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DAILY TRUST

MARCH 1, 2010 RABI'U AWWAL 15, 1431 A.H.

TRUST IS A BURDEN

www.dailytrust.com VOL. 23 No 76 N150

FG defends Niger Delta shoreline protection



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Nigerian juju hinders our work, say British police



PHOTO: AFOLABI SOTUNDE



FROM left: Tafidan Jama'a, Alhaji Hassan Maina, Dammafakin Jama'a, Alhaji Ishaya B. Maigairi, Dan Madamin Jama'a, Alhaji Aminu Isa Mohammed and Yariman Jama'a, Dr. Hakeem Baba Ahmed, after their turbanning by the Emir of Jama'a, Alhaji Muhammadu Isa Muhammadu, at the emir's palace, Kafanchan, Kaduna State at the weekend.

Sheikh Gummi held in Saudi Arabia

By Habeeb I. Pindiga & Aisha Umar Agaie

CONTROVERSIAL Islamic preacher Dr. Ahmad Gummi is being held by the Saudi Arabian secret police over unspecified accusations, the Nigerian mission in Riyadh and family sources in Abuja confirmed to *Daily Trust* yesterday.

Dr. Ahmad, scion of the famous scholar the late Sheikh Abubakar Mahmud Gummi, was arrested five days ago at his home in Makkah, the Nigerian ambassador to Saudi Arabia

Abdullahi Garba Aminci said.

"It is true he is being held, but we do not have information as to why they (the police) invited him," Aminci told *Daily Trust* by telephone.

Gummi's younger brother Abdulqadir Abubakar also told *Daily Trust* that the family was still trying to get information as to why the Sheikh was being held. "We have no idea why they are holding him," Abubakar said.

Aminci said Dr. Ahmad's family reported to the mission that security men in plain cloth came to their home in Makkah and asked Gummi to

go with them. They took away cassettes, books and computer, but did not say why they were picking him up.

Aminci said on learning about the 'invitation' he instructed the consul-general in Jeddah to find out what was happening. He said officials of the consulate contacted the authorities of the Saudi secret police, who admitted they were holding Gummi and said they would give the embassy a report. The embassy was still waiting for the report as at yesterday, he added.

Continued on page 5

How Guards Brigade operates, by senior officer

By Abdullahi Idris

THE Brigade of Guards does not answer to Army Headquarters or to the Chief of Army Staff in any operational matters and its commander is completely integrated into the President's security team, a

senior Defence official told *Daily Trust* yesterday.

The official, who asked not to be named, said last Tuesday's deployment of troops by the Guards to protect the returning President was routine work for the Brigade and did not require

any special clearance with Army Headquarters.

He said traditionally, since the days of General Yakubu Gowon, the Guards Brigade, known in those days as the Federal Guards, reported directly to the Head of State through agreed communication channels.

Even today, he said, the Guards Commander works harmoniously with the rest of the President's security team and he regularly accompanies the president to various places around the city but does not travel with him. He said the Guards receive adminis-

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Soludo's banking consolidation a sham – Sanusi

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

THE banking consolidation exercise carried out by the then governor of the central bank Prof. Charles Soludo has come under fire from the current CBN Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi who said the exercise was a sham and that many of the banks never raised the capital which they claimed they did.

Sanusi in a 23-page convocation lecture titled, "The Nigerian Banking Industry: What Went Wrong and the Way Forward" he delivered at the Convocation Square of Bayero University Kano on Friday said the consolidation helped to create bigger banks while it failed to overcome the

fundamental weakness in corporate governance in many banks.

The governor said, "A lot of the capital supposedly raised by these so-called 'mega-banks' was fake capital financed from depositors' funds. 30 per cent of the share capital of Intercontinental Bank was purchased with customer deposits. Afribank used depositors' funds to purchase 80 per cent of its IPO."

He added, "The CEO of Oceanic Bank controlled over 35 per cent of the bank through SPVs (Special Purpose Vehicles) borrowing customer deposits. The collapse of the capital market wiped out these customer deposits amounting to hundreds of bil-

ions of naira."

Sanusi also disclosed that while all the unethical practices were going on in the banking sector, the CBN which had a process of capital verification at the beginning of consolidation which was targeted at avoiding bubble capital stopped the check mechanism for unexplained reasons.

He noted that SPVs furnished bank executives with a leeway to lend money to themselves for stock price manipulation or the purchase of estates all over the world. "One bank borrowed money and purchased private jets which we later discovered were registered in the name of the CEO's son. In another bank

the management set up 100 fake companies for the purpose of perpetrating fraud," he said.

He further said that some banks even engaged in manipulating their books by colluding with other banks to artificially enhance financial positions and therefore stock prices, adding that practices such as converting non-performing loans into commercial papers and bank acceptances and setting up off-balance sheet special purpose vehicles to hide losses were prevalent.

According to the CBN boss, the unethical practices took place under the watchful eyes of the former Governor Soludo, whom he said conducted governance at

the apex bank in a "laissez-faire" fashion. He said under Soludo's reign, internal processes were unstructured and this compromised the CBN's ability to supervise the industry. Board agendas were set by the governor and consequently reflected his priorities, and there were inadequate committee structures and processes to ensure the CBN board's independence in assessing whether the CBN was fulfilling its mission. He also explained that of the 373 circulars issued by the CBN since 2008, only 44 addressed issues relating to the crisis, stressing that "none addressed the issue of corporate governance."



SULTAN of Sokoto Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar (left) with Dr. Mohammed Pate, Executive Director, NPHCDA during a capacity building workshop for district and village heads of Sokoto State on polio eradication initiative at the Sultan's palace in Sokoto.

PIC: NAN

Adamawa introduces free medicare for pregnant women

From Ibrahim Muhammad, Yola

THE Adamawa State government has introduced free antenatal and post-natal services for women in the state.

The government has purchased drugs and other basic items worth N120 million to be used for six months.

The items include the delivery kit called Mama's kit which contains sanitary towels, code liver oil, hand gloves, syringes and Dettol, each customized to prevent possible diversion. At a presentation ceremony of the items, the Commissioner for Health Dr Zainab Baba Kwanchi noted that "Mama's kit" is given to women at various delivery points across the 21 local government areas of the state.

The commissioner said the state government was committed to sustaining the scheme because of its impact on community health.

Describing the programme as successful, the commissioner commended the suppliers for not compromising standards as well as timely delivery.

According to her, the campaign will go a long way in reducing maternal and infant mortality to the barest minimum.

Cattle dealers begin strike March 8

From Auwalu Umar, Kano

CATTLE and foodstuff traders who transport animals and foods to the southern part of the country say they would embark on an indefinite strike on March 8 in protest against what they called "multiple taxes" collected from them by local government revenue officials on the federal highways.

The traders under the auspices of Amalgamated Cattle and Foodstuff Traders of Nigeria said an owner of a Lagos-bound trailer load of animals or foodstuff for example, had to pay at least N40,000 or N50,000 as tax to various council revenue officials on highways that pass through their councils.

Secretary General of the association Alhaji Kabiru Alhassan Rurum told newsmen in Kano yesterday that the action became imperative as the association's members were

now running at loss because of the multiple taxation besides the occasional accidents as a result of the wedges the revenue personnel erect on the roads.

The secretary general said the association wrote and visited many states in the south where they met commissioners of agriculture and finance of those states on the need to address the situation but to no avail. He listed such states to include Niger, Ogun, Ondo, Kwara, Lagos, Osun, Anambra, Enugu, Edo, Abia and Rivers.

He said governments of such states refused to take any action to reduce the hardship faced by members of the association in transporting goods to the south, saying most of them ran the business on a joint venture after all.

Upon failure of such states to do anything to arrest the situation, according to him, the

association ran to the Federal High Court Maiduguri where they obtained an injunction restraining officials of such states from collecting tax from its members. He said the court gave the injunction on October 19 last year, expressing regret that up till now such states were yet to comply with the court order.

The secretary general particularly fingered Oyo, Ogun, Osun and Lagos as states that bluntly refused to obey and respect the court order, saying this had further aggravated the hardship suffered by members of the association.

Last week, according to him, members of the association met in Abuja to review the situation after which they all agreed to give two week notice of strike. He said the association gave the authorities concerned the ultimatum within to arrest the situation or face an indefinite strike.

'144 pregnant women die in Nigeria every day'

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

ABOUT 144 women die every day during childbirth or as a result of pregnancy related problems, representing six women every hour, according to statistics from Communication for Social Change (CFC), a nongovernmental organisation.

Speaking at a forum on safe motherhood in Lagos over the weekend, Mrs. Sandra Mbanefo-Obiogo, the Executive Director, Communication for Change, said Nigeria's maternity rate is just behind India, which currently has the worst.

According to her, it is even more devastating because

most of the problems can be avoided. "These women die due to avoidable problems such as inadequate healthcare services in communities, unskilled birth attendants, lack of education, cultural stereotypes and barriers and because we have these stoic culture of silence in the face of pain", she said.

She said death through pregnancy and child birth has almost become invincible, especially when one considers all the publicity around other issues.

She said based on the enormity of the problems that face Nigerian women, concrete efforts should be made towards reducing by three quarters, the maternal mortality ratio

and achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015 based on the Millennium Development Goals.

Thus, the CFC has developed three short videos of five minutes each, depicting how vulnerable women and underage girls die due of pregnancy complications she said.

"Too young, Too Far and Too late highlights the effects of peer pressure on our youths, family power dynamics, inadequate access to information, and the disastrous effects of not educating and empowering women. The films also highlight the disastrous effects of the Nigerian brain drain, crumbling infrastructure, and the lack of access to emergency healthcare services", she said.

Akunyili: Yar'adua's aides must clarify his condition

THE powerful aides around President Umaru Yar'adua should be honest about his state of health if he remains unable to address government after his return from a Saudi hospital, Information Minister Dora Akunyili said yesterday.

"It is in the best interest of the country ... if our president comes out to address us if he is in a position to do so," Akunyili told *Reuters* news agency.

But if he is not in a position to do so, people around our president should be honest enough to come out and tell us the true situation of his health," she said in an interview.

Earlier yesterday, some Nigerian newspapers quoted Akunyili as saying that a cabal around Yar'adua was dishing out orders

in the name of the president.

"The cabal (around Yar'adua) wants to continue with their usual statement of 'the President said and you must comply,'" she was quoted as saying.

"They want to continue dishing out instructions even when the president did not say so ... They sneaked him into this country in the night ... I think it's something

that is unnecessary and uncalled for," she said.

Akunyili is the first minister to openly criticise the handling of Yar'adua's absence, raising the prospect of divisions within the cabinet.

Jonathan assumed executive powers on February 9, ending months of state paralysis.

Akunyili said she would con-

tinue to take instructions from Jonathan and would take orders from Yar'adua again only once he had recovered and returned to work, not from his aides.

Asked if she would resign, she said: "If anybody comes up tomorrow to explain to me why it is necessary for me to resign so as to help stabilise the polity, I will not waste one minute."



LAGOS State Governor and Chairman of the pre-convocation lecture Babatunde Fashola (right) with the Governor of Central Bank Sanusi Lamido Sanusi who was the guest speaker at the convocation at the Bayero University, Kano, on Friday.

No formal contact with Yar'adua yet - Reps

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua has not "formally" communicated to the House of Representatives since his return to the country on Wednesday after spending three months in Saudi Arabia.

Chairman of the committee on Media and Publicity, Rep Esemey Eyiboh (PDP, Akwa Ibom State) told *Daily Trust* on phone yesterday that any discussion over the President's return would be pre-emptive since he has not formally informed the House of his return.

He said: "You must know that no formal communication has taken place between the president and the House since his return to the country. The position of the House is not made in a vacuum. It has to be occasioned by something i.e. when the President announces his return to us."

When asked if the House will request for the President's medical report, Rep Eyiboh said they have to be briefed on his return before making any comment.

He said: "We would only speak on the President's return when we are formally informed of his return. So that is going to be pre-emptive."

Daura emir asks Nigerians to reason with Yar'adua

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

EMIR of Daura Alhaji Umar Faruk said those criticizing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua for failing to appear in public since his return from Saudi Arabia do not understand the nature of travelling. The traditional ruler said it is known fact that whoever engaged in a long distance journey will want to relax for some time before he resumes duty fully.

"President Yar'adua is relaxing for a while before he continues with the running of the affairs of this country," he told the Voice of America Hausa service.

"Everybody is aware that President Yar'adua is back in the country.

Whether people have seen him or not is immaterial at this time. Even the healthy needs to rest after travelling, let alone someone that is just recovering from sickness. So Nigerians should understand."

The emir said Nigeria at this moment requires the prayers of all and sundry in order to achieve meaningful development. He said the emirate cancelled the annual Durbar and organised during Maulud to allow for a special prayer session for the country.

He added that "I and entire traditional title holders, advisers, elders and Imams of this emirate decided to postpone the annual durbar celebration and prayer for the unity and progress of this country between Muslim and Christians to have a unified sovereign state.

Nigerian juju hinders our work, say British police

From Ibrahim Chonoko, London

THE Scotland Yard Police in the UK has attributed the low conviction of criminals, especially those engaged in human trafficking, to the use of *juju* and witchcraft by criminal networks in Nigeria.

Detective Andy Desmond of the Scotland Yard Human Trafficking Team disclosed this at a community meeting against child trafficking in London, organized by Africans Unite Against Child Abuse (AFRUCA).

Speaking on 'Witchcraft and juju as Barriers to Effective Prosecution of Traffickers', Desmond

said traffickers use juju priests to cast spell and fear on their victims to stop them from speaking out about their ordeals even when they are rescued.

"The victims are too scared to speak against the perpetrators of the crime even to their parents", he said, adding that the rituals usually performed to bind the victims to secrecy is akin to a contract that the victims must not breach under any circumstances.

"It is a well-set up organization and very complicated", he added, stressing that it was very difficult for an outsider to understand its intricacies and find a way to hold

its evil beneficiaries to account.

Desmond, who kept the audience spell-bound with heart-touching accounts of some of the victims of human trafficking brought to the UK from Africa, said it was extremely difficult to get a conviction because the victims believe they could come to harm if they breached their secrecy contract.

He said some crimes are family- or community-based, with victims' sufferings seen as a necessity for the over-all good of the family or the community.

He therefore stressed the need to educate the juju priests, fami-

lies and communities to recognize the evils in human trafficking and domestic servitude.

He noted that as an ancestral practice, juju was used for the well-being of the community, but lamented that criminal networks were now exploiting it to perpetrate their nefarious acts of human tracking, child abuse and exploitation of domestic servants.

In her remarks, the Executive Director of AFRUCA, Debbi Ariyo said the organization aims to raise public awareness on the evils and effects of human trafficking in Europe and Africa.

Describing human trafficking

as the "fastest growing industry in the world", Ariyo listed its main causes as poverty, conflicts and wars, as well as cultural practices.

Its victims are subjected to exploitation such as sexual slavery, domestic servitude, begging, forced labour, drug trafficking, forced or under-age marriage, genital mutilation and removal of body organs and even death, she said.

Daily Trust reports that Ariyo launched AFRUCA's face-book at the meeting with a plea to the public to sign unto it to enable the organization achieve its set target of one million members.

FG defends N/Delta shoreline protection

By Mohammed S. Shehu

THE Federal Government has defended the proposed N19 billion shore protection and land reclamation projects for the Niger Delta states saying it was intended to consolidate the achievements of the amnesty programme.

The project, according to Ima Niboro, the Senior Special Adviser on Media and Publicity to Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, was part of the post Amnesty projects planned for the region, and are to be funded from a "ring fenced" fund dedicated to the Niger Delta amnesty programme.

Niboro, who stated this yester-

day in a statement, added that the project has no relationship with the River Niger dredging project, which was flagged off in September last year by President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

"This is to correct the false impression being created in some quarters that the Acting President, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, allegedly diverted the sum of N19 billion from the River Niger Dredging project, into shore protection and land reclamation projects in the Niger Delta," he said.

He added that prior to the decision to embark on the project, the sum of N5.5 billion, part of the

dedicated amnesty fund under the 2009 supplementary appropriation, was set aside by the Ministry of Transportation for improvement of waterways and related issues in some communities the Niger Delta.

He said the Ministry of Transportation had planned to spend the entire funds on Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers, with the bulk going to Bayelsa, the home state of the Acting President.

But in reviewing the decision, Niboro said Jonathan considered that other Niger Delta states should benefit from the project.

He said another factor that guided the decision was the need

for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which he said would take between one and a half to two years to complete.

"The Acting President subsequently directed the Finance Minister to begin a virement process to move the N5.5 billion provided in the supplementary appropriation for this project, under the Amnesty initiative, to the Niger Delta ministry. This is a detailed administrative process that would naturally have to pass through the National Assembly before it is concluded.

"We wish to restate that there was no time we announced that the dredging of the River Niger has been stopped," statement said.

Group backs Yar'adua for not appearing in public

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Future Nigeria group (FNG) said yesterday in Abuja that ailing President Umaru Yar'adua did not commit any offence or breach the constitution by not appearing in public five days after his return from Saudi Arabia.

Addressing journalists on the state of the nation, national chairman and former Special Adviser on Youth Matters to former President Olusegun Obasanjo, Kolade Victor Akinjo and national secretary, Abdullahi Alikano, said that the prompt directive by President Yar'adua to Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to oversee the affairs of the state while he recuperates is enough to show that the president means well for the country.

While commending Acting President Goodluck Jonathan for his loyalty and spirit of service, he said that any other person with unbridled desperation for power would have thrown the nation into confusion.

He condemned those criticising Hajia Turai Yar'adua, saying the first lady's obligation must be on the side of her husband for his quick recuperation.

Northern Union warns Yar'adua's aides

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE Northern Union cautioned presidential aides at the weekend to ensure that nothing is done to distract Acting President Goodluck Jonathan from discharging the state duties.

In a statement titled "As President Yar'adua Returns, Northern Union Cautions" and signed by Chief Patrick Adaba, the union appealed to all Nigerians to give Jonathan all the support and cooperation he needed to successfully run the affairs of the country in order to avert any crisis.

The Northern Union welcomed President Umaru Musa Yar'adua from Saudi Arabia, where he had been in hospital for three months and prayed that President Yar'adua will speedily and fully recover.

"NU particularly appeals to all and sundry, especially the presidential aides that nothing is done to distract Acting President Goodluck Jonathan from discharging the state duties which providence has bequeathed upon him".

The Union recalled that its call on the National Assembly through a communiqué it jointly issued with the elders and leaders of the South-South was in appreciation of the need to ensure the continuity and smooth running of government in accordance with the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The Union agreed with latest statements from Presidency that Acting President Jonathan should continue to act and oversee the running of affairs of government while the President Yar'adua recuperated.

Trade union calls for probe of service chiefs

By Francis Okeke

TRADE Union Congress (TUC) yesterday called on the National Assembly to probe the role the military played in the clandestine return of ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua into the country from Saudi Arabia last week.

A press statement signed by TUC's President General Comrade Peter Esele said the union is worried over the "continuous violations of the nation's constitution by those who are paid to uphold it."

Esele explained that "first it was the political class that nearly plunged the country into a state of anarchy over their poor handling of President Musa Yar'adua sickness and succession saga."

The union said it is worried that the same military that are trained on the art of respecting regimented authorities could turn around to act in a manner unbecoming of trained professionals.

"How could one explain the active involvement of the military in the purported midnight return of President Yar'adua without taking orders from the Acting President and Commander-in-Chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces, Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan?" he asked.



FROM left: Chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs Senator Jubril Aminu, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Nigeria Saad Al-Asousi and the ambassador's wife Mrs. Al-Asousi during the National Day and the Liberation Day celebration of the State of Kuwait in Abuja at the weekend.

Communities ask Jonathan to resign for diverting dredging fund

By Shehu Abubakar

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan has been advised to resign from office for approving the diversion of N19 billion intervention fund for the dredging of River Niger from the Federal Ministry of Transport to the Ministry of Niger Delta for shoreline protection.

The call was made by River Niger host communities from Kogi and Niger states.

President of River Niger Coast Youth Communities of Kogi State Barrister Mohammed Ndanusa and spokesman of the Nupe Congress of Niger State Engineer Yabagi Sani said this at different press conferences in Abuja yesterday.

They said it was wrong of the acting president to meet with some people from a section of the coun-

try and issue directives diverting funds appropriated by the National Assembly, approved by the President and the contract approved by the Federal Executive Council.

Barrister Ndanusa said Jonathan's action constitutes an impeachable offence for diverting money appropriated by the National Assembly from one Ministry to the other for purposes other than what the fund was originally appropriated for.

Engineer Sani said the action of the acting President is clearly unconstitutional and illegal because appropriation is the prerogative of the National Assembly only. He asked the National Assembly to take up the matter and appropriately commence impeachment process against the acting President.

He also asked the EFCC to investigate the matter to ensure that the N600 million paid to the consulting firms responsible for the section (Warri to Ida in Kogi State) of the dredging being stopped is refunded to the government immediately.

Acting President Goodluck Jonathan had after a meeting with the steering council of the Niger Delta Amnesty Program that consist of Governors of the Niger Delta region, directed that the dredging of a portion of the river Niger from the Onya Bifurcation to the Nembe/Port-Harcourt course be suspended and the N19 billion earlier appropriated for the dredging work be transferred by the Ministry of Finance to the Ministry of Niger Delta as reportedly requested by the Niger Delta communities.

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE



SHEIKH Ahmad Gummi

Sheikh Gummi held in Saudi

Continued from page 1

Aminci said Ahmad's "invitation" by the police may be connected to the scholar's "religious activities", given that they took away religious books, records of preaching and a computer.

Gummi had recently travelled to Malaysia, he said. Two Nige-

rian students in Malaysia were arrested last month on suspicion of belonging to terrorist groups.

A spokesman for the Saudi embassy in Abuja said he could not comment on the matter yesterday because it was a work-free day. He asked our reporter to contact him again today.

Gummi, a trained medi-

cal doctor and a retired Major in the Nigerian Army, returned to Nigeria from his Saudi base in 2004 and began the annual Ramadan preaching at the Sultan Bello Mosque in Kaduna, in succession to the late Sheikh Lawal Abubakar. Sheikh Lawal himself had taken up the Ramadan sermons after the demise

of Dr. Ahmad's father, Sheikh Abubakar Gummi in 1991. His sermons soon became very controversial for the attacks on the Dariqa and Shiite sects.

Although Dr. Ahmad resides in Saudi Arabia, he returns to Nigeria just before the Ramadan fast every year to conduct the sermons.

Court bars Keyamo from prosecuting Kenny Martins

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin

A Federal High Court in Abuja has disqualified Lagos lawyer Festus Keyamo from prosecuting the National Chairman of Police Equipment Foundation Kenny Martins' counsel Chief Mike Ozekhome (SAN) to disqualify Keyamo from handling the prosecution.

Martins is facing a four-count charge of breaching a \$97,500,000 million loan agreement he entered into with an American company, Cavalry Security Group, LLC.

Chief Martins was re-arrested tice Adamu Bello disqualified Keyamo from prosecuting Kenny Martins after setting aside the fiat issued to him by the immediate

past Attorney-General of the Federation Chief Michael Kaase Andoakaa (SAN) to the effect.

The trial judge had held that the fiat was issued to Keyamo against the interest of justice, adding that "The primary duty Attorney-General of the Federation is hereby set aside. Let the AGF appoint another legal practitioner to prosecute the case," the

judge added.

Justice Bello however fixed March 31, 2010 for hearing in an application brought by one of the sureties who stood for Kenny Martins to get bail.

It would be recalled that the on alleged forgery of Corporate Affairs Commission documents with his deputy, Ibrahim Dumuje, Joni Icheke and one Cosmos

CAC official's murder: Police accused of foot-dragging

By Misbahu Bashir

THE police in Abuja ordered to trace the killers of Abubakar Umar Abba, an Assistant Director with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), are delaying investigation, family sources said.

Abba was shot and set ablaze

in November 2009 in the Utako District of Abuja. He was, until his death, a special assistant to CAC's Registrar-General Bello Mahmud. "The police have been delaying the investigation processes, in spite efforts from family and public to assist them," he said. He said Abba was abducted allegedly from the mosque where

he went for Magrib prayers at about 6pm, because he could not be reached on his mobile phone by his family, and was detained by his captors until around 1am the next morning when he was taken in his vehicle to Utako where he was shot.

He said some eyewitnesses had informed the family that

some of the assassins drove to the scene carrying AK-47 rifles in a pickup vehicle.

When *Daily Trust* contacted the homicide section of the police at Area 10, Garki, the police said they have arrested two people in connection with the killing and hope to find the killers.

APOLOGY

On Friday 29th January, 2010, we carried an advertorial titled "Megalomaniac Goldilocks" on page 37 of our Daily Trust Newspaper.

The publication was obviously a response to an article written by one Hannatu Musa Musawa and published in a column in the Leadership Newspapers of Wednesday, 13th January, 2010.

As usual with advertorials, we do not by publishing them share the sentiments they express.

We tender our apologies to the said Hannatu Musawa for the embarrassment the advertorial may have caused her and her family.

MANAGEMENT

How Guards Brigade operates, by senior officer

Continued from page 1

trative and other support from Army Headquarters but do not answer to it.

The senior officer dismissed media reports alleging that Army Chief Lt. General Abdurrahman Bello Danbazau deployed the troops on the day of Yar'adua's return, saying those making the allegation were ignorant of Army traditions and procedures. He said the military service chiefs are not informed about the president's movements, though the Guards Commander is so informed.

On allegations that the Guards were deployed without Acting President Goodluck Jonathan's knowledge, the senior official said the Guards are responsible for the protection of the Presidency as a whole, that means the president and the vice president. He said if the Guards Commander failed to deploy his men to guard the returning president and something awful happened, it would be a serious case of dereliction of duty. Besides, he said, deployment of soldiers from the Guards Brigade within Abuja to protect the president is not considered to be "abnormal troop deployment" within the military. The Guards need the Army Chief's permission to deploy outside Abuja, he said but not within it. He said it amounted to unwarranted interference in military matters. He said a very dangerous precedent would be set in the country if religious groups and political parties dictate which military officers would serve in which positions.

He said such interference and "wild insinuations based on ignorance of military procedures" was harming the military as an institution. It would be recalled that last Tuesday, when President Umaru Yar'adua returned to the country after 93-days' medical leave abroad, some soldiers were seen stationed at some strategic junctions in Abuja's Central Area and Asokoro. The Army later explained that they were from the Guards Brigade.

Women gather in New York to discuss status

NIGERIAN women will join their counterparts from around the world at the UN headquarters in New York tomorrow for the opening of the 54th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW).

More than 40 representatives from Nigeria, led by the Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development Hajia Salamatu Suleiman, are taking part in the session, which runs till March 12. Some female members of the National Assembly are also in the team.

The 54th UNCSW will examine progress recorded

since the adoption of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

The declaration was the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, which focused on action for equality, development and peace.

The former deputy governor of Anambra State, Dame Virgy Etiaba, and at least three governors' wives are already in New York for the event.

The UNCSW meets once a year for eight working days. Participants include representatives of its 45 member-

states, observers from other UN member-states and non-member states (the UN currently has 192 member-states).

Representatives of UN organisations, intergovernmental, governmental and Non-governmental organisations will also attend the session.

The theme of this year's session is "The sharing of experiences and good practices, with a view to overcoming remaining obstacles and new challenges, including those related to the Millennium Development Goals." (NAN)

Col. Kaniel now district head of Bagudo

THE Emir of Gwandu Muhammad Ilyasu Bashar has described Col. Muhammad Bello Kaniel, the new Bahindin Bagudo and the District Head of Bagudo, as a responsible, loyal and dedicated citizen.

The emir said his relationship with Kaniel dated to their primary and post primary studies in the late fifties. He also touched on their lives in the Nigerian Army, with particular reference to the shots they both sustained at the war front during the Nigerian civil war of the late nineteen sixties. Emir Bashar said Col. Bello Kaniel who served as military governor and federal minister in the past has distinguished a sense of patriotism and the commitment to serve his fatherland under any capacity.

The emir spoke when he received a delegation of traditional rulers from Bagudo local government on a thank you visit to Abdullahi Fodio palace in Birnin Kebbi, said the Chief Press Secretary to the Emir of Gwandu Haliru Sarki Kende in a statement. He told the delegation led by Magajin Zagga Alh. Abubakar Mainasara to work together and reap the fruits of unity.

The emir expressed appreciation to the Kebbi State Governor, local government and the new Bahindin Bagudo for accepting the position he inherited from his ancestors.

Earlier, Magajin Zagga, who is also a member of Gwandu Emirate Council, thanked Emir Bashar and his councillors for the honour bestowed on Col. Bello Kaniel.

The delegate leader assured Emir Bashar that Col. Bello Kaniel would use his wealth of experience to justify the confidence reposed in him by the state and local government, with specific emphasis on the maintenance of peace.

Alh. Mainasara Zagga was accompanied to the palace by his core Council member Sarkin Illo Alh. Muh'd Wankwai, Alh. Umaru Adamu Sarkin Borgu Kaoje, Sarkin Yamman Yamusa Alh. Abubakar Kaoje, Magajin Kende Alh. Muh'd Bello Zagga and Sarkin Kudun Bani Alh. Muh'd Dobi Illo.

Others include Sarkin Yamman Kasati Alh. Muh'd Salah Illo, Alh. Umaru Daudu Bahindin Bahindi, Galadiman Bagudo Dr. Muhammadu Galadima, Wazirin Borgu Kaoje Dr. Muhammad Sani Kaoje as well as Dikkon Bagudo and Sarkin Gwamba Alh. Usman Abubakar.



CROSS-SECTION of the 2009 graduands of the certified protection officer course in Lagos

Nigeria should discourage importation – Scholar

By Muideen Olaniyi

AN Abuja-based Islamic scholar Malam Abdur-rauf Babalola yesterday advised government to discourage the importation of goods and find a way to encourage the patronage of locally made goods to address the problem of balance of payment deficits.

The scholar, who was speaking at the monthly lecture of the Organization of Thadamunul Muslimeen (OTM) Federal Capital Territory (FCT) chapter, underscored the need for Nigerians to be

contented with what God had endowed the country with.

Mallam Babalola, who said Prophet Muhammad encouraged his followers to engage in various permissible business activities to work, stated that he hated begging as a means of making ends meet.

He said: "To correct micro-economic problem, the prophet doesn't beg. He abhors begging. Begging is just like the importation of goods from abroad which will affect the balance of payment."

Earlier, the guest lecturer, Uztadh Tawheed Adebayo, charged mankind

to emulate the exemplary behaviours of Prophet Muhammad.

The scholar, who delivered a lecture on "Lessons from Birth, Life and Prophethood of Muhammad", said the prophet was caring to both mankind and animals.

He said the unlettered Prophet Muhammad was adjudged first among 100 influential people in the world because of his virtues, including trustworthiness, bravery, piety, perseverance, patience, wisdom, fairness and equity as well as trust among other qualities which made him to be a role model for mankind.

Abia State University honours Niger governor

THE Abia State University at Uturu over the weekend honoured the Governor of Niger State Muazu Babangida Aliyu with a doctorate degree in Public Administration.

The award, which was given to the governor for his people-oriented programme, especially in uplifting Niger State to be among the three top state economies in Nigeria by the year 2020, took place during the 20th convocation ceremony of the University.

The University extolled the leadership qualities of the Chief Servant and cherished him as a technocrat who had held several positions including permanent secretary in many ministries and the cabinet secretariat.

He was praised for his efforts in the development of education and as a former professional teacher.

In his speech at the occasion, the Chief Servant restated his commitment to the development of education

which he said necessitated the establishment of a ministry for Tertiary Education and Science.

He advised government at all levels to give priority to not only infrastructural provision but also structural layout including teachers' welfare and condition of teaching and research.

Dr Aliyu, who enjoined Nigerians to give education the priority it deserves for the benefit of Nigerian children and the environment, prayed for the quick recovery of President

Umaru Musa Yar'adua and appealed to Nigerians to cooperate and support the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan.

Niger State Commissioner for Information and Communication Alhaji Aliyu Baba Barau described the award as a fitting one especially due to Dr Aliyu's effort towards human development in his servant leadership posture as a seasoned administrator.

PIC: NAN

Niger inaugurates committee for Baro port

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

A committee has been inaugurated by the Agaie Emirate Council in preparation for the commencement of activities at the Baro Port after the dredging of the River Niger would have been concluded by the Federal Government.

According to Alhaji Yusuf Nuhu, who represented the emir of Agaie at the inauguration cere-

mony yesterday in Agaie, the committee is expected to liaise with the host community and government at all levels towards ensuring a harmonious relationship when the port begins full operations. He said there was the need for the host community to know what the Federal Government intended to do with the place.

Yusuf expressed happiness that after waiting for so many years, the Baro Port would finally be put into

use.

He maintained that because of the importance of the port to the North and the people of the emirate council, there was the need to educate the people on its benefits.

"As you are all aware, the development of Baro has always been our prayer for the past four decades and with the commencement of the dredging of the river Niger in 2009 by the Federal Government, our hope has become

a reality. Our emirate is a major stakeholder in this project. The benefits derivable from the project are enormous. Likewise, the social/ economic problems associated with the project", he said.

He named a 15 man committee headed by Hajiya Dije Jibrin Bala as chairman and Barrister Musa Suleiman while Shehu Agaie, Aliyu Abdulmalik, Baba Magaji, Abdullahi A.Y Dagachi, Abdullahi Ebaiye and Dagachi

Mohammed are members. Other members are Abdulkadir Jelani, Baba Suleiman, Captain Hassan Baro, representative of Agaie emirate council, district head of Baro and the village head of Baro.

Speaking on behalf of members of the community, Hajiya Bala reiterated the commitment of members towards creating a harmonious environment between the host community and investors.

Killer police corporal axed for drunk driving

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

THE Sokoto State Police Command has announced the dismissal of a corporal for driving a patrol vehicle under the influence of alcohol.

Three persons including a police Constable died in Sokoto after they were hit by the allegedly drunk police Corporal. The Corporal, Simon David, attached to the Wurno Division, was said to have hit two motor cyclists who died on the spot while a police Constable, William Danlami, died in hospital. A statement by the Police Public Relations Officer of the Sokoto State Command

Gombe shuts school over clash

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Gombe

THE Gombe State Commissioner for Education Hajia A'ishatu Ahmed Bose yesterday ordered the closure of the Government Science Secondary School Kaltungo, following a clash.

A visit to the school by our correspondent revealed that parts of the mosque and hostel were burnt while the belongings of the leader of the Christian fellowship were set ablaze.

Though the commissioner refused to comment on the cause of the clash, our correspondent gathered that tension started mounting in the school on Friday afternoon when some students went into the Head boy's room and set his belongings on fire.

A detachment of anti-riot policemen has been deployed to the school to maintain law and order. Students were seen with their luggage leaving the school premises.

The Police Public Relations Officer DSP Abdullahi Kamba told our correspondent on phone that he was yet to receive any information on the clash.



GOVERNOR Namadi Sambo of Kaduna State (left) receiving an award from the Emir of Kuru Alhaji Ja'afaru Abubakar, at the 4th convocation ceremony of Shehu Idris College of Health Science and Technology at Makarfi in Kaduna State.

Security agents to investigate discovery of pig head in mosque

From Mahmud Lalo & Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

SECURITY agents in Plateau State are to investigate the discovery of a pig head inside the burnt Kandahar Juma'at Mosque in Bukuru, Jos.

Senior police and army personnel who spoke with our correspondent yesterday in Jos said the mosque was one of those burnt during the recent Jos crisis.

"Since normalcy returned, people have been clearing the debris trying to renovate the mosque and on Sunday morning, they found a pig's head inside. The pig was not slaughtered in the mosque, but outside the mosque after which the head was dumped inside the mosque".

The officers said they received the report and sent their men to the mosque, adding that they saw the pig's head and removed it and have commenced investigation to fish out the culprits. The Chairman Council Of Ulama Plateau State chapter Sheikh Khalid Usman and the Secretary General of Jos South Council of Ulama Ustaz Lawal Bala said, "On Saturday night during the curfew hours, unknown persons slaughtered a pig and sprayed its blood inside the mosque and painted the wall with the blood".

The scholars said the mosque was the first that was burnt during the recent crisis. Spokesmen for the community said they invited the sector commandant in charge of Jos South Local Government and the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) both of who visited the mosque and saw what happened, saying they were shocked and pleaded with the community to be patient. They said they were able to persuade the youths not to take laws into their hands with a pledge to bring the culprits to book.

Kano cancels music festival two hours to takeoff

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

TWO hours to the commencement of the 2010 Kano Music Festival (KAMFEST) organized by the French Cultural Centre in Kano, Alliance Francaise, the Kano State Films Censorship Board ordered its cancellation. The festival was initially scheduled to take place between Friday February 26 and Sunday 28. Speaking to Daily Trust, the Director, Alliance Francaise in Kano, Mr Alain Service, said he only received the letter cancelling the event after 5.00 pm Friday. He said the letter said the festival was cancelled because the centre did not seek permission from the board. Mr Service added that the letter came to them as a surprise because this particular festival was the sixth of its kind in the state and it had never taken permission from the board.

The Director General of the state's Censorship Board Malam Abubakar Rabo Abdulkarim said the French center failed to seek permission from the board to hold the event and therefore the board cancelled it. Rabo who spoke to our reporter on telephone said the centre failed to comply with certain observations made regarding last year's festival and therefore would not be allowed to repeat the mistakes this year.

Responding to the claim by Alain that he never sought permission from the censorship board before holding the previous ones, Rabo said he had no business with the previous years and that what concerned him was the present. One of the artists, Dagana from Niger said he had witnessed musical festivals for over 20 years and had never experienced this kind of disappointment.

Military to partner other security agencies on peace

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Gombe

THE Commander, 301 Artillery Regiment of the Nigerian Army, Colonel Umar Shehu Yakubu, says the military would collaborate with

other security agencies to sustain the peace in Gombe State. He said this in Gombe at the West African Social Activities (WASA) event organized by the military at the weekend.

He said 2009 was an eventful year in the areas of operations, training and security as military personnel in conjunction with other security operatives in the state were able to maintain law

and order. "There has been an improvement in our troop's skills at arms and marksmanship as is evident from the result of the last range classification exercise conducted by the unit", he said.

Christian elders want army chief removed

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

THE Chief of Army Staff Lt. Gen. Abdulrahman Dambazau and the Commander of Brigade of Guards should be removed from office for deploying troops along major roads in Abuja prior to President Umaru Yar'adua's arrival from Saudi Arabia without the consent of Acting President Goodluck Jonathan.

In addition, the General Officer Commanding (GOC) 3rd armored division, Major Gen Sale Maina should be removed for his partisanship in the last Jos crisis. Soldiers who were said to have killed Christians indiscriminately in Plateau State should be investigated.

These demands were made

by the Northern Elders Christian Forum (NOSCEF) after its quarterly meeting on February 27. According to the Christian group, their alleged offence is treason because their action is an offence against the state.

Also, NOSCEF wants presidential spokesman Olusegun Adeniyi to explain to the nation who authorized him to issue a statement expressing president Yar'adua's appreciation to the Nigerian people.

The communiqué which was signed by its chairman, Evang. Matthew Owajaiye and Publicity Secretary, Mordecai Ibrahim, condemned the secrecy under which Yar'adua's health condi-

tion is kept by his aides.

"Sickness is not an offence. President Yar'adua is not a private individual, he is a public figure, he is our president. We are therefore entitled to know his state of health", it pointed out.

The Christian elders praised Nigerians for the maturity they have displayed regarding the current political situation in the country, arguing that the president's health should not be treated along religious or ethnic lines. They congratulated Nigerians for rising above such sentiments.

On the other hand, NOSCEF condemned the self-serving cabal that has prevented Jonathan, senators and ministers from seeing the

ailing president, adding that its action has caused Nigeria great embarrassment. Since Yar'adua has returned as widely claimed, "it is important that he addresses the nation" the Christian elders advised.

"Henceforth, NOSCEF demands unhindered access for our national leaders such as the Acting President, Dr. Goodluck

Jonathan, the Senate President, David Mark, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dimeji Bankole, the Chief Justice of Nigeria to see President Yar'adua so as to dispel the rumour going round that he is not in the country", the communiqué stated.

NOSCEF commended the

Acting President for instituting a Presidential Advisory panel into the Jos crisis headed by Chief Solomon Lar while frowning at the recurrent rioting.

It advised him to prosecute sponsors of riots. The Christian elders also came down heavily on CBN governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, observing that he is bringing the nation's economy into ruins. "He seems to delight in the suffering of share holders in the troubled banks.

He should know that most of these share holders are honest and hard working Nigerians who invested their life savings, gratuities and pensions in banks," they added.

Group calls for state of emergency over Edo Assembly crisis

MORE pressures have continued to mount on the Federal Government to declare a state of Emergency in Edo State over the House of Assembly crisis, as another group under the aegis of League of Edo Professionals (LEP) yesterday called for a state of emergency, while condemning the event leading to the impeachment of the Speaker and the acts displayed at the state House of Assembly.

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

According to him, what transpired at the Assembly was illegal and unconstitutional because those who claimed they had impeached Speaker Garuba did not get the required two-third of the Assembly members to remove him, adding that while the AC had 13 members, the PDP members were 11. "I must say in clear terms that the governor has deviated from his set goals of developing the state to marshalling state resources to fight perceived political enemies and we condemn his actions in unequivocal terms because we know he is the brain behind the political crisis", he said.

Dr Arase said a situation where



STUDENTS of Maryam Institute for Islam Studies during March past to mark 2010 Eid-el-Maulud in Kaduna.

Muslim youth leader urges Yar'adua kitchen cabinet to learn from Niger

From Yemi Bamidele, Ibadan

MEMBERS of the kitchen cabinet of ailing President Umar Musa Yar'adua have been advised by the former National President of the National Council of Muslim Youth Organisations (NACOMYO) Alhaji Kunle Sanni to learn political lessons from the recent coup d'état in neighbouring Niger Republic.

Alhaji Kunle Sanni enjoined them to subject themselves to the provisions of the nation's constitution.

He made the call in Ibadan over the weekend while addressing journalists shortly after a Maulud Nabiy lecture organised by NACOMYO.

According to Alhaji Kunle Sanni, the impasse in Nigeria's political scene is a constitutional issue which should not have dragged to

the present ugly scenario if all the stakeholders were patriotic.

"It is not Yar'adua that is the problem but members of his kitchen cabinet who are bothered by their parochial interests rather than the overall interest of the nation", he said.

While urging members of the cabinet to be more patriotic and retrace their steps by abiding by the nation's constitution, Alhaji Kunle

Sanni said that was necessary to avoid the recent Niger Republic scenario in Nigeria.

He also advised Yar'adua's sympathisers to learn from Cuba where erstwhile President Fidel Castro voluntarily relinquished office for his deputy to take over as a result of his failing health, saying Nigeria cannot under any guise be an exemption to compliance with the rule of law.

Lack of visa didn't stop us from Dutch confab -MEND

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

THE Movement for Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) has refuted a story by the Radio Netherlands worldwide that members of the group did not attend the con-

ference because its members were denied visas for the Netherlands.

"To set the records straight, no member of MEND applied for visa at the Dutch embassy and as such could not have been issued or denied visas", Jomo Gbomo,

spokesperson of MEND wrote in an email.

According to Radio Netherlands, Mr Sunny Ofehe, organiser of the conference said MEND representatives were denied visas to enter the Netherlands to attend the

conference.

Ofehe reportedly indicated that Gbomo affirmed that the group's ceasefire remains suspended. "The president is back and the confusion is just beginning. In the midst of the ongoing power struggle, we

doubt the peace process can move forward", he said.

Mr Ofehe is disappointed that the Dutch government would not support the event financially or otherwise, saying it is not committed to bringing peace to the Delta.

Jos observes hitch-free Maulud

From Ahmed Mohammed & Mahmud Lalo, Jos

EID-EL - Maulud, the anniversary marking the birth of Prophet Muhammad, was peacefully observed in Jos as thousands of Muslims at the weekend converged on the Central Mosque to observe the annual event.

Our correspondents observed that armoured tanks and security agents were seen stationed at strategic places to ensure that the anniversary was hitch-free. The Chief Imam of Abuja Sheikh Muhammad Musa who was a special guest at the occasion advised Muslims to live according to the teachings of the prophet. He also prayed for peace to reign in Plateau. Speeches were delivered by the Chief Imam of Jos Sheikh Balarabe Dawud, Sheikh Muktar Adam, Muhammad Adam Alkadi, Sheikh Abdulaziz Yusuf among others.

Plateau State Governor Jonah Jang urged Muslims to practice the Islam as professed by Prophet Muhammad.

The governor who made the statement in his goodwill message to mark the Eid-El- Maulud also called on Muslims to live by the tenets of the religion which is peace.

Speaking on the recent crisis in the state, the governor called for forgiveness, tolerance, love and fear of God, adding that mutual respect for one another irrespective of religious or ethnic differences was necessary.

He also charged religious and community leaders to propagate the message of peace and reconciliation among their people.

Asari's groups threaten secession

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

THE Asari Dokubo-led Niger Delta Peoples Volunteers Force and the Peoples Salvation Front have jointly issued a statement saying secession of the Ijaw nation from Nigeria was imminent if the impasse over Yar'adua's health and the post amnesty programme were not properly handled.

According to the groups, the failure of the country to hold a sovereign national conference of ethnic nationalities to determine the future of Nigeria has made it necessary to call on all Niger Deltans to be ready for the emergence of a republic of the Ijaw people.

"The declaration of the Niger Delta Republic as it stands now is inevitable and irrevocable. We therefore call on all sons and daughters of the Niger Delta to gear up for this revolution. The die is cast", the statement read.

It condemned the manner in which the Niger Delta issue was being handled, saying it did not trust or depend on Nigeria to solve the crisis in the region.

Kaduna LGs can't pay salaries

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

LOCAL government councils in Kaduna State are unable to pay staff salaries due to what they called financial downturn. The most affected local government councils are Kaduna South, Kaduna North, Sabon Gari and Kaura Local Governments, according to the state's Head of Service Alhaji Habibu Balarabe. He confirmed this while addressing newsmen in Kaduna. He said the local government councils had not paid workers salaries in the last four months as a result of the economy's meltdown.

"Northern states rely largely on the federation account and if the money coming from the account dwindles, it will definitely affect the activities of government," he added.

He said Governor Namadi Sambo had constituted a committee to address the plight of the affected workers.

He reiterated the commitment of the state government to ensure prompt payment of salaries and other entitlements of civil servants in the state. Meanwhile, the National President of the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE) Prince Kingsley Ogba has urged local government chairmen in the country to always make the payment of workers' salaries a priority. Prince Ogba said this during the union's National Executive Council meeting in Kaduna.



A communication mast that damaged a church building after a rainstorm in Eket yesterday.

Plateau judiciary workers suspend strike

From Ahmed Mohammed & Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Plateau State chapter of the Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN) has suspended their industrial action following a fresh agreement reached with the state government.

Our correspondent gathered that the two sides signed an agreement in December last year, but six weeks after, the union embarked on a strike because

of failure of the state government to pay the N15,100 approved for the state judiciary workers. Speaking to newsmen in Jos after they signed the agreement at the weekend, Chairman of JUSUN Comrade Philip Adik said they suspended the strike because they had signed a new agreement with government's representatives and had given them seven weeks to pay the new salary structure.

"The agreement takes effect from Monday March 1, 2010 and it will

elapse on April 18, 2010. This is to give the government time to implement the new salary structure", he said.

He thanked the workers for their patience and cooperation during the struggle and prayed that government keeps its part of the agreement.

All efforts by Daily Trust to speak with the Special Adviser to the state Governor on Labour Matters Mr Hansi Suleiman failed as his phone was switched off and he did not reply a text message sent to him.

Govs fault post amnesty programme implementation

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

GOVERNORS of the South-South states have expressed concern over the slow implementation of the post amnesty programme. The governors who rose from a meeting in Benin, Edo State, at the weekend, said although the amnesty programme remained a legacy of the Yar'adua administration, it was yet to consolidate on its gains. The governors who spoke through Cross River State Governor Liyel

Imoke noted that oil industry operations which was the main stay of the country's economy had been stabilized because of the amnesty. They called for release of funds, proper management and execution of the post amnesty programme, saying the slow pace of the programme was frustrating. On the state of the nation and President Yar'adua's health, they condemned inflammatory statements being made by some Nigerians, saying such could destabilize the country.

According to them, the unity of the country outweighs personal, ethnic or regional interests. Senator Imoke said the governors welcomed the president back to the country and urged all citizens to pray for his speedy recovery and return to office. They also pledged their loyalty to the president and commended Acting President Goodluck Jonathan for showing qualitative leadership at the most challenging time in the nation's history.

Igbo community demands justice over killing

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Igbo community in Jos, Plateau State, is demanding justice over the killing of one of its members on February 16th, 2010. The demand was made in a statement by the President General of the group Engineer Richard O. Wayas in Jos

at the weekend. According to the statement, Mr Ikechukwu Collins was killed on February 16, 2010 as a result of a disagreement which they said had nothing to do with the Igbo community. "Igbo do not bury their dead outside their home towns to warrant a disagreement with any group in connection with burial", he

said.

Engineer Wayas also decried what he referred to as unwarranted articles in some national dailies by some people who claimed to be speaking on behalf of the Igbo.

"We are using this medium to warn these people to stay clear on issues that concern the Igbo", he added.



FROM left: Guest lecturer Kola Opediran, Comptroller-General of Prisons Mr. Olusola Ogundipe and National President, Prisons Officers Wives Association (PROWA) Mrs. Grace Ogundipe, during the PROWA seminar on the association's role in prisons reform in Abuja at the weekend.

ECOWAS lauds Ivorians for resolving impasse

By Aisha Umar Agaie

THE Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has commended President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso for resolving the political impasse in Cote d'Ivoire.

President Compaore was the Facilitator of the inter-Ivorian dialogue, set up by the regional body.

ECOWAS also commends the Ivorian parties for the spirit of compromise

they demonstrated and the consensus reached in agreeing to a new government and a new independent electoral body.

The commission, in a statement issued in Abuja, urged the parties to continue to show flexibility and understanding in resolving the other outstanding issues, especially those relating to the voters' register and an agreement on a firm date for the election as soon as possible.

Nigeria needs more than six helicopters for disaster mgt

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) requires more than six helicopters to effectively manage disaster situations, experts say.

The experts made this known at a three-day introductory training for 26 NEMA personnel on helicopter technical operation during emergency at the weekend in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. The personnel come from Lagos, Enugu, and Port Har-

court zones of the agency and were trained on search and rescue equipment, approaching, and operating the helicopter before and on emergency situations.

According to the experts, one aircraft is inadequate for smooth operation during disasters. Group Captain Frank Nyayoko, an official of the disaster management agency, said the idea behind the training is for the officers to be familiar with area they are operating during disaster. NEMA has only one helicopter which it uses during disaster situations in the country.

Last year, the federal government approved another aircraft for the agency, but professionals at the training argued even two aircraft could not adequately respond to disaster. The training is scheduled quarterly and participants are trained on how to operate in maritime places, desert areas, mountainous, and in the jungle environments.

"The idea is that if we have to respond the emergencies in these environments we should be familiar with the operative of these environments," Nyayoko said.

Doctors deny plans to go on strike

By Ruby Rabi

THE National Association of Resident Doctors of Nigeria (NARD) has denied reports that the association is embarking on a strike action.

Speaking to newsmen at a press briefing yesterday in Abuja, President of the association Dr John Tunde Aremu dismissed the story credited to one Dr Olayinka Atilola and published by a national

daily (not *Daily Trust*) that the body was planning to go on strike.

"We wish to state categorically that Dr Atilola cannot speak on behalf of NARD," Dr Aremu said.

He said NARD is yet to declare a strike even though the prevailing situation in the country is of general concern.

Dr Aremu said Atilola had asked the association to embark on strike last week

in Ibadan, saying that the "action became necessary because of the alleged refusal of the Federal Government to accede to the demands of the doctors."

Meanwhile, Dr Aremu has called on the National Assembly and the executive arm of government to expedite action on the implementation of their new salary structure to avert the issue of industrial unrest.

Civil Defence issues certificates to new recruits

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) have presented Certificate of Compliance to its new recruited personnel into the sector.

Speaking during the presentation exercise, Chairman of the Federal Character Commission Professor Shuaibu Oba Abdurraheem said it tried to ensure that the selection process was not faulty and that the principle of equity and fairness

reflected in all states by balancing the equation.

The Chairman of the Committee on Defence and Security Ambassador SMK Taribu said, "The delay was as a result of the fact that the Corps is experiencing this type of hurdle for the first time and by next exercise there will be an improvement."

He said NSCDC issues certificate for each training it conducted, saying the certificate presented is for the just concluded exercise, and every future exercise requires its own certificate of compli-

ance.

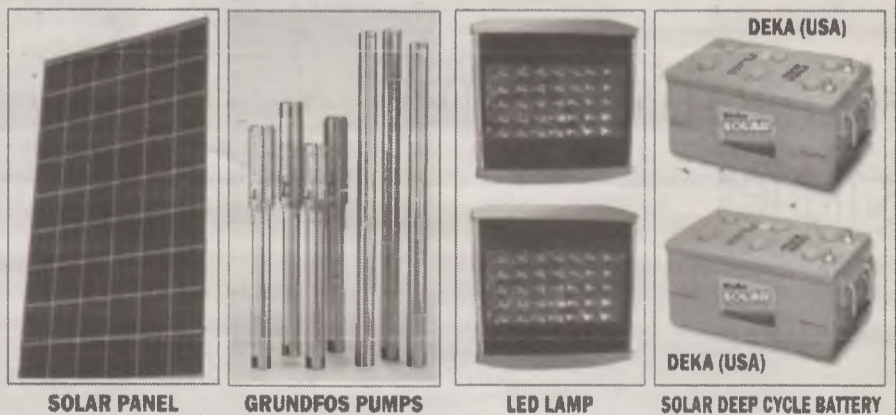
In his speech, Civil Defence boss Ade Abolurin said the training was in line with the Corps philosophy, principle and mission statement of humility and integrity in service delivery.

He said the civil defence is noted for its uniqueness and respect for due process in accordance with the rule of law.

He assured Nigerians of adequate deployment of personnel to all nooks and crannies of the country to protect the nation's infrastructure.

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NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL (NECO)

P. M. B. 159, MINNA.

EMPLOYMENT APTITUDE TEST

The National Examinations Council advertised for employment on 16th September, 2009. The last date for submission of applications was 30th October, 2009. At the close of submission, the total number of applications received was 83990 After the initial screening which was based on the advertisement requirements, 26797 candidates were prima facie qualified while 57193 were not.

For the avoidance of doubt, candidates were disqualified on the following grounds:

- Candidates with third class degree or Pass.
- Candidates without Education background where required.
- Candidates who graduated more than five (5) years ago and applied for EO II, AO II and PO II
- Candidates who submitted less than the required copies of curriculum vitae/credentials.

Qualified candidates are hereby informed that an Employment Aptitude Test will take place as follows:-

Date : **Saturday, 13th March 2010**

Venues : (a) Ibadan (b) Sokoto (c) Uyo
(d) Gombe (e) FCT, Abuja (f) Enugu

Time : **9.00am**

The names of shortlisted candidates have been posted on our website www.mynecoexams.com Candidates are hereby requested to purchase on-line Registration Cards at the rate of N500.00 from any of our Zonal/State Offices in all the states of the Federation and FCT, Abuja; and log on to our website as follows:-

Step 1: Click on the "NECO Employment Aptitude Test" box to enter your pin.

Step 2: Enter your Pin and press enter.

Step 3: Enter your "Surname', Middle name or Last name" to search if you have been shortlisted for the Aptitude Test or not.

Step 4: Once your name is displayed and it has a "qualified" status attached to it, click on your name to commence your Aptitude Test registration process.

Step 5 Enter your bio-data and upload your passport photograph.

Step 6: Select your Examination Centre and click on submit.

Step 7: Print two copies of the Examination Card and bring the two copies along with you to the Examination Hall.

SIGNED

PROFESSOR PROMISE OKPALA

Registrar/Chief Executive



AVOID ELECTROCUTION

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

The required specifications are:

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

IN THE EVENT OF ELECTROCUTION:

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



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Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



'President walked, not stretchered'

CAN he testify in court that he saw him walking out of the plane?

IJ
thereemal@yahoo.com

President Yar'adua, you are welcome. We really missed you. We hope the dredging of Niger River will continue.

Abubakar Yakubu Musa
aburiyadul@yahoo.co.uk

Why the secrecy? If he walked, then why can't he talk to us? This is a charade. We are talking about ruling a nation that is held in very high esteem by the rest of the world and we're playing hide and seek with the health and capability of the president.

Chi Anisiobi
chanisiobi@gmail.com

Is it too much for him to come out, so that we can all see him? Why are they hiding him from us? I am sure they are hiding something.

Offuafo

There is no evidence that the president has arrived the country. If he has, why are they hiding him?

A. Ali
norricelea@yahoo.com

If Yar'adua was able to walk, why did he sneak into Nigeria? Why didn't they inform the Acting President that he was coming into the country? We cannot be fooled anymore.

Emilio
finn_tj@hotmail.com

Why is he hiding?
Aku Ebilisi
staedy@yahoo.com

The president walked, not stretchered, good. Let him walk to the NTA and talk to Nigerians. You agreed that the lights were off, why? Is the president now a masquerade that cannot be seen in daylight? Let me tell you, a few people are trying to cause confusion in this country.

Agolo
ago@yahoo.com

Who is fooling who? Why bother to tell us that he walked into the car and not stretchered. If that is true, we thank God, but the fact still remains that Nigerians are not fools. Why did they switch off the lights at the airport on his arrival and why are they still preventing him from seeing his subjects. Nigeria will move forward and take its rightful place in the comity of nations with or without Yar'adua or Jonathan.

Hendrix P
hendrixpng@yahoo.com

This is a lie from the pit of hell. If Yar'adua can walk, let the country see him walk.

Abubakar Abdul
aabdul@yahoo.com

Students protest fee raise at American varsity

IT is unfortunate that the American varsity policy on 10 percent increase every semester has been changed to 40 percent.

What is happening to the school administration. Are our parents picking the money? It is the same amount parents pay for

quality education abroad.

Abdullahi Bafarawa
abdulbafarawa@yahoo.com

We, students of the American University of Nigeria reject fees increase by the institution because our parents are suffering to raise this money.

How do they expect the less privileged to acquire quality education?

Kamaludeen Takori
takorikamal@yahoo.com

The situation in AUN is frustrating and unfair. Upon admission, it was a yearly increase of 10

percent which many found very difficult to put up with, now, 35 percent increase.

What is the essence of having an institution if people cannot afford its fees? Let us think about this.

Ndanusa A.
ndanusa01@yahoo.com

Yar'adua: Jonathan is Acting President

ALL the things being said about the first lady is mischief. A part of the media is trying to make her look bad and I think it is not helping the situation. It is unfortunate that this issue has actually divided Nigerians again. Jubilation in Katsina and anger in Port Harcourt because of the president's return. It is ridiculous.

Jan Zaki
jan_zaki@yahoo.com

The Chief of Army Staff and all those who were involved in smuggling Yar'adua into the country should be sacked.

Afene Origb
estherafene@hotmail.co.uk

That is the right thing to do. Nigerians, let us pray for Yar'adua's quick recovery and let us also pray for free and fair elections in 2011, so that Nigeria can move forward.

Sagir

mushkilamafi@yahoo.co.uk

A good move by President Yar'adua. We wish Dr. Jonathan well, but however he shouldn't be carried away. His recent action, especially on the dredging of the lower River Niger was not a good one. He should also be ready to hand-over whenever Yar'adua is ready to take over.

Adzu Midlu
adzumails@yahoo.com

We want to know the true state of the president's health. We want to see a video of him, better still, he should address the nation. The National Assembly should set up a panel made up of credible Nigerians to see and assess the president's health. Enough of the lies. If we do not see the president dead or alive, there will be no peace in the Presidency.

Mike Imafidon



PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua

axazada@yahoo.com

Why did Yar'adua come back, when he knows that he is not fit to rule.

Jerry Smith
jerrysmith_270@yahoo.com

The Presidency is not just for a few people. President Yar'adua is not for his family members and friends alone, but for the entire nation.

Immanuel kadiya
kadiyaemmanuel@yahoo.com

Jonathan should give way to Yar'adua - Monguno

AM not sure past northern leaders like Shetima want us out of this dilemma. If the president is healthy enough to take over, why can't he address Nigerians and why can't he come out in public? Please this statement is not in the interest of Nigeria. Let the constitution have its way.

Yusuf
speakwithtawe@gmail.com

Sir, handing over would not have been a problem if Yar'adua had returned hale and hearty.

Wilfred
tttttttt@yahoo.com

Is he schooled in constitutional matters? Has he ascertained that Yar'adua is fit to rule?

Rowland rojemeh@yahoo.com

The elder statesman is right. As suggested by our elder statesman, the Acting President should honourably give Yar'adua his office. How he rules the country is left to him. Nigerians voted for Yar'adua, not Goodluck.

W. Bukar
wklbukar@yahoo.com

What the elder statesman, Dr. Shettima Monguno, said would have been relevant if anyone had seen Yar'adua. Yes, we heard that he is back, but where is he? If Yar'adua



ACTING President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan

is really fit to govern, let him show himself on the television, greet his country men/women, and thank them for their prayers. It is shameful and unpatriotic for a leader of a nation, who has been away for over three months to return to his country and his condition of health is kept a secret. Something is wrong and it shows that we as a nation are still in the dark ages of governance. The world is moving so fast and we should not stand by and watch. We owe it to our children and the generations to make Nigeria better.

Chima Anyanwu
bonatd1246@yahoo.com

Well, we all know the president came back under some peculiar circumstances. His return was unannounced so that those who

love him would not go to the streets, singing for joy. This suggests that all is not well and that he was brought back by some people who are benefitting from the whole confusion. I hope, I am wrong, but those who we suspect are behind the return of the ailing president might not even let us know, should he succumb to the will of Allah. If indeed Yar'adua is able to function, I suggest he addresses the nation where we can all see that his health has improved.

Dr Philip Abode
philip.abode@fresnounified.org

With due respect, Dr. Shettima Ali Monguno, we are not under a military rule and as such, no one is stopping Yar'adua from assuming office. The question here is whether he is ready to take up leadership? Perhaps you should convince him to answer this question first, before asking Jonathan to give way. This country is bigger than any individual.

Chike
chykeze@gmail.com

No one is trying to take the Presidency from Yar'adua. All we are saying is that he should appear in public and address the nation. He is not invisible and I think Nigerians including myself do not want to be ruled by a ghost.

Albert Ojapah

albertojapah@yahoo.com

By all means if Yar'adua can stand and think on his feet, he can resume his duties. But I do not think Monguno is suggesting that Nigeria should be ruled by someone who is very ill. The Presidency is not his birth right, after 49 years of misrule, Nigeria deserve something better. This idea that a particular position belongs to a certain class of people should stop.

Ephraim Osazuwa
ephyOsa@yahoo.com

There is no country that you will go to that can be better than yours. Nigeria is our own, therefore we should put aside our differences and work for the growth and development of this country. What we say can destroy us, therefore the media and the general public should be mindful of what they say.

Ibrahim Musa
elderkala@hotmail.com

Thank God, the president is back and I think the issue of who becomes what is clear. The National Assembly followed a procedure to empower the Acting President, the same procedure should be followed to restore Yar'adua.

Ephraim Balarabe
ephraimbalarabe@yahoo.com



By Ahmed Yahaya Joe

Indigene/settler dichotomy and the nationality question: Case study of Kano

"No man is an island entire to itself"
--John Donne, 1571-1631

In 1910 while constructing a railway spur line along the axis of the Kano city wall at Kofar Mazugal, a terra cotta figure of obvious pagan origin was excavated. One Mr. Tucker donated the finding to the Newberry Museum in the United Kingdom. Subsequently in 1947, it was acquired and catalogued for the British Museum by one William Fagg to be of Ankwe-Goemai origin.

How an Ankwe protective deity came to be put in carefully selected burial site at a major Kano city gate is mind boggling. According to a Yale historian and a former visiting professor to the Bayero University Kano, Murray Last, "it is unlikely that an Ankwe trader or slave, for example, who wanted for some reason to hide the figure, would bury it at a gate. Similarly the fact that the figure is not

Hausa culture has over the centuries, institutionalized migration through *Kaura, Ci Rani* and *Dandi* and with coming of Islam *Almajiranci* and *Haji*

broken implies that it was deliberately buried intact and not thrown away as rubbish or as an idol fit to be destroyed" This shows that the link between the core of Hausa land and what is referred to as the Middle Belt is not as recent as for instance the colonial discovery of tin ore on the plateau.

Hausa culture has over the centuries, institutionalized migration through *Kaura, Ci Rani* and *Dandi* and with coming of Islam *Almajiranci* and *Haji*.

Closely linked with pre-Islamic migration and often a push factor is punishing taxation that includes *Kudin Kasa, Kudin Aure, Kudin Rafi* and *Kudin Karofi* which were all abolished after the Fulani Jihad to be replaced with the canonical taxation system of *Kharaj, Zakat* and *Jizya*.

This respite was only temporary; Amir Usman of Kano (1846-1855) to boost revenue imposed a tax regime on Malams previously exempted. Interestingly there were well established links between the Kano slave market and the Niger Delta region that triggered a mass devaluation of the Cowries monetary system that contributed in taxing the extensive amulet industry (*TRAVELS AND DISCOVERIES IN THE NORTH AND CENTRAL AFRICA 1857-1858* by HEINRICH BARTH)

Predictably there was resistance largely unorganized till a certain Malam Bello of Tsakuwa was exiled for non compliance to Ningi where he founded a new town in the highlands aptly named *Lungu* this served as a refuge for Hausa dissidents and a melting pot for minority tribes of various hues resisting a Sokoto inspired tax drive. From there he carried out sporadic raids in classic guerilla style against the emirates of Kano, Zaria and Bauchi until the Kano vassal chief of

Rano dealt his followers a decisive blow at the Battle of Tugugu near Bunkure in 1855. No thanks to this rebellion the revenue base of Kano and by extension that of Sokoto plummeted with no *Jizya* from the Butawa, Warji and Ningi and the lack of steady supply of slaves and concubines it was only a question of time for civil war to break out softening the ground for the colonial conquest of Kano (*NOTES ON TAXATION AS A POLITICAL ISSUE IN 19th CENTURY KANO* BY H.K. SAID) Precisely two months before the 29th January 1903 departure of 26 officers, 13 NCOs and a mere 800 rank and file, 4 75mm and 5 Maxim guns under the Union Jack command of Colonel Morland the administration and defense of "the great Emporium of Kano" was curiously under the duo of former slaves, Sarkin Shanu Dan Gwari originally from present day southern Zaria and Sallama Jatau originally a Warji who in the heat of battle scampered off to Birnin Goga then temporary capital of Kano, Dan Gwari an obedient servant to the core would pay the ultimate prize. All royal palaces in Hausa land have their main approach orientation on a west-east axis except that of Kano this change might have been instituted during this brief but significant period of inexplicable non indigene reign.

Another important component in the "frantic fortification of Kano" as noted by Lord Lugard in a 1902 letter to the Colonial Office was the large multi ethnic military contingent fleeing from the present day Nassarawa State with the Magaji of Keffi Dan Yamusa (after assassinating a British official Colonel Moloney) this probably explains the Ankwe find at Kofar Mazugal (*THE KANO CIVIL WAR AND BRITISH OVERRULE 1882-1940*, PHD Thesis by A.M. Fika, University of London, 1971)

Predictably the teeming Kano slave population was emancipated assimilating into the local population alongside its migrant defenders and the growing non Hausa and non Muslim garrison of the West African Frontier Force.

The Slave market of Kano was so large that up to 1000 captives were added from a single raid in the regions up to the Niger and Benue (*HAUSALAND: Fifteen Hundred miles through the Central Sudan* by C.H. ROBINSON, 1896 P.130)

A study Kano City Notes by A. Fika and Z. Mahmud supervised by J.E. Lavenders concluded in a survey of 104 of Kano City's 142 administrative wards that almost all the wards owe their origin to a person or group of persons who had traveled elsewhere to settle in Kano.

Another study by P. Lubeck titled *Industrial Labor in Kano: Historical origins, Social characteristics and Sources of Differentiation*, clearly states the overwhelming population of Kano from antiquity as migrant.

For the exiled Kano Fulani ruling class it was either *Shahada* in Kotorkoshi (25th February 1903) or *Taqiyyah* (a euphemism for surrender) of a whopping 10,000 fancy dressed but battle evading cavalry drawn mainly from the Royal Sullubawa, Yolawa, Jobawa, Danbazawa and Danejawa on 7th March 1903.

Yahaya Joe wrote from 53 France Road, Sabongari, Kano.



By Ima Niboro

Re: Alleged diversion of N19 bn from River Niger dredging

This is to correct the false impression being created in some quarters that the Acting President, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, allegedly diverted the sum of N19 billion from the River Niger Dredging project, into shore protection and land reclamation projects in the Niger Delta. The other variant of the story is that Dr. Jonathan has out rightly cancelled the dredging of the River Niger, which was flagged off September last year by President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

Both stories are entirely false, and are being sponsored by desperate persons who are determined to tamper with the peace and unity of our dear country.

The facts

There is no relationship whatsoever between the River Niger dredging project and the proposed shore protection and land reclamation projects proposed for the Niger Delta states. These projects are part of the post Amnesty projects planned for the region, and are to be funded from a "ring fenced" fund dedicated to the Niger Delta amnesty programme.

In the instant case, the sum of N5.5 billion, part of the dedicated amnesty fund under the 2009 sup-

However, from conception through completion and approval, an EIA would take between one and a half to two years to complete

plementary appropriation, was set aside by the Ministry of Transportation for improvement of waterways and related issues in the Niger Delta. The ministry therefore proposed to dredge a channel through the River Nun, taking off from Onya in Delta through Odoni, Kalama, Tombia, Yenagoa, Okodogu, Okokiri, Nembe (with a spur to Brass), Apiama, Ndukiri, Sand Village, Ekulama, Idama, Tombiabok (with a spur to Degema), Bobake, Ndorokiri, Obekiri, Yekiri, Okungba up to Port Harcourt.

The total cost of this project was estimated at N19 billion, and was set out as follows:

1. Onya (Delta) to Nembe (Bayelsa), with a spur to Brass.
2. Nembe to Port Harcourt (120 kilometres), with a spur to Degema (Rivers)

By this arrangement the entire funds would have been spent on Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers, with the bulk going to Bayelsa, the home state of the Acting President. But in reviewing the decision, even more states of the Niger Delta, notably Ondo and Akwa Ibom, now stand

to benefit.

Another factor that guided the decision to take a second look at the plan was the fact that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was yet to be carried out, and for a project of this magnitude that affects navigation and the ecology of aquatic organisms, an EIA is mandatory.

However, from conception through completion and approval, an EIA would take between one and a half to two years to complete. So, should funds earmarked for urgent post amnesty intervention projects be left unutilised for two years even as the Niger Delta Amnesty was threatening to unravel before our eyes?

There was a further consideration. Even with an EIA, the deepening of the channel would result in a faster flow, and worsen river bank erosion for communities on the route. This has always been a significant challenge for riverine development planning in the Niger Delta.

Therefore, in his usual consultative manner, Dr. Jonathan invited the governors of the Niger Delta states and asked them to consult with the people and find a way forward.

When the governors returned for the next meeting, their position was clear: some of the greatest challenges confronting the Niger Delta riverine communities were shore protection and land reclamation, since many of them are steadily being washed away by erosion. There was also complete agreement that the Federal Government moves quickly to consolidate the gains of the amnesty, and be seen to be delivering on its commitments to the people of the area.

Following the presentation of the governors, a unanimous decision was taken to embark on a vigorous effort to protect the shores of vulnerable communities, and reclaim lands that have been washed away.

The Acting President subsequently directed the Finance Minister to begin a virement process to move the N5.5 billion provided in the supplementary appropriation for this project, under the Amnesty initiative, to the Niger Delta ministry. This is a detailed administrative process that would naturally have to pass through the National Assembly before it is concluded.

We wish to restate that there was no time we announced that the dredging of the River Niger has been stopped. Indeed, that project remains on course, and site reports indicate that things are going on just fine.

This gigantic N36 billion project takes off from Forcados, through Warri and Onitsha, and terminates in Baro, Niger State. We are totally committed to completing and delivering it as one of the priority projects of this government.

Niboro is SSA Media and Publicity to the acting president.



By Haruna Abubakar

Those calls for Iwu's sack

Electoral year 2011 is around the corner. And as expected, the nation is warming up to the crucial date with palpable apprehension. What with the current tension in the land occasioned by the long absence of President Umaru Yar'Adua from office due to ill health and the current hustling and high wired politicking in order to hijack political power by different interest groups. While many objective politicians and political parties are making early inroads into the hinterlands of the nation, spreading the networks and widening their political coasts, others appear to be fanning the embers of disaffection and confusion just to satisfy their inordinate ambitions that are obviously devoid of national interest or the development of our democracy.

Close followers of Nigeria's political developments would have observed that in the past three months, the polity has been markedly heated by the unfolding events over the President's ill health. Knowledgeable analysts have however noted that beyond the worry over what is going on in the presidential villa is a fierce scheming of who becomes what in 2011. But rather than articulate objective ways of acquiring the much desired political power in 2011 by purposeful persuasion of the electorate through progressive campaigns that are anchored on well defined manifestoes and exemplary leadership in their areas of control, some politicians and political parties are devoting precious time and energy in the ugly enterprise of blackmail and campaign of calumny which has become an ugly fad in recent times.

The raging campaigns for the sack of Professor Maurice Iwu, the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) that are currently being orchestrated by some faceless interest groups at a time that many others are commending Iwu and INEC for the successful conduct of Anambra State governorship election, are at best, ugly and selfish politics that has no foundation in the development and sustenance of democracy.

The Iwu-Must-Go brigade sees Iwu and INEC as the beginning and end of electoral problems in Nigeria. These people believe that for Nigeria to have credible election in 2011, INEC's leadership must be swept away. Other political analysts have consistently argued that the problem of elections in Nigeria could be located not in the individual that chairs the electoral commission, but chiefly in desperate politicians who are always ready to break all electoral and democratic rules in their quest to get or hold on to political power.

Such desperate politicians, and not Iwu or INEC are the ones that recruit thugs that often unleash violence on innocent people during the election in order to intimidate their opponents and the electorate; hijack and stuff ballot boxes; compromise security agents and polling officials and outright purchase of votes from ill-informed and cowed electorate.

There is some truth that the 2007 elections were flawed; those who have followed the activities of INEC closely since then would most likely acknowledge that Professor Iwu has deliberately initiated reforms in the electoral commission and has also shown willingness and desire to correct the observed lapses.

The transparent manner the recent Anambra State Governorship election was conducted, as attested to by both local and international observers, is a result of INEC and Iwu's resolve to get it right come 2011.

It is curious therefore that the Action Congress through its National Secretary, Lai Mohammed, would be calling for Iwu's head, especially coming on the heels of the recently conducted Anambra State governorship election and that of Edo State Assembly in Etsako, which were adjudged to be free, credible and also peaceful by local and international observers.

Lai Mohammed should instead have joined others in commending Iwu and the electoral commission for doing a great job in the above mentioned elections, in which they showed pure fidelity to the principles of true democracy by the transparent manner the elections were conducted, which many say was a sharp departure from the past exercises that were drowned in avoidable controversies and discrepancies.

Desirous to correct the past flaws in the past elections Iwu and the electoral commission that he heads, have been working hard in reforming the commission by introducing innovations such as the appointment of eminent citizens into the board that supervised the electoral exercise in Anambra, introduction of youth corps members as electoral officers and also deliberate building of the capacity of the commission's staff, that combined to make the Anambra election a success story, which is a positive pointer to what should be expected in 2011 general elections.

Abubakar is of True Democracy Advocacy Network

Your Letters

So even mother can't see sick son

The truth seems to be emerging on how this nation has been and is being run. Reading how tough it was for all the groups that wasted our nation's resources in travelling to Saudi Arabia without setting their eyes on our President, one does not need to look too far to understand what has been going on.

Starting from the so-called

signing of the Appropriation Bill by ailing Yar'Adua, to the purported BBC interview and including those fruitless journeys by government officials, to what Yar'Adua's media adviser, Adeniyi, said and counter-said as being a statement from Yar'Adua himself concerning Jonathan as Vice President and Acting President respectively, are all falsifications. Then one asks; why should a whole country like Nigeria be so in disgrace as if we have empty heads.

Since the President Yar'Adua's

purported return to Nigeria, no one has been allowed to see him: the acting President Jonathan has not been allowed; Mama Yar'Adua (Umaru Yar'Adua's mother) who came with some other members of the family, was not allowed to see her son either; the masses who would have loved to see the president they elected in 2007, and welcome him back from his long medical sojourn, have not been able to set eyes on him.

Dr. Jerome Jiga, 7 Shehu Close, Zaria, Kaduna State (jeromejiga@yahoo.com)

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Wasted effort

THE effort to create a good image for the Nigeria Police is being seriously compromised by their men (or are they?), about 127km to Kaduna on the Abuja-Kaduna highway.

M.A. Bature, 08099374243.

All motion

WITH the elections at hand, the pioneers of Mega Summit Movement (M.S.M) should hasten the process of transforming it into Political Party, before it becomes too late. The masses are waiting.

IBRAHIM B. Aliyu, Wuse, Abuja, 07030056667.

WE students of FUT Minna are

suffering; we need buses. We get to bus park at Bosso campus as early as 5am and return from school around 8pm.

MUSTY, Minna, 08024951477.

So clear

MRS Akunyili should better quit her position or keep quiet; her anti North rhetoric is getting too much.

MUSA M Gidado, Katsina, 07027076682.

Commonsense

WITH these type of our Nigerian leaders, *wallahi* we can never prosper. If Fidel Castro would resign from office due to ill health, why can't Yar'Adua?

HABU, Dukku, Gombe, 07095077540.

First things first

PEOPLE have started advising Yar'Adua on what to do. I would advice them to first wait to him to appear so we can see him.

MAINONO Mai'adua, Katsina, 08036243735.

Miracles

IN *Daily Trust* of last Friday, there was a text message sent by someone wondering about the whereabouts of miracle workers. Let me remind him that God does not tell the miracle workers he referred to what to do; yet or the miracle workers want peace for Nigeria.

MERCY Jonathan, Kaduna, 07039710118.

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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

Return of high-profile killings

The brutal murder of the Action Congress governorship candidate for Ogun State in the 2007 election, *Otunba Dipo Dina*, reminded us once more about the unresolved cases of many other prominent citizens. Unknown gunmen attacked Dina on January 25 in Ota, Ogun State. He was buried in his home town of Ijebu Ode, a few days ago.

The police must intensify effort to identify and arrest those behind the spate of killings of prominent persons, especially politicians in parts of the country. It is worrisome that over a month now since the cold-blooded murder of Dina there has so far not been any indication from the police as to those who behind this latest of our dastardly murders. In spite of a of N15 million reward announced by the leadership of the Action Congress for information that could lead to the arrest of the culprits, no useful tip-off has so far been given by the public to help the police in their search for the murderers.

This is unfortunate because it is beginning to look as if Dina's case would be added to the already long list of high profile killings that have yet to be unravelled by the law enforcement agents. Till date, Nigerians are yet to be told of those who were responsible for the death of prominent Nigerians, especially active political actors, like the former Attorney-General of the Federation, Chief Bola Ige, A.K.Dikibo, Marshall Harry, Funsho Williams and a host of others.

We are deeply concerned because it is almost becoming a set pattern in this country. When prominent and not-so-well-known Nigerians are senselessly murdered, the police appear either unwilling or unable to fish out and prosecute those behind such crimes. When a particularly shocking murder takes place and a public outcry for action follows, the police may choose to round up a few well known miscreants and parade them as suspects when the real criminals and their patrons walk about as free.

This state of affair is no doubt a sad indication of the degeneration in our ethical values in which we no longer have deep respect for the sanctity of human life. This is surprising because all known religious faiths stress the importance of human life and the need not to take life casually or permit those who kill not to suffer for their crime. In most of our cultures, even those who kill accidentally or unintentionally are required to go through elaborate rituals of expiation.

As a nation, the 2011 elections may be our defining moment. It may indicate clearly whether we are ready to become a practicing democracy with a stable political recruitment process or a nation with an uncertain way of transferring power from one set of leaders to another. As we approach the make or mar 2011 elections therefore, we do hope that the authorities concerned will take urgent steps to solve all political murders that have not been solved. Such a step will send a clear signal that those who kill for power will not be allowed to achieve their objective but will rather be in prison or pay with their life for their misdeed.

Meanwhile, while the authorities pursue leads to solved previous cases, the police should redouble effort to fish out Dina killers.

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Danjuma and national taboos

Issa Aremu, mni

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Talking about 'Taboo' invokes the nostalgia of some forbidden mysteries of the ancient societies. Tribal witch doctors once had the exclusive privilege of explaining some mysteries that ranged from conserved forests to exclusion of women during certain traditional rites. Today, we pride ourselves on living in an open and rational society. We even taunt postmodernism as it were. Yet taboos still somehow guide our daily lives. Or better put; without taboos, we might have been imperilled as living mortals. Some useful taboos protect us against our vulnerability to the most bizarre and even suicidal behaviours. For instance it is still a taboo to take human lives i.e. committing murder. All civilizations understandably therefore insist on capital punishment for those who dare to kill another innocent soul. Human rights cannot be accorded those who willingly deny human lives. The whole idea of just or unjust wars by nation-states is premised on the principle, (sorry taboo), that human life is sacred. Unjust wars that lead to human wastage can now be punished as war crimes. Despite our claim to modernity and some sophistication, it remains a taboo to walk around nude in the public. Thank God, the best of models (or is it the worse of them?) still offer room for some imaginations as they don't expose it all.

General Yakubu Gowon in the 70s caused consternation for his singular audacity to reportedly say the problem of Nigeria was not lack of money but how to spend the money. It was at the peak of oil boom. To the extent that Nigeria was awash with wind fall arising from oil sales, the then Head of State innocently only said the obvious. However Gowon's naivety ran against the prevailing national taboo, according to which, you don't celebrate national wealth and prosperity amidst national poverty and deprivations of your people. It was the age of sensitivity and national concern. The prevailing ethos was *development, development and development*. The 70s was actually a development decade, or continuation of development efforts of the 60s rudely terminated by the 1966 coup misadventure. Gowon regime (during and after the war) indeed presided over two development plans, namely Second and Third National Development Plans. His slide indulgence into a global cultural fiesta, FESTAC on the notion that money was no problem of the country was among other reasons that legitimized the coup against him.

With the benefit of hindsight today, the oil receipts of Gowon era amounted to peanuts compared to the last ten years' of underdevelopment in spite of trillions of Naira oil revenue. In fact throughout the so-called boom of 70s oil price did not exceed 10 dollars. Compare this to the aver-

age price of crude of \$100 per barrel during the OBJ's second coming (1999 to 2007).

If national priorities were ranked above global cultural event such as FESTAC in the 70s, then it is good to reflect on how we have in recent times stepped down national needs to impress the world. In the last decade, we have hosted scores of tournaments even if we had to import generators to power the events, from CHOGM to All Africa Games and recently Under 19 soccer events.

It is time we reinvent a taboo such that would make it unthinkable that we engage in mass capital flight spending while we are yet to eradicate polio and malaria, and while infant and maternal mor-

near Sao Tome and Nigeria. We discovered a lot of oil. It took ten years (1998-2009) before we got our first oil.

Because of the prevailing high oil price, Danjuma said he decided to forward the selling to an international firm, a Chinese company which "we made over \$1 billion. He said, "I paid my taxes and ended up with about \$500 million".

"I had a new problem on what to do with this money. In the bank they will steal it and if I keep it my children will fight over it. So I decided to set up a foundation and endow it enough money".

In the 70s, Richard Joseph, an African American political Scientist did a seminal work on Nigeria's prebendal state. The finding was that the Nigeria's state through connections and social relationships offered its principal actors opportunities and privileges to

It is unthinkable that 30 years after, a principal actor in a regime that once raised the banner of national development and common wealth would be the one taunting personal wealth of incomprehensible value addition amidst worsening poverty and mass deprivations.

tality rates are on the rise.

Taboo was the first word that came to mind when I read in recent revelations by Lieutenant-General Theophilus Danjuma (rtd) that he had amassed enough such that he was confused what to do with the remains. Remember that General Gowon was talking of Nigeria's commonwealth (not being an issue but how to spread it) and not his personal wealth. It is unthinkable that 30 years after, a principal actor in a regime that once raised the banner of national development and common wealth would be the one taunting personal wealth of incomprehensible value addition amidst worsening poverty and mass deprivations. We must certainly salute the General for full disclosures and for making the notorious Freedom of Information Bill unnecessary. However the political economy of General Danjuma's wealth beats imagination and must task notion of wealth of a nation and success of individuals. The revelation is indeed food for thought for Faculties of Social Sciences of Nigerian universities (or are they still on strike?). Revealing how he made the huge financial success, the 72 year-old retired Army General recalled that, "I retired from the service early at 41 years because I got to the top early. I started shipping business and became reasonably rich.

Twelve years ago, I was allocated an oil block by the late Head of State, General Sani Abacha (offshore south of Port Harcourt)

enrich themselves. Nigeria was actually characterized as a comprador state (a state nurtured and fuelled by connections and contracts) by the scholar. General Danjuma's self confessions certainly confirm the validity of Richard Joseph's work.

My interest here is still on taboos. Danjuma has actually made money before venturing to oil business but according to him oil money seems to be the turning point. Is it not a taboo that through sheer personal connection, a serving Head of State should just give oil blocks to preferred individuals and friends? Can we describe this as governance or sheer impunity to be charitable to friends who in turn claim to be charitable to the society?

If these individuals are so privileged, should they not add value? General Danjuma said he forwarded his lucrative field sales to a Chinese company. How does this promote local content, local value addition, poverty eradication and wealth generation? He also claimed to have paid taxes (FIRS must confirm this!) and donated N15 billion (\$100 million) to provide free medical and education services for under-privileged Nigerians. This is indeed charitable. The question however is: which kind of system will allow an individual to have a charitable fund that competes with common wealth?

Once upon a time it was a taboo that an individual would be as rich as the state.

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The Presidency,
 Plot 447/448, Constitution Avenue,
 Central Business District,
 P.M.B. 532, Garki, Abuja - Nigeria.
 Tel: 234-9-675629, Fax: 234-9-5237396
 E-mail: corporateaffairs@dmo.gov.ng
 Website: <http://www.dmo.gov.ng>



DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE
NIGERIA

INTERNATIONAL

Mozambique ex-minister gets 20 years for corruption

MOZAMBIQUE'S former transport minister was at the weekend sentenced to 20 years in prison for stealing state funds, the highest-level corruption conviction ever in the southern African country.

Antonio Munguambe, transport and communications minister from 2005 to 2008, was found guilty of acting as an accomplice in the embezzlement of 1.7 million dollars (1.25 million euros) from national airport company

Airports of Mozambique.

His co-defendants in the case -- the company's former chief executive, its ex-finance director, Munguambe's former chief of staff and the head of an airport catering company -- also received sentences of between two and 22 years.

Judge Dimas Marroa's verdict chastised the defendants for stealing state funds in a country so poor it depends on foreign aid

for more than half its government budget.

"These situations are unacceptable in a country where a large percentage of the population lives in absolute poverty and the discourse of the day is the reduction or elimination of that lamentable situation," Marroa said.

He ordered the defendants to pay three million dollars in damages to the airports company. Munguambe's lawyer, Abdul

Gani, said he planned to appeal the decision to the supreme court. "This decision is a perfect exaggeration.

It doesn't correspond in any way to the evidence produced here," he told reporters.

The defendants were found guilty of using public funds to pay for luxury houses, cars and gifts to family members in a scheme that filtered money through an airport catering company to cover up its

destination.

The case has received extensive media attention since Munguambe was arrested in October 2008. Weekend's sentencing was broadcast live on national television.

This is the first ministerial-level prosecution in Mozambique, a country that ranks in the bottom third of watchdog group Transparency International's graft index.



ZIMBABWEAN President, Robert Mugabe, centre, looks up at a bunch of balloons he is holding prior to releasing them into the air during his 86th birthday celebrations in Bulawayo.

Somali pirates free Greek-owned freighter for ransom

SOMALI pirates released yesterday a Greek-owned freighter and its crew of 19, captured two months ago, after receiving a ransom payment, the EU's naval force announced.

"EU NAVFOR can now confirm that the Greek owned Panama flagged Bulk Carrier the Navios Apollon that was hijacked on the 28 of December has been released this morning of 28 February," the mission's headquarters said in a statement.

The release of the 52,000-tonne ship, its Greek captain and 18 Filipino crew members came the day after an unspecified ransom was paid to the pirates.

It was the second such ransom drop and release in days, with governments and companies in a dilemma over the need to recover their ships and crews amid fears that ransoms encourage further piracy.

Britain warned early this month that ransom payments could encourage more kidnaps, but denied blocking an independent negotiator from trying to agree a price for a British couple held hostage in Somalia since October 23.

Commander John Harbour, NAVFOR's chief spokesman, told AFP that the European Union, like the United Nations, was not in favour of paying ransoms but understood the motives of those who do. "I think the European Union Naval force, or the European Union, works with the United Nations on its stance on the paying of ransoms, which is very much against," he said.

But the EU "understands the great difficulties when lives are involved and understands third parties wishing to pay ransoms in order to secure the release of people whose lives are under threat,"

The freed Greek ship, which had been hijacked in the Indian Ocean while en route to Thailand, was on its way to Oman, NAVFOR said.

The Greek coastguard in Athens confirmed to AFP "the vessel is currently heading for Oman, with India as its final destination."

C/African opposition rejects vote decree

MEMBERS of the Central Africa Republic's opposition have categorically rejected a presidential decree fixing general elections for April, a member of the coalition said yesterday.

The parties in question -- several opposition parties and a group of ex-rebels -- "reject outright" Thursday's decree by President Francois Bozize, said Gabriel Koyambounou, a member of the UFUN opposition coa-

lition.

Bozize fixed April 25 for the first round of presidential and legislative elections in a decree read on state radio, but named no date for a possible second round. Campaigning is slated to take place between April 12-23.

In power since ousting ex-president Ange-Felix Patasse in 2003, Bozize has not yet declared his candidacy but many observers believe he will run for reelection.



SUBSIDY SPEND
 2006-2009
N2.5 trillion
 2010 Projection:
N600 billion

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In 1960, you fought a just cause for the independence of our dear nation, Nigeria, and you won because you believed in her bright future.

50 years down the line, our critical infrastructure and basic social amenities have deteriorated. Our national wealth that could have delivered the promise of a brighter tomorrow is being wasted on illegal fuel subsidy with N2.5 trillion spent from 2006 – 2009 and N600 billion budgeted for 2010.

Is this the Nigerian dream you fought for? Will you continue to keep quiet while the labour of our heroes past slips away in vain?

Please bring back our national pride. Speak now against this illegal subsidy.

Stand up and be counted.

It is time to deregulate.



MOVEMENT
 FOR
ECONOMIC
EMANCIPATION

International

Clashes erupt at Al-Aqsa mosque after stone attack



PALESTINIAN youths throw stones at Israeli soldiers and policemen during clashes near the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem's old city.

SIXTEEN people including two Israeli policemen were wounded in clashes at Jerusalem's flash-point Al-Aqsa mosque compound yesterday, after police entered to arrest Palestinians who had hurled rocks at visitors they believed were Jewish extremists.

Dozens of Palestinians pelted stones at Israeli police, who responded with tear gas and rubber bullets, Palestinian sources said.

Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said that seven people had been arrested, and that two of his men were hurt while Palestinian sources said at least 14 people were injured in the confrontations.

Security forces entered the

compound "as a preventive measure," after Muslim worshippers threw rocks at the group of unidentified visitors, Rosenfeld said. Police had stopped people over 50 from entering the compound as 20 people were holed up inside the mosque, Rosenfeld added.

"All of the Old City is calm, and thousands of tourists were allowed to visit the compound (mosque)," Rosenfeld said, as the violence subsided by early afternoon.

Sporadic clashes were reported in the predominantly Arab neighbourhood of Ras el-Amoud in east Jerusalem, which Israel annexed in 1967.

Earlier, dozens of police wearing riot gear were deployed

throughout the narrow streets of the Old City as loudspeakers on minarets called on Muslims to "save Jerusalem."

An official from Jerusalem's Islamic Supreme Committee said the Palestinians had hurled stones at people they believed to be Jewish extremists intending to pray at the site and upset the delicate status quo.

"They threw rocks because (Israeli) settlers have been surrounding the compound for two or three days and had said they intended to enter on yesterday or today to pray at Al-Aqsa," Adnan Hussein told AFP. Jews, who observe the Purim holiday yesterday and today, are allowed into the compound, but authorities prevent them from pray-

ing there. The Al-Aqsa mosque compound is Islam's third-holiest site, after Mecca and Medina. Muslims refer to it as Al-Haram Al-Sharif and believe it to be the place where Prophet Mohammed made a night journey to heaven on horseback.

It is the holiest site in the world for Jews, who believe it was the location of the Second Temple, torched by the Romans in 70 AD, and refer to it as the Temple Mount.

The site has been bitterly contested for decades, and the second Palestinian uprising, or intifada, erupted there in September 2000 after a visit by Ariel Sharon, a right-wing politician who went on to become Israeli prime minister.

Blast kills 11 civilians in southern Afghanistan

AN explosive device planted by Taliban militants killed 11 civilians yesterday in Afghanistan's most violent province, a government official said. The blast happened on a road in the Nawzad district of Helmand Province. The province is the focus of one of the largest NATO offensives in the eight-year-old war against the Islamist Taliban.

"A newly planted mine of the Taliban hit a coach bus, killing 11 civilians including two women and two children today," Dawud Ahmedi, spokesman for the Helmand provincial governor, said. The Taliban had no immediate comment.

Last week, authorities blamed the Taliban for setting off a remote-controlled bomb near a government building in Helmand's capital, Lashkar Gah, which killed seven people and wounded 14.

Though under pressure as NATO forces try to drive them from their strongholds, the Taliban have responded with guerrilla attacks, including one in the capital Kabul on Friday which killed 16 people in a two-hour shootout with two suicide blasts.

Violence last year hit its highest level since the Taliban were ousted by US-backed Afghan forces in 2001. The militants have made a comeback and are resisting efforts by President Hamid Karzai's Western-supported government to impose control.

Philippines raises alert after Abu Sayyaf attack

THE Philippines yesterday placed its military in the south on heightened alert to prevent more attacks by Al Qaeda-linked militants who killed 11 people in a pre-dawn raid the previous day.

Troops were put on "heightened alert" especially in the islands of Basilan and Jolo, where the Abu Sayyaf group operates, presidential spokesman Gary Olivar said in a statement.

President Gloria Arroyo also ordered the military "to undertake measures to account for the perpetrators and at the same time extend assistance to the families" of the victims, Olivar said.

Abu Sayyaf militants killed a government militiaman and 10 civilians in Saturday's attack on the town of Maluso on Basilan.

Iraqi PM defends ban of candidates before vote

IRAQ'S prime minister yesterday defended a decision to ban hundreds of candidates from the upcoming election, saying the decision was not intended to target the country's minority Sunni population.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who is up for re-election in the March 7 parliamentary vote, gave a detailed defense of the decision, saying it was made because the candidates were "blatantly propagating Baath

Party ideas."

"It's not true that it targeted Sunnis," said al-Maliki. "The decision will not at all affect the Sunni turnout for the election. The decision was made because some of those were blatantly propagating Baath Party ideas."

The decision to keep hundreds of candidates from the election, including a prominent Sunni lawmaker, for alleged ties to Saddam Hussein's ruling party has dominated Iraq's political debate for weeks and reflects the deep sec-

tarian differences that still divide the country.

Many in the country's Sunni minority, which dominated the Baath Party leadership, were outraged by the decision, which they felt unjustly targeted Sunni political figures in an attempt to sideline them from the political process.

In discussing the ban, al-Maliki appeared to distance himself from the two men who initiated the process — Shiite politicians Ali al-Lami and Ahmed

Chalabi, who are both running in the election. The two, who head the Accountability and Justice Committee that vetted candidates for ties to the former regime, shocked the Iraqi political system when they announced a list of hundreds of names of people with ties to the former regime.

But al-Maliki emphasized that the legal justification for the ban came not from their initial decision but from a later committee, set up with parliamentary backing, to investigate their findings.

International

Bosnian Serb leader to have his say in court

RADOVAN Karadzic, accused of the greatest mass murder in Europe in half a century, is having his day in court. Yesterday, the former Bosnian Serb leader outlined his defense at the resumption of his genocide trial, one of the last and largest cases brought to the UN war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

From past remarks and the blizzard of motions he has filed to the court, Karadzic's main contentions are already clear: Bosnia's Serbs were being persecuted and murdered by Muslims, he will say, while the West betrayed the Serbs, secretly violating a Balkans arms embargo to smuggle weapons to their enemies.

Karadzic, 64, faces two counts of genocide and nine other counts of murder, extermination, persecution, forced deportation and the seizing of 200 UN hostages. He denies his guilt although he refused to volunteer a formal plea. He faces possible life imprisonment if convicted.

Prosecutors say Karadzic orchestrated a campaign to destroy the Muslim and Croat communities in eastern Bosnia to create an ethnically pure Serbian state.

The campaign included the 44-month siege of the capital Sarajevo and the torture and murder of hundreds of prisoners in inhuman detention camps, and culminated in the massacre of some 8,000 Muslim

males in one horrific week in July 1995 in the Srebrenica enclave, the worst bloodbath in Europe since World War II.

Karadzic "harnessed the forces of nationalism, hatred and fear to pursue his vision of an ethnically segregated Bosnia," said prosecutor Alan Tieger in his opening statement last October.

Karadzic is the most important figure to be brought to trial since former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, who died of a heart attack in 2006 before his case was concluded. Karadzic, president of the break-away Bosnian Serb state, negotiated with diplomats, U.N. officials and peace envoys; he appeared often in the media; and he set the tone and pace of the 1992-95 Bosnian war that killed an estimated 100,000 people. First indicted in 1995, Karadzic eluded a NATO manhunt for more than a decade. He was caught in July 2008 in Belgrade, where he had been living as a new-age philosopher.

Karadzic, who is representing himself despite his lack of legal training, has persistently tried to stall the trial. He argued he did not have enough time to study more than 1 million pages of trial documents — 415,000 pages submitted by the prosecution since last October alone — and that he was denied enough funding from the tribunal to pay an adequate legal staff to research his defense.



FORMER Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic stands in the courtroom during his initial appearance at the UN's Yugoslav war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.

Spain says ETA chief arrested in France

THE leader of the armed Basque group ETA was arrested in France yesterday, officials said, in another setback for the separatists, who have seen five of their commanders taken into custody in the last two years.

ETA chief Ibon Gogeochea and two other suspected separatists were arrested in a joint French-Spanish police operation in the village of Cahan, France, following a long surveillance operation on a cottage that had been rented using false identity papers, said Spanish Interior Minister Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba. "We understand one of those detained is the maximum leader of ETA at this moment," he said at a nationally televised news conference.

The two other suspects were part of an ETA "commando unit" that was preparing "to enter Spain almost certainly with the worst of intentions," Rubalcaba said.

French judicial sources confirmed the arrests and said the suspects had been in the house for a week, planning to leave it

yesterday. The sources spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to the media.

Gogeochea, 54, is wanted for allegedly helping to place 12 explosive devices around the Guggenheim museum in Bilbao, northern Spain, in 1997 on the eve of the gallery's inauguration by the king of Spain.

The plot was discovered before the bombs exploded, but Gogeochea's brother, Eneko, shot and killed a Basque regional policeman there. Ibon Gogeochea was the fifth suspected ETA leader who has been arrested in Spain or France since May 2008, Rubalcaba said.

ETA is a nationalist and separatist organization that has killed more than 825 people since launching a violent campaign in the 1960s aimed at carving out an independent Basque homeland in an area of northern Spain and southwest France. Spain, France, the European Union and the US consider ETA a terrorist organization.

Rescuers struggle to save lives after Chile quake

RESCUERS edged their way toward quake victims trapped in a toppled apartment block early yesterday even as looters stole food and robbed banks after one of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded struck Chile.

Authorities put the death toll from Saturday's magnitude-8.8 quake at 214, but believed the number would grow. They said 1.5 million Chileans were affected and 500,000 homes severely damaged by the mammoth temblor.

A tsunami caused by the quake that

swept across the Pacific killed several people on a Chilean island but caused little damage in other countries, after precautionary evacuations of hundreds of thousands of people. The tsunami warning was lifted a day after the earthquake.

President Michelle Bachelet, who leaves office March 11, declared a "state of catastrophe" in central Chile. "It was a catastrophe of devastating consequences," she said.

Police said more than 100 people died in Concepcion, the largest city near the epicenter with more than 200,000 people.



Study at a top modern UK university in June 2010 and October 2010

The University of Plymouth offers a high quality of life combined with the cheapest cost of living in the UK.

Subject areas include:

- Architecture
- Engineering
- Business
- Computing
- Law
- Tourism and Hospitality

Daniel Rowe from the University of Plymouth and Bayo Awesu of Plymouth Devon International College (PDIC) will be visiting Nigeria in March and conducting enrolment interviews at the following locations.

Ikeja
Tuesday, March 2nd
Galaxy Quality Education (GQE)
Address: 23 Ogunlana Street, Off Allen Avenue, Beside Mr Biggs, Ikeja
Tel:
Email: gqeducation@yahoo.com
Time: from 2:00pm

Lagos
Wednesday, March 3rd
Global Education Counselling (GEC)
Address: 48 Saka Tinubu Street, Victoria Island, Lagos
Tel: 01 762 1587
Email: nigeria@geceducation.net
Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

www.plymouth.ac.uk
international@plymouth.ac.uk

www.plymouth.ac.uk/pdic
info@pdic-uk.co.uk

Abuja
Thursday, March 4th
Global Education Counselling (GEC)
Address: 3 Nairobi Street, Off Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse 2, Abuja
Tel: 09 3142851
Email: Nigeria@geceducation.net
Time: 1:30pm - 5:00pm

Students attending should bring full academic qualifications and make appointments in advance.





FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION (FCTA) ABUJA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF 700,000 PE WUPA BASIN SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT IN FEDERAL CAPITAL CITY

Federal Capital Territory Administration has a provision in the FCT 2010 Statutory Budget proposal for the Operation and Maintenance of the Wupa Basin Sewage Treatment Plant, Abuja and is therefore inviting competent and interested companies to submit pre-qualification documents for the Provision of Management Services under the supervision of the Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB).

The plant is designed and constructed to treat raw sewage generated from phases I, II & III of the Federal Capital City (FCC) of Abuja. It consists of six (6) concrete compartments of Oxidation ditches, six (6) Clarifiers, Intake Pumping Station, Coarse and Fine Screen chambers, Disinfection chambers and Accessories of electro-mechanical equipments.

2 THE SCOPE OF WORKS

The service to be rendered shall include the following:

- Providing the Managerial Capacity for the Regular Operation and Maintenance of the 700,000 PE Wupa Basin Sewage Treatment Plant on Continuous Basis for **three (3) years** in the first instance and renewable depending on satisfactory performance.
- Procurement of all necessary spare parts and Accessories for efficient and uninterrupted operation of the plant during the period of Engagement.

The successful Company will provide comprehensive project management services under the general directives of a Technical Team to be appointed by the AEPB.

The responsibilities of the Operation & Maintenance Company will include as a minimum:

- a) Project Organization and Management Plan
- b) Quality Management
- c) Scheduling and Progress/Process Performance monitoring
- d) Operational Accounting
- e) Risk Management/Security Services
- f) Operation & Maintenance oversight
- g) Prepare monthly progress report of the operation and maintenance of the Plant

3. PRE-QUALIFICATION/TECHNICAL BID REQUIREMENTS

The prospective companies for the Operation and Maintenance of the Wupa Basin Sewage Treatment Plant are required to supply relevant pre-qualification documents which shall be submitted exactly in accordance with the following instructions and order.

- a) Corporate Affairs Commission's Certificate of Registration & Article and Memorandum of Association: Copies of original documents defining the constitution or legal status of the company; stating place of registration, principal place of business; and written power of attorney of the signatory of Bid to commit the Bidder and country of residence for tax purpose.
- b) Experience in works of similar nature and size for each of the last five years, and details of work under way or contractually committed; and clients who may be contacted for further information on those contracts.
- c) Major items and equipment proposed for use in the operation and

- d) maintenance of the Wupa Basin Sewage Treatment Plant.
- d) List of personnel resources to be deployed to the plant including their specialization, qualification, years of experience and registration with relevant professional bodies and their CV.
- e) Description of Approach, Methodology and Comprehensive Work Plan for Performing the Operations and Maintenance Works
- f) Authority to seek references from the bidder's BANKERS
- g) information regarding any litigation, current or during the last five years, in which the Bidder is involved, the parties concerned, and disputed amount
- h) Branch offices, workshops, yards, laboratories and any other available resources that could support operation on site.
- i) Company's audited accounts for the past three (3) years and Income tax clearance certificate for the past three (3) years.
- j) All relevant information including telephone, fax and e-mail of company.
- k) Bank statement for the past twelve (12) months and Bank Reference from a Nigerian bank.
- l) Sworn affidavits in line with the provision of Part IV Section 16 sub-section 6 (e - f).

4 SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Upon receipt of Pre-Qualification documents from prospective bidders, the AEPB shall prequalify applicants.

Interested Companies should ensure that three (3) copies of their documents are signed, sealed, and delivered in sealed envelopes clearly marked "**Pre-Qualification for the Provision of Management Services for Operation and Maintenance of Wupa Basin Sewage Treatment Plant, Abuja**" and addressed to:
Office of the Secretary,
FCTA Tenders Board Secretariat,
Room G9, FCT Archives & History Bureau Behind AGIS Building
Area 11, Abuja - NIGERIA.

All submissions must reach the above address not later than 12.00 Noon Monday, March 15, 2010.

NOTE:

- i. Pre-qualification/Technical Bid information to be submitted must be in line with the above mentioned requirements
- ii. Interested companies are advised to visit the site of the plant before submitting pre-qualification bid to enable them appreciate further details involved and magnitude of the proposed Operation and Maintenance.
- ii. Please note that due diligence could be conducted.
- iv. Only companies pre-qualified will be notified for further tendering process.
- v. This advertisement shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of FCTA/AEPB, nor shall it entitle responding Company to seek any indemnity from FCTA/AEPB by virtue of such firms having responded to this advertisement.

Signed
MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Renewed campaign of calumny against Arik Air

The attention of Arik Air has been drawn to malicious stories about debts allegedly owed the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) and other agencies by the airline.

The story started as low intensity calumny in some fringe publications but now appears, quite sadly, to be gaining a foothold in a few major publications. This is in spite of the rebuttal by the NCAA Director-General, Dr. Harold Demuren, that the airline does not owe.

The facts of the matter are as follows:

1. Contrary to the standard practice, the regulatory authorities have been charging taxes on tickets bought in the UK and the US, instead of limiting the taxes to tickets bought locally;
2. Dispute over the exchange rate used as a basis for calculating the taxes;
3. The current practice of taxing tickets on the gross rather than on the net cost.

These issues have distorted the accounting and reporting procedures in the books of a number of local airlines, including Arik Air. But the issues have been brought to the attention of NCAA and are currently being addressed.

We are happy with the progress so far made in the discussions and are hopeful of a fair, equitable and satisfactory outcome.

It therefore came to the airline as a rude shock when a section of the press alleged that Arik Air was owing the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency; SAHCOL (which incidentally is yet to settle its outstanding liability for damaging many of our aircraft between 2007 and 2008); and fuel marketers. We wish to state categorically that Arik Air does not owe. We are in good standing with our suppliers and partners, including Lufthansa Technique, which still provides technical support to date.

Arik Air knows the source of the latest round of malicious publications. We know their sponsors and their motives - it is a continuation of the dirty war over the General Aviation Terminal (GAT) by endangered desperadoes who cannot wait for the law to take its course. We have it on good authority that the stories were planted by these desperadoes.

We will not be distracted. Arik Air wishes to assure the public, especially its travelling guests that the airline will continue to maintain high safety and will not cut corners for any reason. We would also like to reassure our partners that Arik Air remains a responsible corporate citizen and will continue to meet its obligations under the law.

Signed.
The Management





SUPREME COURT OF NIGERIA, ABUJA

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

The Supreme Court of Nigeria wishes to pre-qualify competent contractors/consultants and other service providers who may wish to tender for the job as specified below; and accordingly invites those that are competent, experienced and reputable to apply. These services are required in the Supreme Court Complex and residences of Honourable Justices of the Court in Abuja. This Pre-qualification is for the Year 2010 projects.

(1) Supply of:-

- (a) Office Furniture and Equipment
- (b) Residential Furniture and Equipment
- (c) Computer Equipment
- (d) Communication Equipment
- (e) Verbatim Equipment
- (f) Medical Equipment
- (g) Uniform and other Clothing
- (h) Library Equipment
- (i) Sporting Equipment
- (j) Cafeteria Equipment
- (k) Power Generating Plant
- (l) Office Material and Suppliers
- (m) Drugs
- (n) Road Motor Vehicles
- (o) Fuel & Gas
- (p) Motor Cycles

(2) Rehabilitation of Offices & Quarters:

- (a) Rehabilitation of Offices
- (b) Rehabilitation of Residential Quarters
- (c) Rehabilitation of Guest Houses
- (d) Construction of Sporting Facility

(3) Maintenance and other Services:

- (a) Maintenance of Motor Vehicles
- (b) Maintenance of Office Furniture & Equipment
- (c) Maintenance of Generators & Plant
- (d) Maintenance of computer & I.T. Equipment
- (e) Fumigation and Facility Management
- (f) Printing of non Security Documents
- (g) Landscaping & Erosion Control

(4) Training & Consultancy Services:-

- (a) Local Training
- (b) International Training
- (c) Information Technology Training
- (d) Insurance
- (e) Legal Services
- (f) Financial Services
- (g) Building & Construction

(5) Requirement for Pre-qualification:-

Prospective contractors/consultants should possess the following documents:-

- (a) Evidence of Company registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission
- (b) Current Tax clearance for the last three years
- (c) Value Added Tax Certificate
- (d) Company profile including details of key personnel; staff strength, etc.
- (e) Details of plants and Equipment including machineries owned or to be hired
- (f) Name(s) and addresses of Bank(s) including letter of reference guarantee from the Bank; evidence of involvement and experience in similar job contract, stating contract sums and showing evidence of award and duration of completion.

(6) Submission of Pre-qualification documents:-

Pre-qualification documents should be enclosed in sealed envelope marked "2010 Pre-qualification" and must be returned within two weeks of this publication and addressed to:

The Chief Registrar
Supreme Court of Nigeria
P.M.B. 308
Three Arms Zone
Abuja

Note:

- (a) This is not an invitation to tender for the job
- (b) Late submission will be rejected
- (c) This advertisement for "Pre-qualification" shall not be construed to be a commitment on the part of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, Abuja nor shall it entitle the applicant to make any claims whatever and or seek any indemnity from the Supreme Court of Nigeria, Abuja by virtue of such application having responded to this advertisement.
- (d) Request for Pre-qualification should be very clear about the areas of proven competence and interest.
- (e) After this Pre-qualification exercise, tenders for contracts and jobs will be accepted only from pre-qualified contractors and the Supreme Court of Nigeria shall not enter into any correspondence with unsuccessful applications.

Signed
MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

What Kind of Leadership Is This?

ICPC POSITION

IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION HOLDEN AT ABUJA



SUIT NO FCH/ABJ/M/...

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION BY HUMAN RIGHTS, JUSTICE & PEACE FOUNDATION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW IN THE FORM OF ORDERS FOR MANDAMUS

BETWEEN
HUMAN RIGHTS, JUSTICE & PEACE FOUNDATION-----Applicant
AND
INDEPENDENT CORRUPT PRACTICES AND OTHER RELATED OFFENCES COMMISSION (ICPC)Respondent

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT

I, Ibrahim Yahaya, Male, Muslim, Nigerian Citizen of Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission, Plot 802, Central Area Abuja hereby make on oath and state as follows:

1. That I am a litigation Clerk with the Prosecution Department of the Independent Corrupt Practices And Other related Offences Commission sued in this suit as the second Respondent.
2. That by virtue of my position aforesaid I am familiar with the facts leading to this suit.
3. That I have the mandate of my employer and that of the Counsel handling this matter to depose to this affidavit.
4. That I was informed by Paul Bassi Esq, Counsel handling this matter in our office on the 23rd of September, 2009 at about 12 noon which information I verily believed him to be true as follows:

CERTIFIED TRUE That a petition was received at the ICPC against Prince Vincent Ogbulafor and that investigations into the allegations contained therein have since commenced.

Signature: *[Signature]*
Date: 22-02-2010

- ii. That this investigation is not yet concluded but is at a critical stage.
 - iii. That I was further informed by Paul Bassi Esq that and I verily believe him that any disclosure of the facts and evidence garnered so far in the investigation would compromise the investigation and can potentially jeopardize the ICPC's ability to prosecute based on the petition before it.
 - iv. That the Applicant in this matter is under the erroneous belief that investigations have been concluded based on newspapers reports which did not emanate from the ICPC.
5. I depose to this affidavit in good faith believing the contents to be true and correct in accordance with the Oaths Act.

Sworn to at the Federal High Court Registry, Abuja, this 22nd day of Feb 2010.

.....
DEPONENT.

CERTIFIED TRUE BEFORE ME
Signature: *[Signature]*
Date: 22-02-2010
COMMISSIONER FOR OATH.

CASE ADJOURNED TO 22ND MARCH 2010 FOR HEARING

THE FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, MUBI

PMB 35, Mubi

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TENDER FOR EXECUTION OF 2010 CAPITAL PROJECTS

A. PREAMBLE

In compliance with the requirements of the Public Procurement Act of the Federal Government of Nigeria, the Federal Polytechnic, Mubi, hereby invites interested and reputable contractors and suppliers with relevant experience and good track record of pre-qualification wishing to tender for execution of 2010 capital projects as follows:-

- i. Landscaping of Central Administration Block
- ii. Rehabilitation (Renovation) of Staff Quarters
- iii. Rehabilitation (Renovation) of Students' Hostels
- iv. Construction of Lecture Hall with Offices
- v. Furnishing of Lecture Hall
- vi. Supply of equipment for Academic Departments.

B. PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Prospective contractors and suppliers are expected to be reputable and technically competent with verifiable track record of performance on similar projects.

All pre-qualification documents shall be subjected to strict technical evaluation.

Interested contractors are invited to submit the following pre-qualification documents:

- i. Certificate of Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission
- ii. Registration (current) with relevant Federal Ministry and Federal Polytechnic Mubi as a contractor
- iii. Evidence of current tax clearance certificate for three years 2007, 2008, 2009
- iv. Evidence of financial capability and bank support (Bank Reference and recent Statement of Account)
- v. Audited account for three years 2007, 2008, 2009 and VAT registration and evidence of past remittances
- vi. Experience/technical qualification and experience of key personnel (Company Profile, Curriculum Vitae and credentials)
- vii. Similar projects executed and evidence of knowledge of the industry (award letters of projects executed, completion certificate and photographs must be attached as evidences)
- viii. List of equipment and technical capacity (attach receipts, invoices and photographs)

Please arrange your pre-qualification requirements in chronological order of the above check list as it would be followed strictly.

Original documents should be available for sighting on demand during OR after opening of pre-qualification document.

C. COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

Interested bidders may collect tender documents from the office of the Director Physical Planning on the presentation of receipt of payment of a non-refundable fee of N30,000.00 to the bursary department of the Polytechnic.

D. SUBMISSION OF COMPLETED PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TENDER DOCUMENTS

The pre-qualification (technical bid) and tender (financial bid) documents must be submitted in separate sealed envelopes marked "technical bid" and "financial bid" respectively of the intended projects and should be addressed and delivered to the **Registrar Federal Polytechnic, PMB 35, Mubi, Adamawa State.**

Not later than 12:00 noon two weeks (14 days) from the date of this publication.

E. OPENING OF BIDS

The documents would be opened 30 minutes later (i.e. 12:30pm) on the closing date in the Council Hall of the Federal Polytechnic, Mubi. Technical bids would be evaluated on the spot and only the financial bids of the companies who are successful in the technical bid shall be opened. Bidders or their representatives are advised to be present during the opening of the bids.

Special Note: The Polytechnic is not bound to accept the lowest financial bid.

Signed
ALHAJI SULEIMAN S. BUBA
 REGISTRAR

NASARAWA STATE FADAMA COORDINATION OFFICE AND FADAMA III COMPONENT IV OFFICE. (NADP). LAFIA.

THIRD NATIONAL FADAMA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT CREDIT No. 44940 UNI

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR ADVISORY SERVICES ACTIVITIES

The Federal Government of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association IDA towards the cost of implementation of the Third National Fadama Development Project (NFDPIII). Part of the credit has been on-lent to the Nasarawa State Government who intends to apply part of the proceeds to eligible payment for contracts to be awarded for Advisory Services Activities (ASAs) in the thirteen (13) Local Government Areas of the State with over 75 Fadama Community Associations (FCAs) and 963 Fadama User groups (FUGs).

Advisory Services for FCAs & FUGs shall include (but not limited to) the following areas.

- I. Planning and Record keeping
- II. Agro chemicals and fertilizer supply
- III. Inputs supply/ linkages
- IV. Marketing and enterprise management
- V. Veterinary supply
- VI. Livestock and fish feeds supply
- VII. Fingerlings supply
- VIII. Special production technology on wild life domestication, bee keeping, snailery, cheese making, etc.
- IX. Improved seeds and seedlings supply
- X. Saving and credit management
- XI. Construction of fish pond
- XII. Rural roads
- XIII. Boreholes

Advisory service for component IV (support to ADP) will include (but not limited to) the following areas

- I. Adaptive Research, Technology Development and Transfer Support
- II. Agro-processing and storage technologies
- III. Agro-business and market linkages
- IV. Agricultural technologies and facilitation skills
- VI. Water management and conveyance system
- VI. Soil conservation practices
- VII. Sustainable pasture management
- VIII. Sound use of agro-chemicals
- IX. Agro-forestry and sustainable Ecosystem management
- X. Inputs and extension service providers
- XI. Fisheries technology
- XII. Livestock production and management.

All service providers whose responses satisfy the requirements will be selected and allowed to bid for Advisory Service activities contracts under the project.

The Nasarawa State Fadama Coordination Office in conjunction with the Nasarawa Agricultural Development Project (NADP) now invites sealed "Expression of interest" from interested firms, persons, NGOs, or public agencies and institutions.

The 'Expression of Interest' should state clearly the field of interest and the qualification for such role(s), backed with documentary evidence.

Prospective Advisory Services providers may be required to show original copies of submitted document during the course of the selection process.

Interested firms, persons, NGOs or Public agencies and institutions should submit their Expression of interest in sealed envelopes marked "Expression of Interest" for Advisory Services Activities to the State Project Coordinator Nasarawa State Fadama Coordination Office, Nasara Housing Estate Phase II, Makurdi Road, Lafia. Telephone No: 08036917009 E-mail nasarawafadama@yahoo.com, nasarawafadamasco@fadama.net within three weeks from the date of this advertisement

ABUBAKAR TAFAWA BALEWA UNIVERSITY, BAUCHI
Office of the Registrar

SALE OF ADMISSION FORMS

This is to inform all interested qualified candidates wishing to be admitted into the University's HND, ND and Certificate courses that sales of admission forms for 2010/2011 Academic session has commenced. The courses, entry requirement, and duration are as follows:-

S/NO	COURSE/SCHOOL	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	DURATION	S/NO	COURSE/SCHOOL	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	DURATION
1 SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY							
1	(i) HND in Electrical Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Diploma Electrical Engineering Technology Advance Level and International Baccalaureate ◆ NCE (Technical) in Electrical and Electronics Engineering ◆ Any other equivalent qualification from a reputable Institution 	4 Semesters	(vii) HND-Zoology/Fisheries Tech			
				(viii) HND-Physics/Engr Tech			
				(x) HND Health Education and Promotion			
				C. (i) National Diploma in Computer Science	◆ Three credits in SSCE, GCE or NECO including Mathematics		4 Semesters
1	(ii) National Diploma in Electrical with specializations in Industrial Instrumentation, Computer Technology, Electrical, Electronics or Telecommunication Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ C & G (intermediate) in Electrical Engineering ◆ Federal Craft Certificate ◆ WACS Technical Certificate ◆ GCE 'O' Level with credits in Science, pass in English plus two years Industrial/Technical experience 	4 Semesters	(ii) HND Computer Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lower credit in OND Computer studies and science from any recognize institution ◆ Minimum of Lower Credit pass in OND Mathematical Science of Engineering ◆ Advanced Diploma in Computer Science of ATBU with Lower Credit. ◆ A Pass Diploma in any of the three subjects listed above with three years working experience in a computer related job. ◆ Merit level pass in NCE with major in Computer Science Studies/Education. ◆ Candidates must also meet the programme entry requirements. 		4 Semesters
2. SCHOOL OF SCIENCE							
	(i) Certificate in Science Laboratory Tech.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ WASC/GCE/SSCE Certificate or equivalent with at least Pass in two Science subjects. ◆ Any other qualification acceptable by the Nigerian Institute of Science Technology (NIST) 	Nine months				
	(ii) National Diploma in Science Laboratory Tech.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ WASC/GCE/SSCE Certificate or equivalent with at least Pass in two Science subjects. ◆ Any other qualification acceptable by the Nigerian Institute of Science Technology (NIST) 	4 Semesters	(iii) Certificate in Computer Science	◆ Candidates must have a minimum of one credit in Mathematics, Physics or Chemistry and two passes in any other subjects.		12 months
B	(i) HND- Microbiology / Virology Tech (ii) HND- Chemistry /Biochemistry Tech (iii) HND -Physics /Electronics Tech (iv) HND- Geology /Mining Tech (v) HND- Botany /Microbiology Tech (vi) HND -Hydrobiology / Fisheries Tech	◆ Pass in ND Science Laboratory Technology or equivalent in related area.	4 semesters	Application forms can be obtained on the payment of a non-refundable fee of the sum N3,000.00 only at the Bursary Department of the University on or before 30 th April 2010. All completed application forms must be returned to the Human Resource Development Directorate, Yelwa Campus Abubakar Tafawa University, Bauchi not later than 30 th April 2010.			
				Ali Ahaji Deba Ag. Registrar			



POLICE GAZETTE

WANTED PERSON:



MABEL PETERS

The above named person, *Mabel Peters*, 'F' whose picture is attached is wanted by the Nigeria Police Force, FCT Command, Abuja in connection with a case of *Theft, Defamation of Character and Criminal Intimidation*.

She is an Ibibio woman from Akwa-Ibom State and about 33 years of age. She speaks *Ibibio, Yoruba, Hausa and English languages fluently*. She is about 5ft in height and fair in complexion with a flat nose. She is a single woman. Her last known residential address is *No.8, Olaitan Odularu, Off Nnobi Right Kilo, Surulere, Lagos*.

If seen, should be arrested and taken to the nearest Police Station or, any person with useful information about her should report to the nearest Police Station or contact the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), FCT Police Command, Abuja on the following numbers: 08061581938, 08032003913 and 08032569029.

Ali Ahaji Deba
Police Public Relations Officer,
FCT Police Command,
Abuja



WORLD BANK – NIGERIA

SUPPLY OF AGO (DIESEL) FUEL
Expression of Interest

The World Bank Country Office, Abuja, intends to identify reputable suppliers of high quality premium diesel (AGO) to three locations in Abuja. The demand for diesel (AGO) varies from time to time but averages 11,000 litres per month. The identified firms will be required to meet the following criteria and standards:

- (i) Delivery of diesel in a manner that is not a threat to the environment.
- (ii) To own a full complement of delivery pumps and flow metre for ease of establishing quantities supplied.
- (iii) The supplier should be able to deliver premium product within 48 hours
- (iv) The supplier should have appropriate materials and hose to discharge and deliver the diesel from a long distance.

The World Bank now invites eligible suppliers to indicate their interest in providing the service. Interested suppliers must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the service (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Your expressions of interest should include detailed company profile, verifiable references of AGO Diesel delivery during the last three years, evidence of average annual turnover of not less than N35,000,000 (Thirty Five Million Naira) during the last three years and current liquid asset of N3,000,000. (Three Million Naira Only)

Suppliers, who meet the above requirements, are to send or deliver expressions of interest in sealed envelope to the address indicated below by March 9, 2010 at 12 noon (clearly marked at the left hand corner of the envelope "EI: Supply of Diesel").

The Facilities Manager
World Bank Country Office
102, Yakubu Gowon Crescent
Asokoro
Abuja

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536

NITEL: Buyers yet to get FG's approval

By Yunus Abdulhamid

TWO weeks after being declared winner of the bid to sell the Nigeria Telecommunications Limited (NITEL), New Generation Telecommunications Limited Consortium is yet to get the all important approval of the federal government, Daily Trust has learnt.

The Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) which houses the secretariat of the National Council on Privatisation (NCP) told Daily Trust yesterday that the delay was caused by the busy schedules of Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, who is the chair of the council.

BPE's spokesman Mr Chigbo Anichebe yesterday in a telephone interview said the Acting President was tentatively scheduled to chair the NCP meeting today to give the approval to the transaction.

The New Generation Consortium is expected to pay 30 percent of the bid price within 10 days of the NCP approval and subsequently pay the rest of the 70 percent.

New Generation Telecoms, a consortium of three companies including China Unicom bided \$2.5 billion for NITEL on February 16. The transaction took a decisive turn two days after when China Unicom denied involvement in the bid. However, some days after, it confirmed its European office had pledged technical and managerial support to the group should it emerge victorious at the bid.

Despite the controversy, the BPE said it was standing by the transaction as information at its disposal had not pointed to the contrary.

Unicom also said it was "very concerned about the various recent media reports in which the company was reported to have participated in the proposed privatisation," but has not authorised any person to comment on the deal.

Unicom's wholly owned unit, China Unicom (Europe) Operations Limited, "would be interested in exploring the possibility of equity investment in Nitel," according to a filing to the Hong Kong stock exchange, last week.

In response to the Unicom denial, GiCell Wireless Limited, a local telecoms operator and a member of the consortium had provided copies of a letter that alleg-



CHRISTOPHER Anyanwu, BPE boss

edly came from Unicom's European unit saying the company was willing to be a technical partner to the consortium and would consider equity participation of 20 percent or more, should the group be victorious at the bid. The letter was signed by the company's President, Mr William So. The BPE produced same documents too.

Mr. Chigbo Anichebe, BPE's head of Public Communications told Daily Trust yesterday that there had been no denials from China Unicom as being reported by the media. Instead, he said, interested parties who lost out in the bid were the ones peddling about rumours of denials.

He said, "China Unicom has several subsidiaries which its Europe office is one. It promised to offer technical partnership to the Consortium as well invest in equities based on negotiations that would follow thereafter if it wins the bid.

"However, China Unicom (Hong Kong), another subsidiary of China Unicom is equally the technical partners of Omen, the reserved bidders of the transaction. The parent company probably knows people are sponsoring the media spine and it has said it has not authorised anybody to speak on its behalf on the matter in its statement."

BRIEF

Sanusi explains CBN pillars of reform

By Idris Ahmed

CENTRAL Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi has said that the four pillars on which the next phase of banking reforms is based would be the blue print for reforming the Nigerian financial system in the next ten years.

He said this Friday in Kano in a paper titled, "The Nigerian Banking Industry: What Went Wrong and Way Forward", delivered at the convocation ceremony of Bayero University, Kano.

The first phase of the CBN reform which was done last year led to the injection of about N620 billion into some banks that had liquidity problems, weak corporate governance among others. Eight banks had their Managing Directors sacked.

The four pillars of the next phase of reforms include enhancing the quality of banks, establishing financial stability, enabling healthy financial sector evolution and ensuring that financial sector contributes to the real economy.

A statement from CBN said that Sanusi explained that by enhancing the quality of banks, CBN would initiate a five part programme to enhance the operations and quality of banks in Nigeria. It said that this would consist of industry remedial programmes to fix the key causes of the crisis, "implementation of risk based supervision, reforms to regulations and regulatory framework, enhanced provision for consumer protection and internal transformation of the CBN."

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%

CBN

2/12/2010

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES

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

BUYING	
DOLLARN150
EURON205
POUNDSN237

SELLING	
DOLLARN152
EURON208
POUNDSN239

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

Stock Market Index

Date:	Thursday, February 25, 2010
Index:	23,033.02
Deals:	7,082
Volume:	407,834,032
Value:	N 3,266,284,914.51
Cap.:	N 5,547,310,689,069.66

Business/Interview

'How BDCs helped Nigerian economy for 20 yrs'

By Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

LAST year marked twenty years of bureau de change operation in Nigeria. What has been the contribution of the sector to the Nigerian economy?

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Federal Government of Nigeria for making the policy which established bureau de change in 1989 (BOFIA ACT). Before now, anything in bureau de change outside the banking industry is considered an illegality. A lot of people had challenges in the past and consequently lost their money.

The wise decision of the Federal Government then to bring bureau de change into being in Nigeria has transformed the issue of retail purchases of foreign currencies in Nigeria by ensuring standards and etiquette in the retail segment of the foreign exchange market. Before then, we had a situation where people don't even know where to go and were compelled to deal with currency traffickers along the road side and in the process some fell into wrong hands. But with the introduction of bureau de change, people now know where to go and what to do.

The bureaux de change industry has enhanced supply of foreign exchange into the economy especially for the small end users. These are those who mostly deal in invincible trades. Now thanks to bureau de change, people can easily access foreign exchange for travellers' cheques, travelling allowance, to pay for medical trips and for education (school fees) abroad etc. This has made it easy for people to travel abroad or settle bills abroad.

The bureaux de change played a key role in the foreign exchange market liberalisation policy of the government introduced in 2006, which led to the convergence of the exchange rates, elimination of the parallel market premium and the dominance of the illegal currency traffickers. This has helped in curbing incidence of sharp practices like arbitrage and round tripping that would not have been possible if we don't have bureaux de change.

What have been the challenges during these twenty years?

We have had challenges and they started from inception of the industry. The first was the challenge of confidence, been a non-bank financial institution, we faced the challenge of public acceptability and even the challenge of earning the trust of the authorities to be able to operate.

Secondly, was the challenge of supply because before now and prior to the foreign exchange market liberalisation policy which

Alhaji Farouk Suleiman is the immediate past President of Association of Bureaux De Change Operators of Nigeria (ABCON), the umbrella body of bureaux de change (BDCs). In this interview, he bares his mind on major developments in the sub-sector, which marked twenty years of existence in Nigeria last year. He also tackles criticisms of the cash sale of dollars to BDCs and the categorisation of BDCs.



ALHAJI Farouk Suleiman

admitted bureaux de change into the official market, we were not allowed to source for foreign exchange from official sources including the banks. That was a major challenge. So, you have to wait for walk-in customers and if they don't come in to sell to you their foreign exchange, you do not have foreign exchange to sell to others. So these are some of the challenges we faced through the years. It was very tough that some bureau de change had to close shop. Some however persevered in the hope that the environment will be more conducive and things will get better as it is now.

What are the factors that sustained the industry especially before the admission of BDCs into the official Foreign exchange market in 2006?

Well, as I said earlier, one of the factors that have really sustained us pre-2006 liberalisation policy was hope and resilience. We were able to manage and go through it, managed to ensure that our outfit remained on board and few BDCs were able to do small marketing via exhibition, small marketing advert, and we were able to develop a client base where you have a work-in customer that comes in, sometimes tourists come to sell/buy.

Unfortunately, we did not have much to meet the demand. And with time the customers began to develop confidence in the operations and services of BDCs. So the

confidence we enjoyed from the Nigerian public and our resilience to stay on board even in the face of enormous challenges sustained us until recently when we began to have enhanced and adequate supply from the Central Bank of Nigeria.

Since the admission of BDCs into the official market, the number of BDCs has shut-up to more than 1,500, is there need for such high number of the BDCs?

Yes. First and foremost, to the best of my knowledge, I think we should be above 1,500 and given the size of this economy, the size of Nigeria population, I think it will not even be enough. The main purpose of Bureau de change is to meet the needs of small users/clients at convenient locations and time for retail of foreign exchange. We could even do more.

The Central Bank of Nigeria could even add more. And the idea is to bring more foreign exchange outfits closer to the customers or end users, that is those who have the need for foreign exchange for whatsoever reason particularly those with whom we are allowed to trade with. So for 1500 BDCs, I don't think it is too much a number. Because if you look at the geographical spread of Nigeria, in Lagos alone, we are talking of about 845 BDCs as we speak and the number is still growing. That is good for Lagos because this helps to keep the exchange rate as low as possible.

This is one of the major objectives or reasons why the Central Bank of Nigeria introduced the liberalization policy - that is to have exchange rate stability, to have improved supply statistics of foreign exchange receipt and utilisation that will help in policy formulation for foreign exchange to meet the needs of small users.

If we do not have enough BDCs, foreign exchange end users would be compelled to travel far distance to get bureaux de change services, but having more will give increased access to forex.

The cash sales of dollars to the BDCs was part of the liberalisation measures of the 2006 and the aim basically was to reduce or eliminate parallel market premium which was at N20 then and within six months of its implementation, the parallel market rate and official rate converged and since then, it has been like that. What would say is responsible for the success of the policy?

I think I will use this medium again to thank the Central Bank of Nigeria and the Federal Government of Nigeria at large for the trust it reposed in the BDCs and the Association. Let me take you a little backward, pre-2006 and early 2003, to be specific between March and April. Some form of liberalization was introduced whereby some BDCs were allowed to trade in travellers cheques which never really worked because of obvious reasons.

But thanks to the new management of the CBN, who further liberalised the market in 2006 and by 6th April 2006, we started in earnest from Lagos. When we started this transaction, US dollar was doing N150 to \$1 and from trading day one, we achieved about three naira appreciation of the naira and the appreciation continued till the parallel market premium was reduced to a level that is globally acceptable.

And before the sixth months, as a matter of fact, within eight to ten trading weeks, we had achieved convergence of exchange rates and it was applauded and celebrated as it has never happened in the history of this country. And what is primarily responsible for this is the faith and confidence the CBN reposed in the BDCs through the Association of Bureau De Change Operators of Nigeria, which was led by my humble self.

When we started, we were just about seventy-nine BDCs in real operation, and registered members were about 149. We started with about 21 BDCs and we were able to put to use those 21 BDCs while the number increased steadily, until we got to where we are today. Because of the trust reposed in us, our locations and

our flexibility, those twenty one BDCs were able to reach out to the end users, and that quickly transformed everything. You do not need to go to the banks where you have to wait endlessly.

We have simplified transaction model which was able to bring many more customers and increased accessibility to foreign exchange. So the trust enjoyed by the association and its members was primarily responsible, that we do not have to make much premium, yes the premium was wide then but slowly and progressively, it shrank over time to the advantage of the naira.

And as we speak, the premium we make is less than one per cent even though the CBN allow two per cent max. And this is because we are oligopolistic in nature, we are not monopolistic. Whatever BDC A is doing is dependent on what BDC B is doing. If the other BDC is selling low, there is no how the other BDC will be selling high. So these things are normal particularly with the enhanced supply channel from the CBN. That you know you will have supply and you know that somebody will sell at the other rate, you will sell. So these are some of the things responsible for the achievement of the convergence of the rates and general calmness in the forex market.

What is your response to the criticism of the cash sale of dollars to BDCs that it is a waste of the country's foreign exchange resources, that official foreign exchange is given to people who fund smuggling and other illegal activities?

This is unfortunate. Whoever has such opinion is misinformed and I don't think he or she has the interest of the nation at heart. Before now, when some other institutions were allowed to do this, selling official foreign exchange directly to the public, the premium kept widening. So, that somebody will criticize this initiative, the cash sale of dollars to the public through BDCs, it means you don't have the interest of this nation at heart and you are ignorant of what is happening as far the economy is concerned.

The economy is governed by the dynamics of supply and demand, now there are citizens of this country who are in need of this foreign exchange and they are compelled to go to some institutions or people where they have to go through long processes and at the end of the day, they will have to pay wide premium to get this forex. The Federal Government came with a policy and said rather than go through all these processes and challenges, let some people buy it for you and go through all these processes on your behalf.

Business/Marketing

Marketers harp on value creation

By Romoke W. Ahmad & Maureen Onochie

NATIONAL institute of marketing of Nigeria (NIMN) said marketing is a value creation profession where customer's satisfaction is paramount and that marketing has helped in pushing and advocating for the advancement of people in order to move the country forward.

The President/Chairman of National Executive Council of the

institute, Chief LEA Aimiuwu said this during the inauguration of the Abuja chapter of the institute and its executives. The president while inaugurating the body said they should be ready as marketers to create value in the society, saying that by so doing society will greatly benefit from it.

Marketing the president said help in scanning and prediction of greater success in the society while urging the new members to always work towards achieving

consumer empowerment because it is paramount to marketing profession.

Having inaugurated the chapter and its executives, Aimiuwu urged marketers, who are professionally recognised to create, add, apply, capture and sustain values with stake holders in focus adding that world best value should be their watch word so as to move the country to greater level.

He also called on marketers to always accept responsibility

for outcome of whatever they are doing because it is crucial to growth of every society. He then called on organisations seeking service of marketers to consult the institute since they are the only recognised body to regulate marketing activities in the country for easy identification of qualify marketers to transact business with.

Responding after the inauguration, Mr. Fredrick A. Hayes, Chairman of the chapter, said is grateful for the opportunity giv-

ing to him and other executives by the body to serve the institute as marketing has been part of thier life and wish to retire as a marketer.

He then urged marketers to start selling the profession for their own good since it is their own bread and butter. He also called on the overall body to support her new born baby which is the Abuja chapter for them to be fully committed to the institute and for the growth of the chapter.

Advertisers set agenda for 2010

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

THE Advertiser Association of Nigeria (ADVAN) has consolidated on its action plan in 2010 with its readiness to equip its members with business insights, create platforms for extensive collaboration opportunities, data compilation and strong industry advocacy.

Speaking at the Association's quarterly members' cocktail in Lagos, the president of ADVAN,

Mr. Idorenyen Enang said, "2010 should see advertisers providing thought leadership on issues that have a potential on impacting the nation's commercial communications industry and also taking proactive actions on all concerns that may ultimately affect their businesses."

He said, "one of the crucial tactics in achieving the association's desired objective will rest majorly on the ADVAN sub-committees which will address four cru-

cial areas in the industry such as marketing and media, marketing accountability and effectiveness, agency relations and research committees.

He said the Association's robust calendar of activities was cautiously drafted to provide valuable business insights for ADVAN members as well as ensure that commercial communication industry continue to contribute significantly to the economic health and well being of the society.

Dunlop thrills Nigerians with new products

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

DN Tyre & Rubber Plc (DNTR) known as Dunlop Nigeria Plc is thrilling its Nigerian buyers with new and various grades of tyres at the ongoing Kaduna International trade fair.

The company closed its operation in Nigeria in 2008 due to what it described as harsh operating weather.

A statement said despite the closure of its factory, it remains the sole distributor of Dunlop tyres in Nigeria

and plans to showcase its various ranges of brands at the Fair.

The company in a statement also said the fair also afford it the opportunity to appreciate the newest products the Company has to offer which still delivers value for money.

DN Tyre & Rubber Plc (DNTR) known as Dunlop Nigeria Plc was the only tyre manufacturer in Nigeria until December, 2008 when it stopped its local production due to the hostile operating environment and inconsistent government policies, it said.



Air Commodore **AS MAIGARI** DSS psc(+) fdc LLB BL
(04 July 1961 - 23 February 2010)



**INNALI LAHI WAINNA
ILAIHI - RAJ'UN**

The Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal OO Petinrin CFR, on behalf of Officers, Airmen and Airwomen of the Nigerian Air Force commiserate with the entire family of late Air Commodore AS Maigari, Commander 335 Base Services Group Kaduna, who died on 23 February 2010 after a brief illness. The senior officer has since been buried according to Islamic rites.

May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace. Amin.

Signed
Air Commodore Y ANAS
for Chief of the Air Staff

Star Feature

Are mixed marriages ok?

Nigerians of all walks of life debate on the merits and demerits of inter tribal or mixed marriages, in a nation slowly taking its place in the global village.

By Tosin Omoniyi

OLUSINA Ayodele, a media practitioner with an Abuja based tabloid probably got the rudest shock of his life a few days into the new year, when his fiancée, Osemudiamen Ehime (real name withheld), a youth corp member serving in the same city, called off their 6 month old relationship for a reason that he still finds hard to come to terms with, weeks after the painful break up. Looking forward to a blissful year which he had hoped would ultimately culminate in the tying of the nuptial knots sometime in December, the current year, he had received the surprise new year package from his 'heartthrob', who had visited her home town ostensibly to inform her parents about the budding relationship. According to the 'corper' who unsuccessfully endeavored to create a myriad of other subtle reasons, her parents were not comfortable with the fact that their daughter could not find a suitable spouse from the thousands of young men who shared similar cultural and tribal links with her. Her decision to even think of walking down the aisle with the man in question given his 'tribal antecedents', was said to have particularly irked the young lady's mother, who did not mince words in asking her daughter to call off the relationship immediately.

“ For 50 year old Mrs Adeleye Olabisi, a nurse, she would never allow any of her children to marry from any other tribe except from hers. When asked why she has decided to take this position, she enthuses: 'Even amongst my tribe there are certain dialects from which I would not want my children to marry from

Ayodele's world came crashing on hearing the news. It took the spirited intervention of friends, relatives and other well wishers, before he could emerge from the depression that engulfed him subsequently. According to him what saddened him was not actually the time and energy wasted in nurturing the relationship, or the embarrassment the separation caused him amongst friends and family members, who had looked forward enthusiastically to the marital union. What got to him was the calmness exhibited by the lady in question, when she told him point blank that the relationship could not go on, coupled with the indifference equally exuded by her. 'When she finally came to the main reason why the relationship could not go on after she had indulged in a plethora of lies and half truths, what struck me ironically was the eerie feeling that maybe something was actually wrong with the tribe to which I belonged. It was funny but I actually began to think that that maybe it was because of this that she was calling it all off, and maybe her mother was actually right. But then I came to my senses when I recalled that similar inter tribal marriages which I had witnessed in the past had succeeded, so what was wrong with ours? My only consolation however after emerging from a spell of depression was the fact that it all ended on that note, as obviously the relationship was never meant to last since it was just a relationship of convenience for my partner who was not willing to defend the relationship from the primordial attacks from her folks. However it shook the foundation of my belief in the workability and sustainability of inter tribal or mixed marriages.' Despite the pain of what he calls betrayal however, the young man still hopes one day to get married to a partner from another tribe as this has always been his desire.

Anytime the issue of inter tribal marriage occurs, many nerves are inadvertently ruffled. Interestingly many schools of thought immediately emerge. It is a topic which has elicited diverse reactions from all classes of Nigerians irrespective of social, tribal, religious or philosophical underpinnings. While a great many people unapologetically kick against such marriages, and are vociferous in their opposition to it, another class no less formidable, is equally irate that the union of persons from different tribal origins should create rumpus, which at times leads to broken relationships, pain, disillusionment and in some cases suicide.

There was a flurry in the press in Lagos a few years back when a young lady allegedly took her life when her parents stated their opposition to her relationship with a young man, whose only crime was the fact that he came from a 'wrong' part of the country. The



THERE is no reason why an Ibo man should not marry a Ha

victim, in a suicide note left behind, said that the only barrier capable of separating her from her beau was death, a route she had decided to take.

For those who oppose such inter tribal marriages however, reasons according to them necessitate their antagonism. 50 year old Mrs Adeleye Olabisi, a nurse, she would never allow any of her children to marry from any other tribe except from hers. When asked why she has decided to take this position, she enthuses: 'Even amongst my tribe there are certain dialects from which I would not want my children to marry from (she takes ample time to recite an astonishing list of Yoruba dialects and sub tribes, and perceived

“ There was a flurry in the press in Lagos a few years back when a young lady allegedly took her life when her parents stated their opposition to her relationship with a young man, whose only crime was the fact that he came from a 'wrong' part of the country. The only barrier that was capable of separating her from her beau was death, a route she had decided to take.



...usa girl, or a Hausa man marrying a Yoruba

future of the younger generations.'

However are there challenges? Of course there are, says another respondent, Nwokolo Austin. He avers, 'inter tribal marriage brings unity and understanding between people from different backgrounds, broadens their views about life, issues and they are better at coping with varieties. The challenges could be daunting of course. Trust and bonding may be difficult to achieve, and the ease of separation is high. Besides, it is expensive as it entails patronizing two cultures or in some cases, faiths whenever there are challenges - death/burial, marriage, ceremonies and parties. Also children born into such homes, may end up not having clear identities as to where they belong.'

Despite this, Seyi Anthony believes such challenges can be surmounted, if national unity exists as a value for every Nigerian. 'The entire world has moved on and is currently exploiting diversity and a multicultural society: Asians, Whites and Blacks alike; forging ahead in unity and embracing complex diversity via social cohesion, intermarriage, community bridging and etc. We are still very much behind, still discussing the benefits of inter tribal marriage and religion. Are we not one Nigeria? Are we not one people and one nation, regardless of faith, tribe and geographical distribution?' he queries.

I.A. Akunneto, director of Ibohayo Youth League is a man at the forefront of promoting national unity through inter-tribal marriages, and he concludes: 'disunity is the bane of any society composed of men with common hope, common faith, and common aspiration. The people of Nigeria, whether they are from the North, the South, the East, or the West, have one common destiny. We should encourage inter-tribal marriages. There is no reason why an Ibo man should not marry a Hausa girl, or a Hausa man marrying a Yoruba, nor can the Yoruba man adduce any law forbidden his marriage with a Cameroonian! We were created by one God...'

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comings each has, some comical, other simply bizarre). But even if they want to marry from these I would allow them, rather than marry out rightly from another tribe entirely. In the days of our forefathers it was a common thing to marry from families you can vouch for, especially those that are resident in ones community. The elders would just do a little bit of fact finding to find out if there are no serious impediments to the union. That is all. That is why marriages of our parents were always successful. But where you have children like nowadays who abandon their communities to go and look for spouses in other areas of the country, that takes at times several days to access, there are numerous problems attached to this. Apart from the language barrier, the different backgrounds

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from which they come from will serve as a form of challenge to the success of such marriages. But all these are absent when both have similar tribal backgrounds...'

Mrs Ronke Afolabi, a staff of the German Embassy, however opines that tribal sentiments should not affect considerations in nuptials. She adds that her marriage to a man from the north has not in any way affected their union adversely. Rather, she says the marriage keeps growing in leaps and bounds on a daily basis. 'The problem we have here is that of stereotyping which is a Nigerian thing. We believe that because a person belongs to a particular culture, then he must have certain traits which are unique to his or her tribe. This is bad and has no basis. We should relate to every individual as a unique person, and not as a member of a particular tribe!'

Yusuf Adebajo, another respondent, is of the same opinion. He enthuses: 'inter-tribal marriage is working in Nigeria but not 100%. Perhaps some due to their level of exposure, kick against such unions! My kid sister is a Yoruba Muslim but married to a Christian! Not only a Christian but an Ibo guy! My father gave his consent! And they are blessed with a son now; and are living happily together because of the true love and affection they both have towards themselves, and which should just be the basis of every relationship that will culminate into marriage, irrespective of ethnic and religious differences! We need to sensitize and educate people in Nigeria to embrace the idea, because of the

“Mrs Ronke Afolabi, a staff of the German Embassy, however opines that tribal sentiments should not affect considerations in nuptials. She adds that her marriage to a man from the north has not in any way affected their union adversely. Rather, she says the marriage keeps growing in leaps and bounds on a daily basis.

Business

'Taiwan investors to bring industrial machines to Nigeria'

By Sunday Williams

TAIWANESE investors have expressed their interest to bring different industrial machines to help develop the Nigerian industrial sector, Nigerian representative to 2009 SMEs tour for African business delegation

to Taiwan, Onukwue Chinedu has said.

Addressing newsmen in Abuja on the business tour, the country's representative said out of the seven African countries that participated in the tour, most of the Taiwanese investors were

interested in Nigeria. He said the tour which was organised by the Taiwan External Development Council (TAITRA) and African Taiwan Economic Forum (ATEF) is to shift the country's business interest to the African continent.

"The Taiwanese investors

showed us different kinds of machines for packaging bottle water, and other agro-business. It is time we stop buying products but begin to manufacture them. They are ready to bring these things but their fear is fraud. I tried to change that mentality during my presentation on busi-

ness opportunities in Nigeria," he said.

He said he is already working with the Nigerian informal sector in collaboration with TAITRA and ATEF to organise a business forum where the Taiwanese investors will come to the country in August.

Dangote to build N.5bn Bayero Business School

By Hamisu Muhammad

BUSINESS mogul and President Dangote Group Alhaji Aliko Dangote is to build an ultra modern Bayero Business School and additional hostels worth N500 Million at the Bayero University Kano's new campus.

Speaking at the 28th Convocation ceremony of the University, Saturday, Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Attahiru Mohammed Jega who disclosed the gesture, said the University has also attracted other donor's projects worth N2 billion.

He said despite enormous fund challenges, the University has successfully implemented number of projects that transformed it to a modern and unique institute of learning in the country.

Prof. Jega said the donor agencies were convinced by the huge progress made and transparent manner in managing the funds collected.

He said in 2006 BUK was adjudged the best University in Nigeria by NUC due to the quality and compliance with ethics of education.

FRSC floats Safeline Microfinance Bank

By Nasir Imam

IN a move to create an asset owning workforce, the Federal Roads Safety Corps (FRSC) Thursday commissioned its Safeline Microfinance Bank in Wuse II, Abuja.

FRSC Corps Marshal, Osita Chidoka, in an address at the occasion, said one of the cardinal objectives of the present management is to empower the staff so that during retirement they will have something to fall back on.

He said some of the objec-

tives of Safeline Microfinance Bank include the provision of financial services by improving access to credit facilities to staff and others and to instill high sense of ownership on the staffs who are shareholders.

The FRSC Corps Marshal said the bank has 3,606 shareholders from within and outside the FRSC, paid up capital of N50 million, and deposit for shares amounting to N151 million.

He said some of the bank's products already in the market include: Safeline Dailies, Safe-

line Certificates, Safeline Rotating Savings Loan Account, and Safeline Easy Asset Purchase Loan, among others.

Representative of the Minister of Finance, Director, Home Finance in the ministry, Garba Gidado Mohammed, in his speech, said microfinance banks are a crucial component to improve banking culture among the rural populace.

He said as at 2008, 74% of Nigerian adults have no bank account, and therefore described the coming on board of Safeline Microfinance Bank as timely.

SHEHU SHAGARI @ 85



ALHAJI SHEHU SHAGARI, GCFR,
Turakin Sakkwto
FIRST EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT OF NIGERIA

SALUTE TO A LIVING LEGEND

I wish, on behalf of myself, members of my family and the entire good people of Sokoto Senatorial District join millions of Nigerians in the celebration of an icon and a living legend, **ALHAJI SHEHU SHAGARI, GCFR, TURAKIN SAKKWTO**, First Executive President of Federal Republic of Nigeria on the occasion of his 85th birthday.

Your Excellency Sjr, yours has been a worthy life of nobility, integrity, selflessness and single-minded dedication to the service of humanity and the country.

You have been a book and shall remain a living book from which generations yet unborn will cherish as a rare source of inspiration of honest and quality service and leadership.

Happy birthday, many many more happy returns of this day. Allah ya bada lafiya, Allah ya kara yawancin rayi, Ameen.

Signed
SENATOR AHMED MUHAMMAD MACCIDO
Sokoto Central Senatorial District



Business/Agric

Institute develops crops to address short rainy season

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE Institute for Agricultural Research, Zaria (IAR) has developed crops that can cope with the anticipated short rainy season this year, the director of the institute Professor Balarabe Tanimu has said.

The Nigerian Metrological Agency (NIMET) had forecasted a very short rainy season this year and called on farmers to engage in supplemental irrigation for the rain fed farming.

Speaking during the annual cropping scheme meeting of the institute, he said the institute has a number of crop

varieties that would assist farmers during the anticipated scanty rainy season.

"For farmers in the North-West zone and beyond, while the forecast is relevant and supplemental; irrigation will be adequate to forestall moisture stress on crops, let me assure you that the institute has a number of extra early varieties for most of our mandate crops which can cope with the scanty rainfall anticipated," he said.

He reiterated the readiness of the institute to assist farmers and other stakeholders in the agricultural sector of the country to acquire relevant modern technologies.



TRACTOR working in a farm

NTM produces 60,000 tractors yearly

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

WITH a view to contributing its quota to the federal government's Tractorisation Scheme, the National Trucks Manufacturers (NTM) is now producing 60,000 tractors every year.

Speaking to newsmen during the flag-off ceremony of Community Cooperative Tractor Hiring Scheme in Kura Local Government Area of Kano State, the company's General Manager in charge of Marketing, Alhaji Umar Mohammed, said NTM was committed to surpassing the stated output.

According to him, one of the components of the 7-Point Agenda was the issue of food security and a requirement needed for that was to increase tractor density in each state. "By tractor density we mean there would be enough tractors so that the agricultural productivity would improve," he said.

"It is a contributory scheme whereby the federal government, the state government and the end users contribute. As part of our contribution to the scheme, we subsidize the prices of the tractors," he said.

He said the NTM, being one of the selected manufacturers for the scheme, was providing about 250 tractors for Kano and Jigawa States. While expressing his company's readiness

to meet its target, he noted that NTM was selected because of its quality and dependable products.

The general manager said the company is producing vehicles at cheaper and affordable rates. He said NTM earned a number of laurels for keeping to standard and for their variety of quality products.

He said the Tractorisation Scheme would continue every year until the food security agenda reached a satisfactory level. "This is just the initial stage, and probably the supply may be increased next year depending on the success of the project," he said. While calling on people to patronise local products, the GM revealed that their products were of international acclaim and standard. "People should know that our products are either as good as those manufactured outside the country or even better than them," he said.

Alhaji Mohammed therefore appealed to federal government to fortify its borders so that substandard smuggled products may not be dumped into the country. "Smuggling is one of the problems militating against the progress of local industries. I believe when smuggling is checked, the local industries will rise and the economy will move forward," he said.

FCTA introduces tractor hiring scheme

By Nasir Imam & Tina A. Hassan

IN a bid to boost the effort of farmers in FCT, the FCT Administration (FCTA) last Thursday launched a community cooperative tractor hiring service scheme.

FCT Minister of State, represented at the occasion by Director, Finance and Administration, FCT Social Development Secretariat, Alh. Garba Dukku, said agriculture is the most dominant activity of the rural population of the FCT with over 100,000 farming families who are involved in small scale farming using primitive tools e.g. hoes, cutlass.

The minister said the programme, through Public Private Partnership (PPP), is a welcome relief to our farmers since it will effectively and drastically reduce drudgery of farmers and increase their farm size above 5ha currently the average size per farm family.

He also said that the programme targets at raising the level of farm power availability from the present 30,000 units of tractors and implements accumulated from the time of independence to at least 100,000 units by the year 2015.

In order to ensure effective implementation of the scheme, the minister said FCTA has paid the 15% counterpart contribution worth N71.2 million for a total of 64 tractors with complete implements for year 2009.

Also, the Minister of State for Agriculture and Water Resources Mrs. Fidelia Akuabata said the use of tractor for mechanized farming in Nigeria would boost commercial agriculture in Nigeria and make the sector highly business oriented.

She said the scheme would help change the mind set of Nigerians that agriculture is an occupation meant only for the poor and those without any source of livelihood because mechanization would make the agribusiness a very viable and lucrative occupation.

According to her, "this scheme marks another landmark in the history of our great country's agricultural development and a further testimony to the commitment of this administration".

The Managing Director of Chieftain Association, a subsidiary of John Deere said the tractors would be given to farmer groups at very subsidized rates because the program is "designed to put in the hands of real farmers farm machinery that they had hitherto been unable to afford."

Basin Trust Fund requires N15bn to operate

By Idris Ahmed

THE Hedejia Jama'are Komadugu Yobe Basin Trust Fund (HJKYBTF) requires N15bn to ensure equitable, effective distribution and regulated water resources in Bauchi, Borno, Jigawa, Kano, Plateau and Yobe States, its Administrative Secretary has said.

Hassan Haruna said in an interview at the weekend that out of N17bn originally estimated to provide water related projects in the affected states in 2007 when the Trust Fund was inaugurated, only N1.7bn was provided. He said the N1.7bn was contributed by the Federal Government (N850m) and the government of the six states (N850m). He said that the Fund has spent N1.2 billion of the available sum to execute twenty-seven water infrastructural projects between 2008 and 2009, respectively.

"N17bn was needed but we only got N1.7bn, which is just 10 percent of the amount needed. We need additional supports. Presently, we need N15bn, but if we get N4bn within the next two to three years, we can do a lot in opening water blockages in any of the locations", Haruna said.

HJKYBTF was established to serve as a platform to address water resources problem in the six affected states. It was also to raise awareness at the grassroot level on water resources management.

Haruna said that the Trust Fund had toured the whole locations to assess the impact of the established projects. He said the goal of the Trust Fund is to reduce poverty in the Hedejia Jama'are Komadugu Yobe Basin (HJKYB).

The Trust Fund also has the goal of effecting improvements in the flow of water for all uses and users. The HJKYB covers about 148,000km square in north east Nigeria (95 percent) and south east Niger (5 percent). It is drained by two main river sub-systems, the Yobe formed by Hadejia and Jama'are tributaries and the Komadugu Gana.

The HJKYB is an internationally shared water whose management in Nigeria has an important bearing on diplomatic relationships with four countries like the Niger Republic, Chad, Cameroon and Central African Republic.

Business/Africa



PRESIDENT Ian Khama

Bank of Botswana adopting neutral monetary policy stance

BANK of Botswana Governor Linah Mohohlo said the outlook for both inflation and output suggests a largely neutral monetary policy stance by the central bank in the medium term, a departure from the expansionary policy that the bank imple-

mented in 2009.

The governor commented while introducing the monetary policy statement for 2010 in Gaborone. She said that inflation may rise before stabilizing to the target range next year.

She said there may be

some downward pressure on the Pula exchange rate to support international competitiveness of domestic industries and to enhance prospects for economic diversification. National output may fall below average before rebounding toward

trend levels in the medium term, Mohohlo said.

Two days ago the Monetary Policy Committee decided to leave the bank rate at 10 percent while still targeting inflation at between 3 percent and 6 percent in the medium term. (*Bloomberg*).

S/Africa inflation slowdown, signals low rates

INFLATION slowed last month, defying forecasts of an increase and suggesting that interest rates would remain lower for longer, despite the economy's recovery.

The consumer price index rose 6,2% versus that of January last year, compared with December's 6,3%, Statistics SA said yesterday. Consensus forecasts from Reuters had predicted a 6,4% rise, given the effect of higher petrol prices and several additional price surveys during the month.

"This is an incredibly benign print, and speaks of the lack of pricing power in the economy," said Razia Khan, Standard Chartered's research head for Africa.

Yesterday's news that Eskom was granted annual tariff hikes of 25%-26% for the next three years -- it had asked for hikes of 35% -- backed hopes inflation would be more subdued than

expected this year and next. That fuelled a rally in government bonds. Yields fell by more than eight basis points at one stage as markets decided there would be no rate hikes this year. Some analysts still see scope for another rate cut, possibly when the Reserve Bank holds its next policy meeting next month.

Yesterday's news modestly raised the chances of an additional rate cut by the Bank, though with economic growth rebounding, a policy status quo was still more likely, said Citigroup economist Jean Francois Mercier. "In view of the improved inflation outlook, we now see no rate hike until the first quarter of 2011, instead of the fourth quarter of this year, as thought previously."

The Bank takes the whole economy into account when it sets interest rates, although its mandate aims to keep inflation within a 3%-6% target range. Citigroup and Absa Capital said they were lowering their inflation forecasts for this year and next, albeit moderately. The lower electricity price hike is likely to add 0,4 percentage points to inflation when it takes effect this year, compared with the 0,6 percentage points a 35% power price hike would have generated. Many analysts now believe inflation will dip back into its official target range this month, a bit earlier than the Bank has predicted, and stay there for the rest of this year.

"This is good news. The other piece of good news is that this will be the last month inflation will likely be above the target band, at least for this year," said Nedbank economist Carmen Altenkirch.

Inflation for goods quickened to 5,8% last month from December's 5,5%, mainly due to petrol prices being much higher than in January last year. But services inflation slowed to 6,8% from 7,2%. Absa Capital economist Jeffrey Schultz said a slowdown in the pace of increase in food prices exerted the most downward pressure on the inflation rate.

Food inflation slowed to 1,6% year on year from 2,7% in December, a far cry from the double-digit growth rates seen a year ago. But during the month itself, food prices rose 0,8%. Overall, consumer inflation edged up 0,3% last month, the same pace as in December and November.

Within the service category, prices for insurance rose 0,9%, financial services 3,1% and funeral services 2,7% during the month, the data showed. (*Africaninvestor*)



PRESIDENT Jacob Zuma



PRESIDENT Robert Mugabe

AfDB willing to assist Zimbabwe

THE African Development Bank said it is willing to give financial aid to Zimbabwe given the improvement noted in areas such as agriculture, tourism and mining since the implementation of the Short-Term Emergency Recovery Programme (STERP).

This came after a 14-member delegation from the AfDB met Finance Minister Tendai Biti in Harare yesterday to discuss debt reduction strategies and other ways of assisting Zimbabwe's economic recovery.

Addressing a press conference in Harare, AfDB representative Mr Hassan Kadir said his organisation was willing to help Zimbabwe.

Mr Kadir said he expected a significant improvement in agriculture, mining and tourism this year given the reflections on economic performance on the ground.

"We are happy about the new initiatives on the political front especially in the constitutional area, although there are still some divided opinions. People in Zimbabwe must start feeling a difference in their way of life and anticipate a rise in employment opportunities from AfDB's full fledged financial support," said Mr Hassan.

AfDB would engage Zimbabwe on its core areas of reconstruction and infrastructural development.

Speaking at the same occasion Mr Biti said he had briefed AfDB on problems affecting the fiscal system in Zimbabwe. He said the absence of fiscal space was a critical problem that needed attention. "65 percent of our revenue goes to wages and this means we are left with no fiscal space," he said. He also said there was need for AfDB to assist Zimbabwe through lines of credit to induce liquidity in the market. (*The Herald*).

Egypt lifts ban on gas to Israel



PRESIDENT Hosni Mubarak

THE Supreme Court in Egypt has overturned an earlier ruling by a lower court that banned gas sales to Israel.

The new ruling requires that the government should make clear the quantity of gas it exports to Israel and how much it charges. Lawyers had argued that the gas was being sold at preferential rates.

Egypt's gas trade with Israel is controversial, as many Egyptians are opposed to links between the two countries - despite a 1979 peace deal.

Some opposition figures in Egypt are against the sale of gas to Israel because they disagree with its policies towards the Palestinians. This ruling ends a legal battle which stirred up public controversy. Over a year ago, lawyers had successfully argued for a ban on natural gas exports to Israel, claiming the price was below the international market level.

The supreme administrative court has said that the lower court which made that ruling has no jurisdiction in

cases of this kind because they involved state sovereignty.

It did add, however, that Egypt should take steps to monitor the price and quantity of its exports ensuring domestic needs are met before selling gas abroad.

Gas started flowing to Israel from Egypt through a pipeline in 2008, under an agreement contracted to last for 20 years. In reality, supplies were never cut off when there was a court ruling banning sales. *BBC*.

Who is afraid of CTN?

"A lot of people will go abroad, they will shop for raw materials or spare parts and they will collude with their suppliers to put other things in the container; things that are not declared, things that are even more expensive than the declared cargo in the container. This is common with the so-called manufacturers. When a cargo arrives in Nigeria, they will use what we call fast track system to fast track the cargo into their warehouses in their factories... without paying duty to government on the extra in the container. With the Cargo Tracking Note (CTN), that will be virtually removed".

*Alhaji Sulaiman Hameen
National Vice President,
National Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industries Mines and
Agriculture (NACCIMA)*

The Truth...

"CTN will assist Customs in knowing what is in the container. It will help us reduce the burden of physical examination. It is very good. It will help in terms of security and it will increase our revenue collection because we are going to know the exact quality of what is in the container. I don't believe there is going to be any additional money added to the cost of doing business in Nigeria".

*Alhaji Dikko Abdullahi
Comptroller-General
Nigeria Customs Service*

"There is this concept among Nigerians that once there is a pronouncement by government nobody bothers to know what it is all about. They join the bandwagon to begin to condemn the intentions of government. CTN is a global trend, it is not a Nigerian innovation. We should know that any issue that bothers on security should be given a thought because you have to be alive before you can talk of any other thing. NAGAFF is not opposed to CTN".

*Dr. Boniface Aniebonam
Chairman, Board of Trustees
National Association of Government
Approved Freight Forwarders
(NAGAFF)*

Cargo Tracking Note (CTN)...

...for improved service delivery



PETROLEUM TRAINING INSTITUTE

P. M. B. 20, EFFURUN, DELTA STATE

www.ptinigeria.org

INVITATION FOR APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION INTO PETROLEUM TRAINING INSTITUTE (PTI) FOR 2010/2011 SESSION

The Petroleum Training Institute (PTI), Effurun, invites applications from suitably qualified candidates, sponsored by oil/allied companies for admission for 2010/2011 academic session into the under-mentioned PTI Higher National Diploma, National Diploma, Pre-Diploma and Certificate full-time programmes.

1.0 PTI/HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES -TWO (2) ACADEMIC YEARS

- (1) Petroleum Engineering Technology (HND)
- (2) Petroleum and Natural Gas Processing Engineering Technology (HND)
- (3) Mechanical Engineering Technology
 - Options: (i) Production (Manufacturing) Engineering Technology
 - (ii) Power/Plant Engineering Technology
- (4) Electrical/Electronic Engineering Technology
 - Options: (i) Instrumentation and Control (HND)
 - (ii) Power and Machines (HND)
 - (iii) Electronic/Telecommunications (HND)
- (5) Petroleum Marketing Technology
- (6) Science Laboratory Technology - Option: Chemistry (HND)
- (7) Industrial Safety Technology
- (8) Environmental Technology
- (9) Welding and Fabrication Engineering Technology (HND)

1.1 ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants must possess the following minimum entry qualifications: PTI Diploma or National Diploma (ND) relevant to the applicant's Higher Diploma programme with at least an overall Grade of "C" or "Lower Credit", and not less than one year post qualification cognate industrial work experience or minimum of "Pass Grade" with at least two years post qualification cognate industrial work experience.

2.0 PTI/NATIONAL DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES TWO (2) ACADEMIC YEARS

- (a) Petroleum Engineering (ND)
- (b) Mineral Resources Engineering (ND)
- (c) Petroleum and Natural Gas Processing Engineering Technology (ND)
- (d) Mechanical Engineering Technology (ND)
- (e) Electrical/Electronic Engineering Technology (ND)
- (f) Industrial Safety and Environmental Technology (ND)
- (g) Petroleum Marketing and Business Studies (ND)
- (h) Science Laboratory Technology (ND)
- (i) Welding and Fabrication Engineering Technology (ND)

2.1 ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

- (i) GCE O/Level, WASC or SSSC (WAEC/NECO) with credit passes in four (4) subjects at not more than two sittings, which should include Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and any one of the following Science subjects: Biology, Geography, Agricultural Science, Technical Drawing, Statistics, Further Mathematics, Engineering Practices, Technical Drawing or Integrated Science and at least a pass in English Language.
- (ii) National Business and Technical Examinations Board (NABTEB) with credit passes in four subjects which should include Mathematics, Chemistry with Physics, Welding Practice and any other Science or Social Science subject, plus at least a pass in English Language; or
- (iii) Successful completion of the one academic year relevant PTI Pre-Diploma programme.

2.2 PETROLEUM MARKETING AND BUSINESS STUDIES (ND)

- (1) CCE O/Level, WASC, SSSC (WAEC/NECO) credit passes in four (4) subjects which must include English Language, Mathematics, and any two (2) of the following subjects: Economics, Business Methods, Commerce, Accounting, Geography, Statistics, History and Government. At least a pass in Chemistry is compulsory.

- (ii) National Business Certificate of NABTEB with credit passes in relevant subjects. At least a pass in Chemistry is compulsory.

- (iii) Successful completion of the one academic year relevant PTI Pre-Diploma programme.

2.3 SCIENCE LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY (ND)

- (i) GCE O/Level, WASC, SSSC (WAEC/NECO) with credit passes in four(4) subjects at not more than two sittings which should include Mathematics, and Chemistry, and any one subject from the following: Physics, Biology/Agricultural Science plus one other subject from Economics, Geography, Technical Drawing, Wood Work or Metal Work. In addition, Candidates must possess at least pass grade in Physics, Chemistry, Biology and English Language.
- (ii) National Technical Certificate in Chemistry Laboratory Technology/Industrial Safety; or
- (iii) Successful completion of the one academic year relevant PTI Pre-Diploma programme.

2.4 WELDING AND FABRICATION ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY (ND)

- (i) GCE O/Level, WASC, SSSC (WAEC/NECO) with credit passes in four subjects at not more than two sittings which should include Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics and one subject from: Technical Drawing, Biology or Agricultural Science, Additional Mathematics, Statistics, Basic Electronics, Metal Work, Wood Work, Geography or Economics. At least a pass in English Language is compulsory.
- (ii) National Technical Certificate (NTC) in Welding and Fabrication Craft Practice with credit passes in Mathematics, Welding Technology, Welding and Fabrication

3.0 PRE-DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

- (a) PRE-ND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMMES - OPTIONS:
 - Petroleum Engineering
 - Mineral Resources Engineering
 - Petroleum and Gas Processing Engineering Technology
 - Mechanical Engineering
 - Electrical/Electronic Engineering
 - Industrial Safety and Environmental Technology
 - Science Laboratory Technology and
 - Welding and Fabrication Engineering Technology

ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

- (i) GCE O/Level, WASC or SSSC with ordinary passes in four subjects at not more than two sittings relevant to the Diploma programme the applicant intends to study plus at least a pass in English Language; or
- (ii) National Technical Certificate (NTC) with passes in four (4) subjects at not more than two sittings relevant to the Diploma programme
- (iii) City and Guilds Intermediate certificate in relevant courses/trade

(b) PETROLEUM MARKETING AND BUSINESS STUDIES (PRE-DIPLOMA)

- (i) GCE O/Level, WASC, SSSC (WAEC/NECO) with a minimum of four passes in four subjects at not more than two sittings which should include English Language, Mathematics, and any two of the following subjects: Economics, Business Methods, Principles of Accounts, Commerce, Statistics, Geography, and Government; A pass in Chemistry is compulsory or
- (ii) National Business Certificate of NABTEB with ordinary passes in relevant subjects. A pass in Chemistry is compulsory.

4.0 GENERAL WELDING CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME**4.1 ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS**

- (i) GCE O/Level, WASC or SSSC with ordinary passes in four subjects at not more than two sittings in the following subjects: Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Agricultural Science, Economics, Statistics, Geography, Technical Drawing, Metal Work and Applied Electricity, plus at least a pass in English Language, or
- (ii) City and Guilds (Intermediate) certificate in Welding Craft Practice or its equivalent.
National Technical Certificate (NTC) relevant to the Diploma programme of the applicant with credit passes in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and any other related subject plus at least a pass in English Language or,
- (iii) National Business and Technical Examination Board (NABTEB) (for Mechanical Engineering ND programme only) with credit passes in four (4) subjects which should include Mathematics, Physics with Chemistry, Mechanical Engineering Practice or Metal Work and any other Science or Social Science subject plus at least a pass in English Language.
- (iv) National Business and Technical Examinations Board (NABTEB) (for Electrical/Electronic Engineering ND programme only) with credit passes in four (4) subjects which should include Mathematics, Physics with Chemistry and any two Electrical subjects or Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and any one Electrical subject plus at least a pass in English Language.
- (v) Successful completion of the one academic year relevant PTI Pre-Diploma programme.

5.0 PROFESSIONAL DIVING CERTIFICATE (CLASS I AND CLASS II)

Duration: 18 weeks

5.1 ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

- (i) SSCE, NECO and GCE "O level" with three credits which must include Mathematics, Physics and a pass in English Language plus Government Trade Test Certificate in Welding or Mechanical Engineering.
 - (ii) HSE part IV and III certificate in SCUBA diving
 - (iii) National Technical Certificate (NATEC) with three credits which must include Mathematics, Physics and a pass in English language.
 - (iv) PTI General Welding Certificate.
 - (v) Intermediate C & G in Welding or Mechanical Engineering
 - (vi) Any other equivalent recognized certificate.
- Candidates are expected to undergo a comprehensive medical examination and approved swimming test.

5.2 CLASS II (SURFACE SUPPLIED DIVING CERTIFICATE)

Duration: 6 weeks

5.3 ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

- (i) PTI class I diving certificate
- (ii) HSE part IV & III certificate in SCUBA diving
- (iii) Candidates with relevant offshore commercial diving experience who must have attained 50 metres depth.
- (iv) Any other equivalent recognized international certificate.
Candidates must present their diving logbooks.

6.0 DATE AND VENUE FOR INTERVIEW FOR HIGHER DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

Interview for the Higher Diploma programmes would be conducted in the Petroleum Training Institute, Effurun, Delta State from **31st May - 4th June, 2010 at 9.00 a.m. daily**. All candidates must report with the originals of their credentials for the interview.

7.0 DATE AND VENUES FOR ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS FOR DIPLOMA, PRE-DIPLOMA AND GENERAL WELDING CERTIFICATE PROGRAMMES

The entrance examinations for the Diploma, Pre-Diploma and General Welding Certificate programmes would be held on **Saturday 19th June, 2010**, in all the centres listed below. All candidates must write the examination in the centre indicated in their application forms.

- (a) Petroleum Training Institute (PTI), Effurun
- (b) Nigeria Navy Secondary School, Satellite town, Ojo Lagos
- (c) NNPC Staff School (within NNPC Housing complex), Kaduna

- (d) Nigeria Navy Secondary School, Borokiri, Port Harcourt
- (e) Institute of Management and Technology, Abakaliki Road, Enugu
- (f) Government Secondary School, Tudun-Wada, Abuja
- (g) Ramat Polytechnic, Maiduguri
- (h) Adamawa State Polytechnic, Yola
- (i) Sokoto Teachers College (STC), Sokoto

Candidates for Diploma, Pre-Diploma and (General Welding Certificate programmes are hereby requested to please take note that their examination number for the entrance examinations is the number on their application form.

9.0 METHOD OF OBTAINING APPLICATION FORMS

Applicants can obtain forms from any of the following sources:

- (a) Petroleum Training Institute (PTI), Effurun
- (b) NNPC Zonal Office, 24 Gobarau Road, Kaduna
- (c) PTI Liaison Office, (DPR Premises), 7 Kofu Abayomi Street, Victoria Island, Lagos
- (d) NNPC Zonal Office, Moscow road, Port Harcourt
- (e) Rivers State College of Education, St. John's Diobu Campus, Port Harcourt
- (f) Institute of Management and Technology, Abakaliki Road, Enugu
- (g) PTI Liaison Office, Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) by Golf View Hotel, Jabi District, Abuja.
- (h) NNPC Corporate HQ Herbert Macaulay Way, Abuja
- (i) Ramat Polytechnic, Maiduguri
- (j) Adamawa State Polytechnic, Yola
- (k) Establishment, Career and Services Matters Department, Uthman Farouk Secretariat, Opposite Federal Secretariat, Sokoto
- (l) State Ministries of Education Headquarters in State capitals.

10.0 SPONSORSHIP

Candidates must attach a copy of their sponsorship letter from their companies to the application form when submitting the form.

11.0 APPLICATION FEE

- (a) Applicants are to pay a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Naira (N5,000.00) only, per form in bank draft from either Afribank, First bank, Union Bank or United Bank for Africa (UBA) made payable to the Petroleum Training Institute, Effurun. Applicants should write their full names, addresses (not P.O. Box) and programmes in full on the reverse side of the bank drafts.
- (b) Applicants who want their forms sent by post should enclose a self addressed envelope measuring 25cm with appropriate postage stamp affixed.
- (c) Applicants are strongly advised to obtain receipts in their names for the forms purchased. Candidates should in their own interest ensure that the serial number of their forms and the programme are correctly written on their receipts. A photocopy of the receipt(s) must accompany the completed application forms.
- (d) Applicants are warned that on no account should application forms be purchase with cash or from unauthorised persons or organisations. Forms bought under any questionable circumstances would be rejected

12.0 CLOSING DATE

Completed application forms should be addressed to the Registrar, Petroleum Training Institute, P.M.B 20, Effurun, Delta State and should be submitted to any of the centres listed under 9.0 above not later than 31st March, 2010.

13.0 LATE APPLICATION FEE

Request for late application forms would attract N500.00 (five hundred Naira) surcharge per form in addition to the N5,000.00 (Five Thousand Naira) after the closing date in 12.0 above. Closing date for late application forms is Friday, 30th April, 2010.

14.0 GENERAL INFORMATION/ENQUIRIES

For further enquiries, please contact The Registrar, Petroleum Training Institute, P.M.B. 20, Effurun, Delta State, Nigeria. Or visit PTI website at www.ptinigeria.org.

MR. S.A. ADIGUN
Ag. REGISTRAR

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA
ZAMFARA STATE GOVERNMENT



THIRD NATIONAL FADAMA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

ZAMFARA STATE FADAMA III COORDINATION OFFICE,
FADAMA HOUSE, OPP. STATE MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE, ZARIA ROAD, GUSAU, ZAMFARA STATE.

Invitation for Bids

Country: Nigeria
Project: NFDP III
Contract: procurement of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles
Credit No: 4494-NG
Project ID: PO96572
Bid Issuance Date: 1st March, 2010
IFB No: ZSFCO/NCB/01/2010
Last Date of Bid Submission: 5th April, 2010

1. This Invitation for Bid follows the General Procurement Notice for the Project that appears in the Development Business, issue no. 637 and daily Trust newspaper of Nigeria of 3rd July, 2009.

2. The Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association (World Bank) in various currencies to finance the cost of the Third National Fadama Development Project (NFDP-III). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Credit will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the **Procurement of motor Vehicles and Motorcycles**.

3. The Zamfara State Fadama III Coordination Office (ZSFCO) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of **Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles as listed below**.

Lot/No	Items No.	Descriptions	Quantity	Bid Security	Delivery Period	Delivery Location
1	1	4x4 Double Cabin Pick Ups	3 No	3%	60 Days	Zamfara State Fadama III Coordination Office, Fadama House, Zaria Road, Samaru, Gusau.
2	2	2x4 Mini Bus	1 No	3%	60 Days	Zamfara State Fadama III Coordination Office, Fadama House, Zaria Road, Samaru, Gusau.
3	3	100CC Motorcycles	56 No	3%	60 Days	Zamfara State Fadama III Coordination Office, Fadama House, Zaria Road, Samaru, Gusau.

4. Bidding will be conducted through the national competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the world Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and Credit, and is open to all bidders in the eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Document at the **State Fadama III Coordination Office (ZSFCO)**, at address below **0806-816-2743 & 0806-592-8789**. Email: zamfarasfco@yahoo.com, adkaura2006@yahoo.com, (procurement officer), aliyuaitineshinkafi@yahoo.com (State Project Coordinator)

6. Complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the below mention address and upon payment of non-refundable fee of **"Ten Thousand Naira only (N10,000.00)** The method of payment will be in cash.

7. Bids must be delivered to the below address on or before **12 Noon on 5th April, 2010**. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected and Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at 12:00 noon 5th April 2010. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bids security of **"not less than 3 %"** of Bid Price or an equivalent amount of freely convertible currency.

8. The Address referred to above is:

**Zamfara State Fadama III Coordination Office,
Fadama House, Opp. State ministry of Agriculture, Zaria Road,
Samaru, Gusau. Zamfara State. Nigeria**
Aliyu Altine Shinkafi: 0806816 2743,
Email: aliyuaitineshinkafi@yahoo.com
(State project coordinator)



KADUNA POLYTECHNIC

P.M.B 2021 Kaduna, Nigeria

RE: INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR 2010 CAPITAL PROJECTS.

Further to the advertisement on the above subject matter, which appeared in the Daily Trust and the Guardian Newspapers of January 29th 2010, I wish to inform all those who applied for the advertised projects, that due to the declaration of Friday 26th February 2010, as Public Holiday, the date for the opening of the pre-qualification earlier scheduled for that day, at the Council Chamber of the Central Administration Building, Polytechnic Road, Tudun Wada Main campus Kaduna, has been shifted to **Tuesday 2nd March 2010 at 2.00pm** at the same venue.

Signed:

Alh. Mamoon A. Abubakar
Registrar



ASSOCIATION FOR REPRODUCTIVE AND FAMILY HEALTH (ARFH)

REQUEST FOR AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

ARFH, a non-governmental Organization, seeks for an Expression of Interest from suitable registered research firms to conduct Operations Research of community based component of Global Fund HIV/AIDS Round 5 Project. Interested firms who have the capacity to conduct operations research study should send e-mail to arfh@fastmail.fm and mobilaji_olokodana@yahoo.com requesting for detailed relevant documents necessary for putting in a bid. Please put 'ARFH/GFR5HA/OR/2010' in the subject line.

Qualification Criteria:

- Organisation Profile including Certificate of Incorporation with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC);
- Availability of documentation demonstrating experience in Operations Research
- Details of Organisation's locational address, contacts persons, telephone and e-mail.

Deadline for submission is 5p.m. and two weeks after this publication.

DIGEST

How talking about your bad back can take the pain away

TALKING about your bad back can help ease the pain, researchers have revealed.

A study of hundreds of adults with chronic back trouble found that those given a short-course of talking therapy were still reaping the benefits a year later.

Just nine hours of discussion and advice significantly eased both pain and stiffness and improved quality of life, the *Lancet* reports.

With the treatment judged better value for money than physiotherapy or acupuncture, it could provide a relatively cheap and easy way of helping the millions of Britons whose backs cause them daily pain.

The condition is the single biggest cause of sick days and the Health Service spends around half a billion pounds on drugs, operations, physiotherapy, acupuncture and other treatments each year.

Lost productivity and sickness benefit cost another £10 billion.

A team of doctors from Warwick University recruited 700 men and women with bad backs. Almost half rated the pain as very painful or extremely troublesome.

All were given some general advice about avoiding bedrest, keeping active and taking painkillers.

Two-thirds were then assigned to six sessions of cognitive behavioural therapy, in which they were encouraged to talk and think about their pain and disability differently.

For instance, those who avoided playing sport in case it hurt their back were told that not exercising would lead to them becoming less and less fit – with the result their back would actually get worse.

They were encouraged to think positively and gradually become more active, taking up sports and hobbies they had enjoyed in the past.

Having the treatment in groups allowed the volunteers to meet others with the same problem, as well as cutting costs.

The others continued life as normal.

A year later, many were in less pain and more mobile. However, the improvements were twice as great in those who had the cognitive behavioural therapy.

Crucially, at £187 for six 90-minute sessions, the CBT was cost-effective.

Researcher Professor Sarah Lamb said: 'Effective treatments that result in sustained improvements in low-back pain are elusive.'

This trial shows that a bespoke cognitive

“Effective treatments that result in sustained improvements in low-back pain are elusive”

behavioural intervention package is effective in managing subacute and chronic low-back pain.'

In an accompanying article, Dr Laxmaiah Manchikanti, a back pain expert from the U.S., described the results as 'rather impressive'.

He added: 'Cost-effectiveness of this intervention is thought to be better than that for acupuncture, exercise, manipulation and postural approaches.'

'Overall, the results suggest that cognitive behavioural therapy is an excellent option for primary care physicians before they seek speciality consultations for their patients.'



STRUGGLE: But research suggests you could talk your way out of back pain

Happily married men 'much less likely to suffer stroke'



SCIENTISTS say an unhappy marriage or being left on the shelf was as big a risk to your chances of having a stroke as having diabetes

HAPPILY married men are much less likely to suffer a stroke than their single or unhappily married friends, according to new research.

Single men and those in unsuccessful marriages were 64 per cent more likely to have a stroke than men in successful marriages.

Scientists say an unhappy marriage or being left on the shelf was as big a risk to your chances of having a stroke as having diabetes.

The findings even shocked scientists, who said they did not expect to see that a happy home life had such an impact on a man's health.

The study did not look at how at whether women's chance of stroke was reduced if they had a happy marriage,

but researchers are keen to test out the theory on them too.

The study followed 10,059 civil servants and council workers who completed the Israeli Ischemic Heart Disease Study in 1963.

They followed the men through death records and other public registers to 1997 to check their cause of death.

In 1965, two years after the first study, the participants were asked to rate their marriages as successful or unsuccessful or if they never married at all.

Dr Uri Goldbourt, of Tel Aviv University, said the study was a sign of how important good relationships are to men.

'An analysis of the 3.6 per cent of men who had reported dissatisfaction in their marriage found the adjusted risk of a fatal

stroke was also 64 per cent higher, compared with men who considered their marriages very successful,' he said.

'I had not expected that unsuccessful marriage would be of this statistical importance.'

Dr Goldbourt said the risk of stroke was just as high for single men as it was for those stuck in dead end marriages.

He said: 'Considering age at death and adjusting for socioeconomic status, obesity, blood pressure, smoking habits and family size, as well as existing diabetes and heart disease at the time of the earlier survey, single men had a 64 per cent higher risk of fatal stroke than did married men.'

'That figure is comparable to the risk of fatal stroke faced by men with diabetes.'

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

Sign Language



Who do you blame? Blame yourself.
Photo location: Newton, USA, by Jim McGarth
Culled from www.signspotting.com



No kiddin'
Photo location: Atlanta, by Jean Higgins
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.

96

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

Solution to Sudoku 95

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

News Extra

Robert Mugabe's N75m birthday bash broadcast on TV

Eight thousand lobsters and 4,000 portions of caviar were eaten on Thursday night at the birthday party for Robert Mugabe which was broadcast live to a nation facing famine.

The £330,000 (about N75 million) televised feast to celebrate the Zimbabwe president's 86th birthday came as crop failure and drought raised the prospect of widespread hunger in the poverty-stricken country.

Mugabe's political opponents, the Movement for Democratic Change, said the food served was enough to feed 50 villages.

The MDC branded the 12-hour all-night gala a 'senseless extravagance'.

Also on the menu were 200lb of prawns and 500 bottles of whisky.

Guests at the party in Bulawayo were entertained by a Jamaican reggae star flown in specially and more than 30 musicians.

The revelry began at 6pm and was not due to wind up until 6am. The Zimbabwean leader celebrated his birthday last Sunday (February 21) and has already attended a number of parties, including one at the Chinese embassy in the capital Harare.

Mugabe has ruled Zimbabwe for 30 years and overseen the country's economic collapse.

He had expected taxpayers to pay for the party but had to go cap in hand to corporate supporters and friendly embassies when the MDC finance minister refused.

An MDC spokesman said the celebrations were inappropriate as the country braced itself for a tough harvest with an 11 per cent maize crop failure caused by a prolonged dry spell.

He said: 'It is not progressive for any Zimbabwean to join this senseless fray as the country faces imminent drought.'

'It is lavish, careless and extravagant on the part of the organisers that they dedicate £330,000 to one person, an amount which could feed 50 villages.'

'It is absolutely self-centred for someone to try to nationalise a birthday. MDC members will not be part of this circus.'

Last week the EU voted to continue sanctions on Zimbabwe for another year, citing a 'lack of progress' in implementing a power-sharing deal.

The sanctions are mainly targeted at senior ZanuPF figures and involve asset freezes as well as arms and travel embargos.



PRESIDENT Mugabe

African leaders show age is seldom a barrier to power



PRESIDENT Museveni of Uganda



PRESIDENT Mubarak of Egypt



PRESIDENT Biya of Cameroon



LIBYAN leader Gaddafi



PRESIDENT Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia

L is one of the likely headlines after an all-night birthday gala for Robert Mugabe, president of Zimbabwe, which was due to finish in the early hours of yesterday. Mugabe, who last week turned 86 in a country where average life expectancy stands at 45, is the eldest statesman on a continent where age is seldom a barrier to power.

But events confronting both Nigerians and Nigeriens in the past week have demonstrated that the next generation of African leaders might find it somewhat harder to crush all comers.

President Mamadou Tandja

remains at the helm while questions linger over the president's health. In recent times, the objections raised to the likes of Menzies Campbell and John McCain in recent British and American election campaigns rarely keep politicians awake here.

Africa's club of leaders of pensionable age includes Egypt's Hosni Mubarak, 81, Cameroon's Paul Biya, 77, Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia, 73, Muammar Gaddafi of Libya, believed to be 67, Eduardo dos Santos of Angola, also 67, Denis Sassou Nguesso of Congo-Brazzaville, thought to be 66, and Uganda's Yoweri Museveni, believed to be 65.

Together these men have ruled for close to 250 years combined and none seems in a hurry to bend to free and fair democratic will. It took the grim reaper to part Gabon's Omar Bongo, at 41 years the longest-serving president in African history, from the levers of power last year at the age of 73.

It is hoped that the rise of civil society organisations across Africa, flourishing on the internet, will prove a powerful counterweight to future big men turned old men. But optimism should be checked. The Mo Ibrahim prize for African leadership, intended to honour good govern-

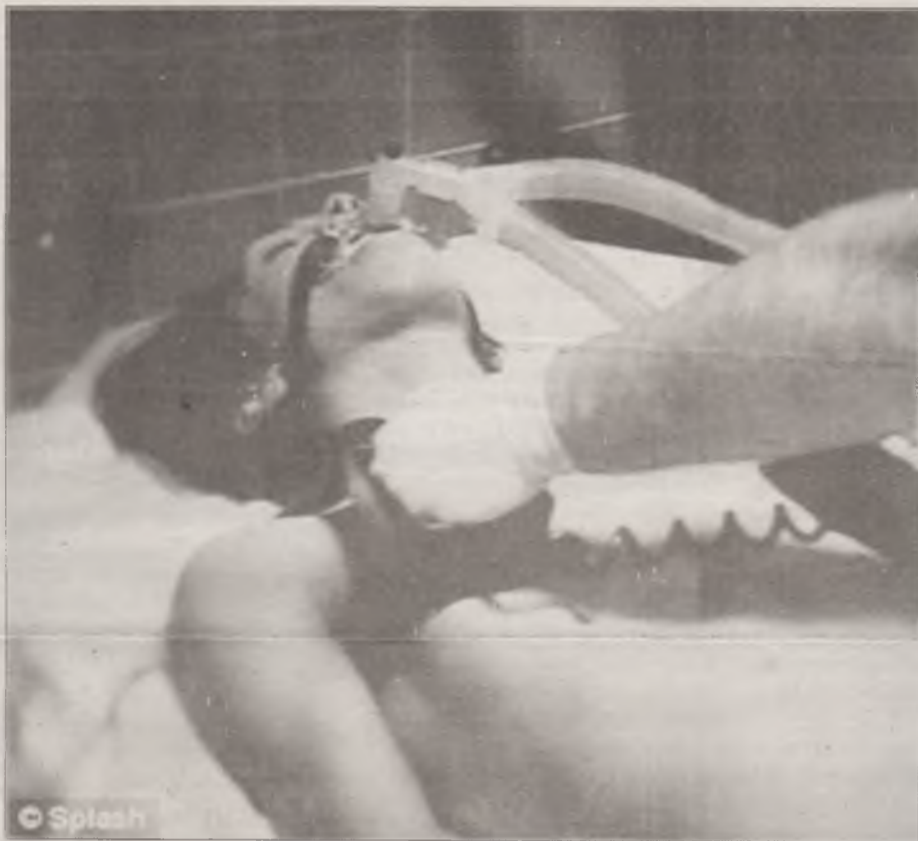
ance, was not awarded last year because no worthy candidate could be found.

Mugabe, for one, shows no signs of going quietly. In April, he will mark 30 years in power since Zimbabwe gained independence from Britain, making him one of the world's longest-reigning leaders. Urban myths abound about how the 86-year-old retains the zeal of a man half his age.

Many wish that he had followed the example of Nelson Mandela, now 91, whose decision to step down from South Africa's presidency after one term guaranteed his special place in posterity.

Culled from theobserver.co.uk

News Extra



THE re-enactment showed Jackson being given CPR on the bed and floor by an actor playing his doctor, Conrad Murray



THE Michael Jackson lookalike shown in an oxygen mask in Friday's docu-drama

Re-enactment of Michael Jackson's death broadcast on U.S. TV

A controversial re-enactment of Michael Jackson's death has been shown on US television.

VH1 show Famous Crime Scene used an uncanny Jacko lookalike for their chilling 30-minute programme, which aired on Friday night.

The re-enactment showed the doppelganger being given CPR - first on his bed and then on the floor - by an actor playing the singer's alleged killer Dr Conrad Murray, of the Jackson lookalike lying naked except for a white towel on a pathologist's table.

The most shocking scenes, however, featured the lookalike lying naked on an post mortem table, covered by nothing but a towel, and being pushed slowly into a mortuary drawer.

VH1's show used a mixture of actors, journalists and magazine and website editors to put together its version of the events surrounding Jacko's death.

But, confusingly, it also featured interviews with actual members of the Los Angeles Fire Department who were involved in the events of June 25 last year and paparazzi footage from outside the hospital and the singer's home.

Even Brian Oxman, the Jackson family's lawyer, was interviewed for the programme.

As the lookalikes re-enacted the moment Jackson slipped into



PARAMEDICS wheel the pop star out of his rented house

unconsciousness, the real-life 911 call was played over the top of the images.

'We got a call 12.21pm,' Captain Stephen Ruda, from the Los Angeles Fire Department recalled.

'There was no identification by the caller of who he was or who was having the medical issues. But we knew that someone was in dire, dire straits.'

'At 12.25 we were on scene. Firefighters were led in and led to the room where the patient was

located.

'Our firefighters found the doctor doing CPR. It turned out to be Michael Jackson.'

While the actors played out their version of events in Jackson's bedroom, experts expressed surprise over the CPR Dr. Murray supposedly conducted on Jacko's bed.

'CPR should be conducted on hard, firm surfaces, but there was a physician in the room who was doing CPR on the bed,' Captain Ruda said.

Dr Marc Eckstein, Medical Director of LAFD, added: 'The vital mechanics of CPR are straightforward. How or why a physician might not know that, I can't comment on.'

Further acted out scenes showed paramedics rushing to Jackson's side and wheeling him out of his home on a stretcher.

Further acted out scenes showed paramedics rushing to Jackson's side and wheeling him out of his home on a stretcher

'I got a phone call from Randy

Jackson telling me they had taken his brother, Michael to the hospital. He just said 'Brian, it's bad. Meet me there,' Oxman revealed.

More chilling scenes showed the lookalike's body being prepared for an autopsy and later, dead in a mortuary drawer.

Jackson died, aged 50, on June 25 last - after suffering a cardiac arrest. The LA County Coroner has since ruled that his death was a homicide.

Dr Murray denies involuntary manslaughter.

News Extra

The miracle survival of boy, 12, who was speared by metal pole

An Indian boy incredibly survived after falling while playing at a building site and landing on a metre-long iron pole that speared his entire body from the base of his spine to his shoulder.

Kalim Ali, 12, damaged ten internal organs in the horrific accident including his small intestine, liver and a lung.

Doctors at a hospital in Mumbai removed the 95cm (37in) long rod in a three-hour operation that required 100 stitches.

The boy's condition is stable but serious as he recovers at the Intensive Care Unit of the Nair hospital. The team said they were concerned about the complexity of the operation and hadn't expected Kalim to live.

According to his father Salim the accident took place while the boy was playing at a building site near his home in the town of Malegaon on Sunday evening.

The boy was admitted to hospital eight hours later. Dr. Hemanshi Shah, who led a team of six paediatric and cardiothoracic surgeons, said: 'It was frightening to cut the whole body of the boy.'

'Adults have been involved in such accidents, but we had never performed a surgery of this kind



KALIM Ali was speared through the length of his body by a metre-long metal pole after an accident at a building site in Mumbai, India, earlier this week

on a child', she added.

Dr. Shah believes the youngster needs four months to heal and says the first week will be critical.

'Usually in these cases, the

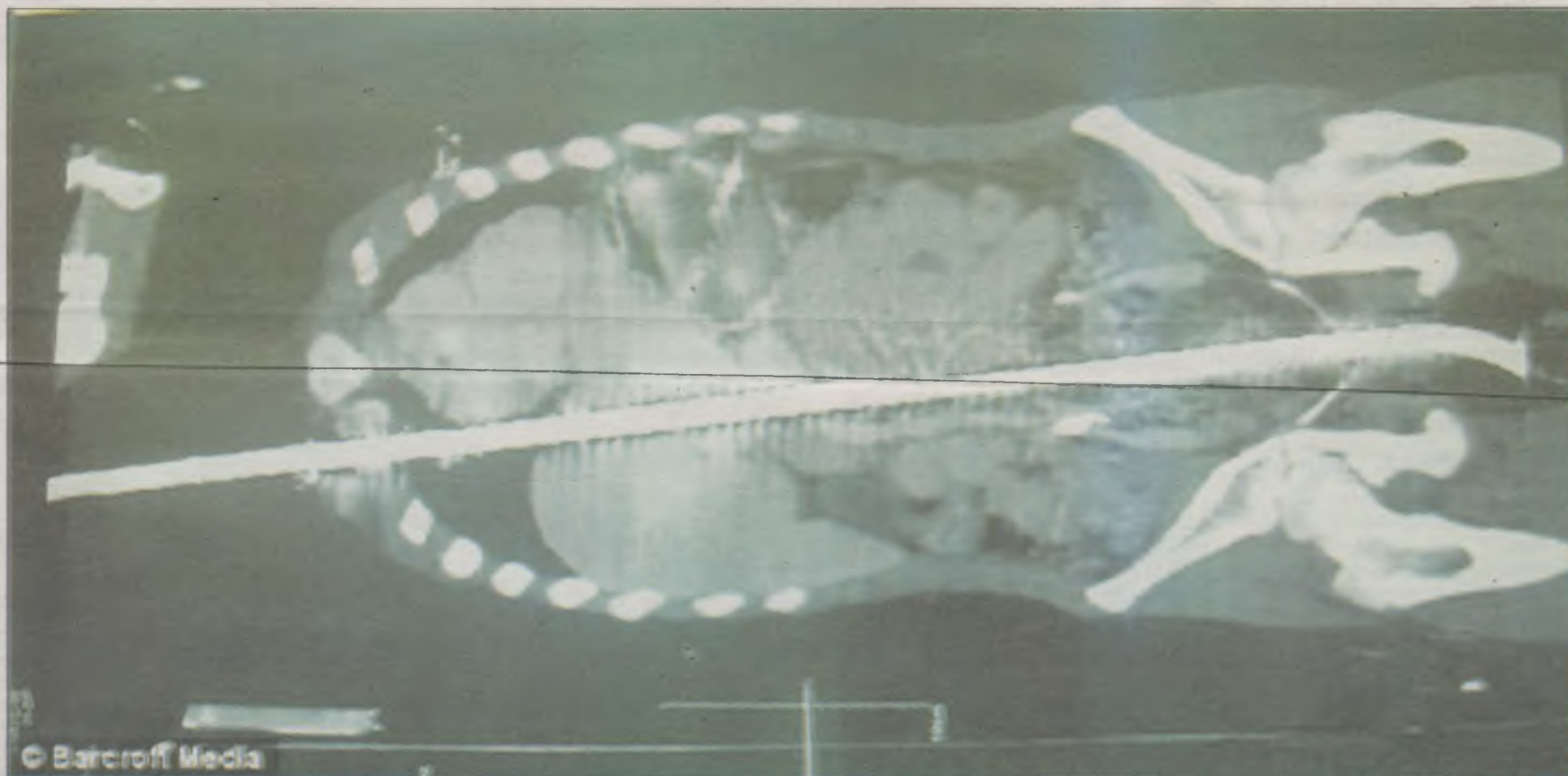
patient dies due to infections and I feel the first seven to eight days are very important for the boy,' she said.

Results from X-rays, CT scans

and an examination by cardiac surgeon Dr K N Nagle revealed that no major artery was damaged, according to Dr. Shah.

Kalim's father, Salim, a factory

worker said: 'I am not rich and I was asked to take him to a specialty hospital in Mumbai, but I consider myself lucky that he got proper treatment at this hospital.'



AN X-ray of Kalim Ali speared by the pole which damaged 10 internal organs but missed all major arteries

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- Saidu Ahmed
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Secretary to Bauchi State Government

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IT WORLD

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CTO partners USPF in rural ICT connectivity

By Yunus Abdulhamid, who was in Yola

CHIEF Executive Officer of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization (CTO) Mr. Ekwow Spiro-Garbrah has said the organization was keen on sustaining the existing relationship with the Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) for the removal of all humanly possible barriers and extends telecoms connectivity to all corners of Nigeria.

He said information available

to his organization showed that a wide gap exists between urban and rural areas in terms of telecoms coverage. Statistics show there are three billion people living in three million rural localities without ICT access, where Africa is the worst hit, he said.

With appropriate deployment of ICT, rural dweller would be able to improve on their live socially and economically, the CTO boss said. Spiro-Garbrah was speaking at the second phase of the USPF

Consultative Forum held in Yola, the state capital of Adamawa State. The first lap of consultation took place in Ibadan for the South West geopolitical zone last month.

USPF was established by the Telecommunications Act of 2003 to facilitate ICT access to un-served and underserved areas. It is a secretariat under the Nigeria Communications Commission (NCC). He said for the rural ICT projects to succeed, the people must share in the ownership of the

facility through Private Public People Partnership (PPPP).

Other conditions he enumerated include; strengthening of human capacity in the rural areas, deploying sustainable and renewable sources of energy, engineered to benefit traditionally excluded people and the extensive use of local language for the digital contents to conquer low education as well as positioned to generate profits for self sustainability.

In his remarks, Alhaji Baba

Maigari, a member of the USPF board said the forum was meant to have feedback from stakeholders and opinion leaders on their communities' ICT needs for the fund's intervention considerations.

He said it would help chart a way forward on community and shared ownership for sustainability of the various projects of the fund ranging from ICT intervention in secondary schools, tertiary institutions and Community communication Centres.

PIC BY YUNUS ABDULHAMID

'NIPOST should not regulate courier industry'

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

PRIVATE courier operators in Nigeria have called on the Committee on Communication in the House of Representatives to constitute an independent regulator in the industry and stop the Nigerian Postal Service (NIPOST) from regulating them.

Addressing a joint press conference in Lagos last week, the Chairman of the Nigerian International Air Couriers Association (NIACA), Mr. Dipo Akinyele and the president of the Association of Nigeria Courier Operators (ANCO), Mr. Toyin Olufade, said it would be unfair to the players in the industry if NIPOST is left to regulate them, being a player itself.

According to them, members of the proposed Nigerian Postal Commission (NPC), an agency which is to be saddled with the responsibility of regulating the industry, should include members of NIACA and ANCO and not only NIPOST.

They said "The establishment of an independent regulatory body to be known as the Nigerian Postal Commission (NPC) is welcome.

"We suggest an all embracing board that will involve the courier and express operators. NIACA and ANCO have been in the vanguard for the reform of the postal sector in Nigeria and it is therefore material that they should be represented on the Board. Our membership would represent private sector perspectives. A situation where a player will have all its members in the Board will only create disharmony in the industry."

The courier operators said the commission should not dictate the tariff and charges to be paid by consumers. They are of the opinion that market forces should be allowed to dictate tariff and that consumers should be allowed to exercise their power of choice.

"Fixing or regulating charges for services to be provided stifles growth and indeed discourages investment. Furthermore, the requirement that the minimum price to be charged for courier services must be five times the basic postage rate for a 500 grams postal item is unfair to the public," the groups said.



FROM L: CEO of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization (CTO) Mr. Ekwow Spiro-Garbrah and Alhaji Baba Maigari, a member of the USPF board at the Yola Consultative Forum on ICT connectivity to un-served areas last week.

CNP optimistic on bridging IT needs in Nigeria

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

MANAGEMENT of the Computerize Nigeria Project (CNP) has said the success recorded by the ongoing 750,000 computer ownership promo had reaffirmed its belief in the capacity of the governments and people of Nigeria to adequately address the IT needs of this country.

Speaking in Lagos recently, the Head of CNP, Loretta Agbakoba, said the Phase 2 of the 750,000 Computer Ownership Promo is embedded with the incredible benefit of a Zinox e-learning suite worth N62, 000, free for one year, and a free Zinox digi lamp to enhance reading in a country where blackouts have become a norm.

Mrs Agbakoba said the e-learning suite, which Zinox developed in partnership with World e-library is cur-

rently number one in Africa and contains 750,000 e-books downloadable in any PC; 59,000 medical e-documents and e-books; 11,000 classic literature e-books; 1,000 Chemistry e-books; 500 Mathematics e-books; 250 Physics e-books; and 680,000 e-books.

According to her, the suite also contains Physics simulation tools, Creative, Observation, and Skills Development Tools, Teacher Lessons Plans, Worksheets, and Classroom Articles.

The e-learning suite holds a lot of promise for educational institutions who want to be rated among the world's best and Governments who wish to accelerate the pace towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, Mrs Agbakoba said. Explaining how it works, she said participation is open to all Nigerians and employers may take advantage

of the promo to computerize their staff by issuing an employer's guaranty. No bank guarantees are required.

A prospect only needs to decide whether to pay the low cash prices or subscribe to the 12 months installment option.

Mrs. Agbakoba explained that the e-learning suites would be automatic to the 1st 100,000 laptops purchased. All products would enjoy immediate delivery and the respective manufacturer warranty of the OEMs. She said that the CNP and her OEM Partners would deliver on all their promises.

Computerize Nigeria Project is a non-profit organization was launched by a team of IT technocrats led by Mr. Leo Stan Ekeh in 2001. The Board of CNP is presently chaired by Prof. Ibi-dapo Obe.

IT World



FROM left: Mr. Charles Ifedi, Director Payment Solutions, Interswitch, Mrs. Mylah Osifo, Executive Director, Freedom Foundation, Mr. Akeem Lawal, Deputy Managing Director, Interswitch and Mrs. Tito Aderoju, Chief Marketing Officer, Interswitch listening to an address at the first electronic payment CSR programme by Interswitch in Lagos recently.

Etisalat targets 4 million subscribers in 2010

From Chris Agabi, Kayode Ekundayo and Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

NEW entrant into Africa's most robust telecoms market, the Nigerian telecommunications sector, Etisalat said it plans growing its present 2.6 million subscribers' base to 4 million this year.

It is also investing some \$700 million into network expansion this year.

Chief Executive Officer of Etisalat, Mr. Steven Evans, who disclosed this in Lagos at a media parley, also noted that at the inception, the company had planned to spend \$2 billion dollars to grow its network.

He said last year, the company invested about \$800 million and by the end of the year, it would have effectively spent about \$700 million that would take the total investment to about \$1.5 billion.

Evans said though the economic meltdown greatly affected telecoms business but was hopeful the industry will pick up by 2011 and Etisalat would break even by

that same year.

Overtime we hope to acquire a number of customers to generate sufficient income to make a profit he said adding that most of the Etisalat new subscribers would be existing subscribers from other network users rather than fresh telecoms subscribers.

"The strategy that Etisalat is adopting to woo the customers is hinged primarily on high network quality, robust products, acceptable pricing regime and good customer experience," Evans said.

He said though Etisalat is present in all the states of the federation including Abuja, its penetration rate is about 40 percent among the population but that it hopes to reach more Nigerians soon.

According to him, Etisalat basically would be renting telecoms infrastructure of other existing networks rather than build new ones.

"It is a waste of time and resources for us to go and start building say 5, 000 masts. It is not in the interest of Nigerians and our customers," he said.

... Installs 100 base stations

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

A total of 100 base stations have so far been installed by Etisalat across the country in a bid to provide qualitative services to their subscribers, the company's director of Sales, Mr. Tolu Ojo said at the Kaduna International Trade fair.

Speaking during the company's day at the fair, he said the company is working hard to overtake all other GSM service providers in the country by inventing new techniques that would bring about rapid transformation in the telecommunication industry.

He also said plans have been completed

by the company to introduce an environmentally friendly sim pack for sustainable development in the country.

"Our major challenge like any other company is power supply.

Daily we spend a lot of money in fueling generators to our base stations since power supply is not constant. Our huge resource also goes to security because thieves are disturbing us in these base stations," he said.

He said the company aside from giving back to its subscribers through promo would continue to see to their social responsibility in order to touch the lives of Nigerians meaningfully.

Zaku upbeat on Nigeria hosting Science Olympiad

By Yunus Abdulhamid

MINISTER of Science and Technology, Dr Alhassan Bako Zaku has said Nigeria was determined to host the forthcoming International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO) successfully.

He gave this reassurance while receiving in audience a South Korean delegation, led by Prof. Sang Chun Lee, who paid him a courtesy visit in his office. Dr. Zaku, who commended the sponsorship of the IJSO competition by the delegates, said the ministry was ready to attract investments and enhance global cooperation in science and technology. He said the experience and expertise of South Korea in science and technology would come in handy to harness the vast Nigerian natural resources.

Speaking earlier, the leader of the South Korean team, Prof. Sang Chun Lee, said the competition which will be hosted by Nigeria this year in December will enhance bilateral scientific cooperation between Nigeria and Korean universities. He noted that the Korean Academy which is one of the best science schools in Korea has admitted 17 foreign students, out of which one is a Nigerian.

Voting for Beacon of Awards closes next week

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

VOTING lines for the Beacon of ICT Awards, the awaited merit-centric celebrations of talents, contributions and commitments to the growth of the ICT industry in Nigeria, will close March 15, Communication Week Media limited, organizers of the event have announced.

Ken Nwogbo, spokesman for the company, said the selection committee is surprised by the passion with which Nigerians have been voting for the various nominees of the awards. "The passion and energy have been unrivalled; the voting pattern show that Nigerians really recognise and appreciate the efforts of the nominees in steering the ICT industry in the country" Nwogbo said.



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PROPERTY

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Kano to modernise markets

THE Kano State Government says it is determined to boost commercial activities by modernising existing markets and building new ones.

Governor Ibrahim Shekarau stated this on Saturday at the ongoing Kaduna International Trade Fair.

Shekarau, who was represented by the Commissioner for Commerce, Alhaji Ibrahim Yakassai, said the market initia-

tive was designed to promote the growth of specialised products in the state.

One of such specialised products, he said, was fish and kola nuts.

The governor said although kola nuts were not grown in the North, they were mostly eaten by Northerners and had the largest market in Kano.

He also said the state was building an ultra modern mar-

ket at the cost of N18 billion, adding that a fish market was also being constructed at the cost of N1.4 billion.

Yakassai said while its ultra modern market was not yet ready for use, work at the kola nut market was at 60 percent completion level.

He said 15,000 shops at the ultra modern market and 68 ware houses would be ready for occupation during the tenure of

the Shekarau administration.

The commissioner said the markets were constructed under a private-public partnership (PPP) initiative.

Shekarau said government was only providing the land and the enabling environment for the markets.

He said the project had duration of five years and was financed by a commercial bank. (NAN)

Yakassai said while its ultra modern market was not yet ready for use, work at the kola nut market was at 60 percent completion level.

Yobe approves N94m for estate borehole

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

YOBE State government has approved the release of N94.77m for the construction of borehole and accessories at the newly completed 300 housing units along the Maiduguri-Damaturu road in Damaturu, the state capital.

Commissioner for information Barrister Bala Haladu said the water project also include an overhead tank, laying of pipes, and the building of a generating plant house which will ensure regular supply and distribution of portable water in the estate.

The project which is to be completed before the second half of this year, would supply water for over 15,000 people who are expected to reside in the new estate which is billed for commissioning soon.

The commissioner said the contract was awarded to Wahabu Habi Nigeria Limited



THE Lafia Glass House

Lafia gets first glass house

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

LAFIA, the capital of Nasarawa State has got what many have termed "Glass House", the first of its kind in the state.

Daily Trust observed that work on the project which is

called Corporate Headquarters of Nasarawa Investment and Property Development Company Limited, has reached completion level.

Officials of the state government owned company could not be reached for comment,

just as Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma's spokesman, Ibrahim Addra said he had no authority to speak on the project. However, Daily Trust observed that the two-storey building is being prepared for commissioning. Scope and cost of the project could not be

obtained.

The investment and property development company, according to the information of the signpost, is the supervising agency of the project. The building stands along Lafia-Akwanga Road, a little at the outskirts of the town.

Coy to build 665 houses in Kano suburb

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

A company, SAW & Sons Limited, is constructing a 665-flat estate with school, market, hospital and police outpost in the western bypass of Kano State. Already structures are taking shape as construction work at the project site is in progress.

Speaking to newsmen when Kano State Governor Ibrahim

Shekarau visited the project site, the Chairman/CEO of the company, Alhaji Salisu Abba Warure, said the project was aimed at providing houses to people at subsidised rates.

He said although many parts of the project site were covered with gully and ditches, his company ensured that the ground is levelled so that the construction works would begin proper. "When

we levelled the surface, we constructed drainages so that there won't be erosion at the site anymore," he said.

Warure noted that the 665 plots were in the first phase of the project, and the second phase of the project may even surpass the current project. "The land we intend to dedicate for the second phase of the project is still ridden with gullies. So we intend to link the

two projects since the lands are adjacent to each other," he said.

The chairman of the company said that they would give the houses to the people at affordable rates so that their company would contribute its own quota to the state government's city expansion plan.

He said the company had acquired enough machinery that would work tirelessly

toward meeting the deadline.

While thanking the governor for supporting the project, he said the support would contribute immensely to the growth of the company.

Warure therefore revealed that his company had recorded success in project execution across the state, noting that his company does not secure loans from banks or any other financier.

Property



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Gombe to build 1,000 houses for sale

GOMBE State Investment and Property Development Company (GSIPDC) is to construct 1,000 housing units at the cost of N1.5 billion for sale to members of the public.

However, the beneficiaries must have contributed not less than six months to the National Housing Scheme.

Alhaji Muhammad Damji, the corporation's Managing

Director, made the disclosure in Gombe on Saturday.

He said the company had already applied for loan from the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN) to execute the project.

The Managing Director explained that those to benefit from the house sale were expected to deposit 10 per cent of

the cost and pay the balance in installments.

Meanwhile, Gombe State Chairman of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Comrade Babaji Dunama, has faulted the disposal of the 240 Housing Units.

He told newsmen that most beneficiaries of the sale were not contributors to the NHF.



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'FG
committed
to
delivery of
affordable
houses'

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE Minister of State for Works, Housing and Urban Development Mrs. Grace Ekpiwhre has reiterated the commitment of the Federal Government to promote policy frameworks for the delivery of habitable and affordable houses to Nigerians.

The Minister said this recently while receiving in audience a delegation from Shelter Afrique, a Pan African Organization for Housing and Urban Development in Africa. She further pointed out that due to the strategic nature of the housing sector in the country as well as the deficit of houses available to Nigerians; there is the need for further collaboration and partnership with private organizations such as Shelter Afrique. She equally highlighted some of the various challenges facing the housing sector in the country such as funding and land issues.

Earlier, the leader of the delegation, Mr. Alassane Ba, who is also the Managing Director of Shelter Afrique, pointed out that their visit to the Ministry was necessitated by the need to have greater interaction and cooperation as well as understand the dynamics of housing policies in Nigeria. This is to enable them to fashion out the best approaches towards housing delivery in the country.

In the same vein, Mr. Alassane Ba stressed that since the beginning of the operation of Shelter Afrique in Nigeria, they have executed 31 projects with the total cost of \$60M.

He also pointed out that this year; they would spend about \$20M to execute 5 Nos. projects.



NIGERIAN ASSOCIATION OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIALISTS (NASSI)

(A NETWORK OF ASSOCIATIONS OF SMALL SCALE
INDUSTRIALISTS IN THE STATES AND THE FCT ABUJA)

VACANCIES FOR THE POST OF A DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND OTHER SUPPORTING STAFF.

Nigeria Association of Small Scale Industrialists is a business association involved in the promotion of small scale industries with corporate head office in Abuja and a branch network in all the states of the federation including FCT Abuja, is looking for a dynamic person for the post of a Director-General to oversee the administration of its activities through out the country.

THE CORPORATE OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION ARE SPECIFICALLY:

1. To re-organize the existing small scale industries through out the country with a view to increasing their contribution significantly to the national GDP.
2. To develop new small scale industries in each of the federation within a specific period of time leading to creation of a target number of employment in the country.
3. To generate revenue to achieve the set objectives and sustenance of the overall activities of the association.

The candidate is expected to build his team and lead same to achieve the corporate objectives of the Association. He must demonstrate strong personality and ability to effectively interact with government and non-government bodies within and outside the country.

The candidate must have a credible track record of achievements in corporate or public organization.

THE JOB DESCRIPTION.

1. Advocacy on government policies to ameliorate the problems of members and stimulate the growth of small scale industries in the country.
2. Generate revenue to meet with the financial needs and growth of the association with his team of personnel.
3. Maintain administrative structure in each of the state branch through out the federation.
4. Organize and coordinate trade sectoral group in each of the federation.
5. interact with government, non-government and international development agencies
6. Report to the National Executive Council of the Association and organize its meetings and that of National Executive Committee and AGM in accordance with the constitution of the Association.
7. General administration of the day-to-day activities of the association.

QUALIFICATION:

1. B.Sc/B.A/M.Sc/M.A in natural, social or business science with MBA finance or professional certificates in ICAN or ACCA.
2. Phd certificate in related field or membership with other professional bodies will be of advantage.
3. Experience 10 years of proven track record in a corporate or public organization.
4. AGE minimum of 45 years
5. REMUNERATION:
 - a. Attractive salary
 - b. Official quarters
 - c. Official car.

SUPPORTING STAFF.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION EXECUTIVE.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

- i. Work in conjunction with the Director General to achieve financial objectives and revenue target of the association
- ii. Financial management and accounting records for both internal and external auditors.
- iii. Report to the director general

Qualification:

1. B.Sc in accounting with ICAN or ACCA.
2. Master's degree in relevant field will be of advantage
3. Age 35 40 years
4. Experience minimum of 5 years

RESEARCH AND PUBLICITY EXECUTIVE

JOB DESCRIPTION

1. Conduct research from time to time on the national economy and its impact on the members with a view to having a position that can offer appropriate advise to the government.
2. Organize programmes in conjunction with other stake holders on public enlightenment on issues relating to the industries.
3. Work in conjunction with the Director General to organize programmes to meet the revenue target of the association.
4. Report to the director general.

Qualification:

1. B.Sc degree in economics.
2. Master's degree in related field and other professional certificates will be of advantage
3. Age 35 45 years
4. Experience minimum of 5 years in related organization

METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Interested candidate should send his C.V not later than two weeks after the date of this publication to:

The National Secretary Nigeria Association of Small Scale Industrialists (NASSI)
National Secretariat,
4th floor WAEC building, 10 Zambezi Crescent Maitama, Abuja.

Or

The National Secretary,
C/O Desk officer (NASSI in collaboration with SMEDAN),
Small And Medium Enterprise Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN),
35, Port Harcourt Crescent, off Gimbiya Street,
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FGGC Zaria wants boreholes

HAJIYA Indo Mohammed, the Principal, Federal Government Girls College (FGGC), Zaria, has appealed to the Kaduna State Government to sink boreholes in the college to ease the sufferings of students.

She made the plea in an interview shortly after the 2010 Inter-House Competition organised by the school at the college playing ground in Zaria.

Mohammed, who said nearly 70 per cent of the students in the school were from the state, urged the state government to assist the school.

She said: "I am appealing to Kaduna State Government to assist us in the provision of boreholes to alleviate water problems in the college in addition to provision of other equipment and facilities."

The principal, who commended the Federal Ministry of Education for providing the college with a sports pavilion, called for fence and lighting facilities for the pavilion. (NAN)

'Water rate in Abuja still N50 per cubic metre'

By Nasir Imam

THE Federal Capital Territory administration has said that the rate payable for water in the city still remains N50 per cubic metre as against misconception that it has increased the rate from N1500 to N4000.

Reacting to a recent report that the FCT Water Board has jerked up the water rate in Abuja from N1500 to N4000 the Director Water Board, Engineer Jibril Ibrahim explained that the N4000 flat rate was introduced to encourage residents to install meter for their water use.

He said that metered properties are charged N50 per cubic metre which according to him is equivalent to five drums of water.

This is the Director noted is to the advantage of the customers adding that metering properties would also discourage customers from wasting or misusing water "because every drop of water that passes through the meter will be counted or charged against the customers"

While appealing to residents to meter their properties in order to conserve water, Engineer Ibrahim reiterated that the water rate remains N50.

"This measure was taken after several appeals through different means such as customers' forum, handbills, phone-in programme by the Board on the need to meter their properties" he said.

Kalgo LG spends N442m on projects

THE Kalgo Local Government Council in Kebbi has spent about N442 million on the execution of development projects within the last one year.

The Council's Chairman, Alhaji Aliyu Diggi, said in Kalgo on Thursday that 13 classroom blocks were constructed at the cost of about N98 million.

He said that N100 million was spent on the construction and renovation of 10 primary health care centres in 10 wards, while the residential houses of the district head of Diggi and Kalgo were renovated.

Diggi said that N39 million was spent on the renovation or installation of ICT facilities in the area, stressing that the council workers were also encouraged to be computer literate. He said that the 21-km Amanawa-Mutubari-Ungwas-Jeji Diggi road was undergoing construction at the cost of N200 million.

"The project has reached 65 per cent completion stage," he said. Diggi said that the council had recruited 150 workers to reduce the menace of unemployment.

"We aim to reduce unemployment and encourage productivity among the youths," he said. (NAN)

CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513
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Panic grips Lugbe residents over demolition

By Nasir Imam

AS the deadline given to Lugbe residents whose apartments were marked expires today, panic has gripped the community as several of the affected landlords have engaged carpenters to remove valuable building materials from their structures, while others have resorted to prayers to make government rescind its decision.

Some residents said their community leaders informed them not to pack yet as the presidency has suspended the demolition exercise indefinitely but top officials of the Department of Development Control are not aware of such activities.

The FCT Administration through its Department of Development Control had given residents of Lugbe a one month notice to quit the area, regarded as illegal and distorting the Abuja Master plan.

Findings by our reporter reveal that the exercise might not be unconnected with complaints from Julius Berger Construction Company handling the expansion of the airport road project to ten lanes.

The construction giant it was gathered had told the FCT administration that it is being hindered from doing its work by the presence of Lugbe residents.

Reacting to the development, aggrieved residents described the demolition exercise as a wicked

act by the FCT administration that would throw many people into hardship, even as they noted that the timing was inappropriate as the FCT area councils' polls is around the corner.

Sunday Odebode, a resident, said the planned demolition will disrupt the future of children living in the area as their education would be affected by the exercise.

He blamed the situation on the failure of the government to provide affordable houses to the masses and the high rent rates in Abuja, which he said forced many residents to places now regarded as illegal settlements by the FCT administration.

"Can you imagine, we are treated like aliens in our own country as they now call us illegal squatters and want to demolish our houses," he stated.

He said people are just moving their belongings to keep them safely as some don't even have anywhere to go.

Another resident who simply gave his name as Mustapha called on God to intercede in the problem facing Lugbe residents as those living in affluence are subjecting the common man to untold hardship with the demolition.

"God will punish all of them and their families wherever they are as they are enjoying lives with our money and asking us to leave this place because we cannot afford the cost of living in



LUGBE residents at a forum where the planned demolition was announced to them by officials of FCTA recently.

Maitama or Asokoro, where they live," he said.

Speaking with our reporter on phone on the exercise, the Director of Department of Development Control, Yahaya Yusuf said "Our machines are there on site and we are waiting for the day to come.

On whether there is a directive suspending the exercise from the presidency, the director said he is not aware and asked our reporter to allow him confirm as he is awaiting the FCT minister's directive.

Meanwhile, three bulldozers from the Department of Develop-

ment were seen stationed at the Lugbe junction yesterday while a town crier was also seen on the back of a motorcycle announcing in Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo and Pidgin English for residents to remove their properties on or before March 1.

Uniformed officials violate sanitation laws, says AEPB

By Hussein Yahaya

AN official of the Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB), Mr Saka Umoru, Saturday condemned the actions of some men in uniform, who he accused of constituting serious threats to the success of the monthly environmental sanitation exercise.

Umoru made the comment after the weekend's environmental sanitation exercise in Bwari and Dutsen, where he supervised.

He said uniformed personnel normally violate the 'no movement order' by moving on the roads with their vehicles and claiming to be on official duties, adding that they even asked AEPB officials to release some civilians arrested for violating the 'non movement order'.

Saka appealed to the authorities concerned to call their men to order, so that the task of keeping the city clean will be the collective responsibility of everyone.

He lamented that environmental officers face serious mobility problems and cannot go round to supervise the exercise in all the areas because of lack of vehicles.

"We are stationed on the road only and don't have vehicle to move round with," he said.

He however commended some residents of Dutsen-Alhaji, who came out en masse for the exercise, observing that the exercise is fast becoming acceptable to the residents.

NUJ Abuja congress commend fake journalists c'ttee

By Abubakar Yakubu

CONGRESS members of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Abuja Council Saturday commended members of the recently constituted fake journalists committee for a job well done.

Chairman of the council, Mr Jacob Edi said the

actions carried out so far by the committee has evoked fear in the minds of such journalists and drawn commendations from people.

He urged members of the council to give the committee their support as well as advice, so that they can do their jobs diligently.

At the meeting, a jour-

nalist complained that some of the suspected fake journalists arrested were journalists working with media houses in Abuja but a member of the committee informed the congress that such suspects might have aided the activities of fake journalists.

Meanwhile, nine suspects

arrested by the committee with the support of the police are facing prosecution before an Abuja magistrate court.

Members of the congress later conducted a bye-election where the position of financial secretary was filled by Mr Martin Odey of the News Agency of Nigeria.

13 AC members injured in PDP's attack

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE Action Congress Abaji chapter's Chairman, Muhammad Angulu Bello, recently said that about 13 members of his party have suffered various degrees of injuries and fractures from incessant attacks by supporters of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the council.

He accused the PDP members of being uncomfortable with the overwhelming support as well as popularity of the AC in the council, adding that PDP supporters have made it a habit to attack their members whenever they have campaign rallies.

Bello said all reports of the attacks on their members have been forwarded to the

police and faulted the position of Abaji Council as to the cause of the recent crisis.

He stated that no AC supporter or member stopped at the council chairman's residence at Agyana to sweep the place or insult him.

According to him, supporters of the party including the councillorship candidate representing Alu-Mamagi ward as well as the

younger brother to the village head of Pandagi, Ahmed Musa Amchaga, were going to the party's rally when the attack occurred.

"The party wants to categorically say that no AC member stopped at the frontage of the council chairman's resident as everybody knows that the village is controlled by PDP," he reasoned.

Gwagwalada police to clamp down on thugs

By Abubakar Sadiq Isa

THE Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of Gwagwalada, Mr. Charles Mózie last Tuesday warned that he will clamp down on the activities of political thugs, especially during the forthcoming area council election.

Mózie condemned the attitudes of thugs, who invaded a

campaign venue with dangerous weapons at Anagada village, where posters and bill boards were set ablaze.

He said the incident was a wakeup call for the police in the division to ensure that political rallies and campaigns are closely monitored.

According to him, the police division has called the heads of political parties in the council

for meetings severally on the need to organise peaceful campaigns and rallies, adding that the police would ensure that peace and order are not violated in the council area by politicians who seek power through crude means.

He advised political party leaders in the area to educate their subjects on the need for peaceful campaigns.

Hoteliers accuse govt of non patronage

By Sunday Williams & Romoke W. Ahmad

THE Hotel Owners Forum Abuja (HOFA) at the weekend blamed the federal government for non patronage whenever there are major tourist attraction events in the FCT and Nigeria in general.

HOFA's President, Chief Tomi Akingbogun, who stated this during a stakeholder's dinner, said it has become common practice for government agencies to set up parallel accommodation outfits like games village, whenever major tourist events are to be organised instead of making funds available for hotel investors.

He said such funds would result in creation of thousands of sustainable jobs that will be relevant in making Abuja the conference centre of West Africa.

The president also expressed sadness that Abuja carnival organisers close down schools in the territory so that classrooms can be used as bedrooms to house participants, after HOFA has reduced rates as contributions to the organisers. "How does the hotel investor make positive impact to the economic growth of FCT if gov-

ernment agencies fail to patronise hotels?" he wondered.

He said for several years past, the economy of FCT was led by the construction industry followed by the banking, then the hotel industry, adding that with many policies put in place the first two industries are distressed.

"We are calling on the various arms of government to come to the aid of the hospitality industry, who are the major employers of labour in FCT, in order to save the hospitality industry from impending collapse," he said.

Akingbogun disclosed that no hotel in the FCT has expended in the last 10 years, while renovating existing ones is no more possible as banks are not lending.

Also speaking, Chairman Board of Trustee of HOFA, Sir M.O Kanu, said no industry has risen tremendously like the hotel industry, adding that they started with 26 members but today have 150 members.

In his remarks, the Director-General of Nigeria's Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC), Otumba Olusegun Runshewe, lamented that it is only in Nigeria today that people like to kill the hotel industry by so many taxes.

Cleric calls for sober reflections during Maulud

By Hussein Yahaya

AN Islamic scholar, Ustaz Mohammed Ibrahim at the weekend called on Muslim faithful to use the period of the Maulud Nabbiyy for sober reflections rather than for mere gathering and celebrations.

Ustaz Ibrahim, who stated this in a sermon in Bwari, advised Muslims to always use the period to organise prayers

for troubled Islamic countries, Nigeria and to strengthen their faith in Islam.

The Islamic scholar said the birth of Prophet Mohammed is synonymous to the birth of Islam and urged Muslims to always live within the tenets of Islam by being peaceful as well as living harmoniously with their neighbours, adding that those were the characteristics the Prophet was known for.

The cleric urged those in position of authority to always conduct the affairs of the nation in just and fair manners, reminding them that any injustice done by them to their fellow citizens will be redressed thereafter.

He also called on Nigerians to respect constituted authority and guide against making inflammatory statements that can cause unrest in the country.



NIGER STATE POLYTECHNIC, ZUNGERU

(Office of the Registry)
Academic Affairs Division

2009/2010 Admission Exercise

Following the recent approval granted to the institution by the National Board for Technical Education to commence the ND and HND programmes, the Niger State Polytechnic, Zungeru invites application from suitable qualified candidates for admission into:

PROGRAMMES AVAILABLE AT ND AND HND LEVELS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH			
		UTME	
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2	NATIONAL DIPLOMA - BANKING AND FINANCE	English, Mathematics, and any Three Subjects from the followings: Economics, Commerce, and Business Method, Principles of Account, Geography, and Literature in English.	Mathematics and any two of Economics, Geography, History, Commerce, Government or Principles of account,
3	NATIONAL DIPLOMA -MECHANICAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY	Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry and any two subjects from: Biology/Agric Science, Technical Drawing, Basic Electronic/Basic Electricity, Auto Mechanic, Further Mathematics, English Language, Geography and Economics. At least pass in English Language is required.	Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry or Technical Drawing.
4	HND SLT (PHYSICS/ELECTRONIC)	The minimum entry requirements for Higher National Diploma Programmes in the specified field are: a. National Diploma (ND) with a minimum of lower credit in the field of interest and five (5) relevant credits at SSCE, NECO, GCE, NTC, NABTEB or WEAC b. A minimum of one (1) year post National Diploma (ND) cognate working experience (Industrial Training)	
5	HND SLT (Biochemistry option)		
6	HND SLT (Chemistry/Chemistry option)		
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8	HND SLT (Microbiology option)		
9	HND SLT Microbiology/Biochemistry (option)		

Method of application

All applicants must purchase the polytechnic admission scratch card from the bursary department, Niger Polytechnic, Zungeru on payment of non-refundable fees of N2500 for ND and N3000.00 for HND programmes.

The admission form can be accessed on-line at the polytechnic, web site www.polyzungeruportal.com

All completed application form should be submitted to the office of the registrar, Niger State Polytechnic, Zungeru on or before 16th March, 2010.

Signed: Ag. Registrar

Driver, conductor jailed for assaulting traffic warden

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

AN Abuja magistrate court last Wednesday sentenced a commercial bus driver and his conductor to six months imprisonment without option of fine for assaulting a traffic warden called Saboruwa Samuel.

Oyetunji Francis, 21, a bus driver and Adetunji Mathew, 19, a bus conductor, were both arrested on February 19 by the police for

jointly assaulting a policeman, who was doing his lawful duty.

Police prosecutor, Abdul Alhassan had earlier told the court that on February 21, the accused persons drove their bus along a one-way road at Wuse Zone 6, Abuja, adding that their action caused obstruction to other road users.

He said the traffic warden, having noticed the violation of traffic rule by the accused persons,

arrested them and ordered them to drive to the police station, adding that instead of driving straight to the station, the driver drove the warden to an unknown place, where they criminally assaulted him by using a screw driver to inflict injuries on his nose and right hand.

The prosecutor informed the court that the traffic warden lost his Nokia cell phone, valued at N7,000, while the accused per-

sons confessed to the crime and committed offences punishable under Sections 79, 264 and 246 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charges were read to the accused persons, they pleaded guilty and begged the court for leniency.

Chief Magistrate Ademuyiwa Oyeyipo convicted the accused persons and sentenced each of them to six months imprisonment without option of fine.

Bwari PDP chairmanship aspirant alleges interference

By Nasir Imam

THE PDP chairmanship aspirant for Bwari area council, Yohanna Peter has raised alarm over alleged interference in the forthcoming April 10 elections by the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Maurice Iwu.

Mr. Yohanna Peter, who made the allegation during a press conference in Abuja at the weekend, told newsmen that the INEC chairman, acting without any written document, called the FCT Resident Electoral Commissioner, Steven Bawa Many on phone and asked that he be substituted.

He said the PDP had earlier substituted him with one Musa Dikko but the PDP Chairman later sent the FCT Resident Electoral Commissioner a letter dated February 8, 2010 withdrawing the substitution.

"It was on the basis of this letter that a nomination form was issued to me by FCT INEC which I duly filled and returned and in October 2009, INEC ceded the power on area council elections to FCT Resident Electoral Commissioner to handle," Peter said.

He said the law stipulates a time limit of 60 days to the date of any election for any substitution, adding that in this case, February 8 was the date the PDP Chairman wrote to FCT INEC confirming his candidature.

Efforts to get a response from the INEC chairman and the FCT resident electoral commission proved abortive but sources from the INEC chairman's office said the chairman is not interfering with the electoral process in FCT Bwari area council.



CORPS members entertaining guests at NYSC Orientation Camp, Kubwa recently.

Council boss donates van to police

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE Chairman of Gwagwalada Area Council, Alhaji Zakari Angulu Dobi last Tuesday donated a new Mazda pickup patrol van to the police area command unit in the council.

Dobi, while presenting the patrol vehicle to the police, said the gesture is aimed at enhancing police duties to enable them combat crime within the council.

The chairman, who was represented by the council's Secre-

tary, Alhaji Usman Yahaya, commended the police for their quick response to distress calls, assuring that the council will continue to assist the police with necessary logistics that will enhance their work.

He vowed that the council officials will soon go round all the police stations within the metropolis and outside the council to repair grounded police patrol vehicles.

The council boss further promised to purchase two additional

patrol vehicles for Gwagwalada and Zuba police divisions.

While receiving the keys of the patrol vehicle on behalf of the FCT police commissioner, the Gwagwalada Area Commander, Ishaku Barau, thanked the council chairman for the gesture and called on other area councils to emulate Gwagwalada council boss.

He however assured the authorities of the council that the vehicle will be used judiciously and maintained properly.

AEPB flays area councils over sanitation

By Usman A. Bello & Lami Sadi

THE Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) has criticized the six area councils in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) for their low level of cooperation during monthly environmental sanitation exercises in the territory.

AEPB's Director, Dr Abubakar Yabo, made the criticism while speaking to newsmen shortly after the exercise Saturday.

He said the board has held series of meetings with the area council chairmen over the monthly sanitation exercises, where they were directed by the minister to participate and forward reports of the exercise to the FCT Minister of State, Chief Chuka Odom.

He said what happened in Nyanya, where residents did not participate in the exercise shows that they did not comply with the minister's directive.

"With this action, I can comment that the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) did not participate in the exercise and I believe it may be the same in other area councils," he explained.

The director said he will report to the minister and see how a strong synergy can be mounted to cover the entire territory rather than the city centres in the next exercise.

Meanwhile, the AEPB boss has called on newspaper vendors to desist from selling newspapers by road junctions but return to the newspaper stands provided for them in partnership with a private company, adding that where such stands are not enough they should go to bus stop.

He also called on the FCT Water Board to monitor car washers in the city as some of them cut water pipes and make illegal connection, adding that an operator did such at Wuse 11 behind Salamatu estate in Abuja.

He disclosed further that 15 new waste compact trucks are ready to be cleared in Lagos and will be distributed to cleaning contractors by next week.

Yabo expressed his satisfaction with the level of compliance during the exercise, saying two additional mobile courts will be added to the existing six so that environmental defaulters in Nyanya and Karu will no longer be conveyed to the city centre.

Hundreds of residents were convicted and fined by mobile courts set up by the board to try defaulters.

Expert cautions residents on hot weather

By Hussein Yahaya

AN environmentalist, Mr. Toyin Peter yesterday called on residents of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to adopt measures

that will cushion the effect of the hot weather being experienced in the territory.

Peter, who was speaking during an interview with our reporter, said the harsh weather condition

if not well managed, can cause health diseases related to hot weather.

He attributed the harsh weather situation to the effect of the global climate change, forecasting that

the situation might change in the next few weeks.

The environmentalist warned the residents not to stay long under the sun during the day and to stay in cool places at night.



**BAUCHI STATE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
(BSADP)
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
ABUBAKAR UMAR SECRETARIAT,
BAUCHI STATE.**

THIRD NATIONAL FADAMA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
BAUCHI STATE FADAMA COORDINATION OFFICE, DASS ROAD, BAUCHI.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Country: Nigeria
Project: NFDP III
Contract: Procurement of Motorcycles (100 cc)
Project ID: P096572
Credit No: 4494-NG
Bid Issue Date: March 1st 2010
IFB No.: BA-SFCO/NFDP III/NCB/G/02/2010
Last Date of Bid Submission: March 30th, 2010

1. This invitation for Bid follows the General Procurement Notice for the Project that appears in the DG market of June 19, 2009 and the This Day Newspaper of July 3, 2009.
2. The Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a Credit from the International Development Association (World Bank) in various currencies to finance the cost of the Third National Fadama Development Project (NFDP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Credit will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the Procurement of Motorcycles.
3. The Bauchi State Third Fadama Coordination Office (BA-SFCO) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for the supply of Office Equipments as listed below:

Lot NO	Item NO	Description	Quantity	Bid Security	Delivery Period	Delivery Location
1	1	Motorcycles (100 cc)	80	At least 3%	60 Days	BSADP Hqts, Gidan Gona, Dass Road Bauchi

4. The Bauchi Fadama Coordination Office now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Motorcycles to be procured.
5. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines. Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Sources Countries as defined in the Guidelines.
6. Interested eligible may obtain further information from Bauchi State Fadama Coordination Office, Gidan Gona, Dass Road Bauchi 08020971710, e-mail: bauchifadama@yahoo.com (Coordinator), 08065520255 e-mail schinade01@yahoo.com (Procurement Officer); and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from the hours of 8:00Am to 4:00 Pm Mondays.
7. Qualifications requirements include: bidders must be a legal entity, have at least three (3) years of audited account and must have annual turnover of ten Million Naira (N10,000,000.00)
8. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee of Ten Thousand Naira (N10,000.00). The method of payment will be in cash. The bidding Documents will be obtained on payment.
9. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 12 Noon March, 30th, 2010. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at 12:00Noon March 30th, 2010. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of not less than 3% of bid price or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.
10. The address referred to above is
Bauchi State Fadama III Coordination Office
Bauchi State Agricultural Development Project
(BSADP)
P.M.B 0050.
Gidan Gona, Dass Road, Bauchi.
Bauchi State.

Dr. Ali Garba: 08020971710,
e-mail: bauchifadama@yahoo.com
(Project Coordinator)



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

**2010 NATIONAL ESSAY COMPETITION
FOR STUDENTS IN TERTIARY
INSTITUTIONS**

1. The Federal Ministry of Education wishes to bring to the notice of all tertiary institutions in Nigeria that a National Essay Competition is being organized as part of the activities to mark the 2010 Commonwealth Day Observance in Nigeria.
2. **Topic: "Science and Technology : Instrument for Political, Economic and Social Transformation"**
3. **RULES FOR ENTRY**
 - (i) The Competition is open to Nigerian students who are in tertiary institutions.
 - (ii) All entries must be type-written in English and not more than 350 -400 words
 - (iii) Each candidate is allowed only one entry
 - (iv) The Essay must be endorsed by the Dean, Students' Affairs of the Candidate's institution.
 - (v) All entries must be accompanied by full addresses, GSM telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of the candidates and the Deans of Students' Affairs of their respective institutions.
 - (vi) Prizes will be awarded to winners on the D-Day, Monday, 8th March, 2010 in Abuja.
 - (vii) The Closing Date for submission of entries is Thursday, 4th March, 2010.
 - (viii) All entries should be forwarded to the Federal Ministry of Education, BACAA Branch, Room 804, Federal Secretariat, Abuja and a scanned electronic copy forwarded to aogili@yahoo.com, caroladaobioha@yahoo.com

Signed
Prof. Oladapo Afolabi
Permanent Secretary

Inside Politics

Yar'adua/Jonathan: Mantu, others caution against distractions

By Suleiman M. Bisalla

AS President Umaru Yar'adua recuperates to take over his duty, Acting President Goodluck Jonathan does not need distraction of any kind but positive support by all to enable him face the challenges of governance at the moment, the People's Movement for a New Nigeria said in a statement at the weekend.

The statement signed by the group's chairman Senator Ibrahim Mantu, former Deputy Senate President, and found-

ing leader Professor Yusuf Obaje, former Chaplain of the State House, regretted that though both Yar'adua and Jonathan had spoken in common terms concerning the presidency, some enemies of the country have been opening new frontiers of discord to overheat the polity.

The group advised that since the two leaders have 'demonstrated maturity, patriotism and commitment to Nigeria's unity and greatness', no one should speak to the contrary but lean on their thinking and genuine aspiration for the Nigerian project.

The statement reads in part: "President Umaru Yar'adua upon his return to the country has thanked all Nigerians in different walks of life for their prayers and support while he was away for treatment. Of particular importance also, is his expression of gratitude to the Acting President, Goodluck Jonathan, for the very able way and manner he has been handling the affairs of Nigeria in the absence of Mr. President.

"The Acting President has equally expressed his sympathy and unwavering

support for President Umaru Yar'adua and his family. He also urged all Nigerians to continue to pray for the President's quick and full recovery.

"Meanwhile, Mr. President has also encouraged the Acting President to continue to function as such while he regains his full strength. These two leaders have spoken and have demonstrated their political maturity, patriotism and utter commitment to Nigeria's unity and true greatness. The rest of us should follow their patriotic example...to move Nigeria forward."

PDP denounce sack of Edo Speaker

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has condemned the 'illegal attempt' to remove the Speaker of the Edo State House of Assembly, Zakawanu Garuba.

Garuba was sacked last week by 13 members of the Action Congress (AC) in the state House of Assembly. A joint statement by PDP Deputy National Secretary and National Legal Adviser Dr. Musa Babayo and Chief Olusola Oke respectively, berated the plot which, it said, failed to muster the constitutionally required number to remove the Speaker.

The party's National

Working Committee (NWC) condemned the 'act of brigandage and hooliganism' perpetrated by those whom it described as lawless persons in the Edo State House of Assembly. The party urged PDP members of the Edo legislature and all members of the party in Edo State to remain calm and law abiding in the face of the obvious provocation.

While calling on them to patiently await the outcome of legal actions instituted to redress the anomaly, the NWC expressed surprise that the Action Congress (AC)-led government disregarded laid down rules and procedures despite being a beneficiary of the rule of law.



PRINCE Vincent Ogbulafor

Why I defected to ANPP, by Yobe AC guber candidate

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

ALHAJI Tijjani Musa Tumsa, the Yobe State Action Congress (AC) gubernatorial candidate in the 2007 elections, yesterday said his defection to the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) was to help consolidate Governor Ibrahim Gaidam's hold on power. He said he is determined to support the governor's political machinery in order to sweep all elective positions in Yobe during the 2011 general elections.

Tumsa was pioneer member of ANPP but he

defected to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and finally moved to the AC to contest the governorship elections in Yobe State. The politician returned to the ANPP last week during a reception in honour of Gaidam who won the nearly three years case over the Yobe State governorship tussle at the Supreme Court.

"My defection to the ruling ANPP is not for personal reasons but to consolidate good governance at the grassroots under the leadership of the incumbent governor", Tumsa said.

...South-South legislators urge IG to probe alleged forgery in Edo Assembly

By Abbas Jimoh

THE South-South Chapter of the Council of Lawmakers in Nigeria has called on the Inspector General of police, Ogbonna Onovo to investigate the alleged forging of signatures of some lawmakers in Edo State to perpetrate the impeachment of the former speaker of the Edo State House of Assembly, Zakawanu Garuba. In a statement in Abuja yesterday, the group expressed worry at the abuse of constitution

and the use of violence in the Edo Assembly warning that the action poses a 'great threat to democracy in Nigeria'. The statement jointly signed by Sunday Perebembo and Ezekiel Ukah, chairman and secretary respectively noted that the perpetrators of the abuse of the constitution were taking advantage of the 'precarious situation in the presidency' and called on the Inspector General of police to take action that would avert a degeneration of the crisis.

Rights group faults INEC on proposed voters' registration

By Suleiman M. Bisalla

THE Human Rights Writers Association of Nigeria (HURIWA) has faulted an alleged proposal by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to spend N5 billion to carry out a nation-wide voters' registration exercise. The association said it does not trust the commission as presently composed to judiciously utilise the fund for the purpose.

INEC had already denied that it is seeking N5b to conduct the impending registration exercise, describing the report as part of the agenda to discredit the leadership of the commission.

In a statement signed by national coordinator of the association Comrade Emmanuel Onwubiko, HURIWA said "the current leadership of INEC consistently manifested a deliberate lack of political will and the necessary competences to carry out fool-proof national voters' registration exercise which according to it led to the series of electoral irregularities that attended previous elections, especially the 2007 general elections."

The group tasked Acting President Dr. Good Luck Jonathan to ensure that a less controversial and tested statesman is appointed to head the electoral commission and to conduct the voters registration exercise

that would be transparent and cost effective.

HURIWA, a democracy inclined and development focused non-governmental organization also raised alarm of an alleged plot by some highly placed officials of INEC to blackmail some key officers of the commission that are seen to be independent minded using some unwholesome means.

The statement also upbraided the National Assembly for failing to actualize the much-endorsed comprehensive electoral reforms in compliance with the recommendations of the Justice Mohammed Uwais Electoral Reforms Committee.

Pro-Yar'adua group cautions Akunyili

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

THE Yar'adua for New Nigeria (YFNN) has described statements coming from the Minister of Information and National Orientation Professor Dora Akunyili as 'worrying', stressing that the tone and content of her comments had the potency to deepen divisive tendencies among the leadership of the country. The group also described as unfortunate

recent comments credited to the US Assistant Secretary of States for African Affairs Johnnie Carson that he hoped the return of President Umaru Yar'adua would not create instability in the country.

National Secretary of YFNN Dr. Aminu Idris cautioned that as government spokesperson, Akunyili should weigh her comments to ensure they do not further any divisive tendency. "Akunyili is helping to divide the

presidency," he said, pointing out that President Yar'adua and Acting President Goodluck Jonathan have already spoken in the most patriotic manner concerning the issues at stake. "We have one presidency. President Yar'adua has returned but he definitely needs to rest before he could take over. That is why he asked Jonathan to continue to oversee the affairs of state as Acting President. We are very sure that he will address the nation in a matter

of days," he said. Commenting on the statement of the American official, Dr. Aminu said: "President Yar'adua was elected for four year tenure and we all know that he was in Saudi Arabia for medical treatment. He is now back and what we expect from Nigerians and none Nigerians alike who are supposed to be friends of Nigeria is prayers and best wishes and not to say that the he hoped the return of the President would not ignite instability in Nigeria."



DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES PARTY (DPP)

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

20 Oro Ago Street, Opp. Holy Trinity Hospital, Off Muhammadu Buhari Way / Old CBN,
PMB 451, Area 11, Garki - Abuja, Nigeria. Tel: (+234) 9-3146478, 08036652702, 08056814979
Website: www.dppnigeria.com E-mail: info@dppnigeria.com

RE: DISCLAIMER ON OUR PETITION TO THE NJC IN RESPECT OF THE PENDING JUDGEMENT ON THE SOKOTO STATE GUBERNATORIAL APPEAL MATTER

We have read with great surprise, the advertorial on page 68 of THISDAY newspaper of 27th February 2010, sponsored by the National Secretary of our Party, Democratic Peoples Party, in the person of Dr Ademola Adebó, disclaiming the petition we sent to the National Judicial Council on the above quoted case, for which he signed on my behalf, with my consent.

We wish to categorically state that the position of the Party in respect of the said petition has not changed. We stand by the contents of the letter and still maintain that due process in the administration of justice must be observed without hindrance.

Whatever informed Dr Ademola Adebó's decision to put up that disclaimer, disputing his knowledge and by implication, denying having signed the petition will be carefully investigated by the Party.

I however confirm that the publication of the petition in the News media was not authorized by the party, but to say that I was not aware of the said petition was totally untrue. I directed Dr Adebó to sign it on my behalf.

JT Useni, Lt Gen (rtd), DSC, psc, mni
(Sardauna Plateau and Nassarawa States)
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN
28th February 2010

SPORT

Man United
retain
League Cup
Page 64



Time too short for Lagerback, says Galadima

By Ibraheem A. Fatai

FORMER Nigerian Football Association Chairman, Alhaji Ibrahim Galadima, has described the five-month contract given to the newly recruited technical adviser, Lass Lagerback, as too short for the Swedish to transform the Super Eagles to a world beater in South Africa.

Speaking yesterday with *Trustsports* in a telephone chat, Galadima said inadequate knowledge of Nigerian football and the little time available to prepare the Eagles for the World cup will make it difficult for him impact the necessary tactics in the players before the expiration of his contract.

He maintained that it may not do Nigeria any good to do-away with Lagarback after the World Cup based on his performance, arguing that evaluating his technical and tactical competence under less than four months may be very unfair.

"The time the new coach has to prepare the Super Eagles is too short for him to perform any miracle. Although, it is our hopes to see our dearest Eagles do well in South Africa, the odds against the team is very great," he said.

The Kano-born football administrator called on the NFF to ensure that Lagerback impact his technical and tactical knowledge on the Nigerian coaches before he leaves Nigeria, adding that doing so will enable our local coaches to effectively take over from

the foreign coach in no distant future.

He advised the new coach to as a matter of fact settle down quickly in order to face the daunting task of making the Eagles do well in South Africa.

"There is no time to waste for the new man. Between now and June when the World cup will commence, he has barely four months to transform the team and impress his employers.

"The NFF should give the technical adviser a definite role, which should be basically to impact technical and tactical knowledge in our players and discover new talents. He should be shielded from administrative task of players' bonus, return ticket and so on because they are distractions.

Galadima, however, said it will do Nigeria well if the contract given to the new coach is made to be longer than just five months.

"We need a coach that will be given at least nothing less than 2-year contract. This would enable him to implement whatever plans he has for the national team. If he fails to impress Nigerian, then he can be shown the way out. Only long time plan can help bring back our lost glory in football," he concluded.

He commended the NFF for the choice of Austine Eguavoen, Daniel Amokachi and Alloy Agu as the assistant coaches to Lagerback, saying all of them have the pedigree to competently assist the Swede.

RUNNING against time... Super Eagles new tactician Lars Lagerback has only four months to transform the national team to a world beater in South Africa.



TRUST CLASSIFIED

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James- +2347058033525
Mrs. Onoviona - +234805128849

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GLOBAL NETWORK FOR PEACE BUILDING

This is to inform the general public that the above named Non-governmental organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part C of the companies and allied matters act No 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

Mr Godwin M Iboko - Chairman
Mr Samuel Ogah - Member
Bar Christopher Iboko - Secretary

Aims and Objectives

1. To contribute to peace building for a stable society
2. To contribute to the progress and rapid development of the society.
3. To work towards stimulating the Youths for self reliance.
4. To contribute towards crisis management and rescue of victims of natural/artificial disasters.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, PMB 198 Maitama, Abuja within 28 days from the date of this publication.

SIGNED

BARR CHRISTOPHER IBOKO
SECRETARY

LIGHTWAY EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

This is to notify the general public that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. MR. BABAADI
2. MRS. ORPAHAGBESE
3. MRS. JOYCEAGBESE
4. MR. YAMUSAADI

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To promote the values of education
2. To provide educational services to mankind in furtherance of this initiation
3. Provision of sound moral and intellectual development of promising youth
4. To inculcate in the minds of the children a very high sense of discipline and inspired them with love of excellence
5. To groom the young into mature, courageous and independent adults by providing them with sound and functional education through a comprehensive curriculum that integrates both national and international objectives.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, PMB 198 Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

YUSUF IBRAHIM, ESQ
BABA ADI & COMPANY

Solicitors & Advocates, Plot 58 Parakou Crescent, Off Aminu Kano Crescent., Wuse 2, Abuja
08033740214

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the general public of the original loss of document bearing Otobo Ventures with plot no. MF1517 about 4000sqm situated at Lubge 1 extension with AGIS File No. 75411 AMAC, legally transferred to Media Conference Ltd. With an irrevocable power of attorney.

2. Jimeta Home Ltd with plot no. MF1976 located at Sabon Lugbe Extension layout about 3HA FCT, Abuja. Whoever transacts business with these documents does so at his or her own risk. AMAC, AGIS, FCDA and general public to note.

Signed,

Sulieyman S. Abdullahi

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF LOSS OF STATUTORY RIGHT OCCUPANCY NO KD 16665 BELONGING TO ALH. JA'AFARU DANJUMA KIRA OF S/ KASUWA KATSINA, THE CERTIFICATE WAS ISSUED IN RESPECT OF HOUSE NO 9 ROAD 'CA' ON TPO 486A KADUNA STATE HAS BEEN MISSING. ALL EFFORTS TO TRACE IT PROVED ABORTIVE. IF FOUND RETURN TO THE NEAREST POLICE STATION.

SIGNED

MOHAMMED TUKUR ALIYU
E.O MAI ADUA LOCAL GOVT
KASTINA STATE

THE BRIGHT FUTURE FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that, the above named NGO has applied to the Cooperate Affairs Commission for registration under part "C" of the companies and allied matters act 1990.

The trustees are

1. Professor Hussein Muhammad Tukur
2. Dr Umar Faruk Zaki
3. Malam Sama'ila Al-Hassan Sati
4. Alhaji Muaz Muhammad Kafur
5. Dr Ibrahim Eneye Suleiman

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To work against poverty, illiteracy and ill-health
2. To foster tolerance, communal harmony and social solidarity
3. To promote uprightness, universal justice and purposeful leadership.

Any objection to the above registration should be forwarded to the office of the Registrar General, Cooperate Affairs Commission, plot 420 Tigris crescent off Aguiyi Ironsi road, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed.

Umar Musa Esq

DIKKO HAMMARI FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

The trustees:-

1. ALH. MUHAMMADU KINDI
2. ALH. AHMAD DIKKO
3. ENGR SANIABUBAKAR
4. DIKKO IBRAHIM ALIYU
5. ALH. MAHE DIKKO
6. ALH. SAJO SHEHU
7. DR. TUKUR DIKKO
8. ALH. ABUBAKAR MAICHOTA
9. ALH. DAHIRU SHEHU
10. ALH. DAN IMAMU BAWA

Aims and Objectives

1. To promote peace, unity and cooperation among members
2. To promote socio wellbeing of the committee

Signed

ALH. ABUBAKAR MAICHOTA

MAMA AFRICA CULTURAL HERITAGE

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration as Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) under part "c" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Dr. H.B. Oyedepo
2. Dr. Mrs S.M. Oyedepo
3. Mrs. Iyedele Oludete
4. Mrs. Boladele Oludete
5. Mr. Omodele Oyedepo
6. Dr. Babadele Oyedepo

Aims and Objectives:

1. To preserve, develop and promote arts and culture
2. To employ arts and cultural activities in child socialization and integration and in arresting youth restiveness.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, PMB 198 Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

DR. H.B. OYEDEPO

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FOR ENHANCED PEACE & DEVELOPMENT

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Organization has applied for registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Pastor Tonye Kalio
2. Dr. Sofin Peter-Side
3. Egundu Esiwonke (MS)

Aims and Objectives:

1. Creation of peaceful and enabling environment through training in peace building, facilitative mediation and conflict prevention/management.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, P.M.B. 198, Garki Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

JUDE EZIAGU
Diegbe, Diegbe & Associates
Suite 38, Mangal Plaza, Area 11
Garki Abuja

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MRS. EMEGWARIBE VICTORIA CHINONSO wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. BERNARD VICTORIA CHINONSO** from henceforth. All former documents remains valid. General public should please take note.

I, formerly **MARYAM MUHAMMED YALO** wish to be called **MARYAM ABDULLAHI SAIDU ADAMU**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I formerly **MARYAM MUHAMMED YALO** wish to be called **MARYAM ABDULLAHI SAIDU ADAMU**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **BAWA ILIYA KAROFI**, now wish to be called **MUHAMMAD BAWA I. KAROFI**. All former documents remain valid. Katsina State Water Board and general public to note.

I formerly **MRS DADA IBIRONKE OWOAJE**, now wish to be known and called **MRS MORANUGBA IBIRONKE OWOAJE**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **LORETTA EZE** now wish to be called **LORETTA ASOGWA**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **HABIBAT BOLA BADIRU** now wish to be called **MRS. HABIBAT BOLA TIJJANI**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly **SULIEMAN UMAR** now **SULIEMAN UMAR ANASHAWA**. All former documents remain valid. FRSC and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **YETUNDE AKOBI**, now known as **MRS. YETUNDE DAVID ANABA**. All former documents remain valid. Petroleum Training Institutes Warri, NYSC and general public take note.

Lady golfers prepare for African tourney

LADY golfers in Nigeria have started preparations for the 2010 All-Africa Challenge Trophy (AACT) tournament, to hold from November 6 to November 14.

This year's edition of the biennial event which began in 1992 in Zimbabwe, is scheduled for the IBB Golf Club in Abuja.

Mrs Veronica Osuhor, President of the Lady Golfers Association of Nigeria (LGAN), said that her association had begun 'intensive' preparations to successfully represent the country.

"LGAN is committed to making the Abuja 2010 Championship the best organised and the most memorable in the history of the AACT, and that's why we have taken a number of steps.

"One of them is that of hosting in Nov. 2009, the regional Pre-AACT championship as it is customary with the AACT, and this attracted countries from the West and Central parts of the continent.

"It provided an opportunity for us to assess our preparedness for the main championship and also afforded the Nigerian team, known as Team Nigeria, to compete with other teams from the sub-region," she said.

Osuhor who was Captain of the IBB Golf Club in 1999 and in 2000, said apart from hosting the pre-AACT event, her association had set up an organising committee and also appointed a convener.

"The essence is for us to start out early enough in our task, and so far since we were awarded the 2010 hosting right in 2008 in Egypt, good contacts have been made and good response has also been received.

"We have put in such seriousness and efforts because we know the importance of hosting well and also winning, since we want the 2010 event to surpass previous editions in terms of participation and organisation.

"One major driving force is also the fact that the hosting coincides with Nigeria's 50th Independence Anniversary, and we cannot afford not to do well," she said.

Some 35 African countries are expected at the event which Nigeria once hosted in 1996 at the Ikoyi Club in Lagos.



GARETH Bale of Tottenham, right, and Mikel Arteta of Everton, left, battle for the ball during their English Premier League match yesterday at White Hart Lane in London, England.

Nsofor, Kaita lead Eagles against Congo

MALAGA of Sapin striker, Victor Obinna Nsofor will lead a handful of foreign-based players being called up for Wednesday's international friendly between the Nigeria senior team and the Simba of Democratic Republic of Congo.

Like Nigeria, DR Congo have won the African Cup of Nations twice, but the country's football has been going through tough times in recent years and the Simba did not even qualify for last month's African Nations Cup finals in Angola.

Erstwhile head coach of the Super Eagles, Shaibu Amodu, now deployed to the home-based squad

from the senior side after an unimpressive showing at the Cup of Nations, will lead the Nigeria side in the international friendly.

Also invited are defenders Onyekachi Apam and Elderson Echiejile (both from France) and midfielder Sani Kaita (Russia).

The rest will be drawn from the pool of home-based players who had been in camp for a number of weeks, and preparing for an African Nations Championship qualifier against Niger in a fortnight.

These are: goalkeepers Austin Brown, Bassey Akpan, Sunday Onuminya and Segun Oluwaniyi, defend-

ers Chibuzor Okonkwo, Suswan Terna, Cletus James, Mutiu Adegoke, Tijani Adamu, Obadaki Halilu, James Ekwosa, Azubuike Akwekwu, Linus Adams and ThankGod Ike.

Midfielders ThankGod Amaefule, Aliu Abdulrazak, Alhaji Kwairanga, Joan Aodogu, James Moses, Gabriel Reuben, Christian Ofili, Ejike Uzoenyi, Fengor Ogude, Lawan Mohammed, Isiaka Olawale and Ahmed Musa.

Forwards Idehen Osamudiamen, Sherif Isa, Babale Ibrahim, Kabiru Sanusi, Uche Nwafor, Kayode Abiodun, Terry Envoh and Yusuf Otubanjo.

NFF suspend Sharks

PREMIER League club Sharks have been handed an indefinite suspension starting March 1 by the Nigeria Football Federation.

A statement following the NFF Executive Committee meeting on Friday in Abuja said Sharks were suspended for 'non-compliance with the statutory provisions guiding association football'.

Sharks General Manager Okey Kpalukwu was last week removed from his position and redeployed to a different ministry following internal disagreements over the Nigeria Premier League elections.

The club were ordered by the NFF to reinstate Kpalukwu or face sanctions for government interference. Rivers State Sports commissioner Boma Iyaye responded to the directive by arguing that Kpalukwu's reassignment was a routine civil service redeployment from the office of the Head of Service.

The NFF were obviously unconvinced and have now slammed the

To get on the board, Jaja has to first be elected at the zonal level.

club with a hefty punishment.

This effectively means that Sharks cannot vote at the NPL elections, seriously undermining the candidacy of former NRA President Sam Sam Jaja.

Jaja is running for the position of NPL chairman, for which he was nominated by Sharks and endorsed by Dolphins.

To get on the board, Jaja has to first be elected at the zonal level, where he is running against Bayelsa United chairman Rumson Baribote. The former NRA boss was all but assured of victory with the votes from three of the five clubs that make up the zone; Sharks, Dolphins and Warri.

The suspension of Sharks means that he is now tied with Baribote, who holds the votes of the other two clubs, Bayelsa United and Ocean Boys.

It means the South Zonal election will now be decided by the rest of the 20 Premier League clubs.

Falconets qualify for Germany

NIGERIA'S u-20 women's team, Falconets easily snatched at this year's FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup finals in Germany by lashing their South African counterparts 7-0 in Abuja yesterday.

The game began at a furious pace under the afternoon sun with Ebere Orji scoring right from the kick-off, and then doubling the advantage few minutes

later. This meant the Falconets were already looking forward to the finals in Germany so early in the game, having swept past the South Africans 5-3 at home in Pretoria two weeks ago.

Petite Glory Iroka scored two goals either side of a strike by defender Gloria Ofoegbu, and in the second half, Ugochi Opar-

anozie scored before substitute Uchechi Sunday added another from the penalty spot.

In the four World Cup qualifying games against Zimbabwe and South Africa, the Falconets scored total of 22 goals, with Uchechi scoring six while Ebere Orji netted five times.

The Falconets will now be one

of the participating teams at this year's FIFA U-20 World Cup finals in Germany, taking place 13th July to August 1.

New Technical Adviser of the Super Eagles, Mr. Lars Lagerback was among the crowd that watched the Falconets triumph at the National Stadium, Abuja.



SAM Jaja

Liverpool, Chelsea face Champions League black-out

CHELSEA, Liverpool and Manchester City all face the extraordinary prospect of being excluded from the Champions League and Europa League in two years because of the huge financial losses they continue to suffer.

European football chiefs insist they will enforce a ban on those clubs unless they radically reduce their multi-million pound losses.

And though Manchester United will escape censure despite their £716million debt, because they are still making a profit at present, Liverpool's precarious financial state means they face a huge crisis if they wish to meet UEFA's tough new rules.

The regulations will be published this summer in a bid to prevent further clubs going into financial meltdown, as Portsmouth have done this week, and will outlaw the kind of support that owners Roman Abramovich and Sheik Mansour have provided Chelsea and City.

UEFA general secretary Gianni Infantino insists that the bodies set up to regulate the new rules will not balk at throwing out clubs who cannot balance their books, whether they be Real Madrid or Liverpool.

Infantino said: 'It is not our objective to exclude clubs, but if there are rules, it is our objective that those rules will be respected. For this reason we have established the club-financial control panel, chaired by Jean Luc Dehaene, who is the former Prime Minister of Belgium. I don't think

somebody like him would be afraid of anything.

'They are independent to oversee the rules and pass any potential sanction to the disciplinary committee, which is also independent and which will decide the sanction.

'But the rules will be the same for everyone and of course they will be enforced the same for everyone.'

UEFA's drive for what they call financial fair play is the biggest shake-up of elite football since the formation of the Champions League in 1992 and represents a direct challenge to the Premier League's financial model, which has allowed excessive borrowing and rich benefactors to fund many clubs, factors which caused the demise of Portsmouth.

The renewed threat from UEFA, who will finalise their new rules this summer, will wholly undermine Manchester City's plans to spend further millions this summer.

City recorded a loss of £92.6m last year and that figure is likely to balloon still further after the extraordinarily expensive signings of Gareth Barry, Emmanuel Adebayor, Carlos Tevez, Joleon Lescott and Kolo Toure.

UEFA are likely to demand that by the time the 2012 regulations come into force, City are on course to break even, which seems highly unlikely, unless they slash their wage bill and decline to enter the transfer market.

Liverpool, too, are at huge risk given that last year they posted losses of £42m and had to pay £36.5m interest

on their debts, which the Anfield club claim have now been reduced from £350m to £237m.

UEFA will give clubs two years to put their accounts in order and will allow a transitional period in the first two years of the scheme, but they insist that clubs such as City and Liverpool cannot simply continue as they do now and expect to be cleared for competition.

Infantino added: 'The rules come into force in 2012-13 and at the beginning there will be some sort of transitional period, which we are defining. But it doesn't mean that a club cannot be excluded in 2012 if the situation is extremely bad and getting worse.

'From this summer the clubs will know what the rules are going to be and if a club doesn't do anything and think that rules will only apply after 2012-13, that's a wrong calculation.'

Infantino confirmed that, at present, United would meet UEFA's criteria because last year they made a profit, even though their enormous debts cost them £68.5m in interest payments.

'United is, of course, very well managed by David Gill and as long as they can still make a profit at the end of the year, it's fine. In the long term, though, the question is whether they can still afford this debt.'

When the rules are applied, UEFA will assess a club's accounts over a three-year period so that making a loss for a single season would not be punished.



UNABLE to help... Roman Abramovich

TRUST CLASSIFIED

ALHAJI ABDULMALIK HALIDU GIWA (SNR) EDUCATION FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Gen. Abdulmalik Halidu-Giwa (Rtd) | - Chairman |
| 2. Haj. (Mrs) Aminu Abdulmalik H. Giwa | - Alternative Chairperson |
| 3. Mr. Suleiman Abdulmalik H. Giwa | - Member |
| 4. Alhaji Adamu Shamsi Katcha | - Coordinator |
| 5. Miss Hauwa Abdulmalik H. Giwa | - Secretary |

Aims and objectives:

- To support the youths from less privileged families in meeting up academic and career challenges.
- To reduce the number of youths that constitute drop-outs, particularly from post-primary and tertiary institutions.
- To complement the efforts of various governments in producing science oriented students as to fast track technological development.

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:

Fatima A. Adamu Esq
PP: Saidu B. Attanda & Co.,
Sokoto Road, Opp. Babadoko Shopping Complex
G.R.A Zaria, (Solicitors).
08037041294, 08036836960

GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL KONTAGORA OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION

This is to inform 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, 1990.

The trustees are:

- Alhaji Abdulkadir Yahaya
- Barr. Lakpene Yusuf Bida
- Alhaji Shuaibu Aliyu Bobi
- Alhaji Adamu Hassan Wasagu
- Alhaji Aliyu Halidu
- Alhaji Atiku Marafa

Aims and objectives:

- To promote unity among the old boys in a bid to develop the human and infrastructural facilities of the school.

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:

Musa Kasim Bello Esq
Solicitor
08036153082

GOLDEN ECHOES ENTERTAINMENT FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named foundation has applied for registration under part "C" of Companies and Allied Matters Acts of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- ANTHONY ENAHORO OSAGIEDE
- MRS. CHRISTIANA OSAGIEDE

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- To create spiritual music that uplifts and opens every listener's awareness
- To establish a school of music symphonie
- To engage in magazine publication of world's most uplifting music as a means of bridging the inter-faith divide
- To promote public awareness programs on the importance of listening and creating sweet heavenly sounds.
- To promote opportunities for the individual who seeks to experience heavenly sounds while still living in the physical world

Any objection to the registration should be addressed to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi street P.M.B. 198, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED:

AMINATU EKEMMA IBE
08033137990
ABUJA - FCT

PEOPLES LEADERSHIP MISSION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Mission has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

The trustees are:

- Prof. Femi Ajibola
- Mr. Bola Akingbade
- Mrs. Vicky Olumudi
- Dr. Olatunji Abayomi
- Mr. Dare Babarinsa
- Prof. Kayode Shoremekun
- Mr. Idris Rufai

Aims and objectives:

- To always proffer creative solutions to human problems and equip the youth for future leadership tasks.

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:

Barr. Kelechi Egbufor
08032610910

DAILY ADVOCACY FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND EMPOWERMENT INTERNATIONAL

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

The trustees are:

- Mr. Iliya D. Wanapia
- Hon. Markus Useni
- Barr. Yusufu N. Akinkwen
- Rev. Olu Jacobs
- Pastor Sylvester V. Danjuma

Aims and objectives:

- To mobilize and empower children through the training for sustainable human development.
- To promote excellence among children.
- To enlighten the public on the rights of the child.

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:

Secretary

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Adebayor shocker: 'I didn't want to leave Arsenal'

MANCHESTER City striker Emmanuel Adebayor knows his return to the Emirates will be 'hell' but claims he never wanted to leave Arsenal.

Adebayor spent three-and-a-half years in north London before moving to Manchester City in a £25million transfer last summer.

The Togo international caused controversy when he faced his former team for the first time in September, running the entire length of the pitch to celebrate a goal in front of the Arsenal fans.

Adebayor, who scored a brace in City's 4-2 win, was also found guilty of violent conduct after an incident involving former teammate Robin van Persie and the 26-year-old will be in for a torrid reception on his return to his old stomping ground on April 24.

'It will be 90 minutes of hell,' he told French television channel Canal Plus. 'The fans will boo me, insult me, because, until now, they haven't understood why I left.'

'I'm the bad guy. "I shouldn't have done that (the celebration) but we are all human. I made a mistake, but who doesn't?'

Adebayor's departure to City was shrouded in mystery with

reports of dressing room bust-ups, while Gunners boss Arsene Wenger has always maintained the forward was offloaded after he asked to leave. However, the former Monaco attacker insists that is all nonsense.

'Arsene Wenger can never say that I wanted to leave,' added Adebayor. 'It was because Arsene didn't want me anymore.'

'If Arsene has a big heart we can go on a TV show to have a debate and he will never say I told him I wanted to leave the club.'

'He'll never say that. He knows it full well. I respect him enormously, and he knows that, but the most annoying thing about the whole story is when people say I wanted to leave for the money.'

'If I had really wanted to, I would have left two years ago for the money and gone to Milan or Barcelona.'

'I read that it was me who was the troublemaker in the changing room. That's unbelievable.'

'If one player can say that I, Emmanuel Adebayor, spoke badly to anyone in the changing rooms then I'd honestly like to know who it is. It has never happened in my life.'



EMMANUEL Adebayor, left, with Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini.

Pavlyuchenko, Modric fire Spurs back to fourth

TOTTENHAM ensured this week's virus at the club did not derail their Champions League hopes as they held on for victory against Everton and reclaimed fourth spot in the Barclays Premier League.

Roman Pavlyuchenko scored his sixth goal in four games when he netted the opener at White Hart Lane, then Luka Modric doubled the lead with a fine second against David Moyes' men.

Harry Redknapp's side, however, had to survive a second-half comeback from the visitors, who scored through Ayegbeni Yakubu and then saw substitute Landon Donovan miss an open goal.

However, defeat dents the visitors' own top-four aspirations, following recent wins over Chelsea and Manchester United.

Spurs are still in the hunt to join the elite but after illness caused them to shut the indoor facilities at their training ground this week, there were memories of four years ago when their hopes were hit by a norovirus on the final day of the season.

On that day, Spurs players could barely make it onto the pitch at West Ham - but against Everton they looked anything but sluggish and did their damage in the first half.

Key performers for Redknapp were Gareth Bale, marauding down the left from full-back, Wilson Palacios crashing into tackles in central midfield and Modric pulling the strings cutting in behind the forwards.

In Pavlyuchenko, Redknapp



YAKUBU Ayegbeni scored for Everton but failed to quench Spurs fire.

has a striker who wanted to leave during the January transfer window but now looks like one of the in-form strikers in the country.

He added to his tally in the 11th minute with the opener, set up by strike-partner Jermain Defoe. Defoe chased Tom Huddlestone's long ball down and Sylvain Distin failed to get close enough, allowing the England striker to turn and set his sights on goal.

Whether it was a cross or a shot, Defoe's effort went between John Heitinga and Tim Howard perfectly, allowing Pavlyuchenko

to tap in.

It was a rare opportunity in the first half for Moyes' men, who did not have Louis Saha in the match-day squad and saw Yakubu and Victor Anichebe struggle to impose themselves on Spurs' defence.

Spurs continued to attack after the opener, with Howard kept busy with further efforts from Pavlyuchenko and Niko Kranjcar before Modric struck.

Modric's goal, just before the half-hour mark, was a fine finish to cap off a slick move involving all three of Redknapp's Croatia players.

It started with Modric inter-

changing passes with Vedran Corluka. Kranjcar then fed Modric just inside the penalty area and he curled an effort went in off the underside of the crossbar.

Everton pulled a goal back shortly afterwards. Mikel Arteta's corner went to the far post, Rodwell headed back across goal, with Anichebe holding off Gomes and allowing Yakubu to tap in.

Sensing the game being there for the taking, Moyes took off Anichebe and brought on Donovan.

Palacios stuck the ball in the net at the death - but it was after the final whistle.

RESULTS

English Premier League

Tottenham 2, Everton 1

Liverpool 2, Blackburn 1

Sunderland 0, Fulham 0

Carling Cup

Man. United 2, A. Villa 1

Serie A

Genoa 3, Bologna 4

Chievo 2, Cagliari 1

AC Milan 3, Atalanta 1

Udinese 2, Inter 3

Napoli 2, AS Roma 2

Parma 1, Sampdoria 0

Livorno 1, Siena 2

Lazio 1, Fiorentina 1

Catania 4, Bari 0

LA Liga

Xerez 1, Espanyol 1

Valladolid 1, Mallorca 2

Santander 0, Almerfa 2

Sp. Gijón 3, Osasuna 2

Villarreal 1 Deportivo 0

Barcelona 2, Malaga 1

THE MONDAY COLUMN

Mahmud Jega

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To catch a thief

Last week's bizarre events on the national political scene was a case of natural sickness worsened by presidential power grab, compounded by ambitious scheming, amplified by many-sided incompetence, intensified by the two-faced antics of state officials, further magnified by the grandstanding of regional groups and power-seeking cliques, with foreign countries' poke-nosing as the icing on the sour cake.

The family and political circle around President Umaru Yar'adua, obviously led by his wife Hajia Turai, went to unbelievable lengths to hide the truth about his physical state from all their countrymen. This much was evident from the late-night timing of the return trip, refusing to inform Acting President Jonathan or any ministers [including the 6 who were already in Saudi Arabia] that Yar'adua was on his way home, turning off airport lights, driving away airport officials, deploying Guards Brigades-men to the scene, sneaking the President into the State House and rendering him incommunicado thereafter.

Why should anyone go to this length to hide the truth? Obviously because Yar'adua is in a pitiable state physically and more seriously because his inner circle is completely intent on hanging on to presidential power using every method in, on, under and beside the books. Needless to add, the strategy being adopted speaks volumes about the quality of the persons behind the strategy.

The remarkable thing here is, Acting President Goodluck Jonathan's camp does not have any higher strategic quality than the Yar'adua camp, as far as I can see from events in recent weeks.

Initially, Jonathan adopted all the right posture of blind political loyalty, which in Nigeria is the only winning formula for a Vice President [or a Deputy Governor], given the Constitution's reckless vesting of "all Executive power of the Federation" in the President. Jonathan even firmly dismissed the pre-emptively planted media rumour that a "Northern clique" had asked him to resign from office so as not to succeed Yar'adua.

At some point though, Jonathan hearkened to other advice, abandoned this strategy and began to actively, though covertly, seek to consolidate his Acting Presidency and then made a lounge for the substantive Presidency.

In so doing, the Jonathan men weren't content to have constitutionality and morality on their side; they began to play a dangerous geopolitical card.

I hope the Jonathan camp learns a thing or two from what former Vice President Atiku Abubakar said that hurrying to sit on the President's chair and the quick cabinet reshuffle both portrayed Jonathan as ambitious.

Atiku's own posture during his early years as VP [if not his later years] makes him qualified to give this advice. Sometime in 2000 or 2001, a drama played out on television when President Obasanjo had to depart early from a FEC meeting in order to travel. He physically dragged Atiku and seated him in the president's chair. Atiku immediately sprang up; Obasanjo pushed his down, and Atiku sprang up again, as all the ministers and reporters laughed heartily. That's how a VP behaves in Nigeria.

Today, some allegedly "pro-Jonathan" officials aren't helping matters either. A conspicuous one here is Mrs. Dora Akunyili, who now seizes every opportunity to throw sand into the Yar'adua garri. Her public revelation that Jonathan said he was going to see Hajia Turai was clearly intended to whip up public feeling against a power-grabbing First Lady, as was her statement on Thursday that Jonathan remains Acting President, as well as her Vanguard interview yesterday.

Then there was last Tuesday's Jonathan decision about the Niger River dredging project. After a meeting with Niger Delta stakeholders, Jonathan announced a major change to a project awarded months ago by the FEC and ordered N19bn to be transferred from project funds to the Niger Delta Ministry

without even recourse to FEC, which awarded the contract. With respect to public opinion in Northern Nigeria at least, that was a direct hit with a mortar shell.

Add to these, Minister Godsay Orubebe's statement that Yar'adua's people are trying to kill Dr. Jonathan. A senior official such as Orubebe has information about a planned murder, and he does not know the right place to go with that info?

Then there was last Thursday's bellicose statement by South-South leaders, as read out by Chief Edwin Clark, including faint suggestions by other leaders to unleash the militants on the oil installations all over again.

Now, I say this strategy is incompetent because, while Jonathan cannot be prevented from succeeding to the Presidency at this time if Yar'adua's health does not improve, he is unlikely to make a success of it and hold the presidency beyond the next election with this kind of power strategy. Anyway, that is left for Jonathan and his close aides and allies to figure out.

What is likely to happen now? I am not a medical doctor and I have not seen Yar'adua or his medical records, but if after 93 days in hospital he is still in this physical state, then it looks unlikely that he could burst back to robust health and regain his rulership of the country. In the circumstances, the most sensible thing is for him to resign, though it is not even clear whether he is in a position to take such a decision right now.

The way things are going, it is very unlikely that Yar'adua will resign. So, if his health does not improve and he does not

resign, then the FEC would have to ask Senate President David Mark and Speaker Dimeji Bankole, under Section 145 of the Constitution, to institute a medical panel to determine his fitness to continue to hold the president's office.

Now, the way things are going, if the Yar'adua circle continues on their current obstructionist course, such a medical panel could be prevented from carrying out its duties. Don't forget, they have already obstructed the Principal Secretary, the PDP chairman, several governors, an MPs' delegation and a ministers' delegation, and even the Acting President,

from seeing Yar'adua. Maybe Jonathan could turn over to the panel his own copies of Yar'adua's medical records, otherwise the Saudi hospital and its doctors won't cooperate with a medical probe panel unless the patient or his family tells them to. In that case, the medical panel could well report back to the National Assembly leaders that it was unable to carry out the task.

This is not a prospect envisaged by the Constitution, which only expects the panel to bring back a verdict of either fit or unfit for office. Such a scenario will then leave the National Assembly with only one alternative, that is, impeachment and removal from office.

Now, the Constitution does not really envisage impeachment of a president on health grounds, only for gross misconduct. Given the Assembly's new-found constitutional creativity, it could deem obstruction of the medical team to constitute gross misconduct.

The problem here is, unlike the medical panel, whose report certifying Yar'adua unfit for office is enough to remove him, impeachment requires a two-thirds majority vote in both chambers of the National Assembly. Achieving this will require a broad supra-constitutional national consensus of the type that installed Jonathan as acting president. If however Jonathan's circle continues to rely on a bellicose strategy built around Niger Delta elders, militants and rebellious ministers, then the National Assembly would not muster a two-thirds majority to remove Yar'adua from office. As my grandmother used to say, if you don't know how to catch a thief, the thief will catch you.



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SPORTS REPORT

Ivory Coast sacks Halilhodzic

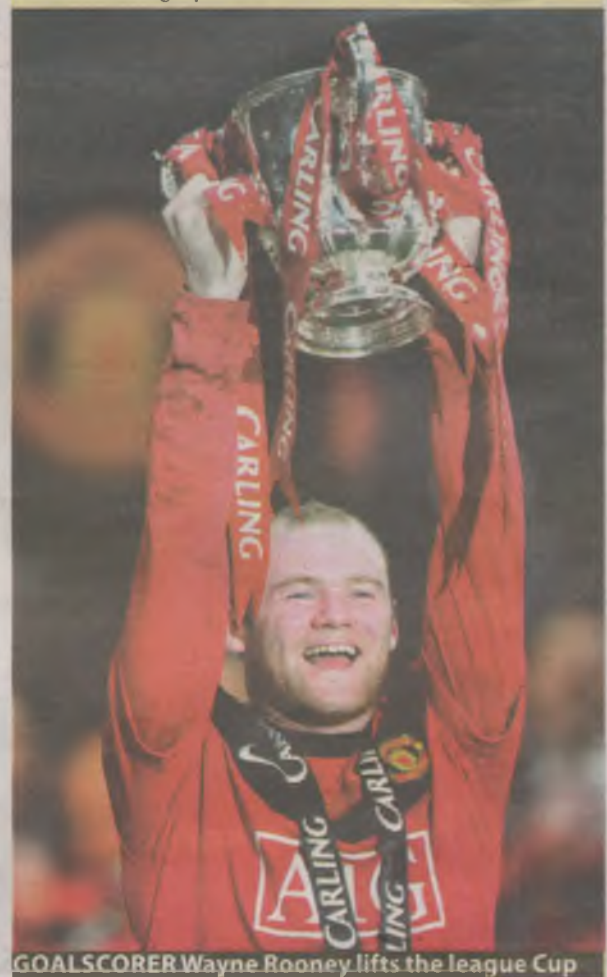
World Cup-bound Ivory Coast

sacked coach Vahid Halilhodzic as expected on Saturday, the announcement being made on state television by the Ivorian Football Federation.

The future of the Bosnian-born coach had been the subject of intense debate in the west African country after the highly fancied

Ivory Coast team were surprisingly eliminated at the quarter-final stage of the African Nations Cup finals in Angola last month.

Federation president Jacques Anouma had said he would make a decision on Halilhodzic's future by the end of February and announced the sacking during a television debate on the national team's recent performances.



GOALSCORER Wayne Rooney lifts the league Cup

Man United retain League Cup

Wayne Rooney scored his 28th goal of the club season as Manchester United successfully defended the League Cup with a 2-1 victory over Aston Villa yesterday.

Rooney sent a powerful header over American goalkeeper Brad Friedel in the 74th minute to settle the first meeting of U.S.-owned clubs in an English final.

James Milner had put Villa ahead from the penalty spot after five minutes, but Michael Owen quickly tied it for the English champions.

Prevailing in the 50th League Cup final over the first winners provided Alex Ferguson with a 26th title since joining United in 1986.

