonduwa, Victor Joseph, Joseph Omenka, Okwo Okwo Romeo, Alkali Richard, Sam Okereke and Lily Chijindu, who were arraigned last Friday for allegedly impersonating journalists as well as being in possession of falsified documents.

At the resumed hearing for the bail applications, the accused through a motion on notice filed by their counsels, urged the court to grant them bail under Section 341 Sub- Sections two and three of the 1999 Constitution and under the inherent discretion of the court.

Prosecuting counsel, John Udeh, a police superintendent, did not object to the bail applications of the accused persons but told the court that investigations into the case has been completed.

After listening to both counsels, Chief Magistrate O. O Oyewumi granted the accused persons bail and adjourned the case to March 9.

In another case, a middle-aged man was on Monday arraigned for allegedly being in possession of unregistered News Point magazines.

Police prosecutor, Adamu Abdullahi told the court that the accused was arrested by surveillance police detectives attached to Wuse Divisional Headquarters on February 15, 2010 with unregistered magazines.

He said during police investigations, the accused confessed to have distributed 385 copies of the magazines at Suleja, Kaduna and Kano for sales, adding that the proceeds from the sales were remitted to him.

The prosecutor further stated that the accused also confessed to have received another 400 copies of the magazines from one Rufus Adepolu of News Star newspaper for sale.

The accused denied the charges and requested for bail, which was not objected to by the prosecutor, who told the court that the offence is punishable under Section 22, Cap 291 of the Newspaper Act.

Magistrate Zainab Bashir granted him bail in the sum of N500,000 with a surety in like sum, who must be a civil servant of not below level 14 and adjourned the case to March 3 for hearing.



PIC: ABUBAKAR YAKUBU

ROTARY Club of Gwarinpa's President, Ama Umoren (second left) presenting a cheque for the scholarship of 105 students to Mrs Esther Jattu, principal of Junior Secondary School Gwarinpa yesterday in Abuja.

105 students get Rotary scholarship at Gwarinpa

By Abubakar Yakubu

ABOUT 105 students of Junior Secondary School (JSS) Gwarinpa Estate were yesterday given scholarships to pay their school fees for the year by the Rotary Club of Gwarinpa.

The scholarship award ceremony also coincided with the celebration of Rotary's 105 years of humanitarian services to people in the world.

Speaking on the occasion, the school's Principal, Mrs Esther Jattu, said some of the students that confided in her told sorrowful stories of their

inability to cope with studies due to lack of money.

"If these students tell you their stories, you will want to shed tears and God in his infinite mercy will bless those of you that want to help them," the principal prayed.

She said when Rotary Club of Gwarinpa asked her for names of students to benefit from the award; a careful selection was done on students from JSS one and two because those in JSS three were on their way out of the school.

She said returning students pay N2,370 each as school fees

and thanked the club for wanting to assist the students.

Responding, President of Rotary Club Gwarinpa, Ama Umoren, stated that the club has a good relationship with the school and has designed a zebra crossing as well as lectured students on career development topics from time to time.

She said members of the club decided to do something for the under privileged students of the school so that they can become great people in the society in future.

According to her, the schol-

arship programme is a foundation that the beneficiaries must make judicious use of by studying hard in order to make their school as well as Rotary Club proud.

Umoren announced that the club is trying to see that the scholarship awards become an annual practice.

Highlights of the event were the presentation of a cheque of N237,000 by the club's president to the schools principal for 100 students, while the president promised to send N11,850 for an additional five students.

Court reprimands, frees fuel hawkers

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

TWO young hawkers arraigned for operating black market fuel business were on Monday warned to stay off the illegal trade and later set free by an Abuja chief magistrate court.

Gabriel Ajah of Tundun Wada, Lugbe, and Monday

Peter of Lugbe Zone 5, were arrested by a team of policemen, who raided their hideout on February 21, 2010.

Police prosecutor, Jeremiah Elijah had earlier told the court that on February 21, 2010, one Alhasan Umar, a superintendent, raided the Lugbe fuel black market and arrested the accused persons.

"Two of the accused persons were arrested and brought to the station with 16 jerry-cans containing fuel, thereby committing an offence punishable under Section 4 Subsection 1 and 6 Cap 350 of the Petroleum Act Law," the prosecutor said.

He stated further that when the accused persons were interrogated, they were unable to

give any satisfactory accounts of themselves.

When the two count charges were read to the accused persons, they pleaded guilty and Chief Magistrate Josephine Obannor convicted them but set them free, after warning them to desist from such illegal trade or risk being jailed if caught again.



PIC: HUSSEIN YAHAYA

STUDENTS of Foa'ud Lababidi Islamic Academy, Abuja entertaining guests during the school's inter-house sports competition in Abuja recently.

Security operatives raid areas in Jikwoyi

By Tosin Omoniyi & Bunmi Omolehin

A team of security operatives consisting of officials of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and policemen from FCT Command at the weekend raided parts of Jikwoyi and Karu in search of Indian hemp smokers and other

dealers in hard drugs.

The raid which lasted for over two hours led to the arrest of about three youths, who were caught smoking suspected hard drugs.

Our reporters observed security operatives using force before the youths could be arrested. Elders of the area had to pacify

agitated residents of the place who were sympathetic to the plight of a woman, who tried to save her 21-year-old son from arrest.

Collins, the owner of a barbing saloon, told *City News* that he escaped arrest by the whiskers because information reached the operatives that his shop is where

users of hard drugs gathered on a daily basis.

"When I see these young men gathered in front of my place to smoke I normally drive them away and in doing that, I am careful as I am here to make ends meet and not to spend time getting into trouble with the police," he lamented.

Fire Service graduates 36 officials

By Usman A. Bello & Lami Sadiq

THE FCT Fire Service has graduated 36 officials from the command's training school in its efforts to combat fire incidents in the city.

Public Relations Officer of the service, Onuorah Frank Ugochukwu, who disclosed this in his office, said the 36 officials include drivers and mechanics.

Mr Ugochukwu disclosed further that the officials have undergone three months training on basic fire fighting to enhance the command's efficiency in any emergency, adding that they have been deployed to the area councils' fire service stations as well as other stations within the city centre.

He also disclosed that the command has acquired a new rapid intervention fire fighting vehicle which is capable of going into areas where



FIREMEN during a training course in Abuja recently.

other fire fighting trucks have failed to go in the past.

Mr Ugochukwu also assured the general public that the command was

combat ready to tackle any form of emergency and urged them to make use of the fire service emergency line which he gave as 09-2906118.

Aliero to check FCT Scout's land request

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin

MINISTER of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Senator Adamu Aliero yesterday pledged to look into the request for a plot of land for office accommodation by the FCT Scout Council of Nigeria.

Aliero who was speaking at the investiture ceremony of Justice Lawal Hassan Gummi as the President of the FCT Chapter of the Scout Council of Nigeria, also directed the council's president to fill and submit to his office all the necessary forms for immediate consideration.

The FCT minister who is the patron FCT Scout Council suggested a fund raising ceremony to seek funds from corporate organisations and individuals to enable the council build its office accommodation, which he noted is capital intensive.

FCT High Court Chief Judge had earlier in his speech appealed to the FCT minister to give consideration to the council's application for a suitable plot of land to be used for the council's training activities and for office accommodation.

Justice Gummi who was inaugurated as the FCT Scout Council's president, appealed to the minister to council's application the attention.

He also told the minister that council needs an office accommodation to enable it carry out the mandates of building Nigeria youths into becoming responding citizens of the country.

The Chief Judge of the FCT High Court thanked the FCT Scout Council of Nigeria for his appointment as its president and assured that he will not betray the trust reposed upon him by the council.

He then invested Justice I.U. Bello, as his deputy and five other justices of the FCT High Court as executive members of the FCT Scout Council of Nigeria.

Group condemns call for Iwu's sack

By Abubakar Yakubu

THE Northern Patriotic Front (NPF) yesterday in Abuja condemned calls by certain groups and political parties, seeking for the sack of Prof. Maurice Iwu, chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

The group accused the Action Congress of masterminding the call and vowed never to support the agenda because of its political and ethnic coloration.

The group's leader, Alhaji Ali Abacha said members of NPF have faith in the ability of INEC to organise successful area council elections in the FCT as

well as in other parts of the country, adding that Iwu has taken steps since the 2007 election to reform the electoral body and test run the reforms, especially in election management.

He said the recently held Anambra election proved that INEC has learnt its lessons and is poised to carry out a more credible election in 2011.

"As a patriotic organization comprised of well meaning Nigerians, who preach unity and want to continue the progress in the political landscape of Nigeria, we condemn the renewed onslaught on INEC," Alhaji Abacha added.



PIC: ABUBAKAR YAKUBU

ANPP spokesman decamps to CPC

By Abbas Jimoh

THE All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) publicity secretary in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), Mr Lawrence Onuchukwu, Monday decamped to the newly registered Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) party.

Onuchukwu, who stormed the CPC Headquarters at Utako, Abuja, with his supporters to formally

declare for the new party, told journalists that he decided to call it quits with ANPP because he was fed up with the character of its leadership. "I left the ANPP because the soul and pillar of the party, Maj-Gen. Mohammadu Buhari is no longer there; secondly and I am not happy with the way Chief Edwin Ume-Ezeoke's leadership ran the affairs of ANPP in the last three years," he said.

He added further that he would have left earlier but thought the party's leadership would turn a new leave and re-position the party, adding that the leadership continued to run the party aground.

Onuchukwu lamented that the ANPP is now a shadow of its former self, while the CPC will offer him better opportunities to fight for the enthronement of genuine democracy in the country.

Minister charges FCTA over orphans' abuse

By Nasir Imam

MINISTER for Women Affairs, Hajia Salamatu Suleiman, recently charged the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) to checkmate what she described as unwholesome and unethical practices going on in some orphanages within the Federal Capital City in order to ensure that orphans are properly looked after.

Hajia Suleiman stated this when she played host to the FCT Secretary for Social Development, Barrister Habiba Sani Kalgo in Abuja.

"Due to the vulnerability of the children in orphanages the social development secretariat must play a monitoring role to ensure that they are not traded or abused in any way," the minister stated.

She said monitoring became imperative to ensure that the children who she noted are the responsibility of everybody in the society are actually in the homes, healthy and growing well.

Her words: "We have made some observations that people who run orphanages do some unethical practices with some of

the children and I think it is very important that you should periodically review the status of children in those homes, no matter how big or small the orphanage might be".

Responding, the FCT Secretary for Social Development Secretariat, Barrister Habiba Sani Kalgo, who was in the minister's office to seek collaboration in the areas of care for the vulnerable and destitute in the nation's capital, said a committee has already been put in place to supervise the activities of the orphanages.

She said the committee would investigate such allegations and at the same time play its monitoring role, adding that the issue of adoption of children from such homes is no longer a departmental affair but for the whole secretariat.

"This is done to check the abuses made or practised in these orphanages as only two of the homes belong to the FCT Administration and we are trying to play a supervisory role so that we can check those abuses," she added.

The secretary however assured that staff of the secretariat would be members of board of trustees in such places.

Aggrieved AC members complain over Anazodo's candidacy

By Muideen Olaniyi

SOME chieftains of the Action Congress (AC) have threatened to sue the leadership of the party in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) for allegedly imposing Princess Vivian Anazodo as chairmanship aspirant for the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) election on April 10.

Anazodo contested for the Peoples Democratic Party's (PDP) ticket but could not get it, a situation which led to her decamping to AC in December.

The AC chieftains, who protested Anazodo's candidacy in a letter addressed to AC AMAC caretaker committee chairman, are Haruna Kano, Gwarinpa ward legal adviser; Hypolitus Egune, Gwarinpa ward caretaker committee member and Abudu Yanaham, Wuse ward chairman.

They said the process that led to the emergence of Anazodo as AC candidate was a breach of the party's constitution.

The petition read in parts: "Our instructions are to file a protest over the imposition of Princess Anazodo as the AC chairmanship aspirant for the April 2010 election in clear breach of the letters and the spirit of the constitution of our party as Article 19.3 of the AC Constitution provides that no person shall be eligible to contest as candidate for election unless he has been a financial member of the party for at least six months before the primaries were held."

The petitioners lawyer informed the caretaker committee that unless they receive verifiable evidence within three days that the candidature of Princess Anazodo as the AMAC AC chair-

manship candidate for the April 2010 election has been withdrawn, they will be left with no other option than to invoke the machinery of the courts so as to protect the constitution of their great party from unabashed violation.

In a swift reaction yesterday, AC's FCT Chairman, Sunny Monidafe, dismissed the issues raised by the aggrieved members, saying Anazodo's candidacy followed due process.

Monidafe, in an interview said party set out guidelines which were met by the princess.

He said the choice of party candidates is the party's internal affairs as confirmed recently by the Supreme Court in Soludo's case.

The FCT chairman warned that the party will apply sanctions and vowed not to be distracted.

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TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR 2010

Date/Location	Course Title	Course Fees	Audience
27th March, 2010 Conference Hall, Federal Secretariat, Damaturu.	Administrative Functions & Office Management: - Roles and functions of Administrative Managers/Officers - Contract/outourcing management - Procurement functions of Administrative offices - Protocols Management - Communication and organizational management - Space management - Record management	N20,000 per participant N15,000 for IRAMN Members	Admin. Managers, Admin. Officers, Security Personnel, Personal Assistants, Secretaries, State & Local Govt employees etc.
Lagos 20th April, 2010	Career Management in Turbulent Times: - Competencies enhancement - Competencies pluralisation - Soften the blow of layoff - Learning from failures	N20,000 per Participant N15,000 for IRAMN Members	Directors, Managers/Officers of HR, Admin, Union Leaders, Employee representatives, State & Local Employees
24-25 th June, 2010 Abuja.	Facilities Management and Profitability: The Place of Administrative Management: - Space management - Corporate & optimal operating strategy in FM - Skills for facilities management	N30,000 per Participant N15,000 for IRAMN Members	Executives in private & public sector, Facilities Supervisors & Managers, IT practitioners, Architects, Surveyors, Building Engineers, Operations Managers, Health & safety personnel, Transport officers, office managers & those wanting to create a career in facilities mgmt.
Owerri 30th -31st July, 2010	Building Client Management Capabilities in Services Firms - Understanding firm strategy - Aligning firm strategy with Client Business needs - Client/capabilities management capabilities - Leadership (leadership & personal style) - Coaching & Mentoring	N20,000 per Participant N15,000 for IRAMN Members	Account Managers, Sales representative, Marketing - Executives, Sales and Marketing Managers, Office Administrators
20-21st August, 2010 Kano	Executive Development Programme for Non Management and Management Professionals: - Financial reporting appreciation - Administrative principles & practice - Administrative communication - Management decision fundamentals	N40,000 per Participant	Functional Manager/Unit Managers, Professionals from Discipline other than Management Related i.e MBBS, B.Pharm, etc.
Calabar 29-30th Sept., 2010	Strategic Negotiation for long term deal making: - Maximizing effectiveness of the table - Skills for handling conflicts - Capacities for successful negotiation business	N20,000 per Participant N15,000 for IRAMN Members	Directors, Managers/Officers of HR, Admin, Union Leaders, Employee representatives, State & Local Govt Employees
Kaduna 11th Dec., 2010	National Conference of Administrative managers Officers: Theme: To be decided mid-year of 2010 on a contemporary social / political topics	N20,000 per Participant N15,000 for IRAMN Members	Members & Head of Service of States & Local Govts, other Admin Officers, Managers and Directors

Induction of new members shall hold at each venue

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Notes:
1) Venue of workshop shall be communicated to intending participant three weeks before workshop date
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3) Participation bookings can be done through corporate@services@regdmanager.org

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Inside Politics

Why I won't contest election again, by Abubakar Audu

PRINCE Abubakar Audu, former governor of Kogi State and candidate of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) in the last gubernatorial re-run election in the state, speaks in this interview with our correspondent, on political developments in the state. Excerpts:

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

WITH the recent decamping of thousands of opposition members to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Kogi State, is it right to say that Kogi has become a one-party state?

The country has become a one-party state. No party is operating in Nigeria except PDP. No party will succeed in Nigeria because one, you don't need to contest election to win; two, you don't even need to campaign to win election; three, you don't need to have a beautiful manifesto to win. All you need is to be a member of PDP and everything will be organised for you in Abuja. Once PDP takes you as a candidate, it is as good as winning an election. That is why everybody is going to PDP. The PDP has killed all other political parties.

How?

It controls the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), and he who pays the piper, dictates the tune. INEC is in favour of the PDP because the commission is put in place and financed by the PDP. It is very bad for a country like ours which is supposed to lay good example for other African nations. We should at least be able to accommodate opponents, respect diverse views and play politics in its true letters. Nigeria has become a one-party nation, but anyway, we will continue to fight it until God intervenes. There must be a God's intervention some day. We pray that God will touch the hearts of those in PDP to accommodate other parties. Genuine democracy thrives only on the existence of a vibrant opposition.

It is being speculated that you will soon decamp to the PDP. How true is that?

Nobody should speak for me! If I am decamping to PDP, it should not be by means of speculation. Rather, it should be by means of expression. It should not even be by means of implication. As far as I am concerned, I have not made up my mind to decamp to PDP because my ideology does not tally with that of PDP. I cannot just bundle myself into PDP just because I want to make an impact.

Do you see the ANPP as a party



PRINCE Abubakar Audu

that can ruffle feathers with the PDP in Kogi State in the next general elections?

Nothing is impossible. But based on the present happenings, no party can defeat PDP because political power does not flow through ballot boxes. It flows from the INEC office in Abuja. And with that, no other party will win elections unless PDP decides to give it to you by negotiation. That was what happened in the recent gubernatorial election in Anambra. It was the worst election ever conducted by INEC. Out of the two million registered voters, less than 500,000 voted. If INEC could not successfully manage an election in one state, how can it manage general elections in the 36 states of the federation in one day? Again, INEC should have known that two-third of 21 is 14. And according to the constitution, a candidate must have a two-third or a straightforward winning in two-third of the local governments in the state before he/she is declared the winner. If this is a prelude to what will happen in 2011, then, it would be a serious disaster for all the politicians in this country, except those in the PDP.

You are presumed to have lost your relevance in Kogi politics since your army of supporters have deserted you...

That is mere politicking. Let there be electoral reform and the PDP will know that I am still relevant. If the PDP beats me in an election contest with genuine electoral reform in place, I would know that they are right. They cannot just insinuate something that suits their whims and caprices. That is ridiculous.

Do you foresee yourself bouncing back as Kogi State governor?

As far as I am concerned, if to become Kogi State governor means going to PDP, I will not.

★ **Even if you choose to remain in the ANPP, the possibility of your re-emergence as governor has been foreclosed by many...

If there is no true democracy that allows political positions to flow from ballot boxes, count me out. It is only when true democracy returns to Nigeria that I will think of what to contest, not nec-

essarily governor. I might contest for governorship election if it is the wish of the people or anything people dictate that is suitable for me. I will not lord myself on the people. That is a dictatorship tendency. I leave everything to God. Power comes from God. ***

Is it true that you are considering a senatorial seat as an alternative?

I have not made up my mind to contest any election. Unless the political reform is in place as suggested and recommended by the Uwais' committee, I will not even vote in 2011.

Won't that amount to neglecting your civic responsibility?

What is the essence of voting when your vote will not count? If your vote counts, you would be anxious to discharge your civic responsibilities. The INEC is just tricking people to go and queue up to vote. Before you cast your vote, the result has been announced because everything is collated in Abuja. I have been a victim, and unless this is brought to an end, there is no future for democracy in Nigeria.

You and Governor Ibrahim Idris, your successor, seem to have kept each other at arm's length. Won't you reconcile, at least in the interest of the state?

He does not even talk to me! Through his telephone number, I called him a number of times but he did not answer my calls. Before I handed over to him, he was a very close friend of mine. I don't know that politics breeds enmity, but that is what has happened. Why should I continue with such a bid when several attempts I made did not yield fruit?

Does his tenure expire in 2011 or extend to 2012?

Josuha Dariye, former governor of Plateau State was on suspension for six months and a state of emergency was declared there. When he returned, his tenure was not extended. The constitution says that if you are coming for the first time, you are enjoying complete four-year tenure from the day you are sworn in. This is not applicable to somebody already in office. Idris was out for three months, and he thinks he will be in for one year extra. Well, that is a good deal. But I think it is

not in consonance with the constitution.

Is the ANPP challenging this?

You have to get to a bridge before you think of how to cross it. The time for that has not arrived. It is not necessarily the ANPP. Other parties in the state might like to challenge it.

How do you react to his advocacy for power shift in the state?

I don't believe in power shift. Rather, I believe in power rotation. I have said times without number that everybody and all the tribes in Kogi should be given a sense of belonging. What is good for the goose is good for the gander. Therefore, power rotation is the most ideal for the state. But when one group wants to lord it over other groups, it will be a most unfortunate situation. I will not be a party to that.

If you were governor of the state today, could you have made any difference?

Action speaks louder than voice. My footprints are still in Kogi, and that was when the statutory allocation from the federation account was so small. The highest allocation I received in four years was N100 million unlike now that billions are being received. Despite that, I was still able to achieve a lot. On January 22, 2002 when all governors were assembled at the International Conference Centre following the media tour organised by the Federal Government under the chairmanship of the then Information and National Orientation Minister, Professor Jerry Gana who went round the nooks and cranny of Nigeria to assess the performance of the 36 governors of the federation, I came first. I won seven trophies as the best performing governor in the country. But that kind of thing has no place in Nigerian politics. If you are efficient or intelligent, it counts against you.

What does Muhammadu Buhari's resignation from the ANPP suggest to you?

It is a very sad development in the ANPP. Whether we like it or not, General Buhari has a lot of supporters and many people in this country admire him.

Inside Politics

Ararume, Rochas, Udenwa boycott PDP meeting in Imo

From John Kennedy Uzoma, Owerri

MAJOR stakeholders of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Imo State including Senator Ifeanyi Ararume, the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the former Governor of the state Chief Achike Udenwa yesterday boycotted a stakeholders meeting in Owerri aimed at mending fences among warring parties.

Other prominent stakeholders who shunned the meeting that was meant to reconcile warring factions of the party include former presidential aspirant Owelle Rochas Okorochoa, Ambassador Kema Chikwe and Eze Festus Odimegwu.

Addressing members, the South East Zone Chairman of the PDP Chief Olisa Metu who graced the meeting alongside the National Legal Adviser of the PDP, Barr Olusola Oke, con-

firmed that the meeting was called to reconcile aggrieved members in preparation for the forthcoming state congress of the party.

He urged members to embrace peace to enable the party plan effectively for the 2011 election, adding that if the party remains in unity and speaks with one voice, it will certainly win any future election.

The zone's chairman used the forum to appeal to members who have cases in the courts to withdraw them in the interest of the party, adding that PDP cannot move forward if its members are not united.

While recognising Prince Macellenus Mlemigbo as the state chairman of the party, Chief Metu advised the state governor, Ikedi Ohakim to forgive members who dragged him to court and extend the olive branch to bring them back to the party as one family.

The State Governor Chief Ikedi Ohakim who attended the meeting stressed the need for sustainable peace for the party to move forward.



GOVERNOR Ikedi Ohakim

'Sambo not interested in VP'

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

THE Kaduna State chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has denied that Governor Namadi Sambo is interested in becoming Vice President.

In a statement by the state chairman, Alhaji Yau Usman, the party disclaimed a news item credited to Alhaji Hussaini Jallo, the governor's political adviser

titled "Sambo will be happy to be Vice-President."

According to the statement, "the opinion of the said Hussaini Jallo does not in any way represent the views of either the governor or the party."

The statement also called on the party's National Executive Committee and all concerned to disregard the contents of Jallo's statement.

Edo speaker's removal unlawful, says PDP caucus

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

THE Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) caucus in the Edo State House of Assembly said yesterday that the purported removal of the Speaker of the State House of Assembly Mr. Zakawanu Garuba on Monday amounted to breakdown of law and order and not a change of leadership.

Twelve members of the Action Congress (AC) in the House had announced the impeachment of the Speaker and his Deputy, Levis Aigbogun, after a punch-up that left some members with various

degrees of injuries.

In a statement circulated in Abuja yesterday, the caucus said no leadership change could have taken place without the endorsement of a two-third majority of members of the House as prescribed by the constitution. The member insisted that two-thirds of the 24-member House of Assembly is 16.

The AC members had announced Peter Usman Aliu as Speaker pro-tempore and had also admitted into its fold Bright Omokhodion who defected from the PDP to the AC amid the confusion

on the floor.

But the 11-member PDP Caucus said in the two-page statement that the AC members breached the rules of procedure of the House and the provisions of the 1999 Constitution.

The statement was signed by Hon. Garuba (Speaker), Aigbogun (Deputy Speaker), Hons. Frank Okiye (Majority Leader), Patrick Aisowere (Chief Whip), Kingsley Ehigiamusoe, Blessing Agbebaku, Saiki Samuel, Israel Aguele, Christopher Adesotu, Emma Okoduwa and Ebosele Ereghan.

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LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the original Re-certification and Re-issuance of C of O Acknowledgement with file No. G 10127 offer of Allocation of land and site plan reading GUEMAN NIG LTD belonging to HAJIYA AISHA INOK BAKARI of No. 20 NICE St. Maitama Abuja. Public/AGIS note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

The general public is hereby notified of the loss of Original letter of offer of Terms of Grant/Conveyance of Approval Ref:MFCT/LA/MISC. 2007 dated 03/06/02 in respect of Plot No. 222A (A7) of about 1,200m², located within Wuse II district, Abuja, bearing Parakou Community (Al-Bilal) Moseque. This is to enable us obtain a (CTC) from AGIS. All efforts made to trace the said document proved abortive. If found, please return to AGIS or the nearest police station.

IMOLEDE ILE-AYO EVANGELICAL CHURCH

This is to inform the general public that the above named Church 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. Sup. Ap. (Dr) Joseph Atabi Adeieke - Chairman
2. Most Special Ap. (Prophet) Samuel Adesina Fabiyi
3. Rev. Mother-in-Israel Elizabeth Botanki Adeleke
4. Hon. Ap. Isaac Kolawole
5. Ap. John Babalola

Aims and objectives:

1. Towards the propagation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. Evangelism and welfare of mankind.
3. Taking the gospel of salvation to the world.

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:

Bello Olurotimi Samuel (Solicitor)

MARITIME ACADEMY OF NIGERIA ORON, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990

The trustees are:

1. Capt. Temilola Okesanjo - Chairman
2. Capt. Ibraheem Adedoye Olugbade - Secretary
3. Engr. Ibukunoluwa Okunoye Akinsoji
4. Capt. Victor Adarighofua Sola
5. Chief (Mrs.) Bola Adunni Labinjo
6. Dr. (Alhaji) Waidi Ajamu Kareem

Aims and objectives:

1. To promote unity and cooperation among members.
2. To promote social interaction and welfare among members and encourage qualitative professional development of its members.
3. To provide a common avenue through which members can make their voices heard by the Academy's authority and government.
4. To promote Maritime Training Standard and professionalism in Nigeria in cooperation with other international Alumni and training institutions.

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: Capt. Temilola Okesanjo, Chairman

THIS SPACE IS FOR SALE

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly MISS SYLVIA FATU EKO now wish to be known as MRS. SYLVIA FATU AMALI All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS EUNICE ENIMIE EDEGBA, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS IDOGHO EUNICE ENIMIE. All former documents remain valid. The general public take note.

I formerly known as MISS OGOCHUKWU EUCHARIA NWANKWO, now wish to be addressed as MRS. EUCHARIA OGOCHUKWU ODION-EKPEN. Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria please take note.

Formerly known as MISS TOLULOPE OMOWUMI DARAMOLA now MRS. TOLULOPE OMOWUMI IIESANMI OLUFEMI. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as DANLAMI ALEWA SALISU now known as DANLAMI A. SIMON. Former documents remain valid. General public take note

I, formerly known as MRS LAMI YUSUF now wish to be known as MRS LAMI EZEKIEL. All former documents remain valid. Nigeria Police Force please take note.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

KIO'S AORTIC HEART VALVE FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

NAMES OF TRUSTEES

1. Dr. Patience Osa Don-Pedro
2. Mr. George Don-Pedro
3. Dr. T. Idemudia
4. Alabo Gbowo Bob-Manuel
5. Miss Dana Osa Don-Pedro

VISION

To promote early screening and diagnosis in children

MISSION

- To promote awareness among parents and children of high risk
- To assist financially with those in need

OBJECTIVE

- Encourage parents to present their children at risk for early screening
 - To provide centers for screening
- 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.

AUCTION! AUCTION! AUCTION!

The Management of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Headquarters Abuja has authorized for public Auction of obsolete items at ETD POLLUTION CONTROL CENTER WARRI on 25th & 26th February, 2010

Items for sale include among lots:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. MX 350 Walkie Carrier | 6. SASCO T' CARDS |
| 2. Oxygen Mask | 7. Chain Block Lift 15 tons |
| 3. Projector MDs 300 | 8. 50 HP Outboard Engine |
| 4. Epson FX 150 Printer | 9. Generators etc |
| 5. Typewriter ET 1120 | |

LOCATION:- ETD Pollution Control Center Warri Delta State

Time: 11:AM Prompt

Sign: Auctioneer

Mallam Usman Shehu Abdullahi

Zhahz Engineering Services Nig. Ltd

No. 3 Waziri Hamma Close Off Sanda Road

Yola Town Adamawa State

Tel: 08033393434

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly **SAFIYA ABUBAKAR ZAJI (SAFIYA J. MOHAMMED)** now wish to be called **SAFIYA MUSA MOHAMMED**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC Headquarters, Securities Exchange Commission and General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS NKECHI MARYANN UGWONOH**, now wish to be known and address as **MRS NKECHI MARYANN OKOLO**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **UJUNWA ENUKA** now wish to be known as **HAPPINESS CHIGOZIE IKPEZIE**. School of Health Technology take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS OLADUNJOYE VICTORIA** now wish to be addressed as **MRS ENIAYEWU MONI VICTORIA**. All former documents remain valid.

I, formerly called **MISS MURNA BAKO** now wish to be addressed as **MRS MURNA HOSEA DANIEL**. All former documents remain valid. University of Abuja and public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS YEMISI KATE OMOLEGBE** now wish to be called **MRS YEMISI KATE DAUDU**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS JULIET IMOBHIO**, now wish to be known as **MRS JULIET AMADI**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

Formerly **BIBIAN NGOZI NWANKWO** now wish to be called **BIBIAN CHINYERE JUDE-OKOLI**. All documents remain valid. Office of the Accountant General of the Federation and Public Complaint Commission take note.

I, formerly **MISS BRIDGET ENE EWA** now wish to be known as **MRS BRIDGET CHIGOZIE CHUIJOKE**. All former documents including NYSC Certificate remain the same and valid.

I, formerly known as **MISS LAURA OHA ADA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS LAURA ADA MUSA MOHAMMED**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **MISS EDWARD BLESSING**, now wish to be as **MRS MESEKO BLESSING**. All former documents remains valid. National Institute for hospitality and tourism (NIHOTOUR) and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS LEMIKAN MODUPE O. DEBORAH**, now wish to be known as **EMMANUEL MODUPE O. DEBORAH**. All document remains valid. General public take note.

I formerly **OSUJI ALISON CHUKWUKA** now **CHIEDOZE ALISON CHUKWUKA**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC, IMT and general public to note.

I formerly **OSUJI CHUKWUDI CHRISTOGNUS** now **CHIEDOZE CHUKWUDI CHRITOGNUS**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I formerly **OSUJI NZERIBE SYLVESTER** now **CHIEDOZE NZERIBE SYLVESTER**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I formerly **OSUJI FRANCISCA CHINYEREUGO NOW NZERIBE FRANCISCA CHINYEREUGO**. All former documents remain valid. Kano state polytechnics, NTI and general public to note.

I, formerly known as **MISS NGOZI JOHN UZOR** now **MRS. NGOZI ADAMS AKPATA**. All former documents remain valid. Community Court of Justice, ECOWAS and general public take note.

I, formerly **MISS ADEDAYO ADEYEMI AJIBIKE MAKINDE** now wish to be known as **MRS. ADEDAYO ADEYEMI AJIBIKE ADENIYI**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **MRS. GODWIN NMAEZI SIENA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MISS NWANKWO NMAEZI SIENA**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

TRINITY CHRISTIAN LIBRARY CENTER

This is to notify the general public that the above-named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under the Companies and Allied Matters Decree No. 1 of 1990 part "C".

The Trustees are:

1. Dr. Ikedem Ibariga Chairman
2. Dr (Mrs.) Christy G. E. Best secretary
3. Rev. Jimi Stevens- Member
4. Pst. Hart Dominion Esong- Member

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. Reaching out through free Christian Library Discipleship.
2. Promoting and Growing the African's desire in reading.
3. To teach, train and ground believers, bringing them into Christian maturity to strengthen their faith and equip them to do the work of God through library discipleship, workshops, seminars and conferences.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission P.M.B. 198, Abuja within 28 days of the date of this publication.

Signed: Bar. Femi Jaiyeoba, Victus Solicitors
Lagos Island, Lagos.

Loss of Document

This is to notify the general public that Certificate of Occupancy No. GUS/G/3658 belonging to **ALHAJI ISANAALHAJI GARBA** of P.O Box 92, Gusau situated at Light Industrial Area, plot No. 84 L.P 101, Gusau got missing. All efforts to trace it proved abortive, concerned authorities and general public to note.

Loss of Document

The general public are hereby notified that Certificate of Occupancy No. GUS/G/2415, Plot No. 87, LP. 101 [Extension] at Light Industrial Layout Gusau belonging to **MASLAHA NIGERIA LIMITED** of P.O Box 1135, Sokoto, got missing. All efforts to trace it proved abortive, concerned authorities and general public to note.

LOSS OF PASSPORT

I the undersigned **Antoine Bou Harb**, Lebanese National declare that I have lost my passport whose number is **RL1337128** issued in Beirut.

I will be very grateful to anyone who finds this passport to call me on my phone number **08035950491** or to hand it to the nearest police station or to the Embassy of Lebanon on the following address:

**Embassy of Lebanon
Plot 762 Lake Chad Crescent
Maitama-Abuja**

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of the original letter of term of Grant/Conveyance of Plot No. 127 on **BOTP/73 (BO 14956)** Pompomary Medium Density layout Maiduguri belonging to **Sen. MOHAMMED IBRAHIM KIRIKASAMA** of Gombale Road Old G.R.A Maiduguri is missing. All efforts to trace it proved abortive. If found, please contact the nearest Police Station.

WINNERS HOUSE OF FAITH CHURCH INTERNATIONAL

This is to notify the general public that the above named Association has applied for registration with Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Evangelist Dr. Kufre Eyo Sunday - Chairman
2. Mrs. Mmemaobong Kufre Eyo - Head of Administration
3. Mrs. Patience Sunday
4. Dr. Mrs. Thelma U. Ehuriam
5. Mr. Rick Iycaun

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To preach and teach the power and glory of God to assert Himself with powers against satanic dominion, demonic oppression, sin, sickness and disease.
2. To offer creative, authentic and inspiring worship to magnify God's name and celebrate His presence
3. To equip the people to win others to Christ and fulfil their life mission in the world.

Any objection to this 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: Mrs. Mmemaobong Kufre Eyo, Head of Administration

HASAD DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

This is to inform the General Public that the above named Foundation has applied for registration to the Corporate Affairs Commission under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:-

1. DR. USMAN BOKANIAHMED - CHAIRMAN
2. Dr. MUHAMMED SABA MUHAMMED - MEMBER
3. BARRISTER ADAMU USMAN - MEMEBER
4. MALLAMA HAJARA ADAMU - MEMEBER
5. MUHAMMED JIYA YISA - MEMBER
6. HUSSAINI MUHAMMED WABI - ASST. SECRETARY
7. BAR BABA ISAH MUHAMMED - SECRETARY

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To grant aids to the less Privileged especially young Male and Female in terms of Scholarship awards to compliment Government efforts
2. To repair Schools and Hospitals.
3. To sensitize and mobilize people on Girl Child education, create awareness on HIV/AIDS and Security etc.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission Plot 420, Tigris Crescent Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: **BABA ISAH MUHAMMED ESQ.**

08033569753/08055864436

NO. S.E. 150 Kuta Road, Minna, Niger State.

AFRICAN CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH CENTRE

This is to inform the general public that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for Registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1 of 1990.

TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Prof. Sabo Bako
2. Dr. Asma T. Ibrahim
3. Dr. Abdulsalam Salisu

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To promote research & development in order to mitigate the impact of man-made causes of climate change.
 2. To practically approach climate change problems from grass roots.
 3. To engage Africa's primary school pupils and secondary school students in shelter belt tree planting campaign programme.
- Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, Maitama District Abuja with 28 days of this publication.

Signed: **DR. MAHMUD ABDULWAHAB**, Chairman
JIBO NURA, Secretary

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the original copy of a statutory **R of O** in respect of plot no. **AHE 1555** of about **1,022.917 Sq.m** in **LUGBE, AMAC HOUSING ESTATE** owned by **FAVOUR D. SHARON** is missing. All effort made to trace it proved abortive. If found please contact the nearest police station or the **AMAC**.

SPORT

Ibrahimovic earns Barca 1-1 draw at Stuttgart

Page 56



Sacchi not invited for interview - NFF

ITALIAN Coach Arrigo Sacchi will not be interviewed for the Super Eagles' Technical Adviser job, an official of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) said on Tuesday in Abuja.

Mr James Peters, the NFF Assistant General Secretary (Technical), told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that the Italian coach was not among the four selected for interview.

"Sacchi is not on the list of those to be interviewed.

"Although some people or agents wanted him to be interviewed for the post but when we looked at the age factor, we felt he

When we looked at the age factor, we felt he could not make it

could not make it," he said.

Peters, a former Green Eagles coach, said the conclusion was that Sacchi would not be able to offer much to the team if given the job.

"Many people don't see what he can contribute at over 60; he may be leaving most of his duties to his assistants and this may not be too good for the team," he said.



SWEDISH tactician Lars Lagerback is expected to be interviewed for the Super Eagles job by the NFF today.

The 64-year-old Sacchi coached the Italian national team from 1991 to 1996.

His team beat Nigeria's Super Eagles 2-1 after extra time in the second round of the 1994 FIFA

World Cup finals in the U.S.

The panel put together to screen the foreign coaches had on Monday in Abuja interviewed Coaches Bruno Metsu and Ratomir Dujkovic.

The panel was drawn from the NFF, the National Sports Commission (NSC) and the Presidential Task Force (PTF) on the Super Eagles' qualification for South Africa 2010.

Coaches Glenn Hoddle and Lars Lagerback are billed to face the panel on February 24 and Feb. 25 respectively, while the successful candidate will be announced on February 26.

Bassey: Foreign coach now is useless

By Orkula Shaagee

RENOWNED sports journalist, Paul Bassey yesterday advised the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) to discard the idea of hiring a foreign coach for the Super Eagles before the South Africa 2010 World Cup, describing the exercise as a useless venture that would end up draining the nation's treasury and wasting people's time.

The NFF on Monday in Abuja interviewed two of the four expatriate coaches short-listed for the plum job. Those interviewed at the Nicon Lux-

ury Hotel in Abuja were Bruno Metsu and Ratomir Dujkovic, while Glenn Hoddle and Lars Lagerback will be interviewed today and tomorrow respectively.

Bassey, who spoke in a telephone interview with *Trust-sports* explained that his position on the matter is based on the belief that there is no time left for any coach to do the magic of transforming the Eagles to a World Cup winning team within the next available three weeks.

"People say we have three months to prepare, but I say we

have only three weeks to prepare because after the friendly on March 3 there will be no window again until three weeks that will be available for training camp.

"So, engaging a foreign coach now is a waste of money and time; and there is nothing the coach can do now until three weeks to the World Cup. Therefore, the foreign coach is not going to do anything", Bassey stated.

According to him, he would only support the move for a foreign coach if such a soccer tactician would be engaged on a long term contract of developing the

nation's football after the World Cup period.

Consequently, Bassey suggested that a Nigerian coach be allowed to take the Eagles to the World Cup, after which a foreigner would be hired to build the team for a period not less than four years.

"I will only support the idea of a foreign coach now if the coach is to continue with the team after the World Cup on a long term contract to develop Nigerian football", Bassey added.

On who out of the four coaches would make a good tactician for

the country, Bassey says except for Ratomir Dujkovic, the other three coaches have different playing patterns that will not suit the Nigerian football.

"I don't support any of them, but I think Dujkovic being a European will do better because of the playing pattern, but others will spoil our game", he concluded.

In conclusion, Bassey said that a Nigerian, either Siasia, Oliseh, Amodu or Keshi be allowed to take the team to the World Cup, then after that we engage a foreign coach on a long term contract to build a team.

Eagles rivalry can't scare Martins

WHILE Nigerians await a new coach for the Super Eagles, VfL Wolfsburg of Germany striker, Obafemi Akinwunmi Martins has thrown a challenge at home-based players and younger foreign-based stars to "Bring It On". Martins boasted in a chat with *brilafm.net* that the present crop of players in the Eagles is not scared of competition from incoming invitees.

"If they want to, like people say, flush out the present Eagles and they want to bring others together, fine, let's play."

"If, as the fans say, they want to bring other players in from the local league or even abroad, let them come, we train together."

"As Osaze says, we will play friendly matches and see who's perfect," he concluded tersely.

Ezeji dumps Sharks

VICTOR Ezeji has agreed a deal to trade relegation-battling Sharks for title-chasing Rangers following a fallout over his wage demands.

Ezeji, whose N7 million sign-on fee with Sharks last season made him one of the most expensive players in the league, was looking to improve on that figure, but officials of the Port Harcourt club would hear none of it, and even tried to halve it.

The move left the striker unhappy, and he finally decided to accept the overtures from Rangers.

Ezeji is one of the most successful players in the domestic league, with multiple League titles from his time at Dolphins and Enyimba, with whom he won the CAF Champions League.

Kaita recalls Lokomotiv bliss

SUPER Eagles midfielder, Sani Kaita is definitely trying to move on with his life, following his release by his parent club, AS Monaco, after playing the whole of last season in Russia with both Kuban Krasnodar and Lokomotiv Moscow.

Kaita recalled during a telephone interview with *brilafm.net* that he enjoyed his days with Lokomotiv, and says he would wait to see how things turn out for him as the 2010 World Cup approaches.

"For me, it was always a thing of joy getting to play a match for Monaco. I remember how good it was, and I am also happy with Lokomotiv in Russia."

"I was happy to play for Lokomotiv. It's a very big club and they have very good players in the team. I enjoyed playing for them and I was looking forward to something big," the Beijing Olympics silver medalist stated.



BORDEAUX'S Marouane Chamakh (R) fights for the ball with Olympiacos' Olof Mellberg during their round of 16, UEFA Champions League football game at the Karaiskaki stadium in Athens, Greece yesterday.

NPL sanctions Wikki, suspend Kaduna Utd keeper

THE Nigeria Premier League (NPL) has announced disciplinary measures against a club and a player in the aftermath of matches played last weekend in the league competition.

According to a statement signed by Mr Tunji Babalola, NPL's Head of Competitions Department, Wikki Tourists have been fined one million naira while goalkeeper Pius Ibrahim of Kaduna United FC was suspended indefinitely.

The club and the player were involved in two of the week 20 matches of the 2009/2010 league

season played on Saturday, Feb. 20 and Sunday, Feb. 21.

Wikki Tourists' fans were alleged to have assaulted match officials after their 1-1 draw at home against visiting Sunshine Stars FC of Akure at the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Stadium in Bauchi on Saturday.

"The NPL considered the assault barbaric and unethical, and Wikki must now identify the perpetrators for possible prosecution."

"In addition, the club is fined one million naira, which is to be paid before its next home game,

and its subsequent home matches shall be played behind closed doors until the perpetrators are identified," Babalola said in the press statement.

Wikki Tourists' next home match is on March 7 against Lobi Stars FC of Makurdi.

Babalola said Ibrahim on his part was suspended for an attempted assault during their match on Sunday, at the Enyimba Stadium in Aba against hosts Enyimba International FC.

"He exhibited gross indiscipline during the match, and it was an act unbecoming of a pro-

fessional as there was a vicious attempt on his part to attack the match's centre referee."

"This was after he received a red card for unsporting behaviour. His act held up the game for some minute, and this was an act of bringing the game into disrepute," the NPL official said.

He said Ibrahim, in addition to the suspension, was fined N100,000, irrespective of whatever punishment that might be handed down to the player later on by the Disciplinary Committee of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF).

Everton consider selling Yobo

SHOCKING news coming out of Goodison Park has it on authority that the crew at Everton of England is considering placing Super Eagles assistant skipper, Joseph Ikpo Yobo on transfer.

In one of the biggest shocks to hit a Nigerian player in recent months, the report out of Queensland indicates that The Toffees are ready to invite offers for Yobo, as the Merseyside club looks to pick up some financial muscle in the summer.

Details of the report revealed that a recent spate of injuries and loss of form have coupled

together to reduce Yobo's rating at Everton and the club officials are toying with the idea of allowing him go, as they seek more strength in the back-four.

The 27-year-old former Standard Liege and Olympique Marseille striker-turned-stopper got to Everton in 2002 and signed a new five-year contract last summer, but has suffered a dip in form this season.

Yobo was an unused substitute during Saturday's 3-1 victory against Manchester United with John Heitinga and Sylvain Distin preferred ahead of him in the heart of The Toffees' defence.

Obi, Obiorah shine in Inter win

FLYING Eagles utility player at last year's African Youth Championship in Rwanda, Obiorah Nwankwo has taken his fledgling career in Italy to another level, after lining out in action for Inter Milan's primavera squad, on an evening they stormed to a stunning victory.

Obiorah and fellow-Nigerian, Joel Chukwuma Obi were both on for the duration of the encounter, as The Nerazzurri stormed to a 3-0 win at home against Udinese.

However, Obi and Obiorah could not add their names to goals sheet, as Mattia Destro netted twice from the penalty spot and Michele Rigione scored the other

goal in the regular season clash at Centro Sportivo Giacinto Facchetti.

Back in competitive action after their shocking Viareggio Cup exit against Atalanta, Inter's senior youth team made a roaring start against Udinese.

Destro fired home from the spot in the tenth minute for his tenth goal of the season, with Rigione slotting home a loose ball from a corner three minutes later to put the Nerazzurri in total control.

Destro scored his second from the spot shortly after the restart after a foul in the area on Samuele Beretta.



Cech hoping Drogba continues form

THE FIXTURES
 *SKA Moscow vs Sevilla
 *Inter Milan vs Chelsea
 *Return leg on 16 March

CHELSEA goes into its Champions League match against Inter Milan tonight in confident mood following a run of form that has allowed it to open a four-point lead over Manchester United in the Premier League.

Carlo Ancelotti's side has won five of its seven league matches since the start of 2010 and is into the quarter-finals of the FA Cup.

Since returning from the

Didier Drogba has again shown his importance to the side, scoring five times.

African Cup of Nations at the end of January, Didier Drogba has again shown his importance to the side, scoring five times, including both goals in the 2-0 win over title rival Arsenal.

"He has always been one of the best strikers in the world and you can see he doesn't need much to score goals," Chelsea goalkeeper Peter Cech said. "One Saturday he had two and a half chances and scored two goals."

"He is there at the right time," Cech said. "He works



CHELSEA'S Didier Drogba, left, will come up against Africa Best Player Award rival Samuel Eto'o, right, as the Londoners face Inter Milan at the San Siro tonight.

hard for the team which is even more important because in a game when you don't play well, you need everyone to fight and run and keep tactically focused."

A week ago Wayne Rooney scored twice at the San Siro in Manchester United's 3-2 win over AC Milan. Rooney is currently the Premier League's leading scorer with 21 goals, with Drogba a place behind on 19.

"Didier is in form," Cech said. "However important Wayne Rooney is for Manchester United, Didier is as important for us."

For Inter coach Jose Mourinho it is the first time that he has met Chelsea in a competitive fixture since leaving the club in acrimonious circumstances in 2007.

During his time at Stamford Bridge the Portuguese won two league titles, an FA

Cup and two League Cups, but was unable to land the Champions League that he had won at FC Porto.

"Chelsea doesn't hold any secrets for me," Mourinho said. "It won't be difficult to prepare for this match. Why should we be scared of Chelsea? It is a great team with a lot of world class players, but so are we and we won't be afraid, but respectful. I think actions will speak louder

than words. I don't have anything to prove."

Like Mourinho Chelsea coach Carlo Ancelotti will also be returning to a stadium where he enjoyed great success, as both a player and coach.

Ancelotti was a midfielder in the AC Milan side that won the European Cup in 1989 and 1990, then repeated the success as coach of the club in 2003 and 2007.

However Ancelotti, who also coached Parma and Juventus, has more pressing issues than an emotional return to the San Siro.

"We have some problems with the fullbacks because we have lost Ashley Cole and (Juliano) Belletti," Ancelotti said. "We hope that for the next game (Yury) Zhirkov can play."

"Zhirkov had a problem with his calf, it is tight and (we hope) he can recover in two or three days for the next game. (Ricardo) Carvalho will be ready for Milan, (Frank) Lampard too and we hope Alex will be."

In tonight's remaining first-leg fixture, CSKA Moscow will need to shake off their midwinter rustiness when Sevilla come calling.

The Moscowites have not played a competitive match since the Russian league season ended in November, hardly the ideal preparation for the visit of Sevilla. That said, the Andalusian side will have some chilly temperatures to contend with and are still recovering from Saturday's encounter at Mallorca, a game they won 3-1 but which featured six yellow cards and three reds. Leonid Slutski's men could only finish fifth in the Russian championship, but earned a creditable second place in the group stage behind Manchester United and ahead of Wolfsburg and Besiktas.

'Italy fans will cheer Chelsea, not Inter'

CHELSEA manager Carlo Ancelotti has taken a swipe at his Inter counterpart Jose Mourinho, claiming that all of Italy will cheer for his side and not for the San Siro outfit during the clash of the titans on Wednesday.

The 'Special One' has taken some battering in the Italian media in the past, and would be unlikely to win a popularity contest if journalists were asked to vote on their favourite manager. And given the well-documented rivalry between Ancelotti and fellow Champions League-winning

boss Mourinho, the former has decided to capitalise on the Portuguese tactician's frosty time in the peninsula.

"Everyone in Italy, except the Inter fans, will be supporting Chelsea," Ancelotti said in an interview with Italian newspaper Il Giornale.

Responding to claims from ex-Porto gaffer Mou that the Londoners' lack of trophies since his departure in 2007 proved that they missed his presence, the Italian added: "It's true that after him nobody has won anything

for Chelsea [apart from Guus Hiddink], although some bloke called Grant didn't do so bad and came close with the Champions League final."

Despite the 'love at first swipe' relationship that exists between the two tacticians, the former Milan boss believes he will not drive his side on an emotional level just to get one up on his rival.

Ancelotti said: "He is good at charging up the atmosphere and the team, but it's ground I would never go on."



ANCELOTTI

THE WEDNESDAY COLUMN

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Danjuma as Vice-President?

Last Thursday *Thisday* carried a story on its front page in which it said a group of "Northern intellectuals and professionals" met in Abuja the day before to push for the candidacy of former army chief, General T. Y. Danjuma, as vice-president should Acting President Goodluck Jonathan become substantive. Listed among those "intellectuals and professionals" were Ahmed Joda, a super permanent secretary in the '70s, Mamman Daura, a former managing director of *New Nigerian* in its heydays, Adamu Fika, *Wazirin Fika* and a former head of federal civil service, Dr Mahmud Tukur, a former minister and one of the country's most respected egg-heads, Abba Kyari, a former managing director of United Bank of Africa, Adamu Adamu, a well known political columnist, Wada Maida, a former managing director of *News Agency of Nigeria*, and yours sincerely.

The problem with the story was that it was a gross distortion of what really happened. To begin with the group never met on the Wednesday *Thisday* claimed it met. On that day I was in Kaduna. So also was Wazirin Fika who was indeed convalescing at the time. Malam Mamman and Alhaji Ahmed Joda were abroad. I am not aware if they have returned.

Second, the last time the group met was nearly two months ago and that was the second of only two meetings it held. Malam Mamman, Wazirin Fika and Dr. Tukur were never at any of those meetings. Same thing with Nuhu Sani Zongo and Rufa'i Jumar Jose whose names were not even familiar to most of those at the meetings.

Third, General Danjuma's name was only one of several that featured at the meeting. Others included Malam Adamu Ciroma, *Madakin Fika*, Professor Ango Abdullahi, General Aliyu Mohammed and a couple or so of former and serving governors.

As a participant in the meetings, *Thisday's* story came to me as a big surprise. First, by the time the newspaper published the story Danjuma seemed to have taken himself out of the running for the No. 2 job by featuring prominently among the Eminent Elders Group of former heads of state and chief justices of the country and a few self-selected elders who met with Vice-President Jonathan to add their voices to calls on the infirm President Umaru Yar'adua to hand over the No. 1 job to his deputy.

Second, if *Thisday* had not been in a hurry to publish the story it would have found out that even though Danjuma and *Madakin Fika* were reluctant to take up the job should it become available, citing their age and physical fitness, they were not altogether averse to the idea.

However, with General Danjuma, there were concerns among some members of the group that former president Obasanjo, as the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the ruling Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) and Jonathan's proverbial godfather, would strongly object because of the bitter feud that has since developed between the two erstwhile friends and because with Danjuma as the second-in-command Obasanjo was likely to find it harder to control the presidency than otherwise.

I suspect it is the fear of a malevolent influence over Jonathan by Obasanjo which may have motivated only God knows how many Northern groups, including ours, to try and find who they think is the right person to counter the former president should Yar'adua fail to return to his job. However, this fear can only be one of several other motives, perhaps some of them self-serving.

With the Joda group, the fear of Obasanjo was hardly the primary motive. It would have been an irony if that were

so because the intimacy between Joda and Obasanjo that goes back to Obasanjo's military rule in the late seventies is an open secret. Indeed not a few who learnt of the initiative believed it was an Obasanjo script we were inadvertently playing out.

Perhaps so. But with most members of the group, I believe the main concern was the way the constitutional crisis caused by the president's infirmity was beginning to reflect badly on the North. Certainly that was my main concern when I accepted the invitation to be part of the initiative.

In a center-spread interview with the *Peoples' Daily* last Monday, veteran radical politician and elder statesman, Alhaji Tanko Yakasai, said something which I believe underscored the concern of those like me who thought the crisis of the president's health was taking a dangerous North/South dimension. "Obasanjo", Alhaji Tanko said, "came up with this bombshell that the president should resign. Before then no one had called for the president's resignation."

Obasanjo, he said, made the call because Yar'adua refused to die as the former president had hoped so that the presidency can go back to the South so soon after Obasanjo's eight-year rule which was disastrous for the country, and even more so for the North. Whatever might have been Obasanjo's motive in calling on our infirm president to go, Alhaji Tanko was certainly wrong to say the former president was the first to ask Yar'adua to resign.

Long before Obasanjo I did ask Yar'adua to resign for reason of his infirmity. "The president," I said on these pages on September 10, 2008, "should know that it is not in his own interest or that of Nigerians that he should remain president, if, as seems obvious since he took office, he cannot cope with the rigours of his office due to his ill-health." I am sure I was not even the first Northerner to say so.

Of course being a journalist, even if a veteran, my voice could never have the weight of Obasanjo's. But it was important to know there were Northerners who were as concerned as other Nigerians about crisis of development the president's ill-health had inflicted on the country.

Even if Obasanjo's motive for the presidency to remain in the South were to succeed through Jonathan's ascendancy I believe the North has itself to blame for allowing Obasanjo to have single-handedly imposed what was clearly a lousy presidential ticket on PDP, a party which had its origin in the North and which could boast of not a few generals and veteran politicians from the region. After all actions or inactions have consequences.

The over-riding consideration on such matters must be what is right and proper, morally, legally and constitutionally. On all three counts it is not right and proper that the country's development should be held hostage by the infirmity of a president because of the internal convention of the ruling party, a convention which, in any case, negates the basic principles of democracy.

This was why some of us that *Thisday* described as Northern "intellectuals and professionals" met not so much to push for General Danjuma, or anyone else for that matter, to be the next vice-president, but to work quietly against the impression that the presidency must remain in the North for the next eight years by hook or crook.

The irony of *Thisday's* story was that it came when our effort seemed to have reached a dead-end.

“The problem with the story was that it was a gross distortion of what really happened. To begin with the group never met on the Wednesday *Thisday* claimed it met. On that day I was in Kaduna

SPORTS REPORT



MICHAEL Ciani of Bordeaux

Bordeaux claim 1-0 win at Olympiakos

Giordans Bordeaux defender Michael Ciani's first-half goal earned a 1-0 win at Olympiakos Piraeus in their Champions League last 16 first leg match yesterday.

Ciani rose unchallenged in added time at the end of the first period

to head home a Yoann Gourcuff freekick which was enough to put the French club firmly in the driving seat in the tie.

It was one of the few attempts on goal from either side with Olympiakos, who had won their last five Champions League games at home, offering little threat up front.



IBRAHIMOVIC

Ibrahimovic earns Barca 1-1 draw at Stuttgart

Holders Barcelona were held to a 1-1 draw by underdogs VfB Stuttgart in their Champions League last-16 first-leg tie yesterday.

Brazilian-born German international Cacau headed the mid-table Bundesliga team ahead in the 25th minute as they outfought the Catalans in a pulsating first half.

The hosts had chances to increase their lead as they put the visitors on the back foot but Lionel Messi also hit the post for Barca just before halftime.

Barca equalised early in the second half when Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored at the second attempt after his first shot was superbly saved by Jens Lehmann.